



THE TALK OF THE TOWN

Heavens!

THE minute we heard about Debbi Kempton-Smith, we dashed for the phone.

"Is it true you've done a horoscope of the Empire State Building?" we asked her.

"Yes, indeed," she replied.

"When can we get together to talk about it?" we asked.

"Not today, that's for sure," she said. "It'll have to wait until next week. See, the moon is void-of-course right now, and anything we do today will come to nothing."

Just as soon as the moon had moved enough to make it worthwhile, we joined Miss Kempton-Smith on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, and there she showed us the skyscraper's very complicated astrological chart, which is contained in a paperback she has recently written, "Secrets from a Stargazer's Notebook." "I used 11:15 A.M. on May 1, 1931, which was the day and hour that Al Smith cut the ribbon officially opening the building, as its birth date," she said. "It's a lot like cutting the umbilical cord."

On the basis of the chart, which was worked out by a computer, Miss Kempton-Smith declared, among other things, that because the Empire State Building's moon is in Scorpio "it's a jealous building." She went on to say, "When the World Trade Center went up, there were all sorts of planets attacking the Empire State's horoscope. It got its feelings hurt. If it were a person, it would have experienced a deep anxiety." Then she told us, "The planet of love is Venus, and in the building's horoscope Venus receives very good aspects from Jupiter. And Jupiter is the planet of expansion. When expansion and love combine, you have something wildly popular. If it were a woman, the Empire State Building would always have dates. It would never be alone on a Saturday night. Actually, if it were a woman she'd like to entertain at home. You can see by the chart it needs to be near its roots. It feels very insecure about being moved." Miss

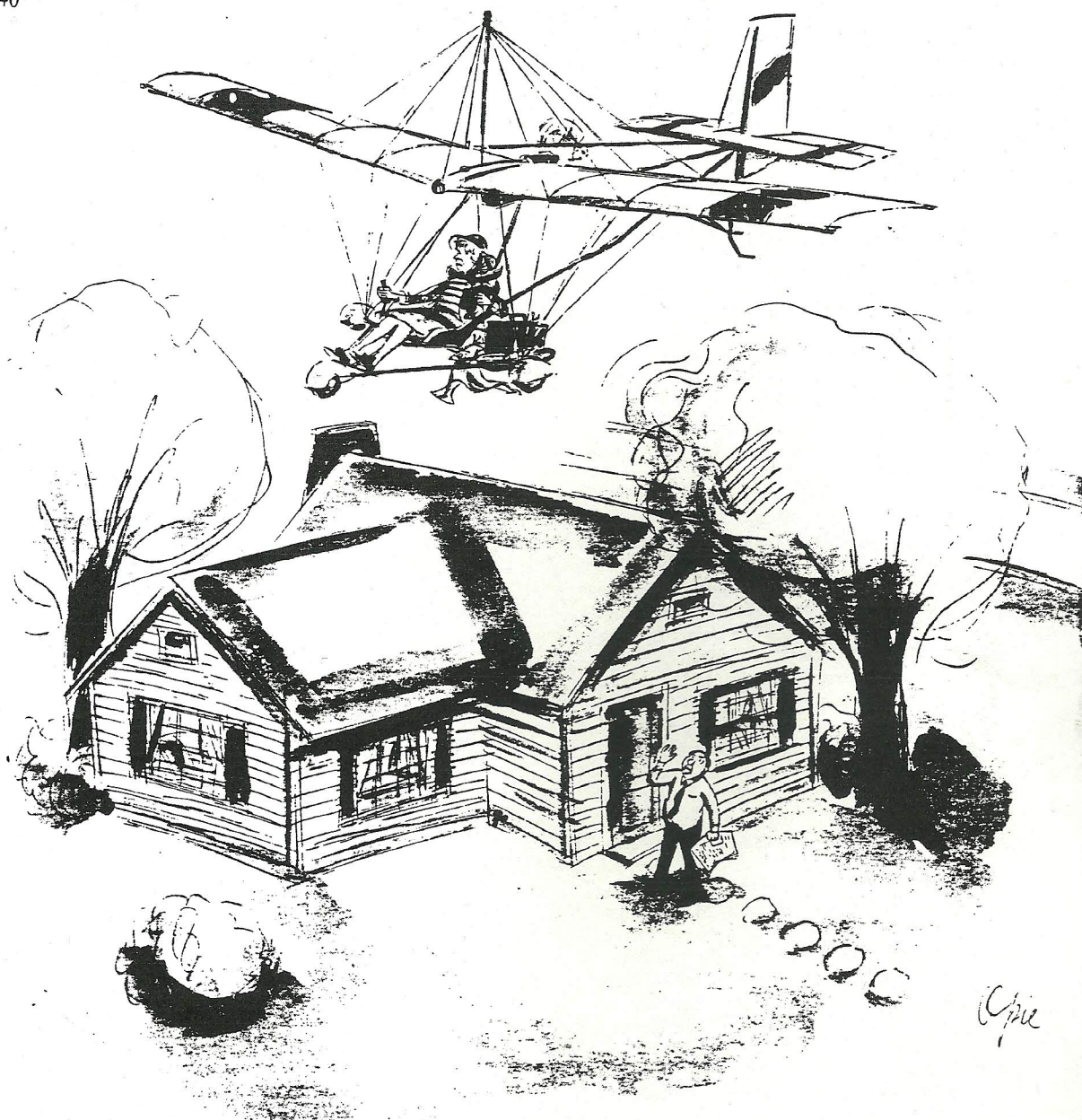


"These are only suggestions. The final decision, of course, will be yours."

Kempton-Smith kept a straight face. "Now, in its eighth box, which governs its sex life, the Empire State Building has Aquarius. The planet that rules Aquarius is Uranus. It's the lonely planet, the free being. It's like Gary Cooper in 'High Noon.' And, as you can see"—she pointed to the uncluttered skyscape around the observation deck—"the Empire State Building does stand out all by itself." She added, "Uranus is the planet of sharp objects, and it's also the planet that rules television. And it is right at the top of the building's chart."

The Empire State Building, chart and all, occupies only four of four hundred and ninety pages in Miss Kempton-Smith's book. Much of the

rest of the book discusses topics such as what to buy a Cancer for his birthday, what people with Gemini in their sixth house might like for supper, and why Colonel Sanders, Evel Knievel, Brooke Shields, Baba Ram Dass, Olivia Newton-John, Hamilton Jordan, Nelson Rockefeller, Freddie Laker, and all the members of The Who have behaved as they have. An arch tone dominates the book (the planet Jupiter is referred to as "the merciful fatso"), but Miss Kempton-Smith maintains that her work is very serious. She spoke of high unemployment rates, and said she hoped that the charts would help people figure out when the time was right to seek work. "Don't blame Reagan for unemployment," she said. "Blame Chi-



"Please, Doris, let's talk!"

ron." Chiron is a newly discovered asteroid. Some astrologers, including Miss Kempton-Smith, call it "the tenth planet"—a claim pooh-poohed by most astronomers. "It's nowhere near the asteroid belt," Miss Kempton-Smith explained. "It commutes between Saturn, the planet of conservatism and pin-striped suits, and Uranus, the planet of eccentricity. It goes from Wall Street to Woodstock. Anyhow, its orbit is about forty-nine years, which corresponds almost exactly with

the Kondratiev cycle. Kondratiev was a Russian economist, and he noticed that there was a depression about every forty-nine years. The last depression took place when Chiron was in Taurus, the sign of money. *And it's back there now!* We're going to have a couple of rocky years, I'm afraid."

Miss Kempton-Smith, after remarking that she had previously written a book on corrupt gurus, which was never published, perhaps because some of the gurus cursed it, told us that she

sells most of her star-gazing services to financial analysts and psychiatrists, and that many of both these sets of customers are reluctant to admit that they visit an astrologer. "People get astrology mixed up with palmistry, or with being psychic," she said. "I go to a party, and people hear I'm an astrologer, and they come over and hold out their hands and ask me to read them. It's very annoying. Astrology is really a soft science, just like psychology."