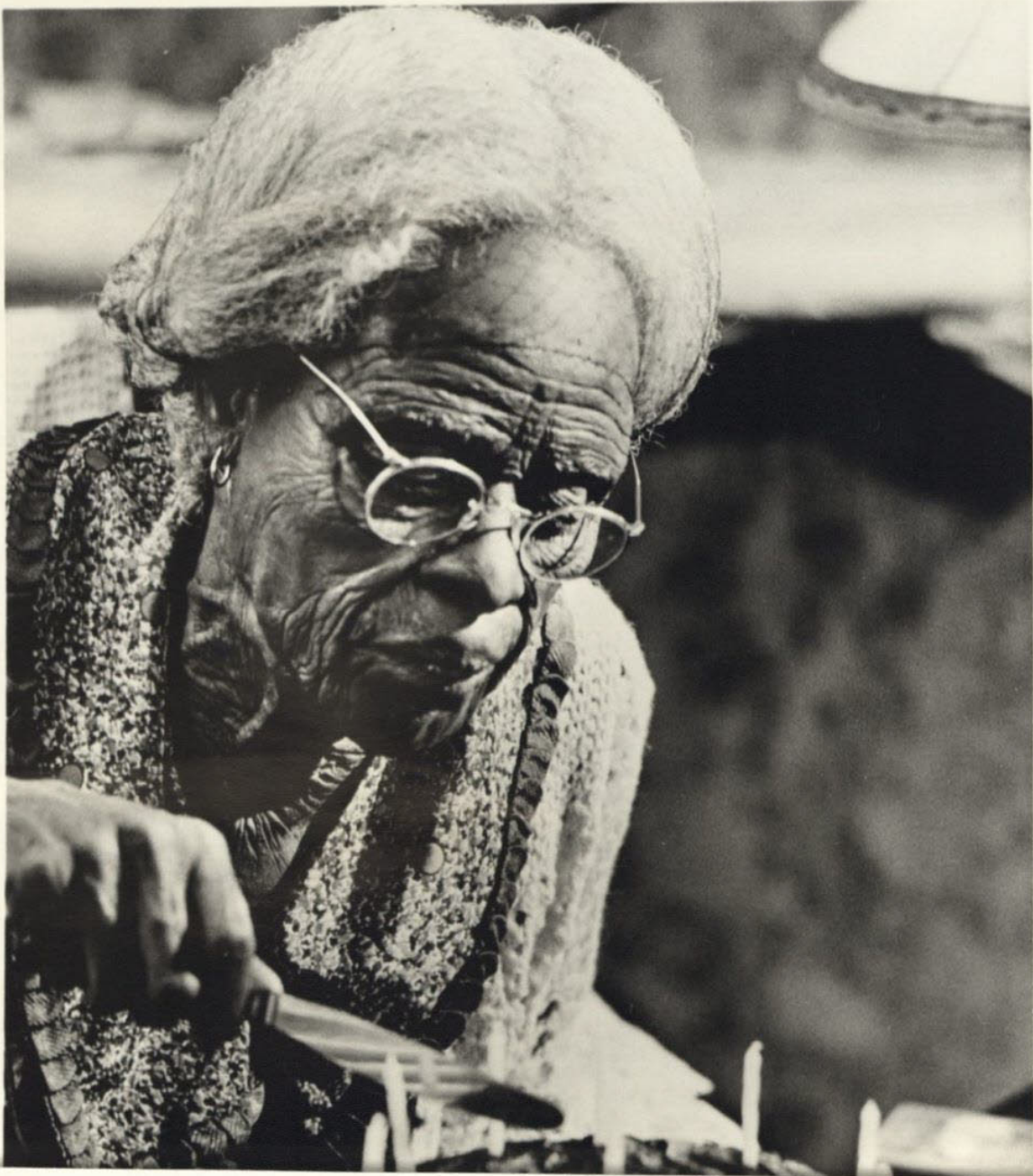




The Autobiography of
Miss Jane Pittman



From Frank Goodman Associates/251 West 57th St./New York, N.Y. 10019/212-246-4180

ty of
Miss Jane Pittman

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9-11 P.M. (EDT)



A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

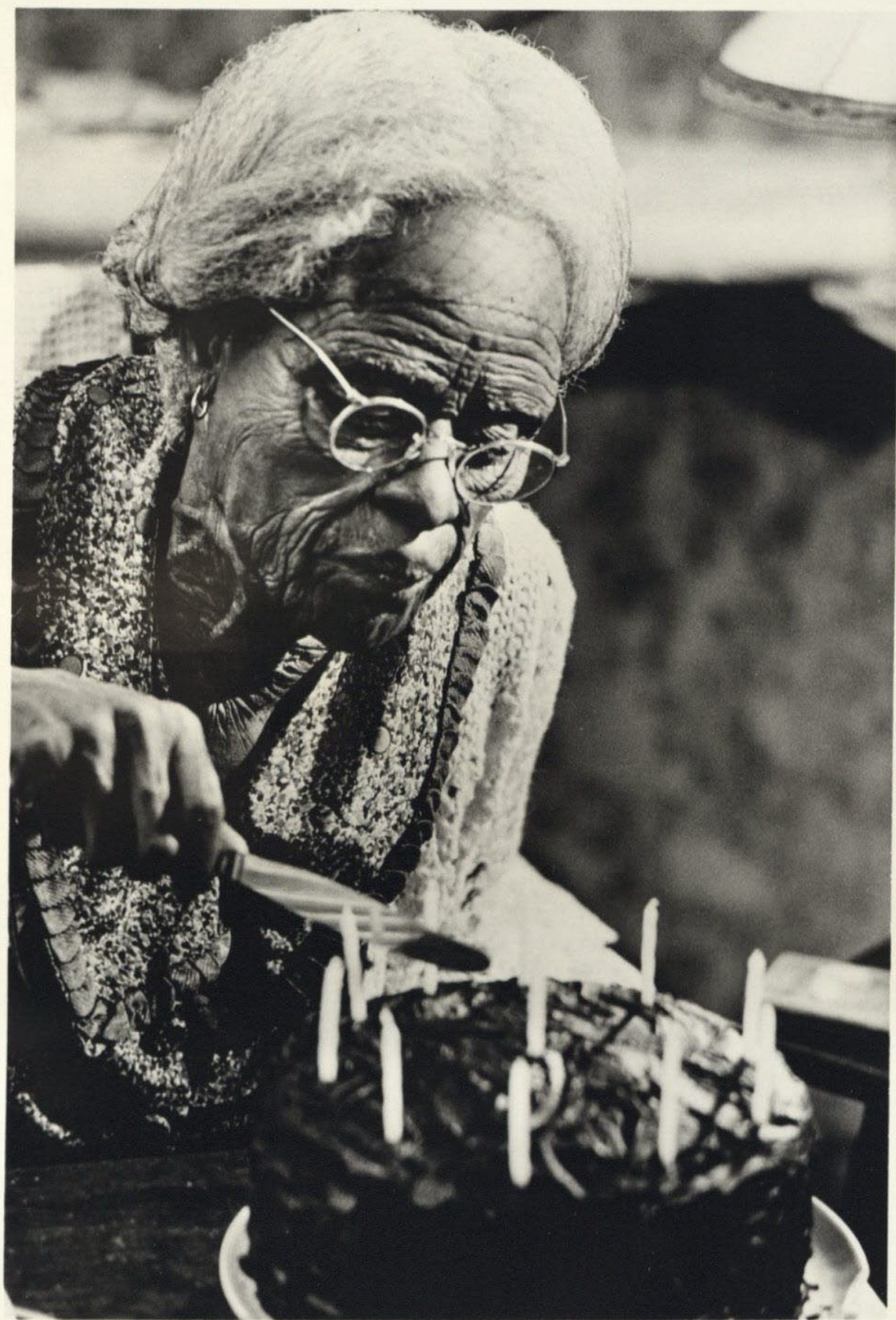
Miss Jane Pittman

EXCLUSIVE IN YOUR CITY

THREE FACES OF JANE: Cicely Tyson ages perceptibly--from 20 to 110--in the title role of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," whose fictional life--shown in three key stages above--spans the century between the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement. The Xerox special, based on Ernest Gaines' novel, will be seen on the CBS Television Network on Thursday evening, Jan. 31, 9-11 pm, EDT.

The Autobiography of
Miss Jane Pittman

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)



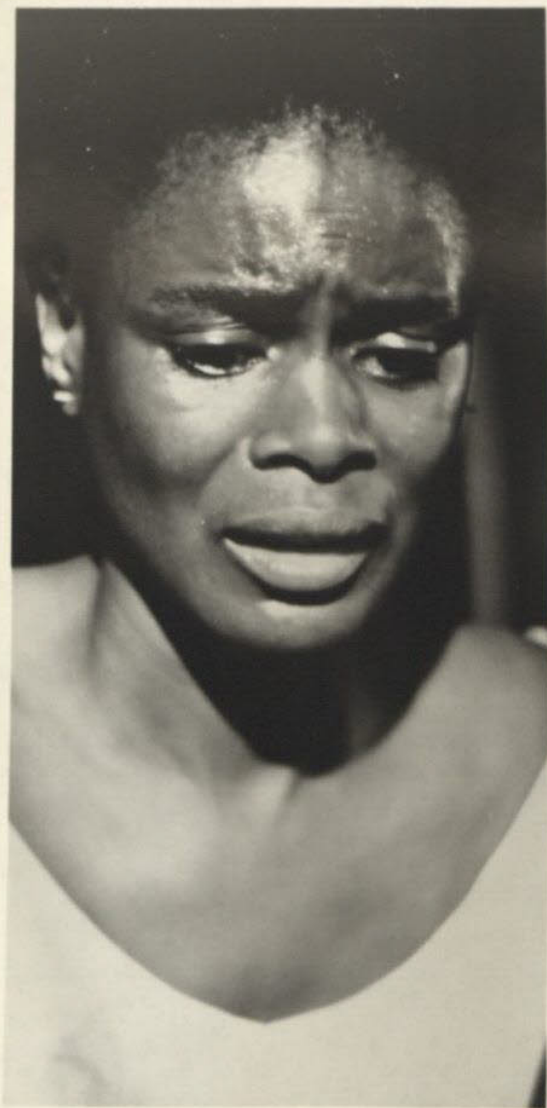
The Autobiography of **Miss Jane Pittman**

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

FOR USE AT WILL

BIRTHDAY GIRL: Cicely Tyson as the ageing "Miss Jane Pittman" cuts another birthday cake in the two hour Xerox special to be seen on the CBS Television Network on Thursday evening, Jan. 31 (9-11 pm, EDT). Based on Ernest Gaines' novel, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," depicts a century of change as told in the 110 year life of Miss Pittman, of her loves and personal tragedies, her triumphs and her unwavering courage.

G



The Autobiography of **Miss Jane Pittman**

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

EXCLUSIVE IN YOUR CITY

THREE FACES OF JANE: Cicely Tyson ages perceptibly--from 20 to 110--in the title role of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," whose fictional life--shown in three key stages above--spans the century between the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement. The Xerox special, based on Ernest Gaines' novel, will be seen on the CBS Television Network on Thursday evening, Jan. 31, 9-11 pm, EDT.

A/B



The Autobiography of

Miss Jane Pittman

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

FOR USE AT WILL

FIVE SCORE AND TEN--that's the astonishing age of the fictional character played by Academy Award nominee Cicely Tyson in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," to be telecast Thursday evening, Jan. 31 (9-11 pm, EDT) over the CBS Television Network. The Xerox special, based on Ernest J. Gaines' novel, covers most of the 110 year life of Miss Jane Pittman, a one-time slave who lived to participate in the Civil Rights movement.

G

The Autobiography of

Miss Jane Pittman

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

FOR USE AT WILL

FIVE SCORE AND TEN--that's the astonishing age of the fictional character played by Academy Award nominee Cicely Tyson in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," to be telecast Thursday evening, Jan. 31 (9-11 pm, EDT) over the CBS Television Network. The Xerox special, based on Ernest J. Gaines' novel, covers most of the 110 year life of Miss Jane Pittman, a one-time slave who lived to participate in the Civil Rights movement.

G

From Frank Goodman Associates/251 West 57th St./New York, N.Y. 10019/212-246-4180

Miss Jane Pittman

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

EXCLUSIVE IN YOUR AREA

VERSATILE CICELY TYSON ENACTS

110-YEAR-OLD ON XEROX SPECIAL

Versatility is the name of the game where actress Cicely Tyson is concerned.

As her first major television role, she portrayed a 13-year-old on "Brown Girl, Brownstone" for "Camera Three" on the CBS Television Network. Now, some 13 years later and an established TV and movie star, she will portray a 110-year-old woman in the title role of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman."

Adapted by Tracy Keenan Wynn from the novel by Ernest J. Gaines, the program will be televised as a Xerox special Thursday evening, Jan. 31, 9 to 11 o'clock (EDT) over the CBS Television Network.

For her role as the 13-year-old, Miss Tyson could draw on memories of her own childhood. But how does an actress research the portrayal of a 110-year-old? Miss Tyson sought out three old ladies, ranging in age from 97 to 105. "I explained to them that I was going to play a woman who was 110, which they found difficult to believe," she says. "I said I wanted to get a feeling of what it was like to be that old and to have lived in that time."

"Miss Jane Pittman" is a fictional account of a one-time slave's long, eventful life, from childhood on a Louisiana plantation as the Civil War ended to participation in the civil rights movement in the early 1960s.

Between her very young and very old roles, Miss Tyson appeared on several TV drama specials and co-starred with George C. Scott on the "East Side, West Side" TV series.

more/

She was nominated for an Oscar award last year for her portrayal of the courageous black wife in the movie, "Sounder." While she admits to having been slightly older than 13 at the time she played Rebecca, the girl of that age ("let's just say I was over 15," she says with a smile), it's easy to see that she is decades younger than the centenarian Miss Pittman. Converted by a uniquely complex makeup job into the 110-year-old woman, Miss Tyson in real life is a lissome young lady with a remarkably unlined face that might easily grace a magazine cover.

Each of the three old ladies she met was totally different from the others, Miss Tyson recalls. "The one who was 105 was obviously a very brilliant woman," she says. "I was amazed to discover that she was deaf, and it was easy to see that she was into senility. I would ask her a question and she'd say, 'I don't know -- it goes away and it comes back and it goes away . . .' and her voice would be way up there, like a little girl's.

"I could almost see her going back into her childhood," Miss Tyson continues. "I found it very difficult to relate to her because I just couldn't talk, I had to yell. Then finally, I decided to write, not knowing whether she'd be able to read.

"But she read my questions without glasses, and then would answer. And it was then I learned that she had been a school teacher, that she was one of the first students at one of the first all-black colleges."

But the Xerox special is not a drama about old age, Miss Tyson emphasizes. In Miss Pittman's life story, fictional though it is, is reflected the history of this nation, and particularly of its black citizens, for the past 100 years.

"The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" was produced by Rick Rosenberg and Bob Christiansen for Tomorrow Entertainment, and directed by John Korty.

FEATUREFOR USE AT WILL

HOW TO CHANGE YOUNG CICELY TYSON
INTO CENTURY-OLD 'JANE PITTMAN'

Lon Chaney, whose expertise at makeup made him the "man of 1,000 Faces" of silent movies fame, would have been proud of actress Cicely Tyson. As star of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," Miss Tyson is made to change from the beautiful young woman she is to a 110-year-old lady, who began life as a slave during the Civil War and lived to participate in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

But Chaney would not have envied Miss Tyson her daily makeup ordeal. It took six hours to apply the special plastic tissue each day, during which time the actress could do virtually nothing but sit and stare into space. That left approximately two hours each day for filming, after which makeup artists Stan Winston and Rick Baker again sat Miss Tyson down in a chair for the 45 minutes necessary to remove the special plastic tissue from her face.

A two-hour Xerox special, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" will be televised Thursday evening, January 31 at 9 o'clock (EDT) over the CBS Television Network. It is a fictional account of Miss Jane's experiences, from the first stirrings of freedom to the first civil rights march. Reflected in the life of this uneducated but dignified and courageous lady is the century of change that American blacks have endured.

What did Miss Tyson do while being converted each day beginning at 4 am, into a 110-year-old lady?

more/

"You know, the amazing thing is, as I look back on it, I wonder how I did it," she said as she searched the ceiling of the room for recollection. "But discipline is the No. 1 asset in this business. And once I had adjusted myself to the idea that I would have to sit for six hours, I just sat. What else can you do?"

While the makeup was being applied, Miss Tyson said, she could neither talk nor eat, although she occasionally sipped juice through a straw. "The only thing left to do was think," she said -- about what was going on in the room around her, or about creating the character of Miss Pittman. She admits that, "sometimes when I was relaxing, I fell asleep."

The Xerox special, produced by Rick Rosenberg and Bob Christiansen for Tomorrow Entertainment, was adapted by Tracy Keenan Wynn from the novel by Ernest J. Gaines and directed by John Korty. "Miss Pittman" was filmed on location, in and around Baton Rouge, La., the site of most of Gaines' novel. And that's where Miss Tyson sat for three-quarters of each working day to be made up.

The makeup was created of a pliable foam, soft and thin, not the usual hard foam rubber. "First of all," says Miss Tyson, "they did a mask of my face in plastic, then they took photographs of many old women, then began to build from these old pieces of face. The neck is one piece, then there's a piece of the chin, a piece of the cheekbone, then the side of the face and the nose."

Even Lon Chaney was never made up piecemeal like that -- but then, he never played a century-old lady.

Miss Jane Pittman

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

EXCLUSIVE IN YOUR AREA

AUTHOR EXPLAINS BASIS OF 110-YEAR-OLD
FORMER SLAVE IN XEROX DRAMA SPECIAL

A book reviewer once described Ernest J. Gaines's novel, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," as a "deeply-moving and beautifully-written fictional biography of a black woman born into slavery 10 years before freedom."

The author tells "in compelling first person of Miss Jane's experiences," the reviewer adds, "from the first thrill of freedom (after the Civil War) to a civil rights march when she is over a century old."

A two hour television adaptation of what another reviewer termed "the best American novel I've read in years" will be aired as a Xerox special Thursday evening, Jan. 31, 9 to 11 o'clock (EDT) over the CBS Television Network. Cicely Tyson, nominated for an Oscar award last year for her role in the movie, "Sounder," will portray the title role.

Author Gaines, now a resident of San Francisco, insists that he never intended his novel to be interpreted as some readers have -- as an historical saga of black Americans for the past century.

Rather, Gaines says, it's the story of one woman, one with no formal education, and her interpretation of events transpiring around her for more than 100 years of her life. "Miss Jane does not represent all black people," he says, "but one person who lived her life with great strength and dignity."

more/

"Pittman" Author/2

To Cicely Tyson, who met Gaines one day on the set of her "Sounder" movie, Miss Jane is a symbol of the long suffering but courageous black woman. The actress cited the story's denouement, when young black civil rights activists plead with her to join their cause as an inspiration to others.

Says Miss Tyson, "It's amazing to me that this woman who has been through all this suffering from her childhood as a slave would still, at the age of 110 in 1962, have the tenacity to push everybody aside and say, 'I'm going to do it. I'll be the one to do it.'"

Some readers of Gaines's novel admit they had constantly to remind themselves that Miss Jane is an invented character, that the story is indeed fiction. To the author, his novel resembles somewhat Gertrude Stein's "Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas." "Miss Stein was not writing so much about Miss Toklas," says Gaines, "as about the people and events around her at the time."

Much of the story is based on tales Gaines heard from people he grew up with in his native Louisiana. The fictional Miss Pittman lived most of her life in the area of Baton Rouge, where Gaines was raised. "We grew up on a plantation that once had slaves," he says. "In fact, the house where I was born was once the slave quarters."

Gaines's novel was adapted for the Xerox special by Tracy Keenan Wynn and produced by Rick Rosenberg and Bob Christiansen for Tomorrow Entertainment. Did the author object to his having been bypassed for the TV script?

"Never," he says emphatically. "I have never written a movie or TV script, and would not even have attempted this one. That requires a special skill, a special craft. But when I read Tracy's script, I thought he had done a tremendous job," Gaines concluded.

Miss Jane Pittman

A XEROX SPECIAL CBS-TV
Jan. 31, 9 to 11 P.M. (EDT)

FOR USE AT WILL

TRUE-TO-LIFE PORTRAYAL OF 'JANE PITTMAN'

CREATES PROBLEMS FOR XEROX TV SPECIAL

Who is this Jane Pittman that everybody's talking about?

Judging from all the talk, you might think she was an actual person, a 110-year-old woman whose life spanned the period from Civil War slavery to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. But that's not the case. She is a fictional character, subject of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," a Xerox special to be televised Thursday evening, Jan. 31, 9 to 11 o'clock (EDT) over the CBS Television Network.

"Miss Jane Pittman" was adapted by Tracy Keenan Wynn from the novel of the same title by Ernest J. Gaines, published by Dial Press in 1971. Possibly because Gaines chose to use that word "autobiography" in the title or because his writing is so realistic, even those most closely associated with the TV production -- who should, after all, know better -- sometimes forget themselves and refer to Jane Pittman as a real person.

Example: During a recent meeting to plan promotion for the special, one participant asked, "Are there any living relatives of Miss Pittman? If so, let's see if we can get them to attend a preview showing of the program."

Even actress Cicely Tyson, who portrays the title role in the TV production, confesses that she sometimes has trouble identifying Jane Pittman as a fictional character.

more/

"You know, the amazing thing is, as I look back on it, I wonder how I did it," she said as she searched the ceiling of the room for recollection. "But discipline is the No. 1 asset in this business. And once I had adjusted myself to the idea that I would have to sit for six hours, I just sat. What else can you do?"

While the makeup was being applied, Miss Tyson said, she could neither talk nor eat, although she occasionally sipped juice through a straw. "The only thing left to do was think," she said -- about what was going on in the room around her, or about creating the character of Miss Pittman. She admits that, "sometimes when I was relaxing, I fell asleep."

The Xerox special, produced by Rick Rosenberg and Bob Christiansen for Tomorrow Entertainment, was adapted by Tracy Keenan Wynn from the novel by Ernest J. Gaines and directed by John Korty. "Miss Pittman" was filmed on location, in and around Baton Rouge, La., the site of most of Gaines' novel. And that's where Miss Tyson sat for three-quarters of each working day to be made up.

The makeup was created of a pliable foam, soft and thin, not the usual hard foam rubber. "First of all," says Miss Tyson, "they did a mask of my face in plastic, then they took photographs of many old women, then began to build from these old pieces of face. The neck is one piece, then there's a piece of the chin, a piece of the cheekbone, then the side of the face and the nose."

Even Lon Chaney was never made up piecemeal like that -- but then, he never played a century-old lady.