

Plucky Lady Editor Refuses To Feel Sorry For Herself

By Eddy Gilmore
WEST ORANGE, N. J. (AP) — Rebecca Gross, the lady editor who lost both legs in an automobile accident, said she's sending for her passport.

"But Becky," I gasped, "surely you can't be thinking of travelling yet."
"Oh, no," she laughed, "not quite yet. I just wanted to find out how tall I was. Your passport is about the only document I know of that shows it."

The remark, that attitude, is characteristic of the Lock Haven, Pa., newspaper woman who simply refuses to be sorry for herself.

"You see," she explained in her bright, quick way, "I've got to begin thinking about how tall I want to be."

I still didn't understand. "I'm ordering my artificial legs soon," she continued, "and I've simply got to decide how tall I want to be."

Becky laughed.
Clothes Pose Problem
"At first," she said, "I thought I might like to up myself five inches so I could see over the heads of the crowds at parades. But then I decided that would offer a real problem. I'd have to get an entirely new wardrobe, one to fit a five foot 10 gal. I used to be about five feet five I suppose, but I'll have to read my passport to find out for sure."

Rebecca lost her legs New Year's Eve. She was driving her car through Williamsport, Pa., on the way to the airport to meet her sister, when two cars collided at an intersection and pinned Becky against a telephone pole.

The left leg was amputated below the knee, the right leg just above the knee.
But save your sympathy for someone who needs it. Becky has no use for it. She has finished her first week at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

Uses Weight On Leg
"Right now," she explained, "I'm doing this."
She sat on a table, a 10-pound weight hung from her left leg which was suspended across an opening in the table.

"I'm getting a little more strength in that leg," she smiled.
People were all around us. People with one leg. People with no legs. People with one arm, and people with no arms. People who were rehabilitating themselves with the help of Dr. Henry Kessler. No one appeared self-conscious.

"I imagine I know what you're thinking," said Becky. "No, none of us is self-conscious. That's part of the battle, you see."
We told a joke. Becky laughed again.

Wants Normal Life
"Where are you going to do when you get through here?"
"Go back home," she said, "and try to lead just as normal a life as possible."

"How long is it going to take?"
"I thought about three months, but I hear it'll probably take longer," she explained. "I'll learn to walk on one artificial leg first, with crutches. And then I'll learn to walk on both legs."

"Look," she said, changing the subject, "did you know people with no legs can have toe pains?"
She explained. With a laugh, as usual.

Lead Safety Campaign
"Eddy," she said, "I'm getting real strong. I did 10 push ups with my hands today."
Becky was conducting a safety campaign for her paper when she had her accident. Commenting on it, she said:

"The place where your accident is going to happen looks like any other spot you have passed in safety a thousand times."
"I suppose I shall never drive up to an intersection again, or approach a sharp curve in the road, without thinking. This is the place where I may have an accident."

Ellen's Diary
By An Island Farmer's Wife
"Then there is no business under the sun more interesting, more uplifting and more genuinely rewarding," James reads—snug in the armchair, and night at the window.

"Than farming" we supply.
James nods. "Through this article stresses especially the production of livestock. 'Remember' it says 'this is the only business in which royalty is ever engaged.'"

He is silent a moment, but now continues. "We have witnessed thousands of young men and women forsake the quiet countryside for the bright lights of the city. Some have become leaders in industry, business and the professions. Today a call goes out from these old fashioned homesteads for re-establishment. From the delightful hills, and the valleys, streams a rivers there is promise of life anew. Great heights are yet attainable in agriculture."

"And isn't that the truth, Ellen?" he offers putting down his paper.
"And do you know I always feel sorry for the man who knows nothing about farming or hasn't a few acres to call his own. Oh, I know, no one gets what one might call 'rich' at it, but they can make a comfortable living and besides as this suggests there are other rewards."

"Take for instance the coming of spring. . . I suppose it does come nicely to folks at other callings but how lovely it comes on the farms! No other season here is more interesting. You see it break on the fields and in the stables; every day there is something new about, to indicate its approach. And at length there's green on the pastures and a fellow says, 'This afternoon these ewes and lambs could go out for a spell!'"

"But settling the boys only served to bring added interests to me. Instead of limiting them to my own farming, the boundaries have widened and it's busier and more interesting than ever. . . Do you know, Ellen, perhaps this is a virtue, or it may be only a peculiar-ity of mine? He smiled, "but I never envied any person their wealth or position. I like to see folks prosper and do well—it makes for a happier world. But I do confess to a little envy for the farmer who has four or five or a half-dozen sons. Just think—if each pulled his share of the load—the farming they could do! There'd be no limit to it—no," he muses, "no limit to it. . . and what happens?"

How James in such a case would have settled circumstances to map out their future. He would, as we hear him plan with the little lad here, "stump a bit over there in the lee of that hill—so, don't you see you could have a barn with a cellar, for roots and your cattle, partly underground?" And settling them one by one, he would share with a good heart of his best, making certain that as he says "a likely-looking" sow would be among the goods and chattels bestowed.

Settled? But not this day. Neither rest nor pause its hours knew.
Until tomorrow . . . Diary
. . . Good-night . . .

THE MYOPIC DECLARER
The winning line of play was marked by two outstanding considerations in the following hand, but the declarer was blind to both of them.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
K 5 4
Q 9 8 7
K J 6 5
J 4
A 10 8
7 3 2
6 3
Q 9 9
7 2
N
W E
S
Q J 9
A K J 10
8 5
A K 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Beyond argument, South had a good hand in respect to high cards—18 points, or almost 5 honor-tricks—but he was nevertheless pushing a little when he bid two hearts over North's one diamond. If North could not squeeze out a response to one heart, it was highly improbable that South would "miss anything."

As it happened, three notrump would have been easy on the combined hands, but the actual contract should have been just as easy—and more profitable, with South's honors.

West opened his singleton spade; East won and returned the suit. West ruffed and blandly shifted to a low diamond. South promptly reached for dummy's jack, and East just as promptly won the trick and led another spade. West got in a second ruff and was then quite content to lay down the ace of diamonds.

South's play of the diamond jack on West's low lead was inexcusable. First (and less important) South might have stopped to think that East, who had shown six spades to the A-10, certainly would have bid one spade over North's one diamond if he had also held the ace of diamonds. But, far more important than this, South also might have realized that if East could gain the lead with any card in diamonds, all was lost, since another spade ruff would swiftly follow. Thus, from any point of view, it was mandatory to put up the diamond king at Trick 3.

Dorothy Dix's Column
Divorced Man Woos Widow
He Would Like To Convince Companion Her Age And Children No Hindrance

DEAR MISS DIX: Six months ago I met Ida, a wonderful girl. We fell in love with each other and would like to marry some day. We have both been married before. She is a widow with three children; I'm divorced, and my two youngsters live with their mother. Ida feels that taking on the responsibility of her family would be too much of a burden for me, and I am equally certain that it won't be. Also, she is four years older than I am, which worries her. I like her boys, and am sure I would be a good father to them. We are all very friendly; they seem to like me. I'm sure we can adjust ourselves to that fact. How can I overcome all her doubts? B. G.

ANSWER: While it's very true that you would be taking on quite a big job in the acquisition of this ready-made family, it is equally true that many men have done it with success. It is certainly something that requires considered thought, however. Don't rush into the marriage until all doubts of you both have been removed. Your desire to marry Ida may be largely motivated by longing for your own children. After your marriage, she may resent any attempts on your part to see your youngsters, resulting in complete estrangement from your family.

The age difference is a point against the marriage, as is Ida's constant harping on her doubts. Actually, the issue that she may most doubt is her own love for you. If you continue making your union sound so desirable for her, she may give consent that is not whole-hearted. These are just a few of the problems you must ponder, and ponder well, before taking such a serious step. I urgently advise a wait of at least a year before you really decide on marriage.

DEAR MISS DIX: I run a private, state-licensed boarding home for children. For some time I had a small child whose mother ran into financial difficulty and, to help out, I offered to keep the youngster for less than my usual rates. When the mother remarried, and was able to take care of her obligations, she still continued to bring the child to me occasionally, usually offering no pay, or very little. What can I do? G. R.

ANSWER: Don't let yourself be imposed upon this way, even though you are fond of the little girl. Simply refuse to accept the child unless you're paid for her care. Women like this mother have lost the right to sympathy. Remind her that the low rate charged in the past was a temporary accommodation to help her in time of need. She should appreciate it, not accept it as her right.

Miss Nissen cannot reply personally to readers but will answer problems of interest through this column.

That Body Of Yours
By James W. Barton, M.D.

SPEECH DEFECTS SHOULD BE CORRECTED EARLY
I have written before about a schoolmate whom we spoke of as tongue-tied because of a severe impediment in his speech. Despite his disability he was not ridiculed, because he had a good reputation as a fighter if anyone tried to mimic him. I was told that his tongue was tied so far back in his mouth that this caused his defective speech and I wondered why his parents did not have his tongue cut loose. Today, no youngster has to go through the misery of being ridiculed in the schoolyard as we have speech correction experts who can help the great majority of these cases. The defects are treated as early as possible so that the youngster will not develop an inferiority complex.

In Postgraduate Medicine, Dr. Harlan Bloomer discusses the responsibility of child specialists to children with speech defects. "Advice concerning the care of children whose speech is defective should be generally available to parents, through their child specialist or family physician. Unfortunately family physician and child specialist alike have been prone to rely on the comforting but often mistaken prediction: 'Let him go; he'll outgrow it.'"

As a matter of fact, children do not outgrow their speech defects and, by the time they have been brought to the speech therapist, precious years have been lost and irreparable damage may have been done. The informed physician can render invaluable assistance to these children in the prevention or treatment of their individual speech problems.

Dr. Bloomer points out that one of the distressing things about speech defects—severe or mild—is that the child, his parents, his teachers and playmates cannot help but evaluate the abnormal speech. This evaluation is usually to the child's discredit and he has to live with these playmates and their discredit because of his speech defect. "He is more than likely to develop a low estimate of his personal worth sometimes to the extent that his initiative, such as taking part in games or other school activities is prevented. He is handicapped because of his lack of normal speech. His educational achievements are likely to be hampered by his feelings of inferiority and his difficulty in class recitations." Thus I have spoken before of the difficulties of a classroom who stuttered although he was the brightest student in the classroom.

William Caxton printed the first book in English—a history of Troy—in 1475, in Belgium.

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Children's Own Tablets

Modern Etiquette
By Roberta Lee

Q Can one's refusal to drink be taken as a rebuke by a host or hostess?
A. Not if one refuses graciously. Whatever you do, don't create the impression that you disapprove of drinking. You might just as well complain of the way a hostess' food is cooked. It is the "holier than thou" attitude of some non-drinkers that is found most objectionable by those who do drink.

Q How does one correctly address an envelope to two unmarried sisters?
A. "The Misses Johnson."

Better English
By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "It's an actual fact that both his sister-in-laws were there."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "gauche"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Penitentiary, peninsula, penitence.
4. What does the word "constrive" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with ind that means "inborn; innate"?

ANSWERS
1. Omit "actual," and the correct plural of "sister-in-law" is "sisters-in-law." 2. Pronounce as though spelled "gaj." 3. Penitentiary. 4. To plan ingeniously; to plot; to scheme. "Their plans were cunningly contrived." 5. Indigenous.

BABY'S RASH improves in 2 treatments mother uses CUTICURA
Writes a mother: "I used Cuticura Soap and Ointment just twice, and saw great improvement." Try! See why Cuticura is so effective.

Lenten Meditation
from the columns of the Times, London
"DOING THE TRUTH"

The phrase "true religion" implies the existence of religion which is not true but false. Such falsity, which may exist in varying degree, even in the religion of the most devout, may spring either from erroneous assumptions or from the erroneous expression of a religion based, in itself, on true assumptions.

There is also the falsity which creeps in by errors in the expression of religion. Since religion concerns the whole of life, and not only the beliefs of the rational mind, its "truth" must be judged by the rightness of the revelation, rightly understood, faithfully preserved, and illuminated by the best available light of scholarship and reflection.

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The New Testament has an interesting conception, referred to in two different books—that of "doing the truth." It illustrates clearly that the Christian idea of truth is not primarily the accuracy (or otherwise) of certain propositions, but the rightness (or otherwise) of the whole life in relation to the claims of the truth of God. Truth is something to be done, not merely recognized.

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1/4 tsp. salt.
1 tsp. mustard.
1 tsp. flour.
2 eggs.
1 cup sweet or sour cream.
1/4 cup vinegar.
Mix dry ingredients. Add eggs and cream and then vinegar. Cook in double boiler.

How Can I!!!
By Anne Ashley
Q. How can I remove dirt and grease stains from leather?
A.—The stains can be removed with benzine or pure turpentine. Restore the polish by rubbing with turpentine mixed with the whites of eggs, beaten slightly, but not stiff. Use a clean, dry cloth.

Contract Bridge
By Josephine Culbertson

The Stars Say . . .
By Genevieve Hamble

For Tomorrow
CREATIVE and business affairs are under beneficent aspects, so make the most of your opportunities and forge ahead now with long-postponed plans or new ventures which have long-range value. Look, too, for new spheres of activity which you feel will further your career or increase your personal prestige.

For the Birthday
If tomorrow is your birthday, your horoscope promises business success and financial prosperity by late fall possible promotion through the good will of superiors and the likelihood of some unusual recognition for past endeavors and projects.

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