

Former Stars Are Greeted with Glory at Ravinia Opening

A capacity audience heralded the opening of the operatic concert season at Ravinia Park last Thursday evening with a round of applause and tendered a most gracious ovation to those song birds of other days, who were stars at Ravinia until 1932, when the park closed.

Mario Chamlee who was scheduled to sing that evening was prohibited from appearing because of a severe cold which attacked him Wednesday. Mr. Tokatyan, who was to have appeared in a program at Cincinnati was persuaded to cancel his engagement and to fly by plane to save the situation. Although he arrived just a few moments before his scheduled appearance he was cool and collected. His excellent singing was evidence of a schooling and discipline which enables him to meet emergencies with sure artistry.

Lucrezia Bori, Armand Tokatyan and Leon Rothier all favorites of Ravinia's glorious operatic days

joined with Gennaro Papi, former musical director at the park, in a memorable testimonial concert to the late Louis Eckstein.

When Mr. Papi came upon the stage to conduct the Chicago Symphony orchestra in the opening overture to "The Barber of Seville," the audience rose to its feet in tribute to the man who, above all others, was responsible for the artistic success of many of the most notable performances of Ravinia's great operatic years. Mr. Rothier was called back to the stage again and again after his singing of arias from "La Boheme" and "Faust."

At 9:30 the radiant Miss Bori came through the violins of the orchestra to the front of the stage. After an hour of eager suspense, the 5,000 people who had come in large part to hear her stood up again to greet her, and refused to let her sing until she had bowed and waved repeatedly.

Miss Bori's triumph after her first aria, from Puccini's "Manon Lescaut," must have been greater than she or any one else could have dared to anticipate in this unpre-

dictable world. Much of the unforgettable beauty of her past portrayals of several operatic heroines was caught again, as she sang a part of the music of Mimi, of Nedda, of Mignon and of the two Manons of Puccini and Massenet.

Last summer Mrs. Eckstein turned the park over to the new Ravinia festival for a series of summer concerts in the hope of encouraging another era as splendid as the old one. Her hope is now, in the second summer, well on its way toward a notable fulfillment. With the prospect of twenty-four remarkable concerts beginning tomorrow night under Sir Ernest MacMillan of Toronto, with Jose Iturbi as piano soloist, Ravinia is on the threshold of a splendid future.

A giant air conditioning system is being installed in the Deerpath theatre, and will be in operation in about ten days.

The management of the theatre has been planning this improvement for several years, and a system that is both effective and healthful has been selected.

The first step in air conditioning the local theatre is the digging of a deep well to tap a source of cold water, in limestone strata. This well may be 300 feet deep, and is expected to tap water which will have a temperature of 52 degrees Fahrenheit.

This cold water will be circulated through a series of giant coils, which will reduce the temperature of the outside air, in three different stages, 15 degrees or more—so if the air outside the theatre is 90 degrees, the patrons in the theatre will be enjoying a 75-degree temperature.

Snelton Brothers, of Northbrook, began digging the well on Tuesday, and at the end of today (Thursday) expect to reach the source of cold limestone water.

The Giant Cooking Manufacturing company, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, will install the cooling coils, high in the theatre building.

The management of the local theatre states that the cooled and conditioned air will be dry and healthful, and a positive agent to reduce the temperature within the theatre at least 15 degrees.

Old English Fair to Benefit British Old People's Home

Ye Olde English Faire, annual outdoor benefit event for the British Old People's Home, Hollywood, Ill., will be held on the grounds of the home on Saturday, July 17. Events will start at 2:30 p.m. and will continue during the afternoon and evening.

The home has been in operation since 1925 and the old English fair is the sixth outdoor celebration of its kind held under the auspices of the committees managing the institution. The buildings and spacious grounds of the establishment offer unusual facilities for a carnival event and the fairs have drawn large crowds in the past. A record attendance is expected this year on account of the fact that the outing is in celebration of the completion of additions to the two wings of the main building, which will double the

capacity of the home.

Events on the program include races for boys and girls and contests and athletic events for adults of various ages, including quoits, shot-putting, coconut shies, tug-of-war and other games typical of an English country fair. Prizes will be given to the oldest lady present of British birth, to the oldest gentleman, the largest family attending and for other individual and group distinctions.

Specialty dancing, vocal music, choral singing and vaudeville will be offered and there will be public dancing in the moonlight. Luncheon and dinner will be served during the day and evening. The grounds of the British Old People's Home are located opposite the Brookfield Zoo and may be reached via the Douglas Park "L".

"Dere goes dat slatternly Mandy Jackson wid her ten pickaninnies. She sho do look repugnant." "Lan sakes! Again?"

And speaking of trailers, there was the chap who had one which contained all comforts of home as well as recreation facilities, and included a billiard table. This trailer was so perfectly balanced that one day while going around a curve one player made the eight ball in the side pocket and tipped the trailer over.

Lifeguard (with girl in his arms): "Sir, I have just resuscitated your daughter." Father: "Then, by gad, you'll marry her!"

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