

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.

Mrs. L. B. - My niece will have none of us.
Bernice K. - I don't enjoy visiting them.

Mrs. L. B. - My problem involves my niece, a lovely girl of 18 who this year started college in a city not far from my own.

I would like to see a lot of Bernice, but she seems to avoid me and I feel that her father may have poisoned her mind against me and the rest of the family. Her parents were divorced when she was quite young and her father is very bitter against the whole family. Bernice was brought up by her father and step-mother.

I have tried to show Bernice that we are not the horrible people she imagines, yet she repeatedly turns down invitations to our home. She turns into a block of ice if any mention is made of her mother and shows no interest in seeing her mother.

Bernice K. - My father warned me that the whole family would start to plague me if I went to school here, but I was particularly interested in a program I can only get at this college.

It just isn't true that my father has poisoned my mind. He never spoke against my mother or her family. I have a mind of my own. I know that my mother did wrong when she had an affair with another man and practically deserted us. I was still a child at the time, but I can remember how Aunt Laura came to our home and defended Mother and blamed the whole thing on my father.

I have been polite to my aunt, but frankly I don't enjoy visiting her. It's much more fun to spend week ends around the college.

The Council: We think Mrs. L. B. is making a mistake to force her attentions on her niece.

The only way Bernice can find out that her mother's family is made up of nice instead of "horrible" people is through the experience of her contacts with them. If these contacts are forced and they take the form of lecturing and propagandizing, she will not like them and will not be convinced of anything.

We do think, however, that Bernice should recognize she has no right to judge her mother or the conduct of the other adults in the family. Naturally, she carries a deep wound because of the break-up of her home, but she should know that she is not in a position to know all of the facts. Even if she did know all of them, her role in life is not that of judge and prosecutor of her mother.

It is natural for Bernice to be wary of her contacts with her mother's family at this stage, as it is for that family to want to explain and justify and try to reconcile Bernice with her mother. But it takes time, patience and understanding for true reconciliation to be made. Any reconciliation that might be affected through pressure wouldn't be worth very much to either mother or daughter.

Bernice ought to try to reserve judgment on the whole family situation and Mrs. L. B. should make up her mind to keep her approaches to the young girl gentle and moderate. She should not discuss family matters when they get together. She should simply let her niece know that she has a family near her, interested in her welfare and ready to help her. She should certainly not speak against the girl's father.

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East Oregon Range Country Threatened

Salem - UP - Assistant Plant Chief George Moose of the Oregon Agriculture Department said Thursday that Medusa-Head rye grass - a weed of range lands - poses an increasing threat to eastern Oregon.

He said several agencies have reported increasing infestations in Oregon range country.

Moose said the weed pest spread from one acre in Idaho to nearly one million acres during a 16-year period.

Salem - UP - Funeral services are scheduled here Saturday for Clark Ritchey, former supervisor of the state's Cottage Farm here. He died in Grants Pass Tuesday at the age of 64.

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