



Spencer Digby photograph

Girl From the Empire State

(continued from page 7)

came in and I started wearing it. I like a skirt a little bit below my knee. I wear my clothes rather short. But it depends on your leg contour. If you have nice legs you can afford it. If your legs are, say, fleshy or flabby beneath the knee it wouldn't be in the least advantageous. So it comes back to this: you do what suits you." And wasn't that generally true—that women should dress to make the most of themselves, not necessarily to conform slavishly? "That's right—and there are too many conformists in this world."

By this time it seemed possible to ask Miss New York whether it was true that she didn't like being interviewed. No, she said, it wasn't true at all. She had just joked about the fact that she had been interviewed so many times and everybody tended to want to know the same thing. "But this is something that's all part of it. Everybody loves to see their name in the newspaper." And the things that everybody wants to know? "What do I think of New Zealand?"

(continued from previous page)

started my mind on quite a new tack. I began to wonder if his work could really be as bad as I had thought. I decided to have another look at it when I got home. I realised I had never read it with anything approaching real attention—it is so fatally easy to like only what one habitually likes, and to close the mind to someone who may be saying something entirely new. Especially if, superficially, there is something about it which raises one's hackles.

While I was meditating on this possibility Sayers was continuing to talk of my book and I went on listening with growing interest for several minutes more. Then I saw a shade of tiredness draw across his eye.

"Have a potato crisp," he said.

And he looked as weary then as I must have looked when I had been trying to think of more nice things to say about his verse.

"I'd rather have a stuffed olive," I said.

ARLENE NESBITT at the 2YA microphone

What do I think of New Zealand women—and then, men? Do I like it here?" Well, it had been a wonderful experience which got better every day. "It's something I didn't ever expect. When it was offered to me I thought it would be a small promotion, but this is giant size. I've met so many wonderful people."

Arlene has not been outside America before this, but she hopes eventually to go to Europe, and to see Australia on this trip before she goes home by way of Hawaii. Home from now on will be Los Angeles and Hollywood. She doesn't know when

she'll pop back to her home state but might go in March "to crown the new girl."

What are the ambitions of Miss New York, the young beauty queen of 21 from a Long Island village who has come so far so quickly? Does she hope to marry reasonably soon?

"No. I don't. I hope to have a career. I'll be testing at one of the major film studios in Hollywood, and if this doesn't come to anything or isn't what I want I'll try to do TV commercials." And Arlene mentioned the name of one of the biggest American agents who now represented her. Then of course, apart from movie or TV work, there's modelling. For all this she has been preparing herself since she went to dramatic school in New York, for though that was mainly with the Miss New York contest in mind, she admits that the idea of stage or screen work was always at the back of her mind. Marriage doesn't interest her just now because "I come from such a happy family that I don't feel I need someone else at this moment in my life. I'm just enjoying myself." But she does hope to marry eventually. "Yes," she said, and laughed as if it might be an old joke with Mrs O'Hara, now putting the last touches on her make-up. "I'm going to have six children."

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