

Family Council

Editors 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 a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Ellen G. He doesn't have to skedaddle off at every opportunity.

Wayne G. - How can I turn down chances to see the world, for free?

Ellen G. - My husband is a Navy flier and we're living at the Guantanamo base in Cuba. We've been married four years and have three children. What gets me is that Wayne never thinks twice before accepting long missions, both to the surrounding islands and overseas. He even volunteers for extra flights which keep him away for a week at a time. And where does that leave me? Grounded, but good! With three babies and no husband around, I'm lucky if I can even look at the sky, much less go off in it.

I want him to start turning down the flight invitations and remember his duties here on earth at home with me.

Wayne G. - I don't know how long I'll be stationed down here. These chances to use my flying privileges may never come again. Even though the trips keep me away a lot, Ellen must admit two things - first, I take over and let her have it easy when I'm home; and also, she has more hired help and more automatic equipment here than she'd have back in the States. So leaving her "alone" isn't as bad as it sounds.

Her whining is like a spoiled child's. It's a case of sour grapes. Just because she can't come along, she begrudges me the experiences. When I get back I bring her souvenirs and try to describe the places I've seen. If we can't both go, she should be glad at least one of us gets around.

The Council: There are several ways of viewing Ellen's petulance over Wayne's skiddos. Does she miss his "maid service"? Does she miss him? Does she worry over his safety? And does she rebel at getting the short end of the stick in this arrangement, where Wayne floats while she's tied down? Each angle calls for a separate answer. But by assuming that her plaint includes a little bit of each objection, we'll suggest an overall attitude for each of this pair toward Wayne's flights, in the hope that a fair balance of the above-mentioned "stick" may be achieved.

You recount the bad side of Wayne's absences, Ellen. Do you ever note the good side? Other service wives do. While their husbands are away, the schedule is easier. No rigid mealtime, no warm-overs for delayed returns. Also they can catch up on things which require close application - reading, correspondence, dress-making. Some girls look forward to having the house to themselves so as to tune in to TV shows "he" can't stand, or entertain at a hen party that would drive "him" out of the house.

But the easing of Ellen's resentment lies in your hands, Wayne. It's clear as crystal that she wants to go somewhere, too. While you can't ring her in on official hops, you'd be a smart boy - as well as a fine figure of a husband - to arrange your very next leave either to release her for a solo gallivant, or to accompany her on a vacation jaunt to one of the paradises you've discovered.

We'll bet it can be done, complete with baby-sitters at home to carry on. Chances are she'll be so refreshed by this whirl, she even won't mind your resting at home, instead of slaving away to help her in order to save your guilt feelings. You won't feel guilty and she won't feel cheated.

Also, Wayne, shake your head no for a few of the optional trips. It's more important for your children to see their father than for his father to see the world.

Fingerprints Reveal Mental Abnormalities

Chicago - Research reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggests the possibility of spotting vulnerability to mental abnormalities through fingerprints.

The research, at Ypsilanti State hospital in Michigan, showed the incidence of almost complete circles as well as arched lines appeared higher among schizophrenic patients than in a file of prints from mentally well persons. The patients showed also a tendency, rare in prints of normal persons, toward short, broken lines in the center of whorls.



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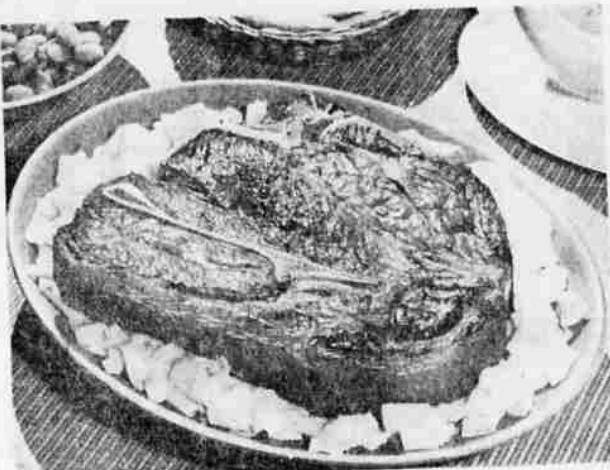
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