



CLEMENT PENROSE SELECTS A FAVORITE RECORD
He can choose from more than 50,000 (Eccentric Staff Photo)

It Took 41 Years To Acquire His 12,000 Records

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Special Writer For The Eccentric

From Chopin to Jelly Roll Morton—Alma Gluck to Mildred Bailey—Opera to Dixieland jazz. Take your pick. It's all included in the 12,000 record collection of Clement A. Penrose, 910 Waddington, Birmingham's avid record collector.

Penrose, who has been collecting phonograph records since 1911, attributes his interest in this hobby to a present from his father, who was a doctor.

When Penrose was a small boy, music came out of big horns attached to the phonographs of that day—remember? He was terrified at the big horn and the sounds coming from it.

So on his fifth birthday, his wise father bought a phonograph for the lad's own use, one of the first phonographs without the horn, a that he could handle by himself. The birthday gift also included 15 records of various kinds: jazz, instrumental and comedy.

From that time on, I was a fan," Penrose admits. "I played those records so many times over that I had them all memorized. It gave me an interest in all kinds of music and certainly developed my ear."

Needless to say, his father's gift got the youngster over his fear of phonographs with or without horns.

Today, you'll find the Penrose record library housed in a basement recreation room at his house. Around three sides of the room are bookcases of various sizes, converted into record cabinets.

His records are separated into various classifications such as opera, instrumental, piano, jazz, jazz played by colored orchestras, and so on down the list. All are filed alphabetically in their classifications.

It is not true that we adults are still not able to bring up our children so that they may really be educated and best of lives? We teach them too much that is wrong, and too little that is right... by example.

Life and not a lot of noise. There is no lost motion. Just listen to the "drive final!" They wind up in a blaze of glory!

"This is an earlier style that is now having a revival," Penrose said, as he put on another record. "This is the most famous one of the original Dixieland Jazz Band of New Orleans, June 1918, playing 'Bluin' the Blues'—one of their best."

"THE DIXIELAND Band was a small combination of five pieces—trumpet, trombone, clarinet, piano and drums. This is all improvisation, but around a definite melody. There is no arrangement but there is a definite pattern."

"These fellows would almost duplicate the piece every time they played it. This music is much more primitive than the 'hot' jazz. When these bands recorded their music they would make more than one master recording," Penrose said. "Then if one master had a flaw or wore out, others were available."

"WHEN MASTER variations of a recording exist, it is desirable from a collector's standpoint to get a pressing of each," Penrose explained, "because there often was quite a variation between them, particularly in the solos."

"This master variation is very well known among collectors," Penrose said, "especially in one selection called 'I've Got a Note.' This recording was performed by a group of musicians whose band, as such, had no existence except for recording purposes. But before the boys got to the recording studio, they must have gotten into a saloone."

"Three masters were made," Penrose said. "The first two were so good that the record company issued orders to have them destroyed. But, somehow, there was a mix-up, and pressings from master No. 3, now known as the 'drunken' pressing, was released and had wide distribution."

"BY THE TIME the company realized the error and tried to recall the records and issue the first one, the peak of popularity of that piece had passed. It is now the 'good' record from master No. 3 that is the rare one."

"They must have poured a gallon of coffee into the boys to sober them up because the third recording doesn't sound at all like the second."

"It didn't. There was a difference of a half inch in playing space between the two records, the boys playing so slow in the 'drunken' version. 'A vocalist had wandered into the studio,' Penrose said, "so they put him to work in the second version. He does not appear in the 'good' record, the regular vocalist apparently having recovered by then."

"THERE ALSO can be found 'master variations' in classical music, sometimes a famous singer would not be satisfied with his performance and would make another recording at a later date. Changes in the voice or the rendition would be apparent," Penrose stated.

"Other musical favorites of Penrose include opera, Rachmaninoff, Wagner and Tchaikowsky. He has all the music of Rachmaninoff that has been recorded, including all the 'good' records in which Rachmaninoff was the performer."

While new long playing records are also in the Penrose collection, he feels that the old 78's will never lose their value.

"Recorded on the 78's are performances of artists that will never be duplicated," he said.

"MANY PEOPLE think that a record of Caruso's must be a rare and old record, but that isn't so," Penrose stated. "Caruso's wide appeal and made a great many recordings. The majority of Caruso's records are still available. While on the other hand, records of many other artists, such as Emmy Destiny, a soprano with the Metropolitan Opera, who made recordings."

prior to World War I, are very scarce."

Penrose obtains records for his collection by haunting second hand shops, rummage sales and storage warehouses. He also has donated old clothes and with a collector friend gone house to house on Hastings street, in the heart of Negrotown, Detroit, buying records. It was on such an occasion that he picked up a QRS record ("fabulously rare" of Earl Hines playing "Panther Rag", worth \$50 to any collector.

PENROSE, who is a free lance writer, has old record catalogs going back to 1914 as well as books about music and musicology. He tries to have a representation of every kind of music in his collection.

So, if at any time, one is in need of the Japanese version of "Lime House Blues" sung in Japanese, the place to find it is in the Clement Penrose record collection.

Maple Swimmers Are Relying On 13 Lettermen

Coach J. Jay Myers is building his Birmingham high school swimming team around 13 returning lettermen including Dave Campbell, Larry Coleman, Ken Fowler, Russ Hibbard, Roger Hood, Bob Thalacker, Kirk Lewis, Ted Schwarz, Dick Schwarz, Tom Sheehan, Ed Siler, George Stinnett, Bruce Terry.

The freshman and sophomore classes are also providing their share of newcomer talent.

Last year Maple tankmen won all ten meets, captured the Eastern Michigan league crown, and placed second by a single point in class B state meet. This year the Maples will meet much stiffer competition at the state contest as they will be competing in Class A.

Red Cross Canteen Group Appoints New Chairman; Plans Enlarged Program

Mrs. J. C. Walker, Red Cross chairman of service groups, has appointed Mrs. George D. Robinson, 256 Puritan, and Mrs. R. C. Artner, 623 E. Lincoln, as co-chairmen of the Oakland county canteen service.

Plantation workers will broaden their scope of activity which has been mainly serving refreshments at blood bank visits, Mrs. Walker reported.

She said the new program would include training workers in feeding large numbers of people in the event of a major natural disaster or enemy attack. New classes will get underway shortly after the first of the year. Volunteer registrations may be made through the Royal Oak or Pontiac offices of Red Cross.



PVT. JOHN FLEMING, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Fleming, 6375 East Surrey, Foxcroft, has completed basic course at the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center, Camp Gordon, Ga. Fleming entered service after graduation from Alma College. He is a graduate of Bloomfield Hills High school.

Widow, 4 Children Being Aided by Postal Employees

Do you, out of the abundance of your own blessings, wish to add a bit of Christmas security and joy to the widow and four young children of a former Birmingham mail carrier?

These youngsters are Dick, 10, Charles S. Don, 3, and Edward, 3 months, sons of the late Lawrence (Larry) E. Russell, who passed on last October, following illness dating back to his 4 1/2 years of military service in the South Pacific.

His widow, Evelyn, is currently making a valiant effort to provide for her brood... and, as the entire staff in the Birmingham postoffice will tell you, "the going is quite rough."



LARRY RUSSELL

LARRY RUSSELL mailed on several routes, mostly in the north-west area of Birmingham. His death occurred just two weeks after he was confined in Veteran's Hospital at Dearborn.

"Larry was a genial, smiling fellow-worker, in spite of the several maladies that he silently bore up under," said Harold M. Coldren, 623 E. Lincoln, an employee at the local postoffice.

"He was small in physical stature, but his heart and spirit were large enough to carry him over his daily route... though at times his ailments were painful to bear. He kept going until one day he collapsed on his job; his fellow-workers rushed him home and then to the hospital."

SO, WHETHER Larry ever delivered mail to you himself or not... if you want to lighten the load of his widow at this Christmas time, a contribution sent to Mrs. Evelyn, c/o Birmingham Postoffice, will accomplish it.

Bailey is secretary-treasurer of the Birmingham Carrier's Association.

Just make out the check to Mr. Bailey... and not only will the Russell family be made happier, but you'll also gladden the hearts of all local postoffice employees who, themselves, also made up a modest contribution to Mrs. Russell and her four sons—G.R.A.

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PLAY IT SAFE! Snow-Buried Hydrants Are Useless

The fire hydrant in front of your home becomes useless as fire protection if it has been covered with snow during a heavy snow storm or has been covered by a snow-plow cleaning the streets.

While it is true the fire department checks all of the 600 hydrants in the city on the average of twice a month during the winter period, it is also true that they cannot visit every hydrant immediately following a heavy snow storm, for it takes three or four days, during a check period, to get to all of them.

Therefore, to keep the fire hydrant in front of your house as a vital part of the fire protection you buy with your taxes, the fire department asks that you do not shovel snow from the walk around and over the hydrant. Instead, if there is no one in your household who can or will shovel out this hydrant following a heavy snow storm, please take time to report it to the fire department MI 4-1804. Be sure you give your house number. The fireman will appreciate this information and it will be a service to the community, particularly the area of neighbors whose homes would be served by this hydrant.

Therefore, PLAY IT SAFE during the winter months and help to keep the hydrant in front of your home an integral part of your fire protection by shoveling it free from snow.

Birmingham Fire Department.

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