

# The "Different" Beauty Queen



Jean Chatburn, who reversed the usual process by winning a beauty contest after she already had established herself as a featured player of two years' experience in Hollywood.

By ROSALIND SHAFFER

Hollywood, Cal.

**B**EAUTY contest winners usually get the amused smile in Hollywood, for few of them ever get any farther than the brief fame that comes to them as contest queens.

Jean Chatburn is different. When she won her beauty contest she had been in films for two years and was under contract at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. McClelland Barclay, the artist, selected her from a group of 200 girls as the most beautiful. This brought her the award of the rôle of Mary Lou, Bill Powell's sweetheart, in "The Great Ziegfeld."

In still another matter Jean was different. After two years in films as a double, a dancing girl, and a featured player she was put in the talent school at M-G-M. Usually the procedure is reversed.

• Jean Chatburn won a beauty title on the basis of these characteristics: Height, 5 feet 3½ inches; weight, 112 pounds; waist, 23 inches; bust, 35; hips, 36; thigh, 18; ankle, 8. Her eyes are gray, her curly hair is gold. Mrs. Frank Orsatti in private life, she keeps her lovely figure by swimming, tennis, and horseback riding and careful eating.

All this beautiful blonde commotion began some twenty-three years ago in a farm home near Hanover, Mich., on Sept. 11. At 5 years of age Jean was brought west by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chatburn. She was quite delicate, and the outdoor life recommended by the family doctor proved the basis for her present superb beauty.

Jean's schooling was carried on at Mt. St. Mary's, at the Sacred Heart, and at Flintridge academy.

She left school at the age of 15, and as she was too young to go on to college, Jean took a whirl at dramatic training. One day she heard a girl who worked in a studio mention that Barbara Stanwyck needed a stand-in. Jean got the job.

After a few months as a dancer she came to the attention of B. P. Schulberg, independent producer for Paramount. March of 1934 saw Jean signed to a contract with him.

Returning from a tour, Miss Chatburn was given a rôle in Greta Garbo's "Painted Veil" at M-G-M, following a series of small parts that led her to a rating as a featured player at Paramount, including "Come On, Marines," with Dick Arlen; minor parts in "Too Much Harmony," "You're Telling Me," and with Sylvia Sydney in "Thirty Day Princess."

The Schulberg contract was replaced with one at Metro in November of 1934. After the "Painted Veil" came a technicolor short, "Memories and Melodies," and intensive dramatic training under Oliver Hissendell. In 1935 Jean had a rôle with Joan Crawford in "No More Ladies."

Nineteen thirty-five also saw her in "Broadway Melody of 1936," and then the rôle in "The Great Ziegfeld." Her latest part was in "Bad Guy," with Bruce Cabot.