Nationally Known Entertainer
On Stage Again for Gaslite

By CESY WASTELL

Members of the Junior League and their husbands are having a ball — and some hectic moments — rehearsing for the Gaslite Follies, which the league is putting on Thursday and Friday evenings at Boone auditorium.

But there is one member of their troupe who is calm, cool, and collected — because show business comes as naturally to her as the role she now plays as housewife and mother.

Mrs. Minton Hartz, before her marriage 31 years ago, was one of the top entertainers in the country. Many will remember her as Niela Goodelle, the saucy-aged songstress who shot to fame during the '20s and whose name was linked romantically with Rudy Vallee. Her career ended when she accepted a proposal of marriage from Dr. Hartz, who met her while she was appearing in a Miami Beach nightclub.

Niela was born in New York state, but when still a child moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where her father had invested heavily in real estate during the land boom there. From the time she was a little girl she studied to become a concert pianist — but even then, singing was in the back of her mind.

When Niela was 17, her family was caught in the Florida real estate crash. She gave up her music lessons (with some of the best teachers in the country) and put her talents to work. She went to Burton Thatcher, a popular singer and teacher, and made a deal with him. She offered to be his accompanist, and to take out her salary in voice lessons.

Later she accompanied the tenor on all his concerts, and one day at a high society party in Florida, he asked her to sing. She did. One of the guests, who was influential in show business, pointed her in the direction of New York City with a letter of introduction to some theatrical friends. This helped her win a scholarship to Berkshire Playhouse in Stockbridge, Mass., where she studied and appeared in productions with such greats as (to name a few) Katherine Hepburn and June Wyatt.

At the end of the season Niela was featured in an amateur musical review, “Jack in the Box.” Notices on the production, which are among the many she keeps in her scrapbook, proclaimed that her future in the musical stage was assured.

Teressa Helburn of the New York Theatre Guild was in the audience and immediately signed Miss Goodelle for the guild musical, “Garrick Garrick.” From then on it was up hill for the tiny singer.

One of the next steps in the ladder of fame came when she replaced her idol, Bath Estee, in the Ziegfeld Follies. Critics said, “She ranks with Miss Estee in her rendition of ‘Paradise.’” Later she toured the country with Ziegfeld Folies, replacing Jane Froman. This time critics were ever kinder, stating that she was a good replacement, a better songstress than Froman.

Niela’s career took her

Mrs. Minton Hartz, the former Niela Goodelle, looks over some of the photos that were taken of her in '30's. She was then considered one of the top blues singers in the country.
The above photo of Niola Goodloe (now Mrs. Mintum Hartz) was taken in the 1930's when she appeared weekly on a one-girl radio show for NBC.

DEAR ABBY:

Mom Will Find Company at Home

Mom, she'll have plenty of company her own age—and even older. I will send her a list of Homes in her area immediate-

ly or on request. She may use her correct name without fear or embarrassment. All inquiries are strictly confidential, good luck!

DEAR ABBY: Please tell that maidman's wife, who is afraid she'll lose her husband to one of those awful women who come to the door in her bath-
robe, something for me. Yes, I do have a passionate love for my mailman. He brought my children home when they fol-
lowed the garbage truck down the street and got lost. He pulled a little boy out by the path of an oncoming car right in front of my house one day. He brought our runaway dog and held him until the boys got there with the leash. He paid my postage due mail out of his own pocket when I had no change. (I repaid him.) He has walked through sprinklers to get to my mailbox. Sure I love him. Who wouldn't? But a great affair we never have. He has four children and I have seven. Besides, he doesn't have time for it, nor does Mother.

Mrs. P.