

OPINIONS

CBC star sells out

Well, it had to happen—eventually. Anne Murray, Canada's latest singing sensation, has followed the beaten path taken by Robert Goulet, Lorne Greene, Paul Anka and the countless other transplanted Canadians who found the illusive pot of gold at the corner of Hollywood and Vine St.

Yes, it was inevitable. The lure of money, glamor and fame was too much to turn down, even for our blue-eyed sweetheart from Springhill, N.S.

Last week the 25-year-old blonde, whose hit song Snowbird passed the 1,000,000 gold record mark, went to the motion picture capital of the world and signed a four-year contract with the Glen Campbell show. The signing guarantees her at least four appearances a season and possibly her own network show as Glen Campbell's summer replacement.

And the spunky Maritimer didn't stop at that. She hired Nick Sevano, Hollywood's top agent, to manage her career. Sevano, who also manages Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, is lining up her first feature movie role in which she will probably co-star with Glen Campbell.

Naturally every Canadian, from Vancouver to Halifax, wishes her luck in her new career as a movie star.

One wonders how Miss Murray feels about her sudden rise to stardom.

The talented young singer, who taught physical education in a Prince Edward Island high school two years ago, must surely be

appreciative of the many Canadians who helped her during her climb to fame. After all, it was our own CBC who first recognized her talent and made her a regular feature on Sing-a-long Jubilee. Then the penny-pinching CBC signed her to an exclusive two-year contract worth \$25,000 a year.

The pretty doctor's daughter, who looks like everybody's girl-next-door, must be dying for an opportunity to thank the thousands of Canadians who helped make her record a hit, and the countless fans who watched and loved her in her first CBC special last month.

If these are her inner feelings, she is most successful in suppressing them.

In a recent interview with a Toronto newspaper, only two months after insisting she "would want no part of the Hollywood treadmill", Miss Murray explained why she changed her mind.

Besides the obvious monetary gain, she said one deciding factor was the "the people in Hollywood are my kind of people."

Then she administered the coup de grace. "They are REAL people in Hollywood... not like the phonies in Toronto."

While we appreciate the verification of the authenticity of Hollywood people, Anne's comment about the phonies might anger a few Toronto natives.

Not that she cares what we think any more, now that she is on her way to becoming a super

star, but remarks like that are bad for business. She may well have acquired the key to Hollywood, but distasteful remarks like that may cause her to lose the key to many movie-goers' hearts.

Her agent might do well to hire someone to protect her from destroying herself by such subject statements.

Her frankness and honesty is admirable, but she is to make it big in the land of the phony people she will have to learn to practice a little discretion once in awhile.

After all, the movie-goers in Toronto contribute a sizeable sum to the theatre office coffers. Phony or not, our money is no opinion of Torontonians. But what if she thought the same of Montrealers, New Yorkers and Britons... and told them.

When she becomes a real movie star, she will constantly come in contact with very important people, many of whom WILL be phony. She just have to flash a big smile, flaunt her diamonds and say something original like "Dahling!"


If, however, she continues to speak out in an undisguised manner, her only appearance will be at Hollywood's unemployment office.

At any rate, she still has our best wishes. No matter what she thinks of us. After all, she is a fellow Canadian and we all like to see a Canadian get a break. (See, we're not all phony!)

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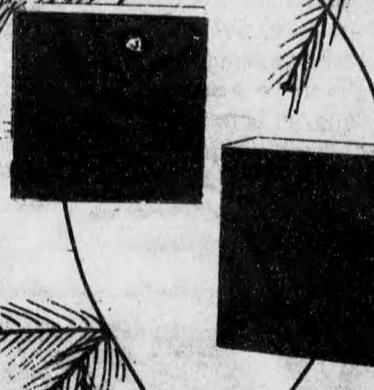
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