

Hitch Your Wagon to ASTAIRE

The years prove that a gal who dances with Fred is on her way up; Barrie Chase continues her climb on his TV spectacular Wednesday night

by Peer J. Oppenheimer



The Astaire magic began with his first partner, his sister Adele.



1933 — Joan Crawford



1940 — Eleanor Powell

1936 — Ginger Rogers

FRED ASTAIRE has been a star for more than half a century, a record that may easily make him the most venerable leading man in entertainment history.

The fact that he has unselfishly shared billing with a succession of lovely and talented partners ever since he and his sister Adele made their debut as a child dance team has not dimmed a whit the luster on his own kid pumps. To dancers like Ginger Rogers, Eleanor Powell, and Cyd Charisse, he gave the chance for stardom; and perhaps in turn a succession of new partners helped Astaire retain the perpetual youthfulness that has charmed three generations.

Next Wednesday Fred Astaire will dance with a new partner who is already becoming as closely linked with his name as Adele or Ginger. She is Barrie Chase, who danced with Fred in last year's TV spectacular, "An Evening with Fred Astaire."

This was the show that won nine Emmy awards, video's equivalent of the Oscar. Wednesday night they will appear again in a new NBC spectacular entitled, appropriately enough, "Another Evening with Fred Astaire," and if precedent is followed, 24-year-old Barrie Chase may well join the constellation of dancers who hitched their wagons to Astaire.

Actually, Barrie's greatest competition in this charmed circle comes from old Astaire fans with long memories. The lucky people who remember Fred and Adele Astaire as top

(Continued)



Fred and Barrie Chase rehearse for Wednesday night's TV show.



1940 — Paulette Goddard



1941 — Rita Hayworth



1942 — Joan Leslie



1948 — Judy Garland