OSTRANSKY and EPPERSON
Their Salem Witch...
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Cover Caption — LeRoy Ostransky and Gordon Epperson discuss their
“Salem Witch” production (see cover story).

Photo Courtesy CPS News Bureau

Attention Collegiates
LARGE NATIONAL CLOTHING CONCERN needs
two students to service accounts on part-time basis.
Earn $2 per hour. See Mr. Eidson, 932 Pacific.
Saturday morning only.

"You hoid it, I'll get a net!"

 Buff has barber chairs that go up and down!
 — Next Door to Afton Jay’s —
CAMPUS WEEK

Homecoming was over (See Students). Students looked forward to a week of cleaning and getting back into the routine of school work and classes. Mid-semesters were staring everyone in the face. Library attendance grew as students tried to make up five weeks work in a few days.

A sign appeared outside the Indie room Monday. It announced the CPS headquarters of Paul Stoltz and his crew (See Students), Greeks, Indies and Rally Comm met that evening (See Organizations).

Chapel goers heard about the city manager plan during the two convocation periods.

At the same hour on Tuesday, Central Board members learned of the excuse screening committee (See CB Minutes, and Students).

The juke box was due to arrive either Wednesday or Thursday. It came late Wednesday and the SUB was filled with music again. SUB dwellers resigned themselves to its arrival without much enthusiasm.

A police siren and the appearance of a small float announced the arrival of the Crusade for Freedom unit Wednesday noon. Students ignored the small group in the squad and kept on toward the SUB. They were foiled. Other members of the unit cornered them as they emerged from the lunch line. Trays were loaded high with crusade buttons, literature, and food.

The chapel screening committee met Thursday and heard excuses ranging from the ridiculous to the sensible.

Debaters gathered on the campus Friday for the practice tourney, and people looked carefully before they ventured into hallways. They just didn’t want to help judge.

The ball club left for Salem and the Willamette homecoming. They wanted to spoil the southern school’s homecoming as ours had been done the week before by the visitors from the north (See Sports).

Homecoming at the University and also at Willamette was attracting people for the weekend. There did not seem to be much around home.
Students

Homecoming Review...

Last Thursday afternoon during the Coke Dance, sorority presidents started running their fingers through all kinds of beards to try and find the longest, bushiest, best-trimmed and the mangiest beards. These were the qualifications for Homecoming King.

After all of the judging had been completed, it was announced that Duane Wegner, a Delta Kap, was chosen as this year’s Homecoming King. It was the brush that did it. Duane said, “There were about three days during the growing period that I did nothing but scratch my face.” Wegner, who hasn’t yet used his free shave said, “It took me about an hour to get my face scraped off.

Other beards that won in the contest belonged to Gil Dobbe, who had the best-trimmed, and Jon Torgerson, who had the mangiest beard. Both men are Sigma Chis. Ralph Olsen, a Sigma Nu, came in with the reddest beard of them all.

Exactly at 8 o’clock Thursday night the lights were lowered in Jones Auditorium and the organ music began. The audience stood up as the four queen candidates and their escorts slowly walked down the aisle to the stage. The girls wearing white formals and carrying flower nosegays stood on the stage while ASCPS President Cal Frazier gave a brief history of Homecoming in past years. It seemed like eternity before Homecoming King Duane Wegner said “I crown Marion Swanson, Queen Marion the First.”

In the candlelight the King helped Queen Swanie put on her royal robe of purple and gold velvet. Then he placed a crown of flowers on her head and gave her a crown-shaped bouquet of chrysanthemums. The applause grew, then faded as Larry Engel told the queen of her duties. Then the queen and her attendants left the stage and joined the audience to view the first performance of “There’s Always a Murder.”

This year’s Homecoming play followed the pattern of past plays in that it was a mystery-comedy but the similarity stopped there. Everyone played their part to the hilt but the general opinion seemed to be that Marilyn Planje and Don Wolvers carried the play. Mary Lou Moore as the little girl, Rosalind, was a natural for the part.

Grace Pullager, as the giggling Mrs. Henrietta Jordan-Smythe; Pat Novak, as the presumptive interior decorator, and Clarice Slossen, as Mrs. Oscar Marrygold, the busy landlady, injected humor to the laging plot in their brief appearance on stage. Don Boesel and Wally Tonstad portrayed the perennial inspector and the stupid assistant as if they were old hands in the profession. The two dramatic leads were especially well done by Jack Galker and Lea Mae Blackburn. These two people emoted with ease and seemed to have more poise on stage than the rest of the cast.

The plot of the play was very thin, and action was practically lacking. There was a general feeling that it was far too wordy and drawn-out. A faster-moving play could have been produced if the play had been cut more. What plot there was involved the Taylors, portrayed by Marilyn Planje and Don Wolvers, in the hunt for a murderer and a body. Mrs. Taylor evolved her own theory as to where part of the body was and who the murderer was but her husband ridiculed her. The entire play was concerned with finding the murderer. Ken Parker, the author of this “prize-winning” play, used one of the most common devices in hiding the real murderer. All evidence pointed to Steve Haywood, but it wasn’t until the last minutes of the final scene that the real murderer, Katherine Horton, was revealed. The audience never did see what the mysterious black bag contained, but maybe it was just as well.

The wraps were off as the products of Logger imagination lined up Saturday morning on Broadway to begin the Homecoming parade. No one was more surprised than the students in the parade as they looked over each others float and muttered “who thought of that.” The weather was kind and held the rain back but he did let a little wind blow. Spirit was high and many comments were heard which said in effect that it was the best parade that CPS has put on in years.

Loggers had the streets to themselves. Clowns and cops chased each other, bicycles built for two careened about, and members of the TRAIL staff warmed up cold spectators with hot coffee and doughnuts. A real man was seen taking unfair advantage of a grass-skirted South Sea Island belle by chasing her with a lawn mower. Sigma Nu had the oldest car, 1902.

In all there were 44 entries. Don Dixon and Harry Ingraham, co-chairmen of the parade, expressed thanks to all the participants, especially the drum and bugle corps from Rhodes Post, the Lincoln High Merchetta Ki and the Bellarmine color guard.

Gratitude also is expressed to the Tacoma police department for the patience and cooperation which they gave to the parade.

The last act of the big show “Fairway Fun for 51,” was staged Saturday night under the big top of the Fieldhouse. Colorful banners strung across the front of the Fieldhouse and painted circus characters adorned the walls. The Taylors, portrayed by Marilyn Planje and Don Wolvers, in the hunt for a murderer and a body. Mrs. Taylor evolved her own theory as to where part of the body was and who the murderer was but her husband ridiculed her. The entire play was concerned with finding the murderer. Ken Parker, the author of this “prize-winning” play, used one of the most common devices in hiding the real murderer. All evidence pointed to Steve Haywood, but it wasn’t until the last minutes of the final scene that the real murderer, Katherine Horton, was revealed. The audience never did see what the mysterious black bag contained, but maybe it was just as well.

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gave him the list of award winners. Before he read the list he called up Queen Swanie and King Duane. They remained on the stage while the awards were given. The crowd quieted down when Rocky began to read the list. Sigma Chi won the men’s float trophy for their three-ring circus on wheels and the trophy for house decorations. Their house depicted all phases of a circus, complete with sideshows: Delta Alpha Gamma was the winner of room decorations with a “house of horrors.” Miniature figures carved from soap and made from pipe cleaners illustrated a big-time circus. Spooky creatures and sounds added to the “scare-way.” Lambda’s artistic band wagon was the best woman’s float. Sigma Nu got the trophy for the oldest car. Their 1902 model was the oldest in the parade. Kappa Sigma and Gammas took the awards for the most original stunts. Lambda’s artistic band won the cash award for the group that had the most alumni at the luncheon Saturday noon. Judges who chose the winners were Curena Johns, Burr Gregory and Marshall Perrow.

After the awards were made RockyCopple put on a hat and called his Dixieland jazz band to the stage. They played for almost 30 minutes but no one danced. People up front stood around and listened. Others wandered off to sit down and rest their feet.

When Minnie came back talking stopped and dancing started again.

At 1 couple rushed the checkroom and outside to cars. The streets were lined with cars leaving the homecoming. 1951 was over.
Buck Bank...

Cal Frazier, the boy who has the purse strings on the Buck Bank, says that the bank has gone over the $100 mark. Thirty-five dollars had been drawn out for use over the weekend. Frazier said that an additional $25 had been drawn from the Central Board treasury for support of the bank.

"One reason why so many of the fellows had drawn from the Buck Bank was because of the shortage of part time jobs," Frazier said. "It has been a success because every person that has taken money from the bank has always paid it back and sometimes with a little interest thrown in."

Women's College League...

The Women's College League will sponsor a tea for mothers of CPS students Wednesday at 2 in Jones Auditorium. Dr. Thompson will talk on "The Way Colleges Are Built." A tour of the dorms, and the tea at the home of the Thomasons will round out the afternoon.

Membership in the Women's College League is open to mothers of students, and all women interested in the growth and progress of CPS.

NOTICE

Convocation attendance committee will meet Thursdays at 12. Anyone wishing to be excused from convocations must appear before the committee. The hearings will take place in Jones 23.

Frosh Tests...

From Dean Regester's office comes the announcement that no freshman is completely matriculated until he has taken the complete set of freshman entrance tests.

Dean Regester explained that "even those students who entered CPS last summer are not matriculated until they have taken the entrance tests."

Monday, Oct. 29 at 8 a.m. is the last opportunity freshmen students will have to take the exams. The dean also said "that even though students continued in attendance, their credits would not be accepted until the freshmen tests were taken."

CENTRAL BOARD MINUTES

October 23, 1951

The meeting was called to order by President Cal Frazier. The roll was taken. The minutes were read and approved.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Dramatics—Bob Harader announced that the Homecoming play was a success.

Music—Fred Peterson announced that there will be a student recital on Friday, Oct. 26, at 4 p.m. in Jones Hall Auditorium.

Women's Intramural—Joanne Ryan reported that Intersorority badminton began Monday, Oct. 22. Interclass hockey is still being carried on.

Tamanawas—Don Jaenicke announced that the Central Board pictures will be taken at the next meeting. He explained that the Tamanawas staff would like to purchase a speed graphic camera to be used jointly by the Trail and Tamanawas staffs.

Don Jaenicke moved that Les Rhea be accepted as the new business manager of the Tamanawas. The motion was seconded and carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting were read. Larry Hoover moved that the recommendation for the purchase of the 4x5 speed grahpic camera by the Tamanawas staff be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Capen explained that the camera will be insured and kept locked in a safe place when not in use.

Rally Committee—Clank Engell requested that the Rally Comm co-chairmen can attend.

be allowed to pay part of the expenses of the yell team to go to the football game in Salem. Larry Hoover moved that a minimum of five dollars and a maximum of ten dollars be allowed by Rally Committee to send cheerleaders to Salem. The motion was seconded and carried.

Ted Vaughan moved that the recommendation of Finance Committee to subscribe to the Intercollegiate Press Bulletin be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The members of the chapel attendance committee will be Larry Hoover, senior; Ted Vaughan, junior; and Hal Willard, sophomore.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion was held concerning the qualifications of the queen's candidates. The chairman pointed out that a college ruling states that any person holding an extra-curricular post must not be on scholastic probation. It was explained that it is the organization's responsibility to clear their candidates through the Registrar's office for any activity.

A discussion was held on the student attitude toward Homecoming. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting when the co-chairman can attend.

Julia Snyder requested permission for the Spurs to sell "Lick PLC" suckers during the week before the PLC game. Larry Hoover moved that the Spurs be allowed to sell the suckers. The motion was seconded and carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The juke box will be installed Wednesday or Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Swanson, ASCPS Secretary.
Photographer Paul Stolz moved his equipment into the Indee room Saturday and was open for TAMANAWAS business on Monday morning. Taking two days for each fraternity and sorority, Stolz will finish photographing the Greek groups by Thanksgiving vacation. Co-editors Jaenicke and MacArthur sent lists out to the sororities last week, and lists for fraternities will follow Monday.

Seniors who are members of fraternities or sororities may have their cap and gown picture taken at the same sitting as their Greek shot. Independent seniors will be taken after Thanksgiving vacation. Prices are $1.50 per picture in the Greek section and $1.50 per picture in the senior section, or $2.50 if you appear in both sections.

While photogenic smiles were being flashed in the SUB, the editors were contacting all campus clubs to ready their memberships for the group pictures. It is hoped that a great part of the routine photography can be done before the first semester is over.

Jaenicke went before Central Board Tuesday morning to propose the name of Les Rhea as yearbook business manager. Tom Meadowcroft, who has previously held the BM post for both TRAIL and TAMANAWAS, decided that both publications were too much of a load, and requested that a new man be found for the book. Rhea will take over immediately.

Tamanawas Time...

New Ski Area...

Up in the Deep Creek area there is an organization known as the White River Recreation Association. Primarily, the group is made up of people who “want to get away from it all,” and are a little opposed to crowds. For some time CPS had been trying to promote a ski site in that area. Now, it may be a reality, since Dr. Sprenger has been chairman of said recreation group, the dream has become a reality.

Said Dr. Sprenger, “The Forest Service decided that more of the public would benefit if the area were established near Deep Creek.” So, there it is, a ski area adjacent to the Deep Creek Lodge tract, complete with a ski tow ready for installation.

“This lower area,” said Dr. Sprenger, “is better for skiing when the snow up above is too heavy.” The ski tow, which was formerly at the top of the pass has been brought down and will be available to guests of Deep Creek Lodge.

Open House...

Deep Creek will feature an open house Sunday, Nov. 4. The announcement came from the open house chairman, Harvey Aft. The open house will include refreshments, and a trip to the Summit and Cayuse Pass ski areas.

Everyone is invited. The CPS bus will provide transportation to those not having cars. The bus will leave the quadrangle at 8 a.m. Sunday.

“This provides an opportunity,” said Chairman Aft, “for everyone to see the facilities at Deep Creek.”

Debate Tourney...

The fifth annual practice debate tournament will begin today. Participating will be debaters from St. Martin’s, Pacific University, Pacific Lutheran, Seattle Pacific, Seattle University, Centralia Junior College, Everett Junior College, Western, and CPS.

A debate clinic will be held tonight with Professor Hanson of St. Martin’s discussing methods of presentation. Professor Karl from PLC will lead a group discussion on strategy and techniques. Professor Ward Henderson of Everett JC will give a constructive criticism of an exhibition debate between Grotz and Johnson of CPS and Donaldson and Angelus from St. Martin’s.

Oratory, extemporaneous, and interpretative reading will be held tomorrow morning. Jones 204 will be the tourney headquarters, and general site of information.

ROTC...

Hanging in the AFROTC storeroom underneath the east side of the Fieldhouse are a large number of blue coats, blue trousers, and blue blouses. In bins along the walls are black shoes and black lyle socks. In other storage spaces are such training aids as map devices that show how the map projections are made. It is a transparent globe with a light inside it. When the light is turned on, the world is thrown into a frosted glass screen.

The Air Force officers’ training unit is operating. According to Major James, adjutant of the unit, all that’s needed are shirts and insignias, before the suits are issued to campus males enrolled in the Air Science courses.

One hundred eighty-five students are enrolled in the first-year course. Three students are second-year men and seven are in their third year. To handle this crew and instruct them in the ways of the Air Force are five officers and six enlisted men. These men are all specialists in a certain type of Air Force activity. Their job here is to familiarize the cadets with the Air Force operation. This is done in the Air Science I and II courses. The first year is spent almost entirely in class on world political geography. The second years are an general familiarization course studying the organization itself, the procedures and the operations of the different sections.

The later years are spent in specialization. There is some talk of letting the college students pick up their specialization from their regular college work and not from the Air Force instructors. Drill is required all four years.

Major James, who graduated from the Air Force unit at the University of Washington and later taught there, says he thinks the setup here is much better than the U’s. The new buildings and the smaller unit, he thinks, will make for better instruction and consequently better students. And too, the major says, the spirit of the cadet unit is higher here than at the U.

“We try to start things, of course, but these kids keep coming in and making suggestions. They’ve really helped us get this thing started.”

THE TRAIL
Student Recital...

This afternoon in Jones Hall is scheduled a student recital. At this writing only two students' names had been turned in. They are pianists, Jim Ryan and Gordon Bingham. The program is scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

Psych Club...

The Psychology Club had Dr. MacLean of Western State at its second meeting Wednesday night. He spoke on paranoids and schizophrenics.

SAI...

A potluck dinner was held by the Sigma Alpha Iotians at the home of Barbara Combs Wednesday night. Following the dinner the formal pledging of six new girls took place. Those now wearing the pledge pins are Beverly Barnhart, Janice Gorrell, Fran Ellertson, Mary Louise Moore, Delia Shaver and Rose Marie Murphy.

After the official business, making plans for the concert to be given in Jones Hall Nov. 18, was transacted, a program was presented.

Rally Comm...

Rally Comm members elected Mary Ann Jugovich as the new secretary Monday night. She replaces Maris Anderson who could not attend the 6:30 meetings.

Plans were made to send the yell team to the Willamette Homecoming game at Salem this weekend.

Greeks

Tonight the Lambdas and the Sigma Chis are having their annual pledge dance at the Dash Point Community Center. Pledge presidents, Cal Davidson and Florence Fleck, chairmen of the affair, have announced a Harvest Moon theme with cords and cottons at the attire.

Committee chairmen are: Jean Stobbs, chaperones; Joanne Marvin, publicity; Sara Jaeger and Jim Duval, refreshments; Marjorie Hayward and Bill Adams, decorations; Janice Gorrell and Don Wolvers, clean-up; Leona Rae Clift and Frank Trupp, music; Rosalie Messinger and Bob Anderson, programs, and Al Boyer, entertainment.

During Homecoming this year the Lambdas welcomed over 70 alums to their "Clowns' Dressing Room." Pledge Doris Sunnen announced her pinning to Keith Erickson, a Kappa Sig from the University of Washington.

At Monday night's meeting of Pi Beta Phi, Joyce Wilfley was appointed Rush Captain for spring and fall rush functions. After the meeting members and pledges serenaded the Kappa Sigs.

The Tri-Delta house party, which was planned for October 26th has been cancelled. A spring house party will be held instead.

The pledge dance will be held October 17th, and will be a barn dance at Erdahl's barn. A fireside will be held with the Sigma Nu's November 16th.

The Gamma pledges held a successful sneak Monday night at the Glaser Bottling Company. They left a clue under the rug in the sorority room which the members had quite a time finding.

General committees for the Pi Tau installation into Sigma Alpha Epsilon has been appointed by president Ed Lund. The date of the installation is November 2-4.

The Sigma Chis held a clean-up night Monday. Following a short meeting they then serenaded the Lambdas and made plans for the Lambda-Sig pledge dance.

Jim Donnell will be the Sig candidate for 'Lil Abner.

Kappa Sigmas discussed plans for house improvement to be sponsored by their alumni. Plans include expansion of their living quarters.

Last Friday Kappa Sigma held a banquet for their alums. One of the biggest turnouts of alums in years was welcomed at the event.

The Kappa Sig pledges will hold their annual Kappa Sig-Pi Phi Exchange dance Saturday, Nov. 3.

Letters...

Letters to the Editor...

We hope everyone had as much fun during the Homecoming as we did. It was swell working with such cooperative people. The success of the whole celebration can be blamed on a cooperative student body, faculty, and administration. We can only render deep thanks and appreciation to our committees, to the News Bureau and Public Relations office, to Lowman and Hanford Printing Company, to Fox Jewelry, to the faculty who participated in all of the activities, to Dr. Thompson, and to the hundreds of alums who visited the campus. And greater thanks go to the students who entered so well into the spirit of the "Fairway Fun for Fifty-One."

Jo Copple and Larry Engle, Homecoming Co-Chrm.

Faculty and Administration

Frederick Speaks...

Dr. Frederick will speak Wednesday in Portland at the National Convocation on Church in Town and Country. His subject will be "Churching the Columbia Valley."

Keutzer's Honors...

Clyde Keutzer has been chosen as the Washington chairman of the American music division of the State Federation of Music Clubs. The division aims to promote the playing of music by American composers.

Keutzer will also represent Washington music educator on the national standing committee of the Young Composer's Radio Award. The newly-formed unit is designed to foster the performance of American music over the air.

Slater Moves...

James R. Slater, former head of the biology department at CPS, has moved to Florida where he has joined the faculty of Florida Southern College. He and Mrs. Slater have purchased a home in Lakeland, Florida. Slater headed the biology department here from 1919 up until this last summer.

High Rank...

News has been received that former Registrar Richard Smith, who is now serving as Lt. Commander in the Navy, has been placed on the Admiralty staff. He is third in command of the Carrier Essex and has charge of radar control for the fleet.
Willamette Next...

The pressure is off the Loggers for awhile. Last week's 19-0 loss to Western knocked them out of the unbeaten ranks and left them with only a couple of non-conference games before their end-of-the-season crucial with PLC.

Willamette is the first of their non-league opponents. The Bearcats, members of the Northwest conference, will play host at Salem tomorrow in their annual homecoming game. The Loggers hope that it won't be any more successful than theirs.

The last time the Loggers visited a Willamette homecoming, little Joe Hedges spoiled it by passing CPS to a 7-6 win. That was in 1948. The past two seasons, the Jasons have been at Logger homecomings. In 1949 CPS won a 27-0 victory but a muddy Lincoln Bowl stopped both teams last year and the tilt ended in a 0-0 tie.

A freshman halfback from Seattle has sparked the Willamette crew this year. Chuck Lewis, a 145-pound all-state high schooler, is rated one of the brightest young prospects in his league.

Coach Chester Stackhouse features a wide-open, lateral filled offense. The Bearcats pass and run out of a huddleless spread formation and rely on deception to make their attack go. It goes, too. Should the Loggers be down after their Western defeat, they could have trouble.

Coach John Heinrick probably will stick with his regular starting lineup. That would put Ed Annas and Joe Retallick at ends; Earl Combs, Ned Conley, Bob Mitchell, Dick Boyle and Bob Demko at tackles; Bob Demko and Ned Conley at guards, and Dick Boyle at center. Art Viafore will be at quarterback; Dick Colombini at left half; Don Murdock at right half and Wally Erwin at fullback.

Kappa Sigs Lead...

Kappa Sigma remains the class of both leagues as the intramural football season narrows down to the final days of action.

But the Kappa Sig "A" leaguers were given a scare Monday afternoon. With time running out and the Indees holding tight to a 14-8 lead, Dave Schweinler faded back to pass, spotted Charlie Roe behind the secondary and cut loose. Charlie gathered it in as he crossed the goal line and the game was knotted. Schweinler then nailed Roe in the end zone for the odd point that sunk the Indees.

The standings through Tuesday, Oct. 23, stack up like this:

**"A" League**

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**"B" League**

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Vikings Superb...

Western Washington beat CPS 19-0 last Saturday. The Vikings were superb. Their coach, a CPS grad, had a happy Homecoming. The rest of the ex-Loggers in attendance were a bit disappointed.

CPS played good football. They lacked that extra something when it came to scoring but, given a few breaks, would have made it quite a contest.

The first half ended 0-0. The Vikings kicked off and the Loggers were back up against their own goal most of the time. When they broke loose, they just missed scoring. Once a Logger drive fizzleed on the Western two-yard line and CPS just missed going all the way on a couple of pass plays.

In the second half, Western scored. A long pass from Don Walley to Roy Richardson set it up for Norm Hash to smash across for the tally. Hash also kicked the point. Another pass by Walley, this one to Pete Muir, was responsible for the second touchdown and Walley passed to Bill Karwacki to set up the third. Hash again did the scoring.

The Logger missed a couple of more scoring chances in the second half on dropped passes and that was the ball game. Earl Combs, Ned Conley, Bob Mitchell, Dick Boyle and Bob Demko were the Logger stars. They were on defense most of the time and performed brilliantly. The Vikings were bigger and tougher.

Riding Herd on a Viking; Loggers Three

Boyle on his back...

*Logger Dick Boyle brings down Western's Lou Jelinek as Wally Erwin and Bob Demko help out. Spud Walley (88) watches the action in which the Vikings won, 19-0.*

**THE TRAIL**

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Leroy...

Some five years ago a determined young man decided to do something about a deep sense of frustration which had been eating away at his insides for a long time. His name: Leroy Ostransky. Occupation: Composer and music instructor at CPS.

"The trouble with you," Natalie, his bride of a few months told him, "You don't have a formal education and that's been bothering blue blazes out of you."

Ostransky had plenty of the other kind of education. Although he quit school when he was just barely out of junior high, he gobbled up with a Gargantuan appetite just about every bit of recorded knowledge within reach. And, almost entirely on his own, he had become a virtuoso both of the piano and the violin, in the case of the latter instrument with such precocious rapidity that at the age of 12 he played in concert in Town Hall, New York. His bride Natalie would have put him up against any doctor of this or that any day of the week.

"But you need to have it down in writing," she told him. "You can be so smart as to be able to run circles around a Ph.d., but if he has a degree and you haven't, it's no good. People won't accept you."

So Ostransky took a GED (General Educational Development) test to see if he could get himself a high school diploma. He scored 98. The highest possible score one could get was 99.9. This was so good that Ostransky was told that he could go to college and have the freshman year waived.

So in 1946 at the age of 29 Ostransky enrolled at CPS. He started to go through his music courses like crazy. His instructors went into a huddle, decided he was good enough to teach. With a full load as an instructor and carrying the maximum number of hours as a student, he got his BA with honors in two years and a half. Then he taught for a year, received a leave of absence and went to New York and got himself a Masters Degree in musicology.

That fixed him. "Before I always felt terribly frustrated," Ostransky said. "I wanted to do something serious. Something important."

He's done it.

For the internationally known Carroll Glenn he has written a violin concerto; for the nationally known pianist, Joseph Wolman, a composition, "Theme and Variations for Piano," which has been performed in just about every important city in the country. Last year he wrote his "String Quartet Number One" for the Tacoma String Quartet.

Just this past summer he finished composing the music for the "Salem Witch," a comic opera which is slated to go on tour soon and eventually will be performed on the campus by the Adelphians. For Gordon Epperson, fellow faculty member who wrote the libretto for Salem Witch, he's composed "Jazz Rondo." This work, Ostransky thinks is his most popular, perhaps because of the incongruity of jazz being played on a cello, which is the instrument Epperson plays.

"Each year I try to write something special for a faculty member of the Music Department," Ostransky said.

In addition to Epperson, he's done this for Raymond Vaught, Leonard Jacobson, and Margaret Miles.

Ostransky took his first music lesson when he was six years old. "I started with the fiddle."

This went along for a number of years until Ostransky was about 13 years old, then financial complications set in.

Later Ostransky's father saw his way clear to give piano lessons to Ostransky's sister, and young Leroy picked up the art of piano playing over his sister's shoulder on his own.

About this time Ostransky got interested in studying the mechanics of music and composing. He was 14 when he wrote his first piece. "I called it Rhapsody Renniscant." I saved it. A couple of years ago I ran across it. All it was reminiscence of a bunch of tunes I had heard before writing it. I threw it away."

All was not music in Ostransky's life during these early teen-age years. He cut himself a fine swath in the field of sports too. While a junior high school student in his home town of New York City he hurled himself to the standing broad jump championship of that city's Public School Athletic league. He jumped eight feet, six inches.

"I didn't stick to sports too long. Though, I like to eat too much. And I didn't go in too much for training."

When Ostransky was 14 years old he had to quit school and go to work to help support the family. He worked at all kinds of odd jobs, in a garment center, as a helper to a beer truck driver, a bottle washer in a brewery, and delivery boy for a vegetable market. In his spare time he boned up on piano playing until he knew the instrument well enough to get a job honky tonking in small night clubs. He did this for three and a half years and learned a lot about life.

"Once a guy went berserk and started chasing people with a meat cleaver. I took off for the kitchen and he found me there. I was only 16 and wasn't ready to die yet. I hollered 'I'm the piano player. Remember? I'm the piano player!' This got him thinking for a minute, and I barrel-tailed it out the door and down a flight of stairs."

Ostransky says there were some 15 steps in the stairway and he swears he didn't touch a single one of them.

Ostransky put in a hitch in the Army.

"I was in for a little over two years, and I never was more than a private. That ought to be good for a laugh."

He has an explanation for this. The Army folks wanted him to do some hiking and Ostransky couldn't see the sense in it.

Just the same Ostransky turned out to be plenty valuable to the Army. At Fort Lewis he was put in charge of the United States Armed Forces Institute. Later he was sent to the Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., where he was assigned as a special lecturer. He taught special service men who were arranging war bond shows.

"Whenever anybody thought of giving me a promotion, they had to check my records and then they'd see about my not wanting to march and they changed their minds."

Right now, in addition to his heavy load as music instructor, Ostransky is working on a music book for juveniles: "Religious Men in Music." It's about a quarter finished.

Ostransky's duties on the campus include directing the college work shop band, which he organized himself. The band has been on several tours throughout the Northwest.

Ostransky has a great fondness for CPS.

He's a kind of one-man public relations department. Whatever he's doing—and most of the time it's three or four things at one time—he's always boosting the college in some way or other, promoting good will and good relations. There's hardly an organization in Tacoma before which he hasn't been asked to speak. They're always after him. He has what it takes.

In the words of Dr. John Magee of the CPS faculty:

"He has the qualities of a good preacher."
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