

# Hannah's Harpoons

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

Some of the answers given to the poor shivering creatures who write for advice to the lovelorn editors are enough to choke a goat.

A terrified daughter-in-law might write:

Dear Babs: My mother-in-law called me this morning at seven-thirty to "invite" me to come to her house (clear across the city) to help her out because her regular girl is sick and a fancy dinner party is scheduled for tonight.

It is now seven-thirty at night and if I don't write to you I will bust.

Not only did I clean her house from stem to stern, but fixed all the vegetables and set the table. EXCEPT THE FLOWERS, WHICH SHE SPENT ALL AFTERNOON SHOPPING FOR. But what boils me is that we weren't even invited to the party.

This has happened before. I have three children and a husband and a house of my own. After a day like this, I am so cooked up that I can't function for a week. How can I get out of such a situation in the future.

(signed) FULL UP.

And "Dear Babs" replies,

Dear Full:

- a) tell your mother-in-law to drop dead
- b) tell her to do it herself
- c) tell your husband to tell her a) or b).

One could die laughing. It is patently obvious that "Full" is incapable of doing any one of these things, or she wouldn't be writing . . . she'd be doing. Right? The best advice that can be offered to "Full" is to have her phone cut off.

Next best thing is to leave the city, without forwarding address, with or without her mother-in-law's son. Evasive action is the ONLY solution for this girl.

How can "Dear Babs" adequately advise this poor creature? Babs is evidently a very well-adjusted person who believes in the dignity and freedom of the individual. In reality, the world consists of only two kinds of people: those who impose, and those who are imposed upon.

It takes a thorough-going neurotic to adequately reply to "Full's" question.

Talk back to a mother-in-law? NEVER! (We neurotics know, don't we?)

## Yours for Autumn Color

It's a rare person whose pulse fails to quicken at the coming of autumn. The seasonal change is more dramatic than in spring. The air has a new crispness, and excitement replaces the doldrums of late summer. The change is less dramatic than it could be in many California gardens, however, for unlike Easterners we lack the natural climate conditions which turn leaves to flame and otherwise accentuate the new season. We have to work a bit harder to achieve the same effects, but achieve them we can, according to the California Association of Nurserymen.

### LEAVES

Leaves take on autumnal hues when night temperatures drop toward freezing and in much of California this does not occur until the leaves have already turned brown or dropped off. In some areas of Southern California and along the coast, it rarely happens at all. There are trees and shrubs to be found in C.A.N. nurseries, however, which require only minimal night chilling to produce their colorful effects and these are the plant subjects we should seek out in the Golden State when we want fall color.

### TREES

Certain trees will turn to gold even along the coast. S.A.N. members are high on the Maidenhair Tree in this respect—especially the Autumn Gold variety, which was developed here in California a few short years ago. You see specimen plantings of this beauty in Southern California and around San Francisco Bay—two areas not generally noted for their fall foliage. They couldn't be more colorful, and in valleys, of course, it is a yellow beacon in the countryside.

Another deciduous tree which makes its mark on the scene is the Northern Red Oak, a fast-growing, broad-beamed oak with larger-than-average leaves. These latter turn to vivid shades of red and orange before dropping in fall. We can't honestly recommend

Northern Red Oak for small city gardens but for anything resembling a spacious landscape and for country places it's tops.

Where else is color in a California fall? You'll find it in the leaves of Japanese Barberry before they drop off, and the berries of this shrub add fuel to the fire. You'll find it also in the Common Snowball Viburnum, leaves of which turn rich red before dropping. Away from the coast you'll get good foliage color from the evergreen Heavenly Bamboo, another with berries to help the show along. And where the deciduous Mollis Azaleas do well, you'll find them almost as colorful in fall foliage as they are in spring bloom.

### VINES

Vines—at least two of them—are another source of autumn hues. The Virginia Creeper and its relative, Boston Ivy are the most colorful in this season. One or the other of these is the vine that covers so many buildings with yellow and red leaves during the football season. You may find it less colorful in coastal gardens than inland, but we've seen plenty of colorful specimens only a short gull flight from the coast.

### FLOWERS

As for flowers in this season of seasons, we can't think of a better companion than the chrysanthemum. Fortunately, too, there are potsful of them in full bloom at nurseries. You needn't

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**SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN** (center) presents a proclamation designating October 27 as Navy Day throughout Los Angeles County to Captain G. S. Perkins (USN ret.), president of the Los Angeles County Chapter of Navy League, and Roy E. Olonder, (right), secretary of the Los Angeles Chapter. Hahn, who served with the Seventh Fleet in the New

Guinea campaign of World War II, is the only veteran on the Board of Supervisors. In proclaiming Navy Day, Hahn said, "It is fitting and proper that our civilian population give well-deserved honor and recognition to the achievements of our mighty Navy and its heroic men and women for their patriotism, loyalty, efficiency, and devotion to duty."

## Supervisors Request Conference To Study Flag Salute in Schools

On motion of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, the Board of Supervisors today adopted the following motion:

"On the board's agenda today is a report from County Counsel that the recent law suit brought by a school teacher to remove the 'under God' provision in the Pledge of Allegiance has just been dismissed. Even though this case has been dismissed, the effect of this litigation is to allow a teacher in a public school to refuse to participate in the daily Pledge of Allegiance.

"The courts have ruled that a student does not have to salute the Flag if it violates his religious conviction. However, there remains a grave question of public policy as to whether a teacher should continue to teach in the classroom, where he can exercise great influence on the students, if this teacher refuses to salute the American Flag as required by both the laws of the Nation and the State and Board of Education policy.

"The fundamental question faced here is that of allowing a history teacher to use an 'escape hatch' in refusing to give the Pledge of Allegiance, while the overwhelming majority of school teachers give a good example of patriotism, love of country and devotion to our American heritage and principles. The Flag of our country is the visible symbol of our loyalty and devotion and our respect for our Nation. The Flag has been a symbol in the field of battle to encourage men to victory.

even remove them from the pots for garden display. Simply sink the pots in the ground where you need color.

"In the early days of our country Francis Scott Key wrote the immortal 'Star Spangled Banner' when the Flag was still there. In our generation, the Flag raised at Iwo Jima recalls to the American people respect due the American Flag.

"Is it really too much to ask a teacher of any subject in a public school building to take the Pledge of Allegiance—a pledge that has been adopted by the Congress and enacted into law by the State Legislature of California and made a daily requirement by the Board of Education. Is it too much to ask a teacher when he teaches the glorious historical events in our country's achievements and the names

of the great patriots who have served in every field—to ask him also to pledge allegiance so he would set a good example to the students?

It is my feeling that a public school teacher who cannot in good conscience salute the American Flag should not remain in the classroom, but should be in some position in an office so that his example of refusing to salute the Flag will not be permanently engraved on the minds of the students.

Therefore, I move that the County Superintendent of Schools request a conference of the superintendents of the hundred school districts in Los Angeles County to study this problem and to make recommendations either to the Board of Education directly involved or to the Legislature to correct this situation.—Supervisor Hahn.



**TORRANCE DIVING STAR** Robert D. Webster gets an introduction to Japan in the form of a "happy" coat from Japan Air Lines hostess Etsu Yuhara at San Francisco International Airport before boarding the JAL jetliner "Shima" for Tokyo. Webster is one of the three American divers invited to

compete in the Tokyo International Sports Week. The event is a rehearsal for next year's Olympic Games. He lives at 21009 Amie St., Torrance. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Webster was the platform diving champ at the 1960 Olympics and a three-time national champ.

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