

Ruby Elzy "Serena" of "Porgy and Bess" Dies in Detroit

RUBY ELZY STUCK BY CAREER TILL THE END
(By DOLORES CALVIN)
New York (CNS) — When the final curtain fell last week in Detroit covering the career of Ruby Elzy, the soprano who made "Serena," a character in George Gershwin's immortal, "Porgy and Bess" famous, we of the press plainly saw that she was a real trooper to the last. A woman who believed in her singing career, who sacrificed everything and every thing and very pleasure to carry it through; a woman who dreamed of fame and who got it when she sang at the White House, Miss Elzy will always be remembered by those younger ones in the profession as possessing an unconquerable will.

She was the original Serena and when the musical was staged for a comeback, on Broadway at the Majestic Theatre, Miss Elzy was immediately sought to take over her

old part. She sang Serena in the comeback 800 times and from New York to Hollywood, wherever the show went, there was always a warm round of applause for "My Man's Gone Now."

The actress' last venture into the movies was as Eddie (Rochester) Anderson's wife in "Birth of the Blues" when she sang the "St. Louis Blues" to soothe him after he had been hurt in a riot.

I remember sitting in her dressing room back stage at the Majestic on one of the last nights that "Porgy and Bess" was to be there. With her was her actor-husband, Jack Carr who doubled for Crown and their black cocker spaniel, who a few days later, much to Miss Elzy's grief, ran away. Clarence Muse's daughter was there too.

Miss Elzy, just 33, was garbed in her black dress, mourning her dead stage husband. She spoke of taking up her concert career when the show "broke up." "It's always been my ambition to tour the country as one of the leading singing stars," she said, "I can hardly wait to start it."

It'll be hard on the woman who's taking it upon herself to fill Serena's shoes. There can never be a more sympathetic or a more real Serena than that played by Ruby Elzy, for the role seemed to be made for her alone and her heart was in it in every one of those 800 performances.

World organ. It was also reported that Public Relations investigator Hal Horne for 20th Century-Fox decided against retakes on warm round of applause for "My Man's Gone Now."

In an effort to counteract the surge of anti-Negro feeling through out the country the Equity Council in its recent resolution condemning riots cited the Negro's contribution to the theatre and to entertainment the Variety story also said.

Seen' Stars

(By DOLORES CALVIN)
New York (CNS) LENA'S SALARY REVEALED. . . . When Miss Lena Horne, prize beauty of Hollywood's septia row, worked in "Stormy Weather" at the 20th Century Fox studio, she was loaned there by her real boss, the Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Studio. . . . Lena is under contract to MGM. . . . But a bit of inside news comes when we find that 20th Century has been paying MGM \$7,000 a week for Lena and Lena gets only the small sum of \$450 a week for all that work!

THIS IS NEWS. . . . Universal Pictures Corp. is still looking for an actor to play the part of the famed Bert Williams, comedian of yesteryear. . . . For a while, we expected Willie Bryant to take the place, but now Universal is seriously considering sax and trumpet player Louis Jordan. . . . Jordan, by the way, is free, since he was turned down by Army officials. . . . An interesting article in the July Negro Digest is "Dooley Dood It" condensed from Time Magazine. . . . It reveals that the composer of the number 1 tune is Herman "Dodo" Hupfield and he wrote it in 1931. The tune, as you might have guessed, now is "As Time Goes By" and the plugger, our own Dooley Wilson, who undoubtedly has already "dood" it. . . .

TALK OF THE TOWN. . . . Everybody's talking about the new baritone which Duke Ellington is featuring at the Hurricane. . . . He's Albert Hibbler, a romantic singer who must be led to the mike because, you see, he's blind. . . . Dave Wolper, owner of the Hurricane, wants the Little Rock, Ark., singer for a long term contract (Jazz Eldridge, Gene Krupa's man Friday and Jay McShan. . . . Hibbler met Ellington several years ago in Little Rock. . . .

ACQUIT IOWA MAN INDICTED ON RACE FIGHT MURDER CHARGE

Polk County, Iowa. . . . Robert E. Vanderer was acquitted this week of a second degree murder charge in the killing of Harold McCasland here NAACP counsel revealed this week. Vanderer who was defended by NAACP counsel was acquitted by an all white jury following a three hour deliberation. He had been indicted in June, 1942. The killing grew out of the refusal of the operators of a carnival to admit Negroes to certain shows. The case was tried on the theory of the right of a Negro to attend a place of amusement with the same freedom enjoyed by any other person. The court also acknowledged a Negro's right to defend himself if illegally assaulted.

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Reginald Fenderson who never received the break in pictures he deserves has answered the call to the colors and is now at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. As special morale officer, he will be in charge of most of the entertainment for our boys stationed at the desert outpost. . . .

Mantan Moreland and Ben Carter are doing their crazy comedy routine in San Francisco this week. This is Carter's first time on big time as a vaudeville performer but Mantan is an old hand at it. The two make a swell team. . . .

Ada Brown and Harry Swanigan her accompanist, join the Bill Robinson "Born Happy" show at the Mavan. Ada has had a very successful run with the Sissle band and show at the Hollywood Casino. Although we knew that all wasn't quiet on the Robinson front, few people suspected that Fannie would divorce Bill. Their home on the westside is one of the showplaces and despite the Robinson's long sojourn in the east, it has always been well kept. . . .

Have always marvelled at the patience of both actors and directors in filming a scene. Visited the Paramount set where they are making "Henry Aldrich Rocks the Cradle" and saw a group walk off the set, then back on for another walkoff. After about the twelfth

at Stadium



ETTA MOTEN, who sang at Lewisohn stadium, New York City Tuesday evening when the annual Gershwin night was observed, Alexander Smallens conducted the Philharmonic Orchestra and Jesus Maria Sanroma was the pianist. Todd Duncan, Harriett Jackson and Eva Jessye choir were features of the program.

Hollywood in Bronze

(By RUBY BERKLEY GOODWIN)
Hollywood, Calif. (CNS) Ethel Waters gets just one week of rest at her spacious home on South Hobart before she hits the road again. This time it's not so far. She will open with "Laff Time" in San Francisco on July 1, Reginald Beane, her accompanist, who was given a deferment by his draft board will meet LaWaters in the bay city.

There is more to the greatness of Miss Waters than her ability to style a song or to act in a dramatic scene. She has a great mind which constantly surprises you by cutting through all superficialities and stating a profound fact so simply that it takes several moments for you to grasp its importance. We chatted for a few minutes via phone. "I'm so glad to get back home," she stated with a lilt in her voice. "You have such a lovely home to come back to" I reminded her. "It isn't that, darling, though I do thank God for the beauty and the comfort. I am glad to get back because it's home, if I were in two rooms, I'd feel the same way about it."

Ernest Whitman is heard every Saturday morning on the Billie Bure radio show "Fashions and Rations". The show which is heard on alternate months from Hollywood and New York features Juan Hernandez doing the eastern broadcast. The half-hour show comes over KNX at 8 a. m. Although there is still talk of "Blueberry Hill" going on the air, members of the cast are still in the dark as to when. The show under the direction of Ben Carter would have Whitman as MC, and would be his first coast-to-coast contract role since he left New York. . . .

JEFFRIES' "WHITE PAPER" SCORED

(Continued from page 1)
of rioting. . . .
2. Retention of Federal troops in Detroit.
3. Investigation by a Federal Grand Jury of the city Police Departments.
4 and 5. Federal Grand Jury investigations of the Mayor of Detroit and the Michigan State Police.
6. An investigation of reports that workers in certain Detroit war plants several weeks ago began to make daggers and other weapons out of tool steel.
7. The introduction and passage of legislation to make violence against members of the armed forces and violence to prevent minority groups from performing war work a federal offense.
8. It was asked too that Navy Department Orders regarding the conduct of sailors at the Belle Isle land training station be enforced and that an investigation of sailors' participation in the riots be made.
The release by the Federal Government of building material for the construction of houses for workers in defense areas was also urged.
Finally the NAACP charged that failure of the War Manpower Commission to prohibit recruitment of workers elsewhere before all available local labor had been utilized resulted in an enormous and increasing strain on housing facilities in Detroit and led to, in part, the creation of conditions culminating in the riots.
Governor Harry Kelly informed the NAACP on July 2 that he had requested that the troops remain until the state of emergency has been lifted. I believe my request will be honored. Everything is being done to keep the situation under control and to determine the causes of the disturbances.
The NAACP wired the War Department proposing withdrawal of troops from Detroit immediately after July 4. Personal investigation and other inquiries by NAACP, indicate likelihood that such withdrawal will result in resumption of rioting. Urge troops remain until tension is relieved. It is better to keep troops there indefinitely than to remove them one day too soon. We see no hope Detroit police force has ability cope

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VISITS 4 CONTINENTS

Chief Petty Officer Adie Brown, a product of Chicago and who is from Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, was a "Windy City" weekend visitor. Officer Brown has travelled extensively since his enlistment in the service more than a year ago and has touched the soil of four continents, including both North and South Africa. He reports that our boys in service are well represented in every port he landed in and that they want letters from home every day.

ating in rioting. The NAACP told the President that it was gratified by the report that the Department of Justice has summoned all United States Attorneys to meet in Philadelphia this week to discuss the obligation and duty of each of them to preserve civil rights of American citizens. The NAACP suggested that the federal government through the Department of Justice weed out from the federal, city and state police forces all members of the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazi Bund, and the Black Legion or any other anti-minority and anti-American organization.

Vigorous support of FEPC was asked of the President and greater use of the radio, press and moving picture by the OWI in the dissemination of information that will create a better understanding between whites and Negroes. The NAACP expressed amazement at the silence of the President who as far as printed stories reveal did not mention the riot during his press conference this week. The most charitable explanation of the President's behavior, the NAACP said, is that he was waiting until he had gotten his appropriation bill through the southern anti-new deal and republican bloc in view of the needs of OWI, FSA, NYA and other similar agencies.

RIOT PICTURES ANSWER TO JEFFRIES' "WHITE PAPER"

The full answer to Mayor Jeffries' efforts to absolve completely the Detroit police force in a "white paper", the NAACP declared are to be found in the more than 100 action pictures it has on file that were taken by newsmen during the height of the riot. Among these pictures of whites maiming helplessness and hopelessly outnumbered Negroes is the now famous shot of a Negro on Woodward Avenue surrounded by a crowd of civilians and mounted police an unsuspectingly in the custody of two policemen who grip his arms while a white assailant strikes him full in the face. Another is a picture of a cowering fear-stricken Negro on whom several white police are closing in.

The NAACP again asked why Jeffries and police commissioner Witherspoon could not make arrests out of the nearly 1000 white rioters whose faces are clearly identifiable in these pictures and who could be easily apprehended by even a mediocre detective. In picture after picture white men are shown maiming, killing and destroying the property of lone Negroes.

White surface quiet has settled here Negro citizens continue to fear that another outbreak will accompany the complete removal of troops from the streets. A gradual withdrawal of these soldiers, all of whom are white is already in progress.

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with situation." Arrested rioters have been charged with 931 misdemeanors and 432 felonies including one murder.

Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel who after consulting with the Department of Justice in Washington flew to Detroit during the rioting reported this week that the NAACP Detroit office has been so swamped with requests for legal aid that the legal staff has been forced to restrict its investigations and defense only to the most worthy of the cases. The legal defense is being handled by members of the Detroit Branch Legal Committee, the Wolverine Bar Association and a Committee from the local National Lawyers Guild. Along with NAACP lawyers as the cases reach the office of the NAACP they are immediately referred to lawyers. Trials are conducted each day. Marshall said that he is now working on writs of habeas corpus for many of the Negroes who were sentenced to 90 days imprisonment last week. Marshall revealed that at least two of those sentenced were not given opportunity to secure counsel and were to go into the Army last week.

"Most of these men had been held in jails without opportunity to secure counsel or even to telephone their families," Marshall said. The members of the families were prevented from seeing these men because the officials told them they could not be located. They were moving the Negroes around during Monday and Tuesday from jail to jail and many of them were confined in the garage behind the Piquette Armory. The research and other work done on these writs of habeas corpus will be by the end of

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Likewise Tommy Dorsey's and Bob Crosby's Orchestras in "Presenting Lily Mars."

From our listening post, we can forecast the following for you: Soon you'll hear Tommy Dorsey and his Band in "Du Barry Was A Lady" and in "Girl Crazy."

Tommy's brother, Jimmy Dorsey will lead his melodic cohorts in "I Dood It," starring Red Skelton. And for some of the biggest musical news of all, lend your ear to this: "Best Foot Forward," Broadway's hit-musical has been filmed by M-G-M. It's the picture that makes you young. Part of the youthfulness is done by Harry James and his Orchestra. (GFF is a honey of homes, rating the Astor in N.Y. and destined to go to town in all other places, too.)

Harry James and his Orchestra will also play for you in "Tale Of Two Sisters." Some tale—some sisters! With Xavier Cugat also doing his stuff for Uncle Sam in this film.

Kay Kyser and Band are finishing "Right About Face." While Vaughn Monroe and his Band are doing "Meet The People."

Last but not least, come the ladies. Our way of announcing Phil Sblay and his All-Girl Band in "Mr. Co-ed."

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