

Landers marks 30th year

Dear Readers: Today is my 30th anniversary as Ann Landers. I have written seven columns a week, 365 days a year, since Oct. 16, 1955. This adds up to 10,950 columns. Never has there appeared in this space a notice saying, "Ann Landers is on vacation."

It was my dear friend, Will Munnecke, then vice president and general manager of the Sun-Times, who suggested that I go see Larry Fanning about entering the Ann Landers contest. I was green as grass, never had held a job before, never written a line for publication and in fact, had never been inside a newspaper building.

My daughter, Margo, was 15, a freshman at Francis Parker. I desperately needed an outlet for my time and energy. I wanted to be in a helping profession but had neither the training nor the experience.

Larry was underwhelmed by my credentials. (I was a wife and mother and enjoyed writing letters to relatives.) I confessed I didn't need the money but if they wanted to pay me it was OK.

Neither Fanning nor Munnecke was optimistic about my chances of winning the contest. In fact, I suspect they were appalled at my chutzpah. But they cheered me on and wished me luck. Miracle of miracles, I won. ("Good morning, Ann Landers!")

Larry Fanning was my mentor. He taught me how to write. He also edited every word I wrote for 10 years — every column, every booklet, every book, every magazine article, every speech. I couldn't pay him a dime. He wouldn't accept it. "It's part of my job," he said. We both knew it wasn't.

Months before Larry moved to

Anchorage, Alaska, he told me, "If I get hit by a bread truck, Trez is your man." And so he was. Dick Trezevant, another Fanning protégé, became my editor. For 14 years this brilliant, tough but tender guy kept the Landers copy on course. When Trez left I was lucky. again. Ralph Otwell, the executive editor of the Sun-Times, took over. A few years later, when the paper was sold, Ralph left. He suggested Virginia Van Vynckt, chief of the features copy desk. I'd never met her. She turned out to be a gem.

I could never have made it without my devoted and competent staff. They keep my office running smooth as silk, handle the phones that never stop ringing, arrange my travel schedule and speaking dates, and save me from myself at least a dozen times a week.

My column is sold all over the world by New America Syndicate. Rick Newcombe, the chief, is the brightest and most energetic man in the business. As you can see, the success of the Landers column goes far beyond what limited talent I may possess. I have had ever

break in the book.

I could not let this day pass without a word of thanks to my dozens of consultants all over the country who give so generously of their time and counsel. For the price of this paper my readers have access to the most distinguished physicians, dentists, psychiatrists, lawyers, geneticists, business executives, judges, clergy — experts in every field.

These last 30 years have been incredibly rewarding. I cannot imagine a job that could have provided me with more satisfaction or a better opportunity to touch the lives of so many people.

I wish to thank you, my 85 million readers, for your loyalty. You've stood by me in my time of trouble and rejoiced in my triumphs. I consider you my friends.

I have no plans to retire. I intend to crank out this column as long as you find me useful and the good Lord gives me the strength to do it. On this special day, I send love and thanks to each and every one of you.



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coming events

BINGO: Branch 111 of the Senior Citizens Association will hold a bingo at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at the Bingo Palace. For more information phone 962-9834.

MEETING: The B.C. Progressive Conservative Association and the Prince George North and South riding associations will hold a general meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Inn of the North. For more

information phone Bill Brooks at 962-8082 or Mike Laurer at 563-7079.

BOOK SALE: The Prince George Public Library will hold a sale of used books from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the library. Hardcover and paperback books for children and adults available. For more information phone 563-9251.

LECTURE: The Prince George Parapsychology Association presents a lecture by Leonard Thornton, Ph. D. entitled Mind, Thought, Belief: How We Create Our Own Reality at 8 p.m. Oct. 24 at Studio

2880. Admission is \$5. A workshop entitled Self Awareness and Self Healing Through Sound and Color will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 27 in the Log Cabin at the College of New Caledonia. For more information and registration phone 562-4522.

HEARING IMPAIRED: Prince George Society for Hearing Impaired and School District 57 sponsor a meeting with speaker Dr. Mark Greenberg on the topic of emotional development of hearing impaired students from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Oct. 25 in room 2-243 of the College of New Caledonia.

clinics

Public health nurses from the Northern Interior Health Unit will conduct a child health clinic Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Vanway School. For more information about these clinics or the dates of those in your area phone 565-7311.

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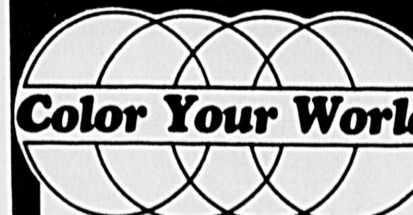
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