

MARRIAGE-

You may quote me...

What are the secrets of a successful marriage? Romantics, cynics and wits, wise and foolish, have written unendingly about it and the topic continues to fascinate. Here are comments from personalities of today as well as out of the past



DAWN LAKE and Bobby Limb have been married for 24 years, and their rifts and reunions have been widely publicised. "In a way," says Dawn, "I don't regret them. Marriage is such a long contract, so difficult to carry out."

contract, so difficult to carry out. You've got to keep on falling in love over and again.

"We had the opportunity to separate without bitterness and to come together again — that gives you a whole new understanding.

"For a good marriage I think a sense of humour is essential, and plenty of tolerance and forgiveness.

"Throw yesterday over your shoulder and concentrate on today. And try loving one another — it works."

THE AUSTRALIAN



LADY FAIRFAX, wife of publisher Sir Warwick (they have been married 18 years):

"Marriage is a public confession of a strictly private temptation. And being married to Warwick Fairfax, one of Australia's greatest journalists, is a sort of super-tertiary education. He is tremendously hardworking, gentle and funny and a positive encyclopaedia. He loves everything Australian and rarely leaves Australia."

MARRIAGE is a job. Happiness or unhappiness has nothing to do with it. There was never a marriage that could not be made a success, nor a marriage that could not have ended in bitterness and failure.

... INTO CHAINS OF RICHNESS AND failure.

— Kathleen Norris

HAPPINESS is being married to your best friend.

— Barbara Weeks

MARRIAGE is not a destination — it is a journey.

— Paul Popenoe

ALL that a husband or wife really wants is to be pitied a little, praised a little, appreciated a little.

— Oliver Goldsmith

THIS is the cream of marriage, this nightly turning out and sharing of the day's pocketful of memories.

— Jan Struther

THE SECRET of happy marriage is simple: Just keep on being as polite to one another as you are to your best friends.

— R. Quillen



DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS Jr., veteran actor: "Thirty-seven years married with three children and eight grandchildren, I guess I should be able to testify that marriage can make you very happy.

"It has to have something, doesn't it, when throughout history, from the most primitive societies to the most civilized communities, people have instinctively turned to it.

"Kids these days are inclined to be impatient of it and I can understand their impatience with the traditional ties that bind. There's no doubt it's a little out of fashion right now, but rest assured it will make a comeback.

"It always has."

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

MARRIAGE-You may quote me,

FROM PAGE 19



JILL PERRYMAN, actress and singer wife of choreographer, producer and actor Kevan Johnston:

"In marriage it is almost more important to like than to love each other."

MARRIED LIFE teaches one invaluable lesson: to think of things far enough ahead not to say them.

— Jefferson MacHamer

THERE'S LITTLE doubt that lots of girls would make better wives if they weren't trying to make better husbands.

— Peter Sharwood

— Peter Sharwood

MARRIAGE must be a relation either of sympathy or of conquest.

— George Eliot

GOD HELP the man who won't marry until he finds a perfect woman, and God help him still more if he finds her.

— Ben Tillet

MARRIAGE is an edifice that must be rebuilt every day.

— Andre Maurois

AFTER MANY years of marriage, the intimacy between a couple is so close that each guesses what the other is thinking and will say. In fact, a happy husband journeys in his

wife's thoughts in the same way that he traverses his garden slowly each evening after dinner. He awaits the same sentence at the same place, knowing that at such and such a bend of the lane he will see blossoming red roses. The roses are always of the same red and the words of the sentence full of the same harmony.

— Andre Maurois

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE for a woman to be married to the same man for 50 years. After the first 25 years, he's not the same man.

— Jim Garis

IT IS NOT lack of love but lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

IF people can be divorced for "incompatibility" I cannot conceive why all are not divorced. I have known many

HE THAT MARRIES for money earns it.

Dutch Proverb



ROSS CAMPBELL, journalist, who has been married to Ruth for 30 years (they have three daughters and a son):

"There was a recruiting poster in World War II that showed a soldier writing home and saying, 'Dear Mum, I wouldn't have missed it for worlds'. That is what I think about marriage — but I admit I was lucky."

happy marriages, but never a compatible one. The whole aim of marriage is to fight through and survive the instant when incompatibility becomes unquestionable.

— G. K. Chesterton



PETER USTINOV, writer, director, actor:

"Marriage is like a three-speed gearbox: affection, friendship, love. It is not advisable to crash your gears and go right through to love straight away. You need to ease your way through. The basis of love is respect, and that needs to be learned from

basis of love is respect, and that needs to be learned from affection and friendship."

IF PEOPLE made only prudent marriages what a stop to population there would be.

— William Makepeace Thackeray

ONE OF THE BEST things about marriage is that it gets young people to bed at a decent time.

— M. M. Musselman

THE MAN AND WOMAN who can laugh at their love, who can kiss with smiles and embrace with chuckles, will outlast in mutual affection all

the throat-lumpy, cow-eyed couples of their acquaintance. Nothing lives on so fresh and evergreen as the love with a funnybone.

— George Jean Nathan

THE GREAT secret of successful marriage is to treat all disasters as incidents and none of the incidents as disasters.

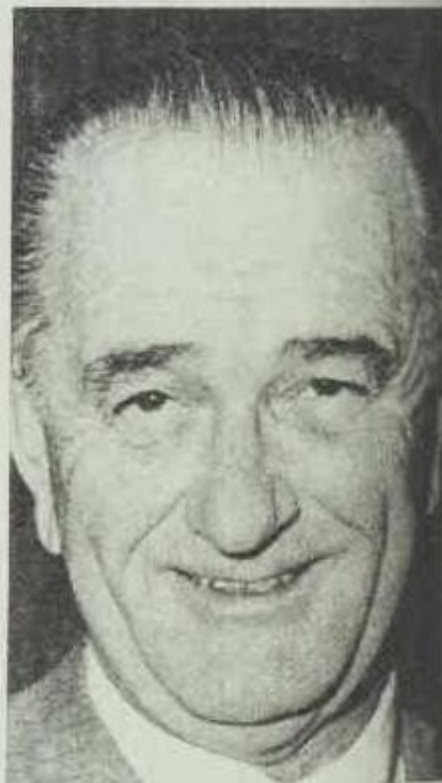
— Harold Nicolson

MARRIAGE is a romance in which the hero dies in the first chapter.

— H. L. Mencken

MARRIAGE is popular because it combines the maximum of temptation with the maximum of opportunity.

— George Bernard Shaw



The late LYNDON B. JOHNSON, former President of the United States:

"I have learned that only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. First, let her think she is having her way. Second, let her have it."

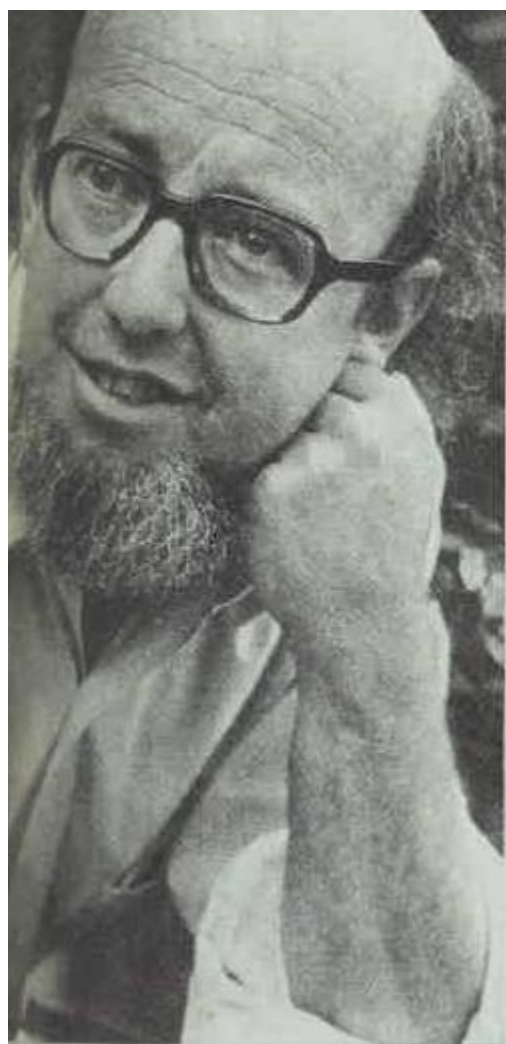
A HAPPY marriage is a long conversation that always seems too short.

— Andre Maurois

THE ONLY real argument for marriage is that it remains the best method for getting acquainted.

— Heywood Broun





THOMAS KENNEALLY, novelist, happily married to Judy since 1965:

"God, I don't know anything about marriage! But I think no two marriages are the same animal so they shouldn't be compared. Some work fairly well on a basis of continual argument, others on mutual insults which would destroy any other partnership, others on indifference, others — the type I like — on a basis of peace.

"Many many others just limp along. It's sinister, terrifying to see the indifference that seems to bind people together.

"I think one of marriage's

seems to bind people together.

"I think one of marriage's great values is like writing a novel — it's one of the best ways to obtain a true knowledge of your limitations and strengths as a human."

IT IS CUSTOMARY for the happy pair celebrating their anniversary to let it be understood that for 25 years "we never had a cross word." I am not going to be guilty of any such nonsense. We have had frightful rows. We are quite capable of having a frightful row tomorrow. To me, the conception of two people

living together for 25 years without having a cross word suggests a lack of spirit only to be admired in sheep. Where there is spirit there must be sparks.

— A. P. Herbert

MATRIMONY is the high sea for which no compass has been invented.

— George Moore

A NEW MARRIAGE, like a new house, usually suffers a few cracks before settling firm on its foundation.

— Marcelene Cox

MARRIAGE is three parts love and seven parts forgiveness of sins.

— Langdon Mitchell



DAVID WILLIAMSON:
playwright:

"I can't imagine life without a wife and family. It would be pretty lonely."

IF MEN behaved after marriage as they do during their engagements, there wouldn't be half as many divorces — but there would be twice as many bankruptcies.

— Penelope Field

MARRIAGE resembles a pair of shears so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them.

— Sidney Smith



PRUE ACTON, the Melbourne fashion designer, who is married to Mike Treloar, designer of men's fashions:

"Marriage gives time to be yourself."

A MARRIED WOMAN who likes her husband is much more attractive to men than the one who doesn't. The reason is obvious. It's much easier to like a woman who confidently expects the best of you than one who has been soured by unpleasant experiences. And the married woman who instinctively likes men because she likes her husband not only makes friends for herself but performs the interesting miracle of making all her men friends like each other. Socially she is humanity's highest achievement.

Chester T. Crowell

A WIFE can tell her friends all of her mate's faults and still

of her mate's faults and still feel loyal, but no man can do it.

— Chaim Weiss

LEYCESTER FERRIS-SCOTT, a Sydney businessman of 88 who was married for 56 years:

"Among men of genius or literary fame who had unfortunate marriages are: Aristotle, Lord Bacon, Boccaccio, Byron, Dickens, Garrick, Dr Johnson, Ben Johnson, Milton (first wife), Moliere, Shakespeare and Socrates. So I was lucky!"

IT TAKES two to make marriage a success and only one a failure. — Lord Samuel

SOMETHING ELSE every couple should save for their old age is their marriage.

— Imogene Fey

OFTEN the difference between a successful marriage and a mediocre one consists of leaving about three or four things a day unsaid.

— Harlan Miller



JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN, Premier of Queensland (he and his wife Florence have been married for nearly 25 years and have four children and a granddaughter):

"A good wife is above rubies."

WHEN I was young I resolved not to get married until I met the ideal woman. Some years later I found her — but she was looking for the ideal man.

— Michael Simon