

Father of the Bride

By EDWARD STREETER. Illustrated by Gluyas Williams



The fact that it was about twice the size of his own establishment seemed to add fuel to his agitation.

Installment III The Meeting of the Banks and Dunstons

In the days that followed the Dunstons' invitation to a get-acquainted Sunday dinner, Mr. Banks showed all the symptoms of a debutante about to be introduced at Buckingham Palace. On Sunday morning he dressed carefully in a sport coat and slacks, then went upstairs after breakfast and changed into a business suit. He insisted on starting half an hour earlier than was necessary—just to allow for a blowout or something. The result was that they arrived in East Smithfield shortly after twelve.

Mr. Banks said he'd be damned if he was going to sit and moon at the Dunstons for an hour. "I'll bet they won't even have a drink before dinner," he said gloomily. "Well, suppose they don't. You're not an alcoholic, are you?" Mr. Banks sighed and didn't pursue the argument further. "I think it might be more intelligent to find out where the Dunstons live instead of driving around aimlessly," said Mrs. Banks. "At least we won't end up by being late."

"I'll bet it's a shack," said Mr. Banks. When they finally located it the Dunstan shack turned out to be a large, whitewashed brick house surrounded by old elm trees. The discovery that it was at least twice the size of his own seemed to add fuel to Mr. Banks' agitation. He looked at his watch. "I'm going back to that hotel we passed and wash up," he announced. "Nonsense," said Mrs. Banks. "You can wash at the Dunstons. They probably have running water. I prefer to wash at the hotel," said Mr. Banks with dignity. She sensed that this was not the time to cross him.

When they drew up in front of the hotel he did not suggest that she get out, but hurried through the revolving doors. On his return, ten minutes later, it was obvious that he was more composed. The interior of the sedan immediately took on the Saturday night odor of a bar-and-grill. "Stanley Banks, you've been drinking?" "I think it's perfectly outrageous for you to meet the Dunstons smelling like an old whisky bottle. What in the world's gotten into you?" Mrs. Banks was still being difficult when they turned in at the Dunstons' entrance.

The first meeting of in-laws is comparable to the original hookup of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with the Rocky Mountain Indians. For a brief moment after the encounter both sides stared at one another with mingled hostility and curiosity. During that instant Mrs. Banks took inventory of Mrs. Dunstan from hair-do to shoes. Mrs. Dunstan did the same for Mrs. Banks. Then, finding everything mutually satisfactory, they approached one another with outstretched arms, embraced and said, "My dear."

The two males merely shook hands awkwardly and said in unison, "It certainly is nice to meet you."

Mrs. Dunstan started to lead the way into the living room. "I can't tell you how crazy we are about your Kay," said Mrs. Dunstan. "Well, that's just the way we feel about Buckley," said Mrs. Banks. "Yes, indeed," said Mrs. Banks. Obviously something was called for. As far as he was concerned that seemed about all there was to be said. He would have been quite ready to second a motion to ad-

Journal. The situation was saved by the appearance of a maid with a snaker full of martinis and a tray of hot hors d'oeuvres. Mr. Banks looked at this arrangement with pleased incredulity. He took a martini and found it excellent. "I think we should drink to the bride and groom," said Mr. Dunstan. Mr. Banks drank deeply and relaxed like a deflating balloon. Mr. Dunstan refilled the glasses. Warned by this unexpected hospitality and his previous wash-up at the hotel, Mr. Banks felt impelled to words. "This is an important occasion," he said. "My wife and I have been looking forward to it for a long time. Personally I thought your son was a great fellow the moment I set eyes on him. Now that I've met his father and mother I like him even better. From here in I foresee that the Dunstan-Banks families will beat as one."

"I am sure we're going to be most congenial," said Mrs. Dunstan apprehensively, "and do call us Doris and Herbert, not Mr. and Mrs. Dunstan."

"And Stanley and Ellie," said Mrs. Banks somewhat over eagerly. "There was an embarrassed silence. 'I love your home, Doris,' said Mrs. Banks, who had by this time sized up and appraised critically every article of furniture in the living room. 'Thank you, Ellie. We like it. I'm crazy to see yours. Buckley's always talking about it. 'Another, Stan?' asked Mr. Dunstan."

"Well, just to help you out, Herb," said Mr. Banks. His wife moved over beside him. "You'd better watch your step, she muttered. "It was too late. The release from superstition was more than he could combat. He graciously helped his friend Herb finish up the shaker. "My dinner is ready," said Mr. Dunstan, who had known for it for a long time.

She led the way toward the dining room. "You've got a wonderful place here, Edith," said Mr. Banks, falling in beside her. "Doris," she said. "Won't you sit there. Ellie and now we want to hear all about our new daughter."

"I'm afraid there isn't much to tell," said Mrs. Banks. "Nonsense," said Mr. Banks. "Would you like to hear the story about how Ellie left Kay in baby carriage outside the A & P, and then forgot about her and went home?"

He told them in hilarious detail, he gave them a detailed account of his life. Occasionally one of the Dunstons broke in with a comment. Toward the end of the meal they ceased to compete. After dinner Mr. Banks picked out a comfortable looking chair in the darkest corner of the living room. He felt suddenly drowsy. "Now," he said, "you must tell us all about Buckley." The desire to take just forty winks became overpowering. As Buckley entered his first year in high school Mr. Banks' eyes closed and he was instantly asleep. They drove back to Fairview Manor or late in the afternoon, Mrs. Banks at the controls. Mr. Banks felt relaxed and happy. It was hard for him to understand why he had dreaded this meeting so much. He sought in vain among his acquaintances for a finer family than the Dunstons. Certainly no one could have been easier to talk to. He hummed a contented little song. Mrs. Banks said nothing. (To Be Continued)

Predict Gov. Dewey Will Retire for Time

New York, Dec. 29 (AP)—The New York Times today said it is likely that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey will retire temporarily from public life at the end of his present term as governor of New York.

Warren Moscow, political writer for the Times, said there are indications that Dewey will not be a candidate for governor in 1950 or for president in 1952, but may come back into the presidential race in 1956 or 1960.

RADIO PROGRAMS

THURSDAY—P. M.				
KGW	KOIN	KEX	KSLM	KOCO
620 NEC	970 CBB	1190 ABC	1390 MDC	1490 KC
5:00 The 8 of Us	Feature Story	Green Hornet	Straight Arrow	Hand of Day
5:05 News of Times	Lille Show	Green Hornet	Straight Arrow	Hand of Day
5:10 Elmer Peterson	News	Jack Armstrong	Jack Armstrong	Jack Armstrong
5:15 Screen Guild	Suspense	Headline Ed.	Headline Ed.	Headline Ed.
5:20 Screen Guild	Suspense	Headline Ed.	Headline Ed.	Headline Ed.
5:25 Mus. Caravale	Photographer	Mod. Romance	Tello Test	News
5:30 Perry Come	The Playhouse	Country	Drama	O'Brien
5:35 Perry Come	The Playhouse	Country	Drama	O'Brien
5:40 Uranet	Theater	Date With Judy	West. Records	Evilyn Knight
5:45 Sinaira-Kristen	Lowell Thomas	Amateur Hour	Hop'ing Cassidy	Track 1490
5:50 World News	Jack Smith	Amateur Hour	Hop'ing Cassidy	Track 1490
5:55 Aldrich Family	Mr. Keen	Amateur Hour	Lean Back	Track 1490
6:00 Father Knows	F.B.I.	Blonde	Glen Hardy	Track 1490
6:05 Father Knows	F.B.I.	Blonde	Glen Hardy	Track 1490
6:10 Father Knows	F.B.I.	Blonde	Glen Hardy	Track 1490
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12:00 Sign Off	Silent	Kira Hour	Sign Off	Sign Off

FRIDAY—6 A. M. TO 4:45 P. M.

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KGW	KOIN	KEX	KSLM	KOCO
620 NEC	970 CBB	1190 ABC	1390 MDC	1490 KC
6:00 Hildea Pedro	Farm News	News Summary	Timekeeper	KOCO Klock
6:05 News News	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
6:10 Farm Time	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
6:15 Farm Time	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
6:20 News News	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
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12:00 Sign Off	Silent	Kira Hour	Sign Off	Sign Off

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Thursday P.M. - 5:00, Children's Theatre, 5:15, On the Air, 5:30, Sports Club, 6, Women: 11:00, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour; 1:00, Ride 'Em Cowboy; 1:15, Review of 1949; 1:30, Story Behind the Discovery; 1:45, History Lesson; 2:00, Classroom; 2:15, Mail Hour; 2:30, Public Health; 3:30, Vet. News; 8:15, News; and Evening: 9:00, Music That Endures; 9:45, Weather Meditations; 10:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Friday A.M.—10:00, News and Update; 11:00, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour; 1:00, Ride 'Em Cowboy; 1:15, Review of 1949; 1:30, Story Behind the Discovery; 1:45, History Lesson; 2:00, Classroom; 2:15, Mail Hour; 2:30, Public Health; 3:30, Vet. News; 8:15, News; and Evening: 9:00, Music That Endures; 9:45, Weather Meditations; 10:00, Sign Off.

Fellowship Banquet Served Young Women

Aurora—The Young Women's Foreign Missionary chapter were hostesses at their annual fellowship banquet in the Women's Civic club hall in Canby.

Vocal music was furnished by Rev. and Mrs. Paul Harris, Portland.

Mrs. Weaver W