Contralto Humble Before New Role

By ELIZABETH TOOMEY
Of The United Press

NEW YORK (AP)—A young Negro girl from Philadelphia walked up to the ticket window of the Metropolitan Opera house 30 years ago, clutching the first money she had ever saved.

"When they told me the price of the ticket, I thought they made a mistake and meant the price for a whole season," recalled Marian Anderson. "I didn't have nearly enough money for one performance."

But last week the Met had a place for Miss Anderson.

They signed her up for the role of Ulrica in a revival of Verdi's "Masked Ball," to be performed in January. She will be the first of her race to sing a leading role with the Metropolitan.

DEEPLY RELIGIOUS

Miss Anderson finds it hard to believe. She recalls with wonder the audition and how swiftly it led to her signing with Metropolitan Manager Rudolf Bing.

"One was asked to sing Ulrica for Mr. Mitropoulos (conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos) and one had no idea the conductor would call Mr. Bing so soon. I left there and went right to my manager's office, and he said, 'congratulations.' It had been settled, my dear, all in one hour."

Miss Anderson, who is deeply religious and extremely modest, refers most often to herself as "one" or as "we." It seems such a natural part of her quiet charm in a conversation that listeners adjust easily to the habit.

"When you realize that whatever you do in life is not something you did absolutely alone, you do not like to be saying, 'I did this . . . I . . . I . . . I . . .'" she explained.

The first telephone call she made after the audition was to her mother, a former laundress who still lives in Philadelphia in a home her daughter bought with her first earnings.

"My mother is not a very demonstrative person," the famous contralto said. "She said, as she has always said, 'We thank the Lord.'"

THOUGHTFUL ABOUT RACE

Only if she is questioned about the racial barriers that have hindered her own career and about the broader affect of racial prejudice on her people does the singer talk about it, and then she speaks slowly, thoughtfully and with gentle tact, not as a militant crusader.

"When one realizes that in the beginning there was a contest and there were 300 competing, and that one was chosen, that is a wonderful thing on which to build a career," she said, answering a question about the effect of her color on her own life.

She won a contest to appear as soloist with the New York Philharmonic over 300 other singers when she was 21, but even after that could get few concert bookings here and finally went to Europe where she was hailed as one of the greatest voices of the century.

"One thing has led to another," Miss Anderson continued. "To have sung in Washington . . . to have sung in Europe . . . and then return to the United States and be sought after in places where people were not interested at all before. . . . I am a person who realizes she has been very fortunate along the way.

"In travelling around we have seen a very substantial change in the way things are being done. We have hoped that we might have had a part in it."

Actress Has Operation

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — English film star Greer Garson was reported in "good condition" at a hospital in nearby Santa Monica Tuesday after undergoing an emergency operation for appendicitis.

Body Eyes TV For Education

SALEM (AP)—A committee began an investigation here Tuesday to decide whether Oregon should have educational television.

Gov. Paul L. Patterson, who appointed the committee, said it should see whether there is a need for such a service, and how it should be financed. The committee's findings will be submitted to the Legislature in January.

Gardner Knapp, member of the Salem School Board, was elected chairman. James C. Morris, program manager of state-owned Radio Station KOAC, was chosen secretary.

Robert R. Mullen, Washington, D.C., executive director of the National Citizens Committee for Educational Television, said the movement is growing rapidly. He said funds can be raised through state and local appropriations, and contributions from civic groups.

Ben Robinson, Imbler, president of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, said the Legislature will be very short of money, so that a state appropriation is doubtful for educational TV.

Dr. John Richards, vice-chancellor of higher education, said the State Board of Higher Education would help make any such program a success.

MISTER BREGER

"Mind if we play through? We just got word our house is on fire!"

Infant's Heart Put in Place By Surgery

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Wiley Lawrence Chester, four weeks old, is home from the hospital today with his heart back inside his body.

And the only thing he has to show for the operation, performed three hours after birth, is a small scar on the chest.

Wiley was brought here from Jeffersonville, Ind., just across the Ohio River, when doctors discovered he had one of the rarest of abnormalities at birth.

The heart, half inside and half outside the body, was enclosed in two fine gelatine-like membranes. The breast bone was only partly formed and several ribs, instead of joining the breast bone at the front, joined each other across the chest.

In eight or 10 hours, the membranes around the heart would have become like old parchment," said the surgeon who performed the operation. "By that time, it probably would have been too late."

He declined to be identified but said that during the one hour in surgery, the heart was forced back into its cavity while the lungs, which had filled the cavity, were pushed aside to make room.

Wiley's mother, Mrs. Palmer Chester, says her new son is "doing just fine. He's gained over a pound since birth."

Poultrymen should gather eggs at least three times a day, in a wire basket, and cool them immediately to keep eggs high in quality.

Picket Line To 'Greet' Ike

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (AP)—Striking state prison guards said Wednesday they would give President Eisenhower a "picket line" welcome when he comes here for a major farm policy speech Friday.

While Republican leaders rounded up party faithful to fill Butler Fieldhouse for the President's speech, union guards who walked out at the Michigan City prison seven days ago announced they would station a six-man picket line around the statehouse to coincide with Mr. Eisenhower's visit.

"We have planned this to bring home to the President the situation at the prison," Merlin Griffith, vice-president of the International Guards Union, said.

Meanwhile, state GOP Chairman Alvin C. Cast announced the President's half-hour speech will be telecast and furnished to a network for beaming through the Midwest.

Chapman Critical Of Mining Grants

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscar Chapman, secretary of the interior in the previous Democratic administration, Tuesday urged election of Richard L. Neuberger to the U. S. Senate and criticized Republican power and mine grant policies.

As secretary he opposed the mining claim of the Al Serena Co. for a patent to land in the Rogue River National Forest, Chapman said in an interview at Medford.

Records in Interior Department files will show that there are not enough minerals on the land to justify a mining claim, he added. Chapman said the company actually wanted the land for its valuable timber.

RENEWS CHALLENGE

Turning to the sale of the Bonneville power line to Southern Oregon, Chapman said that both he and former Bonneville administrator Paul Raver opposed construction of the line in the first place. It was never completed but was sold unfinished to the California-Oregon Power Co. Sale of the line to a private utility was not the best way to dispose of it, Chapman said.

Neuberger, also speaking in Medford, renewed his challenge to Sen. Guy Cordon, his Republican opponent, to debate publicaly the issues of the campaign in the Lincoln-Douglas tradition.

Neuberger said Cordon had called him a liar, and asked, "Why doesn't Cordon prove his charges on a platform. . . . Why does Cordon hit and run, instead of accepting requests to share public forums with me?"

"INVISIBLE WEB"

Criticizing Cordon's voting record, Neuberger said his opponent led the fight against the so-called Hill "oil for education" bill; opposes the public power preference clause in John Day, Priest Rapids and atomic energy bills; voted against personal income tax exemptions; voted for the Bricker amendment; voted against ratifying the North Atlantic Treaty alliance, and voted 11 times to curtail soil conservation.

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