

Oakway bids for higher budget

It provides a semi-professional experience for young musicians. It brings good music at a low price close to home. Families can afford it. It provides a further outlet for Detroit Symphony players.

These are among the reasons board members of Oakway Symphony Society are working to raise the \$40,000-plus budget the orchestra will need to put on six subscription concerts and a cabaret concert in next fall's fifth season.

Oakway draws audience and performers from all over the metropolitan area, but its heaviest support comes from Farmington, Southfield, Birmingham, Troy, Royal Oak and Livonia.

"OAKWAY IS made up of semi-professional musicians who have talent and heart, and they care. It is so nice to stay in our area for concerts and not have to drive the John Lodge Freeway," said Janet Ebersole of Southfield, adding:

"The programs have been exciting, different and have used fine area talent."

Husband Joel Ebersole called Oakway "a group that is useful as part of the general enrichment process so needed in this modern society."

"I support the Oakway Symphony because of the opportunity it gives young musicians to perform," said Janice Williams of Troy.

"I am concerned about having good classical music available," said Mrs. Paul Ewing of Farmington. "If you live in an area and you have something as valuable as a symphony orchestra right in your midst, you should support it."

THE NEW PRESIDENT of the Oakway Symphony Society, Ivabell Harlan of Bloomfield Hills, said Oakway serves its communities several ways: "Young people too old to play with school orchestras may continue playing with a group.

"Members holding lesser chairs in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra have the opportunity to work further to their own benefit."

"Senior citizens have the opportunity to continue playing."

"Audiences are often the people who cannot go to Detroit and often cannot afford the price of a Detroit Symphony ticket."

"For myself, I am concerned about my 'social environment.' Oakway definitely improves it."

"COMMUNITY ORCHESTRAS in large metropolitan centers also help to create audiences for the major symphony," said Mrs. Berj H. Hadostian of Birmingham.

"The Oakway Symphony is a vital part of that which gives stability and quality to our community," said Rev. Bertil E. Anderson of Farmington Hills. The man who recently served two years as Oakway president said, "The orchestra gives an opportunity for young people to perform with seasoned artists and under professional direction."

"If it were not for Oakway," said Ralph Valaska, director of parks and recreation for the City of Southfield, "about 8,000 people would be deprived

of hearing fine music played by a first-rate orchestra."

"WHEN MY DAUGHTER was a student," said Mrs. Robert Williams of Farmington, "there was no orchestra of the caliber of Oakway in our area. Realizing this, I support Oakway so that other talented musicians may gain experience by playing under a professional conductor like Francesco DiBiasi."

"I support the Oakway Symphony," said E.T. Gaston of Southfield, "because I believe that music is participatory. Oakway brings great music to people who otherwise wouldn't have or take the opportunity to go downtown. It also allows talented amateur musicians the opportunity to perform and enrich community life."

"The price of admission is low," said Beth Lobb, new president of the Oakway Women's Association. "It encourages family attendance. And there is a special price for senior citizens." She added that the Sunday afternoon concerts are well timed for families and senior citizens.

Lorraine Soverinsky of Southfield summed it up:

"Because music is a human need, and without it we perish."

Oil rush revisited

(Continued from page 1A)

happens. A five-day delay in getting to Anchorage was an annoyance, he admits, but not catastrophic.

Matzdorf was surprised by the size and varying climates of the state when he arrived there, and in his extensive travels to other cities, he continues to be surprised.

"It's more than twice as large as Texas and the Malpaisa Glacier near Valdez is larger than the state of Rhode Island. There's four time zones, Pacific, Yukon, Alaskan, and Bering and you can cross the date line," he says.

Although Valdez has mild weather in terms of temperature—it rarely gets below zero in the port—the average snowfall is in excess of 30 feet. But 40 miles away across the mountains, it can get to 50-60 degrees below zero.

"Life was basically simple and it's becoming more complex," he says of the lifestyle in Valdez, a town of about 3000 persons, although 3,000 pipeline workers were living there also for the past few years. About 1,000 persons are expected to be added to the Valdez population directly associated with the pipeline and terminal.

In the "boom or bust environment," often associated with Valdez' beginnings—as part of the 1886 Klondike gold rush—stories of shootouts on main street and hookers on every streetcorner have continued to pro-

liferate, especially in the press. Matzdorf said.

"IT'S NOT Abilene in 1870," he says adamantly. "With 3,000 construction workers, a certain amount of prostitution and gambling goes on, but it's never reached the proportions talked about in the lower 48. I think people would be surprised to discover that Valdez just spent \$13 million for a new high school."

Matzdorf is particularly distressed with stories about the "Valdez shuffle" and the "Valdez stare."

"The idea that people trudge between two places where they sleep and work needs debunking," he claimed. "In the more isolated locations in northern Alaska, people develop a sense of shell shock because of the isolation and fenced camps. But in Valdez, and other cities, it's simply not true. Progress is inevitable in the case of Alaska, but it was contrived so it could co-exist with the environment and lifestyles."

In the fall, Matzdorf will be returning to the Detroit area permanently, but not without some fond memories of his time there, a lot of anecdotes, and some good experience under his belt.

"It matured me and broadened my horizons," he says, applying for sounding trite. "It's not my particular lifestyle on a long-term basis, because of the rugged conditions, but it's actually been quite normal."

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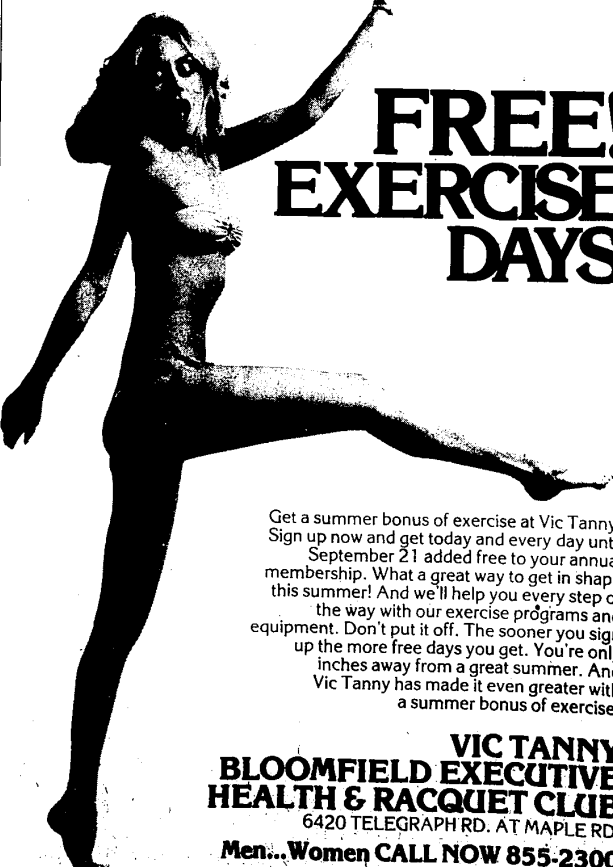
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