

Fine Imposed On Either Or Both In Divorce Cases

(This is the sixth of a series of 12 articles by the author of America's most popular human relations column.)

MOSCOW — In the 1920s if a Russian wanted a divorce, he had only to drop around to the court-house during lunch hour, fill out a form, pay two rubles (20 cents) and the divorce was granted.

Frequently the discarded mate received the first inkling that he or she had been discarded when a postcard arrived in the mail. If the postcard arrived during working hours, the neighbors knew first.

Two decades of postcard divorces show the foundations of Russian family life. By 1940 it was apparent that the free-love program was mighty expensive. But it took a global war to bring the crisis to a head.

MILITARY LOSSES

The Russians lost 7,500,000 soldiers in World War II. Today there are five women to two men

Thanksgiving Eve Services Planned

Special Thanksgiving eve services will be conducted at Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande, according to Rev. W. F. Biel, pastor.

The worship service is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at 6th and N.

Former La Grander Sets Wedding Date

Marie Brackett, Pendleton, and Norman C. Brackett, Prosser, Wash., are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Carolyn Fay, to Richard D. Hasbrouck, son of Mrs. Frank Brandt, and Ralph Hasbrouck, Nampa, Idaho. Miss Brackett attended high school in La Grande and graduated from Boise High School. She has been employed in Portland and Boise in secretarial work. Hasbrouck graduated from Nampa High School and attended Idaho State College, Pocatello, Idaho. He was recently discharged from the Navy and is now employed at Boeing Aircraft in Seattle.

The couple will be married Nov. 27 in the First Methodist Church, Pendleton, by the Rev. James Wilson. They will then make their home at Seattle.

The Bracketts are former La Grande residents.

Christian Science To Hold Meet On Thanksgiving

A special Thanksgiving service will be held on Thursday at 11 o'clock by the Christian Science Church, Corner of First and Washington.

A period devoted to voluntary expressions of gratitude for God's goodness is included in the Thanksgiving Day service in all Christian Science churches.

No collection is taken at this service, and local members have invited the public to attend.

The Thanksgiving Day Proclamation of the President of the United States will be read at the service. Readings from the King James Version of the Bible and from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy will comprise the Lesson-Sermon for the day entitled, "Thanksgiving."

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in the 18-50 brackets. The men who survived were in demand and too many of them behaved accordingly. A man could move out of the apartment of a woman who had borne him a child without so much as a goodbye. It was not uncommon for an unprincipled heel to have three families in production at one time.

A year before the war ended, the situation became so critical that the government lowered the boom. When the statutes governing divorce were rewritten in 1944, no official grounds were stated. Instead, the courts were given discretion to grant or deny a divorce depending on the case. The courts were instructed to grant divorces only when family life had become impossible or "ceased to exist." Chronic alcoholism, insanity, and incurable illness or desertion are considered valid for divorce.

The surest way to get a divorce, however, is to prove that the family unit has ceased to exist by simply moving out and starting a family elsewhere. A man who appears in court and pleads that he is not living with his wife and has a new set of children has a very good case.

RUSSIAN DIVORCE

Russian divorce works this way:

The plaintiff must first place the announcement in a newspaper. That costs 300 rubles (\$30) and the waiting list is a long one. It often takes nine months to a year to get a notice printed. It is whispered that Russian newspaper editors are frequently offered bribes by affluent impatient people.

The next step is to hire an attorney.

Special Service Set Here Tonight

A Thanksgiving service will be held at the Gospel Tabernacle, tonight at 7:30. Young persons of the church will be in charge of the preliminary service.

Mrs. Billie Crampton will be in charge of the service, in the absence of Pastor B. B. Robeson. The Robesons are in Blue Earth, Minn., where they were guests at the anniversary service of the church which Rev. Robeson started 25 years ago.

torney if you do not wish to state your own case. This is done by contacting the College of Advocates (similar to our Bar Association). You may request a specific lawyer if you have a preference and you'll probably get him. Otherwise the court assigns a lawyer. The client pays the College of Advocates the required fee for the attorney's services. The attorney gets 70 per cent and the College of Advocates gets 30 per cent.

APPEAR IN COURT

When the announcement is printed you must appear at the People's Court with the clipping. The case is then scheduled to be heard "in a few days." This means another month of delay. The People's Court cannot grant a divorce. It is merely a preliminary hearing of the formal complaint. A perfunctory attempt is made by the judge to reconcile the couple but no one seems disappointed when the attempt fails.

"This is just a stalling to discourage people," I was told by a Russian musician, who was an authority on the subject since he had been through three divorces.

After the complaint has been heard the case is sent to a higher court. In Moscow it is the City Court. Ordinarily there is a waiting period there of from nine months to a year.

The court is required to impose a fine on either or both parties involved in a divorce suit. If the court decides one party is clearly in the wrong, he must pay the total fine. In the majority of divorce suits, the fine is split. The fine for the first divorce is \$50, the second \$100, and the third \$150.

A Russian does not pay alimony if his wife is able-bodied and can work. If she is past 50, crippled or not well he may be compelled to give her enough money for rent or food.

RARE CASE

The case of a Russian who was forced to pay heavy alimony was such a rarity it received wide publicity. Here are the details:

A Russian army officer of high rank took up with a platinum blonde actress. (There's plenty of peroxide action in Russia.) The actress was 10 years younger than the officer's own daughter. See FINE On Page 7

Woman's World

MAXINE NURMI, Woman's Editor

Dr. Spear Speaks To AAUW 'On Congress Crossroads'

The American Association of University Women met Nov. 14, at the Sacajawea Inn with the Legislation committees in charge of the program.

Dr. Douglas Spear, associate professor of political science at EOC, was the guest speaker. His topic was "Congress at the Crossroads" and he discussed the 86th congress at its midpoint, after one year of work. He pointed out that with the largest Democratic majority since the New Deal, about two-thirds in both houses, it might have checkmated a Republican president, but since its program was based on a recession which did not develop, and since President Eisenhower's policy tended to be more aggressive, the leadership of congress was less apparent and more legislation passed than had been expected.

In forecasting the next session of this congress, Dr. Spear called attention to the fact that it would be a short one because it must be over in July before the presidential nominations; that it would be interrupted by state primaries

which would call congressmen home, and that a congress in an election year was apt to be a cautious group, so that the prospects of any important legislation are not very great.

The AAUW members voted to sponsor the Eastern Oregon College production of "Old King Cole" in schools in rural communities in Union and Walla Walla County in the spring.

Members are reminded to renew their AAUW memberships by Dec. 1.

The next meeting will be on Dec. 5 in the Ackerman auditorium with Gopal Boardar, native of India but now of Washington, D. C., as the guest speaker. The International Relations committee will have charge of this meeting.

VISITS WITH WACS

SEOUL, Korea (UPI) — Lt. Col. Anne Eloise Sweeney, deputy director of the Women's Army Corps (WAC), will arrive here Thursday to spend Thanksgiving Day with the handful of American WACS in Korea.

LOCAL EVENTS

DAV Auxiliary and Chapter will hold their Thanksgiving potluck dinner in the Armory, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Pep Club members will be selling Christmas ribbon, cards and wrapping, Tuesday evening between 7 and 8 o'clock. They will be going from house to house.

Zion Lutheran Church will observe Thanksgiving Day with services at 9 a.m. The Rev. E. W. Kasten will speak and the choir will sing special numbers.

Roger L. Roth, whose wife, Beverly, lives at 703 E. Eleventh, The Dalles, recently was promoted to specialist four in Germany, where he is a member of the 24th Infantry Division.

Myron L. Strong, nuclear weaponsman third class, USSN, son of Mrs. Mildred Strong of 2110 Third street, La Grande, was serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Lexington when the Honorable Charles C. Finucane, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Personnel and Reserve, boarded the ship Oct. 20, off Taipei, Formosa, for a first-hand look at the attack carrier force.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Cornman, 1214 West Street, have a son born in the Grande Ronde Hospital this morning, Nov. 24. They have named him Darl Aaron and he weighs seven pounds, 15 and a fourth ounces.

Army Sgt. James F. Markham, whose wife, Sharon, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence C. Markham, live on Route 1, Enterprise, recently arrived in Germany and is now a member of the 533rd Ordnance Company.

Markham, a recovery section chief in the company in Mannheim, entered the Army in June 1953 and completed basic training at Fort Ord, Calif.

The 25-year-old sergeant is a 1953 graduate of La Grande High School and attended Washington State College in Pullman.

Scoutmaster Club will meet Friday at 12 noon at the Sacajawea, in place of Thursday.

Mrs. Jessie Arthurs returned from The Dalles Friday, after helping with a new granddaughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Brown (Josephine Fisher of Cove), Nov. 3. The baby is named Kathy Jo and weighs seven pounds, one ounce.

Celebrating birthdays today will be Fred Boulet, Laura Crandall and Mrs. Archer Antles, La Grande, and Bertha Hohstadt, Imbler.

Monta McKennon, who now lives in Pendleton, suffered a stroke recently, necessitating the use of a wheel chair. Mrs. McKennon has many friends in this area.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rayburn, 2005 Second Street, have a daughter born Nov. 20, in the St. Joseph Hospital. They have named her Lisa Kristine and she weighs seven pounds, six ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Bowman, 1408 Cherry Street, have a daughter born Nov. 19, in the Grand Ronde Hospital. They have named her Theresa Lynn and she weighs six pounds, 12 and a half ounces.

Hope Chapter 13, OES, will meet Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Masonic hall.

Evening Circle Plans Holiday Tea

UNION (Special)—The Evening Circle of the Methodist WSCS met Monday at the home of Mrs. Dwight Williams. The devotions were given by Mrs. C. C. Votaw. Mrs. Alfred Crouter and Mrs. Ivan Parks had charge of the program. The Christmas Tea was planned.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Roy Todd.

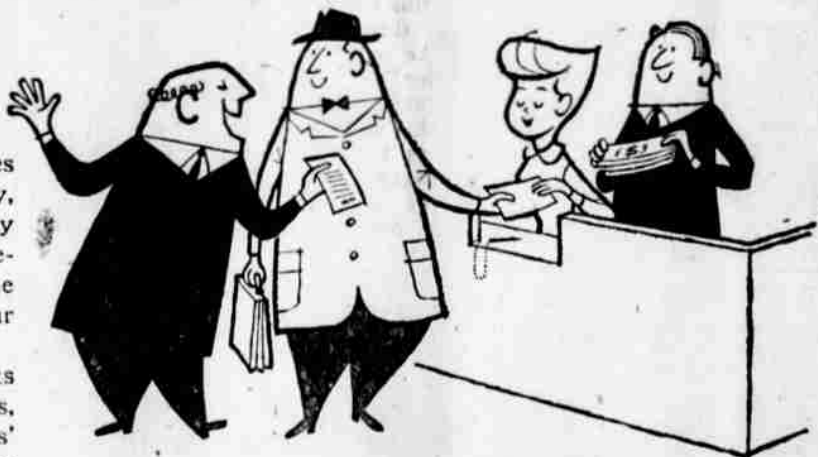
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