

Family Matters: The Way It Was

By Prof. McKinley Burnett

Quite a few have asked about those many small but valuable "family" interactions that I cited in the series on "Supper Table Input," or "Schoolyard Violence."

At first, I was quite surprised, for not only was I talking about "yesterday" in the fullest sense of the word, but because so many inquiries and comments were from parents (and youths) of the current generation or the one just before. Actually, the interest was across-the-board; elders were saying, "that's right, that's the way it was."

Let's start with "grandpa," the stern, but kind, middle age head of the household which my recently divorced mother joined when I was the age two. The next nine years

(1924-1933) are my most beautiful in memories lasting until the early retirement of his career, railway mail clerk. A beautiful and giving life cut short by cancer but leaving a legacy that will last forever.

E. Collins Scott, college graduate, Spanish American war veteran, dedicated family man, very learned and an excellent musician in the way of the strong black men of his day, here fused to let vicious and violent racism completely circumscribe a brilliant mind or a lifetime of "giving."

The limitations of a newspaper article are obvious, but I will try to convey as much of the meaning and relevance as possible. So, bear with me, if a lot sounds like disconnected anecdotes. But, believe me, these were important times in shaping the

past and it is becoming more and more apparent that recalling "the way it was" may be very important to our future.

There was so much comment on that "respect for personal space." I'll begin with "space," a concept which in all of man's cultures and relationships has served to help him avoid imitation and even conflict. I've spoken of the six members of our household and their specific assignments of space; each had protocols attached.

Grandpa's room was a wondrous place, guaranteed to gain the undivided attention of anyone from small child to adult, even the most blasé. Looking back, I'd say the walls were a combination museum and art gallery. A special rack held the huge,

heavy rifle from the war with Spain. There were his framed military citations and newspaper articles. On another wall hung his mandolin (when he was not playing it) and his favorite landscape paintings.

On a third wall hung photographs of friends and associates. And as with the other artifacts in this marvelous high-ceiling place, any well-directed question could bring an answer which was an education in itself. If you asked, "who?", you also were told "what" that person did and why. If you query was concerning a place you were told of its current and past role in the scheme of things.

And, oh yes, just as at the supper table, you were corrected if verbs did not match the subject, for changing "person" in the middle of a sentence

and dangling participle: "he was running" where, child? And you didn't get too resentful or sassy about it. Dismissal from the table could mean a special trip to grandpa's room, he who, like the ancient Egyptians, believed that a boy's ears were located on his behind.

Let's go outside for a while. I would have fought the devil and all the angels as well for the "privilege" of helping my grandfather take care of his gardens; either the vegetables that supplemented our supper table, or his prize-winning zinnias. Long before "Dr. Spock," wise and respected "father figures," quite easily persuaded kids to participate in many a project that would be rejected today.

One's outdoor socialization included the development of a respect for the yard space of a neighbor as well as the reciprocal concept that neighbors (or their children) did not intrude upon yours—except by express permission or by "tradition." As a matter of fact, didn't English Common Law develop around this basic concept of "space"—an idea which went far in reducing conflict and violence, between states or between neighbors?

Next week: What the kids did, on their own and in cooperation with the community. Is it possible for "mother figures" to replace the "father figure?" Isn't that already happening?

Business

Tucker Joins Norris, Beggs, & Simpson

Martha Tucker has joined Norris, Beggs, & Simpson's Portland office as System Administrator and Senior Market Analyst for the Market Research Department, announced J. Clayton Herin, President for the Company.



Martha Tucker

Tucker initially joined Norris, Beggs, & Simpson in 1989 for three years, rejoining the company in 1998 to provide support as System Administrator for the company. In this capacity, she will provide technical

support, training and facilitation to all employees. In addition, she will also ensure all of the company's current hardware, software and peripherals are maintained, as well as make recommendations for future purchases and improvements. Another key responsibility Martha will oversee is Norris, Beggs, & Simpson's proprietary database. Tucker previously worked at S&P company as an Information Systems Manager, responsible for network administration on a

Novell 3.12 Local Area Network. She also has a B.S. degree in Finance and Management from the University of Oregon.

Norris, Beggs, & Simpson, in business for over 66 years, is a regional real estate brokerage, asset and property management, and mortgage financing firm with offices in major cities in Oregon and Washington. It is affiliated with the New America International, the Nation's largest organization of independent industrial and commercial real estate professionals.

Theft Is Theft. The Need For Copyright Protection from On-line Piracy

Traffic on the Internet doubles every 100 days, and growth in electronic commerce is predicted to reach an astonishing \$300 billion by 2000. But a new kind of crime, the illegal copying and distribution of software, movies, books and music over the Internet threatens U.S. jobs. In 1996, software piracy resulted in 130,000

lost jobs, \$5.3 million in lost wages and nearly \$1 billion in lost tax revenue.

The House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection favorably reported H.R. 2281, a bill that would extend copyright protections to the Internet and protect creative works

on-line. And, this week, the full House commerce Committee is scheduled to mark up the legislation. This important legislation has already passed the House Judiciary committee.

Countries around the world are keeping a close eye on how the U.S. Congress addresses The World Intellectual Property Organization

(WIPO) Copyright Treaty. The United States is the global leader in the information technology arena. This provides the U.S. with the opportunity to take the lead in protecting copyright on the Internet. The viability of industries that produce everything from movies to software depend on it.

Major Warehouse Facility Slated For Rivergate

The Port of Portland commission today approved a substantial land sale in the Port's Rivergate Industrial District that will soon be home to one of the largest warehouse operations in the Portland metropolitan region.

516,000 square foot public warehouse. It will be located on an extension on North Ramsey Boulevard in South Rivergate, near the new Welded Tube Company of America steel tube manufacturing facility currently under construction.

Upon its completion, the massive T.M. Lee Development owned structure will be leased to A&M Warehouses,


Inc., of Auburn, Wash., which controls more than 2 million square feet of public warehouse space in the Seattle/Tacoma area.

Gordon McAllister, A&M's president, said: "A&M Warehouses has experienced increased customer demand for warehouse space in Portland. We feel the timing is right to enter the Portland market with a strong presence. This is an

exciting project that will enable A&M to provide a quality, well-located facility that is especially well suited for our customers involved in international trade."

He noted that Rivergate, which offers quick and easy marine terminal, freeway and airport access, is a rare and desirable location for serving the needs of businesses operating in the global marketplace.

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CHILDREN FIRST

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

In The Golden Year, the great English Poet Laureate Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote: Ah! when shall all men's good Be each man's rule, and universal peace Lie like a shaft of light across the land, And like a lane of beams athwart the sea, Through all the circle of the golden year?

If we were to change it to read: "When shall all children's good be each person's rule...." the world would be healed. I think we've forgotten the primary rule of all civilizations and all creatures. A lioness will die protecting her cubs; elephants will move about the land in search of food and water clustered around their young who walk at the center of the group, surrounded by caring adults. Have human beings, besieged by drugs, violence, economic distress,

and a culture ready to dump its values over the side of the lifeboat for material gain and power, become less than the beasts? Sometimes I'm afraid that we're getting there.

Putting children first is not always the easiest or most comfortable thing to do. I have been a full-time mother and the full-time president of the Children's Defense Fund for almost three decades. I know how hard it is to remember what is important, to keep a proper balance between work and family, to constantly examine the pages of my life story by the light in my children's eyes. But I know that nothing else I can ever do will matter as much. If you're a parent, you've been here. you know what it's like to juggle a dozen things and wonder how you can make it through one more day. But you do, because you must.

But what if you're not a parent? Shouldn't you care about children too? something disturbing has happened to us in the past few decades. People who have no children of their own have begun to think that chil-

dren are none of their business. If that's where you are, you're dead wrong.

It is said in the Native American culture that a grandparent's job is to pray for the children. Children, I believe, are everyone's responsibility—a trust that involves working, praying, and living in a way that puts children first and provides a model for adulthood.

if you are involved in glorifying violence in the media, you are not putting children first. If you work or advocate for federal, state, or local government policy like protecting guns and cigarettes and marketing them to children, you are not putting children first. If you are not supporting the life of a child you brought into this world with time, attention, and money, you are not putting children first. If you are abusing alcohol or drugs or indulging in violence in the presence of children who do what you do, not what you say, you are not putting children first. If you are not teaching and living a love-and value-based life, you are not putting chil-

dren first.

I believe this is a crucial time in the world. It should never become too trite to say our children are our future. As we approach the new millennium, we can work to ensure a future for our earth and our species. We can make each year a "golden year" by making "all children's good" our own personal rule. We can put children first in everything we do. We can all work towards the goals we at the Children's Defense Fund and the Black Community Crusade for Children have made our passion and our life's work: to ensure for all children a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, and a Moral Start in life.

Or we can end history in a generation. Let me end as I began with Tennyson's message of hope: The deep moans round with many voice. Come, my friends, 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.

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