## Words to lovelorn far from forlorn

By CAROL MAHONEY

"She was in vivid color, wearing a lavender dress and matching shoes. "Dear Abby" is the woman who many believe has the last word on

"Dear Abby" is the woman who many believe has the last word on life and love.

It was a gray, windy day, but that didn't deter approximately 500 fans who turned out at the Troy Town Hall Series to meet and listen to syndicated columnist Abigail Van Buren, whose syndicated advice columns to syndicate and the syndicated advice columns to syndicate and the syndicated advice columns to syndicate and the syndicated and

WHEN TRYING to solve the problems put to her, Abby said, "I don't pretend to know all the answers." But she added, I have friends in the clergy and he legal profession who help me out." "Giving advice is a very serious business," she said.

Along with the many legitimate

'He's too eligible to be

— Abigail Van Buren

letters she receives daily there are occasionally phonies. Abby said she eccasionally pionies. Abby said she can usually spot them because they lend to use a lot of "soap opera language" and always request that the letter be printed.

In private life abby is Mrs. Morton Dillon, mother of two grown children. She and her husband have been married 40 years.

Twin to equally famous columnist ann Landers, Abby claims to be the younger sister by 17 minutes. "When you hit the big 60, every minute counts," she said.

A polished speaker, Abby kept her audience telering between laughter and tears. One letter from a polio victim was especially poignant.

and tears. One letter from a poil ovictim was especially polganant.
Advice from Abby had given him the courage to ask his nurse to marry him. The happy ending was a birth announcement Abby received from the couple along with a moving letter from the happy father.

TO THOSE who ask her what kind of person would write to a newspaper for advice, she said she replies, "Any person who is smart enough to know that he has a problem and wants to do something that if the Acception of the property of the said of the property of the pro about it. No sensitive, caring person can get through this life without

can get inrough tins me willows.
"Some read my column for laughs," she said. "But I don't write it for laughs.

In addition to a stock of flip answers, the columnist said she maintains a file of service agencies to refer penel to. to refer people to.

She stressed the importance of in-forming people about free counsel-ing services which are available to them. "People must be told where to go to get help," she said.

When she wrote her first column for the San Francisco Chronicle in 1956, Abby had been a housewife for 17956, Abby had been a housewife for 17 years. "All my life I had been a volunteer," she said.



Twin to equally famous columnist Ann Landers, Abigail Van Buren claims to be the younger of the two by 17 minutes. She also followed her sister into the world of advice and is now syndicated in 1,000 newspapers around the world.



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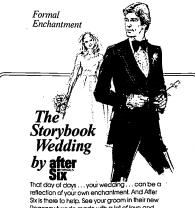
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