

the generous hospitality when the Gillets' guest room and kitchen were welcome rest breaks between marathon lessons over several days of "overhaul and rejuvenation." Many of us remember the gracious dinners with the candlelight reflected in the sparkling crystal of the formal dining room while relishing the ambrosian flavor of Mrs. Gillet's Coquille St. Jacques and chicken in wine sauce. We also remember the more informal fun of the basement party room with our host and hostess presiding behind the small bar. Robert Freeman noted that in Mr. Gillet's response to his honorary Doctorate at the Eastman School of Music, "He spoke from his heart in gratitude for the personal and musical happiness he and Mme. Gillet have found together in the United States."

Jack Holmes relates the story of the Gillets' visit to Tanglewood in the summer of 1975. As Mr. Gillet was talking with George Humphrey, he said, "You know Humphrey, I will soon be 93." George replied, "Well, the calendar says you have to be, but how do you do it!?" The typical Gillet answer was, "By waiting." Jack added, "From a listener's point of view, what always impressed me most about Gillet's performance was the enormous vitality. This is the most notable thing about his personality even now at 93!"

A few years ago on an icy winter morning in Brookline, as Mr. Gillet was hurrying down the driveway to reach the trash can, he slipped, fell and injured his right shoulder. This injury subsequently prevented him from holding his oboe in proper playing position, however in his true spirit, he called out to the collectors. "Hey there, don't take me out with the garbage!"

A couple of summers ago Ray and Olivia Toubman picked up the Gillets at an inn in Rockport where they had been vacationing. Ray mentioned to the innkeeper Mr. Gillet's fame in music. The innkeeper, after seeing him for two weeks said, "I don't know about the music, but I do know that he is a real gentleman, a great and good man." Ray added, "You always feel depth of culture in him even at times when he has been playfully sarcastic; there is always good will."

Rosario Mazzeo concludes, "To study with him was an exquisite pleasure and privilege. Gillet added new dimensions, subtleties, and sophistication to my musical life. It would be difficult to find an artist, and a man deserving of a more profound respect than he. I bow to him."

I would like to express my gratitude to the following persons who so willingly communicated their thoughts and experiences:

* Richard Blair — Professor of Oboe, The University of Texas at Austin.

* Robert Freeman — Director, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York.

* Jack Holmes — Recently retired after 30 years with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

* Rosario Mazzeo — Internationally known clarinetist, scholar, retired Personnel Manager of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

* Rodney Pierce — Solo Oboist, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

* Raymond Toubman — Free lance artist in the Boston area, Boston Philharmonic, formerly with the Atlanta and Oklahoma City Symphonies.

* Allan Vogel — Professor of Oboe, California Institute of the Arts, School of Music, Valencia, California,

* AND most of all to Mme. Marie Gillet, who supplied materials and encouragement.

The reader is also referred to the obituary for Gillet, which appeared on page 22 of *The Journal of the IDRS*, No. 8, 1980, also written by Jean Northrup.

The third Honorary Membership of the Society was bestowed on the Viennese bassoonist and teacher **Karl Öhlberger** (b. 1912), at the Fifth Conference in Toronto, Canada, on August 18, 1976. In his report on the Conference in the Vol. 4, No. 2 issue of *To the World's Oboists*, President Clemens noted that, after sending the congratulatory telegram to Karl Öhlberger in August 23, 1976..."I have received a letter from Karl. To quote in part: '...I am only too aware of the honor you have conferred upon me and hope I am worthy of it. The fact that this membership was given me by colleagues makes me appreciate it that much more...my heart felt thanks and warmest regards to you and the gentlemen of the Committee.'

Since his election to Honorary Membership, Karl Öhlberger has remained a close friend and contributor to the IDRS. He wrote a nice report of the IDRS Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1980, which is reprinted in the chapter on the Conferences, and, as noted in the Vol. 1, No. 1, issue of *The Double Reed*, he has contributed a number of rare bassoon works to the IDRS Library/Archives.

At IDRS Conference # 6 in Evansville, Indiana, in August, 1977, the Society elected Honorary Members number four and five. These were **Benjamin Kohon** (1890-1984) and **Robert deGourdon** (1912-1993). In his report on the Conference, editor Gerald Corey wrote (*TTWB*, Vol. 7, No. 2, p. 3):

"Two Honorary IDRS Members were nominated