World-famous pre-war singer insists she has retired from all performing

By BOB THOMAS

PARIS (AP)—"I can't seem to convince people that I have retired. But I have." This was Winnipeg-born Deanna Durbin speaking. Still glowing apple-cheeks, she was as lovely as when she starred in a series of hit musicals in Hollywood.

She and her family had come to visit an old friend. There was her husband, writer Charles David. There was daughter Jessica, a fresh-faced beauty of 15. And there was son Peter, 10, who read a book while the adults talked.

"You'd think that after 12 years the idea would get across that Deanna does not want to work any more," said David.

"The French now understand it. When we go to an opening in Paris, the photographers wink and look the other way.

"But the foreign journalists don't understand this, and we continue getting inquiries. Then we have to go through the same dreary process of convincing them that Deanna does not want publicity."

MANY CAME BACK

Deanna, now 38, commented: "I suppose nobody believes that actors can really retire. That's because so many of them have announced retirement, then come back."

Her reasons for quitting go deep:

"It's not that I don't like acting," she explained. "I did, although the kind of picture I made didn't place much demand on acting.

"What I didn't like was the publicity, the invasion of my private life. A person needs to have an identity of his own.

"When you're a star, it's virtually impossible. That's something I could never get used to."

She has found contentment in a life of anonymity in France.

The Davids live in an old farmhouse a half-hour's drive from Paris. There they make an art of the quiet life.

"I cook and I garden," Deanna said. "Before I came here, I couldn't boil water. Now my husband says I am a good French cook."

SHOULD HAVE BEEN MIME

"I am teaching my Spanish maid to cook, which is quite a trick because she doesn't speak English or French and I don't speak Spanish. But we understand each other. Charles says I should have been a mime.

"Our gardener died, so I had to take over his job. I also sing. But now I sing only for myself and I sing the songs I want, not what I'm told to sing. And I've got an expert accompanist."

That is son Peter. He proposed to his mother that they make records and split the profits 50-50. But Deanna declined the handsome offer, since recording an album would only start the publicity again. That she doesn't want.

"Jessica is the actress of the family," said David. "She appeared in a school production of Molière's The Bourgeois Gentleman and she was excellent. She likes the acting life as much as Deanna disliked it."

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AND SO TO BED — Shirley Anne Field is currently starring in a British comedy called "Man In The Moon", with Kenneth Moore. Whether or not she is the attraction "out there" or is the attraction used to bring the astronauts back is not known; either would be reasonable. Shirley has also starred in "The Entertainer" with Sir Laurence Olivier and in the recently panned Vancouver Festival film "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning". — Rank Film Studios photo

OUT OF HOSPITAL — Lynette Walsh was released from hospital in Vancouver Sunday after an "open heart" operation that cured her of life-long ailment. Her trip was paid by fellow workers in Wollongong, Australia. She spent six weeks in hospital and returns home in August. — CP Photo

Troops withdrawing

KUWAIT TOWN, Kuwait (Reuters)—A converted aircraft carrier that brought the first British troops to guard this Persian Gulf sheikdom against possible Iraqi annexation left here today.

The carrier HMS Bulwark, now converted to carrying troops, arrived here July 1 with 600 royal marines six days after Iraqi Premier Abdel Karim Kassem claimed oil-rich Kuwait as an "integral part" of Iraq.

There was no immediate word of the Bulwark's destination, but Thursday night Air Marshal Sir Charles Elworthy, British commander-in-chief in the Middle East, said he expected to have three battalions withdrawn from Kuwait during the next week.

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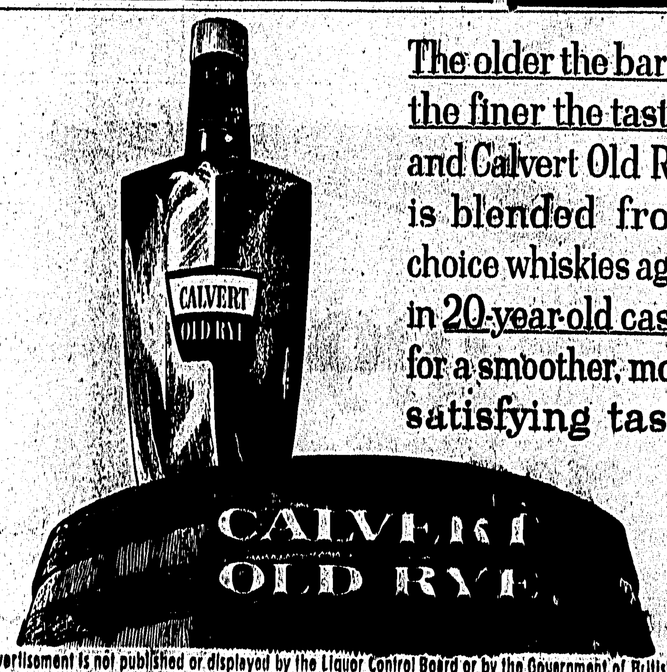

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