

LOVERS OF ART VIEW PICTURES

Bohemian Art Artists Have
Their Work Inspected by
Many Critical Visitors
SHOW PRONOUNCED GOOD
Exhibit Loses No Prestige by
Comparison With Any One
of Its Six Predecessors

Admirers of art thronged the upper chamber of the Bohemian Club yesterday afternoon and inspected the paintings constituting the seventh annual exhibition by the artist members of that organization. It was an exclusive invitation affair and from 2 till 5 o'clock the hall was comfortably filled with handsomely gowned women and their escorts, while a steady counterstream was kept up on the stairway. At least one thousand persons went, saw and criticized. While there was variance of taste, of course, the criticism was favorable as a whole. Comparison with previous exhibitions was freely drawn, and in no instance was it in disparagement of the current show. Disciples of all "schools" were there, and while each contingent gushed over the work of its especial practitioners the output of rivals was not belittled—that is, audibly. Even the deadly snail of indifference was absent.

Yet all types of the dilettanti were represented. The voice of the outspoken member, who assumes to say what he thinks, and defies, if he does not challenge, contradiction, was heard in the hall, but if he threw down any gauntlets they were not picked up. And the cautious member—mostly female—was traditionally careful to abstain from venturing any comment that might provoke discussion. Indeed a more conservative congregation of connoisseurs never inspected a collection of canvases in San Francisco.

There were numerous expressions of regret that more of the exhibits were not marked "Sold," and one richly attired matron, after she had exhaustively viewed a picture bearing that much-desired inscription, openly expressed sorrow that she had not been afforded opportunity to bid for it. Then she wondered how many dollars had been exchanged for it, who the purchaser was and whether he would sell it again at a reasonable profit. All of which sounded as sweet music to the ears of the artists who overheard and who saw to it that the lady did not pursue the remainder of her tour of inspection unattended.

The statuary, too, came in for much attention. The competing designs for the proposed Bret Harte monument were closely scanned, and the favoritism for "Luck of Roaring Camp" as a theme was noted by all present.

The exposition will continue till December 23, and the club's committee on art—Charles J. Dickman, Willis E. Davis and Frederic W. Hall—will be pleased to furnish any information that is not imparted by the official catalogue.

Petitions in Insolvency.

Petitions in insolvency were filed in the United States District Court yesterday as follows: Adolph Kocour, furrier, San Francisco, liabilities \$8695, assets \$1477. Creditors of the London and California Gold Mining and Milling Company, Limited, filed a petition to declare the company an insolvent. They allege that Dennis Donohoe Jr. is the acting attorney of the corporation and that it owes upward of \$6000. Gustav Thaler, plumber and tinsmith, San Francisco, liabilities \$7343, assets \$4015, also filed a petition.

Herrera Extradited.

United States Court Commissioner Heacock yesterday made an order for the extradition to Valparaiso of Edward Morgan Herrera, formerly a clerk for the Government at that place, who is alleged to have embezzled \$1050.

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NORTON HEIRS SCORE A POINT

Beneficiaries of Kentuckian's
Will Invoke Assistance of
California's Probate Laws
CHARITY LOSES BIG SUM
Executors of Eccentric Man's
Estate Here Looking Into
the Legal Phases of Case

G. W. Norton and James W. Barr, the former a banker and the latter a prominent attorney of Louisville, are registered at the Palace. The gentlemen are the executors of the estate of the late Captain W. F. Norton, an eccentric character of Louisville, who left a large fortune, the bulk of which was bequeathed to the Baptist Orphans' Home of Kentucky, and it is this particular bequest that has led to much trouble in the settlement of the estate and eventually upset the original provisions of the captain's will.

Captain Norton, shortly before his death, came to California and located at Coronado, where he built himself a beautiful home, in which he finally died. His will provided that his body should be cremated in Cincinnati and money was set aside for a special train to carry his relatives and friends to the latter city, the desire having been expressed by the captain that his funeral should be an occasion of merriment.

LEARN MORE OF LAW.

The estate of the deceased was valued at over \$800,000, and of this, as stated before, the bulk was willed to the Orphans' Home, the heirs of the captain receiving sums ranging from \$1000 to \$15,000. When the executors entered upon their duties with a view of settling up the estate and made a trip to California to look over the property located in this State they were suddenly confronted with a provision of the California law that prohibits a testator leaving more than one-third of his estate to a charitable organization. The discovery caused no end of excitement among the beneficiaries of the will and the legal representatives of the Orphans' Home in Louisville at once took steps to carry the case into the courts in order to protect the interests of the institution in the estate of the captain.

The prospects of a long siege of litigation caused Executors Norton and Barr to make another trip to this State, where they engaged local legal talent to clearly interpret the law of the State. It was found that Norton had renounced his citizenship in the State of Kentucky and become a citizen of California. His will having been executed in this State, there was no reason to question further the right to apply the law of California in the matters of the estate, and the executors so set forth in a communication sent to the interested parties in Louisville.

COMPROMISE EFFECTED.

As a result a compromise has now been effected whereby, it is said, the Orphans' Home will turn over to the other beneficiaries the sum of \$250,000, and in addition agrees to have deducted from its share of the estate the individual devises, provided that all threatened litigation is abandoned. At the time the executors discovered that Norton's will was subject to the laws of California the heirs were preparing to contest his will on the ground that the captain was not of sane mind when he executed the document and were preparing to dig up from the past the many peculiar traits of the deceased, which had made him a famous character in Louisville. This suit, however, will now be dropped, and Executors Norton and Barr are on their way home, where they expect to quickly relieve themselves of the responsibilities imposed on them by the will of Captain Norton.

WITNESSES TESTIFY IN DEFENSE OF GRUNDMAN

His Wife Tells of Her Relations With
Sheridan Chipman, the Mur-
dered Man.

The trial of Frank J. Grundman for the murder of Sheridan H. Chipman at the offices of the Southern Pacific Company, Fourth and Townsend streets, on March 24, was continued before a jury in Judge Cook's court yesterday.

Mrs. Grundman was the first witness for the defense. During the whole time she was testifying Grundman sat with his elbow on the table and his hand covering his eyes. She told of her first meeting with Chipman and their subsequent relations down to the day of the shooting. Several times she had to stop while she wept and sobbed. Her husband had discovered that she had gone to Chipman's room and when he taxed her with it she broke down and made a full confession.

Several character witnesses were called, among them Colonel Thomas O'Neill and others of the First California Regiment, of which Grundman was a member, holding the rank of lieutenant before the regiment returned from Manila.

Grundman will testify this morning, which will close the case for the defense.

"WILLIE" O'Connor Is Worried.

William O'Connor, better known as "Willie" O'Connor, son of Cornelius O'Connor, is very much wrought up over the fact that his sister, Lily, refuses to allow him to handle any of the O'Connor shekels. He wants her cited to appear and show cause why she should not be punished for contempt for failing to comply with a court order directing her to allow him, as one of the trustees of the O'Connor estate, to have possession of \$4402 of the O'Connor cash, the O'Connor bracelet, the O'Connor plate and the O'Connor furniture. In his petition for the citation filed yesterday he says that Lily completely overlooks him and has repeatedly refused to recognize his rights.

Buyers of Christmas Presents

Should visit Andrews' Diamond Palace, 221 Montgomery st., under Russ House, and see large stock of diamonds, watches & jewelry at lowest prices. Open evgs.

HENRY SCOTT THE HOST AT DINNER DANCE

Henry T. Scott was host at a dinner dance last evening at his handsome residence at the corner of Clay and Laguna streets in honor of Miss Margaret Newhall, the debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Mayo Newhall. The spacious rooms were lavishly decorated with a profusion of red and pink roses, carnations, palms and other foliage. White predominated in the dining-room decorations. The table was made artistic with white carnations and lighted by candelabra with pink shades. Covers were laid for sixteen guests and more were invited for the evening, the entire party numbering sixty. The dinner was followed by informal dancing and at midnight a dainty supper was served.

A pretty dinner was given at the University Club last evening by Miss Bernice Brown, complimentary to her debutante sister, Miss Newell Brown. The table was decorated with Christmas berries and red-shaded candelabra. Twenty young men and women were present and were extended most cordial hospitality.

Miss Edna Middleton gave a charming tea at her home on Green street yesterday afternoon between the hours of 4 and 6 o'clock. The decorations were holly, mistletoe, madrone berries and foliage. One hundred callers were graciously received by the young hostess, who was assisted by Mrs. Harry Bates, Miss Gertrude Dutton, Miss Jane Sweetest, Miss Florence Cole, Miss Jane Wischire, Miss Paula Wolff, Miss Maylita Pease and Miss Belle Harnes.

Miss Edith McCabe was hostess at a delightful card party yesterday afternoon at the Sorosis Club, where seventy-five friends were entertained. The rooms were prettily decorated with red berries and foliage. Miss McCabe was assisted in receiving and keeping the scores by Miss Edith Gaskill, Miss Edith Mathews, Miss Florence Yates and Mrs. Sherwood Hopkins Adams.

Among those present were Miss Jacqueline Moore, Mrs. Henry Lund Jr., Miss Bessie Palmer, Miss Florence Hush, Mrs. Irving Lundberg, Miss Elise Gregory, Miss For, Miss Ethel Cooper, Mrs. J. Jacobs, Miss Edna Dickinson, Miss Helen Dickinson, Miss Marietta Havens, Mrs. Allen Chickering, Mrs. Dan Belden and Mrs. George Toland Cameron.

Mrs. Van Arsdale entertained the members of the Ladies' Army Card Club yesterday afternoon in her apartments at the Crocker. The rooms were made artistic with white and yellow chrysanthemums. In addition to the members there were present: Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Young.

Mrs. Eugene Freeman gave a pretty luncheon yesterday at the Knickerbocker on Van Ness avenue. The decorations were in red, with a profusion of holly and foliage. After the luncheon the guests enjoyed a game of cards. Among those present were Mrs. George Moore, Mrs. William Thomas, Mrs. Frank Bates, Mrs. E. A. Belcher, Mrs. Eugene Bresse, Mrs. Howard Holmes, Mrs. Willie Davis, Mrs. James Irvine, Mrs. Winfield Scott Davis, Mrs. George Cameron and Miss McBride.

Members of the California Club crowded the rooms yesterday in the Y. M. C. A. building and enthusiastically applauded a most interesting and comprehensive programme. Parliamentary, French, music and current topics and physical culture sections were embraced in the programme, which was in charge of the Department of Education. Miss Mary Fairbrother ably represented the parliamentary section, of which she is the head. Madame Emilia Tojetti, leader of the music section, gave a delightful talk on Chopin, with piano selections by Miss Julia Rapier Tharp as illustrations. Miss Tharp's numbers were beautifully rendered.

Miss Laura Mues and Miss Emilia Kalisher gave a charming scene entirely in French from Moliere's "Bourgeois Gentilhomme."

William Greer Harrison conducted a physical culture drill with twenty members of the club, many of whom wore their gymnasium costumes.

The current topics section was well represented by Miss Kate Whitaker, who spoke entertainingly upon "English Public Schools." Mrs. J. W. Orr, who is at the head of the department of education, presided with Mrs. George Law Smith, president of the club.

After the programme the members and their guests remained for a cup of tea and a pleasant reception closed the afternoon.

MISSING SANTA FE AGENT IS NOW IN KANSAS CITY

Frank Pillsbury, Who Mysteriously
Disappeared From Local Office,
Is Finally Located in East.

Frank Pillsbury, former Yosemite Valley agent for the Santa Fe road, who mysteriously disappeared from the company's local office four months ago and who, it was thought for a time, had made away with himself, has finally been located. Last week one of the company's representatives, while visiting Kansas City, encountered Pillsbury on the street and hailed him.

The latter stopped for a moment to greet his acquaintance and then hurried on his way before the visitor could question him regarding his disappearance from this city. It was stated at the Santa Fe offices yesterday that the officials of the road no longer entertain any interest in Pillsbury, further than for his safety, and are offering him no inducements to return to this city.

Seeks Damages for Arrest.

George P. Beck, who on November 27 was arrested on a charge of criminal conspiracy preferred against him by David Wagner and who was acquitted by Judge Fritz a few days ago, claims that Wagner was actuated by maliciousness. Yesterday Beck filed a suit for \$20,000 damages against Wagner.

Rug Importer Attached.

An attachment was levied yesterday on H. E. Bengtson, the rug importer at 723 Sutter street, at the instance of F. H. Jung, who has brought suit to recover \$3500 loaned to Bengtson.

STAGE PEOPLE ARE WITNESSES

Comedian William Kolb Says
That Ira Puerl Wilkerson's
Reputation Is Very Bad

ARGUMENTS TO BE HEARD

Judge Frank J. Murasky Will
Render His Decision in the
Divorce Case on Friday

As the curtain was rung down in Judge Murasky's court yesterday the actors in the divorce suit of Amber Wilkerson against Ira Puerl Wilkerson took their departure from the improvised theater and hid themselves to other scenes. Quite a large crowd filled the courtroom and waited patiently for Maud Amber to sing "Bedalia," but were disappointed. However, they saw "Clarence" Kolb in the original. Clarence took the morning off to attend court and say that Ira Puerl was an awfully bad man, and he did not talk in dialect in his effort to convince Judge Murasky.

There was no matinee performance yesterday. The rehearsal in the morning brought out the strength of Fischer's Theater. Chorus girls vied with the prima donna for the center of the stage and the glare of the calcium. Although the playlet entitled "The Lost Pajamas" was not finished the previous afternoon, the audience made use of "rain checks" and came back to see the finish of the local problem play.

Judge Murasky at one time in his career strode the boards and looked yearningly up to Juliet's window and sighed for the moon. As stage manager of the original drama he knew when to give the leading lady her cue and prompt the absent minded actors in the performance.

SOUBRETTES WERE TIRED.

It was a tired bunch of soubrettes and supers that attended the dress rehearsal yesterday morning. In the glare of the gaslight some of them looked pale. The glitter of diamonds loaned by the glass works, the sheen of silks and fresh young faces that usually peer over the footlights were missing. Shapely limbs that usually prouette to sprightly tunes were hidden by trailing skirts and picture hats covered the fluffy hair of the fair members of the profession.

Judge Murasky played the part of the leader of the orchestra and he soon had the instruments playing in harmony.

Attorney Humphrey opened the rehearsal by calling William Kolb to the stand. The tall and willowy form of the German comedian pushed its way toward the center of the stage. Seating himself, he was ready to do a monologue or play to the gallery. He did neither.

"Do you know Ira Puerl Wilkerson?" asked Attorney Humphrey, who was cast for the part of the inquiring relative.

"Sure, Mike," Kolb started to say, but remembering he was not talking to Partner Dill, replied, "Yes, I know him."

"How's his reputation?"

Kolb's View of Wilkerson.
The gallery was ready to applaud if he said that Wilkerson was an "unfair house," but again Kolb retained his presence of mind and coyly answered "that Wilkerson was no gentleman and his reputation was the worst ever."

Kolb was subjected to a close catechism at the hands of Attorney Newbergh, who played the part usually assigned to Barney Bernard.

"Have you ever read a 'unanimous' letter written about him?"

"Haw, haw! Vot do you mean?" replied Kolb, in his best dialect. "Are you playing theater or chust mean anon-non-non-mous letter, don't you?"

The stage manager prompted Attorney Newbergh, and the play continued. Newbergh sprang some more dialect and the audience enjoyed it. Kolb was allowed to depart, and he sat in the wings and watched the rehearsal with deep interest.

Al Williams, alias Lyle Murphy, had his lines down fine and needed no prompting. He spoke dramatically. He did not blink "neath the calcium's glare, and he glanced toward the back benches in the hope that he would get a "hand" from the gallery. Wilkerson was absent from court, otherwise he would have "frosted" the rehearsal. Williams told of overhearing a conversation between Mrs. Ovita Leath-Hawes and Ira Puerl Wilkerson, the

FIERCE BLAZE ALARMS GUESTS

Fire at the Hotel Wellesley
Does Great Damage and the
Patrons Suffer Heavy Losses

PORTIERES ARE IGNITED

Department Has a Hard Fight
to Save the Big Building
From Total Destruction

A swaying portiere in the rooms of Mrs. Marie Martin became ignited by contact with a gas jet and caused a costly blaze in the Hotel Wellesley, an apartment house, corner of California and Larkin streets, yesterday morning. Before the flames could be extinguished by the Fire Department the upper floor of the structure was badly damaged. Guests lost heavily by the blaze and there was great excitement in the house during the progress of the fire.

Mrs. Martin had joined the other guests at breakfast and all were enjoying their meal in the dining-room on the first floor when the alarm of fire was heard through the house. Immediately there was great excitement. Many guests rushed to their rooms to get their valuables and others rushed into the street. The halls were filled with smoke and the flames could be seen licking their way along the woodwork. Fortunately the fire occurred when all the guests were up.

For nearly an hour the firemen battled with the flames. A hose was run through the main entrance and the firemen fought the flames from the inside. Another stream played on the roof and into the burning apartments.

Mrs. Babin was the heaviest loser by the fire. He and his family occupied five rooms adjoining Mrs. Martin's apartment and their contents were totally destroyed. He had no insurance on the personal property. His loss is estimated at \$10,000.

Mrs. Martin was also a heavy loser. All her wedding presents were destroyed and her property was only partly insured. The hotel property is owned by H. Brandenstein and is fully insured. Mr. and Mrs. Zan Beystain conduct the hotel and whatever loss they sustained is also covered by insurance.

Many of the Eastern society leaders will spend the winter on the coast, and all will have a gas jet in the kitchen from S. F. Gas and Elec. Co., 415 Post.

Christmas Party.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to Camp Reinhold Richter, Veterans of the Spanish-American War, will give a Christmas tree and mistletoe party in the regimental armory, Page and Gough streets, on the evening of next Saturday, when music, fun and dancing will be in order.

defendant, who was cast to play the heavy villain.

According to Williams, the defendant stopped Mrs. Hawes on the street and demanded whether she had told stories about him to his wife. "Mrs. Hawes said she had, and further said something that linked his name with Myrtle Rosedale, who played the part of the 'Indian squaw.'"

"My God!" said Wilkerson. "Foiled again," he added, and then smoked another cigarette.

PRIMA DONNA'S ENTRANCE.

The prima donna was once more given a chance to take the center of the stage. She made her entrance and started to tell the audience that she had not asked her husband to write East for an engagement for her. This kind of advertising was objected to, and the stage manager gave the fair prima donna the cue to make her exit. Maud Amber reluctantly gave up the center of the stage and made her exit.

Mrs. Hawes' reputation was again upheld by F. Englander, scenic artist. Attorney Newbergh said he was ready to bring forward prominent men to swear that Wilkerson's reputation was also very fine.

Judge Murasky will take the case under advisement and render a decision after argument next Friday morning. When the curtain was rung down the audience left the theater in a peculiar state of mind. It was unable to tell who was the owner of the pink-baby-blue-cream-colored-red pajamas. Judge Murasky will probably explain it all in his decision.

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- 6.25. Booklovers Membership and three Magazines: two above and Cosmopolitan.

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Killed on Belt Railroad.

Charles Carroll, a switchman employed by the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, slipped from the top of a freight car on the Belt Railroad early yesterday morning and was fatally injured. He fell between two cars and was badly mangled before the train stopped. He died shortly after reaching the Harbor Hospital. He resided at 11 Liberty street and leaves a wife. He was a railroad man of many years' experience and bore a good reputation.

Will Open Sabbath School.

A Sabbath school is to be opened next Sunday at 652 Second avenue, Richmond district, by the First United Presbyterian congregation. The Rev. H. H. Bell, M. D., and several other clergymen and prominent church members will attend the inauguration exercises.

Accused of Burglary.

John Beutler of the Original American Market, 728 Haight street, secured a warrant yesterday from Police Judge Fritz for the arrest of Ernest Thude on a charge of burglary. He accuses Thude, who was formerly employed by him, of breaking into the premises on Saturday night and stealing some money. He alleges Thude was the only one who knew where it was kept.

Powell's Trial Is Set.

The trial of John H. Powell on a charge of murder was set for December 23 by Judge Lawlor yesterday. Powell and Charles Sullivan, who has been convicted of murder in the second degree, were accused of shooting and killing Special Policeman R. A. Sample on Folsom street, between First and Second, on the morning of August 11.

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