



BEATING ODDS of millions to one, Mrs. Eileen Cross gives birth on Mother's Day to boy in Glendale, Calif., hospital. Year ago on Mother's Day, 22-year-old mother gave birth to a daughter. She is from Covina, Calif.

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.

Laura H.—If he were younger he'd take me out every night.
Hugh H.—I'm sick of those cracks about my age.

Laura H.—Ten years ago, when I was 20, I married a man in his 40s. Of course everyone warned me against it, but I wouldn't listen to reason.

Now I am very unhappy and bored with everything. We have two children, seven and nine, and I have help in the house. There is really nothing for me to do all day. I hate women's clubs and little community get-togethers. At night my husband is too tired to take me out. If he were a younger man he'd want to go out every night, as I do.

I feel that if we could move away from the suburbs into the city where my husband works I could find lots to do. But my husband says we must think of the children first and they are better off in the small community where we live. But what about me? Don't I count for anything?

Hugh H.—I am a little bit tired of hearing all those cracks about my age. To Laura talk, you'd think I have one foot in the grave. My doctor says I'm in top condition and I am often taken for ten years younger than I am.

In spite of this, I can't help being a little tired at the end of the day. Any man is. I never did go for a steady diet of going stepping at night. Theater and night clubs bore me.

The way Laura has been acting, I think she'd just go haywire if we moved to the city. Then she'd really want to go out every night. She has some sort of idea that

she'd go around all day long doing something exciting and glamorous, but there just isn't that much to do even in the city. I know her. She'd spend all day shopping for things she doesn't even need.

The Council: There is an age problem here, all right. But it isn't quite the one Laura imagines.

The problem is not so much the difference between her age and her husband's as her own childishness. If she had a husband of her own age, her problem would be the same. Her younger husband would probably also be tired at the end of the day, but even if he were extremely energetic and enjoyed going out every night Laura would be fundamentally bored.

Laura is bored simply because she believes that she is supposed to sit passively while pleasant and exciting things are placed before her. She does not believe she is supposed to give of herself to anybody or anything. Apparently she feels she made her total investment in life when she gave birth to her children and is now entitled to sit back and wait for what life will give her.

Well, there's news for Laura. Life hasn't got any handouts for her. If and when she is willing to give her genuine attention to others—children, husband, home, friends, community—she will lose her boredom, not before. This can happen in the suburbs or the city. If Laura can't find anything worthy of her attention in her home, she's certainly better off taking a job—and a hard one at that.

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Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Cat Was Heroine. And We Wonder... Why?

When the shadows grow long and black across the backyards of the neighborhood, Mitzie, the Persian cat, was always carefully locked in the house. Apparently she philosophically accepted the nightly confinement for she never gave the slightest indication of "wanting out" until the morning sun illuminated the world and alerted the household.

The pattern had never varied for five years; in by dark, out by daylight. She enjoyed the evenings with the family, comfortably resting on her soft catnip scented pillow while the TV picture flickered across the screen. When bedtime came Mitzie accompanied her mistress into the bedroom where another soft pillow awaited her. Here she contentedly rested until the morning sun illuminated the world.

Up until the night of an unexpected incident, she was a household pet, just a family cat with soft fur and gentle eyes. But suddenly Mitzie was catapulted into a peculiar sort of fame. She attained a radically different status. She became a heroine, a voiceless creature whose accidental or intended behavior undoubtedly saved the lives of an entire family of human beings.

Days of Rain
There had been several days of rain. During the hours of darkness, four nights in succession, the rains had been torrential. Lashed frequently by a strong, cold wind, the

water came horizontally, beating on the houses with an ominous roar. Many homes in some sections of the city were inundated, the families evacuated. During these wild nights Mitzie slept in her accustomed place, warm and cozy.

Then at three o'clock one morning the Persian cat awakened her mistress giving every indication that she wanted out in a hurry. By the time her mistress was dressed the entire household was awakened by the cat's meowing. The lady opened her bedroom door.

A wave of cooking gas struck her in the face with the force of a physical blow. The entire house was gas-filled. Within minutes, if the people hadn't awakened, the bedrooms would have been gas-filled.

Water had seeped into the floor furnace, extinguishing the flame. Rust and corrosion had prevented the automatic valve from closing. Gas was pouring out in a steady, deadly stream. The plumber who came the following forenoon, after hearing the story, said, "You better give the cat some extra special food. She saved your lives."

The Why's
Those are the facts. Now the questions. The family wonders if the sensitive nose of the cat detected the odor of gas and didn't like it. This is the most obvious explanation. Or by some delicate sixth sense with which humans are not endowed, did she deliberately give the

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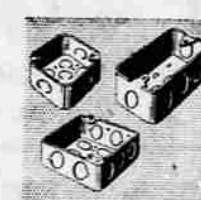
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