# BONCI HAS GROWN IN HIS ART AND VERSATILITY

# "The Balkan Princess" Is a Scintillation of Color

## "MATRIMONIA SEGRETTO" SONGSTER'S MASTERPIECE

### Lyrical Tenor, In Cort Concert, Powerful

### Louise Gunning a Prima Donna Who Acts

By WALTER ANTHONY

I hope that Bonci's visit to us this year indicates he has contracted the habit or the desire to make annual tours in our midst, for yesterday's concert at the Cort was almost an anniversary affair. The great tenor first visited us just a year ago—and before proceeding further I may as well suggest that it is not at all certain that Bonci will return again in another year because he has just been "signed up" on a three years' contract with the Metropolitan of New York, which has a habit of securing the services of the greatest songbirds. Bonci will perch on a nest alongside of Caruso and, with his more lyrical voice, will give Caruso a pace which will make the more dramatic tenor look to his laurels.

Bonci has grown in his art and in his versatility, and he has lost nothing of that exquisite control of tone which is so light and subtle as to seem like a caress.

**BONCI KEEPS TRAVELING**

Yesterday's program included few of the works he has ever done here before.

Bonci does not rest along the road of art, but keeps traveling. He is a refreshing exception to the usual concert giver in this as well as other particulars.

I liked his first group of songs best. In them Bonci exhibited that extraordinary breath control which makes him master of the longest period and secure in the most unexpected and beautiful dynamic experiments. The first was Pergolesi's "Se to M'Ami," whose minor melody the singer invested with tender feeling—not too deep for the slight melody—but tender and delicious. Haydn's "Il Pensier" was a neat contrast in a major mood and was liquid and suave. Gluck's "O del Mio Dolce Ardor," was a delicate conjunction of the lyrical—bel canto—and the dramatic. It was superbly done and the best of the first group of four ancient songs, the other and last one of which was "Vittoria," by Carrissimi, which was sung with such a trumpet effect as to persuade the hearer that Bonci's voice is bigger than it was a year ago when he appeared at the Columbia theater.

**GRAND ARIA PROGRAM'S APEX**

The songs in English were less satisfactory because they were—alas, that I should say it!—less worthy. Bonci could find better songs from American composers than those rather maudlin numbers on his yesterday's program.

But the grand aria from "Matrimonia Segretto," by Cimorosa was the apex as well as the center of the program, although Bonci's countrymen and others in the audience gave to Puccini's aria "Ch 'Ella mi Creda," from "The Girl of the Golden West," a bigger meed of applause, due no doubt to the ringing high C which Bonci shouted gorgeously at the close. For this he had to come back to sing the Rigoletto aria, "La Donna e Mobile," with which Bonci drew bravos from a delighted audience—there was such a brave rendering of the bravura tune and such an easy tossing off of the top note as well as such an exquisite shading of the phrases.

Bonci is recommended to students of singing, for he, himself, is a student. He is more than a vocalist. He is a musician. He pleases the sensation seekers in the land of music by his sensationally beautiful high tones. He charms the more sedate music lovers by his quite matchless art of interpreting melody and verse.

"The Balkan Princess" is a scintillation of color and music. It was presented last night to a big audience at the Cort theater, which insisted on giving the production what is lamely called an ovation. It was even more than that. And out of the tangle of confetti, tissue ribbons and waving scarfs which brought the second act to a close, there emerged as chief participant graceful Louise Gunning, who had demonstrated conclusively that it is possible for a comic opera prima donna to sing as well as act. The combination, you'll admit, is unusual.

Miss Gunning's voice is as high as her advance publicity said it was. She does the E in alt. with pretty ease and without discomfort to herself or others. Despite a tendency to be nervous on the opening night, Miss Gunning held to her sense of pitch with remarkable consistency, and in her lyrics was a most effective vocalist, judged from any standard of art of singing. He voice is large when she wants to "turn it loose," and it negotiates the rapid curves of Ruben's lively music with security and flexibility.

The story of the piece suggests other comic opera plots, notably "The Merry Widow," though the evidence of plagiarism is not uncomfortably manifest. It affords opportunity for a great deal of spectacular dancing, giddy scenes, and good comedy dialogue in the latter of which Teddy Webb, well remembered from Tivoli days, and Mark Smith in a burlesque characterization of a waiter were the leaders in the fun.

Indeed there was quite a gathering of "favorites."

When diminutive Teddy Webb "waddled" on the stage as Blatz, the thieving partner" of the "purloineous" Heine, the show stopped while the audience proved it had not forgotten the corpulent author of several hundred thousands of laughs. Then there was Amy Leicester, also remembered of Tivoli days, and who now is playing the grotesque role of Magda, servant of the Princess, and who wears, in the second act, a most remarkable "hobble" in two parts. Miss Geraldine Malone, in a soubrettish and prodigiously wicked role as Sofia, a charmer of the Bohemian restaurant, was given another greeting, because she is a local young woman, whose education, most apparently, has not been entirely limited to her convent days. She wore her promised pair of hose; but that they cost as much as we are told they did I am not qualified to say. There didn't seem to be very much material in them.

And then there was Harold Crane, whose excellent barytone voice was heard in several numbers to the further musical advantage of "The Balkan Princess." He was given a long and a loud reception on account of the pleasant memories of his engagement at the Princess theater. So you see that it was an individual as well as a collective hit that "The Balkan Princess" made, and both individually and collectively the company merited it. The singers can sing, the dancers can dance, the comedians are funny, the dialogue is quick, and the members of the chorus are pretty and young and lively.

For the rest, the musical score is musical—it is not a "Chocolate Soldier"—but it is a very pretty score nevertheless, several of the numbers and the ensembles being particularly well made.

From a spectacular point of view the piece is, as I have suggested, a dizzy appeal in which color becomes riot and animation bewilders the eye. Then there is the additional pleasure of watching the eloquent acting of a comic opera prima donna who can sing—Miss Gunning.

*The star attractions at four of the local theaters this week.*

## FUNMAKERS RULE PANTAGES BILL

### Excellent Program and Lots of Good Laughs Provided to Banish Blues

Fun reigns as big chief at the Pantages theater this week and at least three of the acts are warranted to drive dull care to the suburbs. Clarke and Verdi, who are billed as the "Italian comedians," have succeeded in striking a new angle in the art of joy production and in spite of the fact that their act is a trifle coarse, extracted loads of appreciative guffaws from the audience yesterday. If some of the suggestive stuff were eliminated from the act it would be a rattling good example of really funny low comedy.

Harry Brown and his company present a homely, humorous, old fashioned sketch called "A Case of Divorce." The thread of plot is formed by the jealousy of a farmer's wife for a girl and the humor is brought in when she seeks a divorce.

Harry Bernard's "Merrymakers" offer the musical absurdity, "The Brokers." There is some clever dancing, some fair singing and a good deal of noisy fun of the slap stick variety.

"Seymour's Happy Family" is a dog act which embodies several features that are altogether new. The most startling of these is the singing of "Annie Laurie" by the only canine quartet in the world.

"The Buckeye State Quartet" sings some of the old songs and one or two new ones, in a harmonious way that appeals. "The Musical Goolmans" also shine in the ranks of harmony, but as instrumentalists. Alarm clock bells are the instruments which they use for one number.

The Behrwalls, who style themselves "Giants of Strength," give some Herculean stunts in a new guise. J. Roy Clair and Ruby Lang described as "musical comedy oddities," sing fairly well and keep the spotlight man busy.

## JURY IN LEWIS CASE HAS NOT YET AGREED

ST. LOUIS, April 14.—After being out 48 hours the jury in the case of E. G. Lewis, charged with fraudulent use of the mails, had not agreed upon a verdict tonight, and Judge Amidon left the courtroom after leaving instructions that the verdict be sealed if returned before morning.

## NO STUFFINESS IN IDORA'S PROGRAM

### Creatore and His Band Draw Big Crowds to Open Air Amphitheater

The present season at Idora park, in Oakland, seems destined to break all records in attendance. Yesterday brought out even a larger crowd at the popular amusements garden than did Easter Sunday. The weather was ideal for open air programs and thousands went from San Francisco and elsewhere about the bay.

Creatore and his band and the concessions held the attention of the throngs from early afternoon until late into the evening.

Creatore has taken Idora's patrons by storm since his arrival a week ago, and yesterday he won new laurels and added two big audiences to his list of admirers. The sunshine of the afternoon and the balmy night air filled the big amphitheater with music lovers at both concerts and these listened to 18 programmed numbers and almost twice as many encores. Best of the entire program, probably, was the splendid Tschaikowsky "1812" overture, which closed the afternoon recital. It brought an ovation such as has seldom been witnesed at an Idora band concert and kept the bowing band leader busy acknowledging plaudits.

All this week Creatore will give concerts afternoon and evening with such special programs as an "all popular" night Thursday and an entire program of eight Wagnerian numbers Friday evening.

In addition to the daily concerts there are many new concessions and amusement devices at Idora for the season of 1912.

## DIXON TO CELEBRATE THE COMING OF MAY

DIXON, April 14.—Extensive preparations are being made for the May day celebration to be held in Dixon on May 1. W. J. Weyand is general manager of the affair. A. C. Madden has charge of the concessions in the park and the May queen contest is being conducted under the direction of the Women's improvement club. White and gold have been adopted as the official colors of the celebration. The people of Dixon have given their May day celebrations annually for several years.

## ORIGINALITY IN CARD AT EMPRESS

### Waterbury Brothers and Tenny, Minstrel Stars, Are Truly Funny Men

Originality, the dark horse of vaudeville, nosed out the old selling plater Mediocrity in the opening card at the Empress yesterday afternoon, redeeming a program that started out like a weekday field at the end of an Emeryville season and finished amid genuine and well merited applause, thanks to two excellent acts.

A playlet presented by Joseph Slayton and company, entitled "The Card Game," was given top o' the column by the management, but the house did not concur. Not that the piece is wanting in thrills. The light and shade of comedy and pathos are all there, but it is laid on with a bill poster's brush and leaves a sense of the ridiculous which is far from the company's aim.

Scarcely comparable, but conspicuously better in presentation from a variety standpoint, are Waterbury Brothers and Tenny, late stars of Cohan & Harris' minstrels. Tenny is truly funny from the moment he enters in a box for a boat to his excellent renditions on the clarionet. His partners' skill with musical glasses is exceptional and the interpolated horseplay is intelligent and always in the best taste.

Josie Flynn does a makeup stunt that deserves more than passing mention, another case of a pretty woman capitalizing homeliness with brains.

Lupita Perea presents a trapeze performance. O'Rourke and O'Rourke do some clever clog dancing, and Anita Bartling some of the familiar juggling tricks, while the biograph, programmed as the kinemacolor, but minus the color, shows views of Market street before and after the fire that were greatly enjoyed by the old residents in the house. The strangers were more interested in the pictures of President Moore dedicating the starting of the Panama-Pacific exposition work shown by courtesy of White Brothers, the official photographers.

## WRECKED AUTO FOUND; NO TRACE OF OCCUPANTS

### Mystery in Accident to Seven Passenger Touring Car

*[Special Dispatch to The Call]*

REDWOOD CITY, April 14.—A seven passenger Packard touring car was found careened against a sandbank by the side of the Middlefield road near Fair Oaks, two miles south of this place about 6 o'clock this afternoon. Mystery surrounds the accident, as the license number has been removed from the car along with all possible identification marks.

The car seems to have been running at a high rate of speed and apparently grazed a telegraph pole just before it hit the bank. One of the wheels was broken in the smash. It is thought that the accident occurred about 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

The hospitals and physicians of this section have no record of any victims of such an accident.

## SMART COMEDIENNE REDEEMS PROGRAM

### Lucy Weston, Songstress, Who Wears Latest "Creations," Is Orpheum's Best Number

This week's bill at the Orpheum can only be classed as medium. In fact if the holdovers from last week were eliminated from the program it would be poor. Of the new features there are only two of the five that are entertaining.

Lucy Weston, a smart little English comedienne, attired in the latest "creations," who sings catchy songs is really the winning number of this week's bill. Miss Weston, like all the other English singers, who have appeared at the Orpheum, captures the audience from the moment she appears on the stage. With each song she wears some new style dress and leads one to think that she has just stepped from a fashion book. Among her songs are: "My Husband Has Left Me Again," "Now I Am Not a Jealous Woman" and "I Would Like to Be a Quaker Too."

Jessie Millward and John Glendinning, who present "Reaping the Whirlwind," do some clever acting. The sketch is a bit out of the ordinary for vaudeville and has a moral to it.

Glendinning assumes the role of a Russian count, who cares naught for marriage and who was the cause of the death of the sister of Stella de Beupre, an actress, which part is protrayed by Miss Millward. The scene is laid in the apartments of the actress. The count is enticed to the woman's rooms and there falls a victim of revenge. The nobleman had betrayed the sister of the actress and the woman in the part played by Miss Millward determines to kill him by torture. A supper is prepared and the count drinks wine in which poison is placed. Then follows a scene in which the actress recalls to his memory his misdeed. The count feeling the power of the poison taking hold of him pleads to be forgiven and allowed to seek medical aid but the woman refuses.

"The Lad of Largymore," a sketch played by Seumas Macmanus and players, is laid in Ireland and has several comic features, but it lacks real comedy and a sustained plot.

A sextet made up of the Stewart sisters, William Dale, Charles Swanson and Frederick Hallick, introducing "The War of the Rose" and several other dances, is one of the new acts on the bill. The act is the usual dancing sketch with several new features.

An amusing act is one presented by Wormwood with his canines and monkeys. Two large monkeys ride bicycles, shoot dice and play ball without assistance from their master. Several other original stunts are presented in this act.

McIntyre and Heath, the Georgia minstrels, are among the holdover numbers and seem never to tire the audience with their comic sayings. Master David Schooler, the boy Paderewski, and Miss Louise Dickinson, a charming singer, continue on this week's bill with their entertaining act. Another remaining number from last week is the athletic feature, "Three Shelvey brothers."

## HIGH SCORES MADE AT SHELL MOUND

### Herman Enge Totals 221 in San Francisco Turner Schuetzen Competition

OAKLAND, April 14.—Herman Enge shone at the Shell Mound targets this afternoon when he rolled up a total of 221 in the monthly medal shoot of the San Francisco turner schuetzen. Enge has been piling up some tall scores of late, and now looms up as one of the best marksmen on the coast. Charles Weggemann totaled 406 shooting in the first champion class of the Deutscher Kreiger verein and easily won the first honors. Weggemann also obtained the prize for the most red flags.

Following are the scores recorded in the various competitions decided at the Shell Mouud targets this afternoon:

Deutscher Kreiger verein medal shoot—First champion class, C. Weggemann 406, X. Silberzahn 299; first class, Charles Meyer 290; second class, F. Himmelskamp 288; third class, Charles Metzger 375; fourth class, W. Pfister 326; first best shot, C. Meyer 20; last best shot, A. Hartmann 21; most red flags, C. Weggemann; most centers, Oscar Dammer; bullseye prize winners, L. Bender, O. Dammer, C. Weggemann, C. Metzger, W. Pfister, X. Silberzahn.

Norddeutscher Schuetzen club medal scores—Expert class—F. P. Schuster, 217, 211; H. Huber, 207; D. Schwornstede, 205. Champion class—E. Schierbaum, 219; O. Lemcke, 207, 201; H. Enge, 200, 201; H. Baruholdt, 211. First class—H. Luneberg, 195, 181; E. Hoffmann, 181, 174; C. Oldag, 185, 166; H. Intermann, 188, 189. Second class—E. Stehn, 186, 174. Third class—F. Heusel, 188, 166; A. Linge, 160; W. Schulz, 198, 144.

San Francisco schuetzen verein, bullseye shoot—Captain J. D. Helse 608, D. Huntemann 659, George A. Pattberg 665, F. P. Schuster 870, H. Zecker 885, Major E. Stehn 887, A. F. Linge 897, H. Boruholdt 991, J. Gefken 1023, C. Oldag 1102, O. Lemcke 1219, L. Bendel 1221, H. Huber 1232, A. Hubner 1269, D. Dunker 1531, E. Hoffmann 1561, A. Lemaire 1614, S. Heino 1635, F. Hensel 1654, O. A. Bremer 2060.

Germania Schuetzen club, medal shoot—Expert class: W. G. Hoffmann 229, 217, 215; W. F. Blasse 223; O. A. Bremer 219, 217; C. M. Henderson 217, 214; B. Jonas 215, 213; F. P. Schuster 211. Champion class—George A. Pattberg 216, 213; M. F. Blasse 216, 212; A. Bendel 210; Captain J. E. Klein 206, 204; E. Hoffmann 203, 168. Second class—F. J. Klatzl 169, 163; A. E. Coetze 140, 199, 198.

San Francisco turner schuetzen monthly medal shoot—H. Enge, 208, 221; F. J. Klatzl, 158, 149; A. Hartmann, 165, 129; F. Acker, 124, 114; Captain F. Attinger, 200, 197; M. Nagel, 132, 160; C. Abraham, 162, 169; Lieutenant A. Furth, 195; George Strohmeir, 143, 152; C. Sagehorn, 99, 157; O. Burmeister, 203, 154; L. Lang, 137, 183; J. J. Mahr, 128, 125; Captain J. Straub, 186, 212.

Golden Gate Rifles monthly medal shoot—Sergeant J. C. Moore 61, Lieutenant J. C. Doehring 59, Captain H. Schlichtman 58, A. Williams 46, W. Healy 45, J. M. Hansen 31, R. F. Fleichauer 45, L. C. Ballinger 46, Sergeant B. Volkman 45, J. Hegerhurst 22, L. C. B. Frohn 3, F. L. Hering 37, O. R. Vosbrinke 8, J. H. Eichner 25, F. Eagan 36, N. W. Hansen 15, A. Lien 24, C. Steffens 24, J. A. Anderson 16, E. A. Jensen 18, M. Andreson 52, C. Shilling 42.

Pistol and revolver scores—Dr. R. A. Summers, 85, 90, 90; C. W. Seeley, 90, 90, 90, 89, 87, 87; W. F. Blasse 86, 91, 88, 90, 91, 91; W. C. Pritchard, 90, 94, 92, 92; J. E. Gorman, 96, 94, 94, 95, 95, 97, 94, 94; C. W. Whaley, 90; C. W. Linder, 90, 93, 88.

## DIRECTOR CHOSEN FOR SAN DIEGO EXPOSITION

CHICAGO, April 14.—President D. C. Collier of the San Diego exposition, to be held in 1911, today announced the appointment of Edgar L. Hewett of Santa Fe, N. M., as director of exhibits. Hewitt is director of the Archaelogical Institute of America.

## POWERS SEEK TO END TURKO-ITALIAN WAR

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 14.—The projected steps with reference to mediation by the powers with the object of settling the Turko-Italian war will be made by the ambassadors separately on April 16.

Do not neglect your health — laxatives are necessary sometimes as an aid to Nature and a preventive against disease.

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## WIFE NAMES STAGE FAVORITE IN SUIT

### Dr. Wade Stone, Former Surgeon at San Quentin, to Fight "Joy Ride" Charges

*[Special Dispatch to The Call]*

SAN RAFAEL, April 14.—A lively legal battle in the San Francisco courts is promised soon between Dr. Wade Stone, until seven months ago resident physician of San Quentin penitentiary and formerly in the emergency hospital service in San Francisco, and Mrs. Pauline Stone, who has prepared a divorce complaint accusing her husband of taking joy rides with Edna Loftus Rheinstrom, a one time favorite in London music halls.

That Doctor Stone will fight against the divorce to the bitter end was learned today from him.

"She is simply tired of living with me," he said. "Why, she left months before the auto ride with the former actress. I have appealed to her time and again to return to me, but she always refused. I even went so far as to furnish a home here, thinking perhaps she might change her mind. But no.

**DENIES "JOY RIDE"**

"The joy ride she accused me of taking with the former actress happened March 8, but it was anything but a joy ride. Can not a physician, responding to an urgent sick call hire an automobile? Can not he escort a patient to the railroad station at night without being accused of taking joy rides?

"My wife informed me by letter that she intended to sue me for divorce, but as yet has not done so. Until recently I did not know that Mrs. Rheinstrom was the cause.

"When she files the divorce complaint I will show that she left me long before the so called joy ride and refused to return."

**DUCKING ENDS "RIDE"**

According to the complaint, which has not been filed as yet, Mrs. Stone accuses her husband of lavishly entertaining Edna Loftus Rheinstrom, who eloped with Harry Rheinstrom, son of a millionaire Cincinnati brewer. The actress' husband is now an inmate of the Stockton insae asylum.

The automobile ride which ended in both Doctor Stone and the former actress being thrown into a stream happened on March 8. Mrs. Rheinstrom called at Doctor Stone's office early in the evening. While there, according to Doctor Stone's version, he received a telephone message from Ross from a sick person. As Mrs. Rheinstrom was to leave here for San Francisco on a train which was not due until more than a half hour, Doctor Stone suggested that she ride to Ross with him and take the train there.

**FORMER PRISON SURGEON**

When near Ross a collision with another automobile was averted when the chauffeur, M. Gerdies, turned the machine into a ditch. The automobile toppled over a small embankment, hurling the occupants into a stream. Gerdies rescued Mrs. Rheinstrom, while Doctor Stone managed to crawl to dry land. Another automobile was obtained and the party returned to this city, where the former actress secured dry clothing and returned to San Francisco on the last train. Doctor Stone went to Ross.

Doctor Stone is well known about the bay, and is at present practicing here. He graduated from the University of California and was a prominent member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity at college.

His father is Dr. James S. Stone of San Francisco. His wife is a member of a pioneer family.

## DESERTER HERO OF REBEL ARMY RETURNS

### "General" Mosby's Taste of Glory Is Some Comfort

*[Special Dispatch to The Call]*

VALLEJO, April 14.—J. Mosby of the marine corps, son of Colonel John S. Mosby, the renowned confederate guerrilla chieftain, after enjoying for several months the glory of active service and winning the proud rank of general in the Mexican rebel army, today was brought to the marine barracks prison from Los Angeles, where he surrendered himself, and will serve a sentence for desertion.

Mosby asserts his loyalty to Uncle Sam and explains that he could not overcome the temptation to see the fun when the fur began to fly in manana land.

Notwithstanding his crime of desertion, Mosby is regarded by most of his comrades much like a "conquering hero" and they address him as "general," by no means in derision, though it causes him to square his shoulders and grin.

Accounts from the scene of war indicated that the Mexican regulars regarded Mosby as a "holy terror."

## SANTA CLARA WOMAN DIES OF PARALYSIS

SANTA CLARA, April 14.—Miss Mary Carroll, a well known resident of this place and sister of Mrs. M. L. Castro, died at her home today. She was stricken Wednesday with paralysis, the direct cause of death. She was a native of Connecticut and was in her 55th year.

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