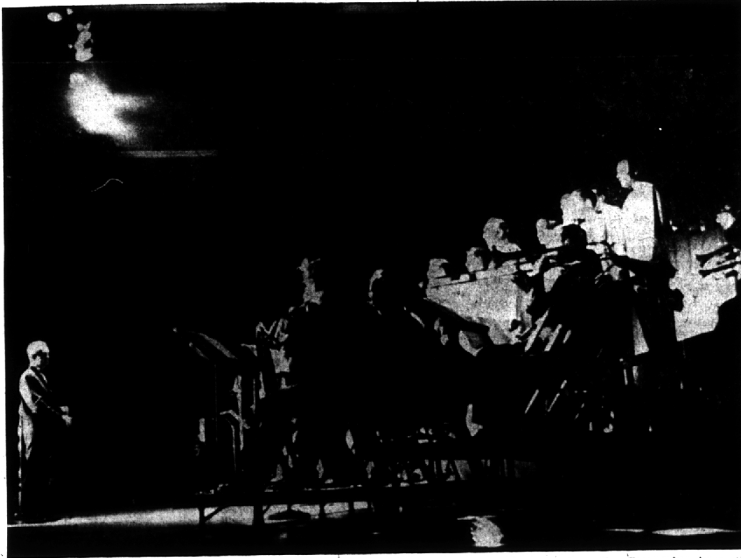


The 'Spot' Went On...

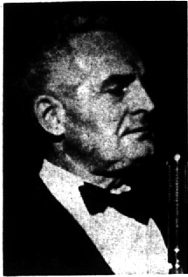


... and with it the show. The white light poured down on the stage of Seaholm high school's auditorium Thursday before last and triggered a two and one-half hour spectacle of bright lights, bright colors, bright sounds, as Fred

Waring gave the down-beat to the Pennsylvanians, the glee club and orchestra. Birmingham Lions imported the whole evening to raise funds to make life brighter for the blind.



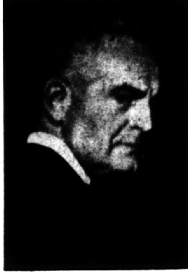
The faces of Fred Waring... the faces of a demanding director, of a showman of many years. "Let's get that sound—the way we rehearsed it; c'mon, c'mon." And a high soprano trill vibrates from the tweeters of a dozen stereophonic speakers.



"Could have been better"; but the audience was pleased. "Let's see how things go with..."



... "Granada." The full chorus of horns and "abs" as "Granada" swells from the stage to the last seat in the house, via stereo chapeau.



A cough in the audience; the squeak of a chair at precisely the wrong moment; such unappreciative disturbances make being an artist difficult, nerve-jangling.



But the volatility of show business... of the show itself infects those who are wrapped up in it. The irritation of a few minutes ago disintegrates in a laugh—at his own joke.



The brass section scintillates—highly polished surfaces reflect; bounce the light off the back wall of the auditorium. The throaty voice of the sax, the blare of a slide trombone bounce off the same wall. The "ping" of a bell stands out in the dark, hushed auditorium as if it were the only sound-around.



A generous sprinkling of laughs was filtered in between the sequins that studded the presentation. But the laughs outnumbered the sequins when Irving Jaffa took the "spot" with his vari-sized violins.

The evening stretched out; lights played. 2,500 people sat, watched and listened as the orchestra and chorus made its gay, serious and glittering way through a variegated program—from Christmas carols through the humorous "Who's Zoo" to the booming, full-volume "Glory" chorus

of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The spot faded; Waring and friends bowed; the audience applauded, and the sequins of the bright show went back into the trunks with the speakers that spread the sparkle, decible by decible, across a bright evening. (Eccentric photos by staffer Phil Webb.)



In the nature of human relationships there are bound to be differences of opinion. You may say something with which another disagrees. It may result in sincere, honest discussion, during the course of which you and the other person may receive new viewpoints on the subject. But if a discussion becomes an argument, heat may be generated, tempers rise... harm is thus done.

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
Thursday, November 5, 1959

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