The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a woman'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 by General Features Corp.)

Mrs. H. Y. — I wouldn't know where to turn if Uncle Bud acted up like that again.

Mr. H. Y. — He gets over his fits himself. If not, his favorite bartender helps him.

* * *

Mrs. H. Y. — My husband's uncle, whom I'd never met in the two years of our marriage, just blew in from New Mexico and is staying with us until the new golf club nearby is built. He's to be the caretaker.

But something mysterious is bothering Uncle Bud. We can't find out much about his past life. He's Henry's mother's brother, and she died long ago. All Harry knows is that his uncle is about 60 years old, had a miserable marriage which ended in a divorce, and was once a golf champion. Out West he was a golf pro, but was asked to leave and accept the caretaker job around here. He'll have his own room in the clubhouse.

Last week he became violently agitated. He began to shout, bang things around, and then slumped into tears. We called our doctor who administered sedation. But our doctor is leaving for a convention, and if there's a repeat I'll be lost. He should be hospitalized.

* * *

Mr. H. Y. — Uncle Bud's all right. My wife scares too easily. Even though he's almost three times her age, she flutters around him like a mother hen, worrying when he'll have his next attack of the blues. He says he gets terrible headaches from an old World War I injury and when he's all out of his medicine he's apt to carry on a bit. This last attack just got him unaware. But it won't happen again. The doctor left him a prescription, and he's all set.

It's true that he's not a particularly cheerful soul. In fact, he's a sad sack and it'll be a relief when his job begins and he can move out. But if Helen keeps talking so much, word may get to his new employer and they'll be afraid to take him on. Then we'll really be responsible for his well-being.

Whenever he feels real "down" he knows what to do. He takes himself to his newest friend, our local bartender, who sends him home all smiles

* * *

The Council: There's a blank on most job forms for nearest of kin. Mr. Y.'s name probably appears in that space on Uncle Bud's record. At any rate, Mr. Y. is nearest geographically if not genealogically, and it is he, as well as his wife, who will be called in case of trouble or accident.

That's why Mr. Y. can't shrug off Uncle Bud's aberrational behavior. We prefer his wife's attitude of, "Let's line up a program of action, just in case," to Mr. Y.'s which adds up to, "Nothing will happen and if it does, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it." Suppose there's a washout at the bridge! Mrs. Y., at least, will know some alternate routes.

We wish we could just spell out a few handy telephone numbers for the Y.'s to call in an emotional emergency. In another decade this may be possible, even easy. It's being done here and there, but mostly, alas, there–there in Amsterdam, Holland, where one can dial 5-5-5-5 to bring qualified psychiatrist help to the door, within minutes.

In New York City, there are two never-closed psychiatric emergency clinics—for special type first aid needed during emotional crises. But, we can't tell Mrs. Y., who is not a New Yorker, to pick up her phone and summon specific help for Uncle Bud's mental problems. Her recourse, in desperation, may still have to be the police or the nearest ambulance.

But we trust she can do two constructive things in Uncle Bud's behalf. First, get him to an interview with a psychiatric social worker instead of a bartender, just for an opinion and a forecast! Second, see whether the local hospital can imitate, on however small a scale, the practice at Boston State Hospital which sends ambulances out on emergency calls, not to haul people back, but to administer psychiatric home treatment on the spot! Both the patient and the family are calmed by the attendant psychiatric staff, and arrangements are made for future care if necessary.

Emotional emergencies can strike any time. But, as Mrs. Y. emphasizes, there are few 24-hours-a-day facilities for meeting them. Until there are more, makeshifts must serve.

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GETS VOTE

Salem – (UPI) – GOP Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr., who isn't running for anything this year, picked up 35 write in votes in Marion county for governor Friday.

Conjunction of Stars

Two New York Republican Senators Found To Have Many Similarities

By DICK WEST

Washington – (UPI) – If we have in the audience any disciples of witchcraft, astrology, metaphysics, dentistry or other mystis arts, let them please come forward. I would like to know what significance they attach to Jacob Javits and Kenneth Keating.

West

The two New York senators are figures in a series of coincidences which seem to transcend politics and border on the occult.

The explanation must lie in a rare conjunction of the stars, or some other such fateful occurrence.

To begin with, both are Republicans. A glance at the present party lineup in the Senate will show you that this is no small coincidence itself.

Have Repeating Initials

Now note that both have repeating initials — J. J. and K. K. — and that these letters rub elbows in the alphabet. Also note that "J" comes first and that Javits outranks Keating in Senate seniority.

And if that isn't eerie enough for you, observe that both have the same birthday and are today jointly celebrating their natal anniversary.

I asked a young woman who works for Keating to send me some information relating to the birthday celebration: Their ages (Keating is 62, Javits 58) and so forth.

She did so, and referred to the event in hyphen form as the "Javits-Keating birthday." Only she wrote it "Javits-Kennedy," which is a freudian slip if I ever saw one.

Discovered New Coincidence

The material included the transcript of a television program which the two senators had filmed for showing over a group of stations here and in New York last week end.

It was there that I discovered a new coincidence, which I regard as the most uncanny of all.

Each was asked "what has been the greatest influence in your life?" You might find this hard to believe, but they gave the same reply.

Both said "Mother."

To have two senators of the same party from the same state with the same birthdays seems stranger than fiction. But to find that they agree on the virtues of motherhood carries the coincidence almost beyond credibility.

Government Property Sale Set in Medford

A sale of government property will be held in room 307, post office building, Medford, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., May 24 and June 5, according to the National Park service, Crater Lake National Park.

Items sold on where-is and as-is basis include scrap rubber and materials, including old tires, tubes and fire hose, scrap metals and various lost and found materials such as clothing, cameras and nicknacks.

GIVES THEM IDEAS

Manchester, England – (UPI) –The National Union of Small Shopkeepers will be asked to adopt a resolution condemning programs depicting shoplifting on television. Not only do the programs give youngsters the idea of stealing from shops, union branch president Norman Robinson said, but "thieves may be shown some new methods."

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