

Montrose, May 24, 44.

Collie, dear:

Your precious letter received-the most heart warming thing I've experienced in a long time. For while I can say with all due modesty that I have a few very dear people who think very highly of me, I have never, in my life, had a finer tribute than your, my childhood playmate, as well as my dear cousin. And it was so unlooked for! But I see you are like me in ~~an~~ one respect. I always try to give people "their flowers now", not on their caskets.

Walter and Norma who are both very warm hearted persons, were so pleased with what you said, too. But Walter wondered if you thought HE was to blame for the "dejection" you noticed. However, I can assure you that if a better man lives, I have never met him.

I did not know that my letter sounded dejected, but since you have said it, I will tell you what my REAL sorrow is, that my talented daughter, who has been acclaimed a real genius not only by great audiences but by artists of the stage and screen, as well as producers, ... A famous Hungarian ~~an~~ musician and composer, said, when he met Norma in N. Y., where she was writing songs for a revue, "Miss Gregg, you are the finest potential woman composer I have ever met. Your music has the virile touch of a man's. Why don't you sign your compositions, N. Gregg, so they will think a man wrote them?" She replied that she wanted the world to know WOMEN could do things, too. The head of the largest booking agency in N. Y. told Norma, after seeing the show, that SHE had the only tunes in the show. And she was the only woman ~~w~~ writer.

But she cannot get to first base, as far as real money is concerned, now, because she is not a Jew. There have been TWO articles in the Post, recently, written by JEWS, mind you, that have stated that unless you are in this inner clique (of course, they do not say "of Jews", but every informed person knows that is the case) no matter how much merit your songs have, you do not have a Chinaman's chance to get them before the radio public, or in the theatres, any more. The Jews have even bought up the music publishing houses, all of the big ones, at least, and they hire their own singers on a salary basis (and most of them are Jews) and if YOU send in a song, they return it unopened. You have to have a singer with a big name to sing it, and they are undercontract to these people.

We have a Jewish friend of 24 years standing who is a millionaire, and president of an oil company. He is a great admirer of Norma's ability and when she told him of this condition, he said, "Well, I'll show you what I will do". You see, he was a close friend of one of the Warner Bros. and had given them a lot of money to help get a lot of Jew refugees into this country. So he wrote a letter to Jack Warner, and sent him a copy of Norma's "Fellow Americans, Stand Pat" which has been a knockout wherever it has been and the Head of the Marine Band at San Diego, thought so well of it that, ~~an~~ UNSOLICITED, he had a band arrangement made of it, and played it seven times in one afternoon, with Norma as the guest of honor. But this Jewish friend of ours, NEVER EVEN GOT A REPLY from his letter. And WAS HE FURIOUS! He said they would never get any money from HIM. But that shows you what Norma is up against. She should be a millionaire, with her diversity of talents. For she writes the music, the lyrics, to her songs, dialogue for artists of the stage; she even writes her own harmonies, and Gertrude, who, I understand, is a musician, will know that writing harmony is a business in itself.

One time, when she was just a little school girl, we had a theatre in Milwaukee, and in our orchestra, was a wonderful piano player, who used to come in after the matinee, and practice. Norma, loving music, used to sit beside him and listen. Everytime he came back for the night show, Norma would be PLAYING what he had practiced, entirely by ear. So one time he was playing Rachmininoff Prelude, which is SOME HING for even a musician. And he said, "Well, kid, you won't be playing THAT when I come back tonight." But when he came back, I was in the box office, and he heard the "prelude being played". He said, "Who is playing that?" I told him Norma was. He pounded