

**YOUR PROBLEMS**

by **Ann Landers**



**Social World**

Edna Cloyd, Editor

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**"In-Law Praise Deserves Medal . . ."**

Dear Ann Landers: Millions of people read your column and talk about it on buses, trains and planes. My eight-year-old quotes you, and so does my 92-year-old grandfather.

Our minister used your Rules for Raising Children as a basis for his sermon a few months ago. You could go down in history with Joan of Arc and Helen of Troy if you would do one simple thing. Say a good word for the American mother-in-law.

It is my personal opinion that the American mother-in-law is the most maligned, abused, ridiculed figure alive. My mother-in-law is a grand person. I adore her. She has never once interfered or imposed herself on us. There must be millions of OTHER wonderful mothers-in-law. Why don't you ask your readers to write and tell you about the good relationships? Then print the best letters. It would be a national service. —A HAPPY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

Dear Happy: I'll do better than that. I will send to the person who writes the best letter in praise of a mother-in-law a medal with an appropriate inscription.

Dear Ann Landers: This decision is right in your lap. I'm a high school junior. My face wouldn't launch a thousand ships but I'm not bad looking. The truth is I'm about 22 pounds overweight. All the fellows I know are friendly — and brotherly. But no dates. Yesterday one of the sweetest guys I know said to me half-kidding "You'd be a doll if you'd knock off some blubber." I decided then and there to go on a diet.

The problem is my mother. According to her, if a fellow was the right kind he'd take me out no matter what I weighed. She says she's not going to let me make a nervous wreck out of myself from dieting. How about this? Does Mama know best? — PUDGY

Dear Pudgy: Mama usually knows best — but not in this case. I hear from more girls who are nervous because they haven't got dates than because they are dieting. Go to a doctor and let him put you on a diet. You'll not only look better but you'll feel better. When a boy suggests that you shed some blubber — that's pretty frank talk, Toots.

Dear Ann Landers: I'm a (Continued on Page 26)



**VACATION PLANS . . .** Mrs. Harold McBride tells her daughter Marsha about the wonderful things she will do at Exceptional Children's camp this summer. Mr. and Mrs. McBride, who live at 4007 W. 175th St., will have their first vacation at this time. Marsha, who is 17 and still lives in a little girl's world, takes part in many of the Southwest Assn. for Retarded Children programs. (Herald Photo)

**Will Attend Convention**

Chosen as a delegate to represent the South Bay Chapter of the National Secretaries Association (International) is Mrs. Hilda G. Smith, 1836 Sepulveda Blvd., who will attend the California Division Meeting of the National Secretaries Assn., to be held on May 19-21 at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

Mrs. Smith is the Chapter's retiring president. Alternate delegate is Mrs. Margaret B. Charles, president-elect. Hosted by the Santa Monica Chapter, NSA, the six workshop sessions on Saturday morning are open to all registered members. A banquet is scheduled for the evening feting "Secretary of the Year" finalists, installation of new officers, award presentations and entertainment.

**Membership Tea For City of Hope**

The Torrance Chapter, City of Hope will hold a Membership Tea at the home of Mrs. Edward Schwartz, 3244 El Dorado on May 23.

Refreshments will be served at 1:30 p.m. followed by a showing of summer fashions, modeled by chapter members. Special awards in the form of pins and certificates will be given to members in recognition of outstanding achievements in the past year. Mrs. Sherman Haimevertz who served as Donor chairman, will present the awards. For further information, call Mrs. Weston, or Mrs. Walter West.

**Dinner Dance Theme Set**

"Summer Cruise" has been selected as the theme for the Los Fiestadores Dance Club dinner dance to be held May 20, at the Tasman Sea Restaurant.

Officers for the coming year will be installed during the evening. A pre-sailing party will precede the dance at the home of Walter Levy, 3916 Via Nivel, Palos Verdes. Committees members in charge of the affair are: Messrs. and Mmes. Walter Levy, William Christian, Kenneth Miller, Robert Triplett, and Dr. and Mrs. Burton Easley.

**Convention**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butterfield, and delegates Joseph Comore and James Neary are leaving for Monterey and Carmel to attend the Knights of Columbus convention



**CONCERT PREVIEW . . .** Dr. Paul Stoye, concert pianist, plays a score for Janelle Christensen, Maryestelle Ford and Lilas Stefan. Group will hold a membership reception tea for the Music Teachers Assn. of Calif.

South Bay Branch, Sunday at 3 p.m. The musical will be held at the home of Mrs. Stefan at 419 Via Mesa Grande. (Herald Photo)

**. . . Our Little Girl**

**Mother Tells Story Of A Retarded Child**

By SUE WILTON

"My husband Harold and I were very happy when little Marsha arrived, although it was 1943 and he was in the Navy overseas when she was born. Marsha was truly a wanted child and the only thing that could have made our happiness more complete would have been our all being together when we left the hospital to go home."

Mrs. Harold McBride stopped talking and sat watching Marsha who was coloring a picture book on the floor like any normal three-year-old, but Marsha is 17—a young lady who has remained a child. Marsha is mentally retarded.

The first suspicion that something was wrong with Marsha came to Mrs. McBride when her daughter was six months old and didn't sit up or try to play. "I went shopping for doctors. I took Marsha to one after another and was told the same thing—mental retardation. I wouldn't believe it. This just couldn't happen to Harold and me. There had been no medical history of anything similar in either of our families."

Mrs. McBride was talking fast as she re-lived the horror of coming to realize that her daughter's condition was just as one physician and specialist after another told her. Finally, when one of the top ranking specialists in a Los Angeles clinical hospital told her, "Your daughter will never be normal. Never any different. She will never dress or feed herself and never be able to walk or talk." She went home planning to go away somewhere and hide Marsha from the world.

The first Harold knew of his daughter's condition was when he returned on furlough, as his wife did not want to worry him while he was aboard ship, and held to a hope that their baby would outgrow this thing.

Marsha was 11 months old and could not walk when her father came home. The shock of learning that she was not normal was shattering. He sobbed for hours asking over and over again, "Why? - Why? - Why?"

After these parents had talked the night out and the first grey light of dawn appeared, a quotation came to one of them, "God never gives more of a load than can be carried." This was something they could hold on to. It gave them courage for acceptance and has continued to do so throughout the years.

Adjustment was slow, and with Harold back aboard ship, it was easy to slip back into despair. When Mrs. McBride was told that some day she would have to institutionalize Marsha, her heart was torn to shreds. She tried an institution and a home for awhile and then a private school before bringing her home to stay.

It was after the McBrides moved to Torrance, and their present address at 4007 W. 175th St., that they heard of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children. They quickly investigated and found it to be an organization working toward a better understanding between parents and their unfortunate children and a group that was actually helping these children.

Although Marsha could not go to public schools, she was now able to attend supervised classes with crafts and recreational programs. Through cooperative work with the association, parents too learned. They associated with others who had the same problems and no longer felt alone.

Through this activity, Marsha has improved. She can walk and talk. She has made many things in the craft classes, some of them treasured gifts brought home to her parents. She dresses herself and can assist in many household chores—and above all she has the companionship of other children who attend SARC activities. A lot of progress for a child who would "never walk or talk." "The doctor was not wrong, he was just mistaken," Mrs. McBride said, and added, "Marsha cannot learn, but she can be taught."

Sometimes the McBrides are saddened when they see other 17-year-old girls in formal; going on dates and living the wonderful lives of teenagers. Then they recall some of the blessings of having a baby daughter who never grows up. Christmas continues to be the same exciting time every year, with a child to enjoy it.

Marsha is going to camp this summer through the Exceptional Children's program. She is very happy about it and her mother and father will have their first vacation while their daughter is away.

When a woman in a market saw Mrs. McBride and Marsha shopping, she went up to them and said, "I feel so sorry for you."

"Don't feel sorry for me," Mrs. McBride replied, "I have a happy child and she will never be a delinquent. She is gentle and lovable, and we have many good times together. It took 14 years for me to get this outlook and even though she will always be a little girl, she is also keeping me young."

**Democrats To Convene**

Plans are being completed by Mmes. Edward Armstrong and Gerald Hill, co-chairman of the Democratic Woman's Society, TDI, and their assistants, Mmes. Louis Brandt, Lewis Stout, and Russell Baker for a membership tea. The event will be held at the home of Rosemary DeCamp (Mrs. John Shidler), Hollywood Riviera, May 24 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Included among guests will be Mrs. Trudy Owens, state committee-woman; Carmen; Warschaw, chairman, Women's Division, Democratic Central Committee; and Mrs. Marta Holen, chairman, Legislative Program Campaign.

Mmes. Thomas Gillogly, James Courtney, Leonard Schulwitz, and Mrs. Mae Coppedge will act as hostesses. **Distant Visitor** Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Williams of El Polito, Venezuela, have been visiting Catherine Huber, 2619 W. Carson, sister of Mrs. Williams. The Williams spent their two week vacation here and Mr. Williams has already returned to his work in Venezuela as a Mobil Oil Co. supervisor. Mrs. Williams left Torrance May 16 to join him.

**Silver Tea Is Fete For Musicians**

The Music Teachers Association of California, South Bay branch, will hold their silver tea Sunday at 3 p.m. at the residence studio of Lilas Stefan, 419 Via Mesa Grande, Hollywood Riviera. This will be a reception for new members.

Enid Jacobsen, well known contralto soloist, will be featured in a program of German lieder, French and English art songs.

London-born Miss Jacobsen was presented in formal debut at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre having been chosen in a "Debut Time" contest by Director Alfred Wallenstein, former director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She has been associated with leading church and choral groups such as the Handel Oratorio Society, So. California Mormon Choir, Pasadena Civic Chorus and Orchestra and the Hollywood Artists series.

A cordial invitation is extended to all musicians and music teachers to attend this event.



**SHIP AHOY . . .** Los Fiestadores Dance Club members are sailing along with their plans for a dinner dance scheduled for May 20th at the Tasman Sea. From left,

Mmes. Wm. E. Christian, Walter Levy, Robert Triplett and Burt Easley are busy making decorations for the affair. (Herald Photo)



MRS. DAVID ELCE . . . On Wedding Day

**Couple United in Afternoon Wedding**

Strains of the Wedding March set a traditional background for an afternoon wedding held at 2 p.m., May 6, in the St. Philomena Catholic Church uniting Julie Reade and David James Elce.

The bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Reade, 157 E. 214th St. Parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Elce, 22413 Grace St., Wilmington.

The bride walked to the altar on the arm her father. She wore a chantilly lace gown with tulle floor length pearls orange blossom insets accented with layers of tulle English silk, and an illusion veil. She carried a cascade of two white orchids with white carnations. The matron of honor was Elsie J. Prince, sister of the (Continued on Page 26)