

Abram Hill

Aug. 24, 1939

Elder Horn

Elder Rosa Artimus Horn, leading spirit of the Church of All Nations can be heard every Sunday and Wednesday nights over station WHN. Mother Horn, as she is more commonly called is credited with having the first authentic presentation of an emotional people at worship broadcast over the radio. Her messages reach thousands through this medium. Every inch of her Mt Calvary Assembly Hall of the Pentecostal Faith Church at 400 Lenox Ave., is taken up by three thousand converts, skeptics and celebrities.

Elder Horn is handsomely brown, fifty-five and sincere. When she raises her arms to her flock on Sunday nights, she reminds one of what an angel should look like. She is dressed in a long white robe, her eyes brighten with the spirit of her Master as she looks down into a sea of faces. A choir of forty voices begin:

"Why don't you pray for me sometime.
Why don't you pray for me sometime.
You pray for me and I'll pray for you.
Why don't you pray for me sometime."

A momentary look of distaste seems to fit across her face. "This is not a show." She warns, as the white operator raises his hand in signal. "We want sincerity." But before her hand falls, her voice loses its momentary tartness and goes hurriedly. "We want you to let go, though, cut loose. Because we don't want no half hour of deadness on the air."

Her hands fall, forty voices, a piano, a bass drum, and a vibrating kettle drum swing into the conclusion of the theme song. Two hundred hands beat out an accompanying rhythm. A score of them are children, seated on the front of the pulpit. The excited youngsters out do their elders. Three white women and two white men seated on the rostrum, sway and clap ecstatically with the music. The show (not withstanding Elder Horn) is on. This is followed by the evening message by the Elder with musical interludes.

This unique radio program was introduced by JHN to compete with the sensational "Happy Am I Elder Lightfoot of Washington D.C." Elder Horn declares hers to be authentic and is not staged.

To be a follower of Elder Horn one must believe in God, fearful of the devil, sincere belief in faith healing, belief in witchcraft, find God's work and keep it going. She maintains that she is a living example of the power of God. The story of her first husband proves this. She was born in Columbia, South Carolina of slave parents. Her first husband, William Artimus, a musician, loved her so madly that he wanted to kill her when he learned that he was going to die of tuberculosis. This brought about her first miracle. The Lord lifted her bodily from one chair to another just as her love-crazed husband fired a bullet at her back. She believes that heavenly intention saved her from this attempt at assassination.

She and her daughter contracted tuberculosis. Soon expecting to follow in her husband's footsteps, they visited the Negro Pentecostal Church. They professed their belief and was cured. They prayed rendering thanks unto the Lord who in turn gave them Divine guidance. They came North bringing the word through Indiana, Illinois and New Jersey. Sister Woodworth Elter, white, ~~ordained~~ Rosa Antimus. After establishing a church at Evanston, Illinois, she ^{is} married William Horn.

One day a white father brought his seven year old daughter to Elder Horn. The child was ill. She had a stomach ailment (appendectomy). The doctors could not cure the child. Elder Horn laid hands on the ailing child and prayed. The ailment disappeared. The child is Jessica. Jessica followed her curor. Today, Jessica is pianist for the Church of All Faiths.

Elder Horn introduced herself to Brooklyn in 1926. In 1930 she opened a revival at the Old Olympia Sport Club on West 135 street and ~~the~~ ~~revival~~ was a tremendous success. She and her flock moved to 400 Lenox Ave. The temple, a second floor institution, was formerly a chop suey restaurant. with pool rooms on either sides. The elder prayed them both out of business.

Welfare work has not escaped the hand of the successful Elder. Silver offerings have helped her

established the Glovers Aid Home at 2101 Madison Ave. Here she cares for the destitute and jobless. One year she fed over 48,000 people.

Much of the success of Elder Horn and her flock has come from a means which she once opposed, the radio. In her early days, she was never sure whether or not, the radio was of the Devil or of God. "When radio was first suggested to me, I shuddered at what I then considered an instrument of the devil in my church activity. Jazz left me suspicious. Long and thoughtful prayer brought the answer---Go on the air. Reach out to every prison--shack and hospital!" Elder Rosa Horn apparently is doing alright.

BIBLIOLOGY

Amsterdam News
 New York Age
 Afro American
 New York Evening Post
 New York World Telegram

August 20, 1939

I visited the regular Sunday evening service at Mother Horn's church on Lenox Avenue. Though I was not able to talk with the elder, my impression was that her services or rather that her broadcast has the veneer of being staged.