

COMPROMISE

(Continued)

Shirley admit that each had been against the arrangement. Had Pete and Shirley been forthright, a few dollars a week could have been contributed to Kate's support until she was earning more. She could have lived at the "Y" and had a much friendlier relationship with her sister and brother-in-law.

SOME PEOPLE believe there's an advantage in attaining what you want without revealing what you're after. In a discussion about compromise, one woman proudly announced, "Why compromise? I just make my husband think he's doing what he wants, when all the time he's doing what I want him to."

This may sound clever. We laugh at such behavior in a book or on the stage. But in real life when a husband or wife consistently attempts to get the upper hand by concealing their real wishes, the marriage is probably not so successful, no matter how smoothly matters seem to run. If you measure the success of a marriage by how deeply both partners trust, love, and respect each other, you will usually find that an open exchange of ideas makes for a better relationship than masterful manipulation.

Tact and diplomacy certainly have a place. You may take your husband to see your neighbor's pictures of the Smokies with the hope that he will

say, "This is it. Why don't we go there next Summer?" That may be a sound diplomatic move, and it is not the kind of subterfuge designed to mislead and cause future suspicions.

Some compromises are a matter of the moment, but others affect the very fabric of a couple's life and may even be the means of saving a marriage.

Sue and Tom Norquist made an acceptable arrangement out of a situation that might have been grim or even disastrous. Tom had dreamed of owning a ranch in the Northwest since his high-school days. Sue was a sociable city girl who thought she was "out in the sticks" if she was more than ten minutes from a shopping center and a movie theater.

After Tom had had several unsuccessful jobs, and matters were going from bad to worse for him, Sue realized he would never fit into office or factory work. It was a ranch or else. With shaky financing and many misgivings on Sue's part, they packed their belongings, took their two small boys, and started life anew on a ranch far from their friends and the home Sue loved.

Tom appreciated her devotion and courage in consenting to this move. He saw, too, that ranching would be tolerable for Sue only if she could refresh herself with occasional trips to their former home. He encouraged her to visit her family regularly, even though the fares halfway across

the country took cash Tom could have used to buy more stock. In his calculations, fencing, a new pump, or a better saddle could have come ahead of the books, magazines, and records Sue claimed kept her from going stale, but they didn't. Tom felt his marriage was most valuable of all.

Sue worked hard, and for the most part cheerfully, for she was convinced her husband and her boys couldn't have been better off anywhere. Because Tom was patient in letting her grow into ranch life, her enthusiasm for it increased year by year, and her visits home became less and less important to her happiness.

The Norquists' arrangement would have been impossible if Tom's work didn't keep him fairly close to home. Few mothers can go away for two or three weeks and know that the children will be under the father's watchful eye during the day. Tom took time off for hunting and fishing during the season and included the boys on these expeditions. This meant they didn't miss the sort of vacations which city families anticipate so keenly. Because Tom and Sue lived so closely day after day, they didn't need a conventional vacation to become "acquainted" all over again.

Theirs was an excellent compromise, even though neighboring cattlemen raised their eyebrows at what they considered Tom's indulgence. Fortunately, the Norquists understood a basic

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