

Artist Tells of Visit to India



MARY ANN TOMAS, 18, AND BOB SIMPSON, 20 Young 'folks' performing at The Raven

Photo by Sam Fowler

Folk Singer Gets Job and Partner

By ETHEL SIMMONS
Arts Editor

Eighteen-year-old Mary Ann Tomas came to The Raven to audition for a job as folk singer. She not only got the job but within a week's time found herself teamed with a musical partner.

Now Miss Tomas and Bob Simpson, 20, appear Tuesdays through Thursdays at the combination art gallery - restaurant - and entertainment spot at 136 Brownell, Birmingham.

And to those lunch crowd patrons who may return in the evening for showtime, yes, the waitress who reminds you of Miss Tomas is one and the same.

When HERB Cohen of The Raven booked her as a singer and learned that her full-time job was as a counter girl for a drug store chain, he immediately hired her to fill a vacancy for a waitress, also.

Miss Tomas is a '63 graduate of Royal Oak's Dundero High School. Partner Simpson got into the act after dropping in at her Saturday rehearsal to strum his guitar and sing. He had met Miss Tomas earlier at The Raven.

Cohen asked the two to work up some material, and they went on stage that night.

"FOR A SINGLE to make it is very, very difficult," said Cohen. "But as a group or a twosome, they have a better chance. Mary Ann has a wonderful voice. Bob has a

School of the Society of Arts and Crafts in Detroit part-time, majoring in advertising design.

THE FOLK TEAM sings ethnic, as contrasted to commercial, folk. Says Simpson, "Ethnic folk relies more or less on the original words the way they were first sung and the same with the melody itself. Commercial folk changes the words and music."

During a performance, the duo

gives the background of each song before presenting it. Miss Tomas sings soprano and alto and Simpson alto and tenor.

She's a tiny 5'3", and he's exactly one foot taller. Incidentally, the black eye patch Simpson sports is not an affectation but a necessity due to a recent auto accident. Eighteen stitches were taken across his eyes.

THE PATCH WILL come off when the stitches mend, which should be a few weeks away.

Singing's fun—but not the discipline, according to Miss Tomas, who ruefully reported that she's seen taken off cigarettes and Cohen by Cohen to prevent recurring sore throats.



Miss Riddell Angus Miss Roumell Miss McNelly

'Overture' Presents Scenes from Operas

First performance this season of "Overture to Opera III," a project of the Education Committee of the Detroit Grand Opera Association, will be held at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday at Bloomfield Hills High School.

Sponsors of the program, along with the Detroit Grand Opera Association, are Oakland University, the University Center for Adult Education and the Detroit Public Library.

Scenes will be presented from four of the seven operas to be given by the Metropolitan May 25 through 30 in Detroit. The program is open to the public without charge.

THE SAME PROGRAM will be given at nine other locations in the Detroit area within the next few months. Two interchangeable casts are being used.



EGGENTRIC PHOTO

Dr. David Eichlers of the department of music, Oakland University, is serving as producer-director for "Overture to Opera."

Artists include operatic voices from the metropolitan area, among them soprano Doralene McNelly who is a soloist at Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills. She will sing the role of Marguerite in "Faust."

OTHER STARS ARE soprano Maria Roumell, tenor Robert Angus, soprano Roma Butler Riddell, baritone Rodney Sienberg, mezzo-soprano Alice Engram, tenor Edward Kingins and baritone Russell William Smith.

The program features Act II, Scene I of "Aida"; Act I, Scenes I and III of "Don Giovanni"; Act I, Scene II of "La Boheme"; and the final scene of "Faust."

Members of the Oakland University Chamber Singers provide the chorus.

Up to the Minute

A conversation piece for Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Corsi, 2425 Manchester, Birmingham, is their Minute Man print. Mrs. Corsi, who works for the school board, rescued the framed picture from a stockroom where it had been stored for many years. According to the plaque, it had been donated to the schools May 6, 1908, by George H. Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead, founders of The Birmingham Eccentric. Corsi said the picture is a reproduction of the Minute Man statue and has no monetary value. "We used wallpaper cleaner on the print, and it's still in its old oak frame," he reported.

Publisher Appointed To Dunstan's Board

Paul Neal Averill, publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook.

He fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Albert Remington, formerly treasurer of St. Dunstan's. Remington has been assigned to Europe, and he and his family will live in Brussels for the next two years.

Board member William B. Saunders is the new treasurer.

Science Lessons Are Offered for Adults, Children

New science programs for children, as well as a late afternoon course in elementary astronomy for teachers and other adults have been announced by the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Introducing Science, for youngsters, will be held at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Saturday mornings beginning Feb. 8, and Exploring Science, for children 10-12 at the same hours starting March 7. All classes meet in the institute's auditorium.

Topics for the Introducing Science programs are "Learning About Heat," Feb. 8; "The Rodent Family," Feb. 15 and "Signs of Spring," Feb. 22.

THE EXPLORERS program will feature "Exploring the Arctic," March 7; "Light," March 14; "Animal Adaptations," March 21; and "Beginnings of Mathematics," March 28.

There is a 50-cent fee for non-members. Institute officials request an adult accompany each child or group of children. There will be no charge for the adult.

The elementary astronomy course for adults will begin Feb. 4. It is designed to give a sound basic knowledge of the solar system and universe as it appears to the unaided eye of an earth-bound observer.

STAR CHARTS, desk-top celestial spheres and other teaching aids will be studied, and some sessions will be held in the planetarium and observatory.

Classes will meet on Tuesdays from 4:45-5:30 p.m. for eight weeks. Duris N. McMillan is the instructor. There is a fee, and the class is limited to 15.

Thom, Fredericks To Judge Art for Pontiac Mall Show

Birmingham artists Robert A. Thom and Marshall Fredericks, along with Michael Church of the University of Michigan, will judge the second annual Pontiac Mall Art Show Feb. 3 through 15.

Awards will be made in seven categories. Thom lives at 6100 W. Surray and Fredericks at 440 Lake Park.

The show is open to all residents of Oakland County, and many Birmingham-area artists are planning to exhibit. Entry blanks can be obtained at the mall.

By ELIZABETH VAN LOAN
Special Writer

When Howard Machette learned of the assassination of President Kennedy, he was not at his usual teaching post in Walnut Lake School but was just sitting down to breakfast in the India International Center in New Delhi.

The 26-year-old art teacher, who was on a two-month leave of absence from Walnut Lake and Harlan Schools, was one of four teachers on the staff of the Children's Art Carnival in India, a cultural goodwill project sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"When I got to my classes that morning," he recalled, "the Indian teachers were crying, and there was so much sadness that the Indian director closed the place for the day. It was also closed the day of the President's funeral and I went to the American Embassy to attend the special memorial services."

THE CHILDREN'S Art Carnival is a unique system of creative art teaching which stimulates and develops a child's inherent creativity

by appealing directly and strongly to the child's senses and impulses. It is the brain child of Victor D'Amico, director of the department of education at The Museum of Modern Art, who is also, incidentally, an adviser to the Bloomfield Art Association.

The carnival has been a success in New York for more than 20 years. It has been conducted at the Brussels World Fair, the International Trade Fairs in Milan, Italy, and Barcelona, Spain, and in 1962 was presented to the children of India by Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

IT OPENED IN New Delhi Oct. 28 in a prefabricated demountable aluminum structure and is now on tour throughout the major cities of India.

The structure contains two rooms. The first is the motivation area where a magnetic picture maker, color player, infinite mirror reflector and other toys stimulate the child's fantasy.

The second gallery is a studio workshop where equipment, materials and teachers help him express whatever artistic urge has risen to the surface.

HOWARD MACHETTE met D'Amico last summer when he studied under him in a creative art education workshop sponsored by New York University. Classes were held on a renovated, discarded Navy barge beached near Amagansett on Long Island and affectionately labeled the "art ark" by students.

As a result of this association, D'Amico invited Machette to join the staff of the carnival in India. The response in New Delhi to the carnival was tremendous, and 6,000 children applied for attendance. To accommodate them all, six one-hour classes, with 35 to 40 pupils to a class, were held each day, six days a week.

MACHETTE HIMSELF taught classes in tempera painting and collage. Students were evenly divided between boys and girls, the majority ranging in age from seven to 14.

One day, however, a two-year-old boy turned up and fascinated students and teachers alike by his total absorption in painting for a span of 25 minutes.

A succession of Indian art teachers, as teachers in training for the novel system, assisted Machette in his classes and acted as interpreters, translating in Hindi for the children.

IN SPITE OF this crowded schedule, the American teachers managed to squeeze in a visit to Agra and the Taj Mahal.

They were also the guests of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, daughter of Prime Minister Nehru, at a reception held at the prime minister's home to which all Indian artists

and sculptors living in Delhi were invited. Mrs. Gandhi's invitation specified "come as you are."

"It was quite a sight," Machette reminisced. "There we were, in our dark business suits, surrounded by Indians in every kind of outfit including blue jeans."

AT THE CLOSE of the New Delhi phase of the carnival, Machette was invited to stay on in India, but it was time to leave for home. He returned by way of Calcutta ("a fascinating city, so crowded and teeming with humanity that even the buildings and streets seem to move"), Bangkok,

Hong Kong, Tokyo, Hawaii and Los Angeles, arriving at his parents' home in Saginaw Dec. 17 with 360 slides of his memorable trip.

"It was an overwhelming experience. I hope to go back to India some day."

Back at his classes in Birmingham Jan. 2, his students bombarded him with questions.

"What is the temperature in India?"

"What did you teach the Indian children?"

"What language do they speak?"

(See ARTIST, 3-D)

Players Plan 'Pim Passes' Performance

"Mr. Pim Passes By," by A. A. Milne, will be presented at 9 p.m. Saturday at the Village Players, 752 Chestnut, Birmingham.

The play is a workshop project, and each of the three acts has its own director and cast. Richard Bagge is training the three new directors.

Most of the cast are new members of the Village Players; this is true to an extent of the backstage crew, make-up and others.

Directors are Mrs. Sherri Bigelow, Dale Winnie and George Ryder.

THE CAST INCLUDES Robert Oleksi, Glen Warren, Robert Vanderveer, Mrs. Ralph Crookston, Mrs. J. W. Ferree, Mrs. James Hodges, Marilyn Newman, Dolly Gove, Sue Ruetter, Esther Campbell, Arthur T. Iverson, George Pollard, Dennis O. Roy, Eric Holmgren and Mrs. John Street.

Working behind the scenes are Mrs. Frank Mosher, costumes; Mrs. Lawrence Ball, make-up; and Ann Perkins, lines.

Mrs. A. W. Orr is in charge of an "after-glow" following the performance.

On Sunday members of the board and committee chairmen will host new members at an indoctrination party from 4 to 6 p.m.



HARLAN SCHOOL sixth grader Jim Everett, 11, tries some clay modeling under the supervision of art teacher Howard Machette.

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