Showtime

IDA PETERS What's Happening

In memory of.....

Lucille Armstrong... 'Mrs. Satch'

Editor's Note: Mrs. Lucille Armstrong, widow of the famous trumpeter Louis Armstrong died Tuesday of cardiac arrest at age 69 in Boston.

Mrs. Armstrong had been scheduled two weeks ago to participate in the Fifth Annual Louis Armstrong Music Fund Concert at Brandeis University.

She was honorary chairperson of the series.

She was Louis Armstrong's constant compaion and after his death traveled extensively in his memory. Herewith is a reprint of her last interview with Entertainment Editor, Ida Peters June 29, 1976 with photo by Benny Phillips. The AFRO talked with her briefly earlier this year at Eubie Blake's funeral in NYC when she seemed in good spirits.

Her funeral will be saturday at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church at 35th Street between 10th and 105th, NYC. She will be buried beside her husband in Flushing Cemetary.

(Photo by Benny Phillips)
Mrs. Lucille Armstrong poses for the AFRO in 1976 with the skyline of Baltimore in the background.

Mrs. Armstrong just after she married Louis.

. . . Mrs. 'Satchmo'

Mrs. Lucille Armstrong, widow of the trail - blazing giant of jazz, Louis Satchmo' Armstrong who died in july, 1971, visited Baltimore last week for the Bicentennial Concert held in his honor at the Inner Harbor this past Wednesday.

An attractive, petite five - footer . . . well maybe an inch more, Lucille Armstrong received the press in her Hilton Tower suite. She has merry eyes, a soft grey bush and a no - nonsense, let's get down to the interview personaality . . . because I must watch my time to be present at the mayor's reception "Baltimore's Best" and the concert.

She says that Louis' achievements, his importance as a musician are being honored regularly at home in America and in different parts of the world. Louis was born July 4 just 76 years ago.

Since Louis' death in 1971, as the wealthy inheritor of Armstrong's fortune and 5,000 tapes, many of them with his own comments as well as his music, Lucille has been appearing at festivals, at tribute concerts and sessions throughout the world. She has even toured for the U.S. State Department, supported by U.S. Embassies, countries in Eastern Europe and France.

Asked her about the TV special that Ben Vereen did on Louis Armstrong's Chicago Days.

She says that Ben Vereen did a marvelous job but story - wise it was fact and fictional. They did not consult her and did not allow her to have any input.

She says after all she spent 31 years with Louis and she ought to know some prts of the special did a disservice to his music.

She's still living in Corona, NY, "roaming around that great big house and enjoying every minute of it." Lucille and Louis bought the house in 1942 and she says, maybe after I'm gone, it might be turned into an Armstrong Museum.

Jazz fans, on the whole, are a faithful lot. She receives world - wide requests for pictures and spends a small fortune on postage beause the rates keep on rising.

Louis kept a very orderly collection of the testimonials, keys to cities, plaques from magazines, and gold "Esky" statuettes from the years when Esquire ran its annuals polls.

Of particular value is the collection of tapes on which he worked during his last years in Long Island in 1971.

Lucille Armstrong represents a direct and very personal link to the glorious past of Louis Armstrong that nobody wants to lose or forget.

Hopefully, her dream to make a movie, "The Louis Armstrong Story" will get off the ground.

"My life with Louis was exciting and fulfilling, a relationship worthy of all sacrifices, full of dedication and love. Pops was not a hard man to get along with. He was not demanding and did not have a tempermanent like some artists do, although he did have a temper, but with it, a great sense of humor.

"If I could awaken one human being in each of the places visited bringing memories to Louis to the hope for the future of mankind and the world. I, would be doing exactly what Louis wanted to do.

"Together Louis and I were strong and creative, inspirational to each other. Now that I am alone, the spirit of him is always with me. I am not sad, my memories are beautiful, they stimulate me to carry on and share things with others.

"It is my hope that learning of Louis' life will be an inspiration to everyone. Where else but in America could a little black boy from New orleans, whose grandmother was a slave, grow up to be one of the most beloved figures in the world?"

Pearl Records, Leonard Moyer gives AFRO's Mrs. Santa $450 from this Sunday's concert

Leonard moyer of Pearl Record Co. presented $300. check to AFRO's Mrs. Santa to feed hungry people this Christmas. John McClarey of Able Cleaning Company presented check for $150. and other presentations were made to Anna Mae Hunter Home for Blind. At (R) Timothy Moore of Pearl Records. Concert will be held Sunday, Oct. 9 at Calvert Educational Center and features Rev. F. C. Barnes, Rev. Janice Brown and Julia Price - Williams; the Bells of Joy, Keys of Faith and Ronald Huff.

Moving emotional rites for Bill Elliott

Dionne Warwick leaves rites and rode with her sons in limousine with New York plates.

BILL ELLIOTT DAY in Baltimore Oct. 25, 1974 when Mayor Schaefer led ceremonies in Hopkins Plaza. Later he was greeted by crowds in Mondawmin. Backing of movie "Hangup" was rumored to have been bankrolled by some of his wife's money. Show was a benefit for AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Above Fred O'Neal, Mondawmin president with the late Bill Elliott, then wife Dionne Warwick and co-star Marki Bey.

(Photos by Jay Baker)
Mrs. Ann Doty, Bill Elliott's mother grieves at Baltimore rites and rides with Bill's daughter Lisa Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thomas (L), he former member of Joe Thomas-Bill Elliott combo that discovered Dionne Warwick hug Liz Beeler of Los Angeles, Bill's devoted friend of five years.

DOWNTOWN BALTIMORE May 6, 1969 when Dionne Warwick starred in "Slaves" and Bill and Dionne drew crowds in every major city with heavy black population. He was known to jazz fans; a local graduate of Douglass High who was appearing on TV in "Outcasts," "Dragnet" and "Adam 12." JF Theatres redecorated Hippodreme for this movie. Note limousine with stars.

By Ida Peters

"There is but a step between me and Death" spoke Dr. William H. Thompson, pastor of Whitestone Baptist Church, Wednesday, at the funeral for William David Elliott (Bill) in the chapel of March Funeral Home.

Elliott, (49) the former husband of Dionne Warwick died suddenly Friday Sept. 30 in Los Angeles of an instantaneous heart block.

Two other ministers, Rev. Olin P. Moyd, Mt. Lebanon Church and the Rev. Ernest Nelson of Greater Refuge Baptist Church joined Dr. Thompson in comforting the family.

Dr. Thompson told the family, especially his mother, Mrs. Ann Doty that "some of us have a short time. But, be ye also ready for none of us know the time of place of death."

The Rev. Simon De Shazo of Interdenominational Church led off the services with "The Lord's Prayer" setting the tone for beautiful singing that shows the richness of the musical heritage from which Bill Elliott's music sprang.

Lester Bey of the Red Rooster family sang "The Lord's Prayer" in a higher tenor while High Smith sang "How Great Thou Art" in his splendid bass.

People attending the services were not aware that Dionne Warwick, his former wife and their children Davis, 14 and Damon Elliott 16, were seated on the back row of the March Chapel. Every now and then a rich voice would ring out especially on the singing of "In the Garden."

Seated on the front row with Bill Elliott's mother Mrs. Ann Doty was his brother Chappie Elliott, Jr.; Lisa Brooks 21, daughter of Bill Elliott; Alice McGill, friend; Andre Elliott, Chappie Elliott Jr. Rene Elliott Bowman, LaFaithia Elliott Womack and Chappie Elliott.

Marita Elliott gave a tearful tribute to her uncle for the family which was placed in the casket at the end of the service.

Bill Elliott's friend Liz Beeler who was with him when he passed suddenly last week told the AFRO they had been friends for more than five years. She said he had been out playing basketball that day and suddenly got a pain in the chest. His last words were "I love my mother, I love my brother and my friends . . . but I'm going through." By the time she asked what he meant, he was gone.

Bill Elliott was and is the only legitimate native Baltimore to attain the heights as a movie and television star, born in Baltimore June 4, 1934. He was a graduate of Douglass High School and a Korean War Navy veteran. His last big movie, "Hangup" was a Brut Presentation for Warner Brothers.

Upon his release from the navy he played drums with several groups and then in top jazz and cocktail lounges in Montreal.

Returning to the states he formed the Thoda Scott Trio with Miss Scott on organ; Joe Thomas on saxophone and himself on drums and vocals. While the trio was playing in New Jersey, Elliott met and later married the famed singer Dionne Warwick.

Present at his funeral services was Bus Green the drummer who gave him his first lessons on drums.

Bill Elliott was a volunteer worker in the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the Special Olympics of which Rosy Grier was honorary chairman. He was a member of the Screen Actors Guild and a member of AFTRAQ.

His credits include "Coffy" with Pam Grier; "Uptight," "On A Clear Day" with Barbara Streisand. He appeared on television in the series "Outcasts," "Dragnet," "Adam 12," "Love American Style."

His last film was "City In Fear" with the late David Jassen, a made for TV movie about two years ago.

Recently he had been working with Kenny Spaulding in Los Angeles in publishing a Children's Entertainment Guide to help parents determine best shows for children.

Elliott was buried with full military honors in the Maryland Veteran's Cemetery in Crownsville, Md. The Nurses Unit of Whitestone Baptist Church served dinner after the services.

In 1969, when Bill Elliott came to Baltimore Dionne Warwick his wife came out to help with the ceremonies for Bill Elliott Day in Baltimore for the World Premiere of "Hangup" starring Marki Bey. Bill always told people he could handle being married to a famous star but he never really did.

MARRIED TO A STAR

"It isn't always easy to be married to a star," says William Elliott. "At last, I've got my head straight and I wouldn't change it for the world." (This was 1969)

The handsome actor wasn't always a star . . . just married to one. "I began in the business singing and playing drums," Bill says.

"Eventually, I had two different groups of my own, and when we did a recording session in New York I sent for three girls to sing background: one of them was a girl named Dionne Warwick.

"We dated for about four years and after a year of marriage we got a divorce. My ego hadn't been able to handle it. I had been the super guy around town and around the house and suddenly she made a record called 'Don't Make Me Over' and she was the star."

The Elliott's were divorced for about three months, but neither of them could handle that either. They remarried but divorced again. "I always wanted to be an actor," Bill states. "As a drummer I incorporated acting into my act. I used to wear guns and call myself Will Bill Elliott and ride the drum seat like a saddle.

"When Dionne's career started soaring I had a choice. I could sit around as the kept husband of a very rich and famous star, or I could swing out on a career of my own."

"One of the problems with show business marriages is that if one partner becomes more successful than the other, particularly if the successful one is the woman, the male ego reacts negatively.

The children above are participants in the Children's Theatre Association (CTA) creative drama classes. Two class levels — junior - senior high and elementary — are offered. Junior and senior high school students produce two plays. Elementary students (from grades 4, 5 and 6 learn to express themselves through theatre games and improvisations, and, for a spring demonstration for parents, act in a short play. Teacher for junior - senior high class is Pam Cunningham, who has directed more than 30 productions in the past ten years. Teacher for the elementary level class is Helen Hurwitz, who has worked with the creative drama authority, Viola Spolin, and is an expert in her own right. Both teachers are experienced actresses. Classes are held from Oct. 5, 1983 to April 28, 1984, at CTA, 1386 W. Mount Royal Ave. For information, call CTA at 225-0052.

Douglass High School 1883-1983 Centennial Calendar

Sunday Morning Oct. 9, 1983
Breakfast Show
6 A.M. to 9 A.M.—Roots, Unitd., Vine Smallwood Sts.
11 A.M. to 1 P.M. — worship Services, Invitational
3 P.M. to 6 P.M. — Douglass Athletic Games, at Douglass High School, Calhoun and Baker in Girl's Gym: "OldTimer's Basketball"
Other Entertainment: Sphinx Club Showbender — 5 P.M. until
6 P.M. to 1 A.M. — Sportsmen's Lounge - Special - "Oldies But Goodies Classic": Dave Ross Trio, Gwynn Oak Ave., off Liberty Hgts. (left turn)

Monday Evening Oct. 10, 1983
Achievement in the Arts
6 P.M. to 8 P.M. - Douglass High School Auditorium, featuing: Sam Wilson & The Arena Players
9 P.M. to 1 A.M. - Sportsmen's Lounge - Special - Two Drinks for One; Dancing; Jam Session BWI Happy Hour at Holiday Inn - 9 P.M. to 1 A.M.

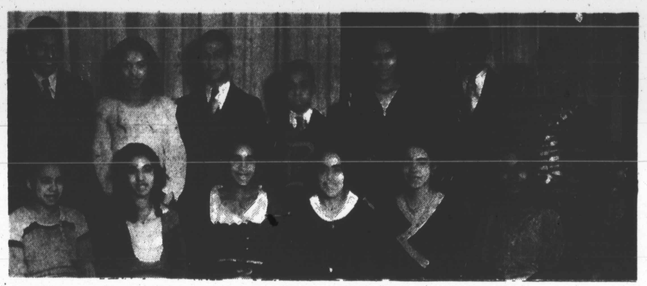
Tuesday Morning Oct. 11, 1983
Day of Reflections
In Douglass High School Classrooms and Auditorium.
9 A.M. Period - 10 - History workshop, by Dr. Cynthia Neverdon - Morton, Chairmen, Dept. of History, Coppin State College - Including Historical Collection.
10 A.M. to 11 — Panel Discussion
11 A.M. to 12:30 - Drama Workshop
Lunch
12:30 to 2:15 - Music workshop
****After School Dismissal, there will be an unveiling of the Marker — Identifying Douglass High School a Historical Site, Calhoun Street side.**
Evening Entertainment: at the Woodstock Club, Heyward and Park Hgts. Ave. (new Pimlico Hotel) Douglass High Alumni Appreciation Night

Wednesday Evening Oct. 12, 1983
Grand Concert
in the Douglass High School Auditorium
7 P.M. to 9 P.M. - Reception in Cafeteria of the School
Hosted by: Alumni Association Hospitality Committee.

Thursday Oct. 13, 1983
12 Noon to 2 P.M. - Rally in War Memorial Plaza featuring: The Douglass High School Band Songs by Ruby Glover
Hail Douglass" - Speakers
Cheerleaders
Presentation of Proclamation by Mayor William D. schoefer
7 P.M. to 11 P.M. - Sportsmen's Lounge - Showcase - Allstar Jazz Greats: Dave Ross Trio

Friday Oct. 14, 1983
Tour Offerings
9 A.M. to 3 P.M. - to the Frederick Douglass Home (now on National Park Service) in Washington, D.C. at Cedar Hill - 9 A.M. through 3 P.M.
8 P.M. to Midnight - "Oldies But goodies" Dance - in the Douglass High School Girl's Gymnasium Old Records by DJ Paul Smith - Refreshments Admission: 50 cents.
Dress in your Old Glad "Rags of yesteryear"
Prize for Best-dancing Couple!

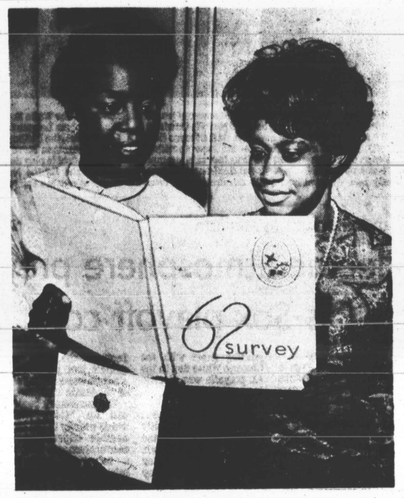
Saturday Oct. 15, 1983
Noon to 4 P.M. - Baltimore Convention Center - Upper level Douglass Hall of Fame Musical Treat and Art Show
Scholarship Fundraiser - Baltimore Convention Center 7 p.m.-1 a.m. - Centennial Ball $35.



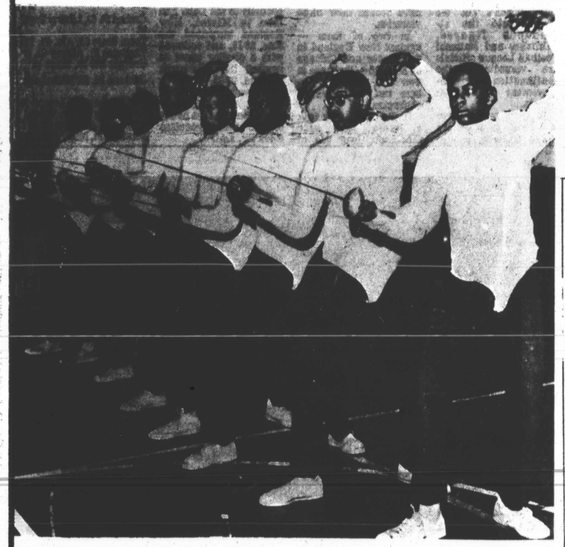
1932 DOUGLASS HONOR STUDENTS — From left seated, Estelle Lee, Edith Harris, Lillian Humphries, Hortense Lilly, valedictorian; Estelle Johnson, salutatorian; Alice Carrington, Alice Spriggs. Standing, George Goddard, Madessa Gosnell, Isaac Snowden, president; Walter Fisher, Ruby Gwynn, Thomas Wheaden and Hazel Oden.

100 years of achievement

Through the years at Douglass High



WINNING SURVEY — the Douglass High School yearbook Survey won first place for excellence in the Maryland - Washington District of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Above, Mrs. Geraldine Coleman, teacher - sponsor and Miss Marlene McAdory, editor.



1962 FENCING LINE — Members of the Douglass High School Fencing Class, the only one in public schools who practice at 5 a.m. five days weekly. They entered competition in the Maryland Chapter of the American Fencing League in May, 1963. The late Melvin Cade was the instructor for 25 boys.

READ THE AFRO

James Booker's N.Y.

NEW YORK, NY — Top Draw Stuff: NAACP national executive director Benjamin Hooks has called Rev. Gleaster B. Current out of retirement to be his backup man as a result of the earlier internal conflict within the organization.

It's back to the political wars for popular James Usery of Atlantic City, as he seeks to win his city's mayoralty in the November elections - as a result of the successful recall petition against incumbent Mayor Michael Matthews.

Accountant Parnell Drayton off on a two months auditing trip in five African countries.

Jesse Gray's National Tenants Organization holding its annual convention in Cleveland Oct. 7-9, which is the same weekend Mrs. Hazel Dukes has landed Gov. Mario Cuomo to address the State NAACP convention in Albany.

H. Patrick Swygert, one - time assistant to Rep. Charles B. Rangel, has been selected as vice president at Philly's Temple University, the school where Miss America runner - up Suzette Charles is a junior.

Muhammad Ali, now much heavier than during his fighting days, spending much time spreading the word on the Muslim religion.

Show Biz: Credit Mrs. Roslyn James with the beautiful remodeling job at Harlem's popular LaFamille dining room at 125th and Fifth Avenue. The restaurant has been one of the community's more popular for nearly two decades.

Group W Cable has brought in former Pittsburger Gerri Warren as their new public relations director.

That Oct. 14 Colonel's Ball at the 369th Armory, featuring 80 - year old Count Basie with the big band sound, and Tony - award winner Charles "Honi" Coles and song stylist Irene Reid, promises to be one of Harlem's most social in years.

The great new morning sounds you hear over WBLS, the nation's number one station, are being brought to you by Sergio Dean, with his two characters, "Reuben" and "Charlie".

Brooklyn - bred Carol Carmichael, formerly with the Chicago Tribune, has been hired as the business editor of the Philadelphia Daily News, which was ex - New Yorker Chuck Stone as senior editor.

Around town: Well - known photographer Bill Keno buried last Saturday after a long illness. Congrats due to Double Dutch and Harlem Bicycle Championships producer Detective David Walker on his elevation to sergeant.

SCM's Greg Matthews was installed as president and ITT's Harold Anderson as the new treasurer of the National Urban Affairs Council at their meeting last weekend in Washington.

Popular television personality Gil Noble to be the guest speaker at the Abyssinian Baptist Church's 30th annual Men's Day services on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Federal auditors now have raised questions over the use of some $2.1 million that may have been misused by Rev. Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH

October-feast

Steak Dinner, Sautéed Onions, Pumpkin Pie and Beverage.

Enjoy a juicy 5 oz. Choice Sirloin Steak, served with a crisp garden salad, an oven-fresh roll and your choice of potato or rice. Plus, delicious sautéed onions, your favorite beverage* and a generous slice of pumpkin pie. All for just $4.99

YORK STEAK HOUSE

Bettermorebiggernicer

Eastpoint Mall • Security Square
Westview Mall • Reisterstown Road Plaza
Open Sunday 11 am-9 pm
Monday-Thursday 11 am-9:30 pm
Friday & Saturday 11 am-10:30 pm

Offer good through October 30, 1983

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