

Emotional, Money Problems Result In Teen Divorces

"Early marriage, long love," says an old German proverb.
"Early marriage, short love," say statistics.
The facts, alas, are on their side.

IN NEARLY HALF the couples that end up losers in the game of love, the wife was in her teens when she married. The younger the bride, the less chance her marriage has of succeeding, according to statistics cited by the Institute of Life Insurance.

The odds are even worse where both the bride and the groom are still in their teens. Marriages between teen-agers, in fact, have twice the break-up rate of those

where the woman is at least 21 and the man over 24.

Marriage counselors and social scientists give any number of reasons for all this.

The most obvious one is plain and simple immaturity. It's difficult enough for two reasonably grown-up people to adjust to each other's needs and expectations. For teen-agers suddenly thrust into the responsibilities of adult life, it's often too much too soon.

THE ADJUSTMENT problems of young couples are complicated by the fact that, on the whole, it is the less mature and stable teen-

ager who tends to marry while still in high school.

Over a fifth of the girls who drop out of high school give marriage as the main reason.

Ask why they married, many give such disturbing answers as "I was pregnant," "getting away from home," "poor grades in school" and, quite simply, "spite."

ANOTHER OF THE emotional difficulties facing teen-age couples is the often painful contrast between the romantic fantasies of young people in love and the harsher realities caused by limited funds and even more limited experience in handling them.

Especially for those who drop out of high school to get married—as many thousands do every year—the chances of getting a well-paying job with a good future are none too bright.

When both husband and wife are able to work, their joint incomes might well provide enough to live comfortably.

But if the wife has to stay home to mind the children, the young husband can seldom earn enough money to meet his family's growing needs. This in turn can deeply threaten his self-respect as well as his wife's sense of security.

PROSPECTS ARE brighter for those who marry during their college years.

Antioch College in Ohio has kept tabs for 20 years on hundreds of its campus marriages and finds that the great majority are successful. In fact, college marriages may actually have an above-average chance of working out, provided

both people are emotionally mature and money is not too serious a problem.

If wise money management is important for the success of any

City Peace Corps Volunteer Teaches Iranians

Stephen C. Fairbanks, 309 N. Eton, Birmingham, is one of 73 Peace Corps Volunteers who left for Iran yesterday. They will instruct Iranians to use English as a second language in colleges and secondary schools throughout the country.

Under the Shah's direction, Iran is taking giant steps in reform and modernization. The government has requested Peace Corps assistance in its developmental efforts. The Peace Corps has thus far responded with three contingents of 80 volunteers over the past two years.

The departing group joins about 36 volunteers who are serving as teachers of English, vocational and agricultural skills and as community development workers.

A VOLUNTEER teacher's duties do not end with the school day. All become active participants in extra-curricular or community projects. Those with suitable experience teach physical education as well as their regular English classes.

This new group trained for 11 weeks at the University of Michigan. Instruction emphasized educational techniques and the study of Farsi, the language of Iran, by the most modern methods. The trainees attended courses on the history, culture and traditions of Iran as well as review courses on American history and institutions.

marriage, it is all the more so for teen-age couples.

Courses in family living and home economics help an increasing number of high school girls develop the financial know-how they will need in adult life.

THE TEEN-AGER'S need for

guidance in the area of personal finance has led community organizations such as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and the Y's to weave money management topics into many of their programs.

The 4-H Clubs and other groups encourage members to work on specific projects involving money management.

Religious groups are taking an active interest in preparing young people to cope with the economic as well as the spiritual side of marriage.

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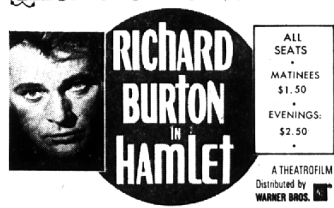
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