

Ask Mrs. Manners—

'Devoted Mate' Asks Way to Halt Divorce

I'M A DEVOTED HUSBAND who thinks our difficulties are insufficient for divorce. My wife says she never loved me, or anyone else, and wonders why we married. She has left and sued for divorce and I'm worried—not from pride. I don't believe in divorces until all efforts have failed. I attempted reconciliation twice, by telephone, but she seems incredibly busy.

She calls people aops for marrying. She always looked on the dark side of marriage. I contend if you say a thing over and over you eventually believe it.

My wife now lives with a cousin who has helped her think a husband is unnecessary, that one prevents a woman from enjoying life. This cousin, who is 45, divorced once and now married to an older man with a pension, has never liked me.

We grew up together and have been married 12 years. She is 33 and I'm 34. We worked in an office all during our marriage and have eaten out. While I was in service she moved to this cousin's house and was treated as a long-lost child and never charged for room and board. We moved back home when I returned, having normal fuses. We'd pout and not speak for days. She can't have children and wanted to adopt one—I said I was neutral, but we've had different views on so many things. We didn't enjoy ourselves like we should, partly because I had to work evenings. What is your answer to our problem?

DEVOTED HUSBAND.

I like your honesty about having been neglectful—you have been. I like your willingness to make amends, but flowers and a note, almost anything, would have been better than pleading over a telephone. I don't like that putting from either of you, or your "neutral" stand. Women like forceful men—they want them interested, not indifferent. Tell your wife you love her and need her, over and over, while she "thinks you over." Don't be matter-of-fact about keeping your marriage together. She might quit that job you seem to object to if she regained faith in your marriage. She might get over her babyishness if you didn't show yours.

What Are Needy to Do?

What are needy people, especially women, to do to their declining years? Is there coming a time when mercy killings will be enforced? I hear almost daily of some persons who have been left alone, often without sufficient financial aid and often without children. Many have children who do not want to take care of their parents. What are needy people to do?

ONE OF THE ELDERLY.

We don't let our elders starve. There's old age assistance from the Marion County Department of Public Welfare, Social Security at 65, and aid from township trustees. The Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation Division in the Board of Trade Building looks out for employable handicapped persons and the State Employment Service, 257 W. Washington St., tries to place the aged who are able to work.

All of us should remember our banks and our insurance companies, and plan for "social" insurance by finding hobbies to keep us interesting. Elderly people who stay interesting are just as interesting to persons with similar tastes as they were in their youth.

Lonely Widow Wants Companionship

I'M A WIDOW, 60, in fair health and don't expect to marry again. But I do desire companionship and haven't found a suitable pal in churches, lodges, etc. I want someone who enjoys a good time without including questionable amusements.

A LONELY CITY WIDOW.

Widow Wants to Correspond

I'M A WIDOW of 35 and would like some man around 40 to correspond with.

NEW CASTLE READER.

Widow Answers 'West Sider'

I WAS attracted by "West Sider's" problem. I'm a widow with children at home and know what it is to try to raise a family. I'm a church member, but not averse to a glass of beer at home once in awhile. I'd be willing to "mother" his children if he would "father" mine.

A WIDOW.

I don't introduce people or promote their correspondence—and I have no way of knowing how affectionate men would be. "Old-fashioned." I wouldn't worry too much if I were you. You're attractive enough to be appealing and I know you have enough personality to hold a man's interest with conversation. Men are always gentlemen for the right women.

You'll all have to mix with people to get acquainted. The Red Cross volunteer service program, conducted in hospitals, would be worthwhile work. The Council of Social Agencies Volunteer Services Bureau needs clerical workers and visitors for the home-bound. Your church could use you, and the Marion County Juvenile Center needs story tellers, readers, and women to teach sewing to the little girls.

Those of you who like to dance might attend affairs of Joy Lodge No. 5, Widowers, Widows and Maids and Bachelors (Charles Adams, LL 7986 is president); the Bon Ton Club (Mrs. Beanie Reed, MA. 0966); the Fifty-Fifty Club Inc. (FR. 0851). The YWCA and YMCA have interesting schedules.

Let Mrs. Manners and readers of the column share your problems and answer your questions. Write in care of The Times, 514 W. Maryland St.

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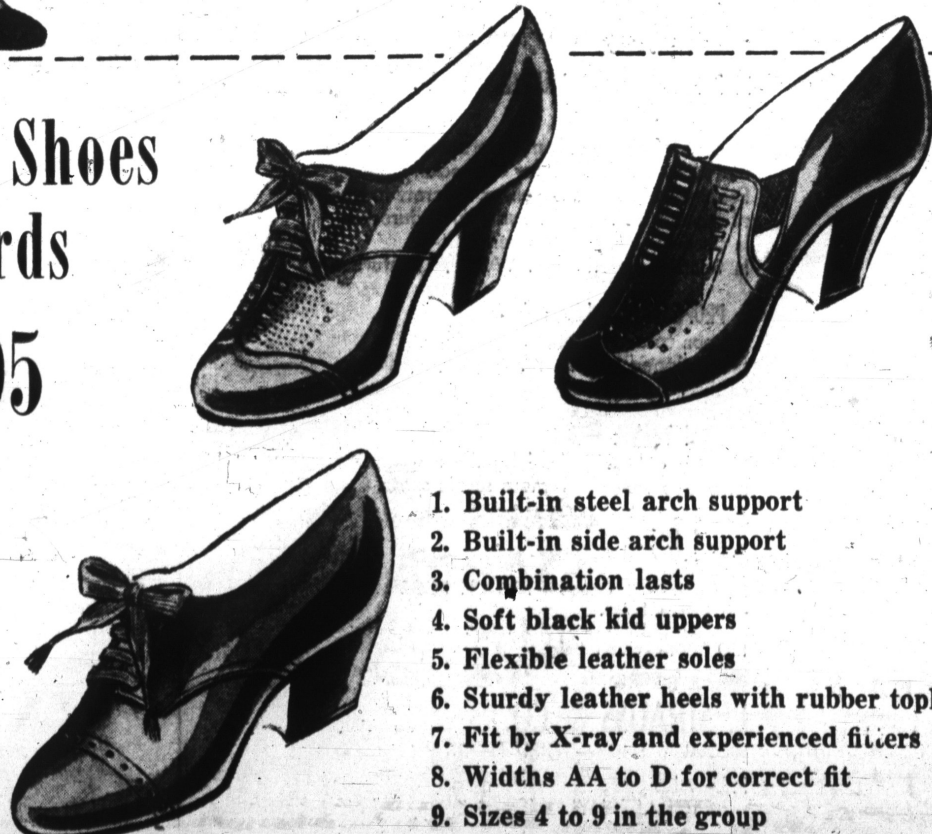
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