

American Husbands Have Become Domesticated in Last Generation

By MAXINE BUREN
Statesman Woman's Editor

It seems that the American husband is a fine fellow to have around the home—better than his father and especially his grandfather. A recent Life Magazine article tells a few statistics about why this trend toward a better character.

The average American, now married at 22 instead of 24, buys a home instead of renting an apartment. Three years after marriage he is the father of two children, while last generation men became fathers only after several years of marriage.

He is a better man around the house because he has become domesticated. He now helps his wife in selecting furnishings for their home—he is the nation's chief gadget buyer.

BUYS THINGS

He has had a marked effect on the nation's economy, according to Life for he does many chores, and each must be mechanized. Portable power tools, power lawnmowers and the like are highly important in the American scheme of home life.

Dishwashing, cooking and baby tending have become part of the modern husband's interests. His wife may have gotten along in an out-of-date kitchen, but once the man of the house begins working there, equipment is modernized.

Livingroom furniture, lighting and general household furnishings have picked up in usefulness since the efficiency expert has taken an interest in domestic affairs. According to Life's survey, husbands insist on quality when purchasing furniture.

GOOD COOK

As to cooking—while male interest in cooking was unusual in the last generation, it is scarcely a novelty now. Many men start with fancy cooking out-of-doors or on special occasions, and end up being mighty good general cooks anytime.

The war brought many men into the grocery store, for curtailment of deliveries began the trend toward personal selection, which in turn produced the modern super market. The supermarket further interested the male of the family, who now does much of the grocery buying. Grocery stores that remain open at night too have contributed to the interest of men buyers.

Husbands when selecting groceries, like every other household item, are likely to buy specialties. Husbands who buy groceries are likely to be more tolerant of larger food budgets.

But that efficient male is easily influenced—he is a gadget buyer. Almost any intricate-looking piece of equipment attracts his eye, he is always out for "timesavers."

HANDY FELLOW

The trend toward home repairing, painting and woodwork has resulted in a tremendous business for the supply man. An estimated \$3 million dollars is spent yearly for lumber, tools and other carpentry paraphernalia by amateur builders.

But while we laud the modern male for his highly improved character and increased usefulness as a partner at homemaking, we know the subtle power of our women, and cannot but believe that they, in their quiet cleverness, are behind this rejuvenation somewhere. He gets the credit, of course, but she's been working on it for a long time.

Support Driving Course for School

A course of driving instruction, as part of the curriculum of Salem High School, was given the backing this week of the Salem Insurance Agents Association.

"I think this course of instruction would be exceedingly valuable," explained Earl D. Bourland, president of the association. Bourland said that in the long run insurance companies would suffer in probable rate reductions, "but if this instruction re-

duces accidents it should be part of the school program," he said.

The proposed course has already been given a green light by the Salem High School P-TA groups who have long wanted such instruction in the school. First consideration for this instruction are the school's 746 sophomores. To ease the cost to taxpayers, it has been proposed that parents of students taking the course pay for instruction.



SILVERTON—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Maulding, who will observe their Golden Wedding anniversary quietly at their Silverton home on Jan. 9. They were married Jan. 9, 1904 at Salem, and have lived practically their entire married life in Silverton. (Drake Studio).

2 Mid-Valley Men Listed by Army as Dead

The Department of Defense included the names Wednesday of two Army men from the Willamette Valley in a listing of those now "presumed dead."

Included were Col. Wayne Barton Gill Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne B. Gill Sr., 1760 Kansas St., and PFC John J. Leno, son of Nathan N. Leno, Grand Ronde.

Mrs. Gill, mother of the corporal, said Wednesday that she last heard from her son July 26, 1950, when he was stationed on Okinawa. In this last letter he said they were being sent "... you know where," which turned out to be Korea. He was reported missing during Korean action Aug. 27, 1950.

Mrs. Gill said her son, who attended Woodburn High School prior to entering the service in October, 1942, was shipped overseas in January, 1949. She said that since the report of his being missing she has endeavored by every means possible to find some word of him, but to no avail. "I've never even been able to find anyone who was in the same outfit with him that's still alive," she explained.

Another son went through much of World War II only to die of cancer shortly after his discharge. A daughter, Mrs. Jo-

Ex-Con Held After Check Passing Try

A 24-year-old convict was arrested by city detectives Wednesday afternoon 20 minutes after he allegedly tried to pass a \$15 check in a downtown department store. Police booked James Walter McMichael, Ridgecrest, Calif., on a charge of check vagrancy and he was held last night in lieu of bail.

According to detectives, McMichael tore up the check and left the store after an employee questioned him about it.

The store called police and provided them with a description of the man. He was followed into two other stores before being arrested.

Records show McMichael was sentenced to Oregon State Prison in 1949 from Coos County for larceny. He was released after serving two years.

Police said he is wanted in Champaign, Ill., on charge of bail bond jumping and wife desertion and in Albuquerque, N. M., on a charge of larceny by baillee. Authorities in these states were notified of McMichael's arrest.

Seph Steiger, lives in Eugene. The "presumptive finding of death" was made by the department in the absence of any evidence that the men may still be alive. The deadline was set for last Dec. 31.

Civil Defense Report Points To Radio Net

Final phase developments of an adequate short wave radio emergency communication net for the county was listed as the most important achievement of the Marion County Civil Defense unit in the semi-annual report given to the County Court Wednesday.

The report, submitted by Director Wallace S. Wharton, covers the period July 1 through Dec. 31, 1953.

"Fortunately the half year brought nothing in the form of a disaster that required a working mobilization of Marion County Civil Defense," Wharton included.

Many Radio Links

When completed the radio emergency system will consist of the Salem Police net, the Marion County sheriff's net, the intercity tie net and the new Marion County fire net. The report explains, "In the 1953-54 matching program for short wave radio equipment the total cost of the equipment for Salem and 11 participating units is \$13,853. The cost to local units will be \$3,463, or a saving of \$10,390 to local taxpayers."

The matching program consists of a joint cooperative method of finance between the federal government, state, county and city.

Other Activities

Other CD preparedness covered in Wharton's report included Fire Defense Activities, Home Nursing Courses Scheduled, Revision of the Disaster Action Plan and Changes in Personnel.

City Gasoline Bids Lower Than in 1953

Bids on gasoline appeared lower than last year when City Manager J. L. Franzen Wednesday opened bids from seven oil companies on the city's oil product requirements for this year.

The bids on gasoline, oil, diesel, kerosene and grease were to be tabulated for study before a recommendation is made to the City Council.

Apparent low bidder on the gasoline supply of approximately 135,000 gallons was Tidewater Associated, bidding a tank truck price of 22.94 cents a gallon for premium and 20.74 for regular grade.

The city's present contracts for gas are at 24.9 and 21.5 cents.

Personnel changes during the six months included the resignation of Col. Mark Hillary, former director; promotion of G. R. Boatwright, assistant deputy for rescue, to deputy for operations filling the vacancy created by Paul M. Gemmell's resignation; appointment of Col. Armin E. Berger as assistant deputy for liaison; Lawrence Spraker, Station, appointed head of Mass Care

Report of Leak In Roof Delayed

CORTE MADERA, Calif. (AP)—The Volunteer Firemen's Assn. transferred the deed of ownership for the fire house to the town.

"Is the deal consummated?" Fire Chief Frank Nelson inquired. "Yes," city officials chorused. "Then," Chief Nelson said, "I'd like to report there is a leak in



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