WASHINGTON WANTS TO BE UNITED NATIONS INTERPRETER

ON THE DAY the DP train is due, Harold Washington is down at Los Angeles Union Station at 4:45 a.m., making ready for the arrival of his European charges. The actual job of handling them does not begin until four hours later, however, and the whole operation takes only about 40 minutes. Aided by his two assistants, a ramp car driver and another redhead, it is Washington’s responsibility to see that baggage carts are in the right place for unloading and reloading, and that the confused refugees are started on their way to reunions with relatives or to new jobs.

The high respect now paid Washington by his superiors for the way in which he has voluntarily equipped himself for his extra-curricular redemption duties, has encouraged some of his fellow workers to take up the study of languages. Three other redcaps are now busy with night school courses, and the station’s passenger director is studying Spanish.

Harold Washington wants to make interpreting his life’s work. He is preparing himself for such a job (which he hopes to get with the UN) by advanced study at the University of Southern California under the California Veterans Affairs program. He has already used up his GI educational rights. Washington is specializing in Spanish and foreign relations and has applied for a $1,000 scholarship at several schools which will help him with his advanced work. Even if he fails to receive the scholarship, he still intends to pursue his language studies. “I’ll just keep on working that much longer at the job of redecking,” he says, “until I earn the thousand.”

In his present job, Washington is carrying on a tradition of excellent railroad service in this family. His father, pioneer Californian Morris Washington, worked as a Pullman porter for 25 years up to his retirement. Harold Washington began working as a redeck back in 1937, but after three years, quit to become a mail carrier. He left the postal service to enlist in the U. S. Air Corps during World War II, and after his discharge in 1947, returned to his original job at the Los Angeles station.

Despite his varied activities and the responsibilities of his job, Washington is essentially a family man, the father of two bright-eyed youngsters. He spends as much time as possible with his boys and wife, Minnie, a former school teacher, and has found that they, too, can share with him some of the advantages of his foreign languages education. Last summer the Washington family toured Mexico, and already they are planning another more extensive vacation.
CHARMING Dorothy Dandridge, already a success as an actress and a singer, is rapidly gaining fame as one of the best-dressed entertainers in supper club circles. From Los Angeles to London, the suave young singer has been attracting almost as much attention with her carefully-planned wardrobe as she has with her songs.

A veteran in show business despite her youth, Dorothy Dandridge believes that both her gowns and her songs should be selected carefully to fit the mood and make-up of her audiences. Before each performance, Miss Dandridge tries to sense the flavor of each particular audience before making final selection of a gown for a performance.

In keeping with the up-to-the-minute fashion trends of today, Miss Dandridge's wardrobe includes all of the new evening styles which Paris advocates.

One of her most striking costumes is a black velvet trouser outfit (left) which has slashed pockets and buttons tightly at the ankles. Designed by Gernotch, this costume was meant for appearances before intimate, smart-set groups. Like many of her costumes, this one is a "convertible" which can be changed quickly into a very feminine, fluffy gown (see bottom next page) for appearances before more select groups.