



TIP O' THE MORNING: These records appear headed for the top brackets in sales—Tony Martin's "Pagliacci Prolog," Yogi Yorgesson's "I Was Santa Claus at the Schoolhouse," Jo Stafford's "Shrimp Boats," and Champ Butler's "O-O-Oh, Looka There."

Helen Matheson, Sunday editor of The State Journal, gets this space today for a report on "The Tales of Hoffmann," now showing at the Parkway theater.

"TALES OF HOFFMANN," is an experiment in which the mechanical witchcraft of movie technique is used to create an opera that is as lovely to look at as to hear.

This new version of Jacques Offenbach's 70-year-old opera is set iridescently in technicolor and provided with a double cast: one to sing, one to be seen.

Real actors play the dramatic roles; dancers as gifted as Moira Shearer and Leonide Massine attend to the ballet—and all sing splendidly meanwhile with their fine borrowed voices.

The splendid includes one of the most enchanting sequences on film—Moira Shearer's performance as Olympia, the mechanical doll who sings as she dances, her exquisite technique and china-fingering loveliness accompanied by an effortless cascade of song.

Unfortunately the entire production is not that delightful. The defects are many and the movie will be some and disappoint others.

Still "Tales of Hoffmann" is a dazzling and important undertaking—its fusion of talents a decided success and its development distinguished by use of the movie technique as an art in its own right.

The tales are those of Hoffmann's sad, fantastic romances—with the breathtaking mechanical doll Olympia; traitorous Giulietta who traps his soul in her mirror and sells it to a sorcerer; and Antonia, doomed to death by her own love of singing.

Robert Rounseville and Ann Ayars—the only performers who do their own singing—are an appealing Hoffmann and Antonia; Ludmilla Tcherina is almost shockingly convincing as the courtesan; Robert Helpmann and Massine play a succession of supporting roles.

Miss Shearer, in addition to her role as Olympia, also is Hoffmann's latest love, a ballerina. The part was transposed from that of an opera singer, enabling her to dance a fascinating "Dragon Fly Ballet" created for the film by Frederick Ashton.

The movie sustains its atmosphere of dream-and-nightmare through most of the long sequences, with the help of Hein Heckroth's surrealistic sets and a whole series of dramatic effects keyed to them.

(Marionettes that seem more real than people, for example... a company of ghost puppets to waltz with Hoffmann and Olympia... the haunted face of Giulietta's lover as he falls with a sword through his breast... Antonia's attempts to escape a room in which each door leads her back to it again.)

With all this, the flaws are disappointing. The movie is much too long, even after Sir Thomas Beecham—distinguished conductor of the Royal Philharmonic which provides the music—cut three-quarters of an hour from the three-hour score. Many minor scenes could have been eliminated; much "mood-setting" avoided.

Dennis Arundell's English libretto sounds trite and uninspired to an American audience that learned in "Carmen Jones" what a contemporary libretto can be.

Even with its inventive approach to filming the opera, "Tales of Hoffmann" is far too often cramped onto a conventional stage. And worthy attempts to put the tricks of the movie camera to use—having Giulietta sing a duet with her reflection in the lagoon, for example—suffer from the lack of Hollywood's technical deftness (how magical if the reflection had rippled with the water!).

But after all "Tales of Hoffmann" was produced in a hectic eight weeks, developing its new techniques as it went.

It isn't the final word on bringing opera to the screen—and it certainly isn't—unquestionably a handsome, hopeful prolog to the discussion.

Controls Needed for Months More, Johnston Reports

WASHINGTON (UP)—Economic Stabilizer Eric A. Johnston said in his final report to President Truman Thursday that wage and price controls will be needed for another 18 to 24 months to prevent an inflationary crack-up.

Simultaneously, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce urged that wage-price controls be abolished at once in the public interest. It said in a statement that inflationary pressures are off and the government has other powers to keep prices in check.

Johnston issued his statement shortly after Roger Lowell Putnam was sworn in as his successor. Putnam will take over when Johnston leaves Saturday.

Johnston said inflationary pressures are "in hand" right now, largely because of present controls and the "inherent good sense of the American people."

But he dismissed as "wishful thinking" the idea that present price stability is permanent. He said it supports in Freetown.

Army Displays New Fiber Sled



A new light, strong plastic and glass fiber sled in two sizes is displayed by the U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps, to replace the cumbersome wooden sleds used heretofore in Arctic areas. The sled shown is slightly longer than 7 feet, can carry 200 pounds. A smaller one, 4 feet long, can carry 100 pounds. (International Soundphoto)

Radio Timetable

Table with columns for WIBA, WISC, WKOW, and WIBU, listing radio programs and times for Friday.

Today's Radio Highlights

- 8 p. m.—Basketball (WIBA-FM and WFOV): Madison East vs. Beloit.
9 p. m.—Boxing (WISC): Ernie Durando vs. Felix Young.
9:45 p. m.—Roundy's Forecast (WIBA): basketball season preview.

WHA and WHA-FM

- 7:00 Farm Program
7:30 News
7:45 Morning News
7:58 Weather Report
8:00 Morning Melodies
8:05 Child Welfare
8:10 Family Report
8:15 Rich and Games
8:20 Markets
8:25 News Report
8:30 HomeMakers Program
8:35 Concerts: Airs
8:40 News of the Week
8:45 History of World War II
8:50 Noon Musicale
8:55 P. M.

Kittens Born in Hen House, So Hen Takes Over



When Greasy, the cat at the home of Mrs. D. Daily in South Melbourne, Australia, decided the hen house was the place to have her kittens, she didn't reckon on this white leghorn hen.

City Announces Two Civil Service Exams

The city personnel division announced a civil service examination Thursday to fill a Clerk IV position in the legal department.

Person, an Assistant to Frank Harrison, Collector and Investigator in the City Attorney's Office for Four Years, Quit About a Week Ago.

Deadline for applications is Dec. 13. The position pays \$267.56 to \$312.56 monthly, including cost of living adjustment.

Created by Resignation of Gerald Persson.

Another examination was announced for Maintenance Mechanic III, at \$289.88 to \$339.88 a month. The application deadline is Dec. 8.

Boss Gets Gold Tray, Gives Pay Hike in Turn

BROCKTON, Mass. (UP)—The employees of Harbour Welding Co. arranged a surprise for the boss, Perley A. Harbour, on his 50th wedding anniversary but received a bigger surprise themselves.

LEGAL NOTICES

Sealed Bids will be received by the State of Wisconsin, Bureau of Wisconsin State Capital, Madison, Wis., on or before 2:00 p. m. December 14, 1951, to cover the purchase of Envelopes for Motor Vehicle License Plates. Specifications may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Motor Vehicle License Plates, State Capitol, Madison, Wis. W.S.J. No. S. Nov. 30, 1951.

Gift Spotter Loaded with Gifts for Everybody

Multiple small advertisements for gifts, including Doll House Furniture, Gifts for Her, Gifts for Him, Gifts for Girls, Gifts for Boys, Gifts for Him, Gifts for Children, and For the Family.