

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. (Copyright 1963—General Features Corp.)

Ethel R.—I don't consider myself a prudish wife. Mark R.—She used to be flirtatious. Now she's stodgy.

Ethel R.—I'm all mixed up as to my true nature. I never considered myself a cold woman, until Mark began to tell me about his brother and his friend and their wives. Is a wife supposed to act like a night club strip tease specialist, or like Brigitte Bardot every night, so as not to be considered frigid?

We're married a little over a year. I enjoy and welcome Mark's embraces, but I don't go into a swoon or put on a wild act like you read about in those novels. I'd like to know if I'm normal. Mark accuses me of being on the prudish side. If so, should I change, and how?

Mark R.—Before we were married Ethel was a tempting siren. She knew all the wiles—how to dress alluringly, the luscious make-up, the perfumes. But now I realize that was all play-acting. It was just a tease. Since we are both highly moral people, she knew nothing intimate would follow. She was safe.

But now that the coast is clear for us, she seems to do everything she can think of to discourage the full enjoyment of married love. She clomps around in house shoes and potato sack work clothes all day, and nine times out of ten, she'll plead a headache or a cold if I try to approach her.

Why such a change? Can it be that she suddenly finds me repulsive?

The Council: The R.'s are the victims of know-it-all's who are really know-nothings. Prattle about other people's sex relations, the ought-to and the should and the must of it all, is merely mischievous. Yet there's no subject on which more people think they have the right to sound off. As a result, a wife who can't go wild with her husband feels guilty and decides she's "frigid." And her husband is torn between feeling cheated at having drawn an unresponsive mate, and feeling unattractive in being unable to arouse her as "they say" a woman should be aroused.

Well, here's the lowdown, and all married couples are invited to clip this out, paste it inside their marriage manual, memorize it if need be, to refute the above-mentioned trouble-makers. It sums up the findings of Dr. William H. Masters and Mrs. Virginia E. Johnson of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Healthy women, says these researchers, are vitally involved with sex from puberty on. They are aware of themselves as sexual beings month after month, and with each sex-linked bodily change. Pregnancy gives them nine solid months of watching a sexual process unfold. So, the matter of sexual climax may be, for many of them, unimportant. They don't need it desperately, and its absence does them no harm.

The main point for Ethel is to remember is that it's perfectly normal for a woman never to achieve climax and yet enjoy marital relations for three supreme satisfactions: the comfort of a warm embrace, the feeling of belonging to her mate, the pleasure of giving him pleasure.

We hope these words will help this couple relax. They, and they alone, will work out the intimate side of their marriage to suit themselves and each other. They must close their eyes and ears to the sensationalists who sow discontent. They'll adjust to each other when they truly concentrate upon each other, heeding no voices from the balcony.

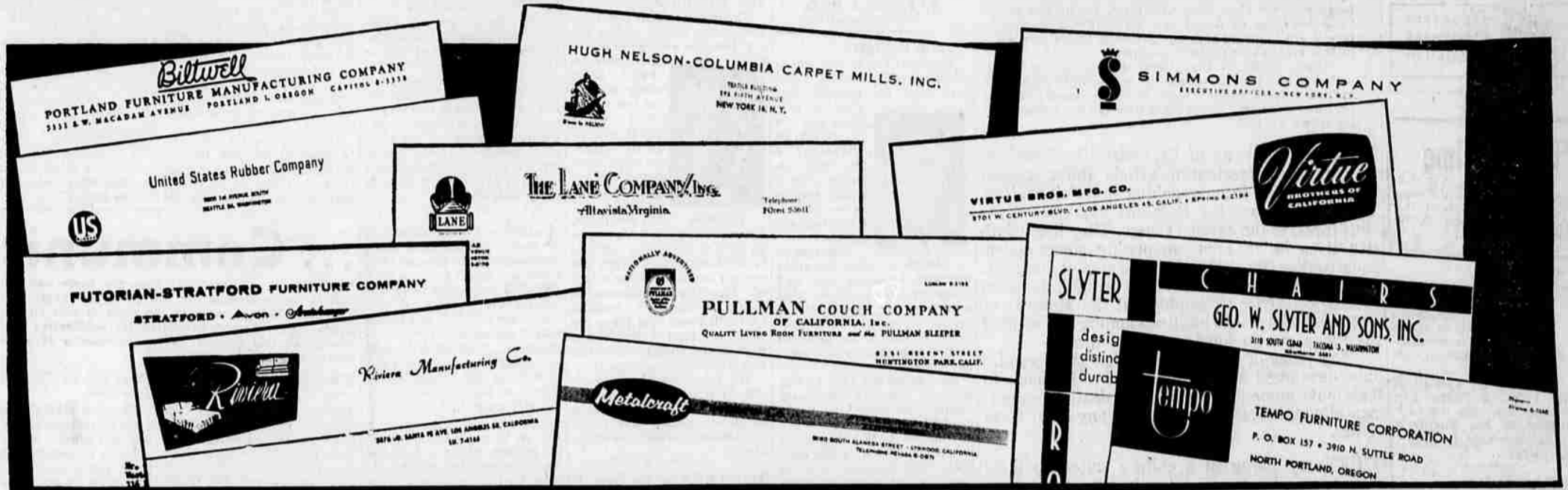
Court Records

MEDFORD MUNICIPAL COURT: Patricia Maxine Stiefel, expired vehicle license, \$5. Thomas Lindsey Lotz Jr., improper lane usage, \$10. Pauline Rose Marie Powers, improper left turn, \$10. John Michael McCabe, expired vehicle license, \$5. Joseph Leach Hendrickson, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10. Clyde Raymond Matteson, driving wrong way on one-way street, \$10. Marion Oleta Pool, failure to yield right of way, \$25. Betty Mae Mealey, violation of basic rule, \$10. Ralph David Brickey, improper left turn, \$10. John Jules Paudois, violation of basic rule, \$10. Don Milton Straus, expired operator's license, \$5. Paul William Garren Jr., disobeyed traffic signal, \$10. Virginia Constance Travis, disobeyed traffic signal, \$5. Charles Shepherd, violation of basic rule, \$10. Melvin Edwin Chase, improper left turn, \$10.

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