

HORSE BITS

With Lola Wood



The other day in the hardware store I ran into Clarence Prescott. Naturally we talked about horses and then bells.

Mr. Prescott is an expert on horse bells and said the earliest ones date back at least two hundred years. In the beginning, they were used as a warning to other night travellers, like a modern horn, I suppose.

Each driver's bells had a distinctive tone so that they could recognize one another. If you have any of these, they are extremely valuable. They were made by blacksmiths and no two sets are alike.

They were attached to the harness of the sleigh in different ways. There were Martingale bells, back-pad bells, trace bells, belly band and cutter bells. These last were attached to the shaft. They were made of solid brass with a ridge of metal called a bavet to create the tone. The clapper is weighted and toned made of

hard steel.

The original bells came from Germany and Switzerland. England also made bells with a lighter tone than the former because they were made of a lighter metal.

If you think that you have some valuable bells, contact Upper Canada Village and they will have someone there who can help you.

If you wonder why you can never find me home in the evenings, it's because I'm back at school. I'm taking the course offered at Algonquin College to upgrade my teaching methods. It's an excellent course with top instructors.

If any of the horse clubs have news of their activities, would they please send them to me so that I can include them in my column.

Since young horse people are always growing, perhaps you would like to use my column as a clearing-house for your old togs?

Book Review

What every woman should know...

By Lynn King (author)

At this moment, someone you know may be contemplating a divorce. Last year, the divorce rate in Canada, reached an all time high of 59,000. This represents a disintegration of one marriage in three.

In a society where freedom of the individual is the ultimate idea, it's no wonder that people are opting out of relationships for reasons that just 50 years ago would have been ludicrous. "You're blocking my development" or "I've outgrown you" are now considered acceptable grounds for terminating what was to be a lifelong commitment.

Women especially are finding it increasingly difficult to live the domestic life, looking

after a home and the children. Said one former career woman "Sometimes when I'm scraping the egg and ketchup off the morning dishes, I think back to all the business luncheons that I used to have, and I can't believe that I'm the same person."

Women are now more educated than they were in the past, they earn a steady income, and they have the pill. Subsequently they are now demanding more out of marriage, and if they aren't satisfied, many choose to leave.

Getting out of a bad marriage however is usually an extremely traumatic experience. But according to Toronto lawyer Lynn King, much of the stress and anxiety can be greatly diminished, if one knows

what to expect. Author of the book, **What Every Woman Should Know About Marriage, Separation and Divorce**, King puts forth a comprehensive account of the legal implications to consider when a relationship such as marriage ends.

The book deals specifically with the major areas involved in all marriage breakdowns; divorce, custody, property division and support.

If a couple separates peacefully and in agreement concerning material assets, there is really no need to approach a lawyer. If however there is considerable contention over the division of assets, or if the couple decides to begin divorce proceedings, then of course a lawyer must be consulted.

In the allocation of material assets, the lawyer will draw up a separation agreement, whereby the husband and wife consent to certain rights and obligations after the marriage breakdown. The contract does not require the sanction of the court.

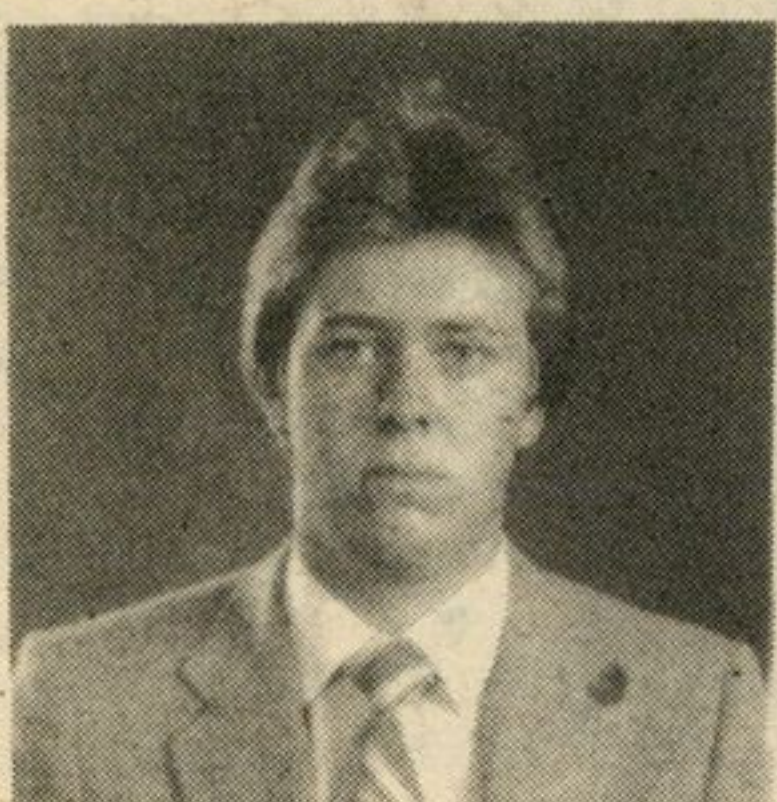

In order to obtain a divorce, one or more grounds established in the Divorce Act, must be proved. Matrimonial offences, include adultery, cruelty and homosexuality. Other grounds such as gross addition to alcohol or narcotics, and non-consumation, as well as the period of three to five years, are considered matrimonial breakdown.

Separation and divorce proceedings can often develop into an embittered and embittered battle when it comes time to decide the fate of the children. Contrary to past procedure, women no longer have preferred right or obligation to custody of the children. The court will make the ultimate decision on what is best for the child in question.

In terms of the property rights, the author stresses that it is foolhardy for the woman to assume that she and her husband share everything equally. Miss King suggests that women often do not get their fair share of material and financial assets at the end of the marriage, because they have been taught that "it is not nice or romantic to consider financial questions in the context of marriage."

In the past, there was the very real danger that the person who had signed the pertinent papers, in most cases the husband, would reap the profits in the sale of the matrimonial home. Present legislation is much more just. The wife can usually count on getting a substantial share of the proceeds because the home is considered a family asset. The author concludes with an overall condemnation of the way the current court procedures are handled. Miss King however, agrees with the views of several advisory groups who feel it would best serve the individuals concerned to establish a no-fault divorce. In other words, when a couple feels that the relationship is over, that realization alone should be sufficient reason to terminate it. To subject people to emotionally and financially draining hours trying to establish why their union did not succeed, more than often dissipates any civility, love, or respect that is left between the couple concerned.

Julie Van Dusen





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