



As We Live By ELIZABETH HURLOCK, PH.D.

Prematurity Does Not Necessarily Mean Weakness

According to tradition, a prematurely born baby will not grow up to be as healthy and strong as one who is born at full term.

(Q) "I am an only child. I arrived in the world two months before I was expected; I weighed four pounds, I was in an incubator for several weeks and the doctor kept me in the hospital until I was nearly two months old."

Dr. Hurlock has always been so afraid I would get sick or die that they have hovered over me all my life. I am very strong and healthy, never really sick, and would like to do what the other girls in high school do, but my parents are always telling me I'm not strong enough to do these things.

"Now the situation is getting worse. Every time a boy takes me on a date, my mother tells him to be sure to bring me home early as I am not very strong. This makes me feel like falling through the floor, but she doesn't stop there. She invariably tells the boy that I was a premature baby and they almost lost me."

"Her final word to me as I go out the door is not to 'dance too much' or not to 'overire' myself. I am afraid boys will begin to think I am a weakling and won't want to take me on dates." E. M. H.

(A) It is very likely boys will think you are a weakling and, even worse, when you are older and the boys begin to think of marriage, they may wonder if they want to marry such a "delicate" woman. Your mother can prove to be a real obstacle to your matrimonial chances if she doesn't mend her ways.

I suggest you go to your doctor for a physical check-up and a heart-to-heart talk with him. Explain how your mother has always treated you, what she tells people, how she keeps you from doing what you feel you can do without hurting your health.

The doctor can tell, from the tests he makes, just how weak or strong you are and what you can safely do. Then have him talk to your mother and point out to her how unfair she is to coddle you now that you are a healthy young woman.

He should be able to convince her that the effects of your prematurity are a thing of the past.

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Custody Battle Set On Kermit Smith Child

San Jose, Calif.—(U.P.)—Superior Judge Leonard Avilla has re-set Dec. 27 for opening of a custody battle between the aunt and mother of little Susan Smith, three-year-old daughter of a Portland, Ore., murder victim.

The hearing was originally scheduled to begin here Wednesday, but was postponed by request of both attorneys.

Vying for custody are the child's aunt, Mrs. Ellen Hightower, of Los Gatos, Calif., and the mother, Mrs. Marjorie Smith of Portland.

Mrs. Smith recently was acquitted of charges she conspired to murder her husband, Kermit, who died when a booby trap bomb blew up his automobile.

Mrs. Hightower, sister of the dead man, had temporary custody of the child during the mother's detention and trial and recently petitioned the court for permanent custody.

Ontario Dealers Lose Round in Gas Battle

Ontario — (U.P.) — Local appliance dealers have lost another round in their battle to restrict proposed merchandising practices of Owyhee Bottled Gas company which seeks to distribute natural gas here.

City Attorney Tony Yturri, at a meeting yesterday, told appliance merchants that any ordinance restricting the retailing practices of the company would probably be found illegally in restraint of trade.

The city council will hold its third and final reading of an ordinance granting the local franchise to the company next Monday.

Harry Peterson, representing appliance dealers, said a petition would be circulated in an attempt to bring the matter to a popular vote.

WEIGHTY MATTER

Omaha — (U.P.) — Roy Gish, McCook, Neb., showed up here at the Marine recruiting station weighing only 102 pounds — three pounds under the minimum weight for joining up. Gish returned and passed his physical — after eating four pounds of bananas.

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Back Stairs: Callers Get Full Treatment

By FRANK ELGAZER
United Press Correspondent
Gettysburg, Pa. — (U.P.) — Backstairs at the Gettysburg White House:

President Eisenhower's official callers during his recuperation here expect the full treatment from the press corps when they leave the President's office. They aren't usually disappointed.

Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall, at a 25-minute news conference following a 45-minute talk with the President, successfully fielded a barrage of questions on Mr. Eisenhower's second term intentions. Then he hurried, as a man relieved, out to his waiting limousine.

"I've got to pick up a pack of cigars," he told his chauffeur, glancing up and down the street for a likely source of supply. The chauffeur replied helpfully that he had seen a dispenser just inside the door of the temporary White House press room.

Hall shook his head.

"I don't want to go back in there," he said, with finality.

The chauffeur went back for the smokes.

The President's privacy on his handsome farm estate suffered a sudden decline with fall when sheltering trees shed their leaves. Now it's easy, with a pair of binoculars, to get a good look at the place from any of several vantage points.

The persistent viewer can almost count on seeing the President, out for a few practice strokes on his putting green or strolling around on his farm. Fortunately for the President's peace of mind, and desire for privacy, there aren't many tourists here this time of year. A pretty weekend though still brings them out by the hundreds.

Cameras are something else again. Press Secretary James C. Hagerty blew the whistle on long lenses almost from the start. He said the President never would feel free to go out if he knew a camera was trained on him every moment.

Then there is the matter of that 75-foot observation tower, on the edge of the Battlefield National Park and just east of the President's farm. It was closed when the President arrived on Nov. 14. Last Sunday, a beautiful day, lucky sightseers found the gate unlocked and climbed to the top by the score.

The Park Service thought the Secret Service had okayed it; and vice versa. Turned out somebody had picked the lock. Now it's closed again. The new lock will be harder to pick, and whoever picks it may get into plenty of trouble.

Hugh Keckler, the President's nearest neighbor, thought Mr. Eisenhower might be interested in his offer to sell the Keckler farmhouse, plus 3½ acres, a small barn and a couple of out-buildings, for \$15,000. He put "For Sale" signs on the place, just down the road from Mr. Ei-

GOLD HILL Benefit Dance Said Success

By MRS. AGNES HARRISON
Gold Hill — The benefit dance held for the improvement of the Rock Point cemetery was a success financially and a pleasant Thanksgiving eve was had by a large crowd. Net proceeds will be about \$160. The committee is grateful for the community spirit and for all who helped to make it such a success. In the near future plans will be made for other fund raising events as money is still needed for this cause.

Gold Hill Grange is planning on a food sale, bazaar and chicken plate dinner for Saturday, Dec. 3. The public is invited. Dinner will be \$1 with children plates also served. Serving will start at 5 p.m. and continue throughout the evening as a public dance is also scheduled for that night.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hays have returned from Chico, Calif., where they spent the Thanksgiving holidays with their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hays.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Willis and three children, Klamath Falls, and Mr. and Mrs. Alva Walker were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Delos Walker and girls Thanksgiving day.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker have rented their house on the river

Columbia Interstate Bridge Wins Approval

Portland — (U.P.) — Secretary of the Army Wilbur M. Brucker has approved, in principle, the proposed reconstruction of the inter-state bridge between Portland and Vancouver.

Word of the approval was released here yesterday by Col. David S. Parker, acting Portland district engineer. The proposal called for half of the reconstruction cost to be borne by Oregon and Washington, and the other half by the federal government.

Formal approval of the raising of the bridge will be issued when the Corps of Engineers is assured by the two states that their half of the financing will be accomplished.

Actual reconstruction was scheduled to be completed in the spring of 1958, after a new bridge across the Columbia was finished.

Albany — (U.P.) — A scroll, commemorating more than 35 years of United Press service to the Albany Democrat-Herald, has been presented to Publisher Ralph R. Cronise.

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