

Aida

1947

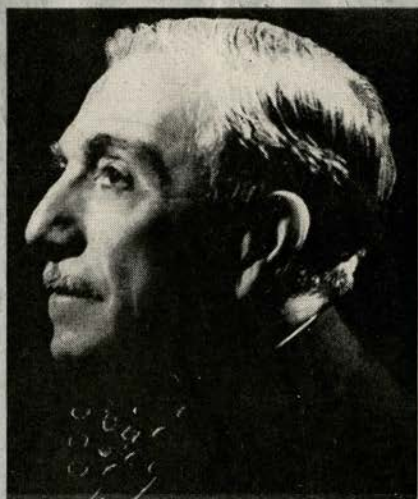
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25th
Anniversary
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Opera Company



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General Director

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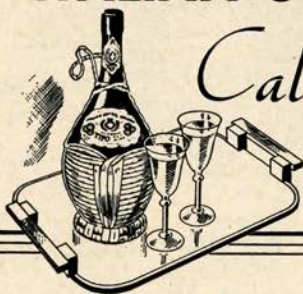
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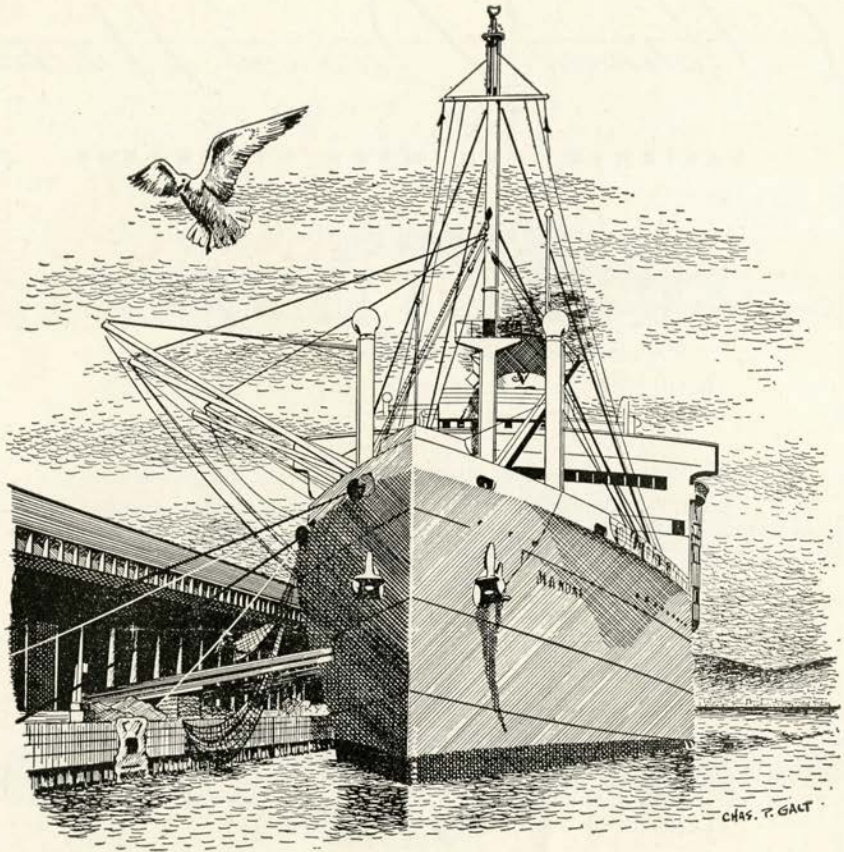
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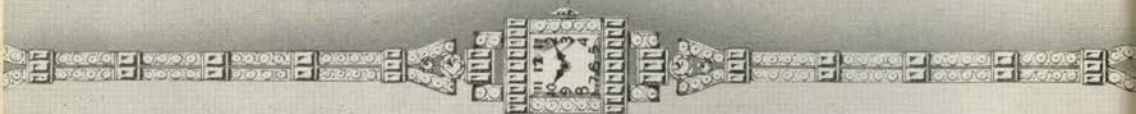
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Founded by a small group who had faith in the music appreciation of San Franciscans, the record of the company has more than justified the soundness of that belief. At the season's close, the company will have given 548 performances of 74 operas.

No other city, with the single exception of New York, can cite such an unbroken record in grand opera. And yet, the San Francisco Opera Company no longer belongs to this city alone, but to the entire Pacific Coast. Annually, a number of these cities look forward to being host to the company. All of this, we feel, is a tribute not alone to the artistry and good management of the company, but to the people of San Francisco whose support has made this accomplishment possible.

The San Francisco Opera Association is grateful for this support and the untiring efforts and genius of Gaetano Merola, General Director of the company since its inception.

Kenneth Monteagle

President



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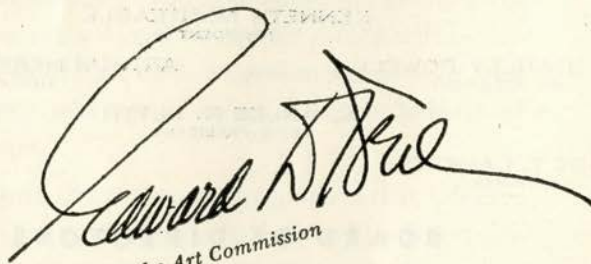
The Art Commission of San Francisco

TO GAETANO MEROLA AND THE MEMBERS OF
THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ASSOCIATION

On this, the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Opera in San Francisco, we desire to mark that epoch and to pause and hear, in memory, the hundred arias that have enchanted the music-loving people of San Francisco, and to appraise the renown and distinction which the Opera has brought to the City of San Francisco.

To you, and to the men and women who have made possible this great and graceful contribution to the life of our community, we present at this hour our tribute of praise and offer the warmth of our cordial regard.

Sincerely,



President of the Art Commission

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LORENZO ALVARY BASS	ELMA HEITMAN SOPRANO	REGINA RESNIK SOPRANO
SALVATORE BACCALONI BASS	ESTER V. HESSLING CONTRALTO	STELLA ROMAN SOPRANO
EILEEN BALDWIN CONTRALTO	RAOUL JOBIN TENOR	BIDJ SAYAO SOPRANO
KURT BAUM TENOR	DOROTHY KIRSTEN SOPRANO	ALLEN SCHMIDLING TENOR
NORMAN BENSON BARITONE	CHARLES KULLMAN TENOR	MARTIAL SINGER BARITONE
DORA BISH SOPRANO	KATHLEEN LAWLOR SOPRANO	MARY JANE SPRY SOPRANO
EILEEN BROWNE SOPRANO	ERICH LAWRENCE TENOR	SET SVANHOLM TENOR
BEVERLY CAMPBELL SOPRANO	VIRGILIO LAZZARI BASS	GEORGE TALLONE TENOR
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NADINE CONNER SOPRANO	PATRICK McVEY BARITONE	HELEN TRAUDEL SOPRANO
ELEANOR CORYELL SOPRANO	BENJAMIN MARTIN BARITONE	MARY JEAN TURNBULL SOPRANO
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To Gaetano Merola...

The Musical Association of San Francisco happily participates in this 25th Anniversary celebration.

Through your patience, sagacity, and artistic aims the San Francisco Opera has become an institution of lasting value to the collective musical activity of the nation as well as to the audiences of the Pacific Coast.

Your great spirit, manifesting itself in behalf of music which shall have lasting importance to its public, is an asset we pay homage to—with the sincere wish that you will continue to guide us for many years to come.

May the future bring you the fulfillment of your fondest dreams.

Leonora Wood Armsby

Congratulations!

San Francisco owes an immense debt of gratitude to the San Francisco Opera Association, and to General Director Gaetano Merola. May I add my personal congratulations to the City's thanks on the occasion of the Association's 25th Anniversary.

Elmer E. Robinson

Judge of the Superior Court

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ELOISE FARRELL
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Brexeton, Robert
Burgin, Richard
Chapple, Stanley
Cleva, Fausto
Copland, Aaron
D'Aulli, Glauco
Echaniz, Jose
Eidus, Arnold
Ericourt, Daniel
Fiedler, Arthur
Flagstad, Kirsten
Foss, Lukas
Francescatti, Zino
Francois, Samson
Giannini, Dusolina
Gieseking, Walter
Goldovsky, Boris
Goldsand, Robert
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Hacker, William
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REGULAR SERIES

- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) Tuesday Night, September 16, at 8:00
 With Albanese, Votipka, Lawlor, Pearce, Warren, Cehanovsky, De Paolis, Olitzki, Ligeti,
 Lorenzini MEROLA, Conductor
- DON GIOVANNI (*Mozart*) Friday Night, September 19, at 8:00
 With Roman, Quartararo, Albanese, Pinza, Baccaloni, Kullman, Alvary, Ligeti
 BREISACH, Conductor
- MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*) Monday Night, September 22, at 8:00
 With Albanese, Glaz, Votipka, Pearce, Valentino, De Paolis, Cehanovsky, Lazzari, Olitzki,
 Harvey CIMARA, Conductor
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (*Wagner*) Friday Night, September 26, at 7:30
 With Traubel, Resnik, Harshaw, Glaz, Turner, Votipka, Hartzell, Popper, Svanholm,
 Czapliski, Alvary, Olitzki, Guenter, Benson, Daneluz STEINBERG, Conductor
- LA GIOCONDA (*Ponchielli*) Tuesday Night, September 30, at 8:00
 With Roman, Thebom, Harshaw, Baum, Warren, Moscona, Chabay, Ligeti, Benson, Nelson,
 Albertini, Tallone MARZOLLO, Conductor
- LOUISE (*Charpentier*) Friday Night, October 3, at 8:00
 With Kirsten, Turner, Pinza, Jobin, Hartzell, Popper, Gray, Votipka, Zubiri, Coryell,
 Lawlor, Heitman, Phillips, Campbell, Harper, Hessling, Baldwin, Browne, Spry, Bish,
 Nathanson, De Paolis, Lazzari, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Olitzki, Chabay, Nesbitt, Martin, Davis,
 McVey, Lawrence, Schmidling, Harvey, Lorenzini, Daneluz
 BREISACH, Conductor
- OTELLO (*Verdi*) Tuesday Night, October 7, at 8:00
 With Albanese, Votipka, Svanholm, Tibbett, De Paolis, Lazzari, Chabay, Cehanovsky,
 Nelson STEINBERG, Conductor
- PELLEAS ET MELISANDE (*Debussy*) Friday Night, October 10, at 8:00
 With Sayao, Harshaw, Zubiri, Singher, Tibbett, Alvary, Ligeti
 PELLETIER, Conductor
- L'AMORE DEI TRE RE (*Montemezzi*) Tuesday Night, October 14, at 8:00
 With Kirsten, Turner, Lawlor, Turnbull, Baldwin, Pinza, Kullman, Weede, De Paolis,
 Nesbitt MONTEMEZZI, Conductor
- LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR (*Donizetti*) Friday Night, October 17, at 8:00
 With Pons, Votipka, Pearce, Valentino, Lazzari, Chabay, Tallone
 CIMARA, Conductor

POPULAR SERIES

- ROMEO AND JULIET (*Gounod*) Thursday Night, September 18, at 8:00
 With Sayao, Glaz, Turner, Jobin, Singher, Moscona, De Paolis, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Harvey,
 Tallone PELLETIER, Conductor
- AIDA (*Verdi*) Thursday Night, September 25, at 8:00
 With Roman, Thebom, Votipka, Baum, Warren, Moscona, Alvary, Chabay
 BREISACH, Conductor
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (*Wagner*) Thursday Night, October 2, at 8:00
 With Traubel, Thebom, Svanholm, Czapliski, Alvary, Ligeti, Olitzki, Chabay
 STEINBERG, Conductor
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (*Wagner*) Thursday Night, October 9, at 7:30
 With same cast as Regular Series performance
- LA GIOCONDA (*Ponchielli*) Thursday Night, October 16, at 8:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance

EXTRA PERFORMANCES

- FAUST (*Gounod*) Sunday Matinee, September 21, at 2:00
 With Claudia Pinza, Glaz, Turner, Jobin, Ezio Pinza, Valdengo, Cehanovsky
 PELLETIER, Conductor
- LA BOHEME (*Puccini*) Sunday Matinee, September 28, at 2:00
 With Sayao, Hartzell, Hessling, Pearce, Valentino, Moscona, Baccaloni, Cehanovsky,
 Lorenzini, Vannucci, Tallone MEROLA, Conductor
- MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (*Mozart*) Sunday Matinee, October 5, at 2:00
 With Quartararo, Sayao, Thebom, Glaz, Zubiri, Phillips, Gray, Pinza, Baccaloni, Singher,
 De Paolis, Ligeti, Chabay STEINBERG, Conductor
- RIGOLETTO (*Verdi*) Sunday Matinee, October 12, at 2:00
 With Pons, Glaz, Votipka, Heitman, Lawlor, Tibbett, Pearce, Alvary, Cehanovsky, Chabay,
 Harvey, Ligeti CIMARA, Conductor
- LOUISE (*Charpentier*) Sunday Matinee, October 19, at 2:00
 With same cast as Regular Performance

ADDED PERFORMANCES

- ROMEO AND JULIET (*Gounod*) Wednesday Night, September 24, at 8:00
 With same cast as Popular Series performance
- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) Saturday Matinee, October 4, at 2:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Kullman will be Alfredo Germont
 and ADLER, Conductor
- FAUST (*Gounod*) Monday Night, October 6, at 8:00
 With same cast as Extra performance except Weede will be Valentine
- DON GIOVANNI (*Mozart*) Wednesday Night, October 8, at 8:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Resnik will be Donna Elvira and
 Conner, Zerlina
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (*Wagner*) Monday Night, October 13, at 8:00
 With same cast as Popular Series performance
- LA BOHEME (*Puccini*) Wednesday Night, October 15, at 8:00
 With same cast as Extra performance except Lazzari will be Colline
- MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*) Saturday Night, October 18, at 8:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Kullman will be Pinkerton and
 Alvary The Bonze

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- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) Friday Matinees, October 10 and 17, at 1:00
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THURSDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 25, at 8:00

AIDA

Opera in four acts. Music by Giuseppe Verdi.

Text by Antonio Ghislanzoni.

THE CAST

Aida, an Ethiopian slave.....STELLA ROMAN
Amneris, daughter of the Egyptian King.....**BLANCHE THEBOM
Rhodames, captain of the Egyptian guard.....KURT BAUM
Amonasro, King of Ethiopia, Aida's father.....LEONARD WARREN
Ramfis, High Priest of Isis.....NICOLA MOSCONA
The King of Egypt.....LORENZO ALVARY
Messenger*LESLIE CHABAY
PriestessTHELMA VOTIPKA

* San Francisco debut.

** San Francisco Opera Company debut.

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Slaves and Prisoners, Egyptians, etc.

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Choreography by Willam Christensen



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TIME AND PLACE: In Pharaoh's Time; Memphis and Thebes

Act I: Scene 1: Hall in King's Palace at Memphis

Scene 2: Temple of Isis

Act II: Scene 1: A Hall in Amneris' Apartment

Scene 2: The Gate of Thebes

Act III: Shores of Nile, near Temple of Isis

Act IV: Scene 1: Outside the Judgment Hall

Scene 2: Above—In Temple of Vulcan

Below—Vault beneath the Temple

TICKETS FOR EXTRA PERFORMANCES
AT OPERA BOX OFFICE, CITY OF PARIS

Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

The Story of "Aida"

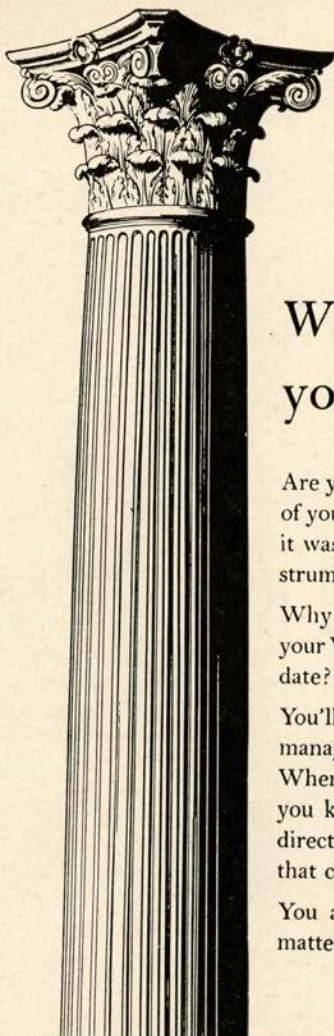
ACT I—A messenger has come to the palace of the Egyptian king with word of approaching invasion by the Ethiopians under the leadership of King Amonasro. Ramfis, the high priest, reveals to Rhadames that the Gods have selected him to command the forces sent forth to repel the invasion. This choice pleases Princess Amneris for victory would make Rhadames, with whom she is in love, a desirable mate for her. The warrior's thoughts are not of Amneris, however, but of Aida, Ethiopian slave of the princess, captured in a late war, and unknown to the Egyptians, a daughter of Amonasro. Amneris, coming upon Rhadames, rallies him on the passion of his bearing but jealously comprehends it is not for her when the weeping slave girl enters. The court assembles and escorts Rhadames to the temple to receive his command.

(Scene 2) In the recesses of the temple of Vulcan, Rhadames receives a consecrated sword and is dedicated to his trust.

ACT II—Word has come that Rhadames has been victorious. Amneris thinks upon his strange behavior with Aida as she joins her slave girls in singing his praises. On the approach of Aida she deftly gains from her the confession of her love for Rhadames. Then, telling of her own love for the warrior, Amneris commands that Aida shall witness Rhadames' obedience to herself on his triumphant return. (Scene 2) Royal welcome is given Rhadames on his return with the conquered Ethiopians. Amonasro, dressed as a plain officer, is recognized by Aida. Signaling her not to betray his rank he acknowledges her as his daughter and tells how the king, wounded, had died at his feet. Rhadames, offered any boon he may wish, requests the freedom of the Ethiopians. His wish is granted but Amonasro and Aida are retained as hostages. The king then gives Rhadames, as his supreme reward, the hand of Amneris.

ACT III—Amneris goes to the temple on the eve of her marriage to Rhadames. Aida, coming later, is followed by her father who plays upon her love for Rhadames and her concern for her countrymen to involve him in a plot to his advantage. Rhadames appearing, Amonasro conceals himself. Aida begs her lover to flee with her. Enraptured, he unwittingly discloses his army's movements, upon which Amonasro comes forth. Amneris, concealed among the palms, has overheard and, enraged, rushes out. Amonasro escapes with Aida.

ACT IV—Amneris, regretting the act that gave the man she loved to the priests, sends for Rhadames and offers to save him if he accept and return her love. Rhadames refuses and she calls down the hatred of the Gods upon him. The priests escort Rhadames to the Hall of Justice. Amneris hears the trial as it is conducted behind the scenes and wildly curses the priesthood as sentence is pronounced. (Scene 2) Aida, informed of Rhadames' sentence, has concealed herself in the tomb. When he descends into it and prays that she may never know his fate, Aida comes forth that they may die together.



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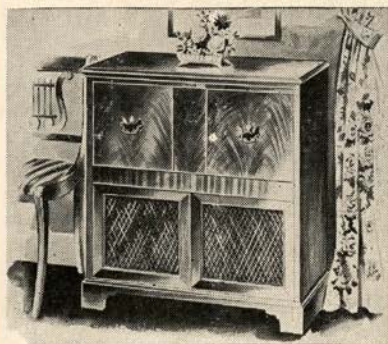


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† GOTTERDAMMERUNG

Opera in three acts. Music and text by Richard Wagner

THE CAST

Siegfried	SET SVANHOLM
Brunnhilde	HELEN TRAUBEL
Gunther	GEORGE CZAPLICKI
Alberich	WALTER OLITZKI
Hagen	LORENZO ALVARY
Gutrune	REGINA RESNIK
Waltraute	MARGARET HARSHAW
Woglinde	* LOIS HARTZELL
Wellgunde	* BETA POPPER
Flosshilde	HERTA GLAZ
First Norn.....	HERTA GLAZ
Second Norn	CLARAMAE TURNER
Third Norn	THELMA VOTIPKA
Three Soldiers.....	PAUL GUENTER, NORMAN BENSON, GALLIANO DANELUZ

* San Francisco Opera Company debut.

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STAGE DIRECTOR

WILLIAM WYMETAL

CONDUCTOR

WILLIAM STEINBERG

CHORUS DIRECTOR

KURT HERBERT ADLER



TIME AND PLACE: Legendary

- Act I: Rock of the Valkyries
 - Scene 2: Hall of Gunther's Castle
 - Scene 3: Same as Scene I
- Act II: The Rhine near Gunther's Castle
- Act III: A Wild Valley near the Rhine
 - Scene 2: Hall of Gunther's Castle

† Popular Series performance of "Götterdämmerung," October 9.

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The Story of "Gotterdammerung"

NOTE: In "Siegfried," third of the Wagner "Ring" operas, the son of Siegmund and Sieglinde, grown to manhood, slays Fafner, regains the ring and finds the sleeping Brunnhilde who abandons herself to the power of his love.

ACT I—It is night. The Norns spin the golden thread of the world's destiny. But the curse of Alberich snaps the cord. Their power of prophesy is ended, and they descend into the earth. Dawn reveals Siegfried and Brunnhilde emerging from their dwelling. In search of fresh adventure Siegfried, giving Brunnhilde the ring mounts her horse, Grane, and rides off to the Rhine.

ACT II—Gunther and Gutrune talk with their half-brother, Hagen, conceived by Alberich to regain the ring. Hagen arouses in Gunther a desire for Brunnhilde, in Gutrune a desire for Siegfried. A magic potion will gain their end. Hagen welcomes Siegfried, the draught of oblivion is served. Siegfried drinks and his love for Brunnhilde forgotten, is enraptured with Gutrune. To gain her, he agrees to help Gunther with Brunnhilde and donning the Tarnhelm, changes himself into Gunther's form. (Scene 2): Brunnhilde dreams of her absent lover when Waltraute brings her a plea from Wotan to cast the fatal ring into the Rhine. She refuses and at the sound of Siegfried's horn rushes to meet him. But it is Gunther in Siegfried's form. Siegfried, in the guise of Gunther, now appears and, his love forgotten, overpowers Brunnhilde and wrests the ring from her. She is forced into the grotto and in the night Siegfried follows but virtuously lays his sword between them.

ACT III—Hagen is asleep. In his dreams Alberich spurs him to renewed effort to secure the ring. With the dawn Siegfried arrives in his own form. He announces the coming of Gutrune and Brunnhilde, and is wedded to Gutrune. On her coming, Brunnhilde declares Siegfried to have wed her with the ring. But Siegfried, his mind a blank, denies. Infuriated, Brunnhilde convinces Gunther that Siegfried has betrayed him and they plot his death, setting the time for a hunt on the morrow. They join in the wedding march of Siegfried and Gutrune.

ACT IV—Siegfried, strayed from the hunt to the banks of the river, comes upon the Rhine Maidens. They beg him to give up the ring. The huntsmen arrive. Plied by Hagen with another magic potion, Siegfried, his memory returning, tells of his life and Gunther hears the truth of his marriage to Brunnhilde. The ravens of Wotan fly overhead. Siegfried turns to look and Hagen plunges a spear into his vulnerable back. (Scene 2): Gutrune, awaiting Siegfried's return, swoons at the sight of his dead body. Hagen claims the ring and fatally stabs Gunther who tries to prevent his taking it. Brunnhilde commands a funeral pyre to consume Siegfried's body. With Grane, the horse, she follows her hero into death as Valhalla is destroyed and a new world begun.

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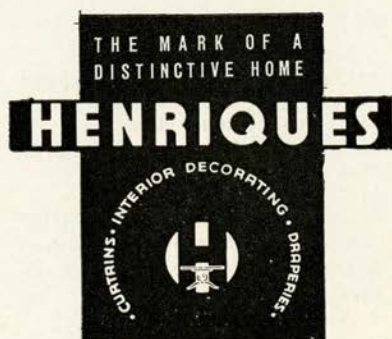


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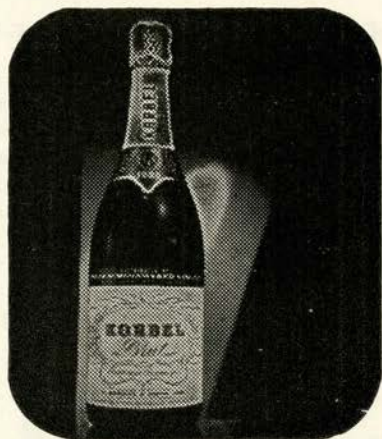
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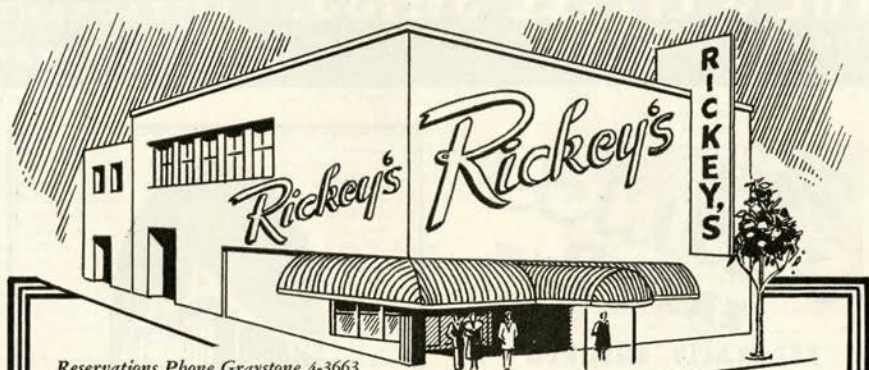
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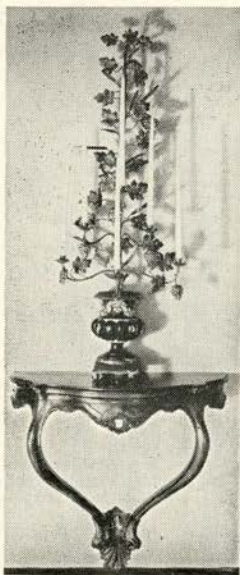
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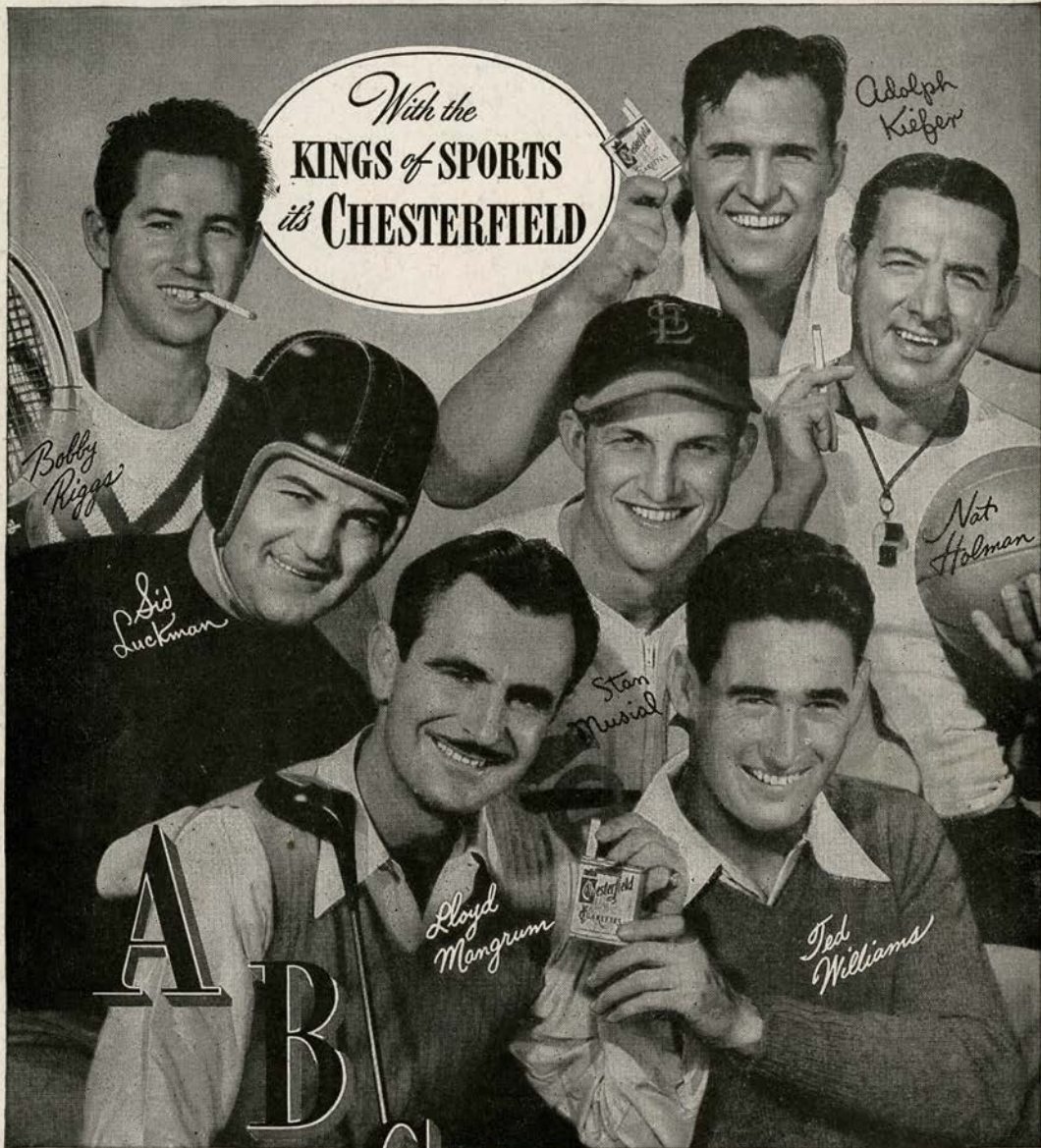
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