



STILL SOMEWHAT DAZED, William Lund greets newsmen after receiving word he inherited \$2,000,000 from estate of grandmother in Stockholm, Sweden. He is clerk at Cleveland, O., steel plant. With him are Mrs. Lund and their children. (International Soundphoto)

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a woman's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Arnold F. — I don't know if I should take her back. **Emily F.** — I'll work my fingers to the bone for him.

Arnold F. — Five years ago I made the mistake of marrying a girl much younger than myself. I was then 36 and Emily was 19. I thought she was a good, sweet, naive girl, but it seems I was wrong.

Emily was shiftless, lazy and headstrong. She thought marriage was going to be one long picnic. After we had two babies and she saw that life wasn't going to be a bowl of cherries, she became bad tempered. Soon I realized things were even worse than I thought. She was flirting with men. One fine day she upped and deserted the children and me with one of those men.

Sure enough, after living with this man for six months, she discovered he was a scoundrel. She left him and has asked to come back to me. Of course, I've got to have somebody to take care of the children. I've had a housekeeper all this time, but have practically gone busted. But I just don't know whether I can trust Emily.

Emily F. — I know I don't deserve any sympathy and I should not be excused for what I did to Arnold and the children. All I can say is that I've learned my lesson and I'll be different from now on.

It's true I didn't know what marriage was all about. I wanted romance and fun. Arnold kept telling me married life was a serious business, but I wasn't old enough to understand how right he was.

After living with that other man, I realize what a good husband and father Arnold is. I'm ready to work my fingers to the bone for him for the rest of my life — if only he'll take me back.

I'm sure I can take care of housekeeper. Arnold won't be

able to afford one forever and what will happen to the children then? I hate to think they will grow up wrong because of what I've done. I missed them every minute I was away.

The Council: Emily may have learned something by her experience, but Arnold doesn't seem to have profited much.

It is easy to condemn Emily's action. It was so bad that Arnold can feel perfectly self-righteous and sees no need to examine his own conduct and attitudes. There are indications, however, that he is not entirely blameless.

Arnold married a girl slightly more than half his age. He admits she wanted "romance and fun," as any girl of 19 would. How come Arnold saw marriage as such a very grim and serious business that he could not give her any of this romance and fun?

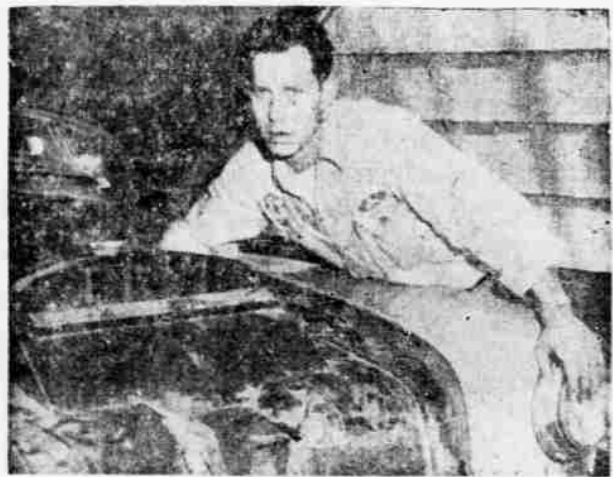
In Arnold's statement, there is not one word about loving Emily or needing her for herself. He may condescend to take her back as a housekeeper, in order to take care of the children, but there is no word of forgiveness or affection for Emily.

Emily is too ready to come back on the basis of making it up to Arnold for the rest of her life. Like Arnold, she does not speak of love or happiness — only of "working her fingers to the bone."

Emily may have the best will in the world, but this arrangement can't work out. With an aloof, self-righteous father and a humble mother spending her life expiating a sin, what kind of home can the children have?

There must be a way for this couple to find some love and happiness together and they should talk their problems over with a clergyman or counselor attached to a family service agency.

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PLENTY TO SAY—Louis Girard, 27, brother of 21-year-old William S. Girard, U. S. soldier in Japan, said in Ottawa, Ill. that he would "sure have plenty to say" to President Eisenhower if he could contact him. His remarks were prompted when Washington ordered that William be turned over to Japanese authorities to face trial on manslaughter charge. The charge stemmed from the death of a woman who was struck and killed by the casing of an empty cartridge fired by William on scrap metal scavengers on a U. S. firing range in Japan.

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