

ANNE HIRST Your Family Counselor

"Dear Anne Hirst: Our daughter, 16, has been permitted to have her first boy friend; they've dated nearly six months. Now he is going into the army, and she is asking her to wait for him. Her father and I like him well enough, but we don't approve of this idea at all.

"We feel she is too young to know her own mind, for one thing. When we speak to the lad of this, he seems to agree, but he tells her a different story. Her feeling is that she doesn't want him to leave 'heart-broken'."

"Also, he is extremely jealous; she doesn't dare mention any other boy she knows. He insists now that she see only him. He is asking her to wait for him, and he said if she dated anybody else, he'd feel sorry for him! (She loves to dance, and if she consents to his demands of course that is out.)

"We know his family: they are fine people, and are delighted he is dating our girl. What is your advice?"

BEWILDERED MOTHER
"I am on your side. To sentence a 16-year-old girl to a hermit's life during her absence from the natural gesture of a young boy in love, if she consents, though, I'm afraid she would rebel in a few months."

"We cannot change human nature. Young love thrives on sweet words and constant attention. Deprived of these reassurances, your girl would find her restricted life too dull to endure and kick over the traces, which would be awkward for everybody concerned."

"If the lad were ten years older, he would encourage her having dates while he is away. Then on his return he would find a normally developed young woman more attractive and interesting than she is today. During their separation she might indeed fall in love with someone else; he would have to take that chance. If she still prefers him to all other boys she has dated in his absence, it would be a real test of her love."

"However, the boy is not ten years older, and it is not likely you and your husband can persuade him to relax his ultimatum. (I specially deplore his threat to any rival.) You must work on your daughter; draw a true picture of her coming loneliness, and her activity, and try to make her realize its meaning."

DAUGHTER MAY

"Don't you think my Dad should help? I don't want to see him how he has misbehaved (and still does) but if you print this letter he may see it. It could mean such a lot to me!"

"I intend to see him soon, and if he will help me now it will be a happier meeting for us both."

"See your father as soon as you can."

"It is unlikely that he realizes how often you are misbehaving. When he learns of it he will want to engage someone to stay with your mother, I am sure, so you can continue your education and be the best daughter for the future. Be entirely frank in describing the situation at home."

"Most fathers, no matter what sort of men they personally are, want the best for their children; it is likely yours is no exception. You are a fine and loyal daughter, and you deserve a better break than you are getting. Good luck!"

For a soldier to limit his sweetheart's social activities while he is gone is the ultimate selfishness; it only reveals his underlying distrust and his sense of possession. Anne Hirst has helped many a youngster through painful dilemmas. Write to her at Box 1, 123 Eighth St., New Toronto, Ont.

How Can I?

By ROBERTA LEE

Q. How can I remove coffee stains from fabric?

A. When the stains are fresh pour boiling water through them or rub with glycerin and wash in lukewarm water. If the stains are old and dry, apply stains and rub with soap. The stain disappears soak the place in ammonia and water to prevent damage to the material. How can I give vitality to a canary?

A. If the canary has lost vitality during the molting period, put a rusty nail in the drink water. It will supply iron to the bird when he is not so active as usual.

Q. How can I prevent new shoes from burning the feet?

A. The new shoes will not burn the feet if talcum powder is sprinkled liberally into them. Q. How can I avoid ruining a garment by using a spot remover?

A. Try the stain remover first on a section under the hem of the garment. This will avoid the chance of the remover will take the color out of the material as well as remove the stain.

Q. How can I remove scorched spots from linen?

A. If the linen is not scorched very badly, rub a cut onion on the marks and then give the linen a good soaking. The cold water will remove the scorched stains.

Q. How can I brighten aluminum utensils?

A. Use the darkest aluminum pan for cooking rubarb, apricots, lemons, or tomatoes. These foods contain acid and will brighten the aluminum.

Q. How can I be certain that I am buying a good broom?

A. Choose one with green-colored straw, but avoid the dark reddish straw, and be sure the broom is firm on the handle. Never let it stand on its bristles and give it a bath in soapsuds occasionally.

Q. How can I dry damp flour?

A. By sifting it several times in front of the open door of a hot oven. The flour should be cooled before using it or returning it to the container.

Q. How can I give a polish to tinware?

A. Rub a freshly sliced onion over the tinware and then rub vigorously with a dry clean cloth, to give it a high polish.

Q. How can I harden the gums?

A. Use salt on the tooth brush occasionally instead of the usual tooth paste. It invigorates the gums, and is used with cold water is an excellent mouth wash or gargle.

Q. Have you written out your list of the world's greatest men?

"Almost," replied Tommy. "I can't quite make up my mind about the goalkeeper."



FOOTNOTES—Latest foot fashions for teen-agers are shoes that sometimes baffle other teen-agers. Girl at left has "Kind Not Too Goodie" on her right foot, and "Many Many Fun" on her left.

CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

By Geraldine P. Clarke

If this column seems somewhat out of date I hope my readers will remember it was written three weeks ahead of publication. Which means that those of you who read are well into the New Year, but with us it is only the Monday after Christmas. We still have remains of the turkey and plum pudding to eat up. As for Christmas cake we don't even want to look at it—at least for the present. But it was a wonderful Christmas... beautiful weather, even if it wasn't a White Christmas. The family were all here, plus two extras, and we had a very enjoyable time. Just to add to the occasion Dee and Art brought their television set along with them. Of course we haven't an aerial but we managed to bring in some of the program's surprisingly well—especially that rip-roaring hockey game between the Leafs and the Red Wings Christmas night.

The inclusion of the television for the holiday was quite a surprise and was brought along partly to settle an argument. Dee and Art are very anxious that we should get a set ourselves but Partner and I have always claimed we have no desire for one at all. We are invariably told... "If you had one you would like it." So they brought their set along just to convince us... and partly succeeded... for we did enjoy the hockey. Perhaps we would have been more of the others equally well had we been able to get them more clearly. At any rate our ideas regarding television have been modified to a great extent. But one problem remains unsolved... how would we ever find time to watch it when we are supposed to be doing our job?

There was just one thing wrong with our Christmas... Dave wasn't too well. He was completely off his feed—a hang-over from a recent attack of stomach flu. At one time Dee even wondered whether he would be well enough for them to come at all. Christmas without Dave... wouldn't that have been a disappointment? I would hate to have missed his expression of delight as he looked at the Christmas tree with its glittering lights. He has one word he uses a lot to let us know when something really interests him. "See! See!" he repeats over and over again.

So now Christmas is over... and perhaps one of the facts we appreciate most is that it won't be here again for another twelve months! We are saddened too, when we hear of the number of accidents that have been a disappointment? I would hate to have missed his expression of delight as he looked at the Christmas tree with its glittering lights. He has one word he uses a lot to let us know when something really interests him. "See! See!" he repeats over and over again.

IT MAY BE YOUR LIVER

If life's not worth living

It is a fact it takes up to two points of liver. When the liver is diseased, it is a danger to your health. If you have liver trouble, you should see a doctor. You may not feel it, but your liver is working hard for you. It is the most important organ in your body. It filters out the toxins from your blood. It produces bile to help you digest your food. It stores energy for you. If your liver is not working properly, you will feel tired, weak, and sick. You may have a yellowish tint to your skin and eyes. You may have a loss of appetite. You may have a loss of weight. You may have a loss of energy. You may have a loss of interest in life. You may have a loss of hope. You may have a loss of faith. You may have a loss of love. You may have a loss of everything. You may have a loss of life. You may have a loss of everything. You may have a loss of life.

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Sensitive Plants

When a plant is injured it does not feel what you and I know of pain, for a plant has no brain and no nervous system. Plants may be said to "feel," however, in the sense that they react to things that are important to them. If a tree is gnawed with a knife, for example, it promptly begins to grow new tissue to heal the wound.

All green growing plants react to the light. Many flowers open their petals in response to the daylight and keep them closed during the darkness of night. A young seedling kept in a dark cupboard will grow pale and weak. Take it out and set it on a sunny window sill and it will turn a healthy green. As it grows it will bend and curve toward the light, stem, leaves and all. Some young trees bend so far toward the light that they are pulled down by their heavy masses of leaves. One of the most important ways in which plants react to their environment is by the process of photosynthesis, the process by which green leaves manufacture the plant's food. Air, water and light (chlorophyll) share in this wonderful process, but only in the presence of light.

Origin Of Forks

It is not known, exactly, when people first began to eat food with a fork. Of course, even the stone-age people had knives, and the first spoon probably was a clam shell fastened to a stick. In addition to knives, the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans had wooden, silver and bronze spoons with which they ate, but no table forks.

Undoubtedly, the first fork was developed from the three-pronged fishing spear, and was very crude. The first known forks had two prongs or tines and were used in cooking, and probably for holding meat as it was carved. Noble and wealthy Venetians of the eleventh century used forks for this purpose, and King Charles V of France had a few for his own use in the fourteenth century. Probably the first fork with which to eat was the one that became known in Great Britain until the seventeenth century.

MISGUIDED MISSILE

Annoyed beyond endurance by the attentions of a fly, George Elgorth, of Syracuse, grabbed the nearest thing to hand—a towel—and with a terrific swipe swatted the insect to extinction. Unfortunately, his whirling towel hit an electric bulb. This burst and the flying glass cut Elgorth's wife so badly that an ambulance had to be called to take her to hospital for treatment.

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Ten Commandments For Farm Safety

The farm section of the National Safety Council says that if you really want to be serious about safety here are ten "Safety Commandments" to follow:

1. Keep machines in good repair. Keep all guards and safety devices in place. Stop motors before making adjustments.

2. Operate tractors safely. Avoid ditch banks and soft ground. Always hitch to drawbar and do not overload.

3. Know and obey all traffic laws. Have trucks checked periodically.

4. Be "Firesighted." Don't smoke around the barn or combustible material.

5. Be a good housekeeper. This does not necessarily mean the housekeeper. Keep everything around the farm systematically.

6. Watch youngsters. Kids like the thrill of riding and driving tractors. Too many kids die from accidents on the farm.

7. Poisons are dangerous. Modern science develops pesticides to kill. This means humans too.

8. Look for reptiles. There are still many diamond back rattlers.

9. Respect your gun. Hunting is a dangerous sport. Follow safety rules!

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The Calvert SPORTS COLUMN

by Elmer Ferguson

THE MOST REMARKABLE PLAYER IN THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE, IN MANY RESPECTS, IS TALL ELWIN IRA (AL) ROLLINS, OF THE CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS.

He was born in Vancouver, B.C., and finished last in 1953-54 and were fighting with last place in the current race when these lines were written.

Rollins is remarkable because, with a tall-end team, he was last Spring voted winner of the Hart Trophy, most coveted award in the major league, designating as it does the player most useful to his club. In the 21-year history of the trophy, this happened only once before. As the Hawks finished last in the race, the voters possibly assumed that without Rollins, they might have fallen right out of the League. It's possible.

When Rollins won the trophy, one cynical observer remarked that he deserved some sort of award for escaping with his life. Rollins played in 66 of his club's 70 games last season. He was scored on 213 times, or at the average of 3.1 goals per game. But two others called in to replace Rollins when he was ill had 29 goals rolled up against them in four games, over 7 per game, indicating by comparison what a superb job Rollins was doing.

The remark about escaping with his life is not entirely in jest. The 213 goals scored on Rollins is a lot of goals, but what of the shots he stopped? It would be most conservative to say that, in the course of the season, he was bombarded by not less than 2,000 shots from the sticks of hockey's greatest snipers.

Besides being a great goaler, Rollins is something of a philosopher. After winning the trophy, he told a sports writer: "When you're with a team like Chicago, every game is a tough one. But maybe it's a good thing. When you've got all that work, you keep warm and loose. Some goalies get beat