



"If It Fitz..." Missing mid-life crises

By Jim Fitzgerald

Ann Landers recently revealed, in Ladies Home Journal, that when her husband told her, during dinner, that he was having an extramarital affair, she immediately went out to do some shopping for him. She explained that "he never even bought a suit without me."

Miss Landers' cool attitude didn't save the 36-year-old marriage. Soon after she returned from shopping, there was a divorce, and he quickly got married again, probably in a new suit. My wife, although it is none of her business, is very angry about the whole unhappy episode.

Nothing makes my wife madder than middle-aged husbands who leave their wives for younger women. Even though Ann Landers is the world's most famous dispenser of advice to troubled spouses, my wife

insists Ann is a barefoot shoemaker.

Ann shouldn't have bought her departing husband a suit, my wife said, she should have hit him on the head with the dining room table. This violence wouldn't have restored romance to the relationship, but it would have provided a memory to make dining alone more pleasant for Ann, especially if the table were badly cracked. That's what my wife said.

Just because she says things like that, you shouldn't start thinking funny things about me. Not all middle-aged husbands stray, and I am all of them. The combination of love, laziness and Monday Night Football make me the perfect fireside husband, and we don't even have a fireplace. In fact, this perfection probably prompts my wife's strong sympathy for wives who aren't so lucky. She feels guilty about having me while Ann Landers has only millions of readers to tell what to do.

But, let's get serious. I received a serious letter from a Flint woman whose husband has taken a walk. I guess she wrote to me because she doesn't want to buy the big jerk a new suit. I'll call her Jane. Listen to what she said:

"My husband was a wonderful guy — or so I thought. And then he went into mid-life crisis. First, he let his hair grow longer and had it styled. Great. Then he wanted a necklace, and I laughed. He was too masculine and 52 years old.

"Then he wanted to go to bars and dance among the 28-year-olds. I did it a couple of times, but then told him I thought he looked foolish. And then he left home. For the past two years he has been 'free to do as he pleases.' I almost divorced him, but then I read a book, 'How to Survive the Male Mid-life Crisis.' I don't think it told me how, but it helped me understand him.

"The girls he has been seen with are young, unattractive and chubby. So, I'm not jealous. I look better at 55 than they do at 35.

"We have been married 35 years. If my husband had known what to expect when he hit 50, maybe he would have handled it differently. Three years ago I had never heard of the male mid-life crisis. It is far worse than female menopause. It destroys marriages and families. We had everything any reasonable person could want. Even he admits we had a wonderful marriage. Now we will be lucky if we don't lose our home.

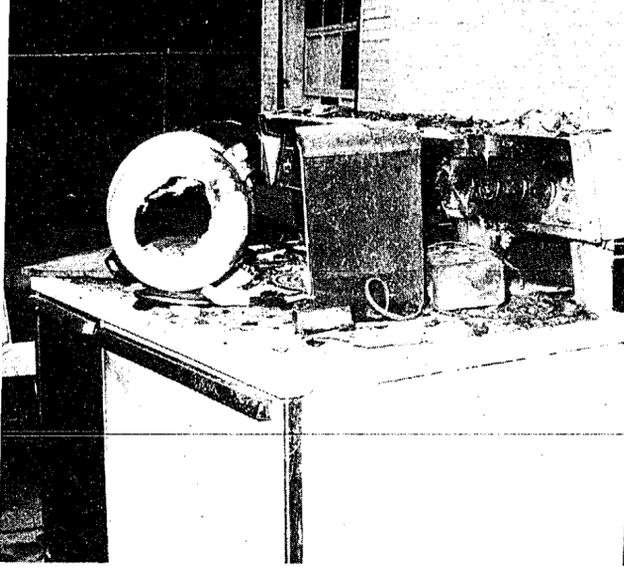
"Maybe you can do a column on these idiots. So many marriages have broken up because they can't face their age..."

End of quotes from Jane. I don't have to write a column about those "idiots." She did it for me. We've all seen those 55-year-old swingers with their shirts open to the paunch, chains dangling, trying to look 25 but only looking silly. I don't care how rich he is, it's easy to laugh at Hugh Hefner.

I don't pretend to be an expert on why these guys act so stupidly. I'm not as smart as Ann Landers and her troops of clergymen, lawyers and toilet paper hangers. And as for firsthand experience, if I had a mid-life crisis, I probably slept through it.

I suppose it would be fair to tell some abandoned wives if they'd make themselves more interesting and attractive, their husbands wouldn't go somewhere else to get their buttons pushed. And it would be equally fair to tell some husbands that if they were as charming at home as at the corner disco, they wouldn't need an extension cord to get turned on.

The moral is if you know how to light the fire, you don't need a fireplace. Ask your partner. (Do you suppose this is how Ann Landers got started?)



OVERCOOKED -- What's left of the pot used by Phillip Zawilinski in an attempt to cook French fries Friday sits on top of the damaged stove, which was carried outside by Elkland township firemen.

Kitchen fire loss more than \$1,000

Phillip Zawilinski learned the hard way Friday how not to cook French fries.

Elkland township firemen are estimating the damage from the fire that resulted at more than \$1,000.

The fire occurred in the home of his parents, Martin and Virginia Zawilinski, 4355 Leach Street. Firemen received the call at 11:45 a.m.

Mrs. Zawilinski said she was asleep when her son started cooking the potatoes in a pot on the stove. He cried out when the fire started.

Firemen said the grease in the pot apparently boiled over and then started burning.

Direct damage from the flames was confined to the

kitchen, but there was smoke damage throughout the house.

Firemen estimated damage to the house at at least \$1,000, in addition to the destruction of the stove and range hood over it.

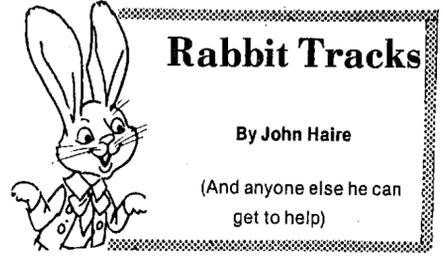
The kitchen had just been remodeled, Mrs. Zawilinski said. In inspecting the double-oven stove, after firemen had carried it outside, she remarked half-jokingly, "This makes me mad. I just cleaned both ovens yesterday."

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A neighbor who saw excess smoke coming from the chimney of the home of Harvey Linderman, 4313 Krapf Road, called Elkland firemen at 4:45 p.m. Monday.

There was no fire other

than the one that was supposed to be there. The excess smoke was the result of someone in the house stoking the fire in a fireplace or wood stove.



Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Here's more on the sales tax. Reader response indicates that the sales tax probably started at 3 percent. At least it was in 1935 when Merrill Carpenter purchased some furniture. The sales slips were brought in by Charles Carpenter.

Further confirmation was provided by Jack Esau. Esau worked for Gross & Maier (Cass City Meat Market) in 1937. What we did then, Esau said, was take the tax money and keep it in a tin can separate from the money paid for the groceries, which was placed in the cash register. At the end of the month we sent in what we considered was fair.

Just so you will know, Jack, most of us do it differently today. What happens is we place all the money due for taxes in the cash register and what's left we place in a tin can. (A very small tin can.)

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It will be interesting to see if a change in teaching methods will change the state test scores of grades 4, 7 and 10.

Tests have shown achievement above the state average in the fourth and below the state average in the 7th and 10th grades.

There have to be doubts about the way the students are learning when negative results are recorded several years in a row.

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If you put any stock in a survey conducted by the Detroit News, Tuscola county's men in Lansing were not among the best. They were also far from the worst.

Among 144 representatives, Rep. Loren Armbruster ranked 103. State Senator Alvin DeGrow was well above average with a ranking of 44.

Ranking changes from year to year. For instance, in the past DeGrow was named among the top 10 in the senate. Rankings vary from paper to paper, too.

What all this means is that rankings are nebulous at best and that the only real way to judge your representatives is by studying the records and deciding if they are making the decisions you want when you want them.

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One man's opinion. Half way through the basketball schedule there's something missing on the Cass City basketball team.

The Hawks have been winning as expected but not the way that was expected. What's missing is that chemistry that really good teams acquire.

The intangible that makes the team a unit rather than a group of good players playing together.

If and when that comes about for this year's edition, the Hawks will be a team to be reckoned with in the regular season and tournament games ahead.

If that chemistry never develops, the Hawks won't last long when the going gets rough.

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<p>American Singles</p> <p>24 Ct. 16 oz. Pkg.</p> <p>\$1.59 <small>SAVE 40¢</small></p>	<p>Assorted JAR CHEESE</p> <p>5 oz. Jar</p> <p>59¢ <small>SAVE 10¢</small></p>

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The
Haire
Net

If you didn't read closely you might believe that there is a difference in opinion among experts about the effects of smoking marijuana.

The government's top experts were telling the world that the heavy use of pot was a serious problem for teenagers today.

In the same story, a Boston research team reported that the drug was safe and effective. That's what the casual reader, skimming the headlines, was left with. You must have read the complete story to know that the Boston group was saying it was safe and effective for use in helping cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

In other words, pot as a medicine has a definite place.

Nearly all of us will go along with that.

Where I split with the stories published is the discussion of pot as a medicine and as a thrill drug.

Morphine has been a blessing for patients with severe pain and is commonly used by doctors when the need arises.

Heroin is made from morphine and is a street drug that makes addicts with the resultant crime, prostitution and ruined lives.

No one suggests in any way that morphine is safe to use. It's an addictive medicine with a place in patient care.

Pot is an addictive drug and should be treated as such.

If patients can be given morphine under a doctor's care, certainly marijuana should be, too.

After all, pot is not nearly as destructive as the hard drugs. It evidently works to relieve the distress of cancer patients requiring chemotherapy and is an aid in their recovery.

If it's logical to allow morphine under a physician's care, it has to be more logical to allow pot for the same reason.

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