

AUDREY THE GIRL WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY FOR MUSIC

By DOREEN LEVIN

Attractive 23-year-old Miss Audrey Smith of Johannesburg has a wonderful gift — a photographic memory for music. By using her gift, Audrey has already been able to help several musical stars along the road to fame, and it is her ambition to help many more.

Audrey believes there is a fund of local talent just waiting to be tapped. "But people are too shy, especially song writers and composers. I wonder how many people have tucked away in a forgotten box or drawer little songs, lyrics or poems which could easily be set to music, or compositions which could become the hit tunes around the world tomorrow.

"I want to make contact with these people. I think it is time the local song writers established themselves in this country. Every singer recording artist we have today uses overseas material. There is no originality, and people overseas want music from South Africa," said Audrey.

She told me how a year ago she had "found" the song "Picking up Pebbles", which was to



AUDREY SMITH

put Cornelia, the South African singer, on the world musical map. "I was working for an established recording company. 'Picking up Pebbles' had been sent to us by an overseas publisher, and the composer, Johnny Christis, was completely unknown to us.

"I was told to put the disc aside, but I filed it instead. When we were making an L.P. for Cor-

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nelia, we found we lacked the 12th song for the disc. I recalled 'Picking up Pebbles', took it out of the file and played it to Cornelia." She said it was "cute" and recorded it. The rest of the story is history because the public loved Cornelia singing that song," Audrey told me.

Her musical memory also helped "Four Jacks and a Jill" find their song "Master Jack", and at the same time put the Jewish songwriter, David Marks, on the firm road to fame.

"THIRD EAR"

Frustrated by her slow progress in the world of music publishing, Audrey decided to branch out on her own. A few weeks ago, she started a company, Third Ear Enterprises, together with Mr. Ben Segal, vice-chairman of the South African Folk Music Association.

"Understanding the shyness of talented people, I am prepared to offer any man, woman or child, whatever race or

creed, free counselling on his or her musical talent or song writing ability, not only South African inspired music, but original Hebrew, Greek, Portuguese, Spanish . . . in fact, any nationality.

"I want people to take advantage of my offer, because music is my life, and I cannot just go up to people in the street and ask them, 'Do you compose music? Do you write poems or lyrics? Can you sing or play an instrument?' Let I bet ten to one they do! I will be honest with people, too. If I think they are using their time, I will tell them. They may send me copies of their work or tapes, together with sufficient postage to cover the return of the material, and I will give them free and sincere advice. I know there is a wealth of talent here, and I am in a position to put local music on the world market if it is good enough," she said.

Audrey Smith's address is Box 11460, Johannesburg.