

Mind Your Manners? If You Don't, They Will

By BECKY SCHAEFFER

Mention "manners" to most people, and they will admit that perhaps theirs are not as sharp as they should be.

Few of us want to be accused of thoughtlessness and all of us want to be liked. Yet the "well-mannered" person is simply the one who is most thoughtful of the feelings and convenience of others.

There is a great deal more to proper social behavior than knowing which fork to use. You can learn that in one easy lesson if you know that silverware is used from the outside toward the plate as they are served. But can you learn to be a thoughtful person in one lesson?

Hardly.

Who is the thoughtful person? She is the one who remembers to bring extra serving spoons to the potluck dinner.

She is the one who calls people up before she drops in on them, and she remem-

bers her obligations, such as luncheons owed or milk borrowed.

If she uses some of your shortening to make cookies, she will bring you some of the cookies as well as returning the shortening.

Do you know someone like this? Watching and imitating her will keep you sharp and your manners in good shape.

Thoughtfulness
Men are hardly exempt from the use of good manners, because, especially for the white-collar worker, they are as much a part of the male image as good grooming.

For purposes of discussion, let's divide manners into three categories: thoughtfulness, obligation and respect.

The main part of social manners is, of course, thoughtfulness—the Golden Rule. It is very hard to learn to put ourselves in the other fellow's place, because we are born selfish. It takes a lot of painful hindsight to gain the experience you

need to avoid stepping on toes.

Until the knack of projecting your feelings into others for the sake of their comfort is natural to you, I suggest keeping quiet and listening to how the well-liked members of a group go about it.

If there is one thing I terribly dislike, it is to have said something and have the listener cut in with, "That's nothing," and try to top me. Think for a moment what that person has really said. He has indicated that your remark has no value whatsoever, and that what he is about to say is much more worthwhile.

If you have this habit, try very hard to break it. You are trusting someone to understand that your choice of words was just a figure of speech, and that person just may not choose to excuse your thoughtlessness.

Obligations
Obligations overlap thoughtfulness because the thoughtful remember and honor them. My husband and I have frequently lamented the fact that while some of our friends return again and again for cocktails, dinner or an evening, they express their enjoyment, yet never invite us.

These same people will sit right in our livingroom and tell us about other couples they have invited over to dinner, and it never dawns on them that they owe us several. When the pattern becomes pronounced, we feel that these couples are quite dispensable.

Obligations include certain other social niceties that are all-too-often neglected in female society. We have become "informal and relaxed" to a point of sloppi-

ness. For the image of your group, we are under obligation to wear stockings and a skirt to social functions. Such items as high heels can not be honored by everyone, and hats have been dispensed with by the vast majority.

But one does not attend a tea in Capris. How long has it been since you bought a packet or box of thank you notes? Even though this does not relieve you of your obligation to return the invitation, it can give you a little more time before you do without seeming unappreciative.

Respect
The third part of good social behavior is respect. This includes respect for our elders and for our superiors. Those who are democratic to a point where they recognize no superior are not apt to become anyone else's superior, either.

Even if you can't stand your boss, or detest the old guy who works in your department, you will find that courtesy can be a valuable weapon. It will defend you from yourself, and give others a good feeling toward you that may eventually change your own attitude.

From time to time, we have met people who, because of a certain immaturity, are inclined to take out their problems on others. Perhaps a fellow has family problems, is under particular pressure on his job and is feeling generally unwell. Is that an excuse to vent his wrath on someone who has tried very hard to be nice to him in the past? Yet our respect for others is apt to slip seriously when we are under pressure, and even if we do not regret the loss of friends, we should certainly regret their loss of respect for us.

Regarding Elders
The worst calamity, as concerns respect, is that when we lose respect for others, we have already lost respect for ourselves. If the other fellow is not entitled to respect for his accomplishments, then why should we get it for ours?

There are certain amenities that we should habitually practice toward our superiors and our elders. For another of your own sex, you apply the manners that a gentleman does to a lady. You open the car door for your employer, when taking him somewhere, and you light his cigarette. You allow him to precede you through a door you have opened for him.

These tokens of respect will speak loudly for you, and are an excellent substitute for personal regard when dealing with those whom you don't particularly like. A little thing like picking up the tab for coffee will be remembered warmly for a longer time than you think. Let's revive good manners. Like personal cleanliness and proper dress, let's make them an everyday practice. See if it doesn't have a brightening effect.

Juniors to Help YMCA

Mrs. James Misel, philanthropy chairman, Torrance Junior Woman's Club, Marina District, California Federation of Women's Clubs, Junior Membership, has announced the club's major philanthropy for 1963-64 club year as the Torrance YMCA.

Juniors will revamp the building and make new curtains. Other needs of the group mentioned, according to Rod Swartz, are funds for a truck and projector.

Other philanthropies for Juniors will be: Southwest Association for Retarded Children, Cerebral Palsy, UCLA Pre-School, Hope, March of Dimes, Medic Alert and their Torrance Scout Center.

Mrs. William Fauldes, president, Torrance Juniors, announced that Mrs. Jerald Hibbard, president, Marina District, Junior Membership, will be a guest at the Oct. 9 business meeting. Program will be Dr. William Bryan, who will speak on Hypnosis in Medicine.

Coordinators attending from Torrance Woman's Club, Mrs. B. W. Roberts and Mrs. J. G. Laird, were introduced.

Odd Fellows to Host Grand Master

Torrance Odd Fellow Lodge No. 495 will be the hosts to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California, George Hannaford, who will make his official visit to the lodge. The Noble Grand of the Torrance Lodge, Herbert Taute, is most cordial in inviting all Odd Fellows in the area to be present.

A roast beef dinner will be served by the local lodge assisted by the Torrance Rebekahs. This public is cordially invited to attend the dinner as it is open to the public.

Mrs. Lucille will be chairman in charge of games and refreshments.

CLUB NEWS

Regular business meeting of Gardena Emblem Club 257, September 5, was conducted by Mrs. Marvin Knapp, first vice president, in the absence of Mrs. Richard Keenan, president, who was in Boston, Mass., attending the national convention with Mrs. Max Zeigler, financial secretary.

Mrs. Erwin Ropp's name was submitted for office to the Supreme Emblem Club of the United States of America.

Mrs. Joseph Fazio, birthday chairman, had the birthday table set for 18 members. Each received a gift.

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