

# END COMES TO MISS LA MARR

*Death of Actress Follows  
Supposed Rally*

*Picturesque Career Closed  
After Long Illness*

*Romance of Life Eclipsed  
Screen Productions*

Death yesterday ended the colorful career of Barbara La Marr, motion-picture star, whose life eclipsed in vividness the most picturesque film in which she appeared.

Ill for months, a mere shadow of the former beauty who charmed world-wide audiences and brought the adoration of many men, the actress lost her battle for life at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the home of her father at 1234 E. Easton avenue, Altadena.

Although she was known to have been critically ill for some time her death yesterday came unexpectedly and after she had seemingly shown improvement for several days. After long confinement she was able to leave her home Thursday for the first time. Friday, however, she suffered a relapse, sank into a coma, and gradually grew weaker until she died.

### PARENTS AT BEDSIDE

At her bedside when she died were her father Will Wright Watson, and mother, Rose Watson. A brother, W. W. Watson, Jr., a vaudeville actor known as Billy Devore, is on his way from Fresno to Altadena. No funeral arrangements had been decided up to a late hour last night, the father said.

No direct cause of death was announced, her illness being described to a nervous breakdown several months ago in the East, which was followed by another collapse when she attempted to resume her film work here. After the second collapse, the actress was splintered away and kept in seclusion in Altadena, even close friends being denied admittance to her bedside. From time to time statements were forthcoming from her attorneys or physicians declaring that her condition was improving and that she would soon resume work, but rumors persisted that she would never recover from the illness that had stricken her.

### COLORFUL DANCER

The life of Barbara La Marr, whose real name was Reatha Watson, was one that was filled to the overflowing with hectic action, indicative of the dynamic power and unusual vitality that characterized her. Her rise to screen fame in virtually a few months from the role of a cabaret entertainer was typical of her whole history.

Born in Yakima, Wash., July 23, 1896, she attended the schools of Washington, Portland and Fresno. At 8 years of age she was a member of the Allen Stock Company, producing plays in Tacoma, Wash. and later with the Jesse Shirley Stock Company in Spokane.

She was 16 when she first appeared in the public eye in Los Angeles. At the age of 17 she had been married twice and figured in several romantic escapades, and became known as the "too beautiful girl." Later she adopted the name of Barbara La Marr.

The young girl's first husband was Jack Lytell, an Arizona rancher, who, she said, pulled her from a horse one day and hurried her over the border into Mexico, where he prevailed upon her to marry him. Lytell died two years later.

### OTHER MARRIAGES

Her next marriage, when she was 17, was to Lawrence Converse, said to have been an officer of Mexican revolutionary forces and incidentally, a bigamist. Her married life with Converse was short and she returned home to her father.

In 1916 she married Phil Ainsworth, a chorus man, who later obtained a divorce from her. Before Ainsworth's decree of divorce became final, however, the girl who had by this time discarded the name of Watson, as Barbara La Marr married the late N. Bernard (Ben) Deely, an actor at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., on September 11, 1918.

While Deely's wife, the actress, went to Dallas, Tex., and the adopted Marvin Carville, a child from an orphanage there. She has since taken care of the boy, and it is understood that she had provided for his future at the time of her death.

The wreck of her romance with Deely resulted in an unusual situation and many complications. Several suits were started, but was finally decided by Judge Thomas J. Lynch, who granted her an annulment of her marriage to Deely on April 16, 1922 that when she married Deely she was really the wife of Ainsworth. Six days after she was finally freed of matrimonial entanglements by the California courts, on May 5, 1923, married Jack Daugherty, a motion-picture actor at Ventura. Daugherty is at her husband, although they had become estranged after some months of married life.

### BLACKMAIL PLOT

As a result of her matrimonial difficulties with Deely, Miss

## DEATH OVERTAKES PICTURE ACTRESS



Barbara La Marr

Marr became involved in the trial of Herman L. Roth, attorney for Deely, who was convicted of a blackmail plot against the actress. Roth was found guilty of extortion and sentenced to San Quentin. Deely died later.

Barbara La Marr's start for stardom in motion pictures was said to have been given her by Douglas Fairbanks. She was employed as a scenario writer at the Fox Studios when observed by the actor, who was instrumental in later getting her a part. Her rise was swift. She played the major roles in many featured productions, and at one time was given a \$1,000,000 contract to make four pictures, according to press notices.

Asked last night, however, whether his daughter had left a large fortune, her father said that she had not. However, it is known that she was the owner of a home on Whitley Heights in Hollywood and is reputed to have other assets. The records show that this year, prior to her illness, she paid \$2287 covering 1924 income taxes.