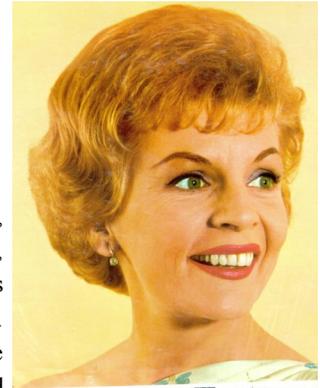


# EVERY MAN'S DREAM GIRL

Dorothy Collins



In the welter of plunging necklines and sophistication on television a few years ago, there was one girl who stood out. Her name was Dorothy Collins and she was a fresh, young, Ameri-can-type girl, the kind every boy is looking for and every father hopes his daughter will be. On "Your Hit Parade" every Saturday night, she sang the commercials. She was a featured singer, too. And she always wore a crisp white blouse, tied at the neck with a black ribbon, and a straight but not-too-tight skirt. Her hair was blonde and smooth and shiny and her smile looked real.

Of course, her name wasn't Dorothy Collins at all; it was Marjorie Chandler (she snatched the Dorothy from her sister). And she wasn't an American-she was Canadian. She wasn't quite the ingénue she appeared, either. Even then she was married to Raymond Scott, musical director of the show.



This year, after a year's absence, Dorothy is back as one of the two regulars (Johnny Desmond is the other) on "Hit Parade," which is being seen this season over CBS-TV on Friday evenings.

She looks a little more grown up, and she should, for she's now the mother of two small girls-Deborah, born October 24, 1954, and Elizabeth, who arrived on June 4, 1958. Dorothy's hair is shorter and more sophisticated in cut; she has appeared in public in low-cut gowns. But the voice is the same, and the slightly-crooked smile, and the softness that show business is so apt to erase.

Dorothy was born on November 18, 1926, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and her earliest ambition was to be a secretary, as her favorite aunt was. But fate had other plans in store for her. Having noticed her sweet singing voice, her father and mother entered her in an amateur contest when she was 12 and she walked off with first prize. From that time on she appeared regularly on a children's radio program originating across the river in Detroit.

It was in 1942, when the then 16-year-old was visiting in Chicago, that Raymond Scott heard her sing. As her parents had been earlier, he was impressed. But she needed more training, he felt. He advised her to go home and study for a year, with special emphasis on correcting her lisp. (Her sponsors loved it later on; used to write the commercials with *lots* of sibilants because they thought the way she said them was so cute!)

But a year later, when the "Raymond Scott Show" went on the air, Dorothy was signed as vocalist and for several years thereafter she toured with Scott's group. So did her mother, keeping a watchful eye on her teen-age daughter.

Early in 1950, after Scott had disbanded his group and Dorothy had gone back to studying, he was asked to write some commercial jingles for Lucky Strike and got Dorothy to help out by singing them for the demonstration record. The tobacco company liked both the jingles and the singer and Dorothy was hired to do them on both radio and television. From there to becoming one of the show's featured singers was only a matter of months.

The costume which became her trademark was a fluke. She couldn't afford expensive gowns so she whipped up the skirt-and-blouse bit and was such a hit in it that she couldn't change later on.

Dorothy became Mrs. Raymond Scott on July 7, 1952, and the family now lives in a huge house in Manhasset; Long Island, outside of New York. Huge is the proper word. In the basement alone there are eight rooms, all filled with Raymond's electronic equipment.

When "Your Hit Parade" changed casts a season ago and the Scotts were dropped from the show, Dorothy had great plans. The imminent arrival of the new baby cancelled out most of them but Dorothy and Raymond did a Sunday afternoon radio show on CBS for a time last winter, and Dorothy made several night-club appearances. She sang the lead in "Oklahoma!" in St. Louis last summer, after Elizabeth's arrival. And she found that, even without her trademark costume, audiences knew and welcomed her.

The "fresh young American type" girl-5'2", 106 pounds, blonde and hazel-eyed-has grown up, but the young woman who is Dorothy Collins is still every man's dream girl.