

Chopin's Piano Opens Tour Of U.S. On 150th Birthday

NEW YORK (UPI)—Composer Frederic Chopin was born 150 years ago today near Warsaw, Poland. His music lives on, and so does his favorite piano—a melo-toned baby grand which will soon be sent on tour of the United States.

The piano, made by the famous Paris firm of Pleyel in 1839, was shipped here from France last Thursday accompanied by a lovely young representative of the Pleyel firm, Chantal Toulouse. She is not only a baby sitter for the baby grand, but an expert on Chopin history.

"He loved this piano," said Mlle. Toulouse. "It went with him wherever he lived for the last 10 years of his life. He composed some of his greatest music at its keyboard, including the preludes, the nocturne in G minor, many mazurkas, and the famous funeral march."

The piano was loaned to Chopin by Camille Pleyel, the manufacturer, and taken back by the firm when the composer died of consumption in 1849 at the age of 39. Pleyel and his father, Ignace Pleyel, were Chopin's friends, musical advisers, publication agents, concert managers and money lenders.

The graceful mahogany instrument has been displayed at a number of Chopin commemorative exhibitions over the years, and will be sent to several major U.S. cities including Boston, Washington and Dallas. Accompanying it will be original Chopin scores painstakingly written in brown ink, documents and concert programs owned by the Pleyel firm.

"The piano has been kept in remarkably good condition and is quite playable, but it couldn't stand up under hard usage or concert work," Mlle. Toulouse said. "The surprising thing is how up-to-date it looks, except

for rather antique-looking legs." Mlle. Toulouse said she was amazed when the U.S. customs officials refused to allow her to bring the piano into the country duty free as an antique. According to customs regulations, an object must be manufactured prior to 1830 to qualify as an antique.

Chopin probably "sweat blood" over this keyboard while preparing for concerts, Mlle. Toulouse said. She recalled how difficult it was for the shy, nervous composer to go through with a concert, although his playing abilities were prodigious.

He gave only 13 concerts in Paris in his 18 years of residence there and was the only soloist at four of these. He usually played at the piano firm's elegant concert hall, the Salle Pleyel, which had the atmosphere of a large private salon.

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CITY BRIEFS

Navy Mothers will have their regular meeting Tuesday, February 23, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the new armory. The cancer committee will present a film at 1 p.m. Potluck luncheon will be served. All members are urged to attend and bring guests.

Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers will have its regular meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday, February 23, in the city library club room.

Degree Of Honor meets tonight at 8 o'clock in the K.C. Hall.

Mary Martha Circle of Immanuel Baptist Church will meet at the church at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Martha Powell, Lynn Martin and Rena Oldham will be hostesses for the 1 p.m. dessert for members of Aloha Past Matrons Club, OES, Friday, February 26, at the Masonic Temple, 418 Klamath Avenue.

Helen Hubbard, Miller Island

Road, will be hostess to members of the Midland Community Club Thursday, February 25, starting at 1:30 p.m. Members are reminded to get the surprise package ready for the rummage sale to be held in Klamath Falls early in March.

Mildred Smith, 1114 Crescent will be hostess to members of Neighbors of Woodcraft Thimble Club Friday, February 26, at 8 p.m. All members please attend.

The Lions Club spaghetti dinner

FILM Developing
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planned for Friday, February 26, has been postponed due to the last of the series of Community Concerts. A later date will be announced.

Happy Hour Club members will meet Tuesday, February 23, at the home of Mrs. Lena Herion, 234 North Third Street, for a 1:30 p.m. dessert luncheon.

Royal Neighbors will meet Wednesday, February 24, at 8 p.m. in the IOOF Hall for business, followed by a program. Members are urged to attend. Guests and friends are invited.

Linda Hall, worthy adviser, announces there will be stated meeting for Rainbow Assembly No. 57

Monday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Scottish Rite Temple.

Sejourners will meet for 12:30 luncheon Wednesday, February 24, at the Willard Hotel. Afternoon of cards will follow. For reservations,

Mission elbow Macaroni
the best cheese deserves the finest Macaroni!



call Mrs. Eugene Jackson at TU 4-7658.

Leontyne Price, famous soprano, will appear Friday night, February 26, at 8 o'clock at Mills School Auditorium. Parking in the school

parking lot will be available. Season ticket holders who do not plan to use their tickets are asked to call Eva Dickson, TU 2-3458. Anyone not having a ticket but who wants to buy one may call Mrs. Dickson.

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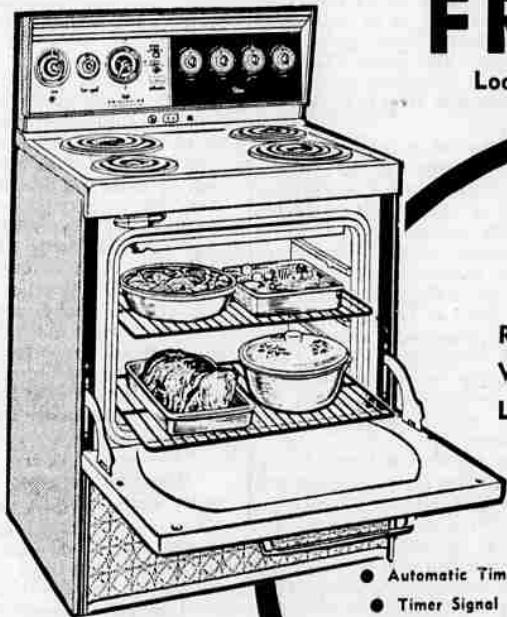
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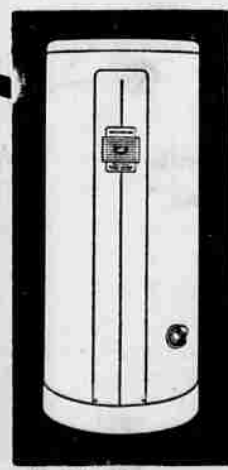
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