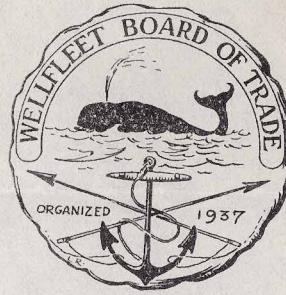


WELLFLEET BOARD OF TRADE



WELLFLEET, MASS.

MISS THELMA GIVEN

One of the writers who used to summer at Truro, John Reed, wrote a book entitled "Ten Days That Shook the World", in which he pictured those ten terrible days of the great Russian revolution. One of those whom we honor tonight, lived those ten days right in the heart of Petrograd. Set down, a child, amidst the horror and suffering that was Petrograd in those dark days, playing her violin and studying earnestly when she had barely enough to eat, when black bread and thin soup were luxuries, often nearly shot down, at last persuading an officer of the old regime who had turned revolutionist to help her escape from the city, then bribing a peasant to drive her and her mother across Karelia, into the north, across frozen rivers and lakes and into neutral Scandinavia.

That is only part of the background of our guest, an American girl then in her teens. Even the safety of Sweden meant only continued hard work, day in and day out, sometimes for as long as ten hours out of the twenty-four. She had studied under the great Leopold Auer, the greatest of all violin teachers, the teacher of Heifitz, of Elman, indeed of all the great violinists. After years of practice and study the day came when Auer said, simply, "You are ready!" and then she began playing in public, before the critical audiences of the musical capital of Europe. Her first tour was a triumph. She added lustre to the name of her teacher. Vienna, the Hague, Copenhagen, Paris, Oslo, Milan, Prague, all acclaimed her as the great artist that she truly is.

When home with her laurels and for her American bow before that most critical of audiences, Carnegie Hall in New York. Again it was a triumph, not only did her audience acclaim her, but the critics went out into the streets praising her virtuosity. Pitts Sanborn wrote: "The gods planted fire in her breast and every tone she draws from her fiddle is warm and vital. She plays rhapsodically, as a poet responding to a poet." and James Gibbons Huneker, then the dean of all critics announced her as "the first great American violinist."

Last summer while on a triumphal tour of the West Coast she received the heart-breaking news that her mother had suffered a severe accident. She placed her violin in its case, cancelled her tour and caught a plane east where she took up the job as nurse. All of us are happy to know that her mother is on the road to recovery and that in the very near future that violin will be taken from its case and once again under her skillful hands thrill her listeners.

Miss Thelma Given -- 22

Thelma Given, you who have made the world a richer place by your presence and who has brought honor to the Outer Cape, we the people of Wellfleet extend to you felicitations and honor you as one of the outstanding artists of our land.

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