

## Singing American Does Her Bit for the USA

BY RUTH VOGT  
Special Writer

ROME—There's a limit to how far pure inspiration gained from living in this rare "ecumenical climate" can carry one. Sadly, it was discovered last Saturday night that even determination cannot make a singer out of one who just "ain't."

Returning to Rome after having spent a glorious day seeing sights at Assisi, our bus No. 3, filled with 45 reporters, began to sing. The first to contribute to the entertainment was a petite French gal. As she perched on her arm seat she thrilled her listeners with beautiful songs (done in French of course).

NEXT A SPANIARD sang of the glories of Spanish love and Madrid. Not understanding a word of any song, I nevertheless sat in the back and reveled at every note.

Then a German did his country proud. A Swede followed him. A Swiss woman, after our coffee break, continued.

After shaking my head and murmuring "non non" when they called out for the Americans to sing, they accepted the refusal by continuing in duets and bits of polka songs.

ABOUT 50 miles away from Rome, another hour to go, the guide returned to the back again and asked the Americano to represent her country.

Realizing full well how even our Bootsie runs fast with her angora tail dragging every time she hears my attempts at songs, I nevertheless proceeded to the front of the bus (with all nationalities clapping for my courage) and grabbing the mike wondered what to try.

All the tunes written since 1930 escaped me as I stood there. All that rushed back were the idiotic, crazy words, "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby. That's the only thing we've got to give . . . in la la-Baby, smile a while, grin a while — la . . . ha . . . dum dum."

On I struggled.

RETURNING TO MY seat to the sound of the dear sincere clapping of people from many countries, I thought: "You have disgraced all America with your feeble notes which came out horribly."

"No, you didn't! That's exactly what we Americanos have extended to this great big world. Our love. We've shown it in many different ways and maybe that is what came through instead of my awful voice."

It was an experience matching even Assisi.



### Teens March for Dimes

Dorm Dickerson, Mary Riston, Ben Mills, Sheild Staff and Greg Lau, all of Bloomfield Hills High School, attended the recent county-wide March of Dimes Teen Meeting at The Community House in Birmingham. Topics of discussion were March of Dimes health career scholarships in medicine, nursing, occupational and physical therapy and medical social work. High school and college counseling offices will have the application

forms around Jan. 15 and application deadline is April 1, 1965. Also discussed and formulated were teens plans for community special events for fund raising during the December holidays and during January for the '65 March of Dimes campaign. Oakland County chapter of the National Foundation-March of Dimes has spent over \$2,720,000.00 in the fight against birth defects, arthritis and polio-care.



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