

Husband's Success Frequently Depends On Wife's Attitude

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Are you "up" to being the wife of an executive? We've heard a lot about successful business men and "the wives they married when they were young", implying that now, years later, the wives don't quite measure up. According to Lawrence Stessin in Forbes Magazine, wives of bright young men are now being "cased" by their companies, before the husbands are tapped for top positions.

To make the grade, a wife must be the kind who won't divert her husband to much from his job, will "fit into the social norm of her community", be a good mixer, and get on well with the wives of other executives.



Mrs. Brunson

SHE SHOULD make for a tranquil home life (not too much fighting, please) and refrain from telephoning her husband at the office.

Stessin says methods of investigating wives are far from subtle. A "consultant" hired by the company, makes the rounds of neighbors, storekeepers and others, to see how the Mrs. stands in the community. Now if Wife, who just panned the butcher regarding a steak that was tough as leather, or had words with Mrs. Next-Door over the dog's antics, things may go hard with her and her husband.

AND HER past is checked too. It may be thumbs-down, if she's been divorced a couple of times. And many another incident may rise up to haunt her. (This test would never have applied to captains of industry at the turn of the century. Two of them married hootchie-cootchie dancers.)

Some "advances" wives are looked over, at parties given for the purpose. It may be a dinner or luncheon attended by big brass, a tea given by the boss' wife or a party held by a group of wives of the company's top executives.

Now fancy what an ordeal one of these shindigs would be for a wife. "What'll I wear?" would go through her mind first. Probably it should be some prostratingly expensive rig—sort of a masterpiece of understatement. (But look out, girl, it may be vetoed because it's had taste. Your husband can't afford it.)

"SHALL I add jewelry or subtract it?" "Shall I have my hair touched up or leave that streak of gray where it is?" "And shall I freeze up and answer only yes and no, or let my personality show by being myself?" are questions she will have to answer.

And think of the repercussions if Wife fails to measure up. Whenever a good family row develops in the future, out of such trivia as a missing shirtbutton, Husband will have plenty of ammunition: "If you hadn't done so and so, I'd be in the top-bracket right now, etc. etc."

Looks like the wives of executives, in years to come, will be able to remind their husbands that they "earned it" too.



RECENTLY ELECTED officers of the Forest Lake Country Club women's group include (l to r) Mrs. Matthew Clevers, treasurer; Mrs. R. W. Voss vice chairman; Mrs. E. F. Bentley, chairman, and Mrs. C. D. Clark, secretary. The group met Friday at the Clark home to discuss preliminary plans for the coming year. Officers will be installed at the regular May meeting. (Eccentric Photo)

Traveling Teacher's 43,000 Mile Cruise To Be Club's Topic

Miss Bettina Nelson, school teacher turned traveler and author, will describe her round-the-world cruise to members of Magnolia Community club when they meet April 5 at 8:00 p.m. in Magnolia school.

Based on her book "Venture by Cargo", Miss Nelson will relate adventures of her leisurely cruise on a cargo vessel, and describe her six months spent in a sociological study of African natives.

The 43,000 mile voyage produced humorous as well as terrifying experiences, the latter including an attempt by Chinese pirates to sabotage and seize the ship in the Pacific, and a week of wild circling to avoid typhoons in the Indian Ocean. The ship crossed the equator four times and visited 24 ports on four continents.

Miss Nelson has taught in the Dearborn schools since 1934, has been active as a Red Cross volunteer and with the Dearborn Players' guild. A social hour following will have as hostesses Mrs. W. B. Main, Jr., Mrs. D. R. Sprenger, Mrs. F. E. Busch, Mrs. R. F. Hahn, Mrs. H. B. Hollister.

Albion Club Plans Dinner, Concert

Three Birmingham residents, all officers of the North Woodward-Albion alumni club, are busy with arrangements for the club's forthcoming Round-the-World dinner meeting Monday, April 5, at 6:15 p.m., at the First Methodist church, Royal Oak.

They are Donald Large of 209 Chesterfield, North Woodward-Albion club vice president; Mrs. Kathleen Smith Pulling of 1331 Maryland, secretary, and Amos Gregory, 112 E. Lincoln, treasurer.

Albion college registrar Marvin F. Pahl and Mrs. Pahl will represent the college on this occasion. The group will attend the concert of the Albion college a cappella choir in the First Methodist church sanctuary later in the evening.

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