



WINNERS—Winners in the North American ski championships at Squaw Valley, Calif., pose together at the awards banquet. Left to right: Beverly Anderson, Mullen, Ida, winner of the Women's Combined Division; Bud Werner, Steamboat Springs, Colo., winner of the Men's Slalom, Men's Downhill Event, and Men's Combined Division; and Linda Meyer, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., winner of the Women's Slalom and Women's Downhill, and second place in the Women's Combined Division.

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.

Mrs. R. M. — I don't know what to do to pull him out of the doldrums.

Ray M. — I want to start out fresh.

Mrs. R. M. — I am the widowed mother of two daughters and a son, all married. Shortly after my husband died two years ago, my son's marriage blew up and he came to live with me.

I realize that Ray has been hit hard by this marriage failure, but I keep telling him he's got to pull himself up and start his life over. He is only 28 and he has a lot to look forward to. He's doing well at his job and plenty of girls are interested in marrying him when the divorce becomes final.

Ray insists that he's a failure, and I don't know what to do to pull him out of the doldrums. Now he wants to move to another city and start in all over again, but I don't want him to go alone and I would hate to leave this city where all my friends and relatives live.

Ray M. — I feel as though I'm an all-around mess right now. I should be taking care of Mom, lifting her spirits and all of that. Instead I'm a burden on her. She spends all her time and energy worrying about me and looking after me.

My marriage was such a mess that all of my friends

got to know all the intimate details. It makes me sick to think of the things I've said myself when I got slobbering drunk because I was so miserable. Now I feel that I'd like to get away from it all—not see anyone I've ever known. Then maybe I can start out clean.

I don't see any reason why Mom should have to move away from here with me. I know how to take care of myself. I know she's worried about the drinking, but I think that if I make a fresh start I'll get over that.

The Council: It's too bad that Mrs. R. M.'s personal crisis and that of her son dovetailed so neatly in time.

At the very moment Mrs. R. M. found herself bereft, her only son was suddenly restored to her. Her main problems were solved. She wouldn't have to live alone and she was sorely needed. She threw herself into her old role of caring for her little boy with all the force she could muster.

This may have been medicine for the moment for Mrs. R. M., but it was poison to Ray. Like many of us, he has a tendency to both punish himself and pity himself for his mistakes. Overindulgence in such feelings is quite childish. It takes mature strength to pick oneself up, brush oneself off and move on after a mistake. Ray's reaching for the consolations of the bottle is also a form of childishness. Immaturity is Ray's problem and he cannot solve it while the maternal bosom is always there, offering a false sense of comfort and security.

Ray's only security lies within himself. He should make an effort to understand his own faults and to correct them. He should not punish himself for them because he cannot make his life progress while he is enjoying the emotional pleasures of self-torture, followed by those of self-pity.

We think that Ray has shown a spark of health in his desire to move out of town. Apparently he has not yet had the nerve to admit to himself that mother love is what he's really trying to get away from at the moment. As a safeguard against letting the drinking habit take hold while he is alone, he ought to plan his evening activities carefully and seek help from AA at any sign of things getting out of control.

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Power Commission Bill Read in House
Salem —(UPI)—The bill to create an Oregon Power Development Commission of three members was read for the first time in the House Wednesday.

It is sponsored by 30 representatives and senators. The Commission would be authorized to generate, buy and sell electric energy at wholesale. Commissioners would be elected by the state at large on a nonpartisan ballot.

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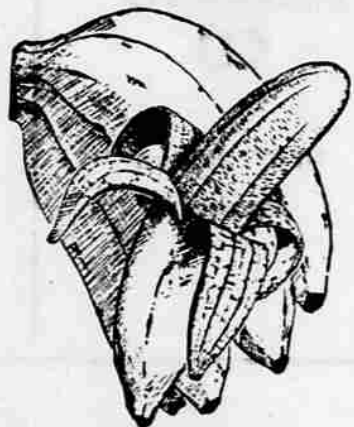
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