

27 APR 1972

Approved For Release 2000/05/23 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100010042-0
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Yolande stays slim for a glamorous life

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One of the Capital's most glamorous hostesses these days is a wealthy widow — a former Miss America who has kept the same 35-24-35 measurements recorded when she won that title 21 years ago.

Over the years she has added only one pound to the 119 she weighed as the 1951 Miss America and is, if anything, more beautiful.

She entered the competition as 18-year-old "Miss Alabama," Yolande Betbeze.

Today she is Yolande Betbeze Fox, widow of a wealthy film executive, resident of a magnificent Federal House in Georgetown and a hostess to whom few, if any, say "no."

After Matthew Fox died in New York of a heart attack in 1962, the gorgeous widow moved here with their daughter Yolande, called Dolly, who now is 9 years old.

And immediately the rumor mill began grinding. She was breaking up a marriage . . . she and a prominent architect were in love . . . she was the constant companion of a noted TV newsman.

In an interview at her home Yolande tossed her long, glossy black hair, widened her big brown eyes and laughed. She confided:

"Publishers have been after me to write a book, you know. And the good Lord knows I could write a dandy about the men of Washington. But I'm so hap-



Yolande Fox and her "beau," Cherif Guellal.

py and contented here with Dolly and Cherif."

Cherif Guellal, formerly Algerian Ambassador here, now representing his country's Sonotrach Oil Company in the United States, is Yolande's beau. They have been a devoted pair for several years and their friends expect them to marry.

Cherif is charismatic, handsome and intelligent. His business keeps him rushing between Washington, New York, Texas and Algeria. Yolande accompanies him on some of his trips and has visited his family — mother and four brothers — in Algiers many times.

Cherif has gone with Yolande and Dolly to Alabama, too.

Yolande employs a chef, a chauffeur and a maid, Ida James.

Yolande looks back on what she calls the "Pageant Years" with no particular nostalgia. "The Miss America Pageant is as American as apple pie, but times have changed," she said.

She was a stormy petrel in those days. She was no sooner named Miss America than she refused to pose for cheesecake art in a bathing suit. The bathing suit sponsor was so outraged he formed the Miss Universe contest.

After her Miss America stint she went to New York, entered the New School for Social Research and took private voice lessons.

"I was a complete maverick," said Yolande. "No one could understand why I refused all the movie offers I got and I got plenty. Then I met Matty Fox, fell in love and got married in 1954."

A first cousin, Elizabeth Gillette Carson and her husband Kit, a lawyer with the Justice Department, are Yolande's only Eastern Shore relatives. That was another reason to move to Washington and buy the former home of CIA Chief Allen Dulles.

At the moment she is busy redoing another house on R Street in Georgetown. She bought the large, wooden Savannah-type house with balconies and a swimming pool. It was an orphanage during the Civil War. "I call it their R Street Beach," she added. "We'll have parties there and swim all summer. It's a lot better than carrying American dollars abroad to swim in Europe."