

Winter's Official Arrival Scheduled for December 21

ANN ARBOR—Interest in astronomy reaches its highest peak each December, according to Dr. Hazel M. Losh, assistant professor of astronomy at the University of Michigan.

The official arrival of winter, the appearance of some of the most beautiful stars in the heavens and the never-ending mystery of the Christmas star help to arouse the interest of both the amateur and professional astronomer, she reports.

For the record, winter will arrive officially at 11:24 p. m. on Wednesday, December 21, when the sun enters the winter solstice. The shortest day of the year occurs then but this also means that the sun will be heading northward again after dropping more than 23 degrees south of the equator.

"The mystery of the Christmas star stirs men's thoughts and imagination," Dr. Losh says. "Everyone is familiar with the story of how a bright star directed the wise men, bearing gifts for the newborn Christ, to Bethlehem. But the astronomical information is too incomplete and the date and early calendar too uncertain for any definite conclusions to be drawn as to the identity of this star."

In Favored Position

Venus is mentioned most frequently since it is in a favored position for the Christmas season, the University astronomer reports. During the month, Venus will be a "miraculously beautiful and brilliant" object in the southwest twilight and will reach its greatest brilliance on Christmas night.

"Besides Venus, a bright comet, a bright star, a new star or nova or an unusual grouping of two or more planets have been suggested as other possibilities as the Christmas star 1,949 years ago," Dr. Losh says. This year, Venus passed just to the south of Jupiter on the night of December 6, providing an unusual attraction in the heavens.

While there will be many beautiful stars in the December sky, Dr. Losh calls particular attention to the Northern Cross which will be standing upright in the west at around 9:00 p. m. on Christmas Eve.

Classified ad deadline is 5 p. m. each Tuesday.



GETTING UNDERWAY—The "Genesee I" is launched in the Free Territory of Trieste shipyards, the first of six ocean-going fishing ships to be built with Marshall Plan help. An Italian fishing company will use it to fish in the waters off Newfoundland, the catch to be processed for Austrian and German markets.

Traffic Deaths in State Again Show Increase

State Police report that traffic accidents took 136 lives in Michigan during the month of October. There were also 3,671 persons injured in the 12,184 reported accidents.

The death toll was three more than the 133 killed in the same month last year, continuing the upward trend that began in August. Injuries were down three per cent but reported accidents increased one per cent.

In rural areas deaths resulting from run-of-roadway types of accidents nearly doubled and pedestrian deaths also increased. Most of the fatality reduction in urban areas was due to a sharp decrease in pedestrian deaths.

The record for the first ten months of this year shows little

change compared with the same period a year ago. There were 1,139 deaths, a decrease of 13 or one per cent; injuries totaled 33,339, a gain of 437, or about one per cent, and 114,465 accidents were reported, an increase of 1,054, or about one per cent.

Up Three Per Cent

The death toll was up three per cent in rural areas and down 13 per cent in urban areas. All of the urban reduction occurred in cities of more than 10,000 and was largely due to the sharp drop in pedestrian deaths.

Rural areas showed an increase of 44 per cent in run-of-roadway fatalities, 27 per cent in bicycle deaths and eight per cent in pedestrian deaths.

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LEND AN EAR

By MADELINE BRODIE

"SOME ENCHANTED EVENINGS"

Much of Detroit should soon be humming the gay and romantic melodies of Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, and Sigmund Romberg for the Civic Light Opera begins its seventh gala season at the Masonic Auditorium, Dec. 25. Arriving along with Saint Nick, it will be here until March 5, long after Dancer and Prancer have fled.

Here's music that will never die—such tunes as Old Man River and Why Do I Love You, from Show Boat—or Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life and The Italian Street Song, from Naughty Marietta which have become classics in their own right.

In fact, there are so many hits each of the 10 scheduled productions that I could fill the rest of my column merely listing them—Tea for Two . . . Strange Music . . . Sympathy . . . Falling in Love . . . and on and on . . .

First in Show Boat

Show Boat will begin this round of music and merriment and will be followed by Naughty Marietta, starring Cass Daley; Good News, starring Sonny Tufts; The Chocolate Soldier, with Alan Jones; Desert Song; No, No, Nanette, featuring Everett Edward Horton; Up in Central Park, with Kenny Baker.

Song of Norway, also featuring Mr. Baker; Annie Get Your Gun, with Billy Worth and Donald Burr; and Carmen Jones . . . thus we see Broadway and Hollywood combining their talents in these perennial favorites.

I'll admit that gazing at this wonderful display of famous productions is like viewing a beautiful box of chocolates—one doesn't know which to pick first.

But if one has his favorites among this galaxy of hit shows, he has only to tie himself to the Masonic Auditorium to partake of an evening or three of the best in musical comedy.

No doubt South Pacific is earning its place among these immortals—so perhaps we are not too premature in quoting from the youngest of this famous family . . .

here's to many an "Enchanted Evening" with the Civic Light Opera.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S RECORDS

Christmas comes but once a year, and when it does it brings . . . the problem of just what to give to the small fry—their son, daughter, or little nephew.

But actually, it isn't a problem any more if you will remember that the record companies have gone all out in the production of children's records, and that you can now find something to fit every group and every "little personality."

People will rush to the store to get their friends the newest records of Beethoven's Ninth, but it will never occur to them that there are just as many interesting and impressive records for junior.

Many of these records tell comic stories that are narrated with musical backgrounds—some are western songs, and others are well known tunes as Johnny Appleseed, Pinocchio, and Little Black Sambo.

A Good Beginning

These records are a good beginning to the appreciation of music (and will, incidentally, keep your darlings occupied for hours). They keep junior entertained, and at the same time, inculcate in him, no matter how young, a love for musical sounds.

For the older children, there are numbers that encourage the listener to sing along with the record (and there's no law against Mother and Dad joining in on the last chorus). Or a group of records that are designed to familiarize the listener with the characteristic sounds of the instruments of the orchestra.

There are also many selections such as Perpetual Motion by Johann Strauss Jr. or the Toy Symphony of Haydn with its quaint use of toy instruments that captivate the heart and imagination of the youngest listener.

Many Are Available

These are but a few of the

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Birmingham Man Is Promoted by U. S. Marine Corps

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—Marine Alexander L. Clark, Route 8, East 14 Mile Road, Birmingham, Mich., has been promoted to sergeant. He was one of 150 other Marines of the Marine Barracks at Camp Pendleton to be promoted.

He entered the Marine Corps at Detroit in April, 1947. Clark is now serving as chief clerk, pay signal battalion, Marine Barracks, Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, near Oceanide, Calif. Camp Pendleton is the Marines' largest training station.

Sergeant Clark attended Baldwin High School at Birmingham where he was active in football, track and was graduated in 1947. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clark, of the same address.

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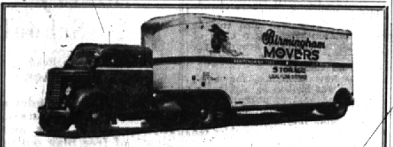
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