

Janet and Tony Find Marriage Tie Firmier Than Ever

BY LOUELLA PARSONS

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THE loss of their expected baby brought Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis closer together than ever. Their separation while he was in Honolulu and she in Hollywood made both of them realize how much they really mean to each other.

I talked to Janet the day Tony returned from Honolulu, where he made "Beachhead."

"Tony walked in right when I was in the midst of a scene in 'Prince Valiant' with Bob Wagner," Janet told me. "I was wearing a long blonde wig, just as Aleta looks in the cartoon. Tony just stared, then he said, 'You look like an angel. I thought I was seeing something ethereal.'"

"You know, any woman likes to hear nice things," Janet smiled, "even if it's obvious flattery. I was afraid I might cry the first time we met. We had been thru so much. But I had to laugh the way Tony called me an angel."

HE had a tough time making his picture 'Beachhead,' in the islands, and missed me as much as I missed him. He looked so tired that I couldn't wait to put my arms around him. I firmly believe," Janet continued, "that in times of trouble a husband and wife need each other—especially if they love each other as much as we do."

"Well, you are still young, Janet," I said, "and you'll have other babies."

"Oh, I fully expect to," she replied. "We want a big family and the doctor told me I was in perfect health and there's no reason why I can't have plenty of children. But it was such a blow this time, because we had looked forward to this child."

"I'll be in 'Prince Valiant' until September," she continued, "and Tony probably won't be working then, either, because I had made no plans when I thought this would be my last picture before the baby arrived."

JANET has come a long way since Norma Shearer discovered her in the Sugar Bowl ski lodge in Soda Springs, Cal. She was then a beautiful young girl who had never made a picture. She was tested at M-G-M at Norma's suggestion, her name was changed to Janet Leigh (her real name is Jeanette Helen Morrison) and she was put into a Van Johnson picture.

During that time she was married to a former school friend. They were married when both were very young, and Janet had no intention of doing anything but becoming a singer.

"When I attended Stockton High school in Stockton, Cal.," she said, "I thought music therapy would be my only career. I sang with a choral group called the Troubadors. Later I majored in music and psychology at College of the Pacific here. I belonged to the chapel choir."

When Janet arrived in Hollywood she was one of the young girls to whom acting experience was necessary. In her first picture I didn't feel she had a great deal to offer other than her beauty. But as she made more pictures it became evident that she really had acting talent.

Since she and Tony were married both of them have become increasingly popular with the young fans. And, believe me, it's the kids' nickels and dimes that make the boxoffice jingle.

JANET and Tony seem to have come to a wonderful understanding in their marriage. It's difficult when two people are in the limelight and literally live in glass houses to do this, and the fact that this young couple has solved the problem is a credit to them and evidence of their intelligence.

So many marriages where husbands and wives are both stars have broken up over jealousy. But Tony is proud of Janet's success, and Janet of Tony's. They share and share alike, and as long as this unselfish state continues there won't be any dangers ahead for them.

Right now Janet's career is on high. She is so lovely as Aleta in "Prince Valiant" that 20th Century-Fox would like to buy her contract from M-G-M and keep her for a series based on the popular cartoon strip. But something tells me her home studio won't want to part with its young star.

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