Kathleen Norris Says:

Here Come the Brides!

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

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By KATHLEEN NORRIS

HER marriage is usually the first important step that a girl takes as an individual, independent person. Before that everything has been more or less discussed by the family, and advice and influence have been used liberally by uncles, aunts, mother, father, everyone. Even Anna, waiting on the family table, has had her word to say.

"Don't you go off east to college, Miss Jane. You stay here where your friends are," says Anna. "Mother needs you, lovey," says Grandma. "I'd just as soon go a little easy on the financial end," hints Dad. "Now, whether you go or stay home, let me talk to you about your clothes," says Aunt Margaret, who works in a frock shop.

Jane goes to college. Immediately the agonizing question of a sorority arises, and all the girls tell Jane such contradictory things that she frequently goes into hysteria before deciding between the merits of Kappa and Theta.

When she buys clothes her chum goes along. When she gets an invitation Mother suggests a yes or a no. The books she reads, the hats she wears, the dances and nightclubs she frequents are all a matter of mass selection; Jane only asks to be allowed to do what the other girls do.

Then comes the awful moment when she has to make up her mind whether she wants to marry Dick or doesn't. Nobody can help her here. Mother says she likes Dick, but then she likes lots of other boys, too. Dad nods his head thoughtfully while murmuring: "nice young man. Very good head." But that's as far as he will go. The girls chorus to Jane that they think Dick is divine, and among themselves say quite different things, and Jane knows that they do.

Loyalty First Problem.

In selecting Dick she learns, with a little first premonition of the gravity, the pain of wifehood, that she has to be loyal to him. She can't criticize him any more, or laugh at him. She can't let anyone else criticize him or laugh at him. One of the bewildering features of an engagement is this first obligation of loyalty.

Often the effect of this on the engaged girl is to make her feel lonely. She wants everyone to approve of her choice, indeed to envy her. And if Dick fails her in any way it is much more natural for her to turn back to the old group, and see him as they do, rather than sticking to her own secret conviction that he can't do anything wrong. No saying was ever truer than that misery wants company; sometimes one sees engaged girls or young wives acting very skittishly, saying things they don't mean at all, and all the time eyeing Mama and the girls to see how they feel about Dick's absurdities, trying to convince them that she, the bride, thinks him rather ridiculous, too.

And yet all the while she wants him to be 100 per cent loyal to her; it breaks her heart, it crushes her, if he shames her or laughs at her in the presence of his old friends or his family.

Where Trouble Lurks.

Old friends and family! It is in these quarters that so much of the trouble arises, and there is need of loyalty. Sometimes a bride rather likes her husband's brothers and men friends, they are so admiring and so much fun! But there never was a husband yet who really liked to have his wife's married sister, her aunt Mattie, her high school brother or even her mother snugly ensconsed in his especial chair when he reached home tired and hungry, and there never will be

"Talk about loyalty!" says Jane. "Why, I'm always going to put my mother first and Dick Brown may as well know it!"

But that isn't the answer, and if Jane's mother is a sensible woman she'll be the first to admit it.

As for the old school friends, when with a visible and violent effort, finding them for a third time enjoying his home in the late afternoon, Dick makes himself be civil to them. Jane is amazed to feel her spirit flaming suddenly into resentment. She loves Dick, but it is utterly unreasonable of him to dislike Peggy and Joan. And surely, just because one's married one needn't be disloyal to old friends!

Loyalty, Haven in all Tempests.

It does sound irrational. And yet if Jane wants her marriage to continue, wants to build a complete and happy and successful relationship between herself and her new husband, she will often have to be irrational, and he will, too. They will often have to forego reason for that higher attitude in which all logic disappears in the warmth of confidence and love. All marriages have their difficult moments, but these moments will be safely weathered as long as there is rockbound, unfailing, instant loyalty between a man and his wife.

So put that into your spiritual hope-chest first of all, you brides of June. Love is a beautiful thing, and while young love and passion last they fulfill the law; they brim life with ecstasy.

But when they waver, when they are overclouded for a time, then put loyalty in their place. Be dignified, be silent about the trifles in which your new husband fails you. Whether he is at a bridge party and playing pretty poor bridge, or at a golf club and far behind the others at golf, or floundering in some conversation that threatens to make him ridiculous, or ill at ease in some group of your old friends, make him feel that your admiration and understanding are his as a matter of course. He won't mind any of the humiliations or awkwardnesses of the evening if he knows that you are right beside him, his wife, and glad to be his wife, and ready to talk it all over on the way home.

Devotion Pays.

"Walter is always reproaching me that I make him feel ashamed," one of last autumn's brides writes me. "We go about in a very nice crowd, most of the boys are more successful than Walter, and certainly I am not going to make much of him for things he hasn't done and pretend that I like being poor better than I would like being successful!"

No marriage can survive that attitude. But any wife who is wondering a little wistfully why Dick is a little silent these days, why he is not enthusiastic about the social affairs she plans, why some of the bloom, some of the radiance has gone from their marriage, may find the answer here.

Loyalty

If there is any essential quality that a bride must acquire or possess it is a feeling of loyalty to her husband, according to this message by Kathleen Norris.

If marriage is going to be lasting and enduring, loyalty must be present. Naturally, the choice she makes isn't going to be perfect. Everybody has a few faults and the new bride must soon realize this and make allowances. If she doesn't she finds herself in plenty of trouble before too long.

With loyalty goes its counterpart—trust. This too is vital to a happy wedded life. With these two elements no marriage can fail.

Sportlight

by GRANTLAND RICE

MY OLD Purdue college pal, George Ade, once introduced one of the finest of all slogans. It was called, "Flowers for the living." The dead neither know nor care.

If any living ball player is entitled to flowers at this stage of his career the name is Melvin Thomas Ott of the Giants.

Ott has at least one record that no other ball player carries today, as far as I can locate the vital statistics. Born in Gretna, La., in 1909, this young prodigy suddenly showed up with McGraw's Giants in 1925 at the age of 16. For 16 years there has been no other city marked against this name — only New York.

Mel Ott

Mel came from the Bayou district straight to the big town. He has never played in a minor league. He was a bat boy in size and years when McGraw saw him—and never let him go.

"This kid was a big leaguer the day he was born," McGraw once told me. "He doesn't need any minor league schooling."

When the young spring of 1940 came riding through gales, sleet, snow and weather blown from the Barren Lands, they said Ott was about through. He was only 31 years old, but he had been around a long time. He was starting slowly under killing weather conditions, but he was still out there, hanging around.

When the season opened Mel Ott was still on the job and as time moves on, Mel is still up around the .300 class with the old punch.

Ott's Career

Ott, at his physical peak, is five feet nine inches in height, weighing from 155 to 160 pounds. He was never a Babe Ruth, a Jimmy Foxx, a Hank Greenberg, a Hack Wilson or a Lou Gehrig in physical makeup.

He always had a queer habit of lifting his foot from the ground as he started his swing—his right foot—and then swinging from his left as his right foot promptly settled back into place. It was his own foot action. It wasn't supposed to be "form," but it was the way Ott wanted to play. And it was "form," after all, the "form" of shifting weight. It must be "form."

For in his 15 years with the Giants, up through 1939, Ott had mauled out 369 home runs and 359 doubles. He had lashed out 2,061 hits, and 791 of these blows had been for extended extra bases.

As far back as 1928 Mel plastered 42 home runs. He had hit 25 or more home runs through 10 or 11 years. He had hit over 30 home runs through seven seasons. With the bulk of Ruth, Gehrig, Foxx or Greenberg, Ott would have broken all records.

He is anywhere from 50 to 80 pounds shy in weight while competing with the major siege guns. But he won't be far from the 400 home-run mark when 1940 turns in its set of records. He is still something back of Jimmy Foxx and Lou Gehrig, but don't forget that Mel had to spot them more than 50 pounds, which means a lot in long-range hitting.

The Bayou Entry

Mel Ott has never been interested in trying for so-called color. He never pops off. He has never tried to make a headline by some eccentric action. He gets into no brawls with umpires. He has no interest in being a showman.

"I just happen to like baseball," he tells you. "If I'm anything at all, write me down as a ball player."

If Ott isn't a ball player, there are no ball players. Shy, retiring, he ducks the spotlight.

But the main answer is that Mel has batted in more than 1,400 runs from something over 2,000 hits, with a 15-year average, up to this season, of .315.

I don't believe the fan crowd, at large, appreciates Mel Ott. This goes for New York, especially. They take him for granted. They take him for granted because he never breaks training, never folds up on the job, always plays his game to the limit.

It is always "Good old Mel. He's always there." But not being a nut or a headline seeker, never caring to be a showman, the mob forgets how long "good old Mel" had always been there.

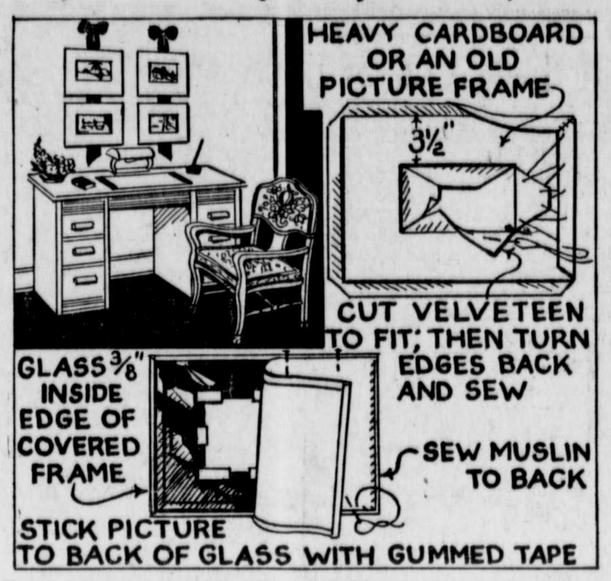
They forget that he has lambasted over 20 home runs a year for 12 consecutive years—that he has passed the 30 home-run mark for seven years. Even big Hank Greenberg has passed the 30-homer mark only five years.

In addition to all this, Mr. Mel Ott is quite an outfielder. He can cover his full share of terrain under fire.

Thirty-one isn't old. Lefty Grove is 40. But Ott is in his sixteenth major league campaign, and through all these years he has given everything he had to give, with nothing like a loafing moment.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



DO YOU remember Miss Fixit who, a week or so ago in one of these articles, made over an old rocker? Today's sketch shows how she used that chair at her desk. The full description of the transformation of the chair is in Sewing Book 5, which is offered here for the first time. This new book contains 32 pages of helpful ideas for homemakers and is available to readers of this paper for 10 cents in coin to cover cost and mailing.

Miss Fixit painted an old desk blue to match her chair. She had some enlarged snapshots that she wanted to hang over the desk but she also wanted to repeat the blue color and some of the red in the chintz used for the chair. So, she decided to make blue velveteen frames for the pictures and then hang them with red ribbon. The diagrams show you exactly how the frames were made for I have a feeling that you are going to want to hang some of your photographs in this colorful way. Betsy, who streamlined an old iron bed, which she found in the attic, will be with us again next week with more "attic magic." Meanwhile better send your order for your copy of Sewing Book 5 to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Drawer 10
Bedford Hills New York

Enclose 10 cents for Book 5.

Name .....

Address .....

Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Who delivered the famous orations first called philippics?
2. What is the longest verse in the Bible? The shortest?
3. For what people is Suomi another name?
4. What is the slop chest on a merchant ship?
5. In how many states are women permitted to serve on juries?
6. What is the term for a person who is always telling you his troubles and finds no pleasure in life?
7. In what country were Arabic numerals first used?
8. Can sailboats travel faster than the wind?
9. Natives of what countries are not subject to quota restrictions when applying for admission to the United States?
10. Muscovy is the ancient name of what country?

The Answers

1. Demosthenes (his orations denouncing Philip of Macedon).
2. Longest, Esther 8:9. Shortest, St. John 11:35.
3. Suomi is another name for the Finns.
4. The store of clothing, for issue to the crew.
5. In 24 states and the District of Columbia women are permitted to serve on juries.
6. The technical name is anhedonist. Commonly he is called a grouch.
7. India.
8. Light racing sailboats can be made to travel about 50 per cent faster than the wind at a certain angle to it.
9. Canada, Canal Zone, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Newfoundland, and the independent countries of Central and South America.
10. Russia.

Strange Facts

To Religious Liberty Rat Digests Steel Sans Railway, Hotel

¶ Standing in Fairmount park, Philadelphia, is one of the few statues in the United States that symbolize and are dedicated to religious liberty. It was given to the American people in 1876 by the B'nai B'rith, the famous international Jewish organization.

¶ The powerful dissolving effect of digestive juices has been demonstrated by their action on various kinds of metals fed to rodents. In one case a steel ball bearing, while in the stomach of a rat for 15 days, was reduced 24 per cent in weight.

¶ Many registered trade-marks, solely owned by a manufacturer, have been so widely applied to similar products that they have become a part of our language and are found in dictionaries. Among them are autogiro, cellophane, ethyl, mercurochrome, parcheesi, pyrex, teletype and zipper.

¶ British Somaliland, a protectorate since 1884, with an area of 68,000 square miles and a population of 350,000, still does not have a railway, hotel, bank or European hospital.—Collier's.

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School of Patience

No school is more necessary to children than patience, because either the will must be broken in childhood or the heart in old age. —Richter.

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Future Ours

Remember this also, and be well persuaded of its truth: The future is not in the hands of Fate, but in ours.—Jules Jusserand.

Dangerous Passions

The passions have an injustice and an interest of their own, which renders it dangerous to obey them, and we ought to mistrust them even when they appear most reasonable.—La Rochefoucauld.