



STEERING COMMITTEE: Contestants on "\$64,000 Question" are introduced by Lynn Dollar. Could her name be more fitting?

TV's Five-Second Stars

By LESLIE LIEBER

This Week Television Editor

These lovely girls give quiz contestants
questions, reassurance — and smelling salts

In less than a minute's exposure per week on "The \$64,000 Question," Lynn Dollar, the pretty shepherdess at left, is seen by as many people as if she had appeared for 35 consecutive years in a Broadway play. Miss Dollar and attractive colleagues on this page belong to a new entertainment elite known as TV's steering committee: they're the girls who steer contestants on stage, hand batches of questions to quiz-masters, say "Time's up" and administer smelling salts to claustrophobes in isolation booths.

Although the glamorous job pays from \$75 to \$200 per show, it has its drawbacks. Upon occasion, pies aimed at contestants land on the hostess's face and she must look pleased as punch. Some page girls, like blond, green-eyed Beverly Bentley, who ushers eager contestants onto "The Big Payoff's" mink-coat scramble, have to wear smart new gowns every afternoon. The \$500 dresses are all furnished free by famous couturiers. But after the show, TV's Cinderellas have to return them.

A Broken Heart — Almost

Hostesses must be able to rise to emergencies. Lynn Dollar had to tell little Gloria Lockerman, the spelling champ, that she might not get on the show because time was running out.

"Gloria's heart was broken and she burst into tears backstage," says Miss Dollar. "I had to work like Florence Nightingale to soothe her in time to go on at the last minute and begin her spelling bee line toward sixteen thousand dollars."

"When Gino Prato — we all loved that man — was waiting in the wings the night he tackled the sixteen-thousand-dollar opera question, I was as nervous as a kitten. Just before going on, Gino sidled up to me, gave me a fatherly pat on the hand and said, 'Compose yourself, little girl.'"

Miss Dollar was born Andy Anderson in Selfridge, N. D. During the war, she installed radar equipment in planes. By a strange coincidence she changed her name to Dollar before taking a job as weather-girl on a Philadelphia TV station.

Competition for the page-girl jobs is keen. Evelyn Patrick triumphed over 50 other candidates to become Jan Murray's assistant on "Dollar A Second." Miss Patrick was once voted the most outstanding girl student in Florida and awarded a trip to the White House to meet President Truman. More recently the recipient of a pie in the kisser on "Dollar A Second," she aims to have a TV show of her own.

Roxanne, the first steering-committee girl ("Beat The Clock") to become a household word, has temporarily retired to have her own baby-girl contestant.

Renee Miles, charming jill-of-all-trades on "Masquerade Party," already has a full-time offstage job: she's married to the program's producer and has two children.

Last but not least are two newcomers in the hostess field — Sue Oakland and Mary Gardiner of "The Big Surprise." Together they add up to \$100,000 and a million-dollar smile. So give a thought to TV's jackpot dolls. You'd be surprised how dull television could be without them.

— The End

Television



Roxanne was "Beat The Clock" hostess



Renee Miles times "Masquerade" show



Evelyn Patrick of "Dollar A Second"



Beverly Bentley of "The Big Payoff"



Sue Oakland: on "The Big Surprise"



Mary Gardiner is also on "Surprise"

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