

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 case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Geraldine R. - My family shuns me.

June S. - I'm too old to worry about her.

Geraldine R. - What should an unmarried woman in her 60's do when her own family shuns her?

I have been lonely all my life. My sister and brother could have done something to alleviate that loneliness. But they never took that much interest. I don't know what I ever did to offend either of them.

In any case, I always felt that at bottom they really cared for me. I realize now that I was mistaken. I am about to retire on a small pension. I will have trouble making ends meet. I hinted to my sister and brother that I'd like to board with one of them. They both have grown married children and extra room in their homes. My sister finally told me point blank that I'd be better off with strangers.

June S. - I didn't mean to hurt Gerry's feelings. In spite of what she now thinks, I've always had a feeling for her as a sister. But frankly, I just don't want to live with her and neither does my brother and his wife.

The problem is that Gerry has always been a moody person. She flies off the handle at the slightest criticism, but she is very sharp in her criticism of others. I wouldn't feel free in my home if she were there.

My brother and I have done our best to take Gerry in on our social life, but somehow, it never worked out. I know she bears a grudge against us for not having helped her meet eligible men, but she was always so hard to please it seemed like a hopeless task. It may sound selfish, but I'm too old to worry about her.

The Council: Geraldine's plight is unfortunate, but unless she realizes to what extent she created it, she can't do much to improve her future.

She is entirely mistaken in the belief that her family has failed her. The mere fact that she felt close enough to them to suggest that she board with one of them indicates that there has been a good relationship throughout the years. If her brother and sister also invited her to some of their social gatherings, they again showed their interest and good intentions.

Geraldine's beef against her family indicates that she

stands in a very childish relationship to them. She apparently expected them to provide for her in the way parents provide for a child. A child receives much and is not expected to give of himself in return, but an adult must give out something in order to get a return.

Geraldine's moodiness also indicates a childish annoyance with life in general for having failed her. But she should ask herself what she has contributed to life.

Even in her 60's, Geraldine is not too old to find greater happiness through activities in which she gives something to others. She should find some form of work or social activities that will keep her in contact with others. This is of far greater importance to her happiness than the question of where to live.

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Express Train Hits Stopped Work Train

New York (UP) - A Manhattan-bound express train smashed into the rear of a stopped work train in a Brooklyn subway tunnel early Saturday injuring 36 persons.

A member of the work train crew faced possible amputation of his right leg, crushed by a rail, doctors said. The man, John Cinque, 38, was the most seriously injured.

N.C. Couple Gets Turkey Unexpectedly

Weldon, N.C. (UP) - Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Manning weren't expecting to get their Thanksgiving turkey so early and certainly not the way it came to them.

They were awakened early Saturday by a noise which made them think one of the children had fallen out of bed. When Manning went outside, he found a wild turkey, weighing about 15 pounds, which had flown into the side of the house.

Crossing Collision Claims One Life

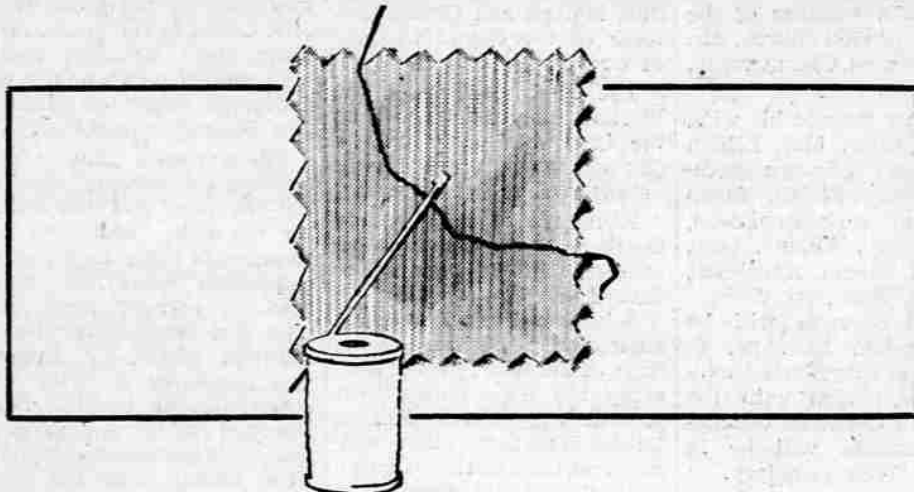
Bowmanville, Ont. (UP) - A crossing collision claimed the life of one person and derailed one coach of a Canadian Pacific railway passenger train Saturday.

Police said the victim was the driver and sole occupant of a car which was struck by the Toronto-to-Montreal train. No one was injured aboard the train.

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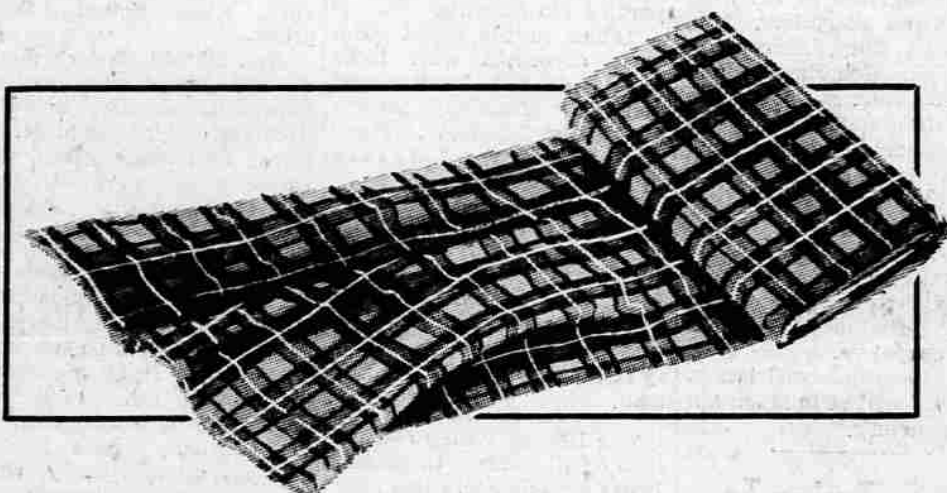


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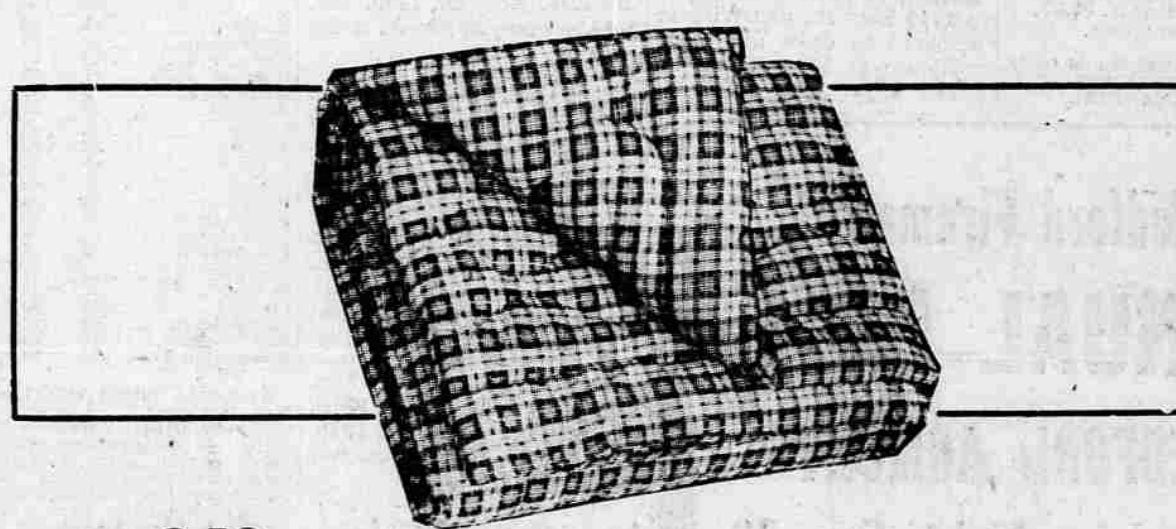


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