

Director Reviews Performance of 'Keyboard Concert' Soloists

By ABE MILSTEIN

Director of music of the Torrance Unified School District and Conductor of the Adult Concert Orchestra.

EDITOR'S NOTE: At the concert, Director Milstein paid high tribute to the teachers of the five young pianists for their ability in developing such fine talents in their students. Mary Elizabeth Selover is a pupil of Mrs. Evelyn Coles; Mickey Van DeVenter studies under Mrs. Kathryn Buffington; and Katherine Curtiss, Pat Clere and Nancy Whyte are all pupils of Mrs. Colette Nance.

The Torrance Concert Orchestra and five young talented piano soloists made a small, but appreciative audience aware of the artistic potential within this community. The orchestra has shown musical maturity with each public performance. Outstanding selections at the last Friday night's performance at the Torrance High School auditorium were "Country Gardens" by Percy Grainger, Debussy's "Clair de Lune," and Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto."

Queen Chairman Reveals Donors Of Court Gifts

The evening's greatest approval and applause, however, were won by the five young piano soloists.

In the order of their appearance, 10-year old Mary Elizabeth Selover played Ellenerich's "Spinning Song" with a sensitive touch for fine piano tone. Katherine Curtiss, 11 years old, played with confidence and command usually found only in more advanced piano students. Her selection was "Valse Chromatique" by Godard.

Mickey Van DeVenter, high school student was first heard in the brilliant "Ritual Fire Dance" by De Falla. Her tonal weight in the full chords of Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C Sharp Minor" gave her piano just the necessary strength and authority for this music. The orchestra accompanied Miss Van DeVenter.

Miss Pat Clere, Torrance High School graduate of 1949 and now a student at El Camino College, was heard first in a sympathetic interpretation of the romantic movement from Rachmaninoff's "Concerto Number Two," popularly heard as "Full Moon and Empty Arms." In her encore Miss Clere displayed an easy facility for the technical demands of the contrasting music of "Toccatto" by Khachaturian.

Highest musical honors for the evening must go to Miss Nancy Ann Whyte, whose early piano study was received in Torrance, and who now is a student at Mills College in Oakland where she is a major in music. Miss Whyte displayed a mature artistic understanding of the music she played. Fingerings and technique were taken granted as the "Variations" of Beethoven came to life. The changes of styles and modes made each variation a distinct musical portrait. Miss Whyte thrilled the audience with a professional performance. Her encore was the Paganini-Liszt "Etude Number Five." Members of Friday night's audience expressed the opinion they would enjoy hearing Miss Whyte in a full-length recital.

The following list of prizes which the '51 Queen contestants will divide at the end of the contest on April 7 was reported donated by various merchants in this area, by Miss Mary Schultz, general chairman of the 1951 Queen race.

Almond's Department Store, pink nashua blanket; Benson's, beige topper; Mode O' Day, hosiery; Adams Dress Shop, Mojud gown; The Gay Shop, dress; Ellwood's, Dress Shop, white batiste blouse; Levy's Department Store, silk night gown; Mayflower Dress Shop, fuchsia crepe blouse; Rene Sport Shop, blouse; Trend O' Fashion, two pair hose; Allen Jewelers, watch.

Gary's Jewelers, silver compact; Howard's Jewelers, rhinestone necklace and earring set; Lawson's Jewelers, diamond ring; Burke's Bargain Spot, outdoor chair; Frank's Furniture, Chinese planter lamp; Porter's Yardage, His and Her towel set; A-1 Photo Supply, box of note paper; Photo Arts Studio, 11 by 14 portrait of the Queen; Joe's Sport Shop, can of tennis balls.

National Home Appliance, leather jewel box and clock; Parish Stationers, silver pencil; Paul and Johns, 1-gallon white enamel; Sherwin-Williams, paint for one bedroom; Torrance Flower Shop, orchid for queen, bouquets for parade, and coronation; La Mode Furniture, boudoir chair; Star Furniture Co., all-wool blanket; Beacon-Drug Co., La Crosse manure set; Lovelady Hardware Co., hair-dryer; Payless Drug Store, bubble bath and Bath Sweet; Bernard's Family Shoe Store, pair of shoes; Karl's Shoe Store, black purse; Kirby's Shoe Store, pair of black shoes; Newberry's, pair of boudoir lamps; Western Auto, set of dishes; La Tienda Gift Shop, knick-knack for what-not; La Galeria Florist, corsage; Emma Roberts Beauty Shop, permanent wave; and Baker's Furniture store, table lamp.

Open for business last Monday morning at 1614 Craven avenue was the Torrance Escrow Guaranty Company, a new business to be operated by Joe Mongini, former escrow officer at the California Bank in San Pedro.

A former Army 1st sergeant, Mongini will bring the experience of five years with the San Pedro bank and several years of accountancy with the Kennicott Copper Company in Arizona to his new business.

Married and the father of a 21-month-old daughter, Mongini plans to move to Torrance in the near future.

Torrance Park and McMaster's Park winners will compete in Saturday's finals beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Wind Blows Kite Contest To Seaside

After considering the anomalous superiority of the Seaside Ranchos Elementary School over the Torrance Municipal Park, city officials announced this week that the kite-flying finals would be held at Seaside Saturday instead of at the park.

The whole thing came to a head last week when the Seaside kids had a whole of a time flying their kites while the kids who lugged their space ships on a string to the Torrance Park, lugged them home again without ever getting off the ground.

The reason was simple: Wind at Seaside—no wind at the park.

More than 70 entrants swarmed into Seaside last Friday, where kites of all sizes and descriptions were "flown out of sight."

Seaside, Walteria, Fern ave.

Joe Mongini Opens New Escrow Firm

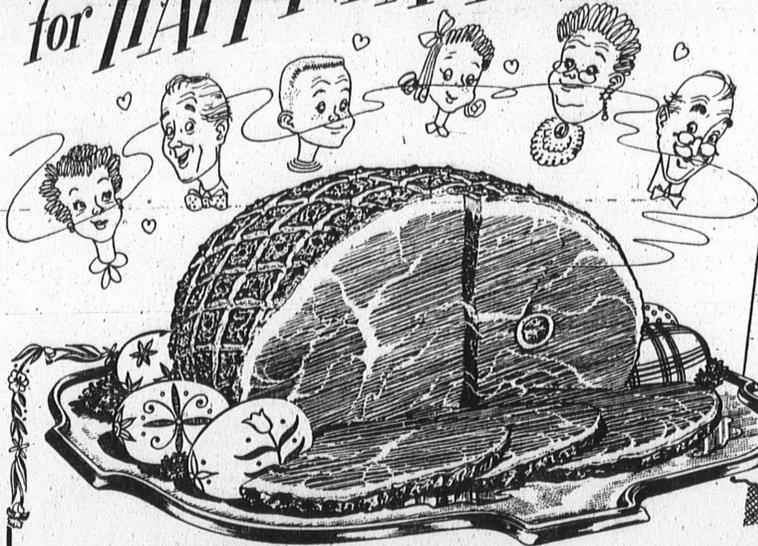
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