



### THE OTHER SIDE of the DESK

By Estelle Mitchell

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** If *High Life* is to mirror life at Senior High, it must reflect ALL life—both student and faculty. We present, therefore, another in a series of articles by members of the faculty.

Of course you know what the R.S.V.P. at the bottom of your invitation means. Your hostess merely wants to know how many cups of water to put into the sherbet before she begins to freeze it. But if you are one of those people who have to unscramble a multiplicity of XYZ's, OPA'S and Q.E.D.'s before you can remember what to do about it, just ask your neighbor who is studying French, and he will promptly tell you that it means *Repondez s'il vous plait*, or "Answer if you please."

Do you know what the waiter means when he asks you if you wish to eat *a la carte*, or if you prefer *table d'hote*? If you don't, I hope you have plenty of money; you may have to pay for your ignorance. Do you wish an *hors d'oeuvre*? What will you choose as the *piece de resistance*? Do you like your pie *a la mode*? Try not to make a *four pas* at the table.

Are you on the *qui vive* for things which will improve your *etiquette* and increase your popularity? One of the traits you will want to develop is *savoir faire*. *Beaus gestes* will help impress the girls—if that's what you want to do. And be sure to keep every *rendez-vous* you make. Be very flattering when you engage in a *tete-a-tete* with your girl, and don't forget to send a *bon voyage* note at the proper time.

But, you say life is not altogether *sans soucis* with you; you have lessons to study. Is your *hete noire* history? Then maybe it's because you don't understand *laissez-faire*, *lettres de cachet*, *noblesse oblige* or a *coup d'etat*. (Really the French have given more history than LaFayette, the Curies, and Pasteur.)

And did you forget what your math teacher said about Q.E.D.? You did, and you don't want to ask

her, because then she'll know you weren't listening? Then ask the student across the aisle who is studying Latin. He'll tell you, and you can make a hundred in geometry.

Did you ever realize that even in Caesar's time they knew about *habes corpus*, *per capita* costs, *wages per diem* and *per annum ad valorem* taxes, *post-mortem* investigations, and speakers who run on *ad infinitum*? And do you ever in this enlightened age know the meaning of *tempus fugit*, *ex officio*, *sine qua non*, *quid pro quo*, *bona fide*, *alma mater*, *ex libris*, *terra firma*, *note bene*, *status quo*, *vox populi*, and *in memoriam*? Pray tell me what would we do without *alumni* and *alumnae*, *verbatim* and *gratis*, *per se* and *in toto*, or even the little abbreviations *i. e.* and *e.g.*? (Maybe Latin would make your scholastic world a real Utopia.)

But if this seems serious and if you are in a lighter mood, has it ever occurred to you what you are missing without at least a passing acquaintance with Spanish *senoritas*, gay *caballeros*, dashing *vagabondos* with broad-brimmed *combreros*, colorful *fiestas*, nice long *siestas*, *partis al fresco*, or out in the *patio* and beautiful far away places where work never has to be done until *manana*? (Say, Spanish can be fun. Try it *pronto*!)

If you had to use your dictionary more than twice as you read this article, I suggest: Let's learn. Anybody can be ignorant.

### Daily Doubles

By Evelyn Sink



This pair are both Juniors. On Thanksgiving night during the ninth grade they had their first date. They both like banana splits. Their favorite song is "Stardust." Both are very good in sports and like sports very much. He dislikes Spanish and likes her. Who are they?

The couple in the last issue of *High Life* are E. N. Hale and Nancy Foust.

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### The Book Worm



It is our purpose through our column this week to give information which may be of help to any of you who are thinking of purchasing encyclopedias for use in your homes. Even though we have all of the encyclopedias mentioned in this article in the Senior High School library, we are quite sure that many of you do some of your school work at home and need to refer to these books in your own homes quite often. In other words, we feel that high school girls and boys should have access to some good reference books in their own homes. Since librarians are well qualified to advise you as to which encyclopedias are the best purchases, some valuable information concerning the standard ones is being given here.

If your funds are limited, *The Lincoln Library of Eccential Information*, which is available in either a one or two-volume edition as a cast of about \$25, would be a very good selection. However, it should

be pointed out that a new edition of this title is not published each year and that it is not kept up-to-date with any type of annual supplement. In spite of this fact, it is a very valuable reference book. The one-volume edition is usually considered the most convenient one to handle.

In the event that you wish to invest as much as \$100 or even a much larger sum for a good encyclopedia, there are four excellent standard ones to choose from: namely, *Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia*, *The World Book Encyclopedia*, *The Americana Encyclopedia*, and *The Encyclopedia Britannica*. The first two named sell for as much as \$100, while the last two are much higher in price. No attempt is being made here to give exact prices of these sets of books, since prices of books change so rapidly. All of them are kept up-to-date, however, with an annual supplement, except *Compton's*, which publishes a completely new set each year. The other three mentioned usually publish new sets each year in addition to the annual supplements.

*Compton's* is required for first purchase in elementary school libraries, and *The World Book* is required for high schools. This statement may help some of you in making your decisions as to which encyclopedias are best for students in public schools. It is wise, however, to consider the ages of girls and boys in the home in making a selection of an encyclopedia for use in the home.

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