

# ALASKA MUSIC EDUCATOR

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## Anchorage Program For Strings Given 'Excellent Support'

Excellent support has been received for the string program this year in the Greater Anchorage Area Borough School District, according to Frank Pinkerton, coordinator of the program.

The program is offered in 26 elementary schools, four junior high schools and two high schools, with a total enrollment of over 475 students.

Elementary school string classes meet twice a week, and the all-school orchestra drawing from 20 schools, meets weekly for advanced students.

Four junior high schools support an inter-junior high school orchestra presently composed of strings, but which will add winds, brass and percussion during the second semester.

Staff members for the program are: Mrs. Jeanne Ray, Miss Marlene Epron, Mrs. Eleanor Braendel, elementary schools; Mr. Marlowe Thomas, Mrs. Pauline McCahill, Mrs. Eleanor Bushue, junior high schools; Mr. James Everly and Mr. Jack McGuin, high schools.

## 'Distinguished Associate in Music' Bestowed Upon Christiane Billaud

In May, 1965, the University of Alaska named Christiane Billaud "Distinguished Associate in Music," in recognition of her talent.

Christiane, whose husband, Jean-Paul Billaud, is associate professor of music at the university, studied at the Conservatory of Paris under Jean-Paul.

At the age of 14, Christiane was the recipient of the First prize in Piano of the National Superior Conservatory of Music of Paris. In 1960 she was awarded first prize in the "Magda Tagliaferro" International Competition in Paris. In 1962, at the close of the Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow, she received in the name of France, a Tchaikovsky Prize, and was the only piano competitor to be recognized by the National Theater of Art of the U.S.S.R. with the award of an honorary Artistic Merit.

Christiane Billaud has served as

## Letter From the President

### Music Program Needs Strength

After talking to many of my colleagues there seems to be more than the ordinary concern about the general welfare of our music programs this year. The recent development in California is enough to start us all thinking. Here in Alaska the general feeling seems to be that we are doing well if we can even maintain status quo. This of course is very regrettable. At our October meeting in Anchorage many problems were pointed out but, very few solutions. However, there seemed to be a general opinion that our best tool would be in strengthening our state MENC and using it effectively. This means, of course, since there are so few of us, we need 100 per-cent membership.

Music in the over-all school program is about like the flowers in a farmer's garden. As the farmer's family grows, he cuts down the space allotted for flowers and replants with vegetables. If his wife objects and demands a space be left for flowers, then he has a problem. He must then go over his vegetables and double check to see if

some of them might not be as important as he had presumed. Or, he might think about using a fertilizer and get more production out of his land. Our schools are demanding more returns from the same length of school day just as the farmer must get more production from the same plot of ground.

Last December the MENC sponsored a study on the practices of educational media as applied to music. There was no doubt that music was not making use of many recent aids and ideas that have met with success in other fields. It might be that we spend so much time in our band and chorus rooms that we never get out of them long enough to take a good long look.

With our built-in problems such as distance, population etc., we need many new ideas and approaches. In our state we can't just copy the procedures used in the lower 48. As President, I would appreciate hearing from each of you concerning ideas that you might want to have discussed at the March meeting. Or, write it up and send it to the "Alaska Music Educator."

It was good meeting many of the new members here in Anchorage last month, and I shall look forward to seeing you again in March.

Ashford B. Kelley

President

Alaska Music Educators

## Lathrop H.S. Gives Annual Fall Concert

The Lathrop High School music department presented its annual fall concert, November 5, at Hering Auditorium in Fairbanks. Performing were the Lathrop High School Choir, the Malemute Concert Band, and the Lathrop High School Orchestra.

The appearance of the orchestra was its first in recent years. It numbers 30 students and is growing rapidly. The group meets daily as a string orchestra and once a week in the evening as a full orchestra.

The Malemute Band and Orchestra are directed by Robert Boko and the Choir is directed by Richard Ruth,