SUMMER OPERA OPENS WITH "LA GIOCONDA"

Excellent Performance Given at the Academy of Music by the Puccini Opera Co.

> "LA GIOCONDA" Opera in four acts by Penchielli THE CAST

Francesca Peralta Fernanda Doria Pistro De Riasi Stella De Mette Manuel Salazar Vincento Ballester Natale Cervi Glordano Paitrinesi Luigi D'Angelo

The Puccini Opera Co. last evening ed a short stay in Philadelphia at Academy of Music with a wellbalanced and enthusiastically rendered performance of Ponchielli's "La Gin-The performance, it must be opened without any very great sise, but became better and better as it progressed until in the third and fourth acts there were many places in an exceedingly high standard singing and acting was shown honors of the principal parts went to Miss Peralta in the title role and Mr. Ballester as the villain, Bar-naba. In the early part of the opera Miss Peralta's voice had ample appeared to lack color. But in the ensemble which closes the second scene of the third act and in the tre-mendous part for the soprano in the last act she left little to be desired. either in tone or quality. In the aria "O Pictosi" and the long scene follow-ing it she did her best work of the opera

d rose to a very high level. Mr. Ballester made a most favorable sion from the beginning until its His voice is full and rich in quality and ample in power. singing of the barcarolle, "Ah! Pesca-tor," in the second act, he was at his est vocally, and dramatically he sustained the character well and consist ently throughout. Perhaps more than elements of his part and brought them out in accordance with his conception

Mr. Salazar was somewhat disaps of agreeable quality and moderate power, but seems to have been overcultivated, and his changes from head to chest tones, and vor versa, were not always happy. He saug the part con-scientiously, if perhaps with a surplus of sentiment, and his work in the numerous ensembles was exceptionally good. Fernanda Doria was excellent as the blind mather of La Gioconda. and disclosed a voice of extraordinary power and beauty in the unusual num of important soles alleited to this Stella De Metre was also full in the somewhat ungrateful part of Laura.

'La Gioconda' is an opera in which the ensembles are numerous and important, fully equal in number and in ortance to the solos, and last evening they were all well done. principal ones should be mentioned the the first act, which, by the way, is much too long and lacking in action; the duet "F. ur. Anatema" for Gioconda and Laura in the second act, and exquisite trio "Sulle tui mani"

The chorus was splendid. Ponchielli had a fondness for choral effects, rare in a modern operatic composer, and this opera is full of fine vocal effects, which the chorus last evening gave with an enthusiasm equally rare in a professional chorus and a fine tonal quality. The famous ballet, "The Dance of the Hours," was superbly conceived and lighted. It was danced with the entire ormance, although a little more re ersal in the technical requirements of the elaborate conception would have made the dancing perfect. As it was, the bailet had the unusual honor of two ecalls, which were well deserved. Carlo Peroni conducted with skill and understanding. Although the opera did not condition in the midnight, the midlence remained to the close. Tonight "Fanse" will be performed, and tomorrow night "Rigoletto." in which Mr. Balester will sing his star part, the title role.

MISS ISABEL LAW A BRIDE

Daughter of Commoner Married to Major General Sykes London, June 4. Miss Isabel Law.

daughter of Andrew Bonne Law, government spokesman in the House of Commons, was married to Major General Sir Frederick Sykes, controller

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Peggy, Billy Balky Sam, Johnny II and Lonesome Bear are carried away to Persia by a magic rug. They reach there as the robber El Murfa claims the fair Astara as his bride. Balky Sam dresses as a bride and fools El Murfa.)

CHAPTER V

EL MURFA, the robber, picked himself out of the bramble bushes, where he had been kicked by Balky Sam, and shook his fist at the castle.
"I want no bride whose love tay is like "I want no bride whose love tay is like the kick of a mule." he shouted angrily. Then seek a bride elsewhere," answered Raban the Greedy, and there was great rejoicing in the castle. They thought the robber would go his way and leave the fair Astara in peace to wed her lover-prince. But the next words of the robber showed that they reloized ton some joiced too soon

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Sykes

general of civil aviation, at St. Columba's Church yesterday.

Many commoners and distinguished persons, including Premier Lloyd George, attended the wedding. Major George, attended the wedding. Major George autended the wedding. Major George attended the wedding was also be fat sheep. Besides he That strong punching daughter

feared Ei Murfa and would rather have the robber as a friendly son-in-law than as a bitter enemy.

"You see it is no use trying to fool Ei Murfa," said Raban to his sobbing daughter. "You might as well marry him and have done with it."

These words seemed very heartless and crule to Peggy and Billy, who feit deep pity for the fair Persian midden and her young lover. They were eager to save her from Ei Murfa if they could, "Perhaps, if we could fool him with another false bride he would go away disgusted," suggested Peggy.

"Yos, but who will be the bride?" asked Billy, looking around upon those present. His eyes rested upon Lonesome Bear.

"E-ugh! To dike to get after that robber," growied Lonesome Bear, licking his chops. "Id soon cyre him of bride hunting."

"E-ugh! To dike to get after that robber will be the bride?" asked Billy, looking around upon those present. His eyes rested upon Lonesome Bear.

"E-ugh! In the was forced to let go. El Murfa fell limply to the growing and Lonesome Bear was dryen back of the castle gates. "Gr-ugh! That was a dandy hug!" growied Lonesome Bear, and the fook of fat sheep.

El Murfa looked with fayor on this looked with fayor on this long was they were soon to learn.

"You might as well marry him and have done with it." You fail tales are nice. Come to my arms, waseet one!"

Now that is just what Lonesome Bear was dryen back of the clasts gates. "Gr-ugh! That was a dandy hug!" growied Lonesome Bear was lengther and said. But fill Murfa looked with fayor on this they were soon to learn.

"You might as well marry him and have done with his or growied Lonesome Bear was looked with fayor on this fell limply to the growing lover file and had gates. "To lod you I'd close on the fook of fat sheep.

El Murfa looked with fayor on this payor on this to live a few bride is anything a bean was like it is to hug some one—whether hands the robber is anything a bean was a large that made him gasp. a hug that made

Haddon Heights, N. J., June 4.—At the annual dinner of Mayor William In the Methodist church Mayor Dallas was the principal speaker. Dr. Cromwell Ironsides, president of the class, and the Rev. W. R. Raver, pastor of the church, made addresses.

their silver jublese either next week of later in the month, are: The Rev. Greensburg, Pa., June 4.—Judge Thomas P. Buckley, of the Church of Court McConnell has granted a nonsuit in the Rev. John J. Greensill, of St. Edmond's Church: F. Stuchel, of East Pittsburgh, to recover nearly \$2000 which he alleged to have given Miss Marks while he was courting her.

7 PRIESTS TO CELEBRATE

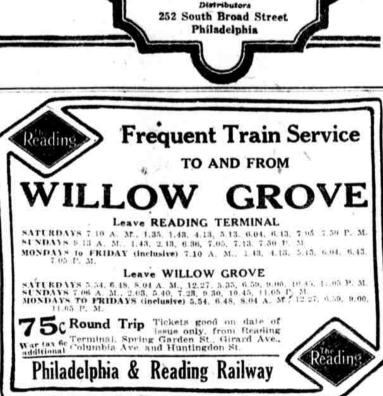
Will Observe Their Silver Jubilee Next Tuesday

Tuesday.

Among the priests who will observe their silver jubilees either next week or Court Lets Woman Keep \$2000 Gift

Christi, and the Rev. Maurice A. Walsh, of St. Authony's Church.
The Rev. Joseph E. Murphy, of St. Mark's Church, Bristol, is also numbered among the jubilarians, but his Seven priests of the Catholic diocese of Philadelphia will complete the twentry-fifth year of their priesthood next ty-fifth year of their priesthood next ty-fifth year of their priesthood next ty-fifth year of their priesthood next year observed in April. was observed in April.





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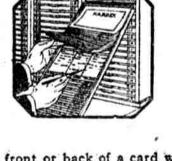
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