

Family Council

Editors Note: The Family Council consists of a wife, a physician, a woman's editor, and two other women, all of whom are active in an actual case history. The council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and consumers. (Copyright 1963—General Features Corp.)

Mrs. M. W. — If we buy a two-family house we can put Larry through college.

Helaine S. — There must be some other way. They can't be landlords.

Mrs. M. W. — My husband is 68, retired on a pension plus Social Security. I'm 53 and earn \$20 a week on a part-time job. We have an 18-year-old son entering college in September. Our problem is how best to raise the \$1,000 a year he'll need from us to get through. We own our home and by selling it we can acquire a two-family house. The victory should give us the \$100 a month we need.

Helaine S. — That's a wild idea. My sister hasn't told you her husband is an invalid, after three operations. How can she take on the responsibility of a landlord? A better idea would be to make Larry figure out how to get through college, instead of his mother taking on the whole worry. They panic when they give him a car and, instead of having him live home, they're trying to raise dormitory fees for him.

The Council: As luck would have it, Mrs. W. had your case on our mind as we attended a social function. With a tabulet of landlords at hand, some of whom were mothers, we posed your problem. Almost with one voice, the answer was "Don't sell your home. You'll never get your \$100 a month that way." The consensus was that your new expenses would eat up your profits. But alternate "bright ideas" were passed around, such as take in a boarder, get yourself a job that pays more. And some of our "Ad- hoc-Councilors" echoed Helaine's angle: "I'll bet college is more the mother's worry than the son's," said one guest. "Why doesn't he worry a little?" Our own summary for whom? Pare your son's budget to the bone. See if he can dispense with the car. Worry about one year only. Perhaps he can get a student loan the second year. With minimum expenses, and increased income from jobs held by both your son and you, you can at least launch his college voyage.

\$75,000 in Grants Given University

Corvallis — Two grants totaling \$75,000 have been awarded an Oregon State University microbiologist, Dr. Leo W. Parks, to continue research on ergosterol — a member of the same family as the more widely publicized cholesterol which often is linked to heart disease.

Parks and his associates say they are trying to learn more about how and why ergosterol is formed in living cells. They anticipate that their work may shed some light on cholesterol metabolism. Working with Parks are a grant of students, Patricia Starr and Jan Turner, both of Corvallis. Judy Bumgarner, Klamath Falls, an undergraduate in science, is working as a summer laboratory assistant.

Parks's two grants include \$25,000 from the National Science Foundation for a two-year study of metabolisms of ergosterol, and \$50,000 from the U. S. Public Health Service for a three-year analysis of yeast sterols. Previously, he had received about \$80,000 from the two agencies for prelin studies.

The scientist pointed out that his work with ergosterol actually started with about \$5,000 from the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station. This was enough money to get the project off the ground and to attract NSF and PHS the need for, and feasibility of, a more thorough study of ergosterol.

Social Worker Is Named at VA Post

White City — Robert R. Gohrke has been appointed supervisory clinical social worker at the Veterans Administration (VA) clinic here.

Gohrke is a veteran of World War II, and obtained his bachelor of science degree at the University of Oregon. He did postgraduate work at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., and obtained his master of science degree at the University of Washington.

He has been employed by the Oregon State Welfare Commission and as a social worker at the VA hospital, Vancouver, Wash.

Gohrke and his family will reside in Medford.

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins
Medford & Tribune Syndicate, 1963

The Horrors of Night Air
Are Only Foolish Stories

"Never allow the dew to fall on your shoulders, or breathe the night air while you are sleeping," my grandmother said "lest all manner of illnesses confine you to your bed." She went even farther in her warning by adding, "be especially careful of night air from a swamp, for this is actually poisonous."

I don't know whether she knew it or not, but she was just as mistaken as the citizens of ancient Rome 2,200 years ago, who probably started the whole silly business about the danger to one's health incurred by breathing night air.

This so-called dangerous night air, which the old Romans feared, indirectly had more to do with the ultimate collapse of that old civilization than today's historians will admit. The recorders of history speak more of conquests and cruel wars, revolution and internal uprisings. The real facts however, were a little less obvious; only within the last half century have modern scientists uncovered the real facts.

Real Culprit

Neither was it the night air that came from the great swamps that surrounded the old city of Rome, but what grew and flourished in those swamps that derailed the empire. The real culprit was the little buzzing mosquito that bred and grew in uncounted millions, and were blown into the city on the night air. The breeze that came up with the darkness carried the biting hordes into the homes of the fighting Romans.

There were no screens on the windows then, even though that old civilization boasted elaborate glass, jewels and crucifixes. The traditional cruelty of the Roman legions were pitiful and childish beside the ferocious and deadly malaria carrying mosquito from which this warlike people had no protection.

They knew what malaria was; a fever that killed. The word "malaria" is Italian for "bad air" for it was thought the bad night air caused the disease that weakened a man and prostrated the populace.

The wide swampy wasteland outside the ancient city was kept wet through the ages by the overflowing of the Tiber River. These swamps have existed around the Eternal City up until recent times. Cause Discovered

It was not until 1804 that science discovered the real cause of malaria. It has been proven that the only way malaria can be transmitted from person to person is by the mosquito. But down through 2,000 years, the belief in the danger of night air has persisted. Many folks still close their windows tightly when the darkness comes.

Night air, especially if it is coming from a swamp, has a different smell; it is usually cooler air, with more of a hint of dampness. It may have been this different odor that was believed to contain a poisonous gas, liberated by the powers of darkness. Nothing could be sillier; night air is no different than day air and is just as healthful.

It certainly wasn't the invading armies, the civil wars, internal strife, or night air that caused the downfall of ancient Rome; it was just a lack of knowledge about a bug; which the early Spaniards named "mosquito," which was their name for "little fly."

Railroad Company Orders Flatcars

The Southern Pacific railroad has announced awarding a contract for about \$7.5 million to the Gunderson Brothers Engineering corporation, Portland, for construction of 750 new flatcars as part of an expanded, multi-million dollar program to meet the freight car requirements of industries in Oregon.

E. C. Ordway, traffic manager for Southern Pacific, Portland, also announced that SP plans to convert 750 standard, single-door box cars to wide-door design, especially for shipments of plywood and packaged lumber.

"Our stepped-up order for flatcars represents a significant contribution by Southern Pacific to the economy of the state of Oregon, both in dollar volume and in use of Oregon materials and manpower," Ordway said. This is the largest rail equipment order ever awarded to an Oregon company, he pointed out.

Ordway said the new equipment will bring SP's expenditures covering more than 10,000 freight cars in the past six years to more than \$187 million.

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