

A Mickey Mouse Assignment

by Cpl. Peter Dnistrianskyj

It all started on a warm June day last year when the Assistant Director of Criminal Operations (Federal), C/Supt. J. A. B. Riddell, asked me to step into his office.

"Please sit down", he said. "Now don't laugh, but how would you like to go to Hollywood?"

I immediately knew I wasn't in for any disciplinary measure, but still wasn't certain what this session was leading up to.

He continued... "You've heard of Anne Murray, the Canadian singer?"

"Yes", I replied.

"Well she's being honored in Hollywood next week for her achievements and contributions to the entertainment industry, and has formally requested that two members of the Force escort her to Hollywood for the presentation ceremony. Would you be interested in going?"

Silently asking myself if fish swim, I said yes. Sgt. Sandy Glenn would be the other escort.

The experience was fantastic. Fantasy and reality were but a fine line apart, and in Hollywood no one knows what's real from what isn't. For example, while escorting Anne Murray to the podium by Gruman's Chinese Theatre, along the Walkway of the Stars, I was discretely asked, "Are you from Central Casting?"

Anne Murray is as folksie and delightful in person as she appears in all of her shows. After the presentation, we were all to attend a luncheon at the famous Brown Derby Restaurant. The



Anne Murray is flanked by Cpl. Peter Dnistrianskyj, left, and Sgt. Sandy Glenn.

luncheon was complete with the brief appearance of Ted Knight, also known as Ted Baxter, anchor man on the Mary Tylor Moore Show. "Real Mounties eh guys?" he asked, as he tried on our stetsons. "Keep up the good work", he added and was gone.

We didn't know it before we left Ottawa, but our function was to be twofold. Not long after checking into our hotel in Beverly Hills, we received a phone call from the Canadian Vice Consul in Los Angeles, who asked if we could stay an extra day to do a sequence of photographs for Disneyland with Mickey Mouse. We would have stayed another two weeks, had time and our expense accounts permitted, but an extra two days sufficed under