



Berkshire Festivals

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In 1934 enterprising residents of Berkshire County in Massachusetts conceived the idea of symphonic music in the open air for the summer season. Players from New York gave three concerts on the Dan Hanna estate in Stockbridge under the direction of Henry Hadley. The idea, then new in this part of the world, grew and expanded from summer to summer.

In 1936 the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Serge Koussevitsky was engaged. This orchestra has become the nucleus of the Berkshire Festivals ever since. In 1937 the concerts were given in the grounds of Tanglewood which had been presented to the orchestra the previous winter. In 1938 the "Shed," erected by contributions to the Festival Committee, was inaugurated.

War suspended the festivals in 1942 and 1943, but in 1944 Dr. Koussevitsky presented a series of Mozart concerts by a chamber orchestra in the theater-concert hall of the school of the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood. These chamber series have been continued along with the larger festival concerts in the Shed which were resumed in 1946.

Music in the summer has gradually become a pleasant and rewarding custom in many parts of the country. The Berkshire Festivals draw thousands from all parts of the United States. As many as 14,000 attend a single concert.

The Berkshire Music Center, established at Tanglewood in 1940 with Dr. Koussevitsky as director, runs concurrently with the festivals and the student performances of concert and opera are attended by festival guests.

The Berkshire Festival in 1949 will be given through five weeks in July and August under the direction of Serge Koussevitsky who will then conclude his conductorship of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

A second cultural attraction which has meant much to



Above left: Tanglewood Shed; right: Air view of the "Shed"; insert: Folk dancing at Jacob's Pillow.

the appeal of the Berkshire region was established several years ago when the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival came into being under the directorship of Ted Shawn of the ballet. It takes its name from its location on a scenic highway route in the Berkshires known as "Jacob's Ladder" a few miles east of Lee and some 30 miles west of Springfield, Mass.

In a modern theater opening on a typical Berkshire background, hundreds of students of the dance make an annual visit for instruction under capable guidance in the summer season and, with visiting artists, provide a series of performances for Berkshire visitors.

The Berkshire Hills Conference is perfecting plans to encourage artists to make the Berkshires their summer residence. Their work will be presented in a fall exhibit, confined to art actually done in Berkshire, and subsequently exhibited at museums throughout the country.