

A promising, wagging tongue is the cause of much unhappiness among people. If each of us, when told gossip, would say: "Now, listen, can you prove what you are saying?", much harm would be stopped at its very source.

Michigan Engineers to Hear Van Wagoner

"The engineer's job in planning for the future" will be the theme of the 70th annual convention of the Michigan Engineering Society to be held March 24 and 25 at Cranbrook School. In addition to current technical topics, there will be demonstrations by the General Motors Corporation and the Bell Telephone Co. on recent developments in their fields. Highlighting the convention will be a banquet on the closing evening by Murray D. Van Wagoner, recent American occupant of the governor of Bavaria and former governor of Michigan, as principal speaker.

LEND AN EAR

By MADELINE BRODIE

DRESS REHEARSAL WITH LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Sh! Genius at work—and I really mean work! I was privileged to peek behind the scenes to watch Leonard Bernstein at the final rehearsal for the Bach Commemoration Concert held Feb. 5, which was, incidentally, one of the finest musical events we've had to date.

Mr. Bernstein who was sporting a T-shirt, topped by a powder blue golf shirt with tails to the wind—in the manner of a bobby-soxer—and leather boots, was all things at the rehearsal: conductor in the Cantata "Christ Lag in To-day"; pianist in the "Magnificat"; in D; piano soloist and conductor in the Brandenburg Concerto No. 5; soloist along with Mischa Kottler and Karl Haas, and the conductor in the Concerto for Three Pianos and Orchestra.

"I might add he was the all-encompassing force behind this magnificent concert: general coordinator, diplomat, pep-ignitor, mentor and acoustics-checker, the last duty necessitating his running to the back of Masonic Auditorium five or six times to catch the people in the \$150 seats—are you dizzy? I was I—where did you see him?—no much energy and so much talent!

Can't Believe Your Eyes You may be wondering just how Mr. Bernstein manages to act as piano soloist and conductor at the same time—in fact, even as you watch him conduct this amazing feat, you can't quite believe your eyes (or your ears). Technically, the soloist-conductor must play like a wizard and

still cue in the orchestra with whatever hand is available at the time. During the rehearsal, even Mr. Bernstein's feet came into play at fierce moments in the two concertos when there just wasn't a hand available.

However, this latter cue, having once been established in the minds of the orchestra, was probably dispensed with at the time of the concert.

Very Able Pianist Mr. Bernstein is a very able pianist who can attack a very difficult passage most expertly, even after having waved his arms about in order to direct the orchestra over a difficult section. He magically keeps everything together, with a nod of the head, all I know, a look in the eye.

Bach's music is not like Tchaikovsky's or Schubert's. There is no one melody that towers over all. But rather his music consists of many melodies that weave in and out, giving the listener a feeling of continual movement where instruments speak and other instruments answer.

Or in the choral works where the melody finds itself first in the tenor, then in the alto, then the bass and so on, until it has been exhausted and a new melody begins in the soprano, keeping them in a balance of tempo, rhythm and volume.

Works Quickly, Calmly Bernstein has an amazing facility of getting his suggestions across to his musicians. He works quickly and calmly when something does go a bit awry, he claps his hands—silence—reigns—and with a gracious manner, or a clever quip he suggests the effect he desires. He is evidently not afraid of work and assumes that no one else should be.

It is not an easy thing to go into a studio city, to work with a strange orchestra and chorus in a strange house and still manage to produce a fine program in a relatively short time. For it usually requires a period of working to get the better of the orchestra, that artistic rapport between orchestra and conductor—that feeling of understanding that must exist, if they are to successfully combine their art. Yet the mere of the "Little Symphony" responded to every movement and persuasion of their gifted young conductor.

When it came to the Cantata "The Magnificat," Bernstein showed himself to be a conductor of great direction. No composer or human voice, as is employed in

Consumers Power to Install Gas Main on Greenfield From 9 to 14 Mile Roads

Consumers Power Company announced recently construction expenditures of more than \$40,000,000 dollars to expand electric and gas facilities throughout its entire area during the coming year. Public Division projects amounting to \$2,800,000 dollars are included in the \$40,000,000 dollar construction program.

Also laid from Coolidge Highway gas plant at 14 Mile and Coolidge highway to the intersection of Woodward Heights boulevard and John R. street, five miles of this line will be of 12-inch diameter and three miles of 8-inch diameter, Campbell stated.

He also commented the company expects to add about 4,500 new gas customers during the year and to supply gas heating service to about 5,000 additional customers.

This will be made possible by the construction of the mains as stated and approximately 10 miles of small diameter mains in widely scattered new business areas, together with the building of the necessary additional gas regulator and treatment stations.

Campbell further stated they have received in the Royal Oak District more than 3500 applications so far for gas house heating. All of these applications are being processed in an orderly manner as quickly as possible through the company distribution engineering department.

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Five Miles of 12-Inch Pipe Another new steel main will be installed in Oak Ridge.

These works create effects that no instrument or combination of instruments can achieve.

But Bernstein with sure technique and vital imagination was able to draw forth a blending of these wonderful lines of melody, the solemnity and majesty of true Bach.

Chorus Well-Groomed Bernstein will demand that a section be sung over and over again until the chorus has mastered the effect desired. But he will pat them on their collective backs at every possible opportunity.

Of course, this rehearsal was the last before performance, and one can imagine the amount of work that preceded it. Much credit must go to Dr. Lloyd Kemp and August Mackelburg for their fine grooming of the choruses that no one could have done better.

We had arrived at 8:30 a.m. for this rehearsal and left Mr. Bernstein still at it three hours later . . . and we had seen the Bach Commemoration Concert come to life under the magical movements of our thirty-one-year-old maestro.

Seeing the genius of Leonard Bernstein at work pointed up, all the more, the great musical void that exists in Detroit. Can we attract a Bernstein here permanently—or most, Detroit, remain forever the city without an orchestra?

2 Street Improvement Hearings for Feb. 27

Two street improvement hearings have been set for Feb. 27 by the city commission.

One is for the improvement of Pembroke, Eton to Coolidge; and of Edgewood, and Edgewood to Bird to Smith.

Homes are now being constructed on these streets, and improvement costs can be worked into mortgage payments if assessment districts are created now, City Manager Donald C. Ebert pointed out to the commission.

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