

Ticker Tape Parade For Althea

Not Going Pro, 'Not Engaged'

By GEORGE BARNER

New York's Althea Gibson, first of her race to win the coveted Wimbledon tennis singles title, will be the toast of the town at a gala ticker tape parade Thursday from the Battery to City Hall at 12 noon. She will be presented with a medallion by Mayor Robert R. Wagner in honor of her triumph and treated to luncheon at 1 p. m. in the Palm Room of the Waldorf.

The six-foot champion arrived home on Tuesday morning in triumphant exhaustion to be greeted by a cheering pack of neighbors and children.

The youngsters swarmed like summer flies around the stoop of 135 W. 143rd St. Althea stepped from the Cadillac which had whisked her from Idlewild Airport in the company of Deputy Commissioner of Commerce and Public Events James J. O'Brien.

Block Party

A block party will be thrown for the tennis champ in front of her door on 143rd St. between Lenox and 7th Aves. between 5 and 6 p. m. on Thursday evening. The block is still a play street closed to traffic as it was when Althea grew up.

"I was as honored and elated to meet those kids out there on my stoop as I was to meet the Queen," said Althea in the family's third floor apartment.

To the eager-faced, crowding children she had advised laughingly: "Stick to paddle tennis." Then she added in seriousness: "It's wonderful to see so many young faces here. I hope my winning has inspired them."

To Chicago

Relaxing upstairs Althea removed her lightweight tan jacket, revealing a white blouse and white pleated skirt.

"I intend to play in the U. S. clay court championships in Chicago on the 15th of this month," said Althea. She had declined an invitation to play in the Irish championships.

Althea had "absolutely nothing" Continued on PAGE 35



GREETINGS AT HOME—Nearly all the kids in the block on West 143rd St. came out Tuesday morning to say hello to Wimbledon champ

Althea Gibson. Tired Althea went to bed for some rest after waving and greeting kids and her parents and friends. (Solomon Photo)

Welcome Home Althea Gibson



Not Going Pro, Not Engaged

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to say, no comment at all," on whether she would consider turning professional if an offer was made. "I thought it wise of Lew Hoad to accept promoter Jack Kramer's \$125,000 offer to turn pro," she said, "because he's got a wife and family and no one is going to look after them if anything happens to him in the amateur game."

As for her wedding intentions she said "I have no immediate marriage plans." Rumor had linked her romantically with efficiency expert William Darby of New Jersey.

The 29-year-old champion who taught physical education at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., would say only: "I have a boy friend who likes me. So does every girl. I'm not engaged though."

Informed that her impromptu singing at a London party in her honor had resulted in offers from a swank London night club and a British bandleader, she said: "I'm not considering it."

"I like to sing but the only singing I've done was with a group of teachers in local clubs near the school where I taught. And that was as much to augment our incomes as anything else."

Discussing her victory again she credited much of it to Sydney Llewellyn who has coached her since 1950. "He encouraged and helped me over the years without any thought of himself. I wasn't able to pay him but I hope this victory helps."

"My victory belongs to all those who wished me well and prayed for me and gave me love and understanding."

Daniel and Annie Gibson, Althea's parents, were still speechless for the most part as they squeezed their way beaming through the mass of press people crowded in the Gibsons' tiny living room.

"This is the proudest day of my life," said Mr. Gibson, who because of his job as night man in a garage, was unable to meet his daughter at the airport. "She was always a spunky kid and a good scrapper," he recalled. "When she was about 13 I taught her how to box. There were a lot of women boxers then and I thought it might be a good career for her."

Brother's Pride

Her brother, Danny, who had done yeoman's labor answering phones and greeting the callers, added: "She always was a good singer and saxophone player too. Everything she does, she does well."

The world's new women's tennis queen, tired of holding court said she'd "just like to rest for the remainder of the day. I could sleep from now until," she said with a smile. "Any plans for later will depend on how I feel later."

Photographers, however, prevailed on the exhausted girl for "just one more" downstairs, and the last sight of Althea Gibson was of a tall, tiredly smiling woman being hugged, kissed and jostled by a noisy mass of elated urchins as she tried to get back upstairs.