

Rachmaninoff Admits He Was Lazy as a Lad



SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

'Had To Take Me by the Col- lar To Make Me Prac- tice,' He Says.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, world famous pianist and composer, in his youth "persistently shirked piano practice" and was "lazy and mischievous."

The noted musician, who is to perform on the University Concert Series tonight, arrived in Knoxville with Madame Rachmaninoff early today.

"I was very lazy and mischievous as a boy," Rachmaninoff confessed. "I much preferred to go skating or to amuse myself with other exhilarating sports and persistently shirked piano practice."

At last, in desperation, his mother sent him to the Conservatory in St. Petersburg. Here he soon discovered that even if he did not practice, he played better than his more plodding but less gifted fellow-students.

Took Him by Collar

It was not until a year later, when he was figuratively taken by the collar and put under the discipline of a famous but exacting

KNOX FURNITURE MAN BACK FROM CAPITAL

C. S. LaRue is back from Washington where he and other national furniture leaders conferred with officials. He discussed regulations at a meeting of the Knoxville association last night at the S. & W. Other speakers included R. E. Buckingham, state secretary; W. J. Moore and Grover Friend, manufacturers. Ernest Fielden, president, sees an encouraging outlook.

ONE MAIL DELIVERY ON WASHINGTON DAY

Only one delivery of mail will be made here Monday, Washington's Birthday, Postmaster Seaton Garrett said today. There will be no rural delivery.

The stamp and general delivery windows at the Main Post Office will be open from 8 to 10 a. m.; the registry window from 7 a. m. to 5 p. m.; and the War Bond and Stamp window from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. The uptown station will be open for mailing from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

teacher, that the boy got his first taste of real work. With three other boys, he lived at the home of his teacher, who would go into ecstasies when his boys did well and would fly into rages when they did not.

With distinguished artists continually drifting in and out of the house, this was an inspirational atmosphere, and soon Rachmaninoff had the urge to try his hand at composition.

Tells Boys: 'Let's Compose'

It happened that one evening the boys were all seated around a table in the study, when Sergei suggested, "Let's compose something," much as any other boy might say, "Let's play baseball." They got out pencil and manuscript paper, and before the evening was over, Rachmaninoff's first composition came into being.

Rachmaninoff's concert will begin at 8:15 p. m. in the U-T auditorium. Tickets are on sale at Clark and Jones, telephone 3-2129, or at U-T, telephone 3-7177. The Concerts Campus Office now is located in the Biology building. Ticket prices are from \$1.10 to \$2.75. Good seats still are avail-