

The Working Woman: *Part* 9-12-73

CSO TROMBONIST

BY MARILYN KERSHNER

Friends tease Betty Glover about being "full of hot air." In her case, it's an asset. Betty is the only woman in the country who plays bass trombone in a professional symphony orchestra.

THE BASS trombone differs from a "regular" trombone in its tone and weight (both heavier). It also has a bigger mouthpiece, explains Betty, whose 5 feet 2 inch frame barely exceeds that of her trombone.

Ms Glover played with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) since 1952, and has witnessed a lot of changes in that time.

"We can now count on a living wage, and a 52-week contract," reports Betty, whose trombone "mascot" is a 3-inch plastic human skeleton, "to remind us of those lean days when we only had 28-week contracts and went hungry a lot."

The average age of a symphony performer has dropped considerably from the 45-50 year old average of 20 years ago. And the orchestra is nearly now one-fourth female, compared to former years when Betty and the harpist were the only women.

MS GLOVER started playing brass instruments in fourth grade in Springfield, Ill., studying first the trumpet, then euphonium, then trombone. She received a bachelor of arts degree from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and became the principal trombonist with the Kansas City (Mo.) Philharmonic. Four years later, she moved to the Columbus (Ohio) orchestra.

AFTER THE orchestra "folded," Betty free-lanced in Cincinnati, until landing a teaching job at Otterbein College in Westerville. In 1952, after filling in with the CSO during May Festival, she became a permanent member of our orchestra.

There's a certain amount of drudgery involved with "making beautiful music." There are the rehearsals—five to six



Photographer: MAX SAMUELSON

BETTY GLOVER

hours a day of "utter concentration. My job requires a lot of stamina for the sheer physical effort of playing. There's constant pressure to produce. And since there is only one bass trombone in a symphony orchestra, your every note is exposed."

"I don't think audiences fully realize how musicians react to the conductor," observes Betty. "The excitement of performing can wear out, when you've played the number many times before. But there are a few conductors who have that 'intangible something' who can regenerate that excitement."

BETTY REMEMBERS especially playing under George Szell, Josef Krips and Fausto Cleva. As for Cincin-

nati's Thomas Schippers—"I think he's rather fantastic."

Besides performing year-round with the CSO, Ms Glover (whose master's degree is also from the Cincinnati Conservatory) also conducts a hand-picked brass choir at the University of Cincinnati's College of Conservatory of Music, and teaches a class in brass orchestral repertoire.

At home in Finneytown, she enjoys reading French mysteries, caring for her massive Bouvier des Flandres rare-breed dog and doing "ethnic" cooking.

"Food is the passion of musicians the world over. When you're a musician on the road (concert-tours) the only fun thing to do is eat!"