

# To give up \$30,000 annually to alter career wasn't easy

HOLLYWOOD — Loyal viewers of NBC's Little House on the Prairie know and love the school teacher, Miss Beadle. And the blonde actress who plays the part, Charlotte Stewart, knows and loves Miss Beadle, too.

But it took a sacrifice on her part to do the part. The sacrifice began, actually, some years earlier.

Charlotte Stewart has long been one of television's busiest commercial actresses. She says that, for ten years, she did one after another.

"Then I decided," she says, "that I didn't like them, because I concluded they were ruining me as a regular actress. But I didn't know what to do about it, because, after all, I was making somewhere around \$30,000 a year doing them, and you just don't kick \$30,000 a year in the teeth."

One day she had lunch with an old friend, Richard Dreyfus, the actor who hit it biggest in "Jaws." And she poured out her tale of woe to Dreyfus and asked him what she should do.

"He said that he had something of the same sort of problem," she says. "He said that he had been working steadily on TV and decided he didn't want to do TV any more. And he said that the way he had stopped was cold turkey — he just said no more TV, and he stopped doing it. And he said that was what I would have to do, with commercials."

So, a little over a year ago, Charlotte Stewart turned her back on \$30,000 a year, told her agent she would do no more commercials, and she hasn't done any since. Instead, she has concentrated on straight acting and it's paid off with her running role on Little House On the Prairie.

Besides Dreyfus, Charlotte Stewart is also seeing a psychiatrist, and she thinks that has helped. She is basically a retiring sort, hardly a fighter, and that's been a problem for her for years.

"Right now," she says, "there is a certain part I want. And it's a part I know I am physically right for you and I know I can do it and the people who are making the film are people I know."

"Six months ago, I would have just sat around and then, later, I would have complained about my bad luck when somebody else got the part. But now I've changed. I called the director and asked for a chance to read for the part. I don't know if I'll get it or not, but at least I will have done something."

Charlotte Stewart is a shy, attractive blonde from Yuba City, in north-



Charlotte Stewart

ern California. As a teenager she wasn't into acting at all. In fact, all her old high school friends can't believe that that's their Charlotte down there in Hollywood.

She says her high school grade average — a C average — wasn't good enough to get her in the good California colleges, such as Stanford or U.C.L.A., and she didn't want to go to one of the not-so-good ones. So instead she applied to the Pasadena Playhouse and was accepted. And that's how she became an actress.

She stayed there for three years and eventually graduated. Even before graduation she was already working and doing well.

Charlotte was once Mrs. Tim Considine. They were, she says, together for nine years, but only actually married for four. They were divorced in 1969 and, she says, "we became friends again in 1971."

They are still friends. In fact, every weekend, she and Tim and dozens of their friends gather at U.C.L.A. and play soccer.

Another curiosity in her life this season: one of her old Pasadena Playhouse classmates, Joshua Bryant, has been cast to play her husband on Little House on the Prairie.

When you kick \$30,000 in the teeth, anything can happen.

# Previews of next week

## Sunday

9-10 (ABC) — GABRIEL KAPLAN PRESENTS THE SMALL EVENT pokes fun at television specials, with guests Sid Caesar, Cindy Williams and Fred Willard, with cameos from Kaplan's Kotter co-hosts.

9-10 (CBS) — KOJAK prays his suspicions aren't correct when the prime suspect in the murder of a local hood is a nice teenager.

## Monday

7-7:30 (CBS) — IT'S YOUR FIRST KISS, CHARLIE BROWN finds Chuck face-to-face with The Little Red-Headed Girl, whom he gets to kiss. (Sigh).

8-10 (NBC) — NBC MONDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES has a bit of terrorist nonsense called "The Night They Took Miss Beautiful."

8-10:45 (ABC) — The Minnesota Vikings tackle the Los Angeles Rams, from Los Angeles, Calif., on MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL.

## Tuesday

8-8:30 (CBS) — On M\*A\*S\*H a shortage of lightbulbs results in near-tragedy when Dr. Winchester makes a mistake in surgery.

8-8:30 (ABC) — THREE'S COMPANY lets you in on what happens when Jack and Chrissy spend an evening alone together. Ooh!

## Wednesday

8-10 (CBS) — Jimmie Walker stars in his first drama as a leukemia-stricken athlete in THE GREATEST THING THAT ALMOST HAPPENED.

9-10 (ABC) — BARETTA launches a desperate search for a 13-year-old witness to a murder, knowing the kid's life is in danger.

## Thursday

7-8 (CBS) — Erin faces an adult situation on THE WALTONS when her childhood sweetheart joins the Army after she rejects his proposal.

9-10 (ABC) — NEWS CLOSEUP: TEEN-AGE TURN-ON: DRINKING AND DRUGS examines the massive problem of teen-age alcoholism and drug abuse.

9-10 (CBS) — J. R. must either solve the murder of a street gang, or be 'snuffed' for knowing too much about them on BARNABY JONES.

## Friday

7-8 (ABC) — Ben Vereen, Paul Lynde, Kristy McNichol and Billy Crystal brighten up an hour with DONNY & MARIE.

7-8 (CBS) — WONDER WOMAN and Steve pose as a foreign embassy maid and a nationalist leader to thwart an international jewel thief.


7-8 (ABC) — TEXACO PRESENTS THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD offers scenes from four decades of Bob Hope movies, including the seven "Road" movies.

## Saturday

7:30-5 (CBS) — The Grand Prix of Japan and the World Motorcycle Jumping Championship provide the thrills on CBS SPORTS SPECTACULAR.

7-7:30 (CBS) — Bob leaves town for a week and his patients go into a panic in his absence on THE BOB NEWHART SHOW.

7-7:30 (ABC) — A small boy is blown away from Whoville in a howling night wind and finds himself face to face with the dreaded Grinch atop Mt. Crumpit on HALLOWEEN IS GRINCH NIGHT.



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