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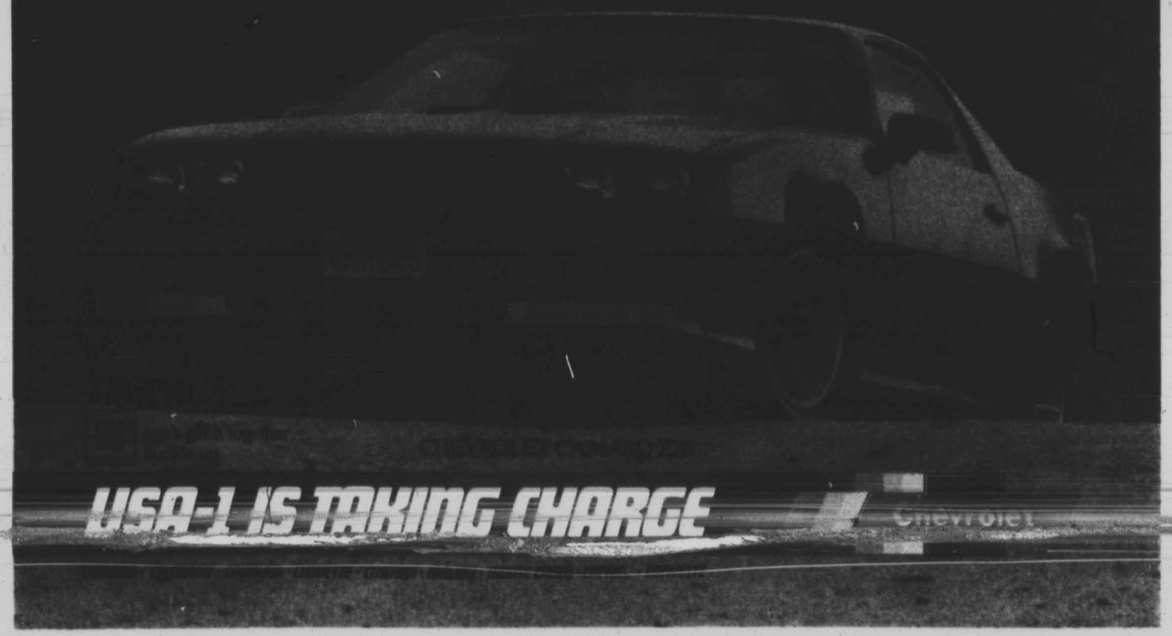

—Black Women

(Continued from page 6)

Originally intended to glorify "the girls of tan and brown," the Sweethearts of Rhythm's inception was a school band of the Piney Woods Country Life School in Mississippi. Consuella Carter, school and director, gave the knowledge and style to this group in its formative years.

In 1940, the group made its debut at the Howard Theatre in Washington, D.C., the success of which earned the ladies an engagement at the Apollo. Within a few years the "Sweethearts" became one of the hottest ticket buys. In fact, the the autumn of 1942 saw the group break attendance records of Louis Armstrong and Count Basie at Chicago's Regal Theatre.

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Closing out this magnificent era were several women instrumentalists who garnered wide popularity in the United States and Europe. One such lady was Dorothy Donegan, the "Queen of the Eight - eights," once referred to as the "shoulder shaking, finger - popping, hip - slapping lioness of piano rooms."

But don't misunderstand; the lady can play it serious, as she performs the classics as well. A native Chicagoan, Donegan played at city's London House and the "Dorothy Donegan Trio" appeared at the Newport Jazz Festival.

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They called her the "chee - chee girl," the exotic name coming about after Rose Murphy used these words to cover forgotten lyrics of a song she was performing. The tag stuck, but what is most remembered about Murphy is her clever piano and vocal stylings. The Xenia, Ohio native left Wilberforce College to play professionally and never looked back.

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Amina Claudine Myers' musical accomplishments run the gamut from "serious" music to jazz and gospel. In addition to her expertise on the piano and organ, Myers is also know as a vocalist. She has also conducted and composed for the legitimate theatre, acting as assistant conductor for "Ain't Misbehavin' " and writing an original composition, "I Dream."

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Among the newer generation of black female musicians, Patrice Rushen is currently popular with the young set who control the Top Forty listings and also jazz lovers. The 26 year - old Los Angeles native commenced her formal musical training at the age of five, mastering the flute and acoustic and electric keyboards.

Rose Murphy

Included in this young set must be drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, who can only be described as a "phenom." At the tender age seventeen, this young lady has already worked with Roberta Flack, Nat Adderly, Buddy Rich and many other jazz luminaries.

The daughter of Matt "Sonny" Carrington, president of the Boston Jazz Society, Terri began appearing on the jazz festival scene at the age of ten. But what is perhaps most remarkable about this young woman is that she is accepted by knowledgeable music people as a bona fide instructor for future performing artists.

Margaret Dudley can be considered among the latest female talents in American music. The thirty - three year - old bassoonist has appeared with the Detroit Women's Symphony, the Detroit Metropolitan Orchestra and several European orchestras.

She is currently assistant first bassonist with the Nurnberg, Germany philharmonic orchestra, where she has been since 1977.

—Roundup

(Continued from page 9)

Congressional Black Caucus which now has 21 members in the Capitol.

NOTES OFF THE CUFF: The town is buzzing about the switch in jobs for Samuel J. Cornelius, who was administrator of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service since last March, but suddenly as of Jan. 5 was named special assistant to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block. The USDA post put Cornelius in charge of an agency which handled the big multi - billion dollar food stamp and school lunch program among other projects, but in the new assignment Cornelius will "assist Secretary Block in the areas of private sector initiatives, consumer services, rural development, minority affairs and economic recovery initiatives."

All of which sounds fine but leaves many political observers wondering ...LeGree Daniels, chairman of the National Black Republican Council (NBRC), was a delegate to the 13th annual African-American Conference held in Harare, Zimbabwe . . . Rep. Julian C. Dixon, D., CA., has succeeded Rep, Walter E. Fauntroy as head of the newly expanded 21 - member Congressional Black Caucus.

Achievements in politics were looking up for Marylanders as the New Year got under way as Kurt Schmoke, the new State's Attorney, and Saundra E. Banks, the Clerk of Circuit Court of Baltimore City, were sworn into their respective offices on Jan. 3. At virtually the same time, Gov. Harry Hughes named Ruth White Massinga of Bethesda to the post of secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Resources. Mrs. Massinga is the first black woman to be named to a cabinet post in Maryland. For the record, she is a 1961 magna cum laude graduate of Southern University in Louisiana and holds a master's degree in science in social services from Boston University.

Also newsworthy was the appointment of William G. Sykes, former special assistant to Maryland Gov. Hughes, to a cabinet level post on the staff of Ohio Governor Richard Celeste. Sykes, 46, as scheduled to assume his new $60,000 job as director of administrative services for the State of Ohio on Feb. 1 . . . Also exciting was the appointment of Norman S. Early Jr., a native of Washington, as District Attorney for the City of Denver, Colorado. Early, 37, was named to the post by Gov. Richard Lamn and is the first black DA in Colorado's history. He is an American University graduate and studied law at Illinois University . . . . Congress now has a bill before it to honor Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays with the Presidential Medal of Honor for his distinguished career as an educator, civil rights leader and theologian. Dr. Mays is a former president of Morehouse College. The bill was introduced in the 98th Congress by Rep. Julian C. Dixon, D., CA., and joined in the effort by Rep. Wyche Fowler, D., GA., who represents the congressional district in which Dr. Mays resides and Morehouse College is located.