

Gloria Alice Fisher has become Gloria Fetter, the 'weather girl'



Gloria Fetter at home near Eden with her boxer, Dutch.

It was the summer of 1962 and a friend with whom she drove to work told her that WGAL-TV was looking for a weather girl. Not really very interested in getting the job, but thinking it might be fun to apply, Gloria went for a tryout.

100 applicants

As it happened, WGAL had already interviewed 100 women for the position, and Gloria got to the studios on the very last day the station saw any new applicants.

She did rather well, mainly she says, because she was not deeply interested in getting the job, and was consequently very relaxed.

Weeks went by, she heard nothing from WGAL, and decided she was out of the running. Then, in September, the station called, asking her to come for another and final test. All but four of the hundred girls who had applied had been eliminated from consideration, and Gloria was among the four finalists.

Executives from Bell Telephone in Philadelphia were at the station to help in the final selections. She still didn't think she wanted the job, and when she was told that she had been selected to be WGAL's weather girl, she told her new employers and sponsors that she didn't want the position.

That first night

But she was prevailed on to accept their offer. For the next two months she studied and rehearsed in front of the cameras and with a tape recorder at home. She bought all the books she could on weather and immersed herself in the subject.

On November 19, 1962, she appeared live for the first time as the weather girl on Channel 8's 11 o'clock news show. She had to learn every detail of the weather

report that had come in at 10 o'clock, check the 11 o'clock report, put together her summary, arrange and prepare all the maps and charts to be shown, and then deliver her report without notes or prompter in a few minutes before the camera.

Needless to say, when the little red light flashed on telling her she was ON—Gloria was nervous.

Takes course

It didn't take her long, however, to learn to do her job smoothly and efficiently. Taking a course in meteorology at Millersville State College gave her a solid background of knowledge for her nightly reports to waiting farmers, vacationers, picnickers, ballplayers, housewives who wanted to hang out their wash the next day, etc.—on whether it would rain or shine the next day.

Being a weather girl changed Gloria's life considerably. Social life for her and her husband has been all but eliminated during the weekdays and must be crowded into weekends.

In addition to foretelling the weather, Gloria is fashion coordinator for the Showcase of Fashions, which supplies her TV wardrobe.

"Are you———?"

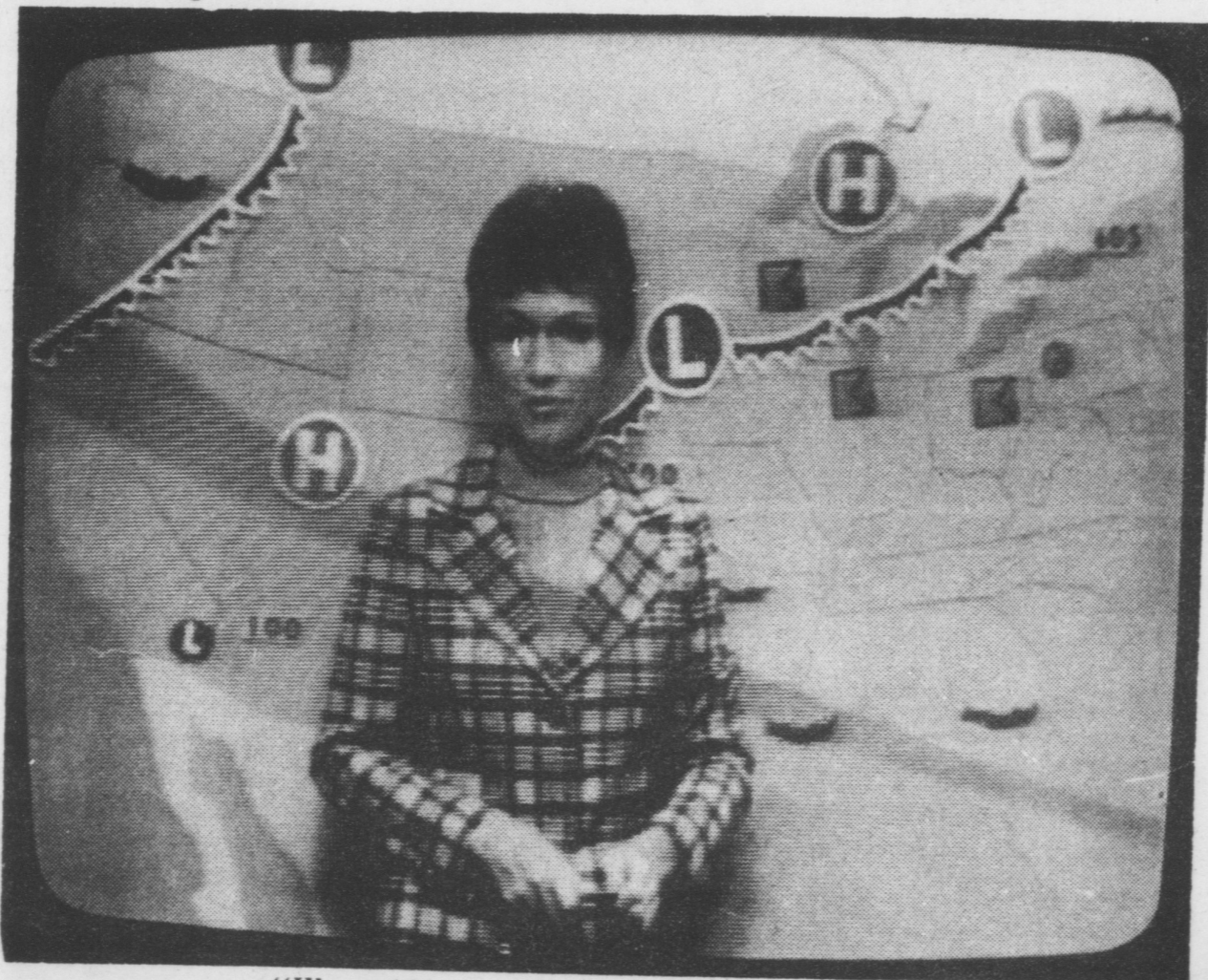
Her daily schedule is unlike most other people's. Her whole day is geared toward those few minutes following 11:23p.m. when she presents the summary of all the radar and meteorological data she has carefully condensed and prepared.

When she comes home around midnight, it takes her a couple hours to unwind. Rarely does she go to bed before 2 a.m.

When she goes downtown, strangers recognize her, and take a second, third, fourth and so on looks.

A woman once approached Gloria and said, "You are———, aren't you?"

And Gloria replied, "Well, I think I am."



"We could have a cloudy day tomorrow."

On October 31, 1947, a junior at East Donegal High School in Maytown was crowned Halloween Queen of Lancaster County.

The pretty junior, Gloria Alice Fisher, lived in Florin on the south or East Donegal side of town and consequently attended the Maytown High School. Her family had moved to the area from York County only a couple years before, but Gloria had quickly become an outstanding student in Maytown. She was elected to National Honor Society in her junior year. She sang in the choir and glee club. She had dramatic ability and played leads in an operetta, and in the junior and senior plays. She played basketball and was sports editor of the school paper, **The Beacon**.

Good Student

Although she made "A's" in her courses, she had no desire to go on to college. She was enrolled in the commercial course, and her great ambition was to be a secretary. Years later she would remember the instruction she received in shorthand and office practice from Miss Naomi Julius (now Mrs. Norman Houseal, Maytown). She would also remember the English she learned from Miss Grace Henderson (still a resident of Maytown). And she would remember her best friend in high school, Betty Ann Blessing (now Mrs. John R. Stauffer, Mount Joy).

Today, Gloria Fisher, the Lancaster County Halloween Queen of 1947, is better known to thousands of people in Lancaster and

York Counties as Gloria Fetter, the "weather girl" who appears every Monday through Friday night around 11:23 on Channel 8, and tells us what kind of weather to expect the next day.

Becoming a "weather girl"
How did the Halloween Queen become the regional "weather girl"?

Before she became a meteorological woman, Gloria had become a wife (Mrs. James R. Fetter) and a mother (children: Sharon, now a dramatics student at the University of California, and Michael, now in the Air Force in Michigan). Also, she had realized her early ambition, to be a secretary (working for Robert S. Mayo, civil engineer).

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