

June Lockhart

BIOGRAPHY

Maureen Robinson in LOST IN SPACE

June Lockhart has tossed away her farm-style dresses that were her trademark for six years, in favor of the advanced scientific garb of the companion-wife of a space-roaming pioneer in the unique LOST IN SPACE series produced by 20th Century-Fox Television in association with Irwin Allen Productions and Van Bernard Productions.

Miss Lockhart was familiar to millions of television viewers as the mother of young Timmy in the "Lassie" series. She will be even more loved as Maureen Robinson, the wife of Guy Williams and the mother of Marta Kristen and Billy Mumy in the new science-fiction-adventure series.

Actually, June's real ambition was to be a television news reporter and analyst before she joined the "Lassie" series and before her marriage to John Lindsay. She had long nurtured a feeling and respect for journalism, dating back several years ago to her panel days on the NBC-TV new quiz show, "Who Said That?" and for the three years of that show - 1952-55 - she read an average of eight newspapers a day, plus several news magazines, to prepare for the telecasts. Since leaving the "Lassie" series, she has appeared on more than 50 different panel shows.

June made her professional debut when she was only eight years old, playing Mimsey in the Metropolitan Opera's "Peter Ibbetson." At thirteen, she appeared as Belinda Cratchet in the movie version of Dickens' famed "A Christmas Carol," with her father and mother logically cast as her parents, Bob and Mrs. Cratchet.

June was born into a theatrical family. Her grandfather, John Coates Lockhart, was a concert singer. Her father, the late Gene Lockhart, and her mother, Kathleen, were both noted performers in the theatre and motion pictures.

Before finishing her schooling at Westlake School for Girls in Beverly Hills (which Shirley Temple also attended), she had appeared in small but good roles in such motion pictures as "All This and Heaven Too," and "Sergeant York," playing Gary Cooper's sister. Following her graduation, she was signed to a contract by MGM and began her career in earnest, playing important roles in such top films as "The White Cliffs of Dover," "Meet Me In St. Louis," "The Yearling," and "Son of Lassie."

In 1947, June left MGM and was under contract to Eagle-Lion. She obtained a suspension of her Eagle-Lion contract and accepted an offer to appear in F. Hugh Herbert's play "For Love or Money," in which she played the ingenue. Her performance in "For Love or Money" was greeted with critical adjectives rarely used for the Broadway bow of a young actress. Brooks Atkinson, the New York Times reviewer, wrote of her "She is enchanting and should be kept under surveillance on Broadway to prevent her from returning to Hollywood."

By the end of her first season, June had been honored with the Donaldson Award, the Antoinette Perry "Tony," the Theatre World Award and was named Woman of the Year in Drama by the Associated Press.

After 260 performances of "For Love or Money," June returned to her exclusive contract with Eagle-Lion Studios, but almost immediately thereafter the company ran into financial difficulties and never was able to cash in on June's newly-won stardom. After sitting it out in Hollywood for almost two years, she decided to try a new medium, television.

In no time at all, June was performing steadily on all the top dramatic programs. In 1958, she was signed by Jack Wrather to star as the mother in "Lassie," and continued in that role for six