

## MRS. BETHUNE HONORS DEFENDER PUBLISHER



Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, NYA leader and founder of the Bethune-Cookman college, joined with Chicago citizens last Saturday in paying tribute to John Sengstacke, president and general manager of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing company, and to Sengstacke's uncle, the late Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder and publisher of The Chicago Defender. The occasion was a testimonial luncheon held at Morris' and Dr. Bethune introduced Sengstacke as the principal speaker. Shown in photo at top, are (left to right), Former Congressman Oscar DePriest, Ethel Waters, star of the stage, screen and radio; Mrs. Susie Myers, chairman of the Citizens' committee sponsoring the testimonial and Mrs. Luella Bailey, hostess to Miss Waters during her stay in Chicago. In lower photo, Dr. Bethune is shown congratulating Sengstacke.

## Honor Sengstacke At Testimonial Luncheon

By ALBERT G. BARNETT

Several hundred Chicagoans, led by a distinguished "adopted" citizen—Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune—joined last Saturday at Morris' Cafe in a dual tribute to John Sengstacke, president and general manager of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing company, and to his uncle, the late Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder and publisher of The Chicago Defender.

The spirit of appreciation and recognition which dominated the testimonial luncheon was probably best expressed by Sengstacke, when he said:

"I am appreciative of the thoughtfulness which prompted this occasion, knowing that in honoring me today, you are thinking of my beloved uncle who was a pioneer in the field of Negro journalism.

"My uncle taught me by precept and education all I know, and gave me a challenge and an opportunity—and a charge to carry out the work he so ably began.

"Therefore, anything I may have done, any honors I receive, or any progress I may make, is to be credited to him, for daily I am merely trying to carry out his wishes and desires with which all of you are familiar.

### Pioneer Chicagoans

"I accept this honor, but I know also that to accept this recognition which you are bestowing on me as other than a testimonial to the work and achievements of my uncle, Robert S. Abbott, would be sacrilege on my part."

The testimonial luncheon was sponsored by the Citizens' Committee of Chicago, headed by Mrs. Susie Myers, chairman, and Mrs. Rebecca Stiles Taylor, secretary. Several hundred of Chicago's business, professional, religious and civic leaders packed Morris' main

dining room and overflowed into the auxiliary section.

Mrs. Myers acted as mistress of ceremonies and when the score or more citizens rose and presented tributes to Sengstacke and Abbott, it seemed like a roll call of pioneer Chicagoans—who joined with those of the present generation in honoring the late founder and the present head of "The World's Greatest Weekly."

### Introduced by Dr. Bethune

Dr. Bethune, founder of the Bethune-Cookman college and director of Negro affairs for the National Youth Administration, made a special trip to Chicago to attend the testimonial and later, to present Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President, as the principal speaker on Monday night at the rally held at Metropolitan Community church in honor of Dr. Bethune.

Dr. Bethune introduced Sengstacke as the main speaker after greetings had been extended by representatives of various organizations. Mayor Edward J. Kelly, who was unable to be present, sent a letter of regret and he was represented by Alderman George Kells.

Short addresses of greeting were delivered by the following: Miss Ethel Waters, stage, radio and screen star; Judge Wendell E. Green, for members of the Municipal Court bench; the Rev. Joseph M. Evans, Metropolitan Community church; Marjorie Stewart Joyner, for Mme. C. J. Walker company; Former Congressman Oscar DePriest; Commissioner James B. Cashin, for the Civil Service Commission; the Rev. Augustus E. Bennett, Grace Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Fannie Baxter, Chicago and Northern District Federation of Colored Women's clubs; A. L. Foster and Frazier T. Lane, for the Chicago Urban League; Oscar C. Brown, president, local branch NAACP and manager of Ida B. Wells Homes; Rep. Charles Jenkins, Illinois state assembly; Alderman Benjamin Grant; Prof. C. C. Valle, organizer, I.B.P.O.E. of W.; Theodore Charles Stone, Opera Guild; Mayme Mason Higgins, NYA of Illinois.

Miss Willa Brown, National Air-men's Association of America; the Rev. A. Wayman Ward, Greater Bethel A.M.E. church; Mrs. Lola M. Parker, Iota Phi Lambda; Carl Hansberry, National Negro Progress Association; Nora J. Scott, Silver Leaf Social, Art and Charity club; Mary C. Yantis, Catherine Johnson, Cora Scott, Katie Steal and many others.