

COMPLETING PLANS FOR RAVINIA OPERA

BIGGEST SEASON TO OPEN
First Performance Saturday, June 26, of Fifteenth Season; Preparations Near Completion

On June 26, the fifteenth season of Ravinia Opera and Concerts will begin. The months of work which must be done in laying the foundation for the ten weeks season have brought forth splendid results and never in the long and honorable history of this unique musical institution has Mr. Eckstein succeeded in bringing together such an array of world-famous talent, nor has he outlined such a pretentious repertoire of operatic productions as he has this year. The announcement made some time ago of the artists engaged and of the operas in which they are to be heard will go down in the annals of American operatic history—even in the operatic history of the world.

Second Stage
 Now the second stage of preparatory work has been reached and the technical staff, under Mr. Agnini's direction, is engaged in the accomplishment of that multitude of things which must be finished before the time set for the initial performance of the new season. New scenery is being built, for several of the operas which have been added to the repertoire this year demand elaborate scenic equipment. Some works of the standard repertoire will be presented in new dress this season, while the investment of other productions is being re-furnished. Properties for the novelties and revivals, as well as for the standard operas also form an important item. Nor has Ravinia itself been overlooked. The staff of gardeners is at work effecting those horticultural miracles which go to make Ravinia one of the show places of the country, and in this, nature herself, is lending every co-operation.

Change in House
 Some change has been made in the opera house, but it will pass unnoticed by the general public as it will be hidden entirely from view and will concern only those who are working behind the scenes. This is the deepening of the stage that the handling of the settings may be facilitated. Extra room for the storage of costumes once they have been taken from the general storehouse and into the opera house, has been provided by the extension of the dressing rooms. Both of these changes will make for convenience and will be appreciated by the workers who deal with the technicalities of production.

But present activity which is of greatest interest centers around the unpacking of the countless properties which are familiar enough to all observing opera patrons, the re-furnishing of the settings and the construction of the new scenic investiture which will be of importance this year. The designs for the backgrounds of "La Vida Breve," "Madame Sans Gene" and "Sapho" were completed some time ago and the artists are now busily engaged in painting this equipment. "Lohengrin" is also to have new investiture this season. The stage director, Armando Agnini, is in charge of this work.

New Opera Here
 Few operas offer better opportunity for scenic display than "La Vida Breve" which will be heard at Ravinia for the first time this year and which was not introduced into this country until last season. The libretto of this work is in Spanish and Mme. Lucrezia Bori is to have the principal role. Its locale is Seville, with the first act in the gypsy quarter of that ancient city and the second act in the home of a young woman of the wealthy class. Artists of all nations have found inspiration in the surroundings of the gypsies of Seville, for they are the most colorful of all the nomads and they are permanent enough in this Spanish town to have put their individual stamp upon the architecture of the section they inhabit. It is easy to see what chances a scenic artist would have in providing settings for a scene of this kind. Another class of architecture and furnishings are depicted in the second act, and here that color which is peculiarly Spanish serves to heighten an interior and to give it distinction.

Another Also
 "Madame Sans Gene" is another of the new operas having a locale which is both picturesque and interesting. The action takes place in Paris during the regime of the first Napoleon and its various scenes are as varied as were the chapters in the life of the Little Corporal. The first act is laid in a laundry conducted by Madame Sans Gene, a woman of brains and perspicacity who marries an officer, defeats Napoleon in a battle of wits and sees her husband made a field marshal. Another scene is laid in a famous old French chateau which gives a mediaeval flavor to the settings, while much of the action takes place in that historic room which Napoleon used as an office, council chamber, study and school of strategy. Much study has been devoted to the historical aspects of this room, and as it will be depicted at Ravinia it will be historically correct in every detail.

Another view of Paris will be furnished by the scenery that is being made of "Sapho." However, the locale of this work is far removed from the center of statercraft for it is laid in the Latin Quarter, the center of

art, with its gaiety, its care-free bohemianism and likewise its sadness and its tragedy. A studio of the better class forms the first act setting and here Sapho, so-called because she has served as the model of a painting of the Grecian goddess, meets the young student who, being new to Parisian ways, is filled with wholesome idealism. A beautiful country scene also supplies the background of one act of this opera, and there are two scenes located in student living quarters around which so many fascinating stories have been written.

Adequate Furnishings
 Important as is the scenery of the Ravinia productions, there is another element which demands attention and this is the furniture. There is an endless variety of this in the storehouses at Ravinia and much of it would excite the admiration of any connoisseur. Some wonderful examples of period furniture, reproduced for stage use, is to be found in this collection, and all of it is vitally important in giving verity to the various operas of the repertoire. To those sittings in the opera house, this furniture, when seen on the stage, looks as daintily as the finest pieces one would find in a drawing room, and indeed, there is no furniture that is more finely built. But it was constructed for its present use and despite the lightness of its appearance, it is heavy and durable.

"Manon Lescaut," the Puccini opera which has been chosen for presentation on the first night of the season, boasts one of the most beautiful sets of furniture to be found in the Ravinia collection of period pieces. It is in the Louis XV style beautifully upholstered in green with the flower designs delicately painted in the manner affected by the French decorators of that time. The frames are of gold elaborately carved. The set includes consoles, tables, divans, arm chairs and single chairs. It figures largely in the salon which the young Chevalier Des Grieux provided for Manon, the wilful little country girl, who knew nothing of luxury but who soon cultivated extravagant tastes once she was in Paris. This furniture is typical of that found in the Parisian salons of the early eighteenth century when period furniture which has been handed down for generations, was not as rare as it is in these days of antique collecting.

And like "Manon" every opera to be presented at Ravinia this season, will be given the same care in setting that has always marked Ravinia productions.

LOCAL THEATRE ONE AFFECTED BY MERGER

By a recent consolidation, in which Balaban & Katz and the Famous Players-Lasky corporations figured, the Highland Park theatre, which a few months ago passed to the control of the Great States Theatres corporation, a Balaban & Katz subsidiary, is one of more than 500 theatres throughout the country which were brought under one management by the merger. The deal represents a total well over \$100,000,000. No change is contemplated in the management of the Balaban & Katz organization, according to a letter sent out to the stockholders in the organization.

NATIONAL GUARD WINS SHERIDAN TOURNAMENT

With a record score of 3208, the Illinois National Guard outdistanced competition to win the \$1500 J. G. Bliss trophy and the championship in the united service rifle tournament at the Fort Sheridan rifle range Sunday. The Hawthorne club of Illinois Civilians came second with a total of 3140; Fort Sheridan post team third with 3055; and the Naval Reserves fourth with 2605.

NORTHWESTERN STADIUM DRAWING IS ON DISPLAY

The architects painting of the new Northwestern University Stadium in full colors is on display for the first time in the windows of the new Evanston shop of The Hub, Henry C. Lytton & Sons. Next week it will become a permanent fixture inside the store, hanging above the landing on the grand staircase leading to the second floor. It is exact in every detail and was painted especially for The Hub by the prominent New York artist, J. F. Yewell, the architect, James Gambill Rogers, associate engineer, Gavin Hadden.

TWO BOUND OVER TO OCTOBER GRAND JURY

Barry Redmond of Lake Forest and Alfred McLernon, of Highland Park, two young men who were arrested a week ago Sunday by police of Lake Forest and Highland Park on a tip from Winnetka police, were given a hearing at police headquarters in Highland Park Wednesday of last week and bound over to the first regular term of the grand jury, in October. They were indicted upon testimony furnished by police of the above towns, and, it is said, upon their own confessions of petty thefts in various North Shore towns. Bail for Redmond was furnished and he was released at once. McLernon was released Friday after the \$1,000 bail required had been provided.

SOAP AND WATER USED AS LUBRICANT IN TEST Use 1919 Essex to Demonstrate Merits of Alloy Products

The following write-up appearing in Monday's issue of the Chicago Evening Post is of particular interest to people of Highland Park, as Mr. C. A. Parliament is secretary and treasurer of the company and the Nelson Auto Repair shop of Highland Park are large users of the piston rings mentioned in the article:

By Walter A. Birmingham
 Chicago motorists have been treated to an unusual demonstration during the last few days—that of an automobile running about the boulevards and streets on soap and water as a lubricant in place of oil. The Essex car, which has been performing these interesting stunts, is of the vintage of 1919 and the demonstration is given to exploit the merits of Williams pistons, Pistonoy rings and Bearingoy bearings.

After having driven several miles in this time-worn Essex the writer is convinced that the Williams Alloy Products company, manufacturers of the above equipment, is introducing products worthy of the attention of every motorist who has found ordinary piston rings and bearings expensive items, particularly when it comes to reconditioning and regrinding.

The test was first made with soap and water, the motor functioning without a murmur over a long distance; then plain water was substituted and finally after another long stretch without the slightest damage to motor or parts the crankcase was filled with oil.

130,000 Miles in Tests
 E. M. Williams, president of the company which manufactures the products, has been developing pistons, piston rings and bearings for more than ten years. The Essex car has been used in these development tests since 1919 and has traveled more than 130,000 miles.

"The reason for demonstrating Pistonoy and Bearingoy in automobile motors using water and soap or plain water as the crankcase lubricant is to prove to the public that these alloys will not damage the cylinder walls, crank shaft, cam shaft or pistons, regardless of the conditions of lubrication," said Mr. Williams.

"The bearings in the Essex motor are of the exact design and dimensions of the bearings that were in the motor as standard equipment—the only difference being the present bearings are manufactured of the Bearingoy alloy. The piston rings in the motor are manufactured from Pistonoy, and are the conventional step-cut type, 3 3-8 by 3-16.

"The pistons are the Williams insulated head type, which permits independent expansion and contraction of the piston head without any danger of distorting the body of the piston and makes practicable the fitting of alloy pistons to .001 of an inch clearance in the cylinder.

Recommends High-Grade Oil
 "We do not recommend the use of water or soap and water as a crankcase lubricant. On the contrary, we advocate the use of high-grade motor oils. Our demonstrations are only to prove that a motor fitted with our equipment is fool proof and demonstrates that it eliminates the re-boring of cylinders and the regrinding of crank shafts."

In order to prove this contention, Mr. Williams had the oil drained from the crankcase, removed the oil pan from the bottom of the motor and the car was run some distance without any lubrication whatsoever. An examination showed no damage to cylinder walls, pistons, piston rings, crank shaft, cam shaft or bearings.

"Bearings will outwear babbitt, operating under similar conditions, many times, and will give economical service under conditions of poor lubrication where babbitt will not stand up," continued Mr. Williams. "Pistonoy rings will give equal mileage to rings manufactured from other metals and in addition, will highly polish cylinder walls. We all know the secret of a smooth-running internal-combustion engine is polished cylinder walls.

Reconditioning Inexpensive
 "Pistonoy rings will not wear cylinder walls or piston ring grooves and make the reconditioning of motors a simple and inexpensive operation."

During the last few weeks the Williams Alloy Products company, which maintains offices in the First National Bank building and factory at

Elyria, Ohio, has invaded the Chicago territory to introduce its products thru dealers.

However, the equipment has been adopted by a number of fleet owners here both in the passenger car and truck field. One of the large users is the Parmelee Transfer company.

Bearingoy metal is distributed in Chicago by Samuel Harris & Co., at 214 North Clinton street and 2500 South Wabash avenue. Pistonoy piston rings are distributed here by the West Side Unit Parts company, 3941 Washington boulevard; Auto Parts and Gear company, 2917 Fullerton avenue; L. C. Smith Bearing company, with main office at 2120 South Michigan avenue, south side branch at 6352 Cottage Grove avenue and north side branch at 5340 Broadway. The products are handled by the West Town Auto Parts company at Wheaton and the Ageley-Steele company at Aurora.

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 Continuous 2:15 to 10:30 p. m.
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 Comedy—"OUT AND IN"
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 and Latest KINOGRAMS 5194

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