

## Stupid Rules That Embarrass The Queen

By HELEN CATICART  
Author of "Her Majesty"—  
a controversial biography  
of the Queen

Affectionate messages poured into Buckingham Palace recently when the Queen celebrated the tenth year of her reign. Among them were greetings from friends and relatives whom the Queen is officially forbidden to meet.

As Defender of the Faith, the Queen must uphold the Church of England's ancient principle that marriage is indissoluble. The Church does not recognize divorce.

Hence the acid fact that 24,000 people a year join the band who are banned at Buckingham Palace.

Now one of Prince Philip's nieces, Princess Christina of Yugoslavia, faces the risk of exclusion, following recent divorce proceedings, as does Captain Oliver Darnley, the Queen Mother's former secretary. And the Earl of Onslow, former Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, figures in present divorce lists.

Divorce protocol, in fact, constantly leads the Queen into a series of public, private and social embarrassments. Added to this her position as Head of the Commonwealth and the situation tints into sheer craziness.

As Queen of Canada, Her Majesty can formally shake hands with a man who beats up his wife. But the Queen cannot invite him aboard the royal yacht Britannia—technically a royal palace—he's been found guilty of adultery and divorced.

In England, however, the Queen continually has to remember that handshakes with wife-run away from their husbands—are out.

For cruelty and desertion are both grounds for divorce in English law.

When the Queen dined with the Shah of Persia, the complications were enough to give her advisers diplomatic indigestion. For the Shah's two divorces, though admittedly Muslim, have been among the world's most public disentanglements.

When the King and Queen of Sweden were given a state banquet at Buckingham Palace, three divorced Cabinet Ministers had to be omitted from the list of guests.

Yet they were considered eligible for the coronation. The glorious wangle of words, the Queen meets them only in their public capacity.

The Queen traditionally heads the aristocracy. But a rollcall of at least fourteen broken marriages among the twenty-seven dukedoms makes her task even more invidious.

Officially, it's stressed, the Queen cannot meet a divorcee. Yet on political recommendation she had to appoint Lord Listowel her Governor-General in Ghana—although he had been the guilty party in a divorce suit.

The Queen could comfortably sign his warrant of appointment. He had not actually married another woman while his first wife was still living.

Imagine the Palace perplexity when he suddenly married a blues singer whose first marriage had also ended in divorce! The bombshell dropped just when plans were being made for the royal tour of Ghana in 1959. The Queen's advisers faced a position where she would be named privately by a Governor-General and his wife whom she couldn't meet publicly.

Luckily, the expected birth of Prince Andrew caused the tour to be postponed and saved the situation.

When Ghana became independent in July 1960, this tricky problem was resolved.

A divorce in the Armstrong-Jones family was one reason why Princess Margaret's wedding was supposedly a private affair, not a state wedding.

The innocent can, in fact, be

invited to certain functions at Buckingham Palace. They can accept the Queen's private invitations to the Ascot house-parties at Windsor Castle.

But they mustn't wander on the emerald strip of the Queen's Lawn at the racecourse, where divorcées are barred.

When a top-ranking R.A.F. officer retired recently after winning three wartime decorations for valor—he discovered that he was not qualified to go to a royal garden-party. A letter from the Air Ministry bluntly advised him that guilty parties in divorce cases were not eligible.

The flying ace pointed out that, although he had indeed been a "guilty party," his ex-wife had been dead for some years.

Back came the veto. It was regretted that his name "could not be submitted for the honour of an invitation."

Although he could be invited to receive three decorations from the Sovereign, the hero didn't merit an invitation to strawberries and cream with 5,000 other guests.

The rule apparently isn't made to be broken—but it's clearly made to be bent.

When Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fairbanks strolled the Queen's lawns, though both divorced from earlier partners, it was pointed out that they held U.S. diplomatic passes.

When the Queen went to a Fairbanks' dance on one occasion, criticism flared—and officials delicately pointed out that an American couple were not around by Church of England tenets on divorce.

Strangely enough, divorces have already occurred in the heart of the Royal Family itself. Until her recent death no Court function seemed complete without Princess Marie Louise.

Queen Victoria's grand-daughter was a dignified representative of the old régime. Yet her husband complained that life with her was intolerable and the marriage was dissolved.

Queen Mary was one of the strictest of royal ladies. On one occasion, nevertheless, she courted a young cousin, who fell in love with a married footman and had a baby by him.

Old Queen Victoria was not ordering a divorce when marriages among her innumerable German relatives went astray.

Prince Philip, as the husband of the Defender of the Faith, is less encumbered. Indeed, five of his first cousins have had their marriages dissolved, including Helen, Queen Mother of Rumania, and Lady Iris Mountbatten.

Prince Philip, however, felt the cold touch of the divorce laws when his congenial secretary, Lieutenant-Commander Michael Parker, had to resign from his staff.

There are times when the Duke of Windsor is invited to lunch at Buckingham Palace. But not the three-divorced Duchess.

And only too often, the hypocrisy of divorce protocol clashes with the Queen's own integrity. Two vociferous minorities raised a storm around Prince Philip for hobnobbing at a charity function with Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner at the height of their divorce crisis.

Yet the Queen is expected to attend an annual film "command performance," shaking hands with sultry film stars in low-cut gowns, some of whom have been involved in divorce actions as guilty parties.

To get over this one, the presentations are made in the theatre before or after the performance!

The retiring Archbishop of Canterbury recently indicated his sympathy with the Queen in her divorce perplexity. We can surely do better for royalty than this morass of excuses. From "Tit-Bits."

The fire disaster that killed the greatest number of persons in the United States was the forest blaze at Peshtigo, Wis., on Oct. 9, 1871, in which 1,182 persons perished.

## An Alternative To Fluoridation

Utah communities which voted on fluoridation Nov. 7 turned down use of fluorine in water supplies, as a tooth decay preventive.

We doubt very much if the resounding defeat of fluoridation in Utah cities can be interpreted as opposition, in a degree proportionate to the vote, to the actual use of fluorine in water as a decay preventive. Many people, we feel, would like the protection this important provides but oppose putting it in the water supply for various reasons.

Some of these reasons, cited by opponents of fluoridation, have included: the cost involved; the uneven distribution of fluorine in Utah cities can be interpreted as opposition, in a degree proportionate to the vote, to the actual use of fluorine in water as a decay preventive.

Such a program could accomplish what fluorine tablets can't. The fluoride tablets are purchased for \$4.50 per 100,000 tablets. A three-year supply would cost \$13.50.

Wouldn't the medical and dental association and public health service be rendering a fine public service if they were to disseminate information on how, other than through fluoridation, fluoride can be used?

For example, the people simply don't want fluoridation in their water. They want to use fluoride tablets and tooth paste.

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## Israel To Have An Unusual Zoo

One of the most original zoos in the world is nearly complete in Israel. It contains, with few exceptions, all the animals and birds mentioned in the Bible.

Each cage and aviary bears the appropriate Biblical quotation in both English and Hebrew.

For instance, from the Song of Solomon it is, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines."

And, beyond this plaque are the foxes, leaping about, with their attention on the foxes, which had diverse colors.

There, too, are "Wolves ranging the prey" (Ezekiel xxii. 27), and a lion whose cage has this description from Proverbs xxx. 30: "A lion which is the strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any."

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## Odd Happenings In A City

New York is a grab bag. Poke yourself into its hollows, feel around a bit and you are sure to come up with an amusing story.

Rockefeller Center, for instance, had instant spring the other day.

A people hustling to work in the morning saw a few drab winter coats in a row.

Mr. Stephen Chaney, owner of holiday chalets and bungalows, fishes for a hobby, and his unusual methods, practiced with a strong wind blowing offshore, sometimes bring him a catch of twenty codfish in a few hours.

Specimens usually tip the scales at from seven to nine pounds. His technique has emerged after long and often disappointing experiments. But helped by his fisherman-rother, Mr. Walter Chaney, he stuck to his notion that, by using a kite to carry a baited line a fair distance out to sea, then haul it in from any non-rocky coastline in waters unsuitable for any small boat to put to sea.

So, when in stormy weather, he could catch fish behind the widest dreams of ordinary anglers.

He has been successful in catching cod, haddock, and other fish, carrying diagonally from 31st. 9th. to 57th. He flies them singly, or, if the going is especially rough, in series.

His kite carries a baited line, which he releases as he decides. He has been successful in catching cod, haddock, and other fish, carrying diagonally from 31st. 9th. to 57th. He flies them singly, or, if the going is especially rough, in series.

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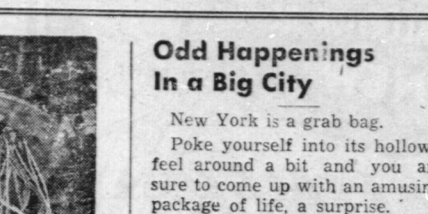
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A IMPROVES — Seventy-year-old Claude Watson seems to improve with age. He receded on Indianapolis high bowling series of 727. Watson, who didn't start bowling until he was 50, says, "I'm not an expert or anything—I'm just kind of young for my age." Nice pin toppin' at any age.



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stalled a play area for children at one Long Island branch; a machine which accepts deposits of currency, coins and checks at a city branch.

Finally, there is an engraved scroll State Farm Insurance companies gives to newsmen. On it is printed an imperial edict issued in 1888 by the Empress Dowager of China.

It reads: "As newsmen only serve to excite the masses to subvert the present order of things and the editors concerned are composed of the dregs of the literary classes, no good can be served by the continuation of such dangerous instruments, and we hereby command the entire suppression and sealing up of all newspapers published within the empire, while the editors concerned with them are to be arrested and punished with the utmost rigor of the law."

He Goes Fishing With a Kite! — Visitors to Hensley, near Caister, Norfolk, are astonished to find an enthusiastic angler catching large fish by standing on the beach and flying a kite.

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