

Rachmaninoff Upsets Vollmann's Stage Setting

Ed Vollmann, local concert manager for the San Joaquin Musical Association, has been wrestling all winter long with that billowing curtain at the High School Auditorium. When he finally anchored the thing so it looked and acted like a curtain and not a balloon, who comes along and undoes all his hard work but Sergei Rachmaninoff. Then, the Record, the day after the concert, took a nasty crack at the setting and everybody looked at Vollmann.

It is the fan in the temporary heating plant which causes the curtain to billow. After it had billowed and blown through two of the first concerts of the season, Vollmann brought it under control for the Schumann-Heink concert. The curtain remained firmly anchored and the concert went off beautifully.

The same arrangement was made for the Rachmaninoff concert last Thursday evening. When the pianist came on stage just preceding the concert hour, he objected to the curtain. The heavy folds of cloth were deadening to tone, he said. At the last moment the set used in "Martha-by-the-Day," the play given by the high school commercial class, was placed in front of the curtain. It was unsightly, but Rachmaninoff said he should worry; that it was a good sounding board.

After giving the house the once over, he sent word out to his manager Spalding, that the entire audience was to be moved down front.

Spalding protested that it could not be done on account of the difference in the price of the seats.

"Well, tell the audience then to come to my room in the hotel and I shall play for them there," he said, proving himself not without humor in spite of his austere manner.