



Miss America Tells Her Plans

New York, Sept. 13 (AP)—Eighteen-year-old "Miss America" said today she isn't going to match her curves against those of "Mrs. America."

Jacque Mercer, Litchfield Park, Ariz., wearer of the pulchritude crown awarded at Atlantic City, N. J., last week, told newsmen she isn't going to take up the challenge of Mrs. Frances L. Cloyd of San Diego, Calif.

Mrs. Cloyd, named "Mrs. America" at Asbury Park, N. J., last week-end, has said: "I'll match my shape against hers any day."

But Miss Mercer turned down the dare. "I'm not a missus yet, so I'm not going to compete with her."

Besides, she added: "I've entered the highest kind of contest there is and I'm not going to enter another as long as I live."

Miss America wants to get married—but she isn't in any hurry—and she wants "to have some kind of career on the stage."

She has a principal boy friend—Douglas Cook, 20, a fellow student at Phoenix College—but she has some others, too. As regards Cook, she says: "We're not engaged. We go together because we have mutual interests—the theater, art and music."

Modestly, she parried newsmen's questions on how it felt to be chosen America's prettiest Miss. "I'm not the prettiest," she said. "I'm just a typical average American girl. That's why they selected me. There were prettier girls and more talented girls than I in the contest."

Tops Among the Women—Mrs. America (left) and Miss America (right) give you bright smiles after their respective victories. Mrs. America, Mrs. Frances L. Cloyd of San Diego, Calif., was chosen at Asbury Park, N. J. Miss America, Jacque Mercer of Litchfield, Ariz., was chosen at Atlantic City, N. J. (AP Wirephoto.)

NEW BEAUTY QUEEN STILL FLUSTERED Miss America Gets Offer To Star With Burt Lancaster

By HARMON W. NICHOLS

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 13 (AP)—Jacque Mercer, pert Miss America of 1949, is a pint-sized Arizona ranch girl who can step right into a co-starring movie role with bobby-soxer idol Burt Lancaster.

But the 18-year-old brunette, whose ambition is to be a "real dramatic actress" still was so flustered today about winning the nation's most glamorous beauty crown that she wasn't able to make up her mind to sign the contract.

First the desert country beauty is going to indulge in the round of parties and personal appearances that became her queenly obligation when she was crowned over 52 other aspirants at the annual pageant here Saturday night.

She left for New York yesterday and next week will go to Milwaukee for the annual outdoor-men show. Then she will return to Phoenix Junior college to enroll for a limited course.

She has official permission from the college authorities to eliminate a few courses from her dramatic art schedule this year so she can properly discharge the obligations of Miss America.

She will have a long itinerary that will take her from coast to coast, and a flock of endorsements for concerns manufacturing everything from lipstick to undergarments.

All these will net her an estimated \$30,000 in cash in addition to her \$5,000 scholarship which she'll use to study dramatics, and the \$3,000 Nash car that went with her Miss America crown.

Jacque, who revealed her real name is "Jacqueline Joy" after her mother's favorite doll, told how her father made her drive a tractor in his cotton fields to earn enough money to go see a play last year.

Only five feet four inches and weighing 106 pounds, the stage-struck Miss America-to-be wrestled the tractor and harrow for 75 cents an hour so she could buy a ticket to California.

Jacque, who measures a trim 34 inches around the bust and hips, is one of the smallest Miss America's on record.

She announced at once that marriage is more important than a career. But lest people misunderstand her intentions, she emphasized later that they don't necessarily rank one, two in the sequence which she'll follow.

Her boyfriend Douglas Cox, 19, of Phoenix, a classmate in her drama courses, was so hap-

Stray Horses Run Loose Near Liberty

Perhaps it's just a prelude to the Cody family reunion here this week-end.

Though none of the Cody clan, of whom "Buffalo Bill" was outstanding member, are yet here for the reunion, Salem has already received one touch of the old wild west with some "wild horses" loose in the Liberty district.

Floyd R. McDowell, who operates a farm four miles southwest of Liberty reports that some stray horses have been roaming about his place since Sunday and are still unclaimed.

McDowell wishes the owner would claim same immediately. The horses are a bay and a strawberry roan, both geldings, one wearing a bell.

py when she telephoned him he was "swinging on a chandelier," she said. She "might" marry him some day, she said.

Jacque, who neither drinks nor smokes, had more duties than driving tractors on her father's ranch. She also took care of the chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys—and even was raising a pig until the porker died in a summer heat wave.

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