

It's The Law

"It's the Law" with simple answers is offered by LANCASTER FARMING in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Bar Association. General interest questions are welcomed, and will be answered as soon as possible. Letters must be signed. Answers will not be published on a specified, requested day. Questions cannot be answered by mail, and LANCASTER FARMING will reject any inquiry which is not of general public interest. Address all inquiries to "It's the Law," LANCASTER FARMING Quarryville, Pa. (Fictitious initials will be used to protect the identity of the questions).

Q. After having a person declared legally dead, what would happen if the person appeared on the scene? The person in question deserted his wife, and she had him declared dead. Now will she have to get a divorce from her present husband?

R. H.

A. She will not have to get a divorce from her present husband. The effect of the decree declaring the former husband dead completely validates her second marriage, and even though the spouse so declared to be presumed dead is in fact alive, the second marriage per-

formed pursuant to a license issued by virtue of the decree declaring the first husband dead shall be valid and for all intents and purposes as though the first marriage had been terminated by a final decree in divorce.

Q. In 1949 I won a \$1000 pool. When I filed my income tax report, I told the man to put the \$1000 in with my earnings, but he didn't. Now they are trying to collect \$171 back taxes for that pool. I have sent them \$15 twice, but I am a poor widow on a pension and cannot pay? What can I do?

M. P.

A. You should try to make the best arrangement possible for the payment of these taxes on some instalment basis.

Q. In Pennsylvania can a man be forced to support his wife if they are separated?

R. W. M.

A. Yes. A man is responsible to support his wife so long as the marriage relation subsists, unless he has adequate and legal grounds for divorce against the wife, in which case the Court may relieve him of the duty to support if his proof of the grounds for divorce is deemed sufficient. Mere separation, unless with good cause, does not relieve the husband of his duty to support his wife.

Q. I was born out of wedlock. When I was a few months old I was given away to foster parents to raise, but was never legally adopted, although I then and now carry the foster parents' name. These people were very poor and for about 16 years they received aid for me from the D. P. A. When I reached the age of 17, I began to correspond with my real mother and learned that she is well off. I am the only child she has. Her first husband died and she is now married again. I am now 32 years old. Do I have any legal claim to her wealth? Can the D. P. A. prosecute her for the years they sent grants out for me? If I am not included in her will, can I contest it?

J. C.

A. There is no legal claim on the estate of the real mother by the son, nor would the son have the right to take against his real mother's will, unless the will had been made prior to the son's birth. There is much doubt that the Commonwealth, at this late date could collect any reimbursement from the real mother for the public assistance benefits

4-H Members Back the Attack on Highway Deaths



TOP WINNERS IN THE 4-H FARM AND HOME SAFETY PROGRAM use a battering ram to dramatize the decision of the two million 4-H members to smash the barricade of 42,000 fatal accidents which annually blocks safe motoring on America's highways. Urging them to "Back the Attack" is A. G. De Lorenzo (right), Public Relations Director of General Motors, awards donor for the nation-wide safety program. Each of these national winners received \$300 college scholarships from GM. In addition, they and the other 42 state winners received all-expense trips to the 35th National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago from General Motors. Left to right are: LoRetta Hales, Spanish Fork, Utah; Richard Parsons, Parsonsburg, Md.; Anita Mae Wenger, Powhattan, Kansas; Marjorie Rauwerdink, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.; Ella Lou Hembree, Braman, Okla.; Richard Mitchell, Denver, Colo., and Clyde Templeton, Olin, N. C.

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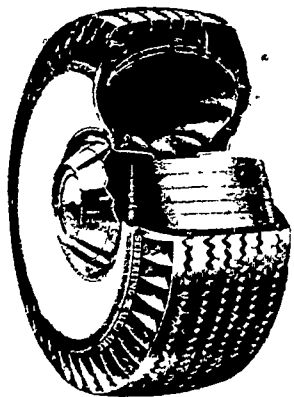
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Q. If a person buys a new home and within five years an extremely serious fault appears (such as a foundation failure), is the builder or mortgage company in any way responsible or is it up to the buyer to make the repairs?

M. G. F.

A. This loss would be entirely at the risk of the purchaser, unless the seller, or his agent, prior to the consummation of the sale, made a specific warranty about the foundation, or other part of the structure in which the fault develops. The seller generally only warrants that he is conveying clear title, and this has nothing to do with any structural deficiencies. Of course, a seller cannot escape liability for fraud, nor for any manifestly false statements as to the soundness of the building. A buyer should inspect a building carefully before buying, preferably in the company of an engineer or other expert, and if he has any doubt about the building, he should demand a written warranty as to structural specifications from the seller.

Q. In December, 1953, a friend whom I lent some money on a judgment note died, and I presented the executor of the estate a bill covering principal and interest to the date of the friend's death in January, 1954. As yet, settlement has not been made. Am I entitled to additional interest on the loan from the date of the borrower's death to the time of settlement?

J. C.

A. Assuming that the judgment note is due, that is, has matured, you would be entitled to six per cent interest on the principal amount until the time that you are paid. The death of the debtor did not change the situation. It is extremely important that you given written notice of your claim to the executor of the estate.

MICE LIKE MONEY REAL

Hilo, Hawaii — Alejandro Lompapa, a sugarcane cutter from the Philippines, told police that mice had eaten his life savings of \$14,900 — all in bills. The 55-year-old worker had packed the money into a space over his door and hadn't peeked at the hoard since December. When he took a look five months later, all that remained were small bits of what once was 745 \$20 bills, only three of which were patchable.

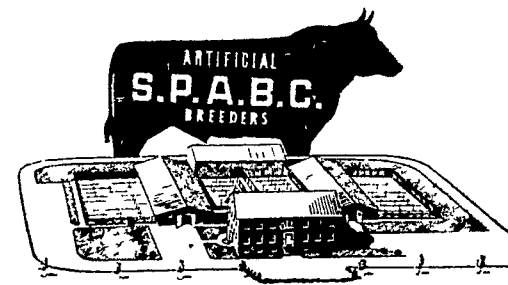
Capitol Washed and Painted for Ceremony

Preparatory to inauguration ceremonies the latter part of January, the Capitol has been washed and painted. Congress appropriated \$215,000 for the stand and seats began in September necessary countermeasures to the tember

Capitol and its grounds for the second inauguration of President Eisenhower.

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