

As I was saying...

Anita O'Day: song stylist par excellence

By JACK HILSHER

Believe it or not, the world's greatest jazz vocalist is a senior citizen! Yes, Miss Anita O'Day is 74 and still swings. A performance at Michael's Pub in NYC brought this review from the TIMES. "Funny, swinging and convincingly the best jazz singer performing today."

Her record "In a Mellow Tone" got equal raves and her autobiography "High Times Hard Times" has been reprinted in paperback.

O'Day deserves her returning fame but she doesn't get it from the quality of her voice. She has always had a unique huskiness in her singing which came from several things, like botched tonsillectomy and years of unfiltered cigarettes. And booze, of course, which seems to go with the territory.

But the tome doesn't matter,

it's what she does with it. She should be getting royalties from those canaries (that's what they used to call girl singers with big hands) who copied her style, like Chris Connor, and even Doris Day before Doris turned to sugar.

JAZZTIMES says, "She remains nothing short of amazing. She asks no quarter of anyone or anything, including Father Time." As great as she sounds on records, O'Day should really be heard in a night club, with the atmosphere properly smoky and a spotlight focused on that simple black dress, a single strand of pearls and white gloves. Then, and only then, can you fully savor that ash-blond belting out "Lover Come Back."

Oh my, when you'd love to live forever!

O'Day performs in Hong Kong, Rome, France and Japan. The

Japanese discovered her in the 70s and she has been back numerous times. Working about only six months a year, she made "Anita O'Day Live" in London at Ronnie Scott's club for British TV.

O'Day doesn't let her age bother her. She says, "As you get older you do what you can to help the scene. I capped my front teeth and lightened my hair, but that's it. I don't sell sex appeal. I sell sound."

With her life as rugged as Billie Holliday's, she never minds being compared to Holliday musically. Of Billie, she says, "That's the one that did it. I said, if that girl can make a living with that sound, so can I. She ain't got no voice. I got no voice. It's styling."

"That's what I'll be..." the greatest song stylist in the world. Now, most everyone else is dead, so I am the greatest."



PRESERVING VALUABLE LAND - Back Mountain Regional Land Trust Board members are, seated: Tom Winter, Melanie Maslow Lumia, Will Conyngham, President. Standing, Douglas Ayers, Alene Case, Paul Lumia, Rob Lewis, Larry Law. Absent from photo, Rick Allen, Maureen Lucchino.

Memorial books donated to library

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas announces the addition of the following memorial books to their collection.

In memory of Lester R. Lewis, "Family Legal Advisor: A Clear Reliable and Up To Date Guide to Your Rights and Remedies" presented by Tom and Virginia Jenkins.

In memory of Mrs. Woronko "Gift Knits" presented by Villa Roma Restaurant.

In memory of Pauline Hochstetter "Country Fabric" presented by Yvonne and Nathan Bolander.

In memory of Shirley Thomas "Painted Country Woodcrafts" presented by Cathy Thomas.

In memory of Helen Lutsey "Country Quilts in a Day" presented by Ann Zinsky, Joan Perconté and Victoria Krviathoski.

"Landscaping With Herbs" presented by American Legion Auxiliary Unit #672.

In memory of Ruth Morgan Myers "Terence Conran's Kitchen Book" presented by The Corcoran Family.

In memory of Arthur Lipson "Teaching Your Children Values" presented by The Ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma.

In memory of Robert Rostkowski "The Mental Game of Gold: A Guide to Peak Performance" presented by Sandy and Mike Rostkowski.

In memory of Karen Orlando "Painting Watercolor Florals that Glow" presented by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Orlando.

In memory of Ralph N. Fitch "Tankers Full of Trouble: The Perilous Journey of Alaskan Crude" presented by Dallas Ro-

tary Club.

In memory of Mr. Joseph Bren "North American Fish", "Golf Antiques & Other Treasures of the Game" presented by Jane Thomas, Jennie Hill and Eleanor Flemming.

In memory of Doris Stevens "ASPCA Complete Dog Training Manual" presented by Libby, Bill and Brian Vetter.

In memory of Raymond A. Leandri "Crisis Investing For the Rest of the '90's" presented by William and Cathy Thomas.

In memory of William DeRose "American Art, History and Culture" presented by Rosaleen and Elizabeth Thomas.

In memory of Robert Ryman "Patterns in the Mind" presented by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Arledge.

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BMT Land Trust will host nature walk

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, a private non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of lands of special natural and historic value in the Back Mountain and surrounding areas, will host

a nature walk on May 28 at the Law estate in Sweet Valley.

Alene Case, a trained naturalist, will lead the tour of the property, which includes a herd of nearly 100 buffalo. No special hiking skills are required.

The group will meet at the Penn State Lehman parking lot, across from the tennis courts at 1 p.m. May 28. Estimated return time is 5 p.m. The walk is free.

For more information call Will Conyngham at 696-2881.

Dog warden will check for rabies tags, licenses

Luzerne County will be the focal point of a regional, canvass for unlicensed dogs during the months of May and June according to Eugene Dziak Regional Dog Law Supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Dog wardens will call on owners of unlicensed dogs, in Luzerne County in May and June. Owners who failed to obtain 1994 licenses for their dogs should do so immediately, since violators can be cited to appear in court and fined up to

\$300.

Licenses are required for all dogs six months of age and older. The license can be obtained from the County Treasurer's office. Pennsylvania law specifies that all dogs and house cats over three months of age must be vaccinated against rabies. House cats are those that spend any part of a 24-hour period in a residence.

The fee is \$3 for spayed or neutered animals and \$5 for other dogs. Owners should present

proof that their dogs are spayed or neutered.

Senior citizens who provide proof that they are 65 or older pay \$1.75 for spayed animals and \$2.75 for other dogs.

Pet owners can obtain a license by mail by getting and filling out a dog license application for each dog and sending the required fee (check of money order) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Luzerne County Treasurer, Courthouse, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711.

Drug-Free Community to meet May 25

The Coalition meeting for a Drug-Free Community will meet in the Lake-Lehman High School library on Wednesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. Future meetings will continue each month on the last Wednesday at 7:30 in the library. Meetings will be publicized in local newspapers. Any Lake-Lehman area individuals interested may attend. Please bring a friend.

Keep dogs tied up

The Kingston Township Zoning Officer reminds all residents of the Township who own or keep a dog that the dog may not run at large and may not damage private or public property.

Owners of dogs who are in violation of the Township Ordinance are subject to a fine.

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