

# ANNE HIRST

## Your Family Counselor

### FATHER OF THREE

Dear Anne Hirst: I am 28, and for three years have been a lonely widower. My three children are aged four to nine. Recently I met a girl of 16, and we have fallen in love. Her parents are objecting strongly, and I am not surprised they think her too young to understand what love means, and too inexperienced to take on the responsibilities of my house and the children. But aren't there exceptions to rules? This girl is as mature as others I've known who were 21; she is exceptionally well-balanced, and I tell you honestly that this conclusion is not wishful thinking.

"I have explained to them all that my housekeeper (a friend of my former wife) has had an entire charge of the children and housekeeping for two years. The girl I love would have no responsibilities unless she wants them, and as her husband I would cherish and protect her. My reputation is solid, and I am well off."

"What can I do to convince these nice people that their daughter would be happy with me?"

### ONE LONELY MAN

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usually most concerned with the joyous prospect of widowhood, and apt to regard other attending responsibilities lightly. Yet if this girl you love is as mature as you believe, it is not likely she would be content to leave the entire care of your children to your housekeeper; she would feel it part of her duty as their stepmother to assume some responsibilities. You say she already knows the children, and they all seem to feel a mutual affection. (I wish I could have printed all your letter.)

"One way to prove to her parents that you are sincere is to promise to wait until they can give their full consent. (In your state, she cannot marry until she is 16 for two years.) While you hope they will allow you to pursue the courtship, if they prefer you will not see her for at least another year. During that time she would be free to mingle again with friends her age, and learn the quality of her affection for you. The waiting would prove, too, whether what you feel is really enduring or merely the infatuation that a man your age could readily feel for a young girl. (After all, you met her recently.)"

"I believe such a proposal would be unexpected by her parents, and impress them with your integrity. It cannot help but recommend you as a just man, anxious above all for their daughter's happiness. Why not suggest it, and see how they react?"

### AWKWARD SITUATION

Dear Anne Hirst: I am nearly 17, and in love with a young man four years older. Lately he has been dating another girl more often, though, and recently he gave her a diamond. But he tells me he isn't going to marry her. "I've known him for two years and we have had so much fun together. I hear he is always fussing with her... yet he tells my friends he loves me, but all he has told me is that he is 'fond of me.' I am very confused. Since she is wearing his ring, I guess I'm crazy to ask your opinion—but what is it?"

### WONDERING

"When a girl wears a diamond it is taken for granted she is engaged to the boy who gave it. If he dates anyone else, it is to be so anxious for a husband that she will go out with anyone who asks her."

"This girl evidently expects to marry the boy, so why don't you realize what unpleasant gossip you are inviting? I do not think you would be flattered to know what his friends (perhaps yours, too) are saying. He wants to eat his cake and have it, but so long as his engagement is accepted, he owes his complete loyalty to the girl he proposed to."

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TOGETHER AGAIN—Ethel Merman, left, and Ginger Rogers, who started in show business together about 28 years ago, team up here to help the victims of hemophilia. The stars give their old "dust" at a fund-raising party of the Hemophilia Foundation.

# CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Don't ever underestimate the power of a baby! You thought I was going to say "woman" didn't you? Well, a woman is something to be reckoned with too—but the power of a woman is as nothing compared with the power of a baby. One small infant can throw a monkey-wrench as effectively as a plumber. I am finding that out more and more. From now on when I make any plans I shall qualify them by saying—"Unless a baby, either male or female, shall interfere with my plans, past, present and future, bear me out."

I have already told you about having grandson Eddie here for just over a month. I went to postpone so many things "until after Eddie had gone home". After Eddie, bless his mischievous little soul, finally went home, we felt free to come and go as we pleased. We could say yes or no to any invitation—and as you know, I went to the W.I. Convention. The following Wednesday I had promised to be at our local branch meeting, but the delegate gave her report. But that's where the first baby interruption came in. A neighbour received a sudden emergency call to a Toronto hospital... would I look after her baby until she returned. Well, her mission was greater than mine so I baby-sat until four o'clock. I took a quick run down to the Hall afterwards and heard the last five minutes of the delegate's report and also presented my apologies.

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## Modern Etiquette

by Roberts Lee

Q. It is for some reason—social or business—a family has had its name legally changed, how should friends and acquaintances be informed of this?

A. The quickest and simplest way is to mail out formal announcements: "Mr. and Mrs. John Stoningham announce that by permission of the court they and their children have taken the family name of Stone."

Q. Is it proper to name the second son "junior" for his father, or is this title always supposed to be conferred on the oldest son?

A. The "junior" in a family need not be the first son.

Q. Is it necessary that all the men stand at a dinner table until all the women have been seated?

A. Yes.

Q. When signing her name to business letters, must an unmarried woman use "Miss" in front of her name?

A. Yes; but the "Miss" should be enclosed in parentheses, as (Miss) Patricia S. Moore. A married woman should abide by this rule, too.

Q. Should a girl discard her engagement ring when her fiancé dies?

A. She may wear it for so long as she likes. It may be that in her life, or it may be that in time she will fall in love with someone else and replace it with another ring.

Q. When a man brings a guest to his home and presents him to his wife, does she make use of the customary acknowledgement, "How do you do?"

A. In this instance, it is better if the wife shows a little more cordiality and adds, "I am very glad to see you," or some such similar expression.

We shall have a little bit of Ginger Farm at Halfway House—from the spring-flowering bulbs that we brought along with us. From now on when I make any plans I shall qualify them by saying—"Unless a baby, either male or female, shall interfere with my plans, past, present and future, bear me out."

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## Week's Sew-Thrifty

PRINTED PATTERN



4846  
SIZES  
10-20  
by Anne Adams

Jumper with companion blouse—or figure-flattering dress. You'll love the versatility of this new Printed Pattern. Note its smart double-breasted bodice; easy 6-gore skirt.

Printed Pattern 4846: Misses' Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 16 jumper 4 1/2 yards 35-inch nap, blouse 2 1/2 yards 35-inch fabric.

Printed directions on each pattern part. Easier, accurate.

Send FORTY CENTS (48¢) (stamps cannot be accepted, use postal note for safety) for this pattern. Please print plainly SIZE, NAME, ADDRESS, STYLE NUMBER.

Send order to ANNE ADAMS Box 1, 123 Eighteenth St., New Toronto, Ont.

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## Time Consumer Got A Break

The United States possesses the key to open the gates to an ever-widening prosperity based upon sound growth.

It has missed the key. It has in some instances ignored it. It is currently in clumsy hands. This key is the consumer's mood.

For two years the consumer has had a rough time. He has been subjected consistently to steadily increasing prices. His cost of living has jumped 6.6 per cent. Now for the first time in 14 months the increase has been halted.

The United Steelworkers Union forced through a wage increase two years ago, and the steel industry raised its prices. It passed them on to the consumer. The whole price structure came unbinged after that.

The consumer is still on the receiving end of the price spiral which big mass-industry wage and price specialists have passed on to him.

He cannot buy a new automobile today without paying \$100 to \$200 over the prices he would have paid two years ago. His rent and housing costs have soared: 5.4 per cent for rent, 6.3 per cent for housing. His transportation costs have never been higher, up 2.8 per cent. His food costs are up 6.1 per cent. His clothing costs 3.6 per cent more.

Taxes, direct and hidden, are up everywhere.

What do we have? We have a consumer, pressed back to keep up with the price sets for him by the pricing specialists.

Suddenly, today, we are told that the key to the economy is the key to future prosperity—the key to good business and a for the United States and the state and local governments is the consumer.

"It all depends on consumer sentiment. What will his mood be in 1958?"

It would seem that if the consumer is to be the key to the nation's prosperity—and, of course, he is—that he would have been treated more gently and with greater consideration.

The "correction" we face today is a correction of the widely held attitude in industry, in labor, in banking, that the consumer continually can be expected to keep everyone happy while at the same time he is being bombarded from every direction.

Some place along the way, the consumer