

Lanin Riding High On Society's Beat

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN
Associated Press Staff Writer
NEW YORK — This is high society's debutante season, when the calendar glitters with coming out parties for the daughters of the Biddles, the Vanderbilts, the Rockefellers and other registrars of the social register.

But no one this season will

be coming out more often or in finer financial style than beaming, balding Lester Lanin.

Every night from now to Jan. 6, bandleader Lanin will climb into a Brooks Bros. tuxedo (he wears out 10 a year) and come out to the St. Regis roof, the beach houses of Southampton, the mansions of

Chevy Chase and similar haunts of the haut monde to fulfill engagements booked as far back as 1954.

And, as frequently happens, Lanin will park his baton on the bandstand long enough to sign up new customers for as far ahead as 1958.

FOR AS EVERY hep heir

knows, music with a distinct society beat (i.e. the fast trotter known as the Peabody) is as indispensable an ingredient of a correct soiree as a just right soufflé, gowns by Dior and a carefully culled guest list.

Along with Meyer Davis, Emil Coleman and a few others, Lanin has made a specialty of catering to the musical tastes of the gentry.

Tonight his boucny beat — midway between Guy Lombardo and Stan Kenton — heralds the debut of Laurence Rockefeller's daughter Lucy at the Rainbow Room.

Last night it beat for the swank New York cotillion on the St. Regis roof. In past weeks it has tolled for a private party given by Sen. John Kennedy, for the Hunt Ball at Piping Rock Country Club, the Imperial Ball at the Astor, for Philadelphia's famed First City Troop and for diamond-studded charity events benefiting an epidemic of diseases.

OVER THE YEARS Lanin has provided anything from an accordion player (at \$50 a night) to a 45-piece band (\$15,000 a night) for such notables as President Eisenhower, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Vincent Astor, Walter Chrysler, John Hay Whitney, Henry Cabot Lodge, Mrs. Harvey Firestone, Mrs. Edsel Ford, the Duke of Windsor, Perle Menta, Elsa Maxwell and just about every foreign government with an embassy in Washington or a delegation at the United Nations.

"Essentially, I'm a businessman," says Lanin, who last week carried business to the point of advertising in the Wall Street Journal. "Dance music is my business. I play for people's feet. If everyone is up dancing, the party is bound to be a success."

To get everyone up dancing, Lanin's well-paid, well-trained musicians adhere to a strict set of negatives: No drinking on engagements, no smoking in the ballroom, no shouting on the stand, no rock 'n' roll numbers, no hit songs except from Broadway shows, no instrument cases in sight and, unless the hostess requests otherwise, no vocalists.

CONTINUOUS MUSIC is a Lanin trademark. The last regular set-up from the regular 8 p.m. starting time to the 2 a.m. "Good Night Ladies," often longer if the customer is willing to pay the overtime.

Banquets take their own breaks in a rotation system, with Lanin himself spelling the drummer or the pianist when the time comes. Sometimes the party goes on until breakfast (noon is the Lanin record) or splinter groups from the band go home with the guests for more partying.

"My musicians," says Lanin, "are the best fakers in the business. They must know at least 400 songs by heart and be able to fake 400 more. We never say 'no' to a request, no matter how old or in what language. I hire men from a variety of nationalities to take care of requests for French, Irish, Italian, Greek, Jewish or German requests. If one guy knows it, the rest can fake it."

Hostesses on the verge of hysteria have been known to ask him to hop a tap to Palm Springs, Calif., or Shaker Heights, Ohio, to check on the doctor and preparations for a big blast.

"I'm no interior decorator," says Lanin, "but I know what makes a good dance. Maybe the room is too hot, too cold, too bright. Maybe the bar is far away. Maybe there's an imbalance in the guest list: too many men, for instance. Maybe the favorite team has lost a big football game or someone in the family has lost an election. I have to gauge music to fit the mood of the crowd. Or maybe the floor is just too sticky."

"I'm there to be of service," he says. "If the Duke of Windsor wants to play the drums, I let him. The same with Mrs. Firestone on the piano, or Gary Cooper on the bongos. In this business, the music is always right. And the hostess is even righter."

That's why Lee won't take any calls when his mother telephones from Fort Worth to beg him not to defect.



Associated Press Wirephoto

IN HIS BUSINESS 'THE HOSTESS IS RIGHTER . . .'
... says bandleader Lester Lanin

Defector In Russia, Near To His 'Dream'

MOSCOW (NANA) — "For two years now I have been waiting to do this one thing: to dissolve my American citizenship and become a citizen of the Soviet Union." Today, 35-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth, Tex., is in Moscow. He hopes he's close to his goal.

With his suit of charcoal gray flannel, dark tie and tan cashmere sweater, Lee looks every bit like Joe College. But his life hasn't been that of a typical college boy.

His father, an insurance salesman, died before Lee was born. Raised in Texas and Louisiana, the boy spent two years in New York during his early teens. At 17, he enlisted in the Marines.

"I did it because we were poor and I didn't want to be a burden on my mother," he says. Later, he spent 14 months as a licensed radar operator in the Far East.

In September, his three-year hitch nearly over, Lee was given a dependency discharge from the Marines. The next month he arrived in Moscow to petition the Supreme Soviet, highest legislative body in the USSR, for Soviet citizenship. Living in Moscow's Hotel Metropole on money he earned as a U. S. Marine, Lee Oswald waits for an answer.

REGARDLESS of how Russian officials have warned him Soviet citizenship is not easy to obtain, Lee already refers to the Soviet government as "my government."

"But even if I'm not accepted, on no account will I go back to the United States," Lee says. "I shall remain here, if necessary, as a resident alien." The only thing Soviet officials now promise is that Lee can stay on in Russia regardless of whether he becomes a citizen.

Meanwhile, they're "investigating" the possibility of sending him to a Soviet higher technical institute.

What brought this serious, soft-spoken Southern boy to Moscow? Evidently, it's a combination of poverty, the plight of the U. S. Negro, and the U. S. Marines.

"My mother has been a 'wonder' all her life," Lee says. "She's a good example of what happens to workers in the United States." He declines to elaborate.

"At the age of 15," he adds, "after watching the way workers are treated in New York and Negroes in the South, I was looking for a key to my

environment. Then I discovered Socialist literature."

LEE WAS STRUCK, in particular, by Marx's "Das Kapital." He concluded that, as an American, "I would become either a worker exploited for capitalist profit, or an exploiter, or, since there are many in this category, I'd be one of the unemployed."

Lee became a Marxist. Later, as a Marine Corps private in Japan and the Philippines, he "had a chance to watch American militarist imperialism in action."

A year ago, Lee began getting ready to come to Russia. Using a Beretta grammar, he taught himself to read and write Russian. Never, says Lee, a nice-looking six-footer with gray eyes and brown hair, did he consider deserting the Marine Corps.

Does it occur to Lee that Soviet officials may be embarrassed by his effort to become a citizen of their country at a moment when Russia is cultivating good relations with the United States?

Russian officials, says Lee, "don't encourage and don't discourage me." They warn, however, that neither Lee's wish, nor theirs, will determine whether his citizenship application is accepted. They have offered Lee only the sanctuary of a prolonged stay in the USSR.

As for officials at the U. S.



Associated Press Wirephoto

BEAUTY QUEEN from Bangalore, India, is 22-year-old Sarojini Andrews, who has been voted "Miss London School of Economics" of International Students' week. Her objective: to help raise funds for the activities of the World University Service.

Embassy in Moscow, they are torn between their desire to give Lee time to think it over, and their legal obligation to hear his oath renouncing American citizenship if he insists.

LEE AS BITTER at U. S. Consul Richard Snyder, who, he charges, stalled him when he asked to take the oath on Oct. 31, the only time Lee has been at the embassy. As a result, he had to go back there. He will let the Soviet government handle legal details when, and if, he becomes a citizen of the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, he has handed over his passport to the American Embassy.

Embassy officials admit they are a bit gun shy. This is their third case of attempted defection this fall. The first, Nicholas Petrulli, 38, of Valley Stream, L. I., changed his mind about defecting just before Russia refused him citizenship. Petrulli, a sheet metal worker, had a history of mental illness.

The second, Robert Edward Webster, 30, of Cleveland, an employee of the Rand Development Corp., asked for and received Soviet citizenship after he had spent the summer working at the U. S. Fair in Moscow's Sokolniki Park. Both Webster and Petrulli had had marital troubles back home.

Unlike Webster and Petrulli, Lee Oswald has never been married. His age — he turned 30 on Oct. 13 — is apparently no bar to renouncing his American citizenship. Russians come of age at 18.

As for the ordinary Russians he meets, do they seem surprised by Lee's desire to defect?

"Well," says Lee, "they're very curious and they ask me why." Materialist Muscovites, he adds, "understand when I speak of the idealistic reasons that brought me here. They ask me many questions about the material conditions of workers in the United States."

REGARDLESS of any "material shortcomings," he sees while he's here, Lee insists he will never go back to the U. S. "Emigration," he says, "isn't easy. I don't recommend it to everyone. It means coming to a new country, always being the outsider, always having to adjust. But to me, my reasons are strong and good. I believe I'm doing it right."

That's why Lee won't take any calls when his mother telephones from Fort Worth to beg him not to defect.

New Blow At Cancer

Special to The Miami News
DENVER, Colo. — A spade of upturned earth has signified the beginning of a new life.

The scene was the green and lovely land in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, just about five miles from here.

There, the earth that was turned and will now continue to be turned will give way to the Eleanor Roosevelt Cancer Research Institute.

Named in honor of the former First Lady's dedication to the health and welfare of the people of the world, it will be situated on the grounds of the American Medical Center, close by to the hospital it maintains for patients in all stages of cancer.

THE HOSPITAL is one of the few institutions in this country where cancer patients in advanced stages can be hospitalized for an unlimited period of time.

Its "open door" policy provides treatment and care without any charge to all who seek it.

This acceptance of patients in need of extended hospitalization has, happily, restored to their families many cancer patients considered "hopeless" and "incurable."

THE COMPLETE and continuous diagnosis, study and treatment, provided at the Hospital, and the encouraging results, spurred the desire to establish a research center in which doctor, research specialist and patient will form an unusual partnership in the fight to banish a scourge that has killed more Americans than all our wars.

The doctor, over a span of months, is able to fight the disease with all the weapons developed by medical science. The research specialist, working with the patient day after day, can conduct long-range tests that will investigate the disease in all its stages.

To the patient the value is two-fold. He is encouraged to fight his disease when he sees that everything possible is being done to help him; and in addition, he has the sustaining knowledge that he is helping to uncover new clues against the disease that has been called "mankind's worst killer."

IT IS THE HOPE of all those associated with the founding of the Institute that many of the missing answers will be supplied.

What, actually, is cancer? Is it a virus? Is it hereditary? Why are certain types

more common among men than women?

Working in laboratories made possible by the generous support of Americans from every part of the nation, teams of research scientists will be waging a fight against time to solve these riddles in the hope of banishing cancer from the face of the earth.

The campaign to raise funds for the building and equipping of the Institute was launched recently by some of the many friends Mrs. Roosevelt made in her long career of public service.

Arthur Godfrey said, "The new Eleanor Roosevelt Institute for Cancer Research should provide a vital link in the chain of research centers so gravely needed today. . . . With what great joy I would love to read some day that the discovery was made by the Institute. Meanwhile, let us all join forces in 'selling' the possible on the vital necessity of at least annual X-ray examinations as well as large contributions for research."

Steel's Move Is Next

CHICAGO (AP) — The next move in the nation's steel labor crisis apparently will develop tomorrow when the industry's management is expected to disclose its attitude toward new demands of the United Steelworkers Union.

Both sides have been summoned to meet tomorrow in Washington for renewed efforts to negotiate a settlement of the eight-month-long dispute.

Director Joseph F. Finnegan of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service asked resumption of steel talks, in abeyance since Dec. 10 when U. S. leaders left to participate in bargaining sessions with the aluminum industry in Chicago.

About the time Finnegan was arranging the Washington meeting, Steelworkers President David McDonald disclosed in Chicago the union has made a double-barreled demand of steel management:

● The Steelworkers made a point settlement proposal asking generally terms of the Kaiser contract, but added three demands which would hike the value of the pattern sought by the industry.

● The union said it intends to go to court, if necessary, to force a shift from industry-wide to company-level negotiations.

The settlement proposal made by the Steelworkers followed generally terms of the Kaiser contract, but added three demands which would hike the value of the pattern sought by the industry.

One was inclusion of retired employees and their wives in health insurance coverage, a concession obtained in the recent can industry agreement but not included in the Kaiser pact. Another would include a cost-of-living increase of 3 to 4 cents, effective the first pay period in January.

The union also reiterated its demand, once rejected by the steel industry bargaining committee, that insurance and pension terms be retroactive to Nov. 1 this year.

McDonald has maintained for several months that industry-wide talks are unsatisfactory because high-level negotiators are not competent to weigh problems of individual companies. He said the Tait-Hartley Law requires company-level bargaining.

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IT'S A BOY for child-bride Barbara Scruggs and her husband, U. S. Navy movie operator Norman Scruggs, 21, who admire infant Clifton in their London apartment. The baby came Friday to the young White Plains, Va., mother whose arrival in England a year ago caused a rumpus. She was 14 when the couple married in 1938 in Halifax, N.C. In England there is a law making it a criminal offense to have intimate relations with a girl of 14.

Dogs On Police Force? Lawmen Are Divided

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dogs as cops? California lawmen are divided over the idea.

"Recruiting is difficult enough," Deputy Chief Roger E. Murock of Los Angeles Police told a state assembly subcommittee. "And the prospect of being tied to a dog is no inducement to joining the police force."

The subcommittee was studying a proposal that dogs be used as policemen's partners.

But Bob Bender of the Sacramento Police likes the idea.

"If properly trained, a dog can be a police officer's best friend," he said.

"I might question the stability of a human partner — whether he would back me up in a crisis — but not a trained dog."

Fred Reed, a trainer from Saratoga, asserted:

"One dog can handle a crowd that would require several men. The mere presence of a dog can break up a riot."

Committee chairman S. C. Masterson said preliminary studies with 20 dogs show initial training cost for man or dog is about the same.

Thereafter the annual cost per dog would be about \$1,735 compared to \$8,124 per man.

Red-Tinted Rebel Keeps Sicily Reins

PALESTINE, Sicily (UPI) — A Communist-backed rebel Christian Democrat, who defied the Vatican in allying himself with the Reds, has regained power in Sicily.

Silvio Milazzo, a 56-year-old landowner who says he values Sicily above everything else, was reelected president of the Sicilian Regional Assembly. He had five more votes than he had when he first took power last July.

Milazzo received 50 of the Sicilian assembly's 90 votes.

He owed his success to the Communist deputies and their left-wing Socialist allies who refused to break their ties with the Reds to join an anti-Milazzo coalition with the Christian Democrats.

Milazzo thus turned the tables on the Christian Democrats who 11 days ago managed to vote him out of office in a secret ballot on the budget.

"Sicily-firsters" Milazzo bolted

Holiday On The Rocks

ROSSLARE HARBOR, Ireland (AP) — Three men marooned in a storm-battered lighthouse 12 miles off Ireland have just about given up hope of eating a traditional Christmas dinner. They have been marooned on Bull Rock Light house for 36 days.

Three times the steamer Isolda has tried to reach the isolated lighthouse with relief and supplies. Each time, waves crashing against the rock have prevented the steamer from landing.

The men now are living on emergency rations, but are apparently in no immediate danger. With more foul weather rolling in from the Atlantic, prospects are remote that a ship will be able to dock there next week.



Associated Press Wirephoto

JUST IN TIME for Christmas was daughter, Bianca, shown with her mother, British heiress Fredrika Bobo Sigrist, who won custody of the child for nine and one-half months of the year after a long legal battle with her estranged American husband, Greg Juarez. Both Bobo, heiress to a 19 million dollar fortune, and Juarez were present in the London court for the verdict. Juarez will have the child for the remaining 2½ months of the year.