

BETTY GARRETT

Singing roles in a succession of Broadway hits led blue-eyed Betty Garrett to the peak of her profession and a film contract at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, where she made her screen debut in "The Big City," then sang and danced in "Words and Music" and next portrayed Frank Sinatra's sweetheart in "Take Me Out To The Ball Game".

Born in St. Joseph, Mo., May 23, daughter of Curtis and Octavia Garrett, she was educated in public schools at Seattle, Washington.

On the strength of poetry she wrote as a child, she was given a scholarship to Annie Wright Seminary at Tacoma, Wash., a private girls school of high scholastic standing. Her studies there and her talent for dancing and acting won her a scholarship to the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. Jobs as a saleslady and an elevator operator helped meet expenses.

Following graduation from the Playhouse, Betty obtained singing positions at The Village Vanguard, La Martinique, New York City; Clover Club, Hollywood; Drake Hotel, Chicago and other night spots. In 1942 she was signed to appear in the Broadway production of "Let Freedom Ring."

Later that year she appeared with Ethel Kerman in "Something For the Boys," also understudying the star. The play ran through 1943 and in 1944 she signed to sing in "Jackpot" with Allan Jones and Jerry Lester. "Laffing Room Only," Olsen and Johnson comedy, followed in 1945. In 1946 she was given the starring role in "Call Me Mister".

She married Larry Parks, September 8, 1944. Separated by their work shortly after, they are now together for the first time in their own home, a small white frame house in Hollywood.

Betty's favorite sports are swimming, motorcycling and skiing. She draws as a hobby and often makes cartoons of herself. While in school she won the Northwestern women's javelin championship. She likes dancing, crossword puzzles and mystery stories.

Her pets include a cat named "Pepper" and two orange kittens named "Focky" and "Peaches," and a red Irish setter called "Mister." She dislikes (and wears a minimum) make-up and she likes to slip her shoes off when she returns home at the end of a busy day. While appearing in "Call Me Mister," she won the Donaldson Award for the best musical comedy performance of 1946.

She is 5 feet 5 inches in height, weighs 120 pounds and has ash-blonde hair. She still likes to write and is now at work on a children's operetta. Her own illustrations will be used when the operetta is published.

STATISTICS

Born Betty Garrett, May 23, in St. Joseph, Mo. Parents: Curtis, traveling salesman, and Octavia Garrett. Schooling: Seattle, Wash., public schools, Annie Wright Seminary, Tacoma, Wash., and Neighborhood Playhouse, New York. Married to Larry Parks, September 8, 1944, Hollywood. Height: 5 feet, 5 inches. Weight: 120 pounds. Hair: ash-blond. Eyes: blue.

Stage: Singer at Village Vanguard, La Martinique, Clover Club and other night clubs. "Let Freedom Sing," 1942; "Something for the Boys," 1942-43; "Jackpot," 1944; "Laffing Room Only," 1945; "Call Me Mister," 1946.

Screen: "Big City," "Words and Music" and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," 1948.

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