

# Dorothy Collins Playing In Her First Barn Show Here

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By BARBARA CLOUD

Being typed is a curse for many performers.

Nobody knows it better than Dorothy Collins, who for years was recognized only as the girl-next-door in the fresh white blouse with clean, shiny hair.

Her days as "Your Hit Parade" and as the cigarette commercial spieler were good to her, but they ended in 1957.

"For a long time I avoided wearing anything that resembled the look of those days," she said. "And then I got over that, but in later years I was afraid I was trying to look too itzy-poo with this face whenever I wore a round-collared shirt."

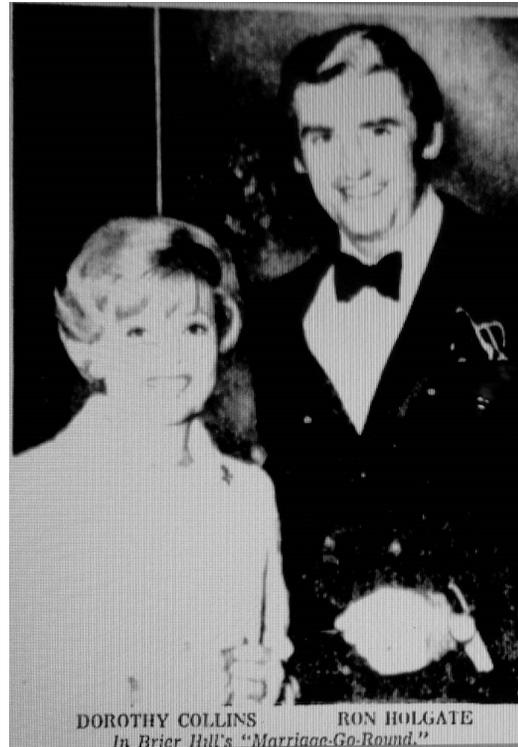
"I've always been pushed into whatever I did," she said. "I suppose I should be more aggressive. Anyhow, when everyone was fired from 'Hit Parade', I wondered what to do next.

"Some friends decided I should try the stage, so I did. I really found my medium with my first show, 'Wizard of Oz' in St. Louis. From then on, clubs were no fun."

## Here for Play

Dorothy opened in "Marriage Go-Round" at Brier Hill Barn Tuesday.

Two nights before the opening she sat in the the-



ater, tired but excited after rehearsing all day in the damp, chilly barn.

She kept her eye on the tall gentleman on stage who was running a scene with actress Darlene Parks.

It was Dorothy's husband, Ron Holgate, who co-stars in the comedy. She admits she never tires watching him work.

"He's so darned inventive on stage," she said. "Makes me so mad. He's so good. He's really a nice man. It's marvelous to love someone and also admire and respect him."

Holgate won the Tony Award for his role in "1776" on Broadway and also did the film version, which his proud wife relates, "is just great!"

## Fond of 'Waltz'

"I'm very sentimental about the show. 'Do I Hear a Waltz?' 'That's when we met," Dorothy said. "Just another tall, good-looking leading man, I thought, but he has such a sense of humor and really does a lot of opera. I can't tell you the joy he has brought our daughters."

Dorothy laughs a lot and speaks glowingly of her family.

"We're homebodies really," she said. "We really don't see enough shows and I just like being home in New Jersey with Ron and the girls. We play a lot of Scrabble. Ron beats me most of the time. We've just bought a house built in 1896, not far from where we live now in Monievale.

"When we are away for three weeks like this, I miss the children terribly. But it

doesn't happen often. I was going to get a housekeeper while we were here, but Debbie, who just finished her first year of college, said nothing doing. She's babysitting with Liz, 15, and Melissa, who is 5."

### **Sondheim Admired**

When Dorothy isn't raving about her husband's talents, she searches for the right words to praise Stephen Sondheim.

He's the man of the hour currently in the music world, but is also the man who brought Dorothy's talents to the fore in the Broadway musical, "Follies."

He's the star of "A Little Night Music," according to Dorothy. The musical is a sellout on Broadway, and Sondheim has gathered rave reviews for his music.

"Stephen is a genius," she declared.

### **Hopes To Do Film**

"Right now, I am in line to do my same role in 'Follies' when it is made into a movie," she added. "At least I hope so. Alexis Smith is also set to do her role.

"I spent two years with "Follies" from the time of rehearsals. I auditioned for it three years ago this month, and I can honestly say it was the most joyous experience of my life. It will be hard to find another show like that one."

Dorothy is impressed by the Pennsylvania countryside.

"Believe it or not, as much stock as I have done, this is the first real barn I've performed in. When I saw it I fully expected to see Grace Kelly and Judy Garland dancing in the hayloft. It marvelous."

The season opener runs through June 17 with performances Tuesday through Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Matinees are Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30.