NAME    Gene Kelly
BIRTHPLACE Pittsburgh, Pa.
BIRTHDAY Aug. 23

HEIGHT 5' 9"    WEIGHT 160 lbs.    COLOR HAIR Black    COLOR EYES Brown

FATHER James Patrick Kelly
OCCUPATION
RESIDENCE

MOTHER Harriet Kelly
OCCUPATION Housewife
RESIDENCE Pittsburgh, Pa.

EDUCATED Public schools of Pittsburgh; Pennsylvania State College, University of Pittsburgh.

MARRIED TO Betsy Blair, actress, September 22, 1941.

CHILDREN (Names & Date of Birth) Daughter, Kerry, born October 16, 1942.

CITIES LIVED IN Pittsburgh, Pa., New York City, Beverly Hills, Calif.

STAGE AND RADIO EXPERIENCE Appeared on Broadway in "Leave It to Me", "One for the Money", "Time of Your Life" and "Pal Joey". Has appeared on numerous radio programs.
GENE KELLY

Gene Kelly today ranks as one of filmdom's most versatile creative artists. Acknowledged as one of the world's greatest dancers, he has attained success also as a dramatic actor of considerable stature, as a better than average singer, as an imaginative choreographer, as an accomplished writer, and as a gifted director.

He was born August 23 in Pittsburgh, Pa., the son of James Patrick and Harriet Kelly. The father was an executive with the Columbia Gramophone Company in that city.

It was while he was still in grammar school that Gene began attending dancing school. It was obvious at the start that he had a natural aptitude for the dance but neither he nor his parents dreamed at the time that he would someday make a career out of show business. It was the intention of the family that he should become a lawyer and with this thought in mind, young Kelly enrolled at Pennsylvania State College. After one year, he transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, still with the thought of entering the legal profession.

However, by the time he was ready to graduate from "Pitt", Gene had decided that the career of a lawyer was not for him. With his brother, Fred, he had already started a dancing school in Pittsburgh and after he left college he determined to devote all of his time and energy to this enterprise.

His mother joined the two boys as business manager and under her guidance and advice the Kelly School of Dancing became so successful that soon a branch was opened in nearby Johnstown, Pa. Two years after he had completed his college education, Gene Kelly decided he should go to New York and obtain some professional experience. His idea was to become a dance director for Broadway shows. Once
arrived in the metropolis, however, he found he would have to establish a reputation for himself. He obtained a small dancing role in the musical, "Leave It to Me" (in which he danced with three other boys as background for Mary Martin when she sang "My Heart Belongs to Daddy"). Next he appeared in "One for the Money" and then essayed a dramatic role in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Time of Your Life".

During this period Kelly was also directing dances for the famous Diamond Horseshoe night club shows. It was here that he met Betsy Blair, who applied to him for a dancing part but settled for the job of Mrs. Kelly. They were married September 22, 1941.

In the autumn of 1940 came the big break for the young dancer. He was cast in the title role of "Pal Joey", which turned out to be the smash musical on Broadway that year. He was deluged with film offers but signed with M-G-M.

In Hollywood his first assignment was opposite Judy Garland in "For Me and My Gal". This was followed, in rapid succession, by "Pilot No. 5", "Du Barry Was a Lady" and "Thousands Cheer".

Soon Kelly was gaining an enviable reputation as a choreographer. He staged his own dances for most of his films, including the dance with the cartoon mouse in "Anchors Aweigh".

During World War II, Kelly gave up his acting career and entered the U.S. Navy as an enlisted man. Two-and-one-half years later he emerged as a lieutenant.

Following return to civilian life, Kelly appeared in "The Pirate", "Words and Music" and "The Three Musketeers", among other films. He also co-authored, with his friend, Stanley Donen, the
original story for "Take Me Out to the Ball Game", in which he co-starred with Esther Williams. With Donen he co-directed "On the Town" and "Singin' in the Rain", two musicals in which he also starred.

After winning a special Academy Award for his work as star and choreographer of "An American in Paris", Kelly was assigned by M-G-M to direct and star in "Invitation to the Dance", an all dancing musical for which he also created the choreography.

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TINTYPE

GENE KELLY...One of the hardest-working artists in Hollywood, is also one of the most versatile...he lives and breathes motion pictures and is alive with ideas for dances and stories...during production of a film, such as "Invitation to the Dance", it is not unusual for him to work 16 hours a day...which means he must do without the ten hours sleep that he likes to get when he isn't working...he lives in the same modest home which he and his wife purchased when they first came to Hollywood and before he had become an important star...he is "gregarious" and is intensely loyal to his friends...he "abhors" night clubs and is seldom found in one...he is a rabid motion picture fan and likes to see at least three films a week...he is a steak-and-potatoes man...and has a weakness for ice cream...he is devoted to his wife and daughter and insists that they accompany him whenever his work takes him away from home, as it has for his recent films...he likes to alternate his movie appearances by playing in both musical and dramatic films...he plans someday to devote all of his energy to motion picture directing and writing.

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