Fultz quadruplets aim for careers in music, fashions

By GAY PAULEY

NEW YORK (UPI) — They were headliners nearly 25 years ago when they were born. Now they're aiming for fame anew in the career world.

They're the Fultz quadruplets — Mary Ann, Mary Alice, Mary Louise and Mary Catherine — believed by those connected with their lives to be the only living black quads in the world.

Today, they live a sophisticated life in Northern Westchester County, New York, their eyes on careers in music, as models and also in medicine.

The lives of these quads, now willowy, handsome and fashion-wise, began May 23, 1946, in the Annie Penn Memorial Hospital in Reidsville, N. C., when Dr. Fred Klenner, a general practitioner, delivered four babies who altogether weighed 12 pounds. They were a celebrated foursome in their early days and were written up in newspapers and magazines, photographed even with presidents.

Sponsors who wanted the quads to lend their names to products were plentiful. And the Pet Milk Co. made what Charles and Elma Saylor, who became their legal guardians and ultimately adoptive parents, considered the best offer — milk, comfortable home and other needs until the quads turned 18.

As the girls grew, those steering their future noticed their musical talents. Mrs. Saylor, a registered nurse who helped to deliver the babies, said that at the early age of three she would notice their developing talents as they recited nursery rhymes.

Ultimately the girls dropped from the national scene and went through secondary schools and on to two years at Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Mrs. Saylor and her husband, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, cared for the quads almost from the beginning and adopted them when they were 10. During an interview, Mrs. Saylor said that numbers of professionals tested the four's abilities and it was just generally agreed that they needed special training to develop their talents.

Accordingly, the Saylors and quads moved to Peekskill, N. Y., where as Mrs. Saylor said, "The girls could be near a big city but not have to live in it." Peekskill is an integrated suburban community.

Mrs. Saylor was reluctant to talk of the quads' mother and father except to mention that the mother was handicapped, that to give the quads the "special training needed and to travel with them" would have been impossible.

The quadruplets recently were graduated from the Barbizon School of Modeling, now are registered with the school's modeling agency, and are modelling either separately or as a unit. They all are five feet seven and one-half inches tall, and wear size 8½ and 9 shoes so that their personal wardrobes always are being exchanged.

Medically, they're listed as identical. Their birthright shows in their reactions to questions. "What musical instrument do you play?" I asked.

"The organ," the four answered as one. It turns out though that among them, they also play piano, violin, cello and viola and sing, both classical and rock music. They're studying at Lakeland Music Center Conservatory in Peekskill and holding nursing jobs while they wait out modeling and music engagements.

It's confusing, talking with four girls all named Mary. Mrs. Saylor explained that it was to honor the Virgin — "Their family doctor was a Catholic."

HEADLINERS when they were born nearly 25 years ago, the Fultz quadruplets, from left, Mary Louise, Mary Catherine, Mary Alice and Mary Ann, are now aiming for careers in music, fashion and medicine.

MAY 18

"The Metropolitan Baltimore Association for Children with Learning Disabilities will have Dr. Neil Solomon secretary of health and mental hygiene for the State of Maryland, as guest speaker at its meeting tonight at 8:15 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5300 North Charles St.

New CAA project set on Avenue

A neighborhood group of community minded citizens, sponsored by the Community Action Agency Center, 1138 Pennsylvania Ave., is now incorporated under the name of Center Advisory Board No. 53 Inc.

In the past, this group has sponsored recreational activities for the children of the area, donated and distributed baskets to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas, provided transportation for the elderly to hospitals and clinics and many other charitable works too numerous to mention.

This year a fashion show will be held on Sunday, June 20, 3 p.m. at 1138 Pennsylvania Ave. To help finance this activity the board offers a chance for local merchants to advertise their goods and services in their program booklet. This can be arranged by calling at 752-6911 ext. 267 or 268.

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UN seat urged for Red China

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A Presidential commission has recommended that Communist China join Nationalist China as a member of the United Nations and that future consideration be given to the admission of the divided Germanies, Koreas and Vietnams.

The commission, headed by former Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, conceded it might be "awkward and discordant" to grant U.N. status to Red China.

But it said "There is more hope for peace in its interaction in the organization than its continued isolation from the United Nations and the United States."

The report conflicted with the long-standing U.S. policy of opposing admission of the Peking government to the United Nations.

But the White House said last Monday that this policy has been under review for several months by the State and Defense Departments and the National Security Council.

On a broader note, the commission said a policy of freer admissions should be applied later to other divided nations — such as East and West Germany, North and South Korea and North and South Vietnam.

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1. The Afro's Favorite School Crossing Guard Contest begins April 13, 1971 thru the issue date June 26, 1971.
2. This contest is open to all "School Crossing Guards".
3. The top winner will be the Crossing Guard who receives the most votes in the contest.
4. Ally School Guard may enter the contest by submitting 500 votes or more. One voting coupon clipped from the Afro is worth 100 votes.
5. First prize will be worth $500.00., second prize $300.00., third prize $200.00, fourth prize $100.00 fifth and six will be $50.00 each; and there will be additional cash prizes (twelve) of $25.00 each.
6. Anyone may vote in the contest as often as he wishes for any School Crossing Guard.
7. Afro employees and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
8. Decisions and interpretations of these rules shall be final with the AFRO—AMERICAN.
9. Student contestants agree to the use of names and pictures for publicity purposes.
10. Send or bring your votes to the AFRO—AMERICAN office, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21203.

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Page ... 2

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Coming Events

The Maryland Library for the Physically Handicapped will hold its first public open house on May 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. The library is located at 1715 North Charles St.

Opened in 1969, the library had almost 2500 regular blind and otherwise handicapped subscribers by the end of 1970, and was annually circulating almost 75,000 talking books and magazines, Braille books, and cassettes.

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May 16 — 10:30 a.m. — Howard Box, leader of the Brooklyn Ethical Society will speak on "Black on White," at the Baltimore Ethical Society, 3800 Gwynn Oak Ave. The public is invited. There is no charge.

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The Greater Baltimore Arts Council takes pride in announcing its 1971 Hall of Honor Award Winners.

The Hall of Honor is an annual event sponsored by the Council in which the Council honors three persons who in the opinion of the judges have done most over the years to develop the arts and enhance the artistic cultural atmosphere in the Greater Baltimore Area.

The recipients of the Hall of Honor Awards will be honored at a luncheon given at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Thursday, May 13, 1971, at 11:30 a.m. The 1971 Hall of Honor Award luncheon will be held simultaneously with the opening of the Greater Baltimore Arts Festival of 1971.

The Hall of Honor Award Winners for 1971 are William Donald Schafer, President of the Baltimore City Council, Richard Franko Goldman, Director of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and Wilbur Harvey Hunter, Director of the Peale Museum.

The speaker for the luncheon will be Dr. Harry Bard, President, Community College of Baltimore. The luncheon committee consists of Mr. Irvin Satelle, Mrs. Fran Dearman and Mrs. Wendy Kitt.

Graduation ceremonies for interns and residents will be held at Bon Secours Hospital on May 14 at 8 p.m., it was announced by Alvin Powers, Director.

Certificates will be presented by Edgar P. Williamson, M.D., President of the Medical and Dental Staff. Following the ceremonies, the graduates will join the Medical Staff and the Board of Trustees for a Champagne-Buffet reception in the Hospital dining room.

From the Executive Office of Governor Marvin Mandel has come the invitation to the 20th Annual Governors' Conference sponsored by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Society.

This year's conference will be held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury, Maryland on May 16, 17 and 18, 1971. The conference theme is "Involvement" and programs for the group sessions will concentrate on recreation and parks from the professionals, citizens and elected officials point of view.

$100,000
Who are the 31 black athletes who make $100,000 yearly and more? Why do more blacks than whites get $100,000 paychecks? Here's the story of race superiority in sports never told — how black athletes have become the highest paid anywhere in the world. Don't miss it in May SEPIA plus these other great features: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BLACK PANTHERS and WHY INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE IS INCREASING. Also how FLIP WILSON became No. 1 on TV . . . even with militant blacks, who mutter about his "Uncle Tomming."
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