

Ask Mrs. Manners:

A Letter in Defense of Mothers-in-Law

ALL THESE "CRACKS" about mean mothers-in-law have me scratching this old white head to check on myself. I end with defense of mother-in-law. Often I drag the creaking joints to my daughter-in-law's home to sit with her babies. I'd much rather play "gin" with that dapper old gentleman across the hall.

These "loans" to my son, who "turns my head" with flattery, grow into donations, so I pull myself away from that stunning hat in the shop window. It isn't fun to help balance my son's budget or to help my cute daughter-in-law in her poorly organized household—but I do it. Grandma goes all out at Christmas—she can look her grandchildren in the eye with a clear conscience.

One woman wrote that mothers-in-law have lived their own lives and should let the children live theirs. That's fine with me—there's a lot of living in this life of mine—let me live it. Don't send me a lonesome gentleman—I'm already neglecting my neighbor.

You're quite a gal, Grandma. I'd guess that you're much in demand by your family because you aren't demanding. You deserve that new hat—and the dapper gentleman.

Someone has advised parents to be "never in the way" but "never out of the way"—never bossy, never babyish about attention and never nosy.

Should I Take Him Back?

I AM 16 and went with a boy 17 for seven months. We split up because of another girl. Not long ago he split up with her. Now he wants to go back with me. Should I go back? HOPELESS.

Dangle him awhile. If you can add her charms to your own you're all set. Don't you feel that you're missing something, though—all that crop of eligible boys?

Maybe the girl turned him down—he may not be such a catch.

Wants to Adopt a Baby

I'M UNMARRIED and want to know about adopting a baby. Where should I write? READER.

Write Marion County Welfare Department, 148 E. Market St., or the Children's Bureau of the Indianapolis Orphans Home, 11 N. Pennsylvania St. You may be referred to Catholic Charities Bureau, Lutheran Child Welfare Association, Jewish Family Society or Suerma Coleman Home.

Not in Love With My Wife

I WOULD LIKE to know just how a man can obtain a divorce from his wife in this state. I have no real grounds for divorce but I'm just not in love with my wife and we don't get along.

I don't care for any moral advice. BORED HUSBAND.

You need a lawyer, not me—I imagine that you can get a divorce.

You may not want any moral advice but I think you need it—you probably haven't given your wife a chance to be amusing.

We Have Boy Trouble

MY GIRL FRIEND and I have been friends since June and we're teen-agers, so of course we have boy troubles. She likes this boy who is very nice and she can't get him. He acts like he likes her sometimes and other times you wouldn't know he knew her. I've talked to him several times and he says she doesn't have a chance. She's liked him since August, 1947.

I live very close to him and she comes over almost every day. My mother doesn't like her. Her grades are going down and she's nervous and sick over him.

Oh dear—liked him since August. This is serious. Your friend had better give up this boy or change tactics. You girls are ganging up on him—ignore him for awhile. At least that will arouse his curiosity.

To Mrs. O. B. D. who wrote privately—You have nothing to worry about regarding the papers.

You've done a good job mending your life—keep doing it—force yourself to be cheerful with that good husband.

Try to forgive your ex-husband—hate will make you unhappy and will keep his memory revived. He may have felt sincere shame for neglecting the child when it died, and not until then. Try to remember that you were wrong too—you shouldn't have married him when you loved someone else. He couldn't have been the best of husbands when he knew that.

Let Mrs. Manners and readers of the column share your problems and answer your questions. Write in care of The Times, 214 W. Maryland St.

Tomorrow Last Day to Pay Tax

The Indiana Gross Income Tax Division main office at 141 S. Meridian St., will remain open until 5:30 p. m. tomorrow because of the large number of last minute tax payers.

Walter L. Sturdevant, chief deputy director of the division, announced tomorrow as the end of the 30 day grace period established by state law.

Mr. Sturdevant said 50 members of the unit's staff will remain on duty to answer questions and aid payers to fill in the forms.

Near capacity crowds have jammed the building in a last minute rush during the last 10 days.

Four Indiana Cities To Hear College Choir

Sacred concerts will be presented by the Indiana Central choir in four Indiana cities during February. Prof. Allan F. Schirmer, music department head, will direct.

The choir will appear in Marion and Rich Valley on Feb. 9 and in Huntington and Kokomo on Feb. 22.

Pfc. Green in Japan

Pfc. Charles Green, son of Mrs. Georgia Ann Lewis, 813 W. 10th St., is stationed at Gifu, Japan, with the 291st AGF Band, 24th Infantry. Before entering the service in 1946, Pfc. Green attended Crispus Attucks High School.

Gray Is National Concrete Leader

C. Dolly Gray, 6813 Westfield Blvd., Ready - Mixed Concrete Corp. head, is newly elected president of the National Ready-Mixed Concrete Association.

A graduate of Rose Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Gray served in World War I. He was formerly chief engineer of the state highway commission and one-time Indiana Engineers Registration Board chairman.

Mr. Gray is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Professional Engineers, Indianapolis Rotary Club, Columbia Club and Highland Country Club.

Andrews Awarded War Citation

G. Darwin Andrews, son of Mrs. Annette Andrews, English Hotel, has been awarded a citation of appreciation by the War Department for his work in the aviation cadet procurement program.

Mr. Andrews served as civilian advisor to the traveling Air Cadet examining board, as assistant to Maj. Leo Ganto Jr., at Muncie, and as co-ordinator for the university training program for Air Force personnel. He also served as public relations director for the college training program in Indiana.

Presentation of the award was made by Col. C. H. Welch, chief of the public information office, in ceremonies at Wright Field yesterday.

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