PROVINCE, CITY HELP SINGER'S MUSICAL CAREER

Expenses of Portia White, Noted Young Nova Scotian Contralto, Partly Underwritten by Trust Fund

By ADELAIDE KERR
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK, Oct. 19 (CP)—As far as Portia White knows, she is the only singer whose expenses as a budding concert artist are financed by a provincial and city trust fund.

Portia, a rising young Negro Nova Scotian contralto, who will make her first American tour this fall, says her living expenses at present are largely underwritten by a trust fund created by the province of Nova Scotia and the city of Halifax, and administered by a board whose members include Dr. H. E. Kendall, lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia; Provincial Secretary Arthur Barnstead; Dr. Henry Monroe, superintendent of education; Mayor J. E. Lloyd of Halifax, and her teacher, Ernesto Vinci.

Expenses are heavy for a young artist whose fees are not high, whose appearances are relatively scattered and who must furnish her own accompanist and pay his travelling expenses as well as her own. The city fathers help out, even to the extent of a glamorous white fox cape to take the place of the plain wrap she wore backstage at her first concerts.

Portia's black eyes grow starry when she speaks of that white fox cape. Daughters of preachers with 13 children aren't born to luxuries like that. Portia's father Rev. W. A. White, was serving as chaplain in the First Great War Europe when she was born and he died when she was 19. But between those years he reared a family which burst into song at the slighest provocation and formed the whole choir in his church.

Schoolteacher at 17

By the time Portia was 17, her rich powerful contralto was pretty well known in the city. That was the year she went to teach in the country school for $300 a year, and on week-ends slogged three miles on foot through knee-high Nova Scotia snow to catch a train for a music lesson in town.

"Sometimes I used to wonder why I did it," she says. "Then I happened to win a silver cup at the Nova Scotia Competitive Musical Festival. And the Halifax Ladies' Musical Club gave me a scholarship to the Halifax Conservatory of Music. That gave me a boost.

"Then in 1941 Miss Edith Read, a school principal in Toronto, telephoned, asking me to sing for her, and then arranged a concert for me in Toronto. It was a success and I got other concert offers right away. I turned right around and wired my resignation to that school."

Later Miss Read, principal of Branksome Hall, arranged for Portia to sing for Edward Johnson, impressario of the Metropolitan Opera House. In March of this year Portia made her New York debut in Town Hall. Critics gave warm praise to her voice and Portia subsequently appeared in the national Negro festival at St. Louis, Detroit and Chicago.

She is now planning her first tour under concert management. It includes appearances in New York, St. Louis, other western U. S. cities, Toronto, Winnipeg, Peterborough and London, Ont.

FOUR YEARS AGO IN THIS WAR

By the Canadian Press

Oct. 19, 1940 — German air raiders did severe damage in night attacks on London, the Midlands and Northwest and South Wales; R.A.F. hammered invasion coast bases, and Tobruk, Bengasi, Berka and Halfaya; Germany and YugoSlavia signed new trade treaty at Belgrade; British fleet kept Suez Canala open to international shipping.

RAZOR BLADE ECONOMY

LAHORE, India (CP)—More than 2,000 used razor blades are being resharpened daily by a Lahore firm. This is one of the latest economy measures which the Army of India has introduced; soldiers return their used blades when issued with fresh ones.

EATING AT EASE

Kangaroos feed while sitting erect, the food being held in their forepaws.

PROMOTED

Here is a new picture of Acting Major General D. C. Spry, St. John, Que., recently promoted to that rank overseas.

PRINCE RUPERT Honour Roll

List of Men and Women on Active Service
Are YOU responsible for someone's name not in this list?
(See entry form elsewhere)

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R. Armstrong
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Ted Arney
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Emile Blain
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John Bunn
Hugh Burbank
Tony Bussanich
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G. Calderwood
Richard Cameron
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Doug. Christison
Wm. J. Commons
Richard Leighton
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Fred Lewis
Tilly R. Lloyd
Bruce Love
Harry Lundquist
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T. A. Mulhern
William Murdoch
William Murray
Wm. H. Murray
Daniel McDonald
Jack Macfie
Robert McKay
Robert McLean
E. (Ned) McLeod
John McLeod
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Melvin Eburne
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William Earl Eby
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William P. Elkins
Martin Eriksen
James Feasby
Bernard Fortune
Terry Fortune
Gordon Fraser
Mitchell Gay
Efner Green
James Greer
Lester Grimble
Terry Grimble
Ian Grimsson
Boyo Gurvich
John Grimsson
Carl J. Gustafson
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Hazen Hankinson
Matt Harris
Trevor Hill
Raymond Hougan
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Peter Husoy
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Tom Johnstone
Rodney Jones
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Percy Knutson
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Jack R. Laurie
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Douglas Payne
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A. M. Phillipson
C. J. Phillipson
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Robert Ritchie
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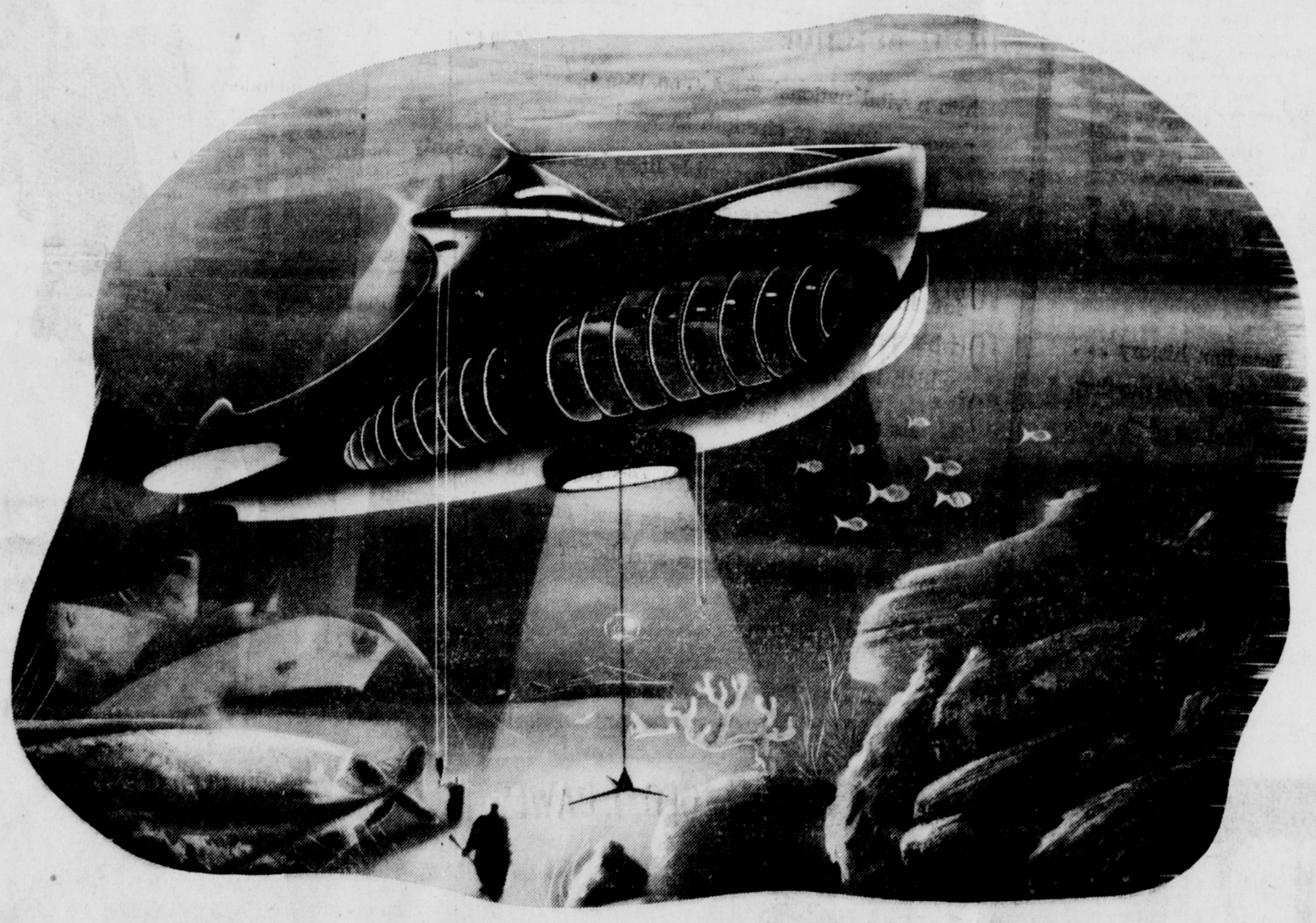

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