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Letter, 1979 January 15, from James B. Appleberry to Eva Jessye

James B. Appleberry

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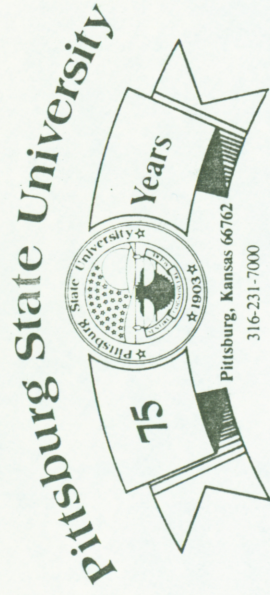
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bcc: Cabinet
G. DeGruson



January 15, 1979

Dr. Eva Jessye
Miller Manor
727 Miller Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

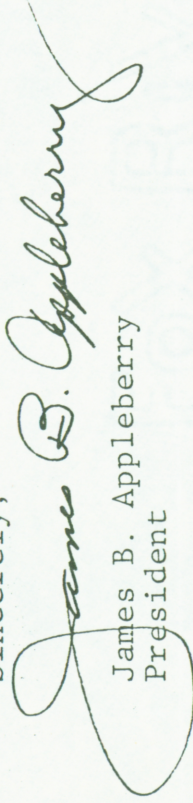
Dear Dr. Jessye:

How delighted I was to read in the Topeka Capital-Journal of your selection as a Kansan of Distinction in the field of Music. No one is more deserving of the award.

As a transplanted Kansan, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride. All of us at Pittsburg State are delighted that we could be a small part of your success story.

Best wishes for the new year. Let us hear from you.

Sincerely,


James B. Appleberry
President

aks
Attachment



Dr. Eva Jessye

MUSIC

It's been 71 years since Kansan Dr. Eva Jessye first jolted the music world. Not surprisingly she's still at it, stronger than ever.

That initial joltle is vividly chronicled in Will Marion Cook's famed black musical troupe relied on Eva, then a shy 12-year-old Coffeyville schoolgirl, to singlehandedly re-write every piece of music they lost en route to a performance there.

And the rest is a history of firsts, not only in the field of music, but for women and blacks as well.

Dr. Jessye left Kansas to later incorporate the nation's premiere black professional chorus and work as the first-ever black female music director of a major motion picture, to name a few.

It's no wonder Dr. Eva Jessye, at 83, is often referred to by some critics as "the grand dame of black music in America." She maneuvers the pen of the composer and lyricist as deftly as she lays hands on a piano or steadies a director's podium.

Best evidence of Dr. Jessye's one-woman band approach may be found in her most recent appearance in Kansas at the Pittsburg State University production of her oratio, "Paradise Lost and Regained" performed in October.

The combination of Milton's majestic poems with the passion of Negro spirituals brought Kansans to their feet with applause, just as the piece has done since for audiences around the world.

But the thunderous applause she received that night was more special in its enthusiasm that the other accolades, Dr. Jessye said. And that's one of the reason's she'd like to come home to Kansas for good next February.

"I'm hoping to live in Pittsburg," she said from her home in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she's been a resident in music at the University of Michigan.



Peg McCarthy

YOUTH

Peg McCarthy, 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry J. McCarthy, Jr., 1628 Grove, made history last June when she became the third Kansan ever to win the national spelling bee.

Peg, now an eighth grade student at Holy Name Catholic Grade School, trounced a record 105 other scholars from throughout the nation at the 51st annual National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The 1978 winner thus joined Jolitta Schlehuber, Moundridge, the 1958 winner, and Robert Walters, Russell, the 1968 winner, in the record books.

She nosed out 12-year-old Lyn Sue Kahng, San Diego, in the 19th round to win the title, correctly spelling "crescive" and following up with "deification." Today, she says "I wasn't expecting it, so when I got my last word, at first it was just another word that I had to spell; that I had to get over. But then about halfway through it, I thought, 'Hey, this is what I've been working for all these years.' It was really neat."

It was the culmination of four years of preparation for Peg and more than a decade for her mother, whose imagination was fired when Peg's brother Ted, now 22, came home from a fifth grade class to report he'd placed third in the day's spelling contest with no preparation. Mrs. McCarthy began collecting spelling lists, and ultimately both Ted and Mary, now 16, won both the school and county contests.

The national spelling title, however, isn't keeping Peg from considering a variety of eventual career choices. Queried about that this holiday season, she said, "I may go into some kind of language arts or medicine or maybe in something like archeology. There are all sorts of things I've been thinking about..."



Carolyn D. Jones

Mrs. Carolyn Jones hit out of class, never sent never strongly reprimanded peers. The Washburn Room treats her students with a return.

The nurse-turned-teacher of the Year 1979 Education and as such, title. Results will be announced.

Mrs. Jones, 1509 Clay recognition as a reason for teaching, slow her pace at irakes you want to do to add stimulus to continue to try to do better."

To her, she explained, most influential person family," for children. "I more than the parents do you have to let them know learn."

Nursing was Mrs. Jones still her second love. On Minnesota farm family during the Depression, at college. She chose nurse

It wasn't until 1962, classes mixed with raises full time that she received education from Washburn teaching. After another year's at the University of

She is active in nursing keeps her registered nursing