



She made that tiny little part stand out and took her bows to thunderous applause.

Bravos for Aunt Ethel.

I was born in a tough little town where the people worked hard for a living. My family loved to sing and dance, and a trip to the theater was a real treat. But the idea of having an actor in the family was something that wouldn't go down easy.

"Listen, Pop, it's what I want to do. I know I can be good at it and I'm not really interested in working in the mill." I was trying to explain to my father why I felt I had to leave home and get some money for acting school in New York.

I'd been bitten by the acting bug in high school, and was determined that acting was going to be my career.

My father shook his head and explained in a pained voice, "Now look, son, if you wanted to be a doctor or maybe a lawyer, I could see digging up every cent I could lay my hands on to help you through school and all, but an actor?"

He put his hand on my shoulder and continued, "It's not a job for a grown man. Playing make believe all your life. I wish you'd think about it some more."

Aunt Ethel seemed to be the only one in the family with any interest in the theater at all. She'd been the star of all the high school plays, and was big in the local playhouse that had existed before it closed for lack of interest.

She came to see me in every play at school and was very encouraging.

"Tell you what, James," she said, "I've been on the Payroll Savings Plan at work since I was a young girl and I've got lots of Savings Bonds put aside. Now I'll make you a loan to go to New York and get some training. I know you've got more talent than almost anyone I've ever seen."

I could hardly believe such a generous offer. "Well, the people around here don't agree with that. Besides, I couldn't take all your savings on that kind of gamble."

She shook her head and said, "You won't fail. And when you get where you're going, you'll pay me back in full." Then she smiled, "Maybe you can give me a front row seat to one of your big hits... as a bonus."

After a lot of arguing I finally agreed and spent some hard years in New York before I got lucky.

And I really *did* get lucky. Being in the right play, in the right part, at the right time, and all of a sudden I was on my way. All the hard work began to pay off. And I paid off Aunt Ethel.

But that was just money. I wanted to give her that bonus, so I had her flown into New York for a small part in my new play.

Last night we opened to rave reviews. Aunt Ethel still has the magic. She made that tiny little part stand out and took her bows to thunderous applause.

"If you had never returned a cent, but just gave me this night, it would have been payment enough," she sobbed as we sat backstage after the final curtain.

Knowing Aunt Ethel, she probably meant it.

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NOTICE MINORITY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

The Paul N. Howard Company intends to bid the Muddy Creek interceptor System, Winston-Salem, North Carolina on Jan. 24, 1984 at 2:00 p.m. as prime contractor. We are looking for capable sub-contractors and material suppliers to bid on the following items of work:

- Silt Fence - 1,575 L.F.
- Pavement Replacement - 98 S.Y.
- Farm Gates - 25 Ea.
- Permanent Seeding - 73 A.C.
- Clearing - 32 A.C.
- Concrete Boxes and Piers - 4 Ea.

Plans and specifications are available for use at the following location:

A.G.C. Office
323 Swing Road, Suite A
Greensboro, North Carolina 27419

Should you have any questions, please contact Easley Pace, Paul N. Howard Company, P.O. Box 20488, Greensboro, North Carolina 27420, (919)-275-0411.

Bids are requested on or before Jan. 20, 1984.

The Housing Authority is taking applications for one-bedroom apartments for elderly applicants ages 62 and over and age 55 and disabled qualifying under the Social Security Act at the following addresses, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:

- (1) Central Office - Housing Authority
901 Cleveland Avenue
Phone 727-8500
- (2) Sunrise Towers - 1201 East 9th Street
Phone - 727-8554
- (3) Crystal Towers - 625 Sixth Street
Phone - 727-8567
- (4) Healy Drive Towers - 3450 Healy Drive
Phone 727-8510

CONTACT
Barbara Ferguson
727-8500

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perce with or like a spear. —spear·er, n. A sprout or shoot of a plant, as of grass. —v.t. To sprout; to shoot up. spear·head, spē·hed, n. The sharp-pointed head of a spear; a leader or a leading force. —v.t. To act as leader of. spear·mint, spē·mint, n. The common mint, an aromatic herb used for flavoring. spe·cial, spē·shəl, a. Of a distinct or particular kind or character; special type of food; particular, individual, or unique; the special features of a plan; having a particular function; a special messenger; specific or dealing with particulars; different from what is ordinary; a special occasion; extra; exceptional; special care. —n. A special person or thing; a train, newspaper edition, television program, commodity, etc., featured or scheduled for a particular occasion, time, or purpose. —spe·cial·ly, adv. spe·cial de·liv·er·y, n. The delivering of pieces of mail outside the normal delivery schedule, for an extra charge. —est, n. Any group of persons, as a club, having special benefits or advantages, and a disadvantage to others.

How seriously? Read on...

Mark your calendar. Save your quarter and dime. Keep an eye on your mailbox.

In a January 26 special issue, the *Chronicle* will review 1983 and what it meant to the black community -- then it'll look ahead to what's in store for 1984 -- in politics, education, economics, entertainment and sports.

In addition, we'll announce our 1983 Man and Woman of the Year (last year's winners were Aldermen Larry Little and Virginia Newell) as well as our Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

But that isn't all. We'll also sample some of the year's most memorable photos and quotes and unveil a few surprises here and there.

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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