

veteran—"But you didn't say it was Benedict Arnold," he always adds. Actually, Alan is very much a man-about-the-house; he finished the basement in our first house and was constantly puttering around the place. "We saved money for 15 years so I could become my own janitor," he claims.

Yet Alan was never a "big name" in those days. "I'm the most successful unknown around," he'd mutter. The big turning point in our lives took place when Alan appeared at the Palladium in London for the first time. He walked out to an audience which had come to see Judy Garland; he was an intruder. Not a sound greeted his appearance. He stared at the audience; they stared back impassively. Finally, Alan said: "Listen, I'm not too crazy about you, either."

The audience thought that was a wonderful opening line, and so began a love affair between Alan and English audiences which eventually made Alan successful and well-known on both sides of the ocean.

It even has led to command performances and friendships with royalty, but the boy from Brooklyn hasn't been awed. When Prince Philip introduced him as "My dear friend, Alan Jones," my husband replied: "And I want to thank my dear friend, the Duke of Windsor."

ALAN JOKES about my extravagances, but he was the one who splurged on his English triumphs and brought home a Rolls-Royce to add to the other cars. We were the only family with \$37,000 worth of automobiles in front of a \$25,000 home—why, we didn't even have a garage! Alan characteristically solved the problem by moving us to a 22-room English manor facing Long Island Sound. He has a name for each room: "The Garry Moore Room," "The Ed Sullivan Room," "The Perry Como Room." As he says, why not? They paid for them.

We go back to our old neighborhood frequently, and we bring along our boys. The first time, we thought it would be quite a shock for them after their private swimming pool and their own rooms with television. Instead, they were goggle-eyed at having a YMHA right down the street. Most of all, though, the boys were impressed with the armies of youngsters playing in the streets and on stoops and fire escapes.

"Boy, were you lucky ducks," Bobby exclaimed. "Living in a place with so many kids to play with and so much to do!"

Alan and I looked at each other. We certainly have been lucky together, right from the start. It's been fun, too, and that's my side of the story.



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