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Request puts son in difficult position with siblings

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I trust your opinion and hope you can help me. My parents divorced 17 years ago, and my father has since remarried.

ANN LANDERS

My two older sisters have their own families. Neither of them is close to my mother, and they haven't seen her in years. They also will not allow Mom to see the grandchildren.

There was no specific incident to create this animosity. They just don't get along.

I am 35, am a single male and have maintained a close relationship with my mother, even though we live in different cities.

I try to get along with everyone in my family but endure constant criticism for "taking sides." Believe me, I long ago gave up trying to reconcile my mother and sisters. They despise each other, and there is nothing I can do about it.

The problem now is that Mother does not want me to inform her ex-husband or her two daughters in the event of her death.

Her physical condition has deteriorated due to numerous medical problems. Mother has advised me that I am the sole heir to her estate, so according to her, there is no need to notify the rest of the family when she dies. I realize this is Mom's decision, but it places a tremendous burden on me, and I do not know if I can respect her final wishes.

I cannot seek the advice of anyone else in my family, so please tell me what I should do. — Concerned Son in Florida

Dear Concerned Son: It is grossly unfair of your mother to put you in such a difficult position.

My advice is to avoid this subject, and if your mother brings it up, just listen and let her do all the talking. Don't make any promises.

When the time comes, let your conscience be your guide.

You sound like a thoroughly decent fellow, and I'm confident that you will make the right decision.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Do you believe in miracles? I didn't, but I certainly do now.

Here's what happened:

The phone rings. It's the operator. "Ma'am," she says, "there is a party trying to reach you, but he does not have the correct telephone number. He says it's urgent and would like you to call him back."

Since my close friends and family members have my number, I was very curious as to who this might be.

I called the number, and a very deep, resonant voice came across the line. "Hello? Hello?" he said. I blurted out, "I was given your number by the operator. To whom am I speaking?"

That deep, resonant voice belonged to an old boyfriend of mine from 40 years ago. He was flipping through the radio dials and came upon a station just as they were announcing the winner of the daily call-in contest. As luck would have it, I was the winner that very morning, and the station was mentioning my name and the town I lived in. My long-ago friend just happened to be tuned in.

He could not believe his ears. He said he had been trying to locate me for many years, and suddenly, he learned of my whereabouts on a radio program. Here it is, 40 years later, and we found one another.

Well, we are together now, getting to know each other all over again, and it's wonderful.

He was "Sleepless in New York" while I was "Awake in New Jersey," and it's the gospel truth, folks.

As my grandmother used to say, "It's better to be lucky than smart." Just sign me. — L.W. in Palisades Park, N.J.

Dear L.W. in N.J.: It sounds to me as if you are both.

You must be in your 60s now. What a beautiful love story. I hope you two have many happy, healthy years together.

ANN LANDERS
Creators Syndicate, Suite 700
5777 W. Century Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

ANTIQUES

Titanic message to be sold

"We have struck an iceberg."

Chilling in its simplicity, the hastily transcribed telegraph message was sent by the captain of the **Titanic** just hours before the luxury liner sank in the north Atlantic more than 85 years ago.

JIM DEAN

It's one of 52 messages set to go on the block Tuesday at **Christie's** auction house in New York.

The messages, previously auctioned in Britain in 1992, are valued by Christie's at between $6,700 and $9,300. A spokeswoman for the auction house said the estimates were not influenced by the hit movie or popular Broadway musical.

"These kinds of things, especially having to do with the Titanic, have always been popular," said Christie's spokeswoman **Lauren Rosenblum.**

One of the messages up for auction was sent by Capt. **Edward J. Smith** minutes before the collision, thanking another ship for a routine ice report.

"Had fine weather since leaving," he added.

SITTING PRETTY: Movie memorabilia collector **Robert Noe** is finally sitting pretty.

Twenty-three years ago, Noe was the high bidder at a KCET public television auction in Los Angeles for a leather and wood chair supposedly used as a prop in the 1942 movie *Casablanca.*

After learning it was a fake, Noe sued claiming the chair was wrongly advertised by Warner Bros. Pictures. The company settled out of court, but Noe said no to a financial reward. He wanted the authentic chair that he thought he had bought in 1975 for $350.

Warner Bros. agreed recently to swap his fake chair for a mahogany chair from *Casablanca* that he hand-picked from the Burbank studio vault.

The deal also allowed Noe and a group of friends to venture into the studio's museum, where they gathered around the original piano from the film and sang *As Time Goes By.*

POP MEMORABILIA: It must have been the red satin flower sewn on the back.

A pair of **Janis Joplin's** bell-bottom pants fetched more than $10,350 recently at a pop memorabilia sale at **Christie's** in New York that also included **Jimi Hendrix's** leather motorcycle jacket and a guitar of country music legend **Hank Williams.**

Hendrix's jacket sold for $13,800, and Williams' Southern Jumbo acoustic Gibson guitar went for $112,500.

Jim Morrison's handwritten and typed working lyrics for the poem *The Celebration of the Lizard* sold for $40,250, and a page of typed and annotated lyrics for **John Lennon's** *Whatever Gets You Through the Night* fetched $28,750.

The auction, which also included a snooker table used by the **Rolling Stones** on their 1994 Voodoo Lounge tour and a Grammy Award presented to **Fleetwood Mac** in 1977, brought in $560,540.

RARE GEMS: A sapphire-and-diamond brooch once owned by **Eva Peron** will go up for auction April 6 and 7 in New York at **Christie's** "Magnificent Jewels" sale.

Designed by **Van Cleef & Arpels,** the Argentine flag brooch has a platinum flagstaff set with seven baguette-cut diamonds. The flag itself is created with bands of invisibly set sapphires and diamonds.

The brooch, which Peron wore frequently during public appearances between 1949 and 1951, is expected to fetch from $80,000 to $120,000.

Jim Dean has been buying and selling antiques since 1957.

JIM DEAN
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Shari Lewis brings love of music to PBS series

John Kiesewetter
Gannett News Service

WHEN IT'S ON

• *Charlie Horse Music Pizza* airs at 11 a.m. weekdays on WKAR, Channel 23.

The *Charlie Horse Music Pizza* is a family-run business.

Entertainer Shari Lewis stars in the PBS children's show, set in a California beachfront pizza parlor with her long-time puppet family, Charlie Horse, Lamb Chop and Hush Puppy.

She's producing the daily half-hour series show with and daughter, Mallory Tarcher, with whom she shared a daytime Emmy in 1993 for *Lamb Chop's Play-Along*, and her husband, publisher Jeremy Tarcher.

And the inspiration for her music-education series is Lewis' late mother, Ann Ritz Hurwitz, who gave her the gift of music as a child. Her mother was one of six music coordinators for New York City schools.

"I feel as though I am continuing her life work, stimulating youngsters to make their own music," Lewis says.

"My mother always knew that music helped kids learn everything better – math and science too – because it gives them discipline.

"Recent research shows that the study of music causes additional connections to be made in the brain," she says. "So music is actually brain food you eat through the ears."

The 12-time Emmy winner also knows that kids' favorite food is pizza, which is why the musical series was set in a pizza parlor.

Helping Lewis and her puppets pals run the shop are a raccoon named Fingers; a young assistant manager (Wezley Morris); and a skateboarding orangutan named Take Out (musician and gymnast Chancz Perry).

Playing fun-loving "Cookie" the cook is veteran actor Dom DeLuise, who made his TV debut in 1960 with Lewis on *The Shari Show*. "We have been friends ever since," she says.

Charlie Horse gets top billing because he's "the hands-down favorite of boys," she says. "Lamb Chop had her own show, so this one is for Charlie Horse."

Lewis taped 20 episodes, which will repeat through spring. Another 20 shows will roll out in September, she says. She had produced 85 episodes of *Lamb Chop's Play-Along* (1992-'96).

"This is a much more complex show than Lamb Chop, which was a variety show. This show is a musical comedy every day," she says.

Each program includes several original songs.

"The real message of this show is that the best part of music is making it," she says.

"Kids have become consumers of music. They think it's something that you buy or listen to. I went the playing of music to be as important as the playing of sports."

Lewis, who is 64, began playing piano before her third birthday.

She acquired her ventriloquism and puppetry skills from her father, Abraham Hurwitz, a college professor who was also the "official magician of New York City." (The "knock-knock" jokes and physical humor of *Lamp Chop's Play-Along* were a tribute to him.)

At 11, she enrolled in New York's High School of Music and Art (the *Fame* school), where she studied classical music. She also danced at the School of American Ballet and studied acting with from her bio: (Kiese): Sandford Meisner of the Neighborhood Playhouse.

Lewis also has starred in many national and summer stock productions of *Funny Girl, Damn Yankees* and *Bye Bye Birdie.*

EVENING	6	6:30	7	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30
CBS (3) 3 WWMT	News 367	CBS Evening News ∩ (CC) 947	Wheel of Fortune (CC) 7657	Jeopardy! (CC) 831	Olympic Winter Games (Same-day Tape) (CC) 292164						News 5447270	Late Show ∩ 19627560 ▶
WLNS (6)	News 7305	News 8657	Entertain 3473	HardCpy 7541	Olympic Winter Games (Same-day Tape) (CC) 838980						News 7065928	Late 86510251
NBC (8) 8 WOOD	News 2473	NBC Nightly News (CC) 3725	Inside Edition (CC) 8541	Extra ∩ (CC) 9909	Friends [R] ∩ (CC) 4589	Seinfeld Jerry has designs on toys. [R] 3096	ER Pilot Dr. Ross suspects a woman is abusing her young son; Dr. Lewis must console a cancer patient. [R] ∩ (CC) 80725				News 7050096	Tonight Show ∩ 86545947 ▶
WILX (10)	News 7947	News 8299	Fortune 3015	J'pardy 7183	Friends 2763	Seinfeld 1270	ER Pilot [R] ∩ (CC) 35299				News 7751270	Tonight
WNDU (16)	News 8251	News 2831	HomeImp 8725	Seinfeld 8015	Friends 7473	Seinfeld 6980	ER Pilot [R] ∩ (CC) 77299				News 3802638	Tonight
ABC (41) 4 WOTV	News 909	ABC World News Tonight (CC) 589	American Journal (CC) 5299	Real TV ∩ (CC) 473	Prey ∩ (CC) 9725		Perfect Getaway ('98) Antonio Sabato Jr. Premiere. Criminals commandeer a helicopter pilot's aircraft. ∩ (CC) 2812				News 5445812	(11:35) Nightline 61463589 ▶
WZZM (13)	News 5541	News 6893	Entertain 5015	Mad-You 5305	Prey ∩ (CC) 74102		Perfect Getaway ('98) Antonio Sabato Jr. Premiere. ∩ 84589				News 3819928	Nightline
WSJV (28)	Simpsons ∩	Roseanne ∩	Frasier 73812	Grace 94893	World's Funniest! (CC) 60414		New York Undercover 29218		News 22305		Mad 81560	Cheers 97367
PBS 23 36 WKAR	European Journal 63909	Business Report 87589	Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC) 52522		Practical Sports 31812	Michigan 50947	This Old House 48831	Origins-Wolf 47763	Mystery! Cadfael Cadfael tries to clear Oswin's name after he confesses to a killing. [R] 42367			Michigan 42893
PBS 35 52 2 WGVU	Ask The Boating Expert 541	Business Report 893	Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC) 5909		Practical Sports 8251	This Old House 8386	Michigan Out-of-Doors 8980	Fly Fishing 10928	Trailside: Adventure 98218	Great Lakes 74638	Waiting for God 8025	Charlie Rose 69589 ▶
FOX 17 6 WXMI	Home Improve. 32015	Simpsons ∩ (CC) 23367	Home Improve. 91270	Seinfeld ∩ (CC) 12251	College Basketball Michigan State at Illinois. (Live) 30386				New York Undercover Mob Street ∩ (CC) 19893		Frasier ∩ (CC) 92638	M*A*S*H (CC) 22928
FOX 47 40 WSYM	Simpsons ∩ (CC) 7909	Mad About You ∩ 1589	Frasier ∩ (CC) 8693	Home Improve. 6283	World's Funniest! (Postponed from an earlier date) ∩ 69270		New York Undercover Mob Street ∩ (CC) 89034		News 59893		Real TV ∩ (CC) 32638	Keenen Ivory 85676 ▶
WTLJ 54 33	◆Praise the Lord 45893		Renaissance	Daugherty	TCT 51760	Lindsey 94367	Something Good 47676		Praise the Lord (Live) (CC) 175744 ▶			
WLLA 64 38	Dobie Gillis	Ozzie 78831	McCoys 53034	Amer. Times	Getting Together (Live) 69812		Life Anew	His Place	Hagee 27247	Life 16305	Barclay 58218	Crosstalk
ACCESS-VISION 11	Community Bulletin Board (Left in Progress) 17396		Catholic Mass 43218		High School Heroes 6589	Bulletin Board 5096	Kellogg House 13589	Special Appear. 72893	Meet the Mormons 42589		Community Bulletin Board 496928 ▶	
ACCESS-VISION 12	Bulletin Board 2015	United Way Today 3367	Community Bulletin Board 34560		Republican in Focus 7831	Community Bulletin Board 404947						Bulletin Board 495299 ▶
A&E 28	Northern Exposure Horns (CC) 382367		Law & Order Torrents of Greed (1 of 2) (CC) 125909		Biography: Frank Costello: Prime-Mob 134657		American Justice Hot Pursuit [R] 114893		Unexplained CIA Psychics 117980		Law & Order By Hooker, by Crook (CC) 558473	
AMC 67	(6:15) My Six Loves ('63) Debbie Reynolds. A Broadway actress is adopted by six abandoned children. (1:41) 57089034				Ride a Crooked Trail ('58) Audie Murphy. (1:27) 659676			Sun Valley Serenade ('41) Sonja Henie. (1:26) 882484			The Family Jewels ('65) Jerry Lewis. (1:40) 656980 ▶	
BET 24	◆Rap City 745928	227 (CC) 257893	Planet Groove: The Musical Messenger Artists who have helped mold black music throughout the decades. 130855				Hit List 428454		Comicview 421541		BET Tonight 730819	
CNBC 51	Edge 229270		Business Center 179541	Great Stuff 800909	Equal Time 195589	Hardball 174096	Rivera Live (Live Phone-In) 839314		News With Brian Williams (CC) 984083		Charles Grodin 495386	
CNN 25	Worldview (CC) 935473		Moneyline (CC) 696947	Crossfire (CC) 310015	World Today (CC) 787763		Larry King Live (Live Phone-In) (CC) 774299		World Today (CC) 777386		Sports Illus. 967201	Moneyline [R] (CC) 475676
CSPAN 52	◆House of Representatives (Live) (CC) 419725		House of Representatives (Live) (CC) 77718		Prime Time Public Affairs 144909						Prime Time Public Affairs [R] 168589 ▶	
DISCOVER 34	Wings Eagle Over Lebanon [R] 397299		Gimme Shelter 123541		Wild Discovery Fight of the Elephants [R] 149589		Strange but True? 493812	Movie Magic [R] 392744	Wings Whispering Death [R] 122812		Justice Files Vigilante justice in America. [R] 563305	
ESPN 30	Up Close 325812	Sportscenter 350034		College Basketball Minnesota at Iowa. (Live) 384314				College Basketball Cincinnati at St. Louis. (Live) 523812				Sportscenter (CC) 288102
FAM 53	Carol Burnett 941909	Carol Burnett 965589	Waltons The Song Ben falls head over heels in love. 107638		Rescue 911 ∩ (CC) 116386		Love-Struck ('97) Cynthia Gibb. A misfired arrow leads to romance for the god of love. 119473				700 Club 745947	
FX 7	21 Jump Street (CC) 2378560		Miami Vice (CC) 6998947		X-Files 3 ∩ (CC) 6974367		NYPD Blue ∩ (CC) 6987931		Color 6486025	Color 4613283	X-Files Ascension 4092725	
FXDET 17	Last Word [R] 268909	FOX Sports News 282589	IHL Hockey Detroit Vipers at Orlando Solar Bears. (Live) 992676						FOX Sports News 964831	College Basketball Stanford at UCLA. (Live) 885270 ▶		
LIFE 26	Supermarket Sweep 947183	Debt 961763	Intimate Portrait Diahann Carroll [R] ∩ (CC) 103812		Unsolved Mysteries ∩ 112560		Desperate Journey: The Allison Wilcox Story ('93) Mel Harris. 122947				Almost Perfect (CC) 485928	Golden Girls (CC) 319580
MTV 23	MTV Live ∩ 553893		My So-Called Life Other People's Mothers ∩ 198980		Road Rules ∩ 214367	Road Rules ∩ 226102	Road Rules ∩ 468251	Road Rules ∩ 565638	NBA All-Star Bash [R] ∩ 197251		Loveline ∩ 743589	
NASH 30	Dukes of Hazzard Play It Again, Luke ∩ 607909		Dallas Spy in the House ∩ 431893		Championship Rodeo [R] ∩ 440541		Prime Time Country ∩ (CC) 460305		Today's Country Country singer Wade Hayes. ∩ 430164		Dallas Spy in the House ∩ 880305	
NICK 21	Figure It Out 965454	Tiny Toon Adv. 989034	Doug ∩ (CC) 221522	Rugrats ∩ (CC) 985218	Secret of Alex 230270	Happy Days 259305	Wonder Years (CC) 491454	Wonder Years (CC) 390386	I Love Lucy (CC) 652638	Mary Tyler Moore 661386	Taxi (CC) 403299	Newhart (CC) 835034
TBN	◆Praise the Lord 5307522		Jerry Barnard	Bible 6659657	Behind	Intelligence	Bishop Jakes	Hinn 2609893	Praise the Lord (Live) (CC) 2274638 ▶			
TBS 35	Family Matters (CC) 5364725	Family Matters (CC) 6822928	Andy Griffith 2142270	Andy Griffith 7950909	(8:05) Thunder (CC) 1059305				(10:05) They Live ('88) Roddy Piper. A drifter uncovers an alien plot to control mankind. 22007164 ▶			
TNT 33	Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman ∩		Babylon 5 Soul Mates ∩ (CC) 457831		The Return of a Man Called Horse ('76) Richard Harris. A nobleman rallies his Sioux friends against their captors. 86862928					(10:45) Ulzana's Raid ('72) Burt Lancaster. 32325837 ▶		
USA 63	Baywatch Someone to Baywatch Over You (CC) 920541		Highlander: The Series Promises ∩ (CC) 763183		Walker, Texas Ranger On Sacred Ground ∩ (CC) 772831		Renegades ('89) Kiefer Sutherland. A police officer forms an alliance with an American Indian. ∩ (CC) 782218				Silk Stalkings Brother's Keeper [R] ∩ (CC) 196657	
WGN 13	Saved by the Bell ∩ 644305	Saved by the Bell ∩ 835657	Family Matters (CC) 900473	Coach Call Me Cupid 624541	Over the Top ('87) Sylvester Stallone. An arm-wrestling trucker tries to reconcile with his son. ∩ 897560				News ∩ (CC) 883367		Beverly Hills, 90210 Emily ∩ (CC) 408725	
DISNEY 22	Growing Pains	Brotherly Love	A Goofy Movie ('95) ∩ (G) (CC) 9617788			Ray J and Brandy 6496102		(9:20) The Marva Collins Story ('81) 37782299			Walt Disney Presents 413657	
ENCORE 31	(6:15) Protocol ('84) Goldie Hawn. 55357589				Project X ('87) Matthew Broderick. ∩ 1247164				Bingo ('91) Cindy Williams. ∩ 7382218			JustTell
HBO 5	Romeo & Juliet ('96) Leonardo DiCaprio. (PG-13) (CC) 508218				Heat ('95) Al Pacino. A homicide detective matches wits with a cunning adversary. (R) 571386						Shock Video 2: Crime 916473	
MAX 34	◆ Swing Kids	Black Sheep ('96) Chris Farley. (CC) 261560			Splash ('84) Tom Hanks. ∩ (PG) (CC) (1:51) 125034				The Savage ('52) Charlton Heston. 7946639			Nurse
SHOWTIME 45	◆ Ronnie & Julie ('97) Teri Garr. 64669015			Filmmaker	Sneakers ('92) Robert Redford. ∩ (PG-13) (CC) 7365928				(10:05) Lap Dancing ('95) ∩ (R) 61693367			Stargate
STARZ 39	(6:15) Babe ('95) James Cromwell. ∩ (G) (1:34) 81028947				Jungle 2 Jungle ('97) Tim Allen. ∩ (PG) (CC) (1:45) 6963251				The Pompatus of Love ('95) ∩ (R) 6411305			LonelyGuy
TMC	◆ Woman Undone 80285218		(7:15) Eddie and the Cruisers II: Eddie Lives! ('89) 53442034				Jumanji ('95) Robin Williams. ∩ (PG) 2182763			(10:45) Cemetery Man ('95) 27807947 ▶		

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Adrian Pasdar, left, and Kelly Rutherford star in a new TV movie, *Skyjacked*, at 9 p.m. on ABC, channels 13 and 41.

***OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES,* 8 p.m., 3, 6:** This broadcast features coverage of the men's figure skating short program, men's Super G skiing, men's 1,500-meter speed skating, and men's and women's cross-country skiing. Snowboarding fans can tune in to watch men's and women's halfpipe competition.

***FRIENDS,* 8 p.m., 8, 10, 16:** Chandler is infatuated with a woman (Paget Brewster) he met in the park. Unfortunately, she happens to be Joey's girlfriend. Rachel and Ross also are in complex romantic binds. They each endure miserable dates but feel compelled to feign happiness in order to make each other jealous.

Movie: *HEAT,* 8 p.m., HBO: This thriller offers a rare opportunity to see two of Hollywood's most passionate and exciting actors work together. Al Pacino plays a detective on the trail of a high-tech thief (Robert De Niro) and his gang. A suspenseful and inventive cops-and-robbers story, it also works as a character study.

***ER,* 9 p.m., 8, 10, 16:** In this rebroadcast of the pilot, Dr. Ross confronts a woman he suspects of abusing her young son. Dr. Lewis consoles a cancer patient. Dr. Benton is forced to perform a risky operation. This episode established the drama's tone with its quick camera work and emotionally charged plots, and delivers a powerful cliffhanger.

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