

Dotty Collins Doesn't Feel Too Badly

By WILLIAM EWALD

NEW YORK (UP) - Dorothy Collins, winding up a seven-year stretch on "Your Hit Parade," finds herself torn between chagrin and a grin.

Miss Collins, a honey blond got her walking papers from the NBC-TV show in February along with her husband, bandleader Raymond Scott, and vocalists Gisele Mackenzie, Snooky Lanson and Russell Arms. The entire crew will de part when the program ends its current cycle in June. |

Should Have Quit

"People have been saying to me for years--'Quit the show, Dorothy, get out on your own'," said Miss Collins. "But I didn't want to. 'I've never been ambitious. I always thought about 'Hit Parade': This is my career, this is what I always want to do. I don't think Raymond and I ever would have left on our own.

Felt Sad

"The first day I heard about being let go, I felt terribly sad. Raymond expressed it best—he said it would be like moving to! another city. But the next day: when I woke up, I felt elated. I knew I was free. It was as if a big load had been lifted off my shoulders."

Miss Collins, who began doing cigarette commercials on "Hit Parade" in April, 1950, and started singing on the show two months after, was not completely unprepared for her departure from the program. She had been taking dramatic lessons since last September.

Has Had Offer'!

"I've had all sorts of offers the past few years," she said. "I've been asked to do Broadway shows, TV, movies. But I never really had much time for them.

"This summer, I'm going to do 'The Wizard of Oz' in St. Louis and maybe, 'High Button Shoes' in Kansas City. I may do a TV drama show soon and I've read about three Broadway scripts - Raymond thinks I should get my feet wet. ,

"Raymond is writing the score for a Broadway show, 'Sugar Foot,' and he also has become, musical director of a new movie company, Virgo Productions. I've been approached to do commercials for at least three companies and there's also a chance Raymond and I may do our own TV show.