

# Noted Baritone Impresses Audience

By ELEANOR EHLERS

In one of his rapport-making comments to Tuesday night's audience, Theodor Uppman jokingly remarked that . . . "The devil should be grateful to Mr. Berlioz for writing him such a good song." This may be correct, but we would like to carry it further and say that Mr. Berlioz should be grateful to Mr. Uppman for singing it so magnificently, and, furthermore, that the Klamath Falls Community Concert membership definitely was grateful to Uppman for his entire program.

The personable baritone began his concert reverently with Strattner's "I Pray to Thee," and from the first tones the listeners were well aware of a controlled powerful excellence. The voice production throughout was apparently effortless, the mark of accomplishment in singing. The whole concert was done with great ease, and with flexibility enough to make listeners forget that this was very difficult, technically demanding music. If one thought about it at all, it was probably only to marvel at the great reserves of strength which must be available.

Uppman grew up in Palo Alto and went to high school there. He attended Stanford University and took instruction in Dr. Jan Popper's "Opera Workshop," a course well known to several Klamath Falls residents. Since this makes him practically a neighbor, it is very gratifying to consider his present international renown, and even more interesting to listen to him sing on the Saturday Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts. For people who say, "We want to hear 'name' artists on the concert series," this was it.

After the compelling dignity of the opening, the first group was continued with a joyous hunting song from the early days of America; next came a beautiful love song by Handel, and last was an aria from the opera "Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. This last was sung in English, and

may, or may not, be a good argument for translating opera into the language of the country where it is sung, depending on your point of view. It humorously made fun of women's supposedly volatile dispositions and was delightfully received by the men in the audience. Somehow the applause after this one sounded quite masculine.

The first selection of the second group, which was sung in German, was a showcase for Uppman as an actor, dramatically portraying the awe of the biblical handwriting on the wall. The remaining three songs in this group, one by Robert Schumann, a duo by Richard Strauss, were pure melodic loveliness. Showing himself to be also perfectly at home next an aria from Verdi's "Masked Ball," which was most appreciatively received.

It was especially interesting to notice audience reaction to the selections, most of which were relatively unfamiliar, but so very well presented as to make the beauty and meaning of the various numbers available on first hearing. Uppman held the rapt attention of his audience throughout, which should be a reward for the extra effort of presenting some little known music. He feels that it is the responsibility of the serious artist to educate listeners with new experiences — in this case, a painless procedure for the audience.

Paul Jackson, the assisting pianist, is taking time off from his regular studies to make this tour. He is earning his doctor's degree in music at Stanford, and his thesis will probably have to do with baroque opera. He displayed fine command of the piano, sympathetically complementing the singer. It seemed that he could make the piano sound almost like the entire Metropolitan Opera orchestra numbers were very well chosen, including the showy and brilliant Rachmaninoff Etude "Tableau, the Brahms Intermezzo, in which a beautiful singing tone was displayed, and finally the rippling, eerie "Night Winds" by the contemporary composer Griffes.

Next came Uppman again, this time in French. People in the audience who speak the three foreign languages used in the concert say the diction in each was of the same caliber as the excellent English pronunciation. First in the French group was the aria from "The Damnation of Faust," the aforementioned devil song for which the devil should be grateful. Next came a haunting number, "From a Prison," by Hahn. The appropriate sotto voice technique used in this increased the impact. Only someone who greatly appreciated life and freedom could put so much meaning into a song of imprisonment.

Back to English in the last group with "The Albatross," which in this case has no unsavory connection with any ancient mariner, but is a soaring unfettered, most beautiful bird. So is the song. A high point in the concert was "Sweet Chance That Led My Steps Abroad" by Michael Head; it is an appreciation of the joy which comes from the sound of a bird singing and the sight of a rainbow in a newly rain-washed world.

Last on the program was "I Rise When You Enter," a quite enchanting understatement by a present-day young man. In effect, he sings to his lady, "I won't

kill any dragons for you as dragons are now extinct, and anyway all that is out of date, but I will stand up when you come in, as a token of my regard."

As encores for us Westerners Uppman sang "Colorado Trail," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and an unnamed cowboy song which combined whistling and singing and quite gracefully made it plain the concert, with encores, was over.

Uppman presented a program varied enough to please all musical tastes; that is, almost all musical tastes. There was really nothing for rock 'n' roll addicts, but since there were few, if any, of these present, the audience came away happy after an instructive, and above all, truly enjoyable evening.



**THE MOST IMPROVED PLAYER TROPHY** was awarded to Oregon Technical Institute football player Ted Morris (left) by Herald and News Sports Editor Wayne Scott at the recent OTI football banquet. Morris, a defensive end, won honorable mention on the Oregon Collegiate Conference All-Star team. Scott was praised by school officials for his "devotion to complete sports coverage and his inspiration to the team."

## Minister Protests Ban Against Easter Program

PORTLAND (AP) — A decision by school officials to ban Easter programs in Portland public schools was protested Friday by a Baptist minister.

The Rev. J. Lester Harnish of the First Baptist Church said in a letter to School Supt. J. W. Edwards, "Somewhere in my study of American history, I got the impression that we were founded as a Christian nation. If we still a Christian nation, the public schools should reflect this."

He added: "Christ's resurrection is the keystone of the Christian faith. Easter should not be ignored any more than Christmas."

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## Shaw Letters Discovered, Will Be Shown

NEW YORK (AP)—A collection of letters written by the late George Bernard Shaw to an American a-tress—known only to a few persons and hidden for years—will be made public next week.

In the 125 letters, most of them discovered in an old trunk in Rome, the finely honed Shavian wit strikes out at sex, love, Americans, Russia, Harvard and countless other targets.

Curiously, some of his caustic advice sounds like the dialogue between Professor Henry Higgins and his cockney pupil, Eliza Doolittle, in Shaw's play, "Pygmalion"—which was later to become the musical, "My Fair Lady."

The letters were written between 1921 and 1949 to Molly Tompkins, an actress and later a painter, of New York. She died this year.

Was there a romance? "Who knows and who cares," answers Mrs. Tompkins' son, Peter, a Washington, D.C., author who discovered the letters during World War II when he was an OSS officer serving in Italy. She had hidden the letters before fleeing Italy at the outbreak of the war.

The letters will be published in an illustrated volume, "To a Young Actress," with a foreword by Tompkins.

**Bonds To Be Sold**  
SALEM (AP) — The State Department of Veterans Affairs plans to offer \$30 million worth of veterans' term and home loan bonds for sale next month. Thirteen million dollars of the bonds will be issued to satisfy a backlog of 1,400 loan applications. The bond sale will be the first since passage of the bond loan amendment at the November general election.

## Portlander Considered For Bonneville Position

SEATTLE (AP) — G. Norward, Vancouver, Wash., and C. Girard Davidson, of Portland, Ore., were mentioned Sunday as possible successors to Dr. William Pearl as Bonneville power administrator.

The Bonneville administrator will be named by Rep. Stewart L. Udall, D-Ariz., whom Kennedy has picked to be secretary of the interior.

Norward is executive director of the Northwest Public Power Association. Davidson, a Portland attorney, was assistant secretary of the interior in the administration of former President Truman.

Dr. Pearl, former director of the Washington State University Institute of Technology, has been Bonneville administrator since Jan. 15, 1954.

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