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San Jose Mercury May 19, 1957 pg. 11

OPEN SATURDAY 'TIL NOON

GOLDEN YEARS

By THOMAS COLLINS

Here, from a lady, is a loving message for men of retirement age. It's from a lady who married a man for better or worse, and found after 66 that he was worse than even the minister could have expected.

The lady lives, appropriately, in our incubator of freedom, Washington, D.C.

"It has been suggested by you," she says, "that an unretired wife might straighten out her retired husband by going away somewhere for a three-week visit. Then he'd appreciate her."

"If I went away for three weeks my husband would simply eat whatever was in the house, and when it was gone he would go over to our daughter's house and eat there. When she couldn't stand him any longer he would go to a restaurant."

"Meanwhile, at home, the bills would pile up with the dust. He would spend all the money he had for food and would leave all the work for me to do when I got back."

"I know, because I left once for three weeks. He slept in all the beds until they were in such a heap he could no longer sleep without making them. So he just started sleeping on the couch, leaving the dishes for me to take care of when I got back ..."

According to the Washington lady her husband had been retired for a year and a half at this point. And his pride wasn't hurt by it all, she says, because "he doesn't have any pride."

"I am tired of 'nursing' this man of mine. I am tired, period. Tired of working while he just sits. Tired of working 10 times harder than I did when he went off to a job."

"As for reaching an agreement on how the two of us will retire together, he won't even discuss it. He says he isn't supposed to do anything any more, and that a woman can't retire."

I have thought of getting a job myself. We need the money, but mostly it would be an escape from this work-prison that used to be a happy home for me. But suppose I got a job. Would I come home to a clean house, to well-cooked meals, to a pleasant atmosphere where I could sit down and read the papers and watch

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