



EMBROIDERY adds its beauty to soft leather in this kidskin jacket. The leather is actually embroidered rather than applied as was done in the past. The jacket shown here is white and is traced with tiny flowers in jet black. By Gail Dugas, NEA Women's Editor.

Turkish Diva Admits She Still Gets Nervous

By ALICIA HART
NEA Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON (NEA) — An opera star who blames her off-stage tirades on artistic temperament is probably just acting out a dramatic excuse dreamed up by her press agent. Chances are the real cause of her turbulent behavior is a simple case of nerves.

Turkish soprano Leyla Gencer declares: "Opera is one of the most satisfying but most difficult professions in the world. It's impossible not to be nervous in this profession."

The raven-haired prima donna, who's winding up her third singing tour of the United States, says that an opera star is always worried whether she will be liked by the audience and music critics. She explains that this uncertainty always makes a star extremely tense. "Every performance is just like taking an important examination," she declares.

It's this constant pressure that Mme. Gencer blames for the tantrums that often shower a singer like Maria Callas with more publicity than her artistic talents. The tempestuous Brooklyn-born diva made headlines recently when she was fired by both the Metropolitan and La Scala operas.

An example of the extreme pressures that an opera star must undergo occurred when the Turkish soprano was once called on to replace Miss Callas who had canceled an appearance in San Francisco. Mme. Gencer explains that she had never performed in that particular opera and had to learn the entire score in a week.

The Turkish singer admits that she is nervous every time she walks on stage. She explains that before each performance she tries to soothe her nerves by drinking plenty of hot tea or coffee. But while on stage, she says, she must constantly remind herself to remain calm.

Mme. Gencer admits that occasional explosions are always timed so they won't go off during the show. Usually they erupt during rehearsals when she lets off steam by tearing up her singing script. Off the job, however, she reacts with amazing coolness to situations that would make the average person a candidate for an ulcer.

For instance, she is famous among her colleagues for losing money. In one month she lost three pay checks worth a small fortune. Baffled friends say that she reacted to the loss with the nonchalance of a millionaire who accidentally drops a nickel into a storm sewer. But Mme. Gencer calmly explains, "There are much more important things to worry about than money."

Friends find this attitude even more amazing since her husband is a Turkish bank manager. Mme. Gencer credits her husband with much of her singing success. She explains that he's the one who urged her to become an opera star in the first place. And he did it after they were married.

"I have a very nice husband," she says. "He's exceptional." Mme. Gencer studied voice at the Istanbul Conservatory from 1946 to 1949, making her debut in Ankara in 1950.

Since then she has sung her way across nearly a dozen nations, proving that — nerves or not — she has the ability to hold audiences in the palm of her hand. The other hand holds a cup of coffee.



NEW OFFICERS of Mount Shasta Elementary School Parent Teacher Association elected at a recent meeting are pictured above. Standing, left to right, Mrs. Harold Barnum, treasurer, Mrs. Ben Salanti, vice president. Seated from the left, Mrs. Oakford Scott, secretary, Mrs. Arline Clark, president.

—Photo by J. O. McKinney, Mount Shasta

Prairie Maestro At War Against Music Dullards

By SHELBY SCATES

OKLAHOMA CITY (A) — A slightly built Englishman who slings a baton instead of a six-gun is changing the cultural tastes across skyscraper and oil-derrick studded Oklahoma.

Guy Fraser Harrison, whose crisp English accent is giving way to a Western drawl, rides herd on the Oklahoma City Symphony orchestra. He'll match his woodwinds and brass against any other collection in the country.

"Revolution in tastes?" says Harrison. "I've just gone along and done as I felt I should do with far to the whims of the public."

Oklahomans apparently like what Harrison has done in the eight years he has been here. The Oklahoma City Symphony has one of the highest per capita subscription rates in the nation.

"You can't deny the impact the orchestra has had in the past eight years," says an Oklahoma City music critic. "Eighty concerts a season is bound to make an unmistakable impression on the people."

Harrison doesn't cater only to big city culture. At least 10 of those concerts are in smaller Oklahoma towns, in high school gymnasiums on acoustics but abounding in audience appreciation.

Once a year Harrison gets chorale groups from eight Oklahoma colleges as active participants in a massive musical work.

This year it was Handel's monumental "Te Deum," and it was better than a barn raising for the 300 students involved.

"It's the same each year. A tremendous experience for myself and the students," Harrison explains. There are other factors at work in the revolution.

At least half the symphony's musicians work on the side as music teachers in Oklahoma colleges. Harrison himself pitches in at high schools and colleges at times.

But the swing from tom-toms and frontier hoedowns to symphonic complexities isn't without its problems. And Harrison is the first to admit it.

Most of his musicians must be recruited from the East and competition for them is stiff.

"As a result those available are usually very young or older, and the older ones are rather set in their ways and likely to tell you, 'This is the way I played under Toscanini.'"

But, to Harrison's delight, Oklahoma City's symphony has one of the lowest personnel turnover rates of any symphony in the U.S.

Harrison notices a change in audiences since he came West. Today they are "increasingly responsive and critical. Mistakes could never be tolerated and it's far too late to make them in Oklahoma."

One of the best ways to stay attractive is to have an open mind. It's an open mind that will lead you to experiment with new makeup, hair styles and fashions. That way, you won't date yourself by wearing the shoulder-length bob that was all the thing when you were in your 20s. You'll avoid the heavily lipstick mouth once affected by movie queens. You won't stock your wardrobe with the same style of dress that looked so well on you when you were lithe and slim. You'll adjust with the times, try the new and so stay in step.

Paris has a new use for jeweled ear clips: they're worn in the hair rather than on the ears.

Your Children Need After-School Snacks

Almost every child wants something to eat when he comes home from school in the afternoon. Teen-age youngsters especially are famished by mid-afternoon. They raid the ice-box, the cookie jar, the breadbox, and sometimes they eat up what you had planned to serve the family for dinner. These snacks often interfere with appetites for dinner, especially if the snacks are mostly sweets. Then the youngster passes up the good nourishing food you have prepared for him and you begin to worry about his health.

This is a little problem that exists in nine families out of ten all across the country. Some families just live with it, nagging sometimes when mother becomes especially annoyed. Some families try to forbid food in the mid-afternoon, others supply a bowl of fruit and hope the youngsters will be satisfied with that — usually they are not.

Why not just face the facts. Kids are hungry after school, but you also want them to eat enough good body building foods to keep them in robust health.

Prepare for an after school meal. Label one shelf in your refrigerator "Mabel" or "Tom." Every morning when you are cleaning up after breakfast put something good on that shelf. Something that tastes good and that the child likes and something that is good for him — not cake or pie or heavy sweets but good protein food, cheese, hard boiled eggs or maybe even deviled eggs, a piece of cold meat. Add a piece or two of fruit and something to drink, either milk or fruit juice. Make that shelf something the youngster looks forward to. Explain to him why you don't want him to fill up on sweets just a little while before dinner. He will cooperate especially if he enjoys the food you fix for him.

If he eats a little less at dinner there is nothing to worry about, because the food he has had in the afternoon was as good for him as the dinner food.

Every last one of us likes to

have others do things for us. It makes us all feel good inside to know that someone cares enough about us to go to trouble for us. Your teen-ager will appreciate your efforts and you can often improve your relationship with your often rebellious adolescent by going to some trouble to fix him a good after school snack.

Of course you may find that you are appreciated not only by your own child but by the neighborhood as well. Not only the trouble of preparing the food, but the expense can become considerable. If you find you're feeding an army, put up a little box and simply say the expense is getting you down and you would appreciate a few contributions. Let them give you what they'd otherwise spend in the corner drugstore. They'll do it and your child will be the envy of the crowd for having such a swell mother.

SAFETY RULES

Bicycle riders should observe the same red and green lights and traffic regulations as automobiles. That goes for one-way streets, stop signs and hand signals. They should not weave in and out of traffic or swerve from side to side. There are always the stunt men, however, who hitch dangerously onto other vehicles, endangering lives of others, or who carry riders or heavy packages which may obstruct their vision or prevent proper control of the bicycle. If bicycles are to be used at night white front light and red danger signal at the rear are necessary, and it's a good idea, too, to wear white or light-colored clothes.

TASTY TREATS

Wash raisins and spread out in flat pan. Cover, heat slowly in moderate oven until they puff and wrinkles come out. You will find this the easiest way ever to plump raisins.

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Tension From A Bad Cough

By W. G. ROGERS
The Body's Cage. By Benjamin DeMott. Atlantic-Little, Brown. \$4.
A young girl, Emily Pick, is coughing her life away and the problem posed in this first novel is whether her cure is to be entrusted to a faith healer or a regular doctor.

The healer is Mrs. Chithero, who moves in on the Picks after her husband Stewart, who had been Pick's business partner, commits suicide. Pitted against her constant prayers are the pills of Dr. Tandy. The story begins with Emily's big brother Kimball, 19, who knows she is not getting better and who can't decide whether her hope lies with this newcomer to their house and his father who takes her side, or with Dr. Tandy and the school nurse.

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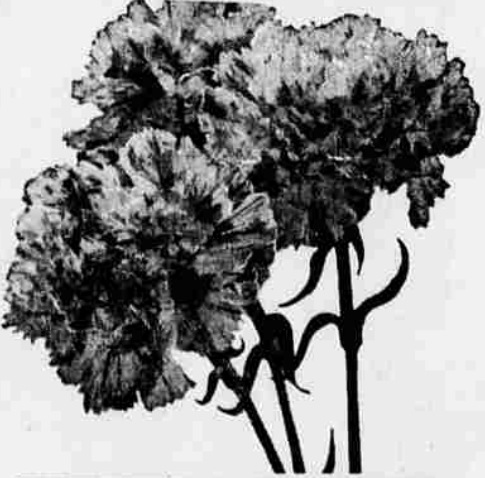
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