

LIFE



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JUNE 6, 1960

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

MARGARET'S WEDDING

Sirs:

Thank you for giving me a "royal" seat in Westminster Abbey for Princess Margaret's wedding ("A Nation Is Happy with Its Darling," LIFE, May 16). The photographs were truly enchanting. You have certainly brought to the American public all the pageantry and glamor that millions of Britons took part in. I especially enjoyed the charming cover in which the true majestic splendor only a royal wedding can produce was shown.

ROBERT VICTOR SCHWALBE

Queens, N.Y.

Sirs:

I found the statement: "Princess Margaret had elected to marry a commoner, the first such choice by British royalty in 450 years" somewhat puzzling.

In 1785 the Prince of Wales married the twice-widowed Roman Catholic Mrs. Fitzherbert at her house in Park Street, London. Because of the pressure of his debts and for reasons of state, the prince later denied he had given both his heart and hand to the lovely lady, whose miniature he wore in a locket until his death.

And of course, Edward VIII, the present Duke of Windsor, elected to marry commoner Mrs. Simpson at considerable sacrifice.

GEORGE LEWIS PHILLIPS

San Diego, Calif.



FUTURE GEORGE IV AND WIFE

● LIFE passed over George IV's marriage since it was not officially recognized, but should have taken note of Edward VIII who was and is a member of the royal family, though he had abdicated at the time of his marriage. Margaret is the first royal princess to marry a commoner since Cecilia, daughter of Edward IV, married Thomas Kymbe 450 years ago.—ED.

Sirs:

Princess Margaret's own father married a commoner, the Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

MRS. H. J. LANGEN

Tucson, Ariz.

● In England, the nobility consists of barons, viscounts, earls, marquesses and dukes. But the child of

presentation of how and why we have been subjected to the recent trend gives rise to the hope that very soon we will have the long-awaited revival in popular music.

I respectfully suggest that, if Dick Clark wishes to continue the discordant din he is largely responsible for, he start his own TV station, preferably in upper Siberia.

J. M. NAPOLITAN

New York, N.Y.

Sirs:

Three cheers for a corking job of reporting.

IZZY GOODMAN

Louisville, Ky.

Sirs:

What are the people of the U.S. doing to each other? There are 16 million people happy watching *The American Bandstand*, so a few men on the Harris Committee get all het up about it and charge Dick Clark with payola.

Dick doesn't make people buy records just by playing them 27 times as he was accused of doing with the record *16 Candles*. I think it is a beautiful song and love to hear it but that doesn't make Dick Clark a criminal, does it? The Harris Committee should know by now that we Americans do have minds of our own.

MRS. M. G. GARDNER

Waynesboro, Pa.

Sirs:

It warms the cockles of my somewhat cynical heart to read the lovely, sincere tributes to Dick Clark by various young so-called singers.

It must be easy to bestow plaudits upon the man who made you what you are and who has a stranglehold on the business in which you would like to remain. And Bobby Darin should certainly be singled out for his remark, "This man Clark is a man." The profundity of this statement staggers me.

But since it sounds like the lyrics of all popular music rolled into one sentence, what else could be expected?

RUSSELL D. MARTZ

Lancaster, Pa.

Sirs:

Peter Bunzel's statement that only one Bing Crosby record was played on Clark's program in 27 months revealed not only prejudice, but ignorance, for it is common knowledge that Mr. Crosby is currently and has for several years been as dead as malaria in Alaska. Rock 'n' roll is undoubtedly the most maligned musical fad of all time. While much of it is

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**LETTERS
 TO THE EDITORS**

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poor and deserves all the criticism it receives, one must remember that no music is all bad. To say rock 'n' roll is bad is the same as to say that all teen-agers are delinquents.

JOHNNY ANDREWS
 Carlsbad, N. Mex.

Sirs:

I think Dick Clark is one of the sincerest people on TV. How many teen-agers did these investigators keep off the street on a weekday afternoon or a Saturday night? In my opinion the truest benefit Dick gets out of records is the enjoyment the kids at home and on the show get.

MARIETTA SISCA
 Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLOSE-UP

Sirs:

The art world is most fortunate to have such a patron as Mr. G. David Thompson ("A Millionaire Amid His Moderns," LIFE, May 16). He has expressed in a few simple statements a comprehension of art that would take most critics five thousand words.

R. HANRAHAN
 Spokane, Wash.

Sirs:

Many thanks to LIFE for revealing to us the identity of our down-the-road neighbor, Mr. G. David Thompson. We have long admired the statues in his garden but had no idea of the additional treasures that were inside the house.

The refusal of Pittsburgh officials to accept Mr. Thompson's offer is a sad commentary on the cultural life of this city. It is about time that Pittsburghers took an interest in something other than the Pirates.

HARRY KRAUS
 Pittsburgh, Pa.

GERMANS IN ARMS

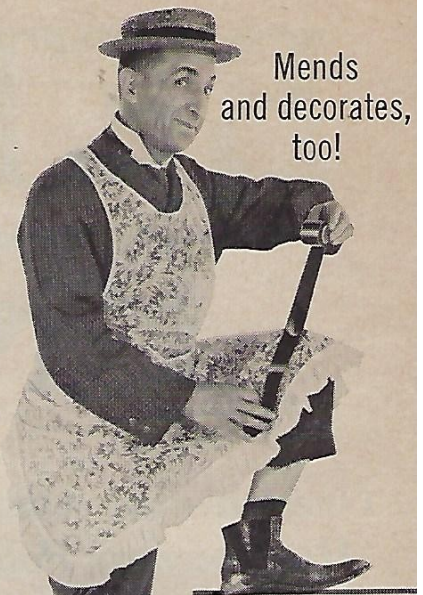
Sirs:

Concerning the article, "Germans in Arms Again—on Our Side" (LIFE, May 16), I say more power to this great thorn in Khrushchev's side. Now is not the time for old worn-out prejudices, because nowhere else in the world can be found a more devoted anti-Communist fighting force.

TERRY G. JORDAN
 Dallas, Texas

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