

Classifieds

Alexis Smith: a real 'lady' joins Dallas' cast

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ATTENTION LIBERAL ART STUDENTS Several Cooperative Education positions are available at the Brazos County Probation Office. If you are interested in counseling, in general, or in corrections, come by Room 420 Harrington Tower or call 845-7814. These positions are being filled now. 8715

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United Press International

HOLLYWOOD — Alexis Smith gives "Dallas" a major shot of class next month when she becomes a regular cast member of that band of twinning, bed-jumping Texas 'oilionaires'.

But then Alexis would add a touch of class to the court of St. James.

She, along with Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Candice Bergen, epitomized Hollywood's concept of glacial, aristocratic beauties whose very presence enhanced the style and grace of any situation.

Unusually, too, these paragons of selective breeding traditionally were dressed in high style gowns, rich furs and extravagant jewelry.

All looked regally at home wearing tiaras, as compared to, say, Teri Garr, Debra Winger and Sissy Spacek.

For whatever reason, the cool, elegant, statuesque lady has disappeared from films and television, perhaps because they are a disappearing breed in these days of feminism, punk fashions and sexual promiscuity.

Alexis will bring her considerable hauteur to "Dallas" in the role of Lady Jessica Montford, a titled former Texan who returns from England to visit her brother, Clayton Farlow, played by Howard Keel.

Lady Montford will, inevitably, run afoul of J.R. Ewing, the baddest man in Texas. God only knows the consequences.

The role and the series are a great lark for Alexis, a star in movies and on stage since the 1940s.

She disconcerted "Dallas" producers. Never having watched the nighttime soap, Alexis had no idea of who played whom, the story lines or even whether Sue Ellen was fooling around with her kid's swimming instructor.

"There's a lot of mystery working on 'Dallas,'" Alexis said during a noon break in the MGM commissary. "They don't tell you in advance what your character is up to or what plans they have for her."

"Sometimes they take a page or two out of the script so you won't give away any secrets. But I can tell you this much, Lady Montford is up to no good."

Alexis is no stranger to playing heavies, but she never lost her grand lady image, even in bitchy, sinister roles.

Her introduction to elegant parts began in 1941 with Errol Flynn and Fred MacMurray in "Dive Bomber" at Warner Bros. Milo Anderson provided an exquisite wardrobe, and Alexis' screen image was established forever after.

A rare occasion when she wasn't splendidly wardrobe was as Ronald Reagan's jeans-clad leading lady in "Stallion Road" (1947). Her friendship with the president endures. Last year he invited her to the White House.

"I realized I hadn't lost my image when someone asked me what sort of woman I was going to play in 'Dallas,'" Alexis said.

"I replied, 'Well, I play this very rich woman...' It seems I've played them all my life."

"I was never an ingenue. Diminutive women and girls play ingenues. It becomes them to be shy and retiring. But when you're tall — and I'm 5-foot-9 — you can't convincingly be coy and demure."

Alexis is well aware of her on-screen, off-screen ice princess reputation, a sort of unapproachable demeanor that keeps people at a distance. Those who know her, however, are delighted with her sense of humor and amiability.

"I think your background has something to do with the lady-like image," she said. "Maybe it comes from a basic shyness that is mistaken for hauteur."

"I was born in Canada, reared in a strict Presbyterian atmosphere, which eliminated a lot of things. I wasn't allowed to date until I was 16. My father believed in high standards of decent language."

"My appearance, I hear, gives strangers pause about proaching me. It puts them on the defense and they come on strong to me. It's me, not them, the change, making the first move."

"People's preconceived notion of me is serviceable. Guys tell me dirty stories. I hear people say, 'Not in front of Alexis. A 10-year-old kid could stand beside me, but they're more concerned about my fencing me.'"

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Penalty waiver urged for taxpayers over 65 United Press International WASHINGTON — Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., after relating the plight of an elderly woman dunned \$50 because she underpaid federal taxes by 60 cents, Monday urged a penalty waiver for taxpayers over 65. Kassebaum offered an amendment to tax laws under which the penalty could be waived for persons over 65 if "such underpayment was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect." She said the Internal Revenue Service agrees with her proposal and added she felt the administration and Congress would concur. In a Senate speech, Kassebaum said of the Kansas City, Kan., woman caught in tax web that "for most of her life, she had income taxes withheld from wages and salary."

Witness says nurse got excited when children went limp United Press International GEORGETOWN — Two respiratory technicians testified Monday that vocational nurse Genevieve Jones exhibited unprofessional excitement and aggressiveness in an emergency involving a baby who suddenly went limp and stopped breathing in an ambulance. Testimony in Jones' murder trial in the death of 15-month-old Chelsea McClellan, who allegedly was killed with an injection of a potent muscle relaxer, continued to focus on other children who also experienced unexplained medical emergencies while in Jones' care. Witnesses testifying about an incident involving 1-month-old Brandy Benites fueled prosecutors' speculation that Jones caused emergencies in several babies because she enjoyed the thrill and sense of heroism that went with reviving them. Prosecutors also have accused the nurse wanted to show need for a pediatric intensive care unit in Kerrville's tiny hospital. Sarah Mauldin, a respiratory technician, accompanied Brandy and Jones to a San Antonio hospital from Kerrville where the baby had suffered respiratory arrest in the pediatric clinic where Jones worked. Mauldin said that after Brandy's breathing had stabilized in the ambulance, Jones started a second intravenous injection into the infant's foot. A few moments later, Mauldin said Brandy "looked limp all over" and looked like her condition had deteriorated badly.

Legislation to suspend increased electric rates caused by acid rain United Press International WASHINGTON — Legislation was introduced Monday to protect some Midwestern and Southern consumers from sharp electric rate increases caused by actions to reduce acid rain in the Northeast. Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo., said under his bill the costs of reducing sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-burning plants would be evenly spread among electricity consumers and damage-causing states. He said nine states in the Midwest and South would be exempt from cleanup costs unless and until it is shown that their emissions are causing damages in the Northeast. The states are Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and Iowa. "It would be patently unfair to expect the Midwest to pay for solving a problem it may not be causing," Danforth said. "Moreover, I believe that the Northeast must expect to share in the costs of the cleanup for the simplest of reasons: It is the Northeast that will realize the benefits of reduced acid rain precipitation." Acid rain is precipitated by sulfur dioxide and coal-fired emissions and destroys fish habitats, causes crop and forest damage and increases water pollution.

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