

# Kathleen Norris Says:

## The Alimony Racket

Bell Syndicate.—WNU Features.



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By KATHLEEN NORRIS

There was a smartly-dressed, beautifully-groomed young woman on the train with me a few weeks ago; we played gin-rummy together. At Reno she was to leave the train.

"For the usual reason, I suppose?" I said.

"For a divorce," she answered, with a sudden tightening of her lips. And resentfully she added, "I gave him two of the best years of my life, and now he'll pay me \$500 a month for the rest of his!"

It made me consider afresh what I often have thought of alimony; that alimony is essentially unfair, and that men, who make and change laws so easily, are rather stupid that they don't regularize this one. The childless woman I quote above was about 28. It is possible that "he," whoever he is, will be paying her \$6,000 a year for more than 40 years. A quarter of a million dollars for the 24 months she spent in disillusioning him and breaking his heart.

Such a woman, if I judged her rightly, will not re-marry while this golden river is rolling in. She will have her love affairs and her freedom; she will feel herself infinitely superior to the quiet girl who sticks to her bargain, keeps her man happy and secure, and raises children. And the tragedy of it is that sometimes she will succeed in making the quiet home woman wonder if perhaps the girl who was going to Reno wasn't the smarter, after all.

### For Three Years Only.

Alimony ought to be adjusted first with the safety of the children in view. If there are no children, it should be arranged on a vanishing scale. Five hundred a month for one year, then 300 for perhaps three years. Then stop. It should not be left to smart lawyers to arrange, there should be a special court of domestic adjustment, in which all the factors are considered. If a marriage has existed for anything over 20 years, or if the wife is old and delicate, then certainly there should be no question of the man's duty in supporting her with a monthly check, or making a property settlement that will insure her independence.

But that these frivolous, shallow girls are able to draw large incomes from the men they perhaps neglected, hurt and failed in the first place, is an element that makes for divorce. If she felt that her fat income would only last for a few years, a woman would look about her for some way of making herself useful; she would prepare for the time when she must be self-supporting again.

As it is, there is a certain apartment house in a California city—and of course in all our other cities there are similar ones—that is given over to triumphantly divorced young women. The rents run from \$2,000 to \$4,500 a year. A beauty parlor and drug-store and a smart little restaurant with a bar occupy the first floor. Upstairs these pretty, idle, confident creatures flit to and fro, entertain men friends, sleep late in the mornings, make their movie and beauty parlor en-



He wants freedom at any cost.

### LIMITED PAYMENTS

Most people agree that a divorced woman is entitled to support from her former husband for a considerable time after the separation. The question of how long and how much is generally left to the discretion of the court. There is often a property settlement agreed upon by the two attorneys representing the parties. Where there are children, the ex-wife generally receives an allowance for their care. If she remarries, the alimony payments terminate.

These wise and just laws, however, have been made the basis for a well known racket—the alimony racket. As Miss Norris says in today's article, many women are living on the bounty of their former husbands in luxurious ease. They will not re-marry, for that would end the easy money. They form a little colony of drones or leeches, giving nothing to anyone, enjoying life without work or worries.

Some women who spent a troubled year or two as wives of wealthy men now have incomes of a thousand dollars a month and more, as long as the men live. This, Miss Norris believes, is all wrong.

gagements and await the inevitable alimony every month.

Those who have been successful in extorting large alimonies naturally pity the less successful, who must struggle along on a few hundred a month. That they are all leeches, fungus growths on the social order, never enters their crimped heads.

### Now Ready to Marry.

"Denise will marry Len, now," said one such woman to me thoughtfully, in discussing a friend whose magnificent alimony had had them all jealous for a dozen years.

"Oh, she's finally decided that she loves him?"

"Well, no, she likes it better this way, just having him take her to dinner and buy her flowers. But you see, Paul is quite sick. He's had a stroke, and they don't think he'll live very long."

Paul was the man paying the thousand-dollar alimony.

When a woman makes a man thoroughly miserable he wants freedom, and in his eagerness to get it he rarely splits hairs when making the financial arrangement. She may have been a cold wife, she may have flirted with his friends, wasted his money, neglected his comfort and dignity in every possible way.

But with the weapon of her sex, and the claim of her child, she can wreck all the rest of his life if he dares to want to get free. In another 10 years he may be ideally married, he may have two or three children to support, but that inexorable check must go every 30 days to pretty carefree Jean, who is flitting about from one pleasure resort to another, driving a smart car, playing cards, dancing, taking on such lovers as she fancies.

It seems to me men aren't very smart about alimony.

### Baby Bonuses

The French constituent assembly is considering a bill whereby newly married couples could obtain "marriage loans" of 80,000 or 100,000 francs (roughly \$672 or \$840 at legal rates) repayable in 10 years to help them set up housekeeping.

For each child these couples would receive a repayment credit of one-fifth the borrowed amount, or 20,000 francs on an original loan of 100,000 francs. With five children, the loan would be considered completely repaid.



JAILED FOR CALLING STRIKE . . . Preceded by deputies, Sheriff Walter Monaghan, second from left, escorts George L. Mueller, third from left, to county jail to serve sentence of one year for contempt of court. Mueller, president of the independent union of Duquesne Light company employees, Pittsburgh, refused to call off the strike or to apologize for calling court injunction, "scrap of paper." Mueller later was released.



WAR BRIDES IN PEACE BONNETS . . . Three of the British war brides who arrived in a contingent aboard the "Henry Gibbons" show varying taste in hats. Left to right are Mrs. William Williams, Sharon, Miss.; Mrs. Everett Cline, Waverly, W. Va., and Mrs. Russell Helton, St. Louis. Their bonnets have but one thing in common—all are smart, but war brides are anxious to don American-made clothes as soon as they arrive while their American sisters adopt their former styles.



FOEMEN MAY SEE DOUBLE . . . Three sets of twins are on the Beloit college, Beloit, Wis., football squad this year. Two pairs are identical. Here they are: top, left and right, John and Paul Kramer, Elgin, Ill.; middle, Dick and Cliff Allen, Wauconda, Ill., and bottom, Bob and Bill Williams, Arlington Heights, Ill. With the football season under way, Beloit is making excellent use of the twins.



BROTHERS BY BIRTH AND BLACKSTONE . . . Associate Justice Frank Murphy of the Supreme court of the United States is shown, right, with Judge George Murphy in recorders court at Detroit. They are sitting in the same court room where Justice Frank presided a few years ago, before he went on to the nation's highest tribunal. The brothers were photographed as they discussed a case now before Judge George, while Justice Frank was on vacation.



SECRETARY OF COMMERCE . . . W. Averell Harriman, former ambassador to the Soviet and until his appointment, ambassador to England, has been named by President Truman to replace Henry Wallace as secretary of commerce.



DIPLOMATIC MANNING . . . Capt. Harry Manning, who argued a Nazi U-boat commander not to sink the SS Washington, carrying 1,000 passengers in 1940, has just been appointed commander of the largest United States owned passenger liner, SS America. He flew with Amelia Earhart.



NOW CAN SEE . . . Totally blind two years ago, Jack Wisnovski, 15, of Verona, Pa., is making up for lost time by sightseeing. It is believed that he is the first person on record of corneal grafts performed on both eyes successfully.



VOWED TO KILL FIFTY . . . Stanislaw (the Sniper) Ballon, Polish outlaw, shown after capture by American troops. Ballon vowed to kill 50 Nazi followers in vengeance for killing of his parents and three brothers in Poland by the Nazis.



### 'IT'S GOOD BUSINESS'

## Observance Sparks Program To Get Jobs for Handicapped

WASHINGTON.—Importance to the nation of maintaining employment for handicapped workers is being stressed in the first observance of National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, being held the week of October 6-12.

The observance, authorized by congress and proclaimed by President Truman, is intended to spark a nationwide drive to provide work for millions of handicapped persons, including thousands of veterans of two World wars, millions of victims of industrial and other types of accidents and those who are handicapped as a result of sickness, disease or birth.

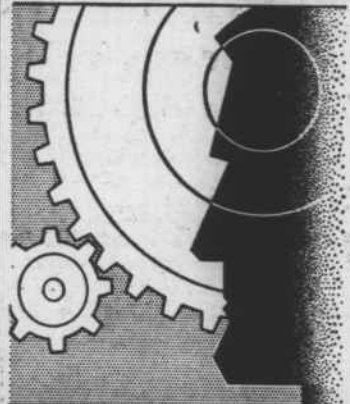
### Join in Promotion.

Under leadership of United States Employment service, Veterans' Administration and Disabled American Veterans, governmental and private agencies are promoting the week. Through numerous citizens' committees information concerning the physically handicapped and their abilities as workers will be disseminated and public education will be fostered.

Introduced during the week was the new official "trademark" of the selective placement program for physically handicapped and its slogan, "Hire the handicapped—it's good business."

More than 300,000 disabled workers, including 228,000 disabled veterans, now are ready for work and are seeking employment through the USES, according to Robert C. Goodwin, director. Pointing out that

### HIRE THE HANDICAPPED



### IT'S GOOD BUSINESS

many of them are highly skilled workers, Goodwin says that they are immediately employable in jobs which emphasize their abilities rather than their disabilities.

### Perform Skilled Jobs.

Disabled workers, for the most part, are veterans who came home from the war with amputations or other permanent injuries and civilian war workers involved in industrial and other accidents, according to the director. The handicaps sustained by these workers have not impaired their capacities to perform skilled jobs, he emphasizes.

In referring to the wartime employment record of the physically handicapped, Goodwin reports that 83 per cent of the nation's industries employed more than a million handicapped workers. These men, he adds, "frequently excelled the output of non-disabled employees."

### Earn Own Way.

"Veterans and other workers who were victims of circumstances beyond their control want to keep their self-respect and earn their own way. They are capable of doing it and certainly they deserve the opportunity," Goodwin insists.

Discussing the problem of the handicapped veteran, Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine of the retraining and re-employment administration says: "The disabled veteran is a vitally important man in our post-war economy. If the nation, the state and the community fail to make suitable provisions for disabled veterans, the loss will be great. For wounds and injuries so frequently are the result of leadership and bravery that we dare not lose the services of the disabled veteran."

### Pigs 'Hit the Bottle' As Makeshift Mother

ARLINGTON, WASH. — When a mother sow refused to raise her nine little pigs, A. R. Leaque didn't worry — he just devised a new "mother." The ingenious farmer taught the pigs to drink from a bottle and then built a rack with nine bottles suspended from it. The pigs got the idea quickly and are growing rapidly.

### Village Gets Huge Gun as Memorial

FLORELL HILLS, MO. — In response to Mayor Walter Ziegler's request to President Truman for a World War II memorial trophy, this village recently received a five and one-half ton howitzer. The huge gun was shipped from the Rock Island, Ill., arsenal at a cost to the village of \$86 in freight charges. Twenty citizens pushed the gun to the city park.

### ADOPTS AMERICAN WAY . . .

American habits apparently are contagious. At any rate, Norway's Trygve Lie, secretary general of United Nations, is shown in his Forest Hills, N. Y., home in a typical pose of an American on a Sunday. The shirt-sleeved official is enjoying the Sunday comics.

## "Off We Go" AVIATION NOTES

### AIRPORT CHATTER

William Naff is new manager of Montrose, Colo., municipal airport and representative of Monarch airlines. A 6,000-foot runway recently was completed at the airport and Monarch is expected to schedule regular flights, commencing this month. . . . Oshkosh, Wis., will dedicate its new airport October 13, with R. W. Havemann, president of the South Side Businessmen's club, in charge of arrangements. . . . Ogle county, Ill., has its first airport following dedication of the new privately-owned Hamilton airport at Polo. The field, which already has drawn state and national attention as a farm project, is owned and operated by Arch M. Hamilton, Polo farmer and lawyer. It was built primarily to serve farmers and business men owning aircraft in the surrounding agricultural community. . . . At Eldorado, Tex., E. H. Topliffe, Joe Wagley, Carol Sproul and Bill Edmiston have purchased five A T training planes, which they are dismantling for parts. . . . Development of a long-range planning program for airports has been given the "green light" signal in Jefferson, Arapahoe and Adams counties, Colo.

Unlike the city pilot, who has to leave town to find an airport, most farmers have sufficient level land to provide their own landing strips.

### CONCLUDE BREAKFASTS

Idaho pilots will hold their last breakfast of the year at Challis October 13. The menu will feature venison steaks, according to Chet Moulton, state director of aeronautics. Recently the Idaho pilots held a breakfast at Gooding, with 125 pilots and friends attending. Oldest pilot registered was Christopher P. Scott, 63, of Boise, who recently learned to fly and has purchased a plane.

### CLOUDHOPPERS REVIVED

Grounded since beginning of the war, the cloudhoppers of University of Akron at Akron, Ohio, have become airborne again. Revived by many former army and navy pilots, the Cloudhopper club has purchased an army BT-15, the "hot-test" ship with which the group ever worked. The club also plans to buy a Cub plane for students who do not want to learn to fly in so fast a ship. For ground training, the organization has been using the Link trainer at Guggenheim Aeronautical institute, which is connected with the university.



TRAVELS IN IGLOO . . . The "human icicle," 40-year-old Bobby Jones, sealed inside a 500-pound cake of ice and dressed only in a bathing suit, is shoved aboard a plane.

### MILITARY PLANES UP

American military plane production increased in August to 130 planes, compared to 87 in July, Aircraft Industries association reports. Bulk of the increase was accounted for in fighter planes, production totaling 105 compared to 58 in July. This increase reflected renewed output of jet engines and stepped up production of a new navy carrier fighter. Total military plane production for the eight months of 1946 is 834, compared with 45,338 in eight months of 1945.