

Role At Daughter's Wedding Seen Revenge

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: I disagree with your reply to Deserter Mother. She was a nervous wreck because her about-to-be-married daughter wanted to walk down the aisle alone — as a symbolic slap in the face to her absent father who had skipped 17 years earlier.

You said there was no need to make a spectacle of herself and that it would only provide more grist for the gossip mill. You also added, "Why humiliate your mother in an attempt to punish your father who probably couldn't care less?"

Well, I'm a mother who was faced with precisely the same problem and you are wrong wrong wrong. I walked my daughter down the aisle myself. I then took my place in the front pew. When the minister asked, "Who giveth this woman?" I stood, faced the guests proudly and replied, "I do!"

My three brothers would have been glad to perform the honors but why should they have been asked? I raised the girl myself and she was mine to give away. It was, I might add, the happiest moment of my entire life. — NO PHONY

Dear No Phony: The about-to-be bride described in the first letter was a bitter young girl whose hostility would have spoiled the wedding and hurt her mother.

Your letter reflects an even more savage bitterness and hostility. What you refer to as the happiest moment of your entire life was a moment of revenge.

Dear Ann Landers: I belong to a club with 17 other secretaries and the problem about which I am writing is a surprisingly common one. The boss' wife.

She walks into the office almost every day, ignores closed doors, breaks in on private conferences, sits herself down and acts as if she is Chairman of the Board. This is terribly annoying because I'm supposed to take down everything said at these conferences and when she butts in I'm never sure if I should record her remarks.

Subcommittee Disagrees On Burning Gold Notes

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A house subcommittee that investigated disappearance of \$7.5 million in U. S. securities from the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank has concluded the certificates may have been stolen.

If so, the theft would be the biggest in history.

The subcommittee, in a report by its two-man Democratic majority, said there is no actual evidence that the securities were accidentally destroyed, as claimed by the bank.

It said this means the missing securities "quite conceivably" may yet be presented for payment, despite their May 15 maturity date.

Taxpayers in the end could take the rap for all the loss except

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30 Senators Join Plan To Urge Nuclear Pact

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Thirty senators joined today in a proposed resolution urging that the United States seek an agreement with Russia to ban all atmospheric and underwater nuclear tests.

The group included some lawmakers with differing views on the U.S. proposal at Geneva for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, which also would cover underground testing.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., offered the proposal. He has been a critic of the U.S. proposal. Listed as principal co-sponsor was Senate Democratic Whip Hubert H. Humphrey, Minn., a champion of the administration's proposal.

In separate statements prepared for Senate delivery, Dodd and Humphrey said a proposal to ban atmospheric and underwater nuclear tests would avoid the controversy over detection of underground tests and the right of on-site inspection since underwater and atmospheric tests could be readily detected.

They said the limited treaty would end testing which contaminates the atmosphere and would slow the nuclear arms race. It also would be a first step toward agreement on a comprehensive treaty when technical questions relating to underground detection have been resolved, they added.

"This resolution is a major attempt to stifle the genie of radioactive contamination and proliferation of nuclear weapons capabilities back into the bottle where it belongs," said Humphrey. Dodd said an underwater and atmospheric test ban would be "a

350 Americans Apply Daily For Patents

By HARRY FERGUSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Every day 350 American inventors apply to the federal government for a patent and automatically become mental millionaires. They have rosy dreams of quick wealth, but as the days, months and years roll by they are driven to the conclusion that roulette and craps shooting may be better bets.

The odds against an inventor getting rich are formidable. There is almost a fifty-fifty chance that somebody thought up the gadget before he did and already has obtained a patent. In any case his application goes to the bottom of a list of 198,000 others which are awaiting a decision in the U.S. Patent Office, and on an average it will be between three and three and a half years before he will know how he stands.

Only The Beginning

But his troubles are only beginning. Once he gets the patent, he has to persuade somebody to manufacture and sell his gadget and here, again, his chances are only a little better than fifty-fifty. Too many people invent things that nobody happens to want at the moment.

The classic example is Johannes Gutenberg, a German who invented movable type in the middle of the 15th century. He made crude block letters and printed a 28-page book in Latin advising people how to make speeches. Then he ran out of money and got a loan from Johann Fust, a banker. Gutenberg then printed some bibles, but they didn't sell well. The miscalculation in Gutenberg's plan was that very few people knew how to read and there wasn't any market for printed pages. The banker foreclosed on him, seized all of his equipment and Gutenberg wound up working for the archbishop of Mainz at a salary of one new suit of clothes a year.

Has Same Problem

Bartolomeo Cristofori ran into the same problem when he invented the piano in 1709. The Italians didn't like the piano, preferring the dulcimer and the harpsichord, and Cristofori's pianos rotted in the warehouses.

Long after the inventor's death a German, Gottfried Silbermann, read about Cristofori's pianos and began to build them. He got rich fast. The Germans happened to like pianos.

American industry is highly competitive and the natural assumption would be that corporations would slug it out with each other in an attempt to get an invention that would improve their product. But sometimes they appear to be completely blind when

a new idea—patented and proved—is put before them.

Tells Amazing Story

In 1925 F. W. Davis invented power steering for automobiles. It made a car infinitely easier to handle and obviously was a strong selling point to women drivers. But just the other day Davis, in Boston, told in the Wall Street Journal an amazing story about his invention.

As soon as he had perfected

steering. When Chrysler introduced a power steering model, everybody wanted one and I began to make some money."

Gets First Patent

Before adoption of the U.S. Constitution the American colonies and states issued patents and the first one went to Samuel Winslow of Massachusetts, who in 1641 devised a new method for manufacturing salt. President George Washington signed the

first federal patent law on April 10, 1790, and since then the U.S. Patent Office has granted 3,000,044 applications.

Most of them have been forgotten, and that is the reason few inventors get rich. But when a man comes up with the right thing at the right time, the money rolls in like the tides of the ocean. Take Cyrus H. McCormick, for instance. His father owned four farms in Virginia, two saw mills and a blacksmith shop, and was constantly tinkering with the idea of a machine for harvesting his grain.

Solves Problem

Young McCormick went to work on the problem and in 1831, at the age of 22, submitted his plans to the family blacksmith. What he had done was to solve the problem of how to keep stones and stumps from breaking the sharp edge of the knives which cut the grain. He did it by protecting them with a string of metal fingers which brushed aside the rocks.

Before 1831 a man with a scythe could cut about half an acre of grain a day. Soon McCormick's reaper was cutting 15 acres a day, even though it was horse drawn. McCormick had hit the jackpot and he moved to Chicago, where he put up a factory and sold reapers as fast as he could make them.

One by-product of McCormick's invention was that the Chicago lawyers never had it so good.

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They went up and down the land suing people who were infringing on McCormick's patents. When an inventor has to spend lots of time in court, he knows he has it made.

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