

# WBTV To Air "Song Of Soul"

"Songs of the Soul," an entertaining half-hour musical documentary that explores Negro spirituals and the contribution they have made to American music, will be presented Wednesday, December 13 at 8:30 on WBTV, Channel 3.

Guest artist is the noted folk-singer Odetta. As she entertains a group of young children in a park, she tells us how spirituals were born, where they were sung, how they were learned by people who could neither read nor write--the early slaves in America.

WBTV cameras filmed on location in the Carolinas and Georgia, several church choirs singing the earliest of spirituals. Included is a unique sequence filmed at the only praise house (an early 19th century plantation building constructed for slaves to gather and sing) still standing in America. Here the legendary spiritual singer, Janie Hunter, and her family, perform "That Ol' Time Religion."



Folk-singer Odetta  
...Guest artist

Other sequences were filmed at a rural church on St. Helena Island in South Carolina, a remote rural area of eastern North Carolina, and at the First African Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia, which is also the oldest Negro church in America.

In Pageland, South Carolina, the camera crew visited and filmed an All-Day Singing and Dinner on the Grounds, an almost extinct religious experience.

Some of the spirituals performed include "Steal Away," "I Done Died Once" and two spirituals rarely heard outside of the areas where they were born, songs called "When I'm Through Working Down Here, I Got Another Building" and "My Good Lord, Show Me The Way."

Odetta performs the beautiful spiritual, "Sometimes I feel Like a Motherless Child" and a lesser-known Christmas spiritual. She also sings, along with the children as she teaches them, "Go Children, Where I Send Thee."

When Odetta was asked to appear in the film, she said, "Many Americans do not realize that this music is the only totally original art to come out of this country, and anything I can do to preserve the great heritage left to us by the slaves, oh, I want to do. This music is rapidly disappearing, and soon it will be gone unless we keep it alive. I'm glad for this chance to help keep it alive."

"Songs of the Soul" was produced by Loonis McGlohon, who has spent many years of study in the field of American spirituals. He was assisted in this project through the expertise of some of America's foremost authorities, including Alan Lomax of New York City, and Dr. Roy Hicks of Tuskegee Institute.

John Burchett directed the show, which was over a year in production. Cinematographers John Steed and Eddie Hollifield filmed the beautiful and unique sequences on location.

## Mercy Announces New Visiting Hours

Mercy Hospital has announced an extension in the hours for patient visiting and for the first time is allowing children under 12 to visit on a regular basis.

Effective immediately, visitors may see patients on medical and surgical units anytime between 12 noon and 8:30 p.m. The former visiting hours were 2:30-4:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

"In addition to making it easier for friends and family to visit patients in the hospital," explained hospital President Sister Mary Jerome, "we are hoping the new policy will lessen the concentration of visitor parking at peak hours in the parking lot."

Children under 12, accompanied by an adult, may visit in the hospital daily between

3:30-4:30 p.m. "Over the years, we have made numerous exceptions to this policy, with very positive results in patient recovery," says Sister Jerome, "so we decided to make it our standard policy."

The new visiting policy has been endorsed by the hospital's Board of Directors and the Medical Staff representing even 400 physicians who practice at Mercy.

New visiting hours in Mediatrics are 2:30-8:30 p.m., allowing for an after-lunch "quiet time."

Children under 12 may visit all nursing units, although the discretion parents and nursing staff should be used when family members are in the Intensive, Coronary, and Progressive Care units.

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