

# Barbara Britton

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**Barbara Britton**



<b>Born</b>	Barbara Brantingham September 26, 1919 <a href="#">Long Beach, California</a> , USA
<b>Died</b>	January 17, 1980 (aged 60) <a href="#">New York City, New York</a> , USA
<b>Occupation</b>	Actress, Mayor of Hollywood (1952)
<b>Years active</b>	1941–1980
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Dr. Eugene Czukor (m. 1945 – 1980)
<b>Children</b>	2

**Barbara Britton** (September 26, 1919 – January 17, 1980) was an American film and [television](#) actress.<sup>[1]</sup> She is best known for her Western film roles opposite [Randolph Scott](#), [Joel McCrea](#), and [Gene Autrey](#), and for her two-year tenure as inquisitive amateur sleuth Pam North on the television series *Mr. and Mrs. North*.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Biography

Barbara Brantingham was born September 26, 1919 [Long Beach, California](#). She attended Polytechnic High School and Long Beach City [College](#), majoring in Speech with the intention of working as a speech and drama teacher. While in school she began to show an interest in acting and began working on [local](#) stage productions.<sup>[3]</sup>

In 1941, while appearing in a Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, a [photo](#) of Britton was used on the front page of a local newspaper. A talent scout took notice, and she was soon [signed](#) to a [Paramount](#)

[Pictures](#) contract. [3] That same year, she appeared in her first two films: the [William Boyd](#) western *Secret of the Wasteland* and *Louisiana Purchase* starring [Bob Hope](#). Her first major film appearance was in a small role in the [John Wayne](#) film *Reap the Wild Wind* (1942).

During the 1940s Britton starred in three films for which she is most recognized today, two of which co-starred [Randolph Scott](#). The first was the 1945 film *Captain Kidd* with Scott, followed by *The Virginian* in 1946 opposite [Joel McCrea](#). The third was the 1947 Randolph Scott film *Gunfighters*. She teamed with Scott again in the 1948 western *Albuquerque*, and that same year she starred opposite [Gene Autry](#) in *Loaded Pistols*. In total, she starred or appeared in 26 films during that decade.

Reportedly because of lasting trauma suffered while making the 1943 war picture *So Proudly We Hail!*, she sought the help of [physician](#) and psychoanalyst Dr. Eugene J. Czukor in 1944. The film was about a group of nurses returning from the war in the Philippines who recall their experiences in combat and in [love](#). Britton and Dr. Czukor (22 years her senior) were married on April 2, 1945, and the marriage lasted until Britton's death 34 years later.

Britton starred in the 1950s television show *Mr. and Mrs. North*, a *Thin Man*-like mystery show, with [Richard Denning](#) and [Francis De Sales](#). She was probably best known for being the spokesperson for [Revlon](#) products in the 1950s and 1960s, appearing in ads and commercials that included live spots on *The \$64,000 Question*. She also portrayed Laura Petri in [Carl Reiner's](#) *Head of the Family*, the 1959 pilot for the later *Dick Van Dyke Show*.

One of Britton's last roles was on the daytime [tv](#) soap opera *One Life to Live* in 1979. She died of pancreatic [cancer](#) in New York City on January 17, 1980 at the age of 60.

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