

Americanized Version Of Passion Play To Be Given Here

The original authentic American version of the famed Oberammergau Passion Play, as performed at Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany for 224 years will be presented in Klamath Falls for the first time next month. Through the combined efforts of Consolidated Concerts Corporation of New York and its president, Charles E. Green, and Victor Spouse of New York, a veteran of 25 years experience in presenting the famed Passion Play drama to millions of people, Americans and Canadians will this year see the most famous of all Biblical dramas. Dates for the play in the Pelican Theater will be December 12, 13, 14 under auspices of the Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club.

First performed in 1664, it has always been different from the Passion Plays and Miracle Plays given in other parts of the world, evidenced by the fact that when prohibited elsewhere, it was permitted in Oberammergau. Permanent permission to produce the play was bestowed on the village in 1800. The oldest known script of the play is one written in 1662. It is

stated by students that this text is composed of two still older; one used in Augsburg in the 15th century, the other the work of Sebastian Wild written in the 16th century. The present text used in Oberammergau was written in the years 1810-1815 by Petter Ottmar Weiss. The final revision was made by the good angel of the village, the beloved Father Alois Daisenberger.

The first performance was given at Oberammergau in 1634 and repeated approximately every 10 years since. The noted drama is performed in three parts including 18 acts and 24 tableaux. The running time of the performance is from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a two-hour intermission at noon. Presentation is given from May 15 to September 30 — a period of about 16 weeks.

For the first American tour of the New World version the producers have adapted the script for the first time into English. They have also eliminated all of the tableaux and added additional scenes with a running time of 2 1/2 hours, which is customary in the American theater. In Europe, many illustrious spectators have witnessed the great production including five kings of Bavaria, Queen Isabella of Spain, German Emperor Friedrich Wilhelm, King Edward the 5th, Richard Wagner, Adelina Patti and many of the famous singers and actors of the world. The great cosmopolitan audiences moved the eminent Christus portrayer of a generation ago, Mr. Anton Lang, to express hope that "the Passion Play will constitute a basis for a more friendly intercourse between nations, and result in a better international understanding."

From the summer pilgrimage in

the high Bavarian Alps to the New World is a long jump. But just as in Oberammergau the play will be seen by the aged and the young, Americans and Canadians who are seeing the original authentic version as performed in



VAL BALFOUR AS THE CHRISTUS

will come with varying motives—deep reverence, as to a shrine, careless curiosity, as to a show. In these varied attitudes of mind will come young and old, school-boy and professor, layman and priest, minister and rabbi. All will be drawn by the magnetism of the story of the cross, for now, for the first time in America and Canada, the story is brought to our own doorstep. Our people will witness not a spectacle, but an influence — one destined to last through all the days that are to come.

The ancient drama is the fulfillment of a religious vow. The story is told in an old chronicle which is preserved in the village archives. According to this chronicle, a terrible pestilence visited Germany in the year 1633, one of the results of the 30 Year War. Whole villages were wiped out, but Oberammergau maintained a strict quarantine and for a time escaped disaster. Unfortunately, a poor fellow named Casper Schuler—the name being carefully preserved in the chronicle—who was working in a neighboring town, desired to spend the week with his family. In 33 days nearly a hundred of the villagers had perished. In their despair, the people betook themselves to their one recourse — God. Their extremity was great, but their faith greater, and God was able to save! So the villagers pledged themselves to a certain course — for all time to periodically render their Passion Play, in return for their deliverance. The compact was made and, skeptical criticism

to the contrary notwithstanding, the records state that from that hour, the plague was stayed. The following year the play was given in fulfillment of the vow and from that time until the present, 224 years later, in spite of many obstacles, the vow has been kept.

For the first tour in the New World, as it will be presented in Klamath Falls, with the dialogue translated from German to English, the committee has chosen Val Balfour to interpret the part of Jesus of Nazareth. Supporting parts will be portrayed by a huge distinguished cast. The producer, Victor Spouse, with a quarter of a century of Passion Play experience to his credit, has hailed Mr. Balfour's interpretation of the Christus as the most sincere and outstanding portrayal of modern times. "In my opinion," stated Spouse, "Mr. Balfour's sincere, humble portrayal of Jesus is comparable to the great Anton Lang, Christus portrayer of a generation ago."

Mr. Balfour is the fourth generation in his family to make Biblical drama his life work. In preparation for the role he now takes, he has given interpretation to many of the male roles in the Passion Play. While preparing for the part of Jesus of Nazareth, he played the role of the disciple Simon Peter, who was known as "the rock" by the Saviour. Laymen, churchmen and educators are unanimous in their opinion that Mr. Balfour achieves commanding power in the greatest and most difficult role an actor can undertake.

No Free Love For UBC Kids

VANCOUVER, B.C. (AP) — The University of British Columbia student paper had to print the harsh truth Friday; there's no free love, at least not on the UBC campus.

The fuss first started when the Ubyessey printed a letter from a Swedish art student inquiring if there were any free love societies on the UBC campus.

In subsequent editions the Ubyessey printed letters claiming the existence of three free love societies and a letter notifying students of the time and place for organization of another such society.

The organizational meeting of La Societe de l'Amour Libre drew 40 students, including four girls. Then Ubyessey admitted Friday the whole thing was a "mammoth hoax" perpetrated by the art students. Of the 40 students who had shown up to organize La Societe de l'Amour Libre, Ubyessey said: "Even Ubyessey couldn't un-earth them, but it wishes them luck anyway."

Court Records

KLAMATH COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Kenneth Leo Cowitz, assault and robbery being armed with a dangerous weapon, requested waive preliminary hearing; held to grand jury; bond set at \$7,500; remanded to custody of sheriff.

Ernest Cornelius Vande Wetering, passing crest of a hill, dismissed upon motion of district attorney.

Ray William Hawkins, violation basic rule, \$12.50.

Van Meter White, fail stop at stop sign, dismissed upon motion of district attorney.

Leroy Jerome Bruhn, overlength, \$35 forfeited.

Louis Spencer Houston, combination overload, \$109 forfeited.

Ray Wayne Thielten, combination overload, \$48 forfeited.

Harold Shidder, trespassing, \$25 forfeited.

Glenn King, violation basic rule, \$7.50.

Bobby Claude Barnes, fail drive single lane, \$7.50.

John Winfred Watson, violation basic rule, \$12.50.

Len Jefferson Brassfield, no PUC permit, \$10.

Lloyd Emery McFarland, violation basic rule, \$10.

Carl Louis Lenz, no operator's license, \$100 and five days county jail, dismissed upon motion of district attorney.

Carl Louis Lenz, driving suspended vehicle, \$100 and five days county jail, 47 1/2 days in lieu of fine; committed.



THE MEN will do the cooking for a spaghetti dinner to climax a "Dickens' Christmas" Bazaar planned by St. John's Episcopal Church for December 6. The bazaar, featuring sales of candies, toys, novelties and other Christmas effects, will open at 10 a.m. at the church, Eighth and Jefferson streets, and the men's spaghetti feed will follow at 6 p.m. The Rev. Robert L. Greene anticipates sampling the culinary art of John Schubert, center, and John Moehl.

Higher Education Board Seeks To Restore Budget

PORTLAND (AP) — The state Board of Higher Education sifted item by item through a \$7,674,305 cut in its budget Friday in preparation for an appeal Wednesday to Gov. Robert D. Holmes to restore the money.

The board, showing no signs of optimism that the money cut from the 1959-61 biennium budget by the Department of Finance would be restored by Holmes, classified the cuts in two groups.

The first was labeled cuts believed not under the Finance Department's definition of added or expanded services and the second was for cuts in key services that merit special attention.

The seven members at the meeting of the nine-member board also issued a priority list for items to be considered if unanticipated funds become available.

The cuts were made by the department on orders from Holmes to keep the budget within the limits of expected revenue, according to the board. This would rule out new or expanded services.

Henry Cabell, board finance committee chairman who presided at the meeting, said the cuts "would, if not destroyed us, do serious damage to higher education."

An aide to Gov-elect Mark Hatfield, Travis Cross, said Hatfield would not comment until he has more information on the budget.

At the close of the all-day session board members said it will urge some \$1,023,000 be restored to the budget by the Finance Department on the basis that the increases do not constitute added or expanded services.

This includes \$330,000 for land purchases and building rehabilitation; \$278,800 for added faculty

Retired Pastor To Fill Pulpit

The Rev. Frank L. Raney, Petaluma, California, retired recently as pastor of the Petaluma Presbyterian Church, arrived Friday to serve as interim pastor of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church until such time as a permanent pastor is elected by the congregation. He will fill the pulpit Sunday at the 11 a.m. service.

The Rev. Mimer E. Bruner, pastor of Peace Memorial since September, resigned and left Friday to return to a pastorate in First Presbyterian Church, Logan, Utah, from where the faculty came.

In addition to his pastorate, he will serve as director of the Westminster Foundation program on the campus of Utah State College.

He was accompanied by Mrs. Bruner, his son and daughter.

Jockey Ted Atkinson has won the Pimlico Special three times—Capot, One Hitter and Tom Fool—all for Greentree Stable.

Power Blackout Stalls Elevator

OREGON CITY (AP) — Four persons were trapped 51 minutes when the Municipal Building elevator was halted between floors during a power blackout Friday.

The power went off in the central section of the city when a fuse blew at a Portland General Electric Co. substation.

During the blackout a police officer talked with the trapped passengers and called their homes to explain the delay. Then when the power resumed the elevator delivered the passengers to their floor.

An estimated 500 calls flooded the police switchboard during the outage.

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