

Pamela Roylance

New member of 'Little House' cast has abundance of family on the prairie

By Millie Nunemaker
Staff writer

The producers of TV's "Little House: A New Beginning" can be sure at least six families in Kansas are watching the show when it is broadcast at 7 p.m. Monday evenings on NBC.

The families, in Hutchinson, Castleton, Pretty Prairie, and Ulysses, are relatives of Pamela Roylance, who plays Sarah Carter on the show.

All said they are thrilled that Miss Roylance has made it in the TV world, and wouldn't miss one of her shows.

Miss Roylance's Kansas relatives are her grandmother, Amelia White, Castleton, and her aunts and uncles, Elaine and James Meier, RFD 3, Hutchinson, Tom and Francie Grilliot, Castleton, Bryce and Mary Lou Hedrick, Pretty Prairie, Tom and Juanita White, Pretty Prairie, and Teresa and Glenn Barb of Ulysses.

Amelia White said the family is proud of its celebrity.

"She always wanted to do this. Even as a child she was always organizing plays for the other children. And, she has worked hard for it. We are just real happy and proud about it. We never expected anything like this because we are just farm folk. But it is wonderful, it really is," Mrs. White said.

Miss Roylance, Van Nuys, Calif., moved from her home in Portland, Ore., in July of 1980 to try her luck as an actress. It took her two years. She began work on "Little House on the Prairie" the first of July.

"For me this is a dream come true," Miss Roylance said. "And I really like the show "Little House on the Prairie." It is the kind of a show and the kind of a part that I always wanted to show myself in."

Miss Roylance said she first interviewed for the show in March. She met the casting director at that time. Then a couple of months went by before she was called back.

"When I went back I read for Michael Landon. That was really thrilling. He liked what I did, except he thought I was a little overweight. I was working in a chocolate factory at that time, anything to pay the bills. But, I quit that job the next day, went to a gym and started exercising, enrolled in an aerobics class and went on a liquid diet," Miss Roylance said.

"I dropped about 11 pounds, and that was enough. I went through four or five more auditions and the selection was down between me and one other woman. I got the part and I am thrilled."

Miss Roylance said the theater

has always been her life. She acted in her first play when she was in the sixth grade and got a bachelor's and master's degree in theater in college.

She then taught remedial reading and mathematics in high school for a short time.

"I was doing local commercials and did a couple of stage plays in Portland and then I just decided to move to Los Angeles and try my luck," she said.

She said she did two stage plays and a non-union horror movie in the Los Angeles area before landing her role in the TV show.

Miss Roylance said she enjoys all of the people she works with on the show and that Michael Landon, in particular, is an entertaining, generous, thoughtful man. Her director, Victor French, she said is a real "actor's director."

"My agent told me when I landed this role that I am really on my way. I hope so. I am doing now what I have always wanted," Miss Roylance said.

Mrs. Hedrick said the part Miss Roylance plays is very true to her own personality.

"We love her so much and are very happy to see her get this part," Mrs. Hedrick said. "Our family has rescheduled our Monday evenings so we can watch her in every show."



Pamela Roylance, who worked hard for a chance to appear on television, almost lost the starring role on NBC's "Little House: A New Beginning" because of her unusual job. But when Michael Landon said she might be a bit heavy for the part, she immediately quit her job at a chocolate factory and began trimming her figure.

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