CELEBRITY ROUNDUP

'227' star Alaina Reed marriage-bound

By Ida M. Peters

Q. I recently saw photos of Aretha Franklin celebrating her birthday, "29 and holding." How old is she? Isn't it time she covers up her ample charms?

W.M.B.

A. Aretha's birthdate is listed in various directories as March 25, 1942, which makes the Queen of Soul 47. You sound jealous. Obviously, the lady believes that if you've got it, flaunt it.

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Q. Please settle a bet. I say that Hilda Theresa Moses (Hilda Simms) from Minnesota played Marva Louis in the "Joe Louis Story" back in the '50s. My friend says she graduated from U. of Minnesota and I say Hampton Institute.

B. PHILLIPS
Newark, N.J.

A. Hilda Simms, (Hilda Theresa Moses) was born in Minneapolis, Minn. and attended the University of Minnesota. She got her B.S. from Hampton in 1943. She played Joe Louis' wife Marva in "The Joe Louis Story" film in 1953.

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Q. Is Alaina Reed now starring on the TV series "227" the same sexy lady from "Sesame Street"? Is she getting married again?

C.B.F.
Washington, D.C.

A. Alaina Reed, who hails from Springfield, Ohio started in 1976 on "Sesame Street." She is slated to marry to Kevin Peter Hall the co-star of "Harry and the Henderson" in May, 1989.

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Q. What year was the great singer Marian Anderson refused permission to sing in Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.? When I heard my mother say that I didn't believe it.

J.H.M.,
Winston-Salem, N.C.

A. Marian Anderson was refused permission to sing at Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution on Easter Sunday, 1939. Miss Anderson had just completed a successful European Tour. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady, and wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, resigned in protest. The Secretary of Interior then provided the Lincoln memorial for the Anderson concert which drew 75,000 people.

Marian Anderson

Dorothy Dandridge

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Q. Please settle a bet. Mahalia Jackson was the Queen of Gospel Singers. She wasn't an old woman when she died, was she?

E.C.T. MATTHEWS
Detroit, Mich.

A. Miss Mahalia Jackson was in her prime at 60 when she died in January, 1972. Her 1946 recording of "Move On Up A Little Higher" had sold one million copies and she is given credit for spreading gospel music from the black churches of the south to concert halls throughout the world.

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Q. Every now and then I see a picture of the actress, Dorothy Dandridge, or see references about her or mention that someone wants to do her life story or they are going to make a movie of her life. Please give me some facts about her life.

JOI DOUGLAS
Baltimore, Md.

A. Dorothy Dandridge was born in Cleveland, Ohio in Nov. 1923 and died at 41, Sept., 1965. The talented actress-singer was an Academy Award Nominee for Best Actress for "Carmen Jones" in 1954. In her early career she performed with her sister Vivian as the Dandridge Sisters with the Jimmie Lunceford Band. Her mother, Ruby Dandridge, was the famous character Oriole in the "Beulah" radio series. She played the Cotton Club in 1938 and the Empire Room of the Waldorf in 1951. Her movie roles included "A Day At The Races," 1937; "Since You Went Away," 1944; "Carmen Jones," "Island In The Sun," 1957; "Porgy And Bess," 1959. For more facts read her autobiography "Everything And Nothing," Abelard, 1970.

All letters should be addressed to DAWN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. All questions are welcome, but while Dawn cannot provide individual answers, questions of general interest will be used in this column.

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