

# Nell Carter has found her break

By John N. Goudas

Nell Carter makes millions of people laugh each week in her NBC sit-com "Gimme a Break" but she wasn't having too many laughs in her own life until recently.

The Tony Award-winning actress is very candid about the problems which had been plaguing her ever since she started on the road to success via the Broadway musical "Ain't Misbehavin'."

The actress said many unimportant things in her life suddenly became important and vice versa, until she couldn't sort it out.

Then an illness sent her to the hospital and it was during that low period that she began rebuilding her life.

TO HEAR NELL tell it, it almost amounts to a religious experience. Nell cuts out all the frills and even reads a passage from the Bible in order to make her point.

"I was lying there in my hospital bed, feeling as if no one cared whether I lived or died," said Nell. "Then a Bible fell open and I started reading the passage and it was all about starting again and having faith. It was as if I was getting a special message from on high."

Nell admits that things started to fall into place after the

hospital stay. Little annoyances disappeared and she found she had the strength to deal with the bigger ones.

NELL IS HAPPY with her private life (she speaks fondly of her attentive husband) and her career (she says the show is at its best).

Nell also is very outspoken about the people who have found her playing a housekeeper demeaning.

"I don't understand what they're so angry about," said Nell. "I don't know a black family that didn't have a relative who wasn't a housekeeper at one time or another. I play my character with dignity and I see that she never says or does anything that would be a misconstrued as being demeaning."

Nell feels that no matter what you do, there's always someone who looks down on you but she won't accept idle and unfounded criticism. She's a fighter.

NELL RECENTLY did a two-parter which airs soon. It was shot in New York and concerns Nell's desire to sing "On Broadway" (that's the name of the tune she sings and she does it literally on the streets of Broadway).

Coming home to Broadway, even for a brief stay, dredged up a lot of memories for Nell.

She admits that although "Ain't Misbehavin'" started her on the way to stardom, it wasn't a very happy period.

However, she has long since left all that behind and is working hard to keep "Gimme a Break" a hit.

## SOAP OPERA SCENE

By John N. Goudas

ON A ROLE. She's strong, tall, pretty in a sweet way, and the "Days of Our Lives" plotters don't know what to do with Dr. Sandy Norton.

Last May, Oregon's ingenue Pamela Roylance moved from "Little House on the Prairie" as Sarah Carter to Dr. Sandy in the soaper. But "Days" has embarked on an action kick in sleepy, upper-class Salem — mystery murders, Mafia overtones, jealousy shootings — and the ratings were up.

So Dr. Sandy became an afterthought, a lady doctor with time on her hands, a bystander waiting for gore and melodramatic murmurings to run their course.

However, patience is about to pay off as Sandy catches the eye and the lips of Chris Kositchek (Josh Taylor), a soaper stalwart who has also been laying low, outgunned by cop Roman and the Mafia.

Thus, two upstanding people are attracted, a novelty lately on "Days," where crazies, suave crooks and mixed-up juveniles prevail. A steady dose of weirdos begins to pall after a while, so decent, square-shooting Chris dawdling with a plucky young doctor should be welcome news.

One thing is certain, Dr. Sandy won't become a wacko to make the cut. Pamela Roylance just isn't the type. Away from home (Portland, Ore., where her parents run a restaurant) just three years, Pamela retains country innocence.

She arrived in 1980, armed with a teaching certificate and good acting credentials from Portland, and the Ashland Repertory Company, one of the best in the land. She had outgrown Oregon.

Out job hunting to survive in Smogland, Pamela started selling chocolates over the phone.

"I didn't do well," Pamela said. "I did sell my parents an order. My boss realized phone sales weren't my forte and put me in the office."

The novice did land an agent, but never went out on a call for nine months. Her first job came from reading the Drama Log, answering a cattle call. Agents can be useless.

"Come with savings," Pamela tells the smitten back home. It can be very cold in L.A.

CHANNEL CHATTER. It's nice to see Susan Keith back in a regular role in daytime. Susan, who joined the cast of "Loving" in the role of Shana last month, had some bad luck a few years back when she lost the part of Cecile on "Another World." Keith is a fine actress, well-suited for soap operas and has given the low-rated "Loving" a needed shot in the arm...

This Thursday, February 16, "Search for Tomorrow" will break away from the usual soap opera format and devote the entire show to one storyline — the so-called acquaintance rape of Sunny Adamson (played by Marcia McCabe). While Sunny insists on pressing charges, she faces an uphill battle claiming rape against someone she knows. Producers and writers have worked overtime to give the story emotional and legal realism. NBC has agreed to allow only one commercial interruption during the program so as not to detract from the dramatic impact...

A few years ago, the performers on "Days of Our Lives" contributed their personal recipes to a celebrity cookbook, whose receipts went to charity. Since that was such a big success, "The Days of Our Lives Celebrity Cookbook — Volume II" has been released with an all-new selection of edibles. For a copy of this new cookbook, write c-o NBC, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, Calif. 91523. The minimum donation is \$12 and all proceeds go to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation...

PLOT PORTENTS. A disoriented Mac wanders aimlessly through the woods on "Another World." Rachel is convinced that Mac is still alive and bolts from the funeral. Henrietta calls off her engagement.

Roger makes a pass at Maggie and is intercepted by Frank who knocks him down with a punch on "Ryan's Hope." Max offers to fly Seneca to France and maneuvers to get Jill to come as well.

On the rebound from Mike, Erica considers a proposal from Adam on "All My Children." Palmer strikes an unethical deal with the Chandlers. Sam rescues a grateful Liza.

Simon returns with the San Carlos Treasury just in the nick of time for Jenny on "One Life to Live." Cassie's loved ones work overtime to regain her trust. Bo is enchanted by the O'Neill girls and poses as an unemployed blue collar worker.

Kris's attacker follows her to her parents' farm in Pennsylvania on "The Edge of Night." Greg drops out of sight while Sky and Raven make a trip to England.

Wendy vows never to forgive Stephanie on "Search for Tomorrow." Jack forces his way into Sunny's apartment and sexually attacks her, and she must be taken to the hospital.

Bo and Abe witness Roman's explosion on "Days of Our Lives." Marlena awakes from a dream by an intruder. Bo and Hope find comfort in each other.



Susan Keith



Pamela Roylance

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