

Acting Career Built Slowly For Poitier

Academy Award winner Sidney Poitier was once such a bad actor that he flunked an audition for lessons! Today, after 23 films, four plays, one Oscar and several international awards, he considers himself a versatile enough actor to tackle almost any role. "In The Heat of the Night" the production stars Poitier in a role far different from his Academy Award winning performance in "Lilies of the Field." In the crime drama, he plays a Philadelphia detective reluctantly assigned to a murder case in the South.

Born in the South — Miami, Florida — Poitier was raised in Nassau and worked at a rugged diversity of jobs including ditch digger, construction worker, pine-boy, truck-

er and longshoreman before accepting a position as janitor at The American Negro Theatre in exchange for badly needed acting lessons. His natural ability developed and he played bit parts until a Broadway role led him to important roles in "Lysistrata," "Freight," and "Anna Lucasta."

In 1949 Poitier made his film bow in "No Way Out." His excellent acting led to the widely acclaimed performance in "Cry, The Beloved Country" and finally to the part that brought him an international reputation: Miller, in "The Blackboard Jungle."

During his subsequent successful screen career, Poitier has returned to the stage for the lead in "A Raisin in the Sun," which he also played in the motion picture version. Other movies he has starred in include "Paris Blues," "Pressure Point," "Something of Value," "Porgy and Bess," "The Greatest Story Ever Told," "A Patch of Blue," "The Slender Thread" and "To Sir, With Love."

Bus driver: "Did you get home all right last night sir?" Passenger: "Of course. Why do you ask?"

"Well, when you got up and gave the lady your seat last night, you were the only two passengers on the bus."



The Buffalo Negro Models Guild pledges its support to the Humboldt YMCA, and present their checks for membership to Mel Davis, Assistant Executive, Humboldt YMCA., L-R: Darlene Thompson, Jacquelynn Thomp-

son, Marion Hernandez, Sarah Smith and Grace Diamond. The Models will organize a "Charm School" for youth and serve as hostess for special YMCA programs.

Jenkins Does Not Support Negro Boycott of Olympics

As a negro . . . As a professional athlete

Fergie Jenkins does not support a boycott of negro athletes at the Olympic Games in Mexico City next October.

The boycott was unanimously endorsed at the end of a three-day Black youth conference at Los Angeles.

It drew the support of UC LA basketball stars Lew Alcindor and Mike Warren along with sprinters Lee Evans and Tommy Smith, both strong candidates for the U. S. Olympic team.

Jenkins, the 24-year-old Chatham resident won 20 games as a pitcher for the National League Chicago Cubs last season.

"I don't feel the group that met in Los Angeles would get much support from professional athletes," said Fergie.

"There's no reason for the professional athlete who's a Negro to back something like that. You don't find a cause for discrimination in pro sport. The players are there

to make a living. I've never had any problems and I can't think of any other Negro in pro sport who has either."

"I've found pro sport . . . or athletics of any kind for that matter . . . about as free of discrimination as anything you can find," Fergie added.

The only racial incident Jenkins encountered was at Little Rock when he joined the Triple "A" baseball team four years ago. Richie Allen, third baseman with the Philadelphia Phillies, was also a member of that team.

"No Negro had played with the team in Little Rock until that season," Jenkins recalled. "When we first got to Little Rock and got off the airplane, there were a few people with placards protesting against the Negro players but there were no real incidents."

"We found in Little Rock that it was just a matter of time before the people accepted the Negro athlete. I think it was strictly a matter of education. O don't think they have any trouble there now."



SEASON'S Greetings

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