

Children 'most important' in music festival



Garfield Bender

by Shirley Whittington

What goes through an adjudicator's mind as the eighth little girl in a series of 12 nervously mounts the musical festival stage to sing yet another four verses of "Old Grandma?"

According to Garfield Bender, Midland's vocal adjudicator, his mind is on the music and the performer.

"Each person that comes up on that stage is a new personality. I concentrate on their musical interpretation to see if I can find out that they are thinking about the song they are singing."

Dr. Bender, (the along with Gratton O'leary holds one of the first L.L.D.'s granted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier University) has been supervisor of music for the Waterloo County Board of Education. Now he says he's retired, but he still teaches piano and voice, and is heavily booked on the festival circuit.

He also assists at St. Andrew's Presbyterian

they hear, so a good recording is a valuable teaching aid."

To gain interpretive insight, Dr. Bender suggests that the singer read words carefully for meaning. "Words are more important than musical sounds, and text is paramount in order to interpret the song."

The choice of songs is important too. "It needn't be a classical song," he says. "There are lots of good writers around today. Gordon Lightfoot's Pussy Willows and Cattails — now that's an excellent song."

He questioned the value of some of the songs chosen for this year's festival. "When I was a Lad" from Gilbert and Sullivan for instance. "That takes a mature singer. It could be dangerous to try G. and S. at too young an age."

Although he realizes that close scheduling is unavoidable at a music festival, he always wishes he had more time. "The mind wears out," he says. "And it is nice to have time to take a few minutes with a choir — with the teacher's permission of course. It is also gratifying to have the time to work with individual singers and to suggest exercises for breathing or vowel formation, but there just is no time."

Dr. Bender had high praise for the festival's official accompanist, Kathleen Mounter. "Many performances at festivals are ruined by poor accompaniment," he says. "Mrs. Mounter is very sympathetic. She modulates for a light voice; comes up to interpret the song."

What is the value of a music festival? "Children," says Dr. Bender, "are absolutely the most important people in the festival. If they go away thinking there's nothing more to do, they've lost the value. Anybody that comes to a music festival and learns something, is a winner."

This year, as in past years, there were many in the festival audiences who came for the music and the adjudications, not because they had to monitor a performing child.

One of these observers remarked last week, that going to the festival was worth a dozen music lessons. "I enjoyed it all so much," said the anonymous enthusiast. "You can learn so much just listening to the adjudicators."

Enjoyment, and learning — proof that this year's festival was a success. And Garfield Bender's presence was in a large part, responsible for that success.

church in downtown Kitchener. It's the largest Presbyterian church in Canada, with 3,000 members. There he directs a 45-voice ecumenical choir. "We sing everything from Negro Spirituals to Bach," he says. "This variety is what holds the group together."

What does an adjudicator look for in vocal music? Interpretation is the most important element as far as Garfield Bender is concerned. "I look for the arching of a phrase, the voice inflection. I like to see the singer do something with each phrase. It's a matter of selling the song, and making it live."

Dr. Bender insists that listening is an important part of the art of learning to sing. "I'd like to see a liberal record library in every school, so that children could listen to groups like the Menonite Children's Choir from Winnipeg, the Vienna Boys' Choir, the Oberkirchen Children's Choir and good soloists. Children copy what



11 Rotarians off to Midland south

Eleven Rotarians traded the snowbanks of Midland Ontario, for the sunshine of Midland Texas last weekend.

The trip was a "Good Wheel" project, and the local Rotarians took a bit of Huronia with them, including a letter from Mayor Boyd and his council, and a paperweight and pen set — our town's official gift for state occasions.

The tourist association furnished a brochure package and a map of our area which will be given to the Texas Rotarians. A slide presentation of Huronia highlights, put together by Ste Marie's Barbara McConnell, will be shown in Midland Texas. The Ste Marie Film is also going down to Texas.

Organizer of the trip, Clare Armstrong says "We've been talking the idea of an exchange over for years, with Midland Texas, Midland Michigan, or Midland Pennsylvania. Now that we've initiated the idea, we hope next time, Rotarians from all four Midlands can meet. And we certainly hope that our Texas Midlanders will come up here to visit us. We'll do our best to promote the area."

Taking the message of Huronia Hospitality to Midland Texas are Clare Armstrong, Rod Ferguson, Gerry Van Klink, Bob Moth, Bill Clark, Ernie Cowden, Guy Johnston, Don Sherk, Forbes MacKenzie, Bill Mandy and Paul Cadioux. They flew to Dallas on Sunday morning, and are expected back in Midland early this week.

Newhouse elected to OAO post

Midland optometrist Dr. Robert J. Newhouse was re-elected to the council of the Ontario Association of Optometrists at its 65th annual general meeting held recently in Toronto.

A graduate of the University of Waterloo's school of optometry, Dr. Newhouse has been active in association work both in Huronia and the province as a whole. His office is on Elizabeth Street in Midland.

Camera club meets at Wild Life Centre

On Monday, April 14, 1975, the Midland Camera Club held its meeting at the Wild Life Centre. The meeting was conducted by Hugh Blair, the president.

After completing the general business, George Drought of Barrie was introduced to the club by Fran Westman.

George proceeded to give us a very interesting address

and colour slide display of a ten day canoe trip down the Mettagami River, starting at Smooth Rock Falls and travelling approximately one hundred and sixty miles towards James Bay. They returned by Railroad to Cochrane.

Len Love thanked the speaker and the meeting closed. Coffee was then served.



Rummagers rummaged

The St. Paul's United Church women held a rummage sale in the basement of the church hall on Saturday. Doors opened at 1:30 p.m., but only remnants were left by 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Edith Thompson and Mrs. Maclean of the UCW lent a helping hand to the sale.

Cancer campaign underway

"The war against cancer has reached a new stage and we hope to see some new victories in the not-too-distant future," declared Don Warnke, 1975 campaign chairman of the Midland and District Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The "victories" will be won with the help of all contributors to the society's April campaign for funds which started April 14 and

will continue to the end of the month. All areas in Midland-Penetanguishene and surrounding districts will be canvassed by hundreds of volunteer workers. Campaign chairman for Penetanguishene is J. W. Reimer, manager of the Toronto-Dominion bank.

The goal is \$12,000, an amount which the campaign exceeded in 1974.

Since its inception, the

Canadian Cancer Society from its campaign funds, has supported research through the National Cancer Institute in excess of \$51,000,000.

"As research forges ahead, some cancers considered incurable only a few years ago are becoming manageable — even curable," Mr. Warnke pointed out.

Among new approaches to control is the use of drugs as the treatment of choice in leukemia.

Rev. Craig earns degree

Reverend J.B. Craig, former minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Midland attains his Master of Theology degree on April 28 at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.

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Faces of Small Places

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CKVR TELEVISION

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Air Fare

After witnessing two punch outs, a shooting and a violent face-slapping on the tube last week, we turned to each other and said "Enough of this violence. Let's watch the news."

The joke was on us, since that was the night the news film clips featured refugees pushing each other off rescue craft.

That's unavoidable, since violence makes news. That it apparently makes entertainment is worrisome, and prompts a few questions. Why is a naked body a no-no, unless it happens to be dead, bleeding or mutilated? Is it really smart to settle disagreements with fists and gunshots? Since everything we see, read or hear is filed away somewhere in the cranial computer, TV violence may be programming a horrifying pattern of insensitivity in the minds of young watchers.

Nobody wants a diet of perpetual Julie Andrews pablum, but if you tend to use the tube as a baby sitter, vigilance is suggested.

Tuesdays at 7:30, Adventures in Rainbow Country is back with the story of a stolen tugboat and an Iron Curtain fugitive. It's a repeat, as are all the current shows, but the kids don't seem to mind that.

Next Wednesday (April 23) it's award time again. This time, excellence in TV, radio and film work by Canadians will be recognized at the fourth annual ACTRA Award Dinner at Toronto's Hyatt Regency Hotel. CBC will carry the show at 9 p.m., and that old railway man, Pierre Berton, will be keeping the show on the rails. Winners will be awarded ACTRA "Nellies".

It's to be hoped that Max Ferguson will be among those honoured. Anyone who can be dependably funny five days a week deserves recognition.

Just how much fun Canadian television can be is well illustrated during the hour before the ACTRA Awards. At eight there's a special on the bicycle — an irreverent and whimsical look at its history and evolution.

Sports nuts will have a ball on Saturday afternoon — a baseball. At 1 the San Diego Padres meet the Atlanta Braves. And later, at 8 it's NHL playoff time. Tuesday and Thursday are also NHL playoff nights.

On the local scene, Helen Delaney, Midland's librarian-with-a-tape-recorder, interviewed Fred McClement, writer of The Mysterious Case of Ambrose Small last week. The tape will be aired on Helen's regular library broadcast on CKMP Thursdays at 6:30. Since the case of Small has interesting connections with Midland, and with Penetanguishene, the program will be well worth hearing. Tomorrow at 6:30, Helen talks to Nick Mika, Belleville publisher. This is the second of a two part series.

We began with the news, and we'll end with it. For weeks I've been breaking up over "Shh - It's the News." A colleague more alert to innuendo than I pointed out the double-entendre title. I, in turn, point it out to any of you who are as thick headed as apparently I was.

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