

## Jackie Gleason's Television Wife . . . .

The day before the 1954 Emmys were awarded by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Audrey Meadows was stopped by Stanley Poe, assistant director of Jackie Gleason's show.

"Oh, Audrey," he said casually, "we have something for you."

He led her to a desk, pulled open a drawer and produced a small gold statuette. It looked almost exactly like an Oscar.

"We haven't had a chance to have it engraved yet," he said. "But we all wanted you to know we think you should get an Emmy and just in case you don't, this is our award to the gal we think is the best actress on TV."

Today this gold statuette has a place of honor on a bookshelf in Audrey Meadows' bedroom. It stands close to the Emmy she received as TV's outstanding supporting actress. There are other mementos scattered around the room—a gold cup she won in a mambo contest at El Morocco, her Sylvania award (a clock which, incidentally, keeps perfect time) for "most outstanding female performance in TV," a small mounted motto reading "Three elephants are always heavier than one, Jackie Gleason."

And many more. They all testify to the talent and popularity of the tall, pretty redhead. But it wasn't always so. She is a self-confessed ex-shrinking violet. She was "painfully shy," she says, and it took many years and many people to convert the introverted little girl who never spoke to anyone outside her immediate family into the popular belle-of-TV that is Audrey Meadows today.

To reconstruct the Case of the Ex-Shrinking Violet, we must go first to Wuchang, China, where Audrey's father was an Episcopal missionary. Audrey, her sister Jayne and brother were born there, though Audrey, the youngest, remembers little of life in Wuchang. "Just the things a five-year-old would remember," she says. "I remember the dragon parade and I remember we'd go up to the mountains for the summer. I imagine that was beautiful, but all I remember is that when you hit somebody with a morning glory they got a blue stain where you hit them."

When Audrey was five the family moved to Providence, Rhode Island, where her father took the pup of a church. Soon after they arrived, little Audrey fell through a skylight and her left leg was horribly cut.

"They were almost going to amputate it at the knee," she says. "But they managed to save it. Do you see these scars?"

Along her shinbone are very obvious long marks. "They are one of the main reasons I was so shy. You know, children at that age never want to be different. And I was, because of my leg. If we went to the beach in the summer, I had to smear salve all over it and cover it with a long white stocking. Well, you know what the other kids did about that. They'd come up to me and say, 'What did you do to your leg? I never went to the beach.'"

For years the fear of being teased about her scars haunted her. As she grew older, she developed a habit of sitting on that leg. But when her other forms of shyness vanished, that did too. Now she isn't a bit self-conscious of that imperfection.

She and Jayne, in common with many ministers' children, got clerical scholarships to

boarding school. They attended different schools, and, alone, Audrey again turned to books. Her best friends, she read every book on the "suggested reading list," not just the minimum requirements. And she decided that she would be a newspaper woman. It was all set. She would go to college—she even passed her entrance exams for Smith College—and then go and get a job on a newspaper somewhere.

But Jayne had other ideas—and Jayne, two years older and by nature an extrovert, was Audrey's idol.

"Jayne decided we would both be actresses," Audrey says. "I never even spent a day at college. It's funny how many ministers' children become actors, encouraged by them. Her father even drove them to New York—by then, he was preaching in Sharon, Connecticut—and waited while they auditioned. They got into the first of a series of apartments in Manhattan. The first one was a far cry from the sumptuous, pink-and-white East Side apartment which Audrey now occupies. Jayne recently broke up the sister set by marrying Steve Allen."

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"When I got there," Audrey remembers, "there were dozens of girls waiting. I couldn't understand how they had stayed so dry. But I just sat down and waited my turn. When it came, I gave my music to the conductor. I had my best songs on that tape. Jayne got around her on that score, too, however. She suggested that Audrey audition for singing parts, she knew Audrey had a lovely voice and liked singing. She'd sung in choirs and small vocal groups, under Dick Kleiner in "Better Living."

So the two sisters set out for the stage. The parents, far from the staid straight-laced ministerial prototypes, encouraged them. Her father even drove them to New York—by then, he was preaching in Sharon, Connecticut—and waited while they auditioned. They got into the first of a series of apartments in Manhattan. The first one was a far cry from the sumptuous, pink-and-white East Side apartment which Audrey now occupies. Jayne recently broke up the sister set by marrying Steve Allen."

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**LAST STRAW DOESN'T SHOW**—L. D. Wilson, shown reloading all this hay on his truck, thought he had found the last straw. Once the mess, caused by one broken bale, was cleared from this street, he was wrong. After reloading, Wilson found his truck had a flat tire, and he had to unload again.



**COURAGEOUS**—Two-year-old Carol Frances Woodward, both her arms amputated, solemnly plays with her toy dog in a hospital. Carol's arms were amputated after she fell beneath a moving train. The courageous girl spends endless hours playing with her constant companion, the toy dog.

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## TABLE TALKS by Jane Andrews

Here are some recipes for luncheon dishes of the heartier variety which have the advantage of speedy preparation. I'm sure you and your folks will enjoy them thoroughly.

**HAM TETRAZZINI**  
4 To 6 Servings  
Bake in moderate oven, 350° F., 30 min.

1 10½-ounce can cream of mushroom soup  
1 cup milk  
1 teaspoon prepared horseradish  
1 cup shredded sharp Canadian cheese  
1 cup (¼ pound) baked ham, cut in strips  
1 8-ounce package spaghetti, cooked  
2 tablespoons chopped parsley  
1 3 or 4-ounce can sliced mushrooms

1 cup bread stuffing  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
Blend soup and milk until smooth. Add horseradish, cheese, ham, spaghetti, parsley and mushrooms with liquid. Bake in a 1-quart casserole, with stuffing mixed with ham.

**MACARON-PEACHES**  
Bake in moderately low oven, 325° F., 15 to 20 minutes.  
1 large can peach halves, drained  
¼ cup peach syrup  
2 tablespoons almond extract  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
1 cup macaron crumbs (about 4)  
3 tablespoons butter

Place peach halves, cut side up, in a shallow 9" baking dish. Combine peach syrup and almond extract; pour over peaches. Mix brown sugar with macaron crumbs; spoon mixture into peach halves. With butter. Bake as directed until crisp and brown. (Best in oven with cheese pudding.) Serve hot with thin cream if desired.

**DEVILED CHEESE PUDDING**  
8 slices day-old bread, crusts removed  
1 4½-ounce can deviled ham  
1 pound (2 cups) shredded sharp Canadian cheese  
2 eggs, slightly beaten  
2 cups milk

Spread each slice of bread with ham. Lay 4 slices in the bottom of a greased 8" by 8" by 2" baking dish. Sprinkle with half the cheese. Use the remainder of the bread and cheese to make a second layer. Combine eggs and milk; pour over layers in baking dish. Let stand 15 minutes. Bake in a moderately low oven, 325° F., 1 hour. Serve immediately, while hot and puffy. Make 4 to 6 servings.

**VEGETABLE MEAT SOUP**  
4 To 6 Servings  
1 small onion, sliced  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 pound can meat balls  
1 20-ounce can (2½ cups) tomatoes  
2 cups water  
½ cup cooked, canned julienne carrots  
½ cup uncooked rice  
½ tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
1 bay leaf  
1 teaspoon salt

Fry onion in butter in deep saucepan. Add meat balls with liquid; stir in rest of ingredients; simmer, covered, 25 minutes, or until rice is tender. Serve with Parmesan Rolls, vegetable relishes and Cranberry-Orange Squares.

**PARMESAN CHILI ROLLS**  
makes 6  
Bake in a hot oven, 400° F., 5 minutes.  
6 tablespoons Parmesan cheese  
¼ teaspoon chili powder  
¼ cup mayonnaise  
6 large round crusty rolls

Mix cheese, chili and mayonnaise. Make 2 crisscross slashes in tops of rolls. Spread filling generously between cuts. Bake as directed. Serve hot with soup.

**CRANBERRY-ORANGE SQUARES**  
1 cup quick-cooking oats  
1 4-ounce can orange rind  
½ cup all-purpose flour  
1 ½ cups brown sugar, firmly packed  
½ cup butter  
1 1-pound can whole cranberry sauce  
½ cup fresh orange sections, diced  
½ cup heavy cream, whipped and sweetened  
Mix oats, rind, flour and sugar

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in a bowl. Cut in butter until crumbly. Press half the mixture into a greased 8" by 8" by 2" baking dish. Combine cranberry sauce and oranges; spread over rest of oatmeal mixture. Bake in a moderate oven, 350° F., 45 minutes. Cut into squares and serve with whipped cream. Makes nine 3" squares.

**MACARON-PEACHES**  
Bake in moderately low oven, 325° F., 15 to 20 minutes.  
1 large can peach halves, drained  
¼ cup peach syrup  
2 tablespoons almond extract  
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½ cup fresh orange sections, diced  
½ cup heavy cream, whipped and sweetened  
Mix oats, rind, flour and sugar

Try onion in butter in deep saucepan. Add meat balls with liquid; stir in rest of ingredients; simmer, covered, 25 minutes, or until rice is tender. Serve with Parmesan Rolls, vegetable relishes and Cranberry-Orange Squares.

**PARMESAN CHILI ROLLS**  
makes 6  
Bake in a hot oven, 400° F., 5 minutes.  
6 tablespoons Parmesan cheese  
¼ teaspoon chili powder  
¼ cup mayonnaise  
6 large round crusty rolls

Mix cheese, chili and mayonnaise. Make 2 crisscross slashes in tops of rolls. Spread filling generously between cuts. Bake as directed. Serve hot with soup.

**CRANBERRY-ORANGE SQUARES**  
1 cup quick-cooking oats  
1 4-ounce can orange rind  
½ cup all-purpose flour  
1 ½ cups brown sugar, firmly packed  
½ cup butter  
1 1-pound can whole cranberry sauce  
½ cup fresh orange sections, diced  
½ cup heavy cream, whipped and sweetened  
Mix oats, rind, flour and sugar

Try onion in butter in deep saucepan. Add meat balls with liquid; stir in rest of ingredients; simmer, covered, 25 minutes