

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women'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.

Felix J.—I want to call her my wife.
John R.—I can't walk out now.

Felix J.—I am a man of 42 who has waited for one woman for nearly 20 years—and now I wonder whether we'll ever be together.

Julia was already the mother of four children when we met. We were so much in love that, in spite of her love for her family, Julia risked everything to have an affair with me. She said, however, that she just couldn't break up her home because of the children. I said I would wait for her until the children were grown.

Now two of the children are married and two are away at college. Julia and I have lots of time together because her husband is away often on business trips. But I am tired of this two-faced life. I want to be able to call Julia my wife. Yet she keeps putting off the break with her husband.

John R.—I have suffered even more than Felix because of "this two-faced life." It certainly wasn't easy, yet I managed to conceal everything from my family. My husband believes I love him and the children have had a healthy, happy home life. My sacrifice wasn't an easy one or a small one. Felix doesn't understand what I've been through.

Now my two daughters are in college and I know that a break between their father and me would be a terrible shock to them at this time. We have waited so long, I would like to see the girls married before I finally break with my husband.

There is another factor, and that is, that my husband hasn't

been too well during the past year. I'm not the type to walk out when I'm needed.

The Council: It is quite remarkable that a woman who has treated herself to the full security of marriage—plus a lover on the side for nearly 20 years, can talk of "my sacrifice."

It is equally remarkable that such a woman could have found two ideal victims for such a set-up—a glibly or disinterested husband and a lover who enjoys punishment.

It is possible that Felix was no more serious than Julia about going through with this relationship when he was younger. But now that he sees he has missed the boat in life and has no resources but Julia, he is ready to settle down in earnest.

If this is the case, Felix has been caught in his own trap. We don't buy Julia's tender concern over her husband and daughters. Nothing stops her from taking what she wants when she wants it. Felix should face the facts. Julia is tired of him. What would be the point of marrying him now? She's better off sticking to the security of Hubby and looking around for something new and more interesting in the way of extra-curricular activities.

Julia's life is a lie from the ground up. She has cast herself in the role of heroine, yet she is a villainess. She lies to herself when she says that her husband believes that she loves him and that her children have had a "healthy, happy home life." It may not show, but this family's life has been emotionally riddled by deceit. Some day the effects may appear on the surface.

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Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

More than just good companions, dogs can be downright good medicine for men with broken bodies. Let me tell you how one of the war's most dramatic "recovery" stories, led to many others.

A World War II pilot who had cracked up in a plane was hospitalized with one badly shattered leg and the other in little better shape. He was very despondent. Attempting to cheer him up, another wounded airman got exactly nowhere. In aspiration, he gave a parting shot: "Collins, you just naturally don't give the docs a chance to get you well. You're not interested in getting well. You know, you have to get interested in some-

thing. Even if it's only a dog." Happily, a Red Cross volunteer worker with a big heart overheard that remark. She came to the gloomy lieutenant and moving his crutches aside, sat beside him. "Would you like to have a dog, I mean a good one, if I could get one?" she asked. Finally, the wounded pilot said, "Well, O.K., if it's a German shepherd pup."

Problem Goes To Right Person
The worker took her problem to exactly the right person—the late Mrs. Marvin Preston, President of the Westchester County, New York, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who had her own kennels.

Mrs. Preston got on it immediately. She found the pup, a fine animal with a long and notable lineage with the aristocratic name, Fritz von Grafnar.

With next morning's early breakfast, the young lieutenant heard that the pup was on the way by car. By 10, he was out on the porch waiting. Whenever an auto drove up, he would leave himself to his feet, steadying himself with a cane. That day, he'd put his crutches aside. Sure it was silly, he later admitted, but darn it, he didn't want that pup to see him for the first time looking helpless on crutches.

When the car drew up with two women in front and a ball of lively fur in the back, the lieutenant was on the steps to meet it. He opened the door and hoisted himself up into the back seat for couldn't he and his dog meet each other better that way.

In an instant Fritz was in his master's arms, and fond tongue licking at his cheeks and the man's arms went out around the tiny dog. The women were openly weeping; there were tears, too, in the wounded man's eyes.

Would Have Been Worth Effort
If Lt. Colin had kept "Fritz" just as a pet to play with, that alone would have been worth the effect on his morale. But he did better than that, grooming

him and, young as the pup was, training him remarkably. Fritz in turn, worked wonders on his master. Colin's recovery which doctors had estimated would take 10 months, was achieved in just 4 when he and Fritz left the hospital the flyer was walking without a cane.

But the dog's healing paw reached farther than Lt. Colin. This happened in 1944—and from that beginning commenced a series of hundreds and thousands of cures extraordinarily accelerated by dogs. It cured men who had jungle fever; men who were broken in spirit from too much killing; men who worn out fighting; men who were wounded; men who needed re-adjustment; men filled with helpless apathy. And these "Dogs for Convalescents" were soon in great demand. But pure-breds—because the wounded did better when they could take a pride in their dogs' appearance. And the dogs in turn, requires exercise. They needed collars, and leashes made in leathercraft classes. They needed obedience training. All required for restoring men to sociable companionship.

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American Boy Scouts In London for Jamboree

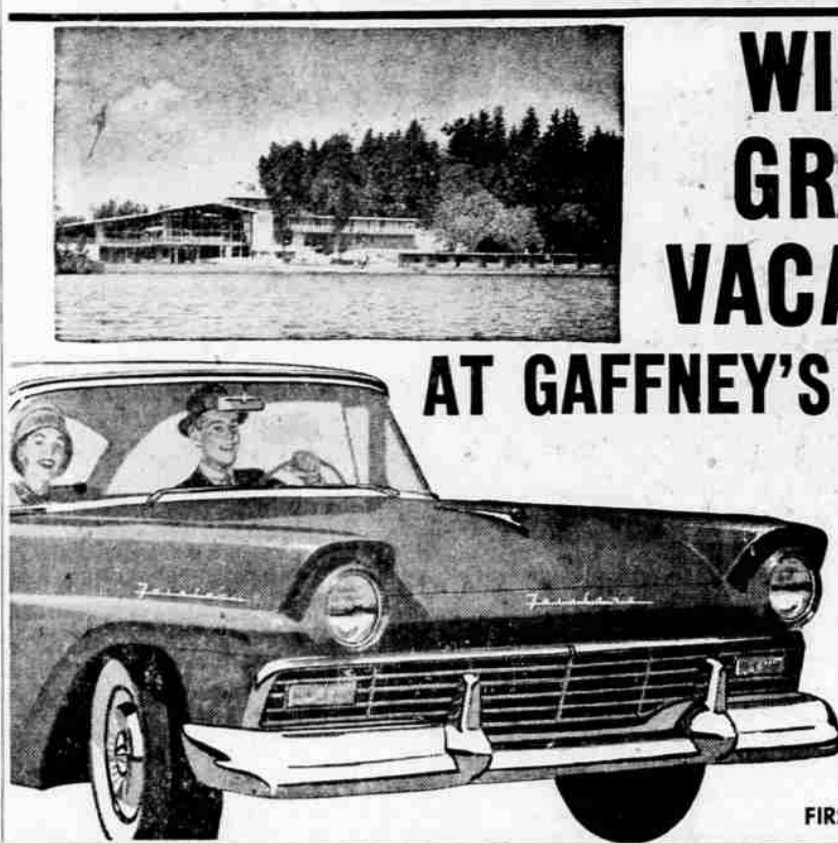
London—The advance guard of American Boy Scouts arrived here Saturday for the golden jamboree of the International Scout Movement and hiked through a London downpour to head for their first camping ground in Britain.



TESTIFYING before Senate rackets committee, George Meany, AFL-CIO president, announces he will urge discipline of two United Textile Workers' officials accused of using union funds to finance homes.

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