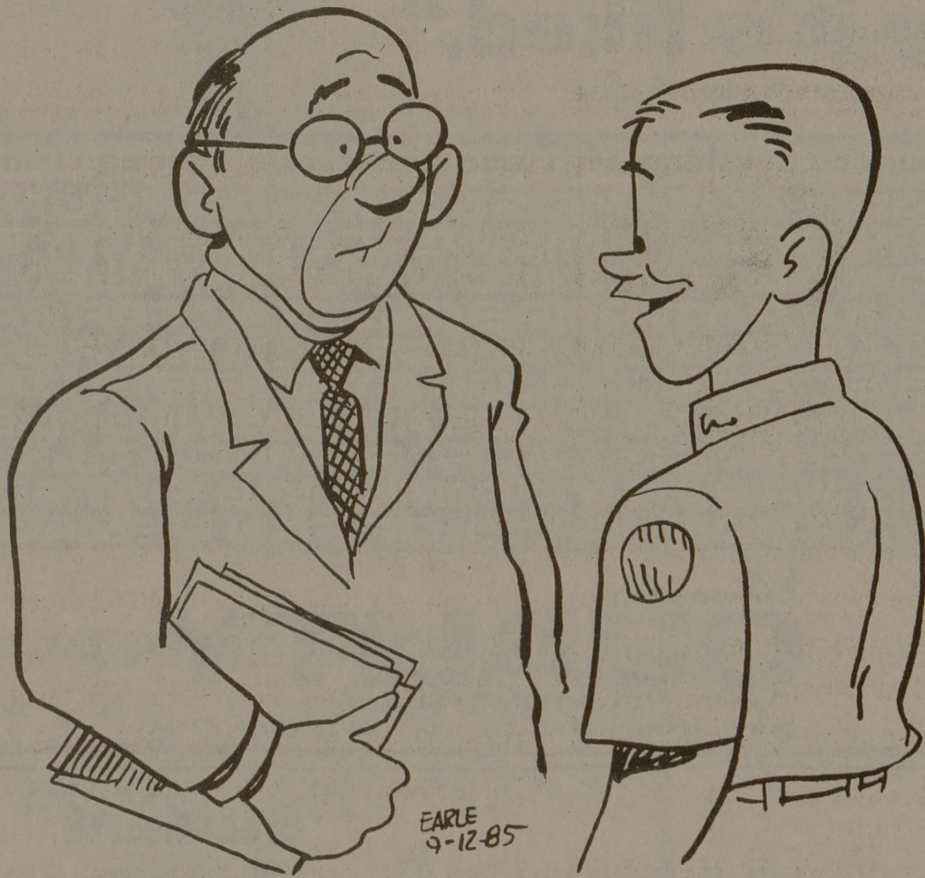


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"You said something about a textbook. Do you think it would really be necessary to have one for this course?"

Texas star Soap opera actress struggled for years

Associated Press  
WACO — For Baylor graduate and former Wacoan Lou Ann Gideon, there's only one thing keeping her life from being perfect.

After years of struggling, she's landed a plumb role in the daytime drama "Search for Tomorrow." She's grown to love New York City, found a great little church, finally met the man of her dreams and he's proposed.

The only trouble is, he's on a competing soap opera, "Loving," at the exact same time her soap opera is on.

Oh well, five out of six ain't bad. And she admits she's pretty happy about a career that took her from being a Baylor Homecoming Queen to star of a New York City soap opera — by way of Singapore.

The Granbury native attended Baylor from 1974-78 and was Homecoming Queen in 1977. Upon graduation, she moved to Dallas and began a singing career that spawned a regional hit, "The North Central Expressway Blues," a clever ditty naming all of the congested streets during a Dallas rush hour.

"After that, I went on the road for three years with another Baylor grad, Chris Bowden, with a group called Taylor & Cole," Gideon said. "It was a five-piece group that did mostly Top 40 and light jazz, and we quickly ended up doing casinos in Atlantic City and Tahoe. Eventually, we toured Singapore and Malaysia.

"I loved the singing, but the hours were a drag since I'm such a morning person. Finally, I started seeing groups who had been doing the same thing for 10 years and how tired they all looked, and I decided it was time to get out."

Gideon said she'd always had a hankering to act, and when Bowden's cousin offered her half a du-

plex in New York City, she took him up on it. She immediately enrolled in acting classes on money she'd saved on the road and worked part time at Brooks Brothers to help make ends meet.

Her statuesque, exotic good looks helped her land a commercial agent and Gideon appeared in Midol, Crystal Light, "National Enquirer" and a number of regional commercials in short order.

"It was tough at first," Gideon said. "I went to 25 commercials agents before the Bloom Agency hired me. I went to 135 auditions before I got one part — then I got four in one week."

*"It's the old chicken and egg syndrome. You can't get an agent until you've done some work, and you can't get work in New York until you've got an agent."*

— Soap opera actress Lou Ann Gideon

Even after her commercial career took off, Gideon said she couldn't get a legitimate agent.

"It's the old 'chicken and the egg' syndrome," she said. "You can't get an agent until you've done some work, and you can't get work in New York until you've got an agent."

The break-through came last Christmas when she was cast in the off-Broadway production of "Enter Laughing." The willowy, soft-spoken Gideon was cast as a buxom, tough-talking New Jersey moll named Miss Bee.

She invited several agents to see her performance, and apparently pressed them all. After weighing choices, she signed with the Brooks Agency.

And with a legitimate agent things started happening in a big way. "Search for Tomorrow" was her second soap opera. I was sent to Los Angeles to screen test twice.

"I was the last one to audition. That was on a Monday. They called back at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday. I was to report to work at 6 a.m. I've had two days off since."

Miss Gideon plays Liza Smith, placing Sherry Mathis, who has been on for more than seven years. She was attracted to the part because Liza is neither a witch nor a saint, two common soap opera stereotypes.

Gideon's day usually begins before 7 a.m. The cast does four different "dry runs" before taping an episode, one for each of the technical aspects of the program: lighting and sound.

She says a popular game among the veteran performers is to memorize certain lines during the dry run in hopes of "cracking up" as a performer. She is a prime target.

"The whole show is terrific. There are some genuinely funny people in the cast," she said.

Her stay on "Search" is a little more difficult because of her fiancée John O'Hurley, who is on a rival soap opera "Loving." He and the identical twin brothers Jonathan Madelaine and Keith Lane — actually are nothing alike.

She hopes to someday work films or prime time television programming, but admits that those two relatively distant goals.

For the moment, however, the future is in the hands of "Search for Tomorrow" fans.

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2.16 carats \$5,000 in bonds	9,000	4,975	.20 pts	1.67 carats \$6,000 in bonds	11,500	5950	1.99 carats	\$6,000 in bonds	14,000	6780	1.99 carats	\$6,000 in bonds	14,000	6780		
2.10 carats \$7,000 in bonds	14,700	7,500	.20 pts	1.49 carats \$5,000 in bonds	9250	5195	1.64 carats	\$3,000 in bonds	3,000	2975	1.64 carats	\$3,000 in bonds	3,000	2975		
2.04 carats \$7,000 in bonds	14,000	7,600	.17 pts	1.46 carats \$3,000 in bonds	5900	3750	1.27 carats	\$2,000 in bonds	5,200	2570	1.27 carats	\$2,000 in bonds	5,200	2570		
1.80 carats \$6,000 in bonds	12,500	5,975	.15 pts	1.19 carats \$2,000 in bonds	4900	2440	.62 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,800	1395	.62 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,800	1395		
1.86 carats \$5,000 in bonds	10,900	5,245	.11 pts	1.01 carats \$3,000 in bonds	6500	3350	.54 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,300	1195	.54 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,300	1195		
1.33 carats \$3,000 in bonds	6,500	3,250	.10 pts	65 pts \$1,000 in bonds	2800	1450	.47 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,100	1050	.47 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	2,100	1050		
1.24 carats \$3,000 in bonds	5,200	2,875	.09 pts	63 pts \$1,000 in bonds	3100	1495	.39 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	495	290	.39 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	495	290		
1.24 carats \$3,000 in bonds	6,300	3,150	.08 pts	55 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1700	895	.33 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	675	325	.33 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	675	325		
1.11 carats \$2,000 in bonds	2,800	1,935	.07 pts	50 pts \$1,000 in bonds	790	375	.28 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	490	250	.28 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	490	250		
1.10 carats \$2,000 in bonds	4,700	2,300	.06 pts	45 pts \$1,000 in bonds	700	345	.25 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	395	210	.25 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	395	210		
1.10 carats \$2,000 in bonds	3,700	1,885	.05 pts	40 pts \$1,000 in bonds	950	485	.23 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	395	175	.23 pts	\$1,000 in bonds	395	175		
1.06 carats \$2,000 in bonds	3,300	1,850	.04 pts	40 pts \$1,000 in bonds	650	325										
1.05 carats \$1,000 in bonds	2,800	1,435	.04 pts	38 pts \$1,000 in bonds	750	460										
1.04 carats \$1,000 in bonds	33.00	1,650	.03 pts	35 pts \$1,000 in bonds	750	425										
1.02 carats \$2,000 in bonds	4,900	2,595	.03 pts	35 pts \$1,000 in bonds	750	425										
1.01 carats \$2,000 in bonds	4,300	2,195	.02 pts	35 pts \$1,000 in bonds	750	425										
1.01 carats \$1,000 in bonds	3,300	1,760	.02 pts	37 pts \$1,000 in bonds	900	450										
1.00 carats \$1,000 in bonds	3,300	1,745	.01 pt	37 pts \$1,000 in bonds	875	450										
1.00 carats \$1,000 in bonds	3,300	1,745		34 pts \$1,000 in bonds	820	410										
.93 pts \$1,000 in bonds	3,250	1,685		33 pts \$1,000 in bonds	850	395										
.93 pts \$1,000 in bonds	2,950	1,520		30 pts \$1,000 in bonds	750	365										
.80 pts \$1,000 in bonds	2,850	1,525		30 pts \$1,000 in bonds	750	365										
.78 carats \$1,000 in bonds	1,800	995		27 pts \$1,000 in bonds	725	335										
.75 pts \$1,000 in bonds	2,800	1,435														
.71 pts \$1,000 in bonds	2,700	1,350														
.70 pts \$1,000 in bonds	2,600	1,335														
.62 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,700	975														
.62 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,700	975														
.59 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,700	930														
.55 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,650	865														
.55 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,350	650														
.52 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,650	795														
.52 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,750	820														
.50 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,595	785														
.49 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,495	770														
.47 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,395	735														
.45 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,150	535														
.45 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,175	695														
.44 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,050	520														
.42 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,250	660														
.40 pts \$1,000 in bonds	1,240	630														
.38 pts \$1,000 in bonds	590	295														
.34 pts \$1,000 in bonds	625	325														
.31 pts \$1,000 in bonds	625	320														
.25 pts \$1,000 in bonds	425	235														
.22 pts \$1,000 in bonds	410	225														
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