



PLANS CONCERT—Shirley Knight, above, has been doing alright at the acting business but she believes it is time Hollywood found out she can sing. So she has rented a concert hall and will present Elizabethan love songs, operatic arias, French tunes and modern ballads. She'll invite people she wants to hear her and won't charge admission. (UPI Telephoto)

Hollywood Actress Will Hire Concert Hall To Display Singing Ability

By JOE FINNIGAN
Hollywood — (UPI) — Shirley Knight feels it's about time Hollywood found out she can sing, so the pretty actress is hiring a concert hall.

Miss Knight, a movie newcomer who recently finished a role in "The Dark at the

Top of the Stairs," has been keeping her voice accomplishments a secret from filmland's prying ears.

"I found that if people know you can sing, they won't accept you as an actress," said Shirley, as she sat in the living room of her home. "For years, Doris Day was a singer and nobody thought she could act."

Now that Shirley's got a foothold in the business of acting, she'll sing, but only for a select audience.

No Admission
"I intend to rent a little hall at my own expense and hold a concert," she said. "I won't charge admission, just invite people that I want to hear me."

Shirley will be accompanied by a pianist and intends to sing Elizabethan love songs, operatic arias, French folk tunes and some contemporary ballads.

Miss Knight, a self-described "frustrated opera singer," studied music for 10 years but quit when she came to Hollywood.

"I didn't sing anything or take a lesson for the first two years I was here," she said. "That's terribly frustrating for somebody who wants to sing. But, I was determined to become an actress and not let singing get in my way."

"Actually, when I first came out here, I would have loved to get a job singing. But there's no market in Hollywood for legitimate singers. I certainly won't sing rock and roll."

As for talent, Shirley is modest enough to admit that her chirping caused a little eyebrow raising at the next door neighbor's house.

"I practice my scales while doing dishes," she revealed. "One neighbor complained and said it sounded like a cat dying."

Why does she intend to let Hollywood know about her voice now, when not too long ago she kept it a secret?

"Well, it takes awhile to prove yourself in this business," she explained. "Now, I think most of the people here know my dramatic work and singing won't detract from my career."

Might Help Career
"In fact at this point it might help," she said laughingly.

"This idea of hiring a hall may sound strange to some people," Shirley pointed out. "Actually, it's not. It's been done many times before. I was in a play once for which we rented the hall—if you could call it that—and invited guests."

"The place was so small it held only 30 people, but we played there more than two weeks," she said. "Some important executives came to our play and the idea worked."

"I'd gotten nowhere up to that time. When the play was over, two contracts were offered to me. Others in the cast also got jobs."

Between pictures, Shirley can be found working for nothing in some little theater.

"I belong to an acting group and we always do plays," she said. "I don't get paid for them but the experience is wonderful and we all enjoy it."

Desert Snail's Juice Can Save Stranded Men

Farnborough, England—(Science Service)—The species of snail called Ehrenbergi Roth may rank in the future with the St. Bernard dogs as friends of travelers in distress. These snails can save off death from thirst among survivors of aircraft crashed in a desert, tests here have shown.

The large white snail is found in the Negev, the desert in southern Israel, and in the scrub desert along the north African coast. In its shell it carries up to half a teaspoonful of "water," actually its body fluids.

Can Seal Self Up

In times of drought, the snail can seal itself up and last as long as four years. A crashed airman can stay alive about four days in similar circumstances.

Interest in the snails began when a Royal Air Force instructor in the desert survival school in Libya trod on one and noticed it contained moisture.

The Royal Air Force at El Adem collected thousands of Ehrenbergi and sent them in sacks to Flight Lt. John Billingham of the Royal Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine here.

Lt. Billingham fed the fluid to two rats, which actually put on weight on the new diet. Analysis showed that the juice contained no dangerous parasites or microbes and no toxic substances.

High Quantity of Protein
The Ehrenbergi's juice contains a high quantity of protein, and Lt. Billingham, putting it to the test, found that four pints of it a day was enough to sustain him. In his simulated test of a desert crash, Lt. Billingham was shut up in a chamber in which the temperature was sometimes as high as 118 degrees Fahrenheit.

"I was a bit weak at the end of the four days," he admitted. "But I was mentally alert and quite happy. It's pretty awful stuff, rather fish-like. It was so unpleasant that after the first day I flavored it with saccharine and lemon essence. But people dying of thirst in a desert will drink anything, so to them it would be like nectar."

MIDDLEMAN OUT
Karachi — (UPI) — The Pakistan government is unofficially reported considering establishment of its own jute trade representatives in important jute markets abroad. It is argued that by eliminating the middleman, Pakistan could get better jute prices and could better observe market trends.

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