

GRREAT

FROM PAGE 1



B.C. and Dee on "their" bed. If you were wondering, B.C. used the shower or bathtub for a potty and never had an accident.

Like her owner, B.C. had a colorful life. She was a "grand marshal" of sorts at more than 35 parades, always perched atop Dee's 1972 white Cadillac convertible, which she still drives and keeps carefully covered in her garage.

It was B.C. who led the dedication ceremonies of Flying Tiger airlines, and was once a passenger on a TWA flight from St. Louis to New York. Not in cargo as you might think: She was with Dee in the cabin!

Dee and B.C. were featured in *Animal People*, a book by Gale Cooper, published in 1983 by Houghton Mifflin.

As an actress, Dee was under contract with Republic Studios and acted in "quite a few movies and some dumb things." She appeared in *Perry Mason* and *Leave it to Beaver* television series. She also had a part on *The Virginian* with James Drury, and did a couple of movies with Randolph Scott. Appearances on *The George Gobel Show*, *Cimarron City*, *Laramie*, and *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp* kept Dee busy.

After leaving Republic Studios, Dee became an interior designer and worked for some of the biggest builders in Los Angeles as well as her wealthy friends and celebrity acquaintances.

Dee's close friends included Julie Dorsey, daughter of Tommy Dorsey, and actress Patrice

Wymore, Errol Flynn's last wife. John Derek, though, was "absolutely my best friend and favorite person. He was a good actor, and the best-looking man in pictures." Dee also was a friend of a couple of his wives—Ursula Andress and Bo Derek.

Then there was John Compton, who played Ann Blyth's husband in the 1945 Oscar-winning movie *Mildred Pierce*; George Putnam, well-known news reporter and talk show host who died recently; and Liberace, who loved her hats. James Coburn helped Dee move in Los Angeles, and she used to attend "soirees" on the arms of Hugh O'Brian. Rumors abounded, Dee said, but "we were just friends." Oh, and did you know that "Marion Davies had more emeralds than Cartier had diamonds"? And actress "Nina Anderson had the biggest diamonds in the U.S.—bigger than Elizabeth Taylor's."



Another photo of B.C. and Dee in the bedroom, this time on the pages of National Enquirer: 30 Years of Unforgettable Images.

Framed and signed photos of celebrities and horses are abundant on practically every wall of Dee's house and she remembers when each photo was taken. Sadly, she's lost touch with a lot of her friends and the Screen Actor's Guild won't give out any information when she calls.

She still has lots of animals around, though: Five cats, a Great Dane named "Missy," ("I've always had Danes"), and four horses, among them an Andalusian paint, an Arab buckskin, and a paint quarter horse. She still rides and still mucks stalls. "If I didn't clean stalls every day, I'd be lost," she said.

James Drury and Dee used to ride bareback in the hundreds of miles of trails in Griffith Park (Los Angeles). She won all kinds of halter classes with "bull dog" (quarter) horses. "They were small horses then, around 14.1 or .2 hands." Dee hauled her horses to shows all over the country, and all by herself. On her travels, she was a frequent guest at Jack Warner's 29,000-acre ranch in Armada outside Tucson.

More about Dee Arlen can be found in the 1993 book entitled *National Enquirer: 30 Years of Unforgettable Images*.

Barbara Holiday
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Most of Dee's celebrity photos are autographed. Here they include Doug McClure, Cliff Ketchum, the "Man from Glad," John Wayne, Gordon Scott (Tarzan), Herb Roberts and Guy Madison.



B.C. posing for a Baskin-Robbins commercial. The president of Baskin-Robbins happened to see Dee buying a cone for B.C. and asked them to do this commercial. B.C. was happy to oblige.



Dee enjoyed dressing up for the recent Applegater fundraiser at Eve's Café. "The secret to her lifelong glamour? "All you have to do is take a million vitamins and take care of yourself and you won't have any wrinkles."

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