

The Gate City Journal
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OWYHEE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Owyhee Community Church will be the scene of a Watch night service and party on Dec. 31. Everyone is invited. There will be special singing and refreshments will be served.

The Christmas program was given on Dec. 21. December 19 a group of Young People sang carols for the residents of the Malheur Memorial Nursing Home. Rev. Fred Moxom was in charge. It was raining so they were forced to cancel plans to sing at various homes. They retired to the church and held a practice for church program participants.

Mr. and Mrs. Ricardo Brambila will be guests of the Owyhee Church on January 2. They will tell of their missionary work in Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Fivecoat of the Center Point area were visitors Dec. 21 at the Owyhee Parsonage with Rev. and Mrs. Fred Moxom. The Fivecoats are friends of many years, having become acquainted when the Moxoms were teaching Bible School several years ago. They attended the services and program Dec. 21 at the Owyhee Community Church.

The Christmas program was very well attended. Those in attendance were well pleased with the emphasis put into the birth of the Christ-Child, and His redemption of all peoples as recorded in the Bible.



RAY DESSERT SUCUMBUS

The Nyssa branch of the Dessert Seed Company, Incorporated announces the passing away of its founder Ray Dessert, Sr. in El Central, California this past week.

Mr. Dessert was active in the company until he retired seven years ago, but remained Chairman of the Board until his death.

MAN - HIS ARTS AND IDEAS

BY CLYDE T. SWISHER
 CHAIRMAN, DEPT. OF ENGLISH
 NYSSA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Conductor, pianist, teacher, lecturer -- and a man considered by many as America's most distinguished serious composer -- Aaron Copland has selected "Music for the Movies" as his topic for the Philharmonic Young People's Concert to be presented Sunday, Dec. 28 (4-5 p.m.) on KBOI-TV channel 2.

Appropriately enough, he will utilize material from four of his own film scores to illustrate the meaning of background music for motion pictures and the intricacies of internet in composing it.

That Copland is the man to helm the Young People's seasonal opener is attested by no less an authority than Leonard Bernstein, who has been involved in all previous Young People's Concerts. Bernstein's commitments in his new post as laureate conductor of the New York Philharmonic now preclude the narrating and conducting every one of the Young People's presentations.

On the occasion of an all-Copland program celebrating the composer's 60th birthday on a Young People's Concert broadcast on the network during the 1960-61 season, Bernstein said of his colleague:

"It wouldn't be possible to list for you all the things Aaron Copland has done for the young during his lifetime -- the dozens of young composers he has rooted for and brought success to, the even more dozens whom he has taught at Tanglewood and at Harvard and at other places, and most of all, the many pieces he has written mainly to be performed by young people.

"The truth is that his music is full of variety, and little thorny ones, and great majestic bushes, and then tiny shy little buds -- all kinds. One thing they all have in common is American roots. Don't forget that Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn, which makes him 200 percent American -- and also that he was born exactly in 1900, which makes him 200 percent a composer of our time."

Copland has been no stranger to the Philharmonic's Young People's concerts over the past 12 years. Including his "birthday party" -- which he

"S. Hurok Presents," the latest special in a series. The full hour program will be carried today (Dec. 25) beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Appearing on the special will be two world-renowned musicians, cellist Mstislav Rostropovich and pianist Emil Gilels, both, like the composer whose music they will perform, Russian-born. Gilels will play Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 in B-Flat Minor for Piano and Orchestra; Rostropovich will be heard in "Variations on a Roccoco Theme."

Tchaikovsky, though the most towering of all Russian composers, was also the most tragic.

"The greater reason I have to be happy, the more discontented do I become. A worm gnaws continually in secret in my heart . . . I suffer from torments which cannot be put into words," Tchaikovsky said.

This was the nub of the emotional despair in which he lived most of his life.

Oddly enough, despite all his despondency and inner turmoil, despite the grief and self-pity he brought to so much of his magnificent music, Tchaikovsky could also musically delineate love and joy, warmth and tenderness. As one chronicler put it, he portrayed in his works "the human soul in the convul-

sions of love, hate, joy and fear." And the human soul he portrayed was his own.

One incident in his childhood betrays the exceptional sensitivity that was to plague him all his life. When he was 5 years old he was given some desultory piano lessons. Though the instructions were haphazard, the music excited him. One night, going to bed after hearing a concert, he was found weeping.

"The music won't leave my head," he whimpered. "It won't let me go to sleep."

Whenever Tchaikovsky conducted an orchestra early in his career he was in continual dread that his head might slip off his shoulders; his baton in his right hand, he would hold his chin with his left hand. He was sure that someday he would die as his mother had, from cholera. Eventually, he did.

As one observer of the composer's complex nature said, "His character is a formidable contradiction of genuine passion and hypocritical sham."

However accurate a measure of Tchaikovsky the man, it pales in importance beside the monumental musical heritage left by Tchaikovsky the composer.

Ed. note--Because of school vacation, the next of Mr. Swisher's column will appear in the Jan. 8 issue.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NOTES

The congregation Faith Lutheran will celebrate Christmas with a service at 7 p.m. for the entire family. A thirty-voice youth choir composed of high school students from Nyssa and Vale Lutheran congregations will give two selections: a spiritual, "Mary, Mary, Where is Your Baby," and a canon, "Mary had a baby." In addition to the singing of carols and a special Christmas message, the celebration of the Lord's Supper will take place.

The high school students will enjoy a sledding or skating party, Dec. 29 beginning at 3 p.m. Cars will leave from the church at 2:30.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Recovery Incorporated, a non-sectarian, non-denominational, non-profit organization meets each Friday, at 8 p.m. at the Nyssa Christian Church, 5th and Ennis Ave. It is for anyone wishing to learn how to solve personal problems.

Christmas, 1969

No one really likes to change. Somehow that indicates to us a weakness in our character. If we change our minds, we think we are saying we are wrong. If we change our actions, we think we are admitting that we have made a mistake.

Yet, not to change is far more serious and dangerous. If we refuse to reconsider our thoughts, attitudes or actions, we are saying our judgements are perfect. I suggest that, Biblically speaking, Christ alone fits that precious category. It follows, of course, that if we are not perfect, then all of our actions and thoughts have room for reconsideration, revision and growth.

The central thrust of Christmas is change. Outwardly, our community has changed since Thanksgiving in quite a radical way. We now have gaily lighted streets, pine-scented homes, carol-singing congregations and beautifully decorated store windows. If the change stops there, our community, homes and congregations will have gained little from Christmas, 1969. If we open our hearts and minds to the possibility of thinking freshly and openly in the area of community relations and affairs, our own moral and spiritual life, politics, and attitudes toward each other, then the Spirit of Christmas can produce some positive thrusts from each one of us in concrete terms of producing changes in our life, our community and our nation.

The Christ of Bethlehem makes all the difference. In Him we can have the strength to endure the statement, "I was wrong." In Him resides the possibility of "a better way." In Him we can claim forgiveness for all the mistakes, for the lack of enthusiasm and initiative we have displayed. This forgiveness can open up to us a whole new world of exciting possibilities.

I don't advocate change for the sake of change itself. But if we refuse to be open to changes that ought to take place in us or the area where we live, then we either assume the role of God in determining that our judgements are always right, or we become lethargic, which is a kind of death. In either case, the meaning and joy of Christmas, 1969, will fade as quickly as the dead needles fall off our Christmas tree. — Rev. Orville A. Jacobson, Pastor of Faith Lutheran, Nyssa and Grace Lutheran Church, Vale.

PEACE ON EARTH



At Christmas, a special prayer: May mankind be blessed with "Peace on Earth." And a special wish: May your personal Christmas be a most happy one.

OWYHEE TRUCK & IMPLEMENT CO.

Holy Night



As it came in the hush of that Holy Night, so long ago, may the wonder of the Christmas miracle once more fill your heart with a transcendent joy!

COAST-TO-COAST STORE

NOEL



Joyful voices singing well-loved carols, telling of the first Noel, guide us to the true spirit of Christmas. May its joys, its divine message be with us, always.

Nolan Field Agency



Rejoice

... for Christmas is here! One of the season's bright pleasures is exchanging holiday greetings. This pleasure is ours as we say, "Thanks" to our many loyal customers.

Adrian Mercantile

GEORGE and LOIS

Best Wishes to You

Once again holiday bells ring out, the air fills with the fragrance of holly and poinsettia and everybody dreams about an old-fashioned white Christmas. As you trim the tree and stuff stockings, we extend best wishes for the merriest Christmas ever!

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Greetings and Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas

May the blessings of this beautiful season bring you joy and happiness!



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