

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: BETTY FAST

The moment you lay eyes on her, and before she utters a word, you instinctively know that you are in the presence of a Personality. Whether it



is the still somewhat impish smile, the light blue eyes twinkling with sparks of humor, the

personal style that includes oversized and striking earrings and a flair for fashion, the vague sense of familiarity, or just what it is I can't say, but you just know this is no ordinary, everyday woman.

The fact is, Betty Fast of Treemont's D-1 spent twenty years of her life in the Charleston, West Virginia television market, entering people's homes on a weekly basis as host of a weekly TV show called "Garden Club of the Air."

This was no pioneer version of today's "The View" with its acerbic commentary on subjects



unthinkable for women's programming then. Instead this program was planned around what was perceived to be the consuming interest of women at the time--the years following World War II and on into the 50s and part of the 60s. The majority of women were still at home occupied with homemaking and raising children and it was into this

niche that Betty fit beautifully as she interviewed guests who were experts at such subjects as beauty, fashion, entertaining graciously, gardening and flower arranging.



Born Betty Dent in Ohio, and gently raised in Charleston, West Virginia, as an only child by loving, devoted parents, Betty describes her childhood as “wonderful, almost idyllic.” She is a bit vague about how she got started in TV in its early days, but it seems she caught the attention of a woman in the business who saw in her the potential to become a welcome guest in the homes of women eager to keep up with the latest in women’s interests. This woman, Patti, became Betty’s friend and mentor, personally training and grooming her to star in what became a very popular show. (How many

shows can you name that survived twenty years in any market?)

Meanwhile she met and married a man named Vivian Fast, and they enjoyed 63 years together before his death a few years ago. They had one son, who now lives in Houston as do her grandson and two great-grandchildren.

It was their presence in Houston that drew Betty t Treemont just about six weeks ago. She is delighted with her new life and has become an outspoken advocate for Treemont, insisting that she delights in everything about living here.

When pressed about her career and which show she liked best among all the episodes she appeared in, she answers without hesitation, “The ones involving the young people...they always made me laugh!” Still laughing and still making every day special with her good humor and positive outlook, Betty Fast is a welcome new addition to Treemont.