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METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

THIS IS A KEY SET PRINT

J. Cal

QUEEN OF BATHING BEAUTIES...To Esther Williams a bathing suit is eminently fitting, and how! In this model from the new Cole of California line, it's a case of both the suit and Esther complementing each other.

This two-piece cotton Matletex of striking print is attractively styled for girls of ideal proportions.

Esther portrays the role of a bathing suit manufacturer in her latest Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, "Neptune's Daughter," Technicolor musical which also stars Red Skelton, Ricardo Montalban, Betty Garrett, Keenan Wynn and Xavier Cugat and his orchestra. The swimming star wears several beautiful new suits in the picture.

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Since that time she has made her feat of becoming a national champion in two years look mild by comparison with the progress she has made in the highly competitive movie world. She trained well before going into a picture and the promise she showed as an actress in "Bathing Beauty" has been fulfilled in "Thrill of a Romance," "Easy to Wed," "Fiesta," "This Time for Keeps," "On an Island With You," "Take Me Out To the Ball Game," "Neptune's Daughter," and "Duchess of Idaho."

In November, 1945, she was married to Ben Gage, radio announcer and singer, and they honeymooned in Mexico where she was on location with the "Fiesta" company. In that picture of life South of the Border, Esther again garnered laurels by her portrayal of a bullfighter. She also made many friends in Mexico both for herself and for this country, for to them she is an All-American girl with her beauty, vitality, and vivaciousness. And that is exactly what she is in real life as well as in her screen roles.

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STATISTICS

Born, Esther Williams, Los Angeles, California, August 8, daughter of Lou and Bula Williams. Educated in public schools, Los Angeles City College, and University of Southern California. Married to Ben Gage, 1945. One son, Benjamin Stanton Gage, born August 6, 1948. Height, five feet, seven inches. Weight, 123 pounds. Hair, brown. Eyes, hazel. Occupations: swimming champion, actress.

SCREEN: "Andy Hardy Steps Out," "Andy Hardy's Double Life," 1942; "A Guy Named Joe," 1943; "Bathing Beauty," "Ziegfeld Follies," 1944; "Thrill of a Romance," "Easy to Wed," "The Hoodlum Saint," 1945; "Fiesta," "This Time for Keeps," 1946; "On an Island With You," 1947; "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," "Neptune's Daughter," 1948; "Duchess of Idaho," 1949; "Pagan Love Song," 1950

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ESTHER WILLIAMS

Esther Williams, who came to the screen as a famed swimming star and soon became a film celebrity as well, went to Hawaii for the filming of her latest picture, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Pagan Love Song," and found possibly her most exciting movie experience. In the Islands, where great swimmers are especially beloved, she donned fetching sarongs and swam with stellar native swimmers in scenes that promise to make the new Technicolor musical her outstanding film.

Just shortly before, and only two months after the birth of her son, she had returned to the screen to join Van Johnson in "Duchess of Idaho," in which she skis, ice-skates, plays golf, tennis and square-dances -- as well as swims!

Esther was born in Los Angeles, August 8, the youngest of five children of Lou and Bula Williams. Her oldest brother, Stanton, died when she was very young. Her two older sisters, Maureen and June, are married and have two daughters each. Her brother Davis is married and has a boy and a girl. When the Williams family has a get-together, which is frequently, it requires a good-sized dinner table.

Esther's love of swimming came to her naturally for her family used to take her frequently to the beach. When she was eight, a public playground pool was built near her home, largely through the efforts of her mother's P.T.A. activities. Esther earned her swimming time by counting towels -- one hour's free swimming for every hundred towels.

She attended public schools, Los Angeles City College and the University of Southern California. When she was fifteen, the Los Angeles Athletic Club coaches saw her swim and suggested that if she would work very hard they thought she could become a champion in four years.

"I can't wait that long," replied Esther, "I'll do it in two or not at all." And she did, winning the Women's Outdoor Nationals at Des Moines in the 100-meter free style, and was a member of the champion 200 and 400-meter Medlen relay teams. She also set a record for the 100-meter breast stroke that year.

The nationals were the tryouts for the Olympics to be held in Helsinki, Finland, and Esther was in training to carry the U.S. colors in the greatest of all sports events when the war came along and the meet was canceled.

Practical Esther decided she couldn't eat medals and promptly got a job modeling at Magnin's. Soon thereafter Billy Rose, planning the Aquacade at the San Francisco World's Fair, heard about the lovely champion swimmer. He made her such an attractive offer that she decided to turn professional and for the entire run of the Fair, was star of the show.

Esther soon had movie offers galore. But she felt that she was a swimmer and not an actress, and for almost a year after she returned home and went back to her job of modeling, she shied away from the studios.

But one day a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer representative offered her a contract which assured her a chance to study and prepare herself before facing the cameras. It was a challenge and Esther decided to accept it.

* - Parent Teacher Association .