

ANN  
LANDERS

## Tell the Bride

Dear Ann Landers: I attended a wedding last week which left me horribly depressed. Now another thing occurs to me. Was it legal?

The bride and groom both live in another city, but the wedding was held in the home town of the bride. It was a church affair. The bride walked down the aisle on her father's arm. She looked like she'd been crying for a week. When they reached the altar the minister announced that the groom was in the hospital, ill, and his cousin would serve as his proxy.

The cousin came forward, stood by the bride and responded "I do" to all the questions. He then put the ring on her finger and the minister said, "I now pronounce you man and wife." They did not kiss at the close of the ceremony, which was quite a relief.

There were no felicitations or congratulations. The families wept all over each other and left the church. It was more like a funeral than a wedding. Please tell me if you have ever heard of such a thing and if the marriage is valid.—Vicksburg, Miss.

Dear Vick: Proxy marriages are legal in some states, but Mississippi is not one of them. (Neither is Illinois.)

Obviously the bride believes she is married. Someone ought to acquaint her with the facts. And the minister as well.

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Dear Ann Landers: I am 24 and have been married for two years. Last April I gave birth to a premature boy. My labor was long and complicated. The boy lived only three hours.

I wasn't allowed to have any anesthetic because the doctor wanted to give the baby every chance. I remember every second of my labor and it was a horrible experience.

I realize the first delivery is usually the most difficult, but the thought of getting pregnant again terrifies me. My husband and I both want to try again, but my fear of pregnancy has made me anti-sex and I burst into tears over the least little thing. I'd crack up for sure if I became pregnant while I'm in this state of mind.

If you think therapy would help, I'll go. Many thanks.—Nightmare Revisited.

Dear N.: Your anxieties are hanging on much too long. A competent therapist and a supportive husband should solve the problem. Go for help and good luck.

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Dear Ann Landers: I am an M.D. who reads you often. Today I was dismayed to find you recommending cleaning fluid to remove gum from the body.

Unfortunately, carbon tetrachloride is still used in cleaning solutions. Absorption of this substance through the skin or by inhalation can cause serious liver and kidney damage. I hate to think that thousands of mothers who read your column will be scrubbing their kids with cleaning fluid. I hope you will issue an appropriate warning.—W.N., M.D. (Riverside)

Dear Dr.: My medical consultants say it would take a lot of scrubbing with cleaning fluid to damage the liver or kidneys. But why take a chance so—all you mummies out there whose kids are stuck to the chairs, tricycles and piano benches—use olive oil or pure vegetable oil. Wrigley's and Leaf brand agree it is the safest gum remover.

Too many couples go from matrimony to acrimony. Don't let your marriage flop before it gets started. Send for Ann Landers' booklet, "Marriage—What to Expect." Send your request to Ann Landers in care of the Press Herald, enclosing 50 cents in coin and a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the Press-Herald, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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## Players Name New Officers for Season

The Long Beach Community Players held their annual general meeting at Community Playhouse on May 18th and the theatrical group elected Joseph Causey president for another term.

Serving with Causey is Don Danielson, vice-president; Charlotte Shuman, secretary; and Ralph Manns, treasurer. All officers were elected for '69-70 playhouse year.

In addition to the election of the officers, other playhouse business included the election of Howard Conrad to a five-year term on the board of trustees. Joseph Causey, Don Danielson, Edwin Hyka and

Dr. Edward Wright were also elected to three-year terms on the Board of directors.

George Herman was appointed as interim technical director for the year.

Community Playhouse is one of the five oldest community theaters in America and celebrates its 40th continuous year of production and service to the southland area.

Causey praised last year's efforts of community Playhouse and thanked all who supported the theater. He promised an even more successful year and will announce plans for future productions later this year.

## Mme. Alice Ehlers: An Epic of Talent

The story of Alice Ehlers is an epic of devotion, courage, and uncanny talent; talent not just for playing the harpsichord, but for developing warm personal ties with luminaries around the world.

Her life-long study of music has linked her name with such well-known figures as Wanda Landowska; Dr. Albert Schweitzer; and composer Paul Hindemith.

And her 50-year career as a concert harpsichordist has found her giving many benefit performances in addition to her countless concert tours of Europe, Russia, South America, Israel, and the United States.

Today, at 82, Mme. Alice Ehlers lives in quiet retirement at her Redondo Beach home, where she has resided for the past eight years. Relaxing in the cool dignity of her parlor, Mme. Ehlers still reflects the loveliness of a cameo, carefully carved from ivory. Her hands are smooth and strong, the result of years of painstaking practice.

Against one wall is her cherished harpsichord, which she still plays four to five hours a day. It is the same instrument that Mme. Ehlers has often had to shield from crowds of curious onlookers in many parts of the world where the harpsichord had never been seen nor heard before.

And on the opposite wall, her piano. Mme. Ehlers says that she has always worked out unfamiliar pieces on the piano first, taking them to the harpsichord only after thinking through their interpretation.

Although Mme. Ehlers gave her final public concert a year ago and is no longer a working member of the USC music faculty, she is frequently consulted by concert harpsichordists and former students, who seek her studied advice on the finer points of phrasing, tempo, and nuance.

The story of Mme. Ehlers' eventual life begins April 16, 1887, in Vienna. At an early age, little Alice Pulay shared her Hungarian-born father's love of music, taking up the piano at the age of six. She knew that music would be her life's work, but it wasn't until her mid 20s that she decided to dedicate herself to the mastery of the harpsichord, an ancient keyboard instrument that predated the piano and produces a lighter, tinkling sound.

As a teenager, Mme. Ehlers was deeply influenced by the captivating charm of old Vienna. Music was everywhere and she reveled in it. Another struggling young musician (and firm friend of Mme. Ehlers) was Alban Berg, later noted for his modern compositions.

"We were all in the same boat," Mme. Ehlers mused. "We loved music, none of us had any money, so what we did was to stand through a whole opera on the farthest balcony, taking for granted to have the score with us and reading it in a snobbish way, not looking at the stage because we knew it so well!"

Berg used to come to her home carrying an armload of modern music, which Mme. Ehlers, still a teenager, played with him on the piano in the spirit of good sportsmanship, even though she now confesses she had little understanding for it. Her all-consuming interest was Bach, a composer sadly neglected in an era when Brams, Chopin, and Beethoven were the rage. In fact, it was her passion for Bach that eventually drew her to the harpsichord, the instrument for which much of Bach's music was written.

At the age of 19, Mme. Ehlers left her native Vienna for Berlin, where she met her future husband, artist-sculptor Alfred Ehlers. They were married a short time before Mme. Ehlers enrolled at Hochschule

far Musik, the state music academy, and continued her studies of piano and music theory.

It was 1913 when Wanda Landowska joined the faculty of Hochschule, enabling Mme. Ehlers to hear Baroque music played for the first time on the instrument for which it was composed: the harpsichord. Landowska had received world acclaim for resurrecting the harpsichord following its many years of obscurity.

The decision was almost instantaneous. Mme. Ehlers had found her calling in the music world. She became one of Landowska's most devoted students.

In her own words, Mme. Ehlers exclaimed, "As a harpsichord player, I haven't heard anyone as brilliant, and probably never will, as Landowska." But Mme. Ehlers' knowledge of the instrument stems largely from observing her mentor's technique, rather than from verbal comments from her teacher. Perhaps there were many things about the mastery of the harpsichord that simply couldn't be explained in words, Mme. Ehlers mused, because Landowska said little. Her teaching ability was not on the same level with her musicianship.

In fact, Landowska used to refer her less talented students to Mme. Ehlers for lessons, telling her, "Practice with them, my child!"

Mme. Ehlers' studies with Wanda Landowska continued until the end of World War I, in 1918, when Landowska moved to Paris. That's when Mme. Ehlers began forging a concert career of her own.

Touring with a harpsichord was no easy task in those days. As likely as not, the instrument would end up aboard the wrong train or barely escape splintering at the hands of careless porters. It was not uncommon for Mme. Ehlers to get up during the night to make sure her harpsichord was not being loaded into the wrong car.

Mme. Ehlers said she had gotten up around midnight one night to supervise the unloading of her harpsichord from its boxcar. As porters opened the door of the car which housed her instrument, Mme. Ehlers got the shock of her life. What seemed like hundreds of tiny piglets came waddling down the gangplank amid many an oink and squeal!

"The harpsichord was kept warm," Mme. Ehlers burst, "but the smell was unbelievable!"

Composer Paul Hindemith, with whom she organized a trio and toured Europe, used to rib her about her midnight excursions to check on her beloved instrument.

It was early in her career that Mme. Ehlers had the opportunity to meet one of her artistic admirers: Dr. Albert Schweitzer. The famed doctor, who was also an accomplished

musician, had been following Mme. Ehlers' career for some time before their first meeting and was intrigued with her interpretation of Bach, a composer he also idolized.

The year was 1919 and Dr. Schweitzer was in Berlin for a speaking engagement. Following the lecture, young artists, including Mme. Ehlers, gathered at a small cafe for conversation and who should appear but Dr. Schweitzer and his coterie.

Mme. Ehlers stayed quietly in her corner, too shy to approach the great humanitarian, but he recognized her and sent his secretary across the room to invite her to join them.

"Her heart was going 100 miles per hour," explained Mme. Ehlers' daughter Maria with who she shares her Hollywood Riviera home. "She was overjoyed at being so honored!"

The friendship between Mme. Ehlers and Albert Schweitzer was quickly established. She played for him the very next day and spent several summers visiting Dr. Schweitzer's home in Günsbach, practicing and learning from the legendary figure.

He called her "Cembalichen," a nickname from the Italian word for harpsichord.

At Günsbach, Mme. Ehlers practiced in the music room, right next to Schweitzer's study. "I was always amazed how in the midst of his book-writing and philosophical thinking, he listened with one ear to what I did in the other room, practicing."

"In many ways he was a contradiction," Mme. Ehlers revealed. "The endless patience he had for people; and yet by nature, he was very impatient, as he told me."

Over the years, Mme. Ehlers gave a number of benefit concerts to raise funds for Dr. Schweitzer's work in Lambare, Africa, where he had established a hospital for the natives. She corresponded with him often, and many of his letters to her have been duplicated and translated for inclusion in Mme. Ehlers' biography. The document was prepared during the last year under the auspices of the UCLA Oral History Program and is now available to qualified researchers in UCLA Library's Department of Special Collections.

Mme. Ehlers' list of honors could fill a book. Upon leaving the academy in Berlin, she was awarded the Mendelssohn Prize as the most promising young musician. In 1949, she was awarded an honorary doctor of music degree by Lewis and Clark College, and in 1954, she was named "Walker Ames Professor" by the University of Washington, an honor previously awarded to Bela Bartok and other distinguished musicians.

In 1936, Mme. Ehlers came to the United States, giving her first concert at the Library of

Congress. Two years later, she moved to California and has made her home here ever since. She is credited with introducing the harpsichord to the West Coast, where it had never been heard before, to her knowledge.

In 1939, Mme. Ehlers appeared in the movie "Wuthering Heights," providing harpsichord music in a parlor scene. The appearance led to radio concerts and she was asked to join the USC music faculty the following year. Mme. Ehlers is now Professor of Music Emerita at USC.

In 1967, the South Bay Chamber Music Society set up the Alice Ehlers Young Musicians Performance Fund, which enables aspiring concert artists to perform in public for a small fee. Mme. Ehlers has supported the fund through benefit concerts.

That same year, in honor of her 80th birthday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors presented her with a resolution honoring her for her musicianship as well as her work among young people.

Her birthday was also marked by receipt of the Officers' Cross of the Order of Merit, a gift from the West German government.

The harpsichord in America owes its life to Alice Ehlers. When she came to Southern California, she was for years the only harpsichord teacher, and now her students are the only teachers. Looking back over a lifetime of practice, performance, and teaching, Mme. Ehlers can take pride in her part in the renaissance of interest in an instrument and an era of music once largely forgotten.

"The harpsichord has no fight anymore," she says. "It's accepted!"



ALICE EHLERS WITH ALBERT SCHWEITZER

## Vocalists Slate Annual Concert

Students of Mrs. Joyce Smith will present their annual Voice Concert Saturday at Margate Junior High School, 2161 Via Olivera, Palos Verdes Estates.

The 60 students participating range in ages from 3 to 13 years of age. They represent classes taught in San Pedro, Redondo Beach, Torrance and Palos Verdes.

Mrs. Smith chose animal life as the theme for the concert and all of the songs presented will be about animals, birds, etc.

Each class will be dressed in alike outfits with the girls in

gingham checked dresses and the boys with shirts of matching colors.

The Songsmiths, Mrs. Smith's professional group of entertainers whose ages range from 7 to 13, will also perform on the program. They will sing "The Cow" and "The Inchworm," two of the songs that appear on their new record album, "The Songsmiths Sing!" They will finish their portion of the program with "Swinging On A Star" and "The Ugly Bug Ball."

The Songsmiths will join the other classes to sing "High Hopes," "Feed The Birds," "I'm Late" and a medley of patriotic numbers.

Special artists for the evening will be Lisa Ervin, piano soloist and Steve Moss, dancer. Accompanist for the evening is Mrs. Karen Hoopes of Torrance.

## Gun-Toting Man Robs Mini-Mart

A man in his late 20s escaped with \$126 Friday night after holding up the Stop 'n' Go Market at 3222 Lomita Blvd.

The market attendant told police the man entered the store about 10:45 p.m. and asked for a popular dog food. He selected a bag of dog meal from the shelves and brought it to the counter, pulling a blue steel revolver on the attendant.

The clerk told police the suspect fled with the cash and the dog food, but deposited the dog meal in a trash can outside the front door.

## BMHS Senior Will Study AT UCR

Bishop Montgomery High student Gerald Ho will conduct his own science research project this summer under the auspices of the University of California, Riverside.

He is one of 30 outstanding students selected from high schools across the nation to attend the sixth student science training program at UCR. Gerald is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ho, of 1648 W. 208th St.

The seven-week program, beginning June 23, gives students still in high school the chance to do university-level research in biological and physical sciences related to agricultural sciences. All students selected to attend the summer session are now finishing their junior year in high school.

The program will consist of seminars, lecture-demonstrations, field trips and an individual research project conducted at UCR in laboratory facilities of the College of Biological and Agricultural Sciences as well as the Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment Station.

## Two Men Hold Up Station

Torrance police are seeking two men, one white and one Negro, in connection with Sunday's armed robbery of the Richfield Service Station at 1805 W. 190th St.

An attendant on duty at the station said the two men pulled up in a car about 12:30 a.m. The Negro, who was sitting in the passenger seat, got out and asked for directions to Harbor College. When the attendant gave him a map, the suspect allegedly drew a gun, covered it with the map, and threatened to shoot the attendant if he didn't hand over his cash.

The attendant said he gave the suspect about \$60 to \$70 from the cash box.

## Motorcyclist Injures Eye In Collision

A Torrance student was severely injured Saturday when the motorcycle he was riding collided with a car at the corner of Newton Avenue and Pitcairn Way.

Police said Lawrence H. Klepinger, 21, of 25218 Tandem Way, suffered a forehead laceration and complained of intense pain to his right hip. His right eye was swollen shut, police said.

Driver of the car was Ernest McConahay, 38, of 3314 Newton Ave. McConahay and Klepinger were both traveling east on Newton Avenue at the time of the accident, 5:50 p.m. Neither driver was cited, police said.



SHOW STOPPER . . . Highlighting North High School's arts and crafts show last week was an automated man in a cage built by senior Brent Scrivner. Designed to symbolize men's trapped feelings, the kinetic sculpture was entitled USA: 9-5. Featuring moving arms, legs and head, and flashing lights, it took more than 80 hours to complete. Scrivner previously won prizes for motorized art in a contest sponsored by a radio station and for a safety poster in a contest sponsored by the city of Torrance. More than 200 entries were exhibited in the North High show.

## Fuchsias On Display At Garden

A display of fuchsias is currently open to the public at South Coast Botanic Garden, 26701 Rolling Hills Road, Palos Verdes Peninsula. The garden is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge.

The display at the garden, prepared by foundation volunteers, includes basic plant and flower forms and a propagating exhibit showing plants from cutting through mature stages.