

Hard Work Brings Success To Hattie

Part In "Gone With the Wind" Causes Calendar
To Turn Back to Her Grandmother's Time

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Mar. 16—When Hattie McDaniel signed for the role of "Mammy," faithful servant of Scarlett O'Hara, in David O. Selznick's "Gone with the Wind," she turned back the calendar nearly three-quarters of a century.

Hattie's grandmother lived and worked on such plantations as the Tara described in Margaret Mitchell's best-seller novel of the Civil War South. She might well have been of the kindly, fiercely possessive type whose loyalty to her white mistress never wavered. She would be proud, were she alive today, to see her grand-daughter become the servant of "quality folks" on the motion picture screen.

There is no better known sepia actress in films than Hattie McDaniel. Her round, beaming face, her 290 pound bulk, her expressive eyes, not to mention her versatile talent, keep her in demand at all times. She averages 16 pictures a year.

Hattie was born in Wichita, Kansas, on June 10, 1898, to Susan Holbert and Henry McDaniel. Her mother was born in Nashville, Tenn., and her father in Richmond, Va. She was the thirteenth child. Her father was a Baptist preacher, whose sermons were enlivened by songs offered during the services by Hattie's mother.

Denver, Colo., was the scene of Hattie's education. Her parents moved to the western city when she was still a baby. Hattie was graduated from public school and attended East Denver High School for two years. In her school days, she gave first evidences of a future theatrical career by taking part as a singer and actress in student dramatic shows.

She arrived in Hollywood in 1931 and began the rounds of the studios. She managed to catch on in a few extra and atmosphere roles. Undaunted, Hattie took her book of press notices and kept making the rounds of the casting offices, hoping for better parts.

Her cheerful smile broke down resistance. She landed a good part in a picture with Lew Ayres. Then followed roles in "The Blonde Venus," "Judge Priest," "The Little Colonel," "China Seas," "Gentle Julia," "Alice Adams" and "Showboat"

among others. The work kept coming: "Nothing Sacred," "Saratoga," "The Bride Walks out," "The Mad Miss Manton" and more. Meanwhile, she appeared in a popular radio show in the character of Hi-Hat Hattie, and on the radio "Show Boat" coast-to-coast program as "Mammy."

Hattie is proud of the fact that three of her songs, "Just One Sorrowing Heart," "I've Changed My Mind" and "Boo-Hoo Blues" have been published and recorded for phonograph. For her reading she prefers the works of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, negro poet. She has been married twice: widowed once, divorced once.

She's most proud, however, of being a member of the "Gone with the Wind" cast. Her film mistress is Vivien Leigh, in the role of Scarlett O'Hara. Clark Gable plays Rhett Butler, Leslie Howard is Ashley Wilkes and Olivia de Havilland is Melanie. The picture is being photographed in technicolor from the screen play by Sidney Howard and Oliver H. P. Garrett.