



**FAT CAT**—Kitty, a 12-year-old female cat, has been left \$10,000 in trust by Eugene A. Hecker of St. Louis. Cat has wandered in the neighborhood since Hecker's death last Aug. 5 and is shown in front of Hecker's home. A retired school teacher, Hecker provided in his will that the money go for a Harvard Medical scholarship when the cat dies. (UPI Telephoto)

## The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. 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.

**Gloria J.** — I want to have plastic surgery done.

**Leon J.** — She is too concerned about aging.

**Gloria J.** — My husband and I have been married more than 30 years and are grandparents. I have been working for the past ten years in a job that requires a good, youthful appearance.

My figure hasn't changed

much from the time I was 20, but my face has been aging rapidly recently. I would like to have a little plastic surgery done to pick up my appearance. My husband is very much opposed to this. I could understand it if he believed I was going to go out looking for other men, but he knows I'm a devoted wife. This is something I want very much. Why should he oppose it?

**Leon J.** — Gloria insists she needs to do this for her job, but I know differently. She is very valuable to her firm and they aren't going to fire her just because she has gotten a few more wrinkles. Her general appearance is excellent. No, I don't suspect her of wanting to go out finding other men, but I do think she is too concerned about looking young. Every time she sees a new wrinkle she gets sick about it. Is it a crime to be middle-aged?

I have seen women who have had this surgery done and I think it gives them a mask-like appearance. It's just not natural and I like naturalness.

The Council: Leon's attitude makes sense to us and we think Gloria ought to feel very happy that her husband is quite satisfied with her appearance. That should give her far more of a lift than she would ever get through surgery.

Many plastic surgery jobs done today are quite successful, but the strangely artificial impression may be created by the fact that there is a discrepancy between the person's soul or character and the face. We do change deeply with the years and the face expresses those changes, giving each person a rich individuality. When the facial individuality is erased, but the person talks and acts like a fully formed adult, an almost weird discrepancy is created.

We agree with Leon, also, that no firm is likely to discharge a valued employee for a few wrinkles. As time goes on, if Gloria is no longer suited to the specialized work she is now doing, the firm may find another suitable position for her.

In any case, we think Gloria should be far more concerned about her husband's attitude toward her on such a fundamental matter. A wife can always discard a dress her husband dislikes, but she can't discard a new face. She now bears the face he has loved for 30 years and she really has no right to take it away from him.

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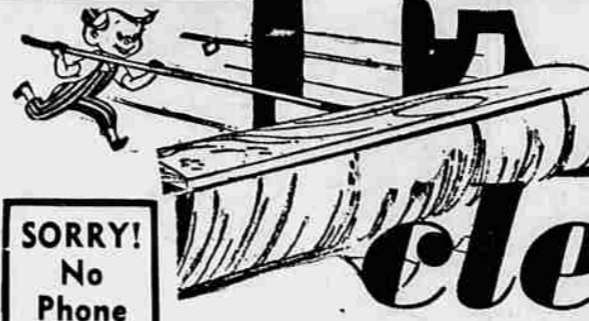
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