

Symphony Orchestra Enters 8th Season

By EVELINE OEN Arts Editor

A week from Tuesday rehearsals will begin for the first concert of the South Oakland Symphony Orchestra's eighth season.

The 80-piece orchestra is composed of both amateur and professional musicians from the Birmingham, Huntington Woods, Lathrup, Oak Park, Royal Oak and Troy areas.

Because of the death last March of their conductor, Henri Nusser, each of the group's four regular concerts this year will be directed by a guest conductor. "The first will be Francis Kimczak.

THE ORCHESTRA began originally as the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra. About eight years ago it was reorganized and became the South Oakland Symphony Orchestra. Among those spearheading the change were Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lieberman of Huntington Woods.

The group is known as one of the first amateur civic orchestras in the country. It is also rather unusual in that it has operated "in black" for the past three years.

All concerts are given in the Oak Park High School auditorium. Ad-

mittance to them is by membership subscription only. No tickets are sold at the door.

AMONG THOSE playing in the orchestra are teachers of music, doctors, lawyers, architects, salesmen, engineers and housewives.

In the violin section of the orchestra from this area are Mrs. W. H. Boynever, 18229 Hillcrest; Mrs. W. H. Koenke, 1098 Ridgedale; Mrs. Chester Fowch, 1423 Dorchester; Mrs. William Lyman, 5335 Hickory Bend, all of Birmingham; (See ORCHESTRA, 3-D)



PRACTICING ON their instruments so they won't be rusty for their first rehearsal today are three members of the South Oakland Symphony Orchestra, Mrs. Maurice Pelton of Clawson tries out her flute as Mrs. W. H. Koenke, 1098 Ridgedale, and William Lyman, 5335 Hickory Bend, both of Birmingham practice on their violins. The orchestra will begin rehearsals a week from Tuesday for the first concert on Oct. 24.

Steinbeck's Travels Make Good Reading

Reviewed by Fred Mallerer

There is no ready-made category into which "Travels With Charley" can be placed. It is a jumble of travelogue, humor, philosophy, critique, nostalgia and discovery. The only continuity is given by the map on the inside cover.

John Steinbeck supposedly felt he had had contact with America and understood a three-month journey around the country to study

people, places and things. He ordered a specially built truck-camping outfit, and with an ancient French profile named Charley—just started driving.

To be sure, road maps were prepared, but like many of us Steinbeck found them more confusing than helpful. He has a magnificent ability to get lost, particularly in or near large cities. Heavy traffic frightens and confuses him, and at times appears to appall his "finer senses."

KIMCZAK ARRIVED in this country this March from Poland. He is presently organist at Shrine of the Little Flower parish in Royal Oak.

For the six years preceding his arrival in the U. S., he was conductor of the National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in Lublin, Poland.

The primary purpose of the South Oakland Symphony Orchestra is to sponsor young artists and composers and to provide an outlet for people to play who enjoy music and have a musical background.

Potpourri

by JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer



You'll forgive me, please, if I deviate from what's going on in Birmingham this week to talk about what's going on in New York.

Thousands of other tourists and I spent a few days there last week. We lined up six-deep and a block long to see everything from the United Nations to the Empire State Building observation tower.

I felt like the sultan in a people sandwich. And about as significant as a termite on a toothpick.

The moral is: if you want to see New York City, don't go during the tourist season.

Besides, who needs New York?

NEW YORKERS think anything west of the Hudson River is provincial.

I love New York City, but I'm perturbed with some smug Manhattanites who think the rest of the United States is a cultural desert. They would get a jolt in their New York-oriented sitting apparatuses if they saw things the way I looked at them last week.

I saw not a single New York theatre, far example, that can compare to Detroit's new Fisher Theatre—not even Radio City Music Hall, where some of the furnishings look like they belong in a prohibition era speakeasy.

AT RADIO CITY, I got an emotional blast-off from the fantastic performance of the Rockettes. But preceding that was a gushy bit of dance by the Music Hall Ballet, choreographed by Marc Platt.

If you ask me, Detroit choreographer Sandra Severo could have created a ballet that was far more effective for these talented dancers.

Then we went to see one of the newer Broadway musicals, a thing called "I Can Get It for You Wholesale." It's all about life in New York City—where else?

(See POTPOURRI, 7-D)

Community House Announces List Of Fall Courses

The Community House announced today that 25 education, craft and hobby courses will be offered in its full class schedule which starts Sept. 17.

Four of the courses are being offered to area residents for the first time, according to Miss Myra Showman, director of adult education.

They include braile transcription, designed to educate volunteer workers in how to transcribe reading material for blind children; discussion techniques, designed to familiarize students with various techniques used in formal and informal discussions; far craft, instruction in how to restyle for garments, into such things as hats, jackets and collars, and dramas for young people.

LEAVING right after Labor Day from Long Island, Charley and Steinbeck take a look at New England. According to the large atlas where possible, they journeyed as far north as Maine, cut back down around Lakes Ontario and Erie into the state of Michigan.

After a brief stop-over in Chicago the travelers went on across the plains to Washington, down the coast to California, eastward through Texas to New Orleans.

From New Orleans the journey continued back to New York City through the heart of the "Deep South."

NO ATTEMPT is made to describe the journey in detail. In taking a journey "in search of America," Steinbeck makes some interesting observations. To his credit he does not claim that his observations are either correct or important. They are rather a collection of "Americana" that stands out to an excellent observer.

The trip was made during the Presidential campaign of 1926. Steinbeck was impressed by the apparent lack of public interest and conviction. It appeared to him that the uncertainty of the times showed in the people's unwillingness to stand up and be counted.

AS HE HAD not travelled around the United States for 20 years, Steinbeck was impressed by many changes, particularly the super-highways, which he considers necessary but sad. The appearance of "mobile homes" also impressed him. He also noticed with amusement the trend of rush-

(See TRAVELS, 3-D)

Eccentric Closed Saturday, Monday

The Birmingham Eccentric offices will be closed Saturday, Sept. 1, and Monday, Sept. 3, for the Labor Day holiday.

All news contributors and advertisers are urged to get their copy into our offices at 1225 E. Bowers, Birmingham, as early as possible.

Art Appreciation Course Offered In B'ham Schools

A new art appreciation course will be offered to Birmingham high school students.

The course, "Understanding the Visual Arts," will be given by Howard Malwitz, coordinator of art and continuing (adult) education.

The first semester of the course will be devoted to painting and the minor arts; the second semester, to sculpture and architecture.

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN August 30, 1962 SECTION D

Will-O-Way Play Is a 'Fun Show'

Reviewed by E. M. Broner

What is the purpose of staging the first venture of a young playwright? The Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre, by presenting B. Edson Ahearn's "Was This The Face?" allows the playwright to discover where his script gains or loses stature in production.

"He will learn from this," said Mrs. Felia Merrill Turner, director of Will-O-Way, "and his second play will be a very different thing from his first. This play came to us as a package deal, she said."

"It was directed by the author, cast from his circle of friends, and we helped with the sets."

who makes a point of being not British but Welsh.

Never seen but telephoned is Betsy Draper's husband, the Golden Record boy, who has stayed behind to sing in Las Vegas. The figure who owns a fleet of ships and is fond of grand opera is a little less directly based on Aristotele Onassis.

THE AUTHOR'S invention of Betsy Draper's crisp secretary is a successful piece of writing. The performance of the secretary by Eleanor Sims of Birmingham enriches the play, and the secretary's emergence as the triumphant and dominant figure is the unexpected result.

This reveals the weakness in the conception of the other roles. The author holds his two main characters.

(See PLAY, 7-D)

"WAS THIS the Face," which opened Friday and will again be presented tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday and the following weekend of Sept. 7, 8 and 9, is billed as a "new comedy in Two and a Half Acts."

This "new comedy," which takes place in contemporary Athens, Greece, is more like the old comedy for which that land was famous about 2,500 years ago.

There is even a change in Ahearn's play. Aristophanes, named after the ancient playwright, who—among other things—was a social satirist of his contemporaries. Mr. Ahearn aspires to this in his play that is as contemporary as a movie magazine and as narrow in scope.

Elephant Laughs

"The elephant laughed to see such sport," but his last laugh was on us because we forgot to mention he was laughing at the JFK Coloring Book.

The book costs \$1.50 and is published by Kanrom, Inc. It was "conceived off" by Alexander Roman and Jackie Kannon. Drawings are by Mort Drucker with copy by Paul Laikin.

The Village Players Announce Schedule

"The Gazebo," a mystery-comedy by Alec Coppel, will be The Village Players first production of the season. The play will be directed by Norrie Scott, and performances will be given Oct. 6, 7, 12 and 13.

The Players have also scheduled a musical, "Once Upon A Mattress," for Nov. 16, 17, 23 and 24. Dick Bagg will direct the production.

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Welcome Director

Edward E. Rothman (standing), 3665 Lakeside, Birmingham, is one of several area residents who welcomed the new director of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Willis F. Woods (seated), last Monday. With them are Mrs. Rothman and Mrs. Woods. Rothman is a vice president of the Founders

Society of the Institute and is in charge of the promotion program for the Institute's exhibition of Van Gogh paintings scheduled for a December. Woods assumed his duties after a 13-year stint as director of the Norton Gallery and School of Art in Palm Beach, Fla.

HAM SHACK

By HARRY O. SMART
RSLOQ

Oakland County is a large and heavily populated area. To most of us it is probably the most important area in the world because we live and/or work here.

Because of its dense population this area could become a real disaster area in times of emergency. This is the reason that local amateur hams have joined together to form the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps.

The AREC is purely a service organization. It charges no dues of any kind to members but it does charge them with a certain responsibility.

The ham's responsibility in connection with AREC is to have his station ready at all times to handle any and all traffic which might originate during a disaster period and to join with his fellow hams at the various practice sessions of the AREC net.

SEVERAL OF THE newer subdivisions around the Birmingham area prohibit amateur radio antennas from being installed on the premises. To most hams this is something akin to prohibiting fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances because they make too much noise or are unsightly.

While it is probably true that a large antenna doesn't particularly

(See HAM SHACK, 4-D)