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Of Interest to Women

GOOD TASTE TODAY

When to Say "Mrs.," "Miss," and "Mister" is Often Puzzling in This Day of the Wholesale Use of First Names. But the Definite Rules Exacted by Good Taste are Given Here.

(By Emily Post)

or else that she is quite frankly rat- ners had changed for the better. ing you as one outside of her own

all younger (and even many older) other than endearingly. people of social prominence, it is no But this one exception in no way

Perhaps our manners are no more erratic than those of other people, but the extremes to which we go seem fantastic. When Charles Dickens wrote his "American Notes," he especially ridiculed the American wife who not only spoke about her husband as "Mister' but who never

as he did. And we also find absurd The woman in Dickens' 'American A very poor impression of a firm's this present week. young girl of eighteen, at which age and 'Mary' is at the third corner.

as "Miss" or "Mister" before strang- stranger, he says "my wife." To em-

but in the modern trend toward om- her own first name is unthinkable.

lission of titles almost entirely by take it for granted that his apparent The so-called "name of safety" used those whose right to them is most lack of respect is a short-coming of by every well-bred man or woman or assured, there is an ironical reversal, his own. child, when speaking to a stranger. This same familiarity in the use of about any member of his family, is first names, which the smart world against teaching children to call any-'my wife" or "my husband" or "my would seem to be adopting, is the out one Aunt, Uncle or Cousin when no daughter" or 'my mother"—or if ne-standing hall-mark by which those at such relationship exists. Therefore, in cessary "my sister Alice" or "my son the other end of the social scale are many cases , really intimate friends No matter to whom these descrip- many men and women who work pre- do not like the formality of Mr. and tive names are said, they can't be fer jobs in factories or stores to those Mrs., and yet do not want to be callwrong. On the other hand, should of domestic employ is that the latter ed by their first names, are given it Ald. Maxwell praised W. G. Clark, Mrs. Stranger when talking to you, carries the opprobrium of being ad-nicknames which either they themspeaks of her husband as "Mister," dressed by first names. One rather selves or the children make up. this would mean either that her own wonders whether Mr. Dickens, were

As in almost every general precept social group. Which may, of course, there can be found exceptions which lege ages, first names should indicate Ray T. Forbes. Ald. Doohan moved mean merely that your meeting is a seemingly break its rules and yet ac-The only occasion when a lady there comes to mind a gentlewoman implied among those beyond college was seconded by Ald. Mundle. tually break none. At this moment speaks of her husband as "Mister" to of serene loveliness—the wife of a years increase in proportion to age. one whom she has met socially is world-famous man-and to every one when this person presumes to call him who knows her she is "Mary;" someby his first name and she objects. times "John's Mary." But her first has no definite answer except the old-including His Worship Mayor Kitchen This was a situation that was never name has been a symbol in a way, of met with until the last few years in the loveliness which is hers. One can "Father Jones." Among the moderns, men W Raymond Crowdson and B met with until the last few years in the loveliness which is hers. One can any society that could have been call not imagine her as being called by ed "good." But with the present any other name than "Mary," nor wholesale discarding of last names by could one imagine it pronounced

times at a loss to guess who's who, who seemingly thinks that being hail- called "Mrs." until a grandchild's nick and what they themselves may or ed as "Darling Kitten" by a whole name gradually becomes hers. Many of the bridge was conducted in an types of eyes that science is develop proof of her own youth and popular- first names, as are nearly as stepthat behind her back "Darling Kitten" is probably spoken of-if at all -as "Poor old cat."

Today, we find this just as absurd of prudery, and no reserve at all. of the office as a whole.

she became a debutante, be called But to return to the opening para- or even "J. B.," or hears him call her "Miss" by all her partners and even graph of this article. As already said, "Marjorie." Not only should she adby her most devoted beaux whom she a lady says 'My husband' when speak- dress him as 'Mr. Smith' but when ence to the bridge's reconstruction in turn called "Mister," not only until ing to an acquaintance. But to a answering she should add "sir" to that had not previously been brough she knew them better, but for life! friend or the friend of a friend, she yes or no, because this observance is to his attention. In a very short time Only the one to whom she became en- speaks of him as 'John.' Yet this one of the requirements of propriety he had made arrangements to aug gaged called her "Mary" and was in does not give anyone else the privil- in business relations. And it is no ment our delegation by the addition First names were "bad form" to wise told to do so. In the same way, manager's office and say "Did you such a degree that even those who Mr. Worldly speaks of "Edith" to ring, Bill?" than it is for the manager had been playmates in childhood, friends, of course, and also to every to sit in his shirt sleeves at a dirand called each other by first names woman whom they both know social. ector's meeting. when at home or among others of ly. But to a man not an intimate their own group, spoke to each other friend and to a woman who is a

Until the last few years no well prought up child would have thought REPORT OF CIVIC of calling the friends of his parents by their first names. But today this DELEGATION'S TRIP practice (like that of the hostess who erves herself first) is all to often accepted, by those who are either flacking in sensibility or who are afraid to criticize because they might be thought not modern.

The rule which every child must be taught is that he may never call a grown person by his or her first name—unless told to do so by the grown person. Even so, this is sometimes not fair to the child since it prejudices strangers who are apt to

There is a prejudice of good taste handicapped. The sole reason why so who are devoted to the children and

young men and young women of col-The question of what a bride is to lows: call her parents-in-law is one that choices of names is purely personal. wonder that strangers are some approaches the middle-aged woman mother is known. Or perhaps she is course, upon their own choice.

In business, the strict observance of convention is necessarily of greater importance than in the social world It is obvious that the real standards The impression made upon clients tention of the proper officials since gyroscope compass first used on ships called him anything but "Mr. Jones" of good taste belong somewhere be- or customers by the improper mantween reserved primness to the point ners of a clerk affects the standing their report, he expected, would be in blind flights.

the custom, of not so long ago, which Notes' is at one corner of the tri- efficiency is given to a visitor, enterexacted that every well brought up angle. Kitten is at another corner, ing an executive's private office, who discussed our mission thoroughly with hears his secretary call him "Jim" ege of calling him John unless other more proper for a clerk to enter the

Edward Johnson, noted Canadian ployees or to clients, as well as to tenor of New York city and Guelph, And yet, absurd as this prim form his business acquaintances, he calls announces the engagement of his that there is something to be said in When speaking to strangers about son to Col. George A. Drew of Toronfavor of formality, even to the ex- other people, one says "Mrs," "Miss" to. Miss Johnson was born in Flortreme of teaching little children, as or "Mr.," as the case may be. It is ence, Italy, and was educated in Italy part of their training in deportment, very bad form to go about saying Switzerland, France and Germany to prefix each other's names with "Edith Worldly" or "Ethel Eminent" She also attended Bishop Strachan 'Miss' or 'Mister' on the formal occa- to those who do not call them Edith School, Toronto, and the Bennett sions of dancing class or a party. and Ethel. And to speak thus famil- School, Millbrook, New York. The Changes in custom are often erratic larly to one whom you do not call by marriage will take place early in Sep-

RE C.N.R. BRIDGE

Ald. Warren Maxwell giving every attention to the project. Bridge.

cil presented a report of the civic delalready been put up. In presenting M.P. for York-Sunbury who worked energetically and untiringly on behalf of the delegation and its pur The use of first names is proper, social background is very provincial he alive today, would think our man. of course, between schoolboys and course, between schoolboys are course, between schoolboys and course, between schoolboys are course, between schoolgirls of all ages. But between G. Willard Kitchen and Aldermen Maxwell, W. Raymond Crewdson and that they know each other fairly a resolution of approval for the good well; and the degree of friendship work done by the committee, which

Ald. Maxwell's report was as fol-

"The City of Fredericton delegation "Father Jones." Among the moderns, men W. Raymond Crewdson and R. T. Forbes, conferred with S. J. Hun-Most often the father-in-law is called gerford, President of the Canadian "Mr.' but mother-in-law is given a National Railway regarding the Fredname which means mother, but is not ericton-Devon Railway bridge in his the name by which the bride's own office at Montreal Saturday, May 30th at 10.30 A.M.

Discussion regarding the rebuilding roomful of boys and girls, young ultra modern mothers- and fathers-in- open informal manner. Mr. Hunger ing to look 10,000 feet underground in enough to be her grandchildren, is law are choosing to be called by their ford assured us that the project was the search for oil were displayed here being considered from every angle, yesterday at the International Petro ity! If she had a grain of common parents of half, or quite grown sons with a view to the present as well as leum exposition. sense, she would know very well and daughters—depending again, of future requirements. Preliminary to Two of them are "candid camera" determination of the type of structure of the depths of the earth, not much came consideration of the various larger around than a human eye The economic factors prevailing. This lat- third is a camera that carries a gyro ter phase had been receiving the at- scope, patterned after the "iron mike handed to the Board of Directors

In Ottawa, Monday, June 1st, we our Federal representative, Mr. W. G. him certain developments with refer

Honourable C. D. Howe, Minister of vertical Railways, for that same afternoon.

assured us that his department was camera carries a needle that, like the Presented Complete It was pointed out that while soundings had been made on previous oc-Report of Council Dele- casions, the river bed at Fredericton gation's Successful Ef- undergoes certain changes every year. aggravated naturally by freshet conforts on Behalf of Re- ditions such as we recently suffered. building C. N. R. The type of bridge which he assured us would be amply heavy and in ac cord with modern engineering principles and designed with a view to Ald. Warren J. Maxwell at last our present as well as our future night's June meeting of the city counneeds was being gone into by their engineering departments as was the t secured absolute assurance that the and crossings both here and in Dev N.R. bridge would be rebuilt this on. The economic aspect discussed

year, and that the money for it had by President Hungerford was also touched upon by Mr. Howe as was the possibility of utilizing the new bridge pier which was constructed a few years ago at a cost of some \$85,-000.00.

Howe advised us that the money was lready available for the bridge's reconstruction. In response to another enquiry he advised us that he expected actual construction would be started this summer and on being pressed he told us definitely that the work would start this year.'

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is really good.

of Honourable J. E. Michaud, Minister bob against the background of a scale of Fisheries, and Mr. W. M. Ryan, The camera photographs this bob. Its member from Saint John, and him position on the scale shows how far self, had arranged the conference with the hole is drifting away from the

The camera also photographs a Mr. Howe discussed the matter compass showing the direction of with us at considerable length and drift. The "iron mike" or gyroscope aviator's gyro pilot, never makes a

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