

Young Movie Actress Idol Of Philippines

By HENRY HARTZENBUSCH
 MANILA, April 20 (AP) — The crowd let out a yell and surged toward the car. The group, mostly teen-age girls and young women, cried, "Gloria," and smiled as they had a glimpse of their favorite movie star.

The car moved on. The girls, disappointed they couldn't touch or speak to their idol, kept screaming after the car.

The attractive, slim girl in the car smiled back gently. She waved at her admirers. She seemed embarrassed at the fuss over her appearance.

"How does it feel to be a successful actress, the most popular in the Philippines today?" she was asked.

Has No Steady Boyfriend

Gloria Romero, barely 23, answered quietly. "This little success I have, I am determined not to let it go to my head."

After a long pause she added, "I fear this is not a lasting thing. It is not something I can keep in a steel safe. It is a slippery thing. A false move, and it will begin to slip from my grip."

The most impressive characteristic about Gloria, who was born in Denver, Colo., of mixed Filipino-American parentage, is her refreshing modesty and natural shyness.

Unlike most actresses here, Gloria is a homebody. An introvert by nature, she prefers to go to bed early. She says she has no steady date.

"I'll get married when I'm 25," she said. "A few years ago I said I'd marry at 25."

Her Struggle Tough

Gloria's meteoric rise in the past five years to become the highest-paid Filipino movie actress — she received \$45,000 last year — was preceded by a difficult and often frustrating climb.

She remembers the first house her family rented in Manila. It was in a noisy neighborhood. The rent was 75 pesos (\$17.50) a month. Today, she lives in a 75,000 peso (\$17,500) mansion in a select suburb of Manila.

"It's my dream house," she said as she showed the spacious bedroom, guest room and dining living-sala as it's called here. The house has four bedrooms, and Gloria's is air-conditioned. She has a tremendous bed, specially designed with attached night tables on either side. She lives with her sister and two brothers.

Does No Exercise

There's no swimming pool in the garden, but a quaint, Japanese-style pond. "I don't swim anyway," she said. "Only very little and very seldom."

She does no exercise at all. Her problem is to gain some weight. She said she's 5 feet and weighs 114 pounds.

Gloria is suffering from peptic ulcers. She's had them a long time. She does not smoke nor drink.

Gloria could best be described as the Grace Kelly of the Philippines. She is modest, conservative in dressing and shuns cheap publicity.

Fans Dabble Low Dress

In a recent movie she wore a low-cut dress. The disapproval of her fans was unanimous in the many letters she received. The studio decided to raise the level of the dress in her next picture.

Gloria Romero has become something of a symbol to thousands of fans, especially to her teen-age admirers. She stands for everything they would want to be when they grow up.

There is something appealing in her quiet and gentle gestures. She has an almost angelic face. Her features are refined. She has bright brown eyes which match her deeper brown hair. She has a light, almost white, complexion.

Born in Denver

She was born Gloria Ann Galia Dec. 16, 1913, in Denver. The family moved to the Philippines shortly after her birth. Her mother was a mixture of American and Spanish. She died in 1945. Her father is a Filipino who tends to the family farm in Pangasinan province, on the rolling plains of central Luzon Island north of Manila.

Gloria completed high school in Manila. Her father decided to try Manila in the hope of finding a better life. He found work but times continued to be hard for the family.

Gloria looked for work. "But jobs were hard to find," she said. "People had little time for a girl fresh from a provincial high school."

She finally got a break with a studio as an extra. This led to a starring role at another studio, Sampaguita Pictures, where she has been for the past five years. She does an average of six pictures a year and received \$7,500 for each.

Slav Refugees Flood Over Austria Border

VIENNA, Austria, April 20 (AP) — Austria, already sheltering more than 31,000 refugees of the Hungarian revolution, is asking international help to handle a growing stream of refugees from Yugoslavia. Officials expect 1,000 Yugoslavs to enter Austria each month this spring and summer. The Yugoslavs say they are attracted by the West's higher living standards.

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