

The People Write

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On violins and violinists

Kenstone Beach,
Nov. 6, 1965.

Editor "Post",
Dear Sir:

A copy of your edition of Oct. 18th. has just come to me and I was interested and somewhat amused in reading the article by Ford Moynes concerning violins and violinists.

I would like to correct the statement that I am 98. I am only 95 but am pleased when people take me for 75. You will note there is no evidence of palsy in my hand writing either.

I feel your writer has given me too much credit. I never was, as he says, a leading vio-

linist in symphony orchestra, but started as a "ham", but bursting with enthusiasm and at the foot of the class. I recall some very amusing incidents when Dr. F. H. Lorrington, the organist of the Metropolitan Church formed the first orchestra. One very amusing press report on our first concert reported that the orchestra looked very fit, but the Massey Hall was a half a note sharp.

The glowing description of my virtuosity greatly overrates me. I am a fairly good amateur violinist and have played later on in the symphony orchestra but would be unable to sit in it now or even dream of it.

With all due modesty, I don't think there are many violinists 95 years of age that can do much better and that's as far as I will boast.

Two or three of the well-known overtures and as many symphonies, such as Unfinished Symphony and one or two of Mozarts are my limit. I have always been credited with good taste in music, inherited from my mother, an accomplished pianist and vocalist, who kept us off "trash" which we have so much now-a-days.

The brilliant performers in the youth orchestra is a sample of what can be done.

Yours truly,
H. Strickland.