

# 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. (Copyright 1961—General Features Corp.)

**Mr. L.F.** - It's not worth going into debt to provide an extra-fancy wedding.

**Suzanne F.** - Didn't he know that along with daughters come weddings?

**Mr. L.F.** - All children are a joy but, dollar for dollar, girls cost more. Nevertheless, I'm glad I was able to let Susie "keep up" with her friends.

But now that she's engaged to Ralph and planning a June wedding, I'm ready to turn in my badge as "Dear Generous Dad!" Quietly, and without my realizing it, weddings have turned into Big Business.

I always managed to shell it out, both for necessities and luxuries for Susie. But caterers have me stymied. They must be working hand-in-glove with finance companies, because as soon as you start to deal with the first, you need the second.

Susie and her mother had a preliminary meeting with a wedding "consultant." What they have in mind would probably rival President Kennedy's Inaugural Ball! They'd better stop thinking about Madison Square Garden.

Our own back-yard is just about right for my income-bracket!

**Suzanne F.** - A wedding comes once in a lifetime. It is something every girl dreams about. Of course it's expensive, but I assumed Daddy had a special fund set aside for the Great Day.

Now he acts as though a beautiful and unforgettable wedding will throw him into bankruptcy. How he exaggerates! We've winnowed the guest-list down to 100 couples, which isn't much, considering our many relatives and friends.

Mother and I don't want to upset Dad with our plans. So far we're just talking, thinking out loud. But it terrifies him, it seems, everytime we bring up a new item, like an album of candid shots.

We'll certainly try to keep within whatever total he offers. But, at current prices, he may have to strain a bit so that we can include such wonderful extras as music and floral decorations.

Whatever the sacrifice, I know Dad will be glad, looking back, that we did it up "right."

**The Council:** After paying it all off and "going without" for a long time, Susie's Dad may possibly say it was all worth it.

Things have certainly changed from the days when Mom and Dad could hang white streamers and wedding-bells around the front parlor, set up bowls of fruit-punch and platters of iced cakes, and call it a wedding. Today parents of the bride are swept under the spell of the Banquet

Director who begs them to "leave everything to him," and - he may well mean all their worldly goods.

**Mr. F.** is right in alerting his happy ladies to the fact that everyone tries to get into the act and tack another "gracious touch" to the arrangements. There's no limit to the possibilities. Do you want doves released from an overhead plane? Swans floating in an artificial lake on the dance floor? Shall the bride make a dramatic entrance down a special staircase? Dad knows that the high-pressure guys will be after him "till debt do us part!" And he wants to give them a wide berth while he's still solvent.

We urge Susie to give her "flights of fancy" full wing, and then full flight into the never-never land. The only "musts" for a wedding are a bride and groom, an accredited officiant, and witnesses. All else, as the Good Book would say, is vanity. Delightful colorful, impressive vanity, "tis true, but still a take-it-or-leave-it accompaniment for nuptial rites.

It's more important that the spirit of the wedding be unforgettable, than the dance-band.



**Y MEMBERS**—A. L. (Tex) Nash, left, Medford businessman, is shown above using a little "friendly persuasion" in getting two of his employees to sign up for YMCA membership during the current Y membership drive. The men are Jack Weber, center, and Pete Hale. Actually, the men took memberships on their own initiative. Nash said, making for 100 per cent employee participation within the two firms operated by Nash. The goal for the drive, which ends Friday, March 24, is 1,000 new members.

### ALLOY USE

Providence - Nickel silver, an alloy containing nickel, zinc and copper, is used as a base metal for silver-plated silverware. It is also used for making keys and slide fasteners.

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### 4-H News

**Merry Cake Mixers**  
The Merry Cake Mixers met at the home of Luana Loffer March 11. The girls read some pages in the 4-H book and then went to the kitchen, where Linda Marmo and Luana Loffer boiled milk.

Kathy Rentz and Carolyn Zarosinski made cheese sauce. Lynn Rickman made a vanilla pudding, all with the help of Mrs. Loffer.

Kathy Rentz, Reporter

### Justice Probing Price Fixing Cases

Washington - (UPI) - Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy has disclosed the Justice Department is investigating widespread price fixing in an attempt to "lower prices" of bread, meat, milk, drugs and other consumer products.

Kennedy said that price-fixing cases were being checked in "almost every major metropolitan area... including the city of New York, where rather important cases appear to be developing."

He pointed out that an indictment had been returned recently in Florida in connection with the bread industry and said that price fixing "is far more widespread than people realize... almost across the board in certain sections."

### Kennedy Credited With Helping To Settle Dispute

Washington - (UPI) - President Kennedy has been credited with having helped speed settlement of a wage dispute that had threatened to shut down a vital atomic energy plant.

Less than five days after Kennedy expressed concern over a possible strike at the Hanford, Wash., atomic plant, the General Electric Co. reached agreement Saturday with AFL-CIO Atomic Trade Council on a new contract covering 3,200 workers there.

The firm, which operates the plutonium-producing installation under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission, made a major revision last week of its offer for the first time since negotiations began last fall.

GE granted wage increases greater than were provided under the "pattern" of settlements with unions in its electrical equipment and appliance plants. It long had refused to budge from this "pattern" offer until the administration moved into the picture.

**Strike Date Delayed**  
At Kennedy's request, a strike date was postponed for two weeks to allow more time to negotiate.

Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg consulted with AEC Chairman Glenn Seaborg and Rep. Chet Holifield (D-Calif.), chairman of the Senate-House Committee on Atomic Energy, to develop a government plan in case of a strike.

Goldberg also conferred with Justice Department attorneys on ways to keep the plant operating in case the Federal Mediation Service's efforts were unsuccessful.

Word of Goldberg's activity was relayed to the bargaining table.

**No Threats Made**  
Administration officials said that there was no attempt to threaten GE or force it to accept the recommendations of a presidential panel which looked into the dispute.

But they took satisfaction in the fact that GE decided to grant full retroactivity after the President's expression of concern.

**PHONE COUNT**  
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### Small Worlds Around Us



By Lynn M. Watkins (Register and Tribune Syndicate 1961)

#### Caught by a Clam, the Bird Was Abandoned by Nature

The ebbing tide left the sandflat partly exposed; it was neither dry land nor sea bottom, but a semi-shore environment in between flood and drought.

As the water drained away, clams and a host of marine creatures were left to dig quickly into the mud to await the next immersion.

At the edge of the mudflat a large clam moved. It appeared different from the others around it, for beside it and attached to it was a sudden mass - a bird, a small sandpiper. One of the bird's legs was within the clam shell, held firmly by the vise-like shell. The bird was dead.

But a few hours before, the sandpiper was a living thing, dancing gaily along the beach, feeding with his fellows.

He was hungry, gobbling up small marine creatures that were in motion in the shallow water. Food was plentiful and the bird was made almost frantic by its abundance.

#### A Little Careless

In the excitement of food gathering he became a little careless and failed to watch his step, for suddenly he felt a sharp pain in his right leg. He had carelessly placed his tiny foot into the open shell of the clam. Feeling the foot against its soft body the clam closed its shell with the suddenness of a steel trap.

The sandpiper attempted to fly, but the wings only beat the water; it pulled, but the grip held. The bird had no way of knowing that Nature had abandoned it, had actually trapped him.

The evening light faded. The darkness that comes first to the land and later flows out over the water slowly obscured the beach and darkened the sea. The bird must have sensed the fact that the tide was turning and was

#### Struggled Desperately

Desperately he struggled; stupidly the clam held on and the water deepened. The water crept higher; the bird had to tip its little head to hold the bill up in the life-giving air.

The stars came out; a full moon rose, turning the beach sand a golden yellow and glinting on the water with a silvery brightness. Relentlessly the water deepened. Only the bill of the doomed bird was above the water.

The tide rose higher; the sandpipers on the shore above the water line tucked their heads under a wing and slept. The stupid clam retained its senseless grip on the tiny leg; the now limp bird-body swayed lifelessly with the impulse of the incoming tide. Members of a beach picnic party, up higher on the beach, laughed and celebrated - nobody knew - no one cared.

#### Free Medical Care In House Ended

Salem - (UPI) - House Speaker Robert Duncan said Monday the program for free medical service to members of the Oregon House has been discontinued.

Duncan and the Marion-Polk County Medical society launched the program on a trial basis last month, with members of the society volunteering to be "on call" should a House member be stricken suddenly.

Indications were this has not worked out as anticipated. The House was expected to go back to the system of retaining one physician to make daily visits to the Capitol. This is what the Oregon Senate does.

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