

Frances Quock began her education at 53 when she entered Marygrove College. She is currently a candidate for the master's program. She is recipient of awards from the National Political Congress of Black Women and was on the board of directors of the organization from 1985-90.

FRANCES QUOCK

Going to the Graystone Ballroom was a wonderful thing. We would get all dressed up. This particular night Duke Ellington was playing, and no one would dance with me so I was standing there as a wallflower.

I became very insulted, and I said I'm going to go up to Duke Ellington and ask for his autograph. Instead of giving me an autograph he gave me a telephone number where there was going to be a party. My mother said, "Don't go with musicians. They're bad."

I'm sorry I didn't. I was invited to go to the J Hop at the University of Michigan. They were playing there. But what I learned from that was that Duke Ellington speaking with me and talking to me made me feel that I was such a wonderful woman, and that changed me, giving me a lot of self-esteem.

Every time that he would come to Detroit, he and Al Hibbler, they would call me up and we would go out and have lunch. That is what I remember about my first visit to Detroit.