

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.

JANICE F. — We should ignore his parents and get engaged.

MRS. L. F. — They should break it up.

JANICE F. — I am 19 and I have been going with a boy of 20 for the past year. We are very much in love and want to be married.

Alan's parents seemed to like me very much at first, but when he told them he wanted to get engaged, they turned against me. They said they don't want him to get married until he is over 21. That's okay with me, but I just wanted to be engaged now.

My parents were very fond of Alan, but now they are angry about his parents' attitude and they want me to break the whole thing up. Alan and I feel the same about one another and think he ought to ignore his parents and we should go ahead and get engaged.

MRS. L. F. — It is true that my husband and I liked Alan and felt that he would be a suitable husband for Janice, but after what has happened we are inclined to feel that his parents are the kind who could make a lot of trouble for a young couple.

Ever since Alan told his parents he wants to become engaged they have treated Janice very slightly and have said cutting things to her. Their attitude seems to be that she is trying to "hook" him before he has a chance to know his own mind. We feel that Alan is quite mature for his age, but his parents' hostility could have a very bad effect on him and the marriage. Janice should reconcile herself to giving him up.

THE COUNCIL: The L.F.'s may be taking the "slight" to their daughter a little too hard. They should recognize that 20 really is a very young age for a man to commit himself to marriage. They have adjusted to the idea of losing their daughter to a husband in the very near future, but Alan's parents probably find it a somewhat of a

shock to think of their son as a married man.

If Alan's parents believe he has not yet had "a chance to know his own mind," they may be having a good reason for this theory. Probably they know the youth a little better than either the L.F.'s or Janice. Probably they are concerned about his ability to take on the responsibility of a family and feel that he should first be more firmly established in a career.

In any case, there doesn't seem to be any reason for rash actions such as getting engaged without Alan's family's approval or breaking up the relationship. Since Alan's parents have shown friendliness toward Janice in the past they might be open to discussion of the whole problem with the L.F.'s. After talking the matter over a little further, they may be willing to settle on a reasonable date for an engagement.

Until an engagement does take place, however, the L.F.'s would be wise to encourage their daughter to see others. It is quite possible that she, too, can benefit from the opportunity to get to know her own mind better.

(Copyright 1958, General Features Corp.)

Lana Turner Willing To Discuss Custody

Hollywood — (AP) — Attorney Jerry Giesler confirmed Monday that Lana Turner was willing to meet with her ex-husband, Stephen Crane, to try to work out some plan for the custody of their daughter, Cheryl.

Giesler stressed that Lana feels the juvenile court hearing on April 24 should permit her to keep custody of the 14-year-old girl.

"That's a mother's natural reaction," he said.

Los Angeles — (AP) — Bargaining committees seeking a new contract covering some 16,000 employees of Lockheed Aircraft's California division reported Saturday that a stalemate had been reached and that a recess in negotiations had been called for.

Fisherman Drowns In Tillamook Bay

Tillamook — (AP) — Ray White, 53-year-old commercial fisherman, drowned in Tillamook Bay Saturday afternoon after falling from his boat as he brought the craft to a dock about 3:40 p.m.

Tillamook county sheriff Hallie Ireland said a witness, W. K. (Cap) Johnson, operator of a nearby boat landing, told him he saw White standing in the bow of his boat when suddenly the man fell into the water and disappeared.

The body was recovered about 5:45 p.m. Sheriff Ireland said White lived alone in a houseboat on the bay.

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

A hummingbird can't walk on the ground, or other flat surface, for much the same reason a duck can't sit on a limb—his feet aren't suited to it.

But that means little to the hummer. If he wants to pick a bug off a flagstone, he can do it easily enough. All he has to do is hover in the air—head down if he desires.

For without a doubt he is the all-time aerial acrobat. With a wing-beat of 200 per second and his magnificent



him. As he sits on a limb watching the bugs fly by—his feet are ideal for walking on rough surfaces—he selects the one he wants — and zing! — that's it.

Even if the bug were far enough away and managed to fly into a flower, he'd find no safety there. The hummer would hang at the blossom's mouth in an iridescent blur while he probed with his long bill for the bug and a bit of nectar, too.

But it isn't only bugs that flee from him. Hawks, crows, owls, or any other bird is delighted to leave him strictly alone. They fear the thrust of his awl-shaped bill against an eye. Many times I have seen one flying madly to avoid the tiny terror flashing about his head.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

muscular control it is no problem at all for him to reverse his flight instantaneously. In fact, he can fly backwards if he wishes.

One of the most spectacular things he does is to act like a pendulum. Sometimes he will swing back and forth in an arc of two or three feet, like a pendulum on an ordinary clock. Then, suddenly he speeds up, as if time were running out, in an arc no bigger but incredibly swifter.

There are two opinions as to the purpose of this act. One is that he does it to impress a prospective mate. The other is to warn of danger.

Naturally such ability makes him the terror of the insect world. None can escape

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure, the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife, a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: Is That So? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Philippine copra shipments in a recent month totalled \$4,522 tons for a new record.