

Woman is Baffled By Mother-in-Law

DEAR MARY HAWORTH: I've never discussed my problem with anyone, and I've never heard of a similar case, so I don't know whether or not it is unique.

I came of a large, wonderful, happy family. I married a grand man and had a perfectly normal marriage for 10 years; then he died suddenly. After a few years married again. My daughter and both love this man very much. But after three years there are aspects of our marriage that irritate me.

When we were first married (his first marriage) we bought a house. As he is an only child, his mother, a widow, came to live with us. She welcomed her and I felt that we could all be happy together.

Soon I learned that the house was in my husband's and his mother's name — just as if I weren't his wife. Also that his bank account and bonds are the same. I've spoken to him about this, saying it's not the money I care about, but I consider it an unusual arrangement that makes me feel like an outsider instead of a partner. He explains that his mother lent him money, so that he wouldn't need a bank mortgage — thus he thought it only fair to make these arrangements.

Mother-in-Law Calls Her Hand Mike's mother — I'll call her Mrs. X — is naturally disagreeable. I've decided after three years. I've tried all the ideas derived from your columns and from books, for getting along; but don't think she will ever change. Once when I tried talking to her kindly she said "If you don't like why don't you get out?" And that is her attitude.

I am thinking of leaving. I have a small income and can work and easily take care of my daughter. Of course we shall be terribly lonesome without him, but can't live here any longer and again my self-respect. Is there any other answer?

S. P. Man's Mother A Real Menace

DEAR S. P.: Your problem isn't unique. It is just about as prevalent, in different forms, as mother-in-laws, and there are quite a few of them, as clergymen, psychiatrists and other specialists in human relations can tell you.

Mother-in-laws are those psychologically childish women — self-centered and emotionally possessive to the nth degree — who are jealously opposed to having their sons grow up and "leave" them for another woman: a wife sweetheart.

If a mom's son gets far enough along the road of normal male experience to take a wife, mom impulsively rejects the bride — and if there were natural enemies, a lifelong fight to the finish, until mom butts her out of the picture, somehow or other.

The mom-mother does her utmost, by sentimental strategy, to keep her son attached to her leading strings. Just as Mrs. X has done, for example, in letting result into Mike's home-buying plan, thus promoting an arrangement that makes her (and not you) his financial partner and respective chief beneficiary.

Expert's Slant On The Problem

A first-rate mother, fairminded and socially mature, doesn't hog wife's place in her son's life. She marries, she accepts the adjustments in her life with good sense and good courage and educates husband and wife to count on themselves (and each other) primarily, to provide the building materials of mutual security.

If help is needed that she can provide, she either gives out-

right, with no strings attached, or she lends in a businesslike way, neither expecting nor requiring more than businesslike return in due time. She treats the pair as a unit, while matter-of-factly recognizing her separate status, comparatively, in the overall relationship. This Mrs. X won't do.

In your reading for guidance, have you encountered Dr. Edward A. Strecher's book "Their Mothers' Sons" (Lippincott)? The author, wisely sympathetic to all sides of the "mom"-triangle, comes to much the same conclusion as you — namely, that marriage under a "mom's thumb is incompatible with mature-type self-respect. Thus the forth-right remedy is to get out.

If you go, for justified reasons, Mike may finally see that light and follow. If he doesn't, you will have double proof that he is helplessly, unbilically tied to his mother, hence incapable of making a meaningful marriage. M. H.

Mary Haworth counsels through her column, not by mail or personal interview. Write her in care of The Guardian, Charlottetown.

MODERN TREND

Canadian manufacturers produced 2,276 automatic vending machines in 1953, against only 194 in 1952.

Mr. William Wright, Central Bedeque, left by plane on Sunday, May 22nd, for Toronto, Ontario, where he will be employed with the Canadian General Electric Company.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cosgrove, Vancouver, B. C., were recent visitors to Central Bedeque and vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Horne, Moncton, N. B., accompanied by their daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. John MacDonald and two children were holiday visitors at the home of Mrs. Horne's parents Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wright, Central Bedeque.

Mrs. Robert Reeves, Bedeque, is visiting with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Walter Roberts, Winsloe.

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Miss Marina MacCallum, Lower Bedeque, spent Sunday, May 22nd, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Craig, Middleton.

Mr. Gerald Johnston, Graduate of Saint Dunstan's University, Charlottetown, is spending a short visit with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnston, Central Bedeque, before leaving for naval base H. M. C. S. Stadacona in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he will spend the summer months.

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AT CITY HALL

THIS MEETING WILL BE ADDRESSED BY— HIS WORSHIP MAYOR J. D. STEWART.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU AS A RETAIL MERCHANT OF THIS CITY BE IN ATTENDANCE

BUSINESS OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU WILL BE DISCUSSED

THURSDAY — JUNE 2nd — 9 p.m.

(LATENESS OF MEETING DUE TO BLOOD DONORS CLINIC)

CITY HALL (Council Chambers)

RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOC. (CH'TOWN)

WEEK END SPECIALS at CUDMORE'S

EXTRA SPECIAL

- 2 tins ... 29c Red Rose
- 6 tins ... 85c COFFEE
- 48 tins ... 6.49 1 lb. tin 99c

- AYLMER 2 Tins Prune Plums 35c
- AYLMER 11 Oz. Bottle Ketchup 25c
- 20 OZ. TIN 2 For String Beans 33c

- 5 lb. bag 49c MEDIUM SIZE Prunes 21c
- PLUM 24 Oz. Bot. JAM 35c RASPBERRY 24 Oz. Bot. Jam 43c

- BARBOUR'S 2 Oz. Pkg. Pure Pepper 19c
- AYLMER 15 Oz. Tin Cherries 23c
- CHRISTIE Pkg. Milk Bisc 25c
- MCCORMICK'S 1 lb. Fig Bars 29c
- Molasses 33c
- PETER PAN 2 Tins Peaches 35c
- NEW JELLO Instant Puddings 2 for 25c

- AYLMER 20 Oz. Tin Pineapple Juice 2 for 31c
- FRASER'S BONELESS 1-2 Lb. Tin Chicken 45c

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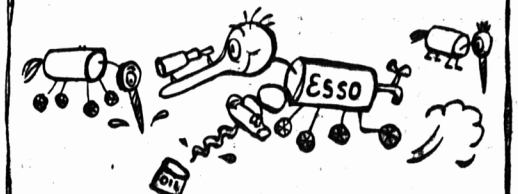
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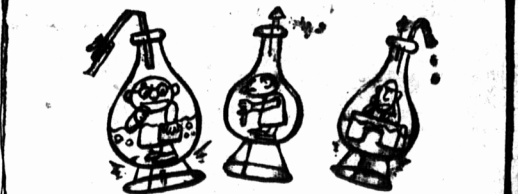


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