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Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

Well, the wedding is over. Luci Johnson is now Mrs. Patrick Nugent.

Someplace, sometime, there might have been a more beautiful bride who walked down a church-aisle holding the arm of her father. There might have been, but you will never convince President Johnson or myself. Every step along the 325 foot aisle of the Shrine where this marriage was consecrated, the President, every inch a father, beamed with pride in his beautiful daughter, whose care, future, and her very life, he would pass into the hands of another man. The President's solemnity, during that more than 100 yard walk, was identical with that expressed by millions of American fathers of the past, present, and future, who have, do, or will walk their daughters along a similar path. One could almost hear the silent prayer, natural to every father on such an occasion, "Please God — Bless them."

Everyone present at the church nuptials and, I am sure, over the entire country, silently said a similar prayer. In my opinion on only one other occasion in modern American history in modern times has there been such a unanimity of the public uniting in a prayerful plea for Divine Blessing: — The occasion when our Country sent our first astronaut into outer space.

By now, the Fashion Editors of the various papers have surfeited you with descriptions of what the bride wore, what the President wore, the bridesmaids, groomsmen, the guests, and everybody else. — But let me tell you something. Luci Johnson looked beautiful. She would have been a beautiful bride if her name had been Mabel Zilch and she had worn a rented gown, or been married in a dress for every day wear. She had the mimical bride's smile on her face. The lovely, youthful, brave smile that tells the world "I'm scared, and I'm a little bit frightened, but nobody can tell, because I'm smiling and — oh! Daddy and Mommy, I love you so much. Please don't worry about me because Pat's so wonderful. You're going to love him too!"

Marriages are beautiful. Maybe the time of heart-break makes them so. Marriages disrupt the existing order of things. That's why the occasion has a sad tint. A boy and girl become a man and a woman. Two families are amputated of one mem-

ber each so that a new family can commence. On a mathematical basis, two minus one each makes one, while, at the same time, the same two families, minus one member each, makes three families. It is all kind of mixed up.

I am certain that many of the well-wishers will assure the bridal couple that the first year is the hardest. This is definitely untrue. There is only one year, in a successful marriage, that is the hardest. That year is "next year." This year — you have it made, if you stick it out. Last year — you got through it. Next year — that's the one to make successful. Any two people who really try can do it. Millions of couples do it every year. Our Nation's huge divorce figures are swelled by the losers, those who didn't try for next year. Those who have been married and divorced previously. Those who didn't care or who shirked their responsibilities — and didn't try.

Luci and Pat Nugent have a guiding phrase that will safe-guard their marriage. It is a famous expression of LBJ's: "Let us reason together."

That about closes my article on Washington's Wedding. So, the best of all to you, Kids, and I say sincerely "God Bless you."

Prayer For Son In Battle Zone

July 11, 1966

Dear God, today my son embarks upon a mission of duty and mercy for beyond this land and his loved ones. Be Thou his Guide, Friend, Counselor and Guardian. Protect him and bring him safely back to many others who also need his ministrations, his wholesomeness, his love of mankind, and his love. That is, if it be Thy will.

We shall miss him, terribly, and every waking moment our thoughts, consciously or subconsciously, will dwell on him and his dedicated efforts to alleviate pain and sustain life of those comrades who, by virtue of war, declared or otherwise, must face the enemy in a conflict which, to many of us has been difficult to comprehend albeit our patriotism be undiminished. Amen. His Father



'Mary, Mary' Sparkling Success

"Mary, Mary", a sparkling Broadway comedy hit by Jean Kerns, the latest production of the Parkway Playhouse, was well received by a too small but very appreciative audience.

If you watch the TV comedy, "Don't Eat the Daisies," by Jean Kerns, you will have some idea of the funny situations that develop in the play.

The play is built around a young and recently divorced couple who are having income tax difficulties. It involves the ex-husband, Bob Kelaway (played by John Alee); Tiffany Richards (played by Anita Nelson), Bob's fiancée, a practical, rather mannish, but rich and beautiful society girl; Oscar Nelson (played by James Kuntz), Bob's friend and tax lawyer; Dirk Winston (played by Armando Contardi), a Hollywood actor and would-be author — also a friend of Bob's; and last, but most importantly, Mary, the ex-wife — played by Amelia Penland.

It is a hilarious comedy from beginning to end, with the frustrated Bob, going in all directions, and apparently not knowing what he really wants; Tiffany, Bob's fiancée, more interested in giving her future husband with health giving foods, vitamins, etc., than love; Oscar, a friend of the divorced couple and Bob's tax lawyer, trying in his own ineffective way to bring the couple back together; then there is the dashing movie star and lady killer, Dirk Winston, who becomes much a smitten with Mary, and who accepts Bob's proposition to marry Mary and get her off his back almondy-wise, in exchange for Bob, a publisher, bringing out his book (which Bob really thinks stinks). Then comes Mary, the star of the show and a real darling, who cov-

ers up her real feelings with wisecracks.

Through some clever maneuvering on Mary's part, plus some not so nice lies, it dawned on Tiffany that Bob is really in love with Mary. Also through Mary's keen intelligence and insight, she convinces Bob that Kerns' manuscript will make a best seller. It is presumed that Oscar got their tax matters straightened out satisfactorily. So it all ends happily, with the young couple reunited and looking forward to a second marriage.

Burnsville's Amelia Penland really did herself and her town proud! She carried her part like a professional, and was so cute and attractive one could hardly help falling in love with her.

Anita Nelson as the fiancée turned in a fine performance, as did James Kuntz. Armando Contardi was so realistic in his role that one could well imagine he was really what he portrayed. John Alee as the ex-husband did a fine job. He was in such an emotional state during the whole performance that one could only have sympathy for him and hope that he would come to his senses and realize he was really in love with his former wife.

It was a fine performance throughout, and one could only reflect on how fortunate Burnsville is in having such a fine group of young people, as well as talented towns people, in their midst.

Last but not least comes the Director, Lauren Woods, a man of many talents, who seems as adept at directing as performing.

Then, of course, Ralph Kerns, Managing Director, who puts the audience in the mood with his gracious opening remarks.

Five 4-H'ers Attending Camp

Yancey County has five 4-H'ers attending the Western District Leadership Conference at Swannanoa this week. Among those attending are: Benita Ball, Banks Creek; Anita Hall, Double Island; David Mathis, Double Island; Bill Bartlett and Joe Sparks, Arbuckle.

These 4-H'ers are among 170 that are spending the week studying about 4-H and ways to improve themselves and their clubs when they return home as well as having a lot of fun swimming, having lessons in handicraft, electric, wildlife, recreation and also participating in assembly and vesper programs. The 4-H'ers will return Saturday, August 13.

Miss Bowditch Winner In Sewing Contest

Miss Ramona Bowditch was state winner in the 4-H sewing demonstration during the N. C. State 4-H Club Week held in Raleigh July 25-29.

Ramona has won many honors in her 4-H club work such as county winner in many projects and Dress Revues; district winner in sewing demonstration and Dress Revue. In 1965 she won the state "Make It Yourself with Wool Contest" in Raleigh and competed for regional honors at Nashville, Tennessee.

Ramona has placed in the top 10 in the State Dress Revue several times and has represented the Western District three years at the state contest.

As her gift for winning the state sewing contest, Ramona received a new sewing machine.