

Orchestra Lift To Improve Acoustics For Auditorium

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Charlotte, North Carolina, Wednesday, October 12, 1955

Section Two

Hydraulic Apparatus Budgeted

By CHARLES KURLAT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A new acoustical improvement in Owens Auditorium was promised today, in the wake of varied reactions to last night's Boston Symphony concert.

A hydraulic lift for the new auditorium's orchestra pit, to be installed in about three months, will move the orchestra some 30 feet nearer the audience.

This will place the majority of the orchestra under the auditorium roof and will be the final improvement planned by the building's acoustical engineer.

A contract for the \$20,000 lift was to be signed today by Ace Elevator Co. of Charlotte, according to architect James G. Demphill of A. G. Odell Jr. & Associates, architects of the building. The contract is subject to City Council approval.

The Boston orchestra provided the auditorium's second acoustical test last night. Conductor Charles Munch was more than satisfied with what he heard: "Superb," he said. Acoustically, from every other point of view, your auditorium is magnificent, a miracle.

Some audience members were not so ecstatic. Some complained the orchestra sound seemed "deadened," even with the great hydraulic baffles around and above the stage.

The baffles were erected after a Charlotte News story last month noted the auditorium, without them, was sub-par for orchestra performances.

These sounding boards, Mr. Humphill said, were included in the original plans of the acoustical engineers, Ball, Bernick & Newman of Boston, Mass. The firm's architect Richard Newman designed the shape of the baffles, including the angles of the ceiling and walls.

The hydraulic lift to move the orchestra into place will be paid for with funds budgeted in the original Auditorium-Coleman bond issue. Mr. Humphill said these other observations about acoustics in the building:

Acoustics were better last night than at the earlier Charlotte Symphony concert because the Boston orchestra took a more active place on the stage. The circus which was placed behind the Charlotte orchestra absorbed much of the sound which otherwise would have been bounced from the sounding boards and the chorus's presence also meant the sounding boards had to be placed farther back on the stage.

The baffles behind and above the orchestra are placed in "zig-zag" fashion in order to properly deflect the sound of the music. A simple vertical panel would give direct reflections, and a listener on the left side of the auditorium would hear the left side of the orchestra more distinctly than the right. Zig-zagged baffles give a more accurate balance of sound, Mr. Humphill said.

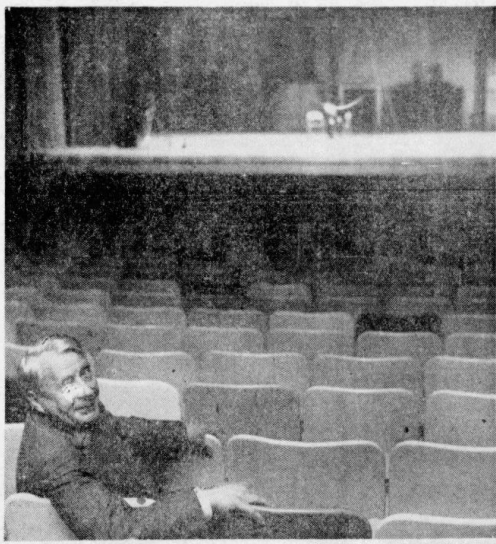
The new balance of acoustics, he went on, is of the opinion that there is no such thing as "perfect" sound. It is a matter of degree. Engineer Newman, he said, is also the designer of the new music hall at Glasgow, Scotland, a country of Technology and a well-known expert in the field.

Many members of last night's audience were pleased with the sound they heard. Members of the orchestra pulled back stage joined Conductor Munch in praising the hall.

But other experienced concertgoers were still not happy with acoustics in the building. One audience member said the sound was not bright enough, "very dull," from her balcony seat. Others complained of a lack of balance in the sound.

The new pit, however, should satisfy the attractions of several thousand cars to the coliseum.

GRADY NEON SIGNS—All kinds of Signs, 15th & Davidson, (Adv.)



Conductor Munch: "One Of The Great Halls of the World."

'Magnificent, A Miracle'

Munch Praises Auditorium

"What you have here," Charles Munch said, "is one of the great halls of the world."

The Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor delivered the bouquet without a sign of hesitation. He walked back and forth in his dressing room after last night's concert to demonstrate, for the first time in so dramatic a way, the expansion and diversification of the Carolina industry in recent years.

To be eligible, an exhibitor must be located in North or South Carolina.

SPECIAL DAYS

Sponsors have designated the following special "days" at the show:

November 23, Education Day; Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving), Business and Manufacturers Day; Nov. 25 and 26, Family Days, with the doors open to the general public. These last two days will be door prizes and entertainment.

The exposition will be closed Thanksgiving afternoon so that exhibitors may attend the Carrousel parade.

Many Chambers of Commerce and manufacturers of the two states have already indicated their intention to participate in the "Made in Carolinas" show.

Boston Symphony Gives Delightful Performance

By EDWIN S. BERGAMINI

Where music is given, much is expected. These expectations were largely fulfilled by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Charles Munch, director, at last evening's opening event of the Charlotte Community Concert series in Owens Auditorium.

The program was solid, standard, and commendable. It opened with Haydn's Symphony No. 102 in B flat, as the orchestra had commenced its first concert 75 years ago, with conductor Debussy's "La Mer" and Brahms's Second Symphony.

The evening's performance masterpiece was Debussy's "La Mer." The French composer's three symphonic sea sketches put the listener right on the ever-moving and ever-changing ocean, with gulls and windmills making seagull cries. Each detail has to come off as a specialty right in this music, and Munch and his orchestra forces saw that they did. In fact, his way with this score is unrivaled by any one or two conductors in the world.

X-Ray Unit Stops Set

City County Health Officer Dr. M. B. Betzel today announced public stop sets of the mobile chest X-ray unit which will be parked on the Hutchison Ave. side of Southern Dairies tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Next Thursday, Oct. 20, the unit will be at Harris Food Store at 2686 South Blvd. for the same time.

Dr. Betzel said chest x-rays will be available to the general public at no direct cost, and added that chest X-rays are available to the public at the Health Department building at 615 E. 4th St. daily Monday through Friday.

The State Board of Health was asked to send the mobile unit to Charlotte by the local health departments and the Tuberculosis Association to do on-the-job X-raying of certain special groups.

The unit will be at Associated Transport Inc. and Kern's Hardware on the Hutchison Ave. side of Southern Dairies tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Driver Hurt In Accident

Police said an automobile ran through a stop sign at Woodward St. and Statesville Ave. about 3:30 p.m. and struck an embankment and a tree and then rolled into Irwin Creek, pinning the driver beneath the car.

Listed as Fred M. Hunter, 45, Rt. 11, Charlotte, the driver was removed by police officers and was taken by ambulance to Memorial Hospital.

Shortly before noon his condition was described as "satisfactory" and he was believed to be suffering only cuts and bruises.

Patrolmen who investigated the accident were J. E. Jones and Henry Shaw. They said Hunter's 1949 Dodge was traveling west on Woodward St. and failed to stop when entering Statesville Ave.

Charlotte Classes

BELMONT—An adult education program conducted by Belmont College in Charlotte will begin tomorrow at 7 p.m. at O'Donnoghue School under the direction of Father Curtis E. Allen.

Rudy Kuzler commercial photographer, Ph. ED 3-2184. (Adv.)

Charlotte

Close-Up

The other day we mentioned "Nothin' Ain't No Good," a new book of humor by E. J. Holmes of Charlotte. . . Failed to mention, however, the fine illustrations.

They're the product of Russell Henderson who now lives near Columbia. . . Many Charlotteans will remember Mr. Henderson. He was an artist for the old Chronicle and a charter member of Charlotte's own artists' colony.

Carlyn Stoupe, the Charlotte beauty now living in Florida, is featured in the current issue of Look Magazine. . .

The county agent up in Cleveland County asks that you let him know if you see a 1400 pound steer roaming around. . . Seems they've had a Vickie incident up in Shelby.

A Hereford steer took leave from a feeder calf sale at the Cleveland County Fairground over a week ago and is still missing. . . The steer has been reported seen only once, on Highway 74, but that's all. In case you see it, please call Howard Clapp, the worried county agent.

Sen. John J. Williams, the Delaware visitor here this week, came up with an interesting observation. . .

Some day, . . . we may reach the point where national political conventions are just a month or so away from actual voting time. . . That's the system in England with just 30 days. . . He says we may get to that point, and days here, being more realistic, and the closer the better. . . Figures campaigners can say all they need to say in two months without repeating themselves to the point of boredom. Radio, television and newspaper do such a good job of reporting campaigns, he said, that everybody's weary of the same old, same old. "Was a time," he said, "a candidate could give a speech in North Carolina one night and the same speech in Georgia the next. You can't anymore."

The latest (?) Texas story has a milestone walking down the street in Dallas and finding a \$10 bill held by a paper clip. . .

He carefully picks up the money and removes the clip, then tucks the bill in his pocket. "I sure have been needing a paper clip," he says.

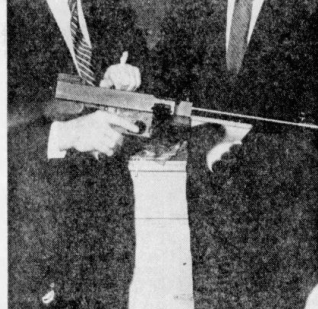
The \$64,000 craze has hit the newsmen. . . Out now is a \$200 quiz book published by Louis Cowan who produces radio-television show. . . And as a helper, you might want to subscribe to a new magazine which is starting in December. It's called, "Wisdom."

Most interesting story of the week was the one about the first male Army nurse. . .

It read, in part, "It climaxed a 14-year fight by professional nursing societies to obtain for male nurses EQUAL STATUS WITH WOMEN in the Army."

Charlotte Traffic Toll

Injured yesterday ----- 0
Injured to date ----- 592
Fatalities this year ----- 15



Examining the plans for the Charlotte FBI office, Gov. Luther H. Hodges, right, and Ray J. Abbatichio Jr., special agent in charge of the office. The Governor was a special guest yesterday when law enforcement officers of the Carolinas inspected the FBI's new facilities here.

Bare Quorum Present

Few Items Are On Council's Agenda

A depleted City Council was scheduled to hear three zoning change requests, award three contracts and take care of several other routine matters this afternoon.

City Manager Herman Brown and Councilwoman Mrs. Martha Evans were not present at the meeting today. Mrs. Evans has not yet returned from Europe.

The session was also expected to include Mayor Pro Tem James S. Smith presiding at the meeting, the council was expected to have a bare quorum of four.

Merger Plan Is Postponed

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ministers' Assn. has postponed action on a proposal to merge the association with the Negro Inter-denominational Ministers Alliance. The report may be brought up again at the next meeting of the association, set for Nov. 8. About 50 of the 170 member ministers decided against considering the report yesterday, some suggesting that such a "historic step" should not be taken without participation of the full membership.

Dr. Lawrence I. Still headed the five-man committee which recommended the white ministers' group invite the Negro group to consider a merger.

The Rev. J. R. Brookhoff objected that two separate organizations might well fill the ministers' and congregations' needs better than one combined group. He suggested that the Negro and white contingents face different problems due to differences in organizational setup. "To realize that," he declared, "is not being non-Christian."

SUN STILL KING DURING THE DAYTIME

Summer was still in the saddle today as the temperature went full steam ahead.

The Weather Bureau predicted an 86-degree top today, an 88-degree maximum tomorrow.

Of course, the meetings are cool. The sun really had to get itself in a sweat to get the temperature up from its 84-degree low today. And a 52-degree minimum is forecast for tomorrow.

I Remember When . . .

By DICK YOUNG

The Civitan Quartet, composed of Henry Benez, John Carroll, Frank Crowell, and Ralph Rone specializing in "Sweet Kentucky Babe" was a "knockout" at club luncheons.

U. A. DRIVE IMPORTANCE REALIZED

Adults, it seems, are not the only persons who realize the importance of the 26 service agencies in the United Ape.

This morning U. A. officials described a following lesson, scribbled in a child's handwriting:

"I am sending fifty cents to the children with cerebral palsy on your program because my little brother is the same way in his right arm and leg. I always have great joy to send money to those children. Yours lovingly, Peggy Coppock, 214 N. Cecil St."

"P. S. This is my allowance for the week. We are not rich."

Two quarters were enclosed in the envelope.

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Worker Shortage Is Acute

Wanted Now: 250 Cotton Pickers

The Charlotte employment office hung out the "Help Wanted" sign today, and added a postscript—SOS.

Workers are needed by the hundreds, officials said, to pick Mecklenburg's ripening cotton.

In order to save the cotton crop, now. More will be able to find temporary employment in the fields during the next two or three weeks.

The Charlotte Employment Security Commission office has called on a state placement interviewer, F. I. Nance of Raleigh, to help Mecklenburg farmers find employees for the cotton-picking chores. Director George H. Everett requested that potential workers come to the office, 112 or 116 W. 1st St. to be placed in the jobs.

There are no requirements as to experience or age, he said, for physically handicapped workers are needed. Transportation is furnished from Charlotte to the cotton fields, and payment is \$2.50 to \$3.00 per hundred pounds of cotton picked.

Workers should bring their own lunches, Mr. Everett said. The emergency nature of the need, he said, means that physically handicapped workers stand an especially good chance of getting jobs.

The unusual need for cotton pickers, according to Mr. Everett, is caused by a fairly high rate of employment in the city. Many workers who normally head for the cotton fields in the fall are staying on urban jobs instead.

Cotton Pickers—The Demand Exceeds the Supply.

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