

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mercedes F. — The other day I overheard a conversation that my 15-year-old daughter had with one of her boy friends and I nearly dropped dead. Judy told her friend that her father was many years older than I am, and that I am not happy in our marriage. She said I was forced to marry at a very early age because my father could not support his family. She said that even though I may seem happy on the surface, I cry a lot in secret.

All of this is not true. I did marry young, but it was not against my parents' wishes, and my husband is only five years older than I am. We have had our hard times and squabbles, but on the whole we're reasonably happy. What could make Judy do such a thing?

Judy F. — A lot of the things I said are so true about Mother. Five years may not be so much to most older people, but my mother looks and acts a lot younger than my father. Everyone takes her for my sister, and some of my boy friends have asked me how come I don't look more like her. She is so pretty. When Mom talks to them, she looks and acts like almost any kid at school.

It's also true that Mom often secretly cries after she's had a fight with Dad. I don't think they're happy together — even though Mom says they are.

I did lie about my grandparents forcing Mom to marry young, but that's because I got mixed up when my boy friends asked me why she married a much older man.

The Council: Horrified as she is at Judy's "lies," Mercedes should recognize that her daughter meant no harm. From her story we gather that she was trying to make excuses for her mother and explain about her. It was inevitable that she would get confused and tell lies. She doesn't quite understand her mother or what it is she feels the need to excuse and explain.

Young girls are usually proud of their attractive, youthful-looking mothers, and sometimes may be a bit jealous of them, but they

don't feel the need of relating an elaborate story of mistating on their parents' part, unless they sense that something very important needs to be explained away.

We gather from Judy's story that she senses that her mother is somewhat flirtatious with her boy friends. It is quite possible that the boys get the same impression if Mom "looks and acts like almost any kid at school." This is undoubtedly quite embarrassing to Judy.

From both stories, it seems possible to us that Mercedes rather regrets her early marriage and probably feels that she missed out on a lot of teenage fun. Possibly when Judy's friends come over she gets carried away with the opportunity to play the role she lost so early in life.

This, coupled with what is probably a tinge of resentment against her husband for being the instrument of her early loss of freedom, may be enough to give Judy a lot of her "notions." The whole situation can easily be rectified if Mercedes makes an active effort to come to terms with herself. She should try to learn to enjoy being the mother of a teenager and realize that her daughter looks to her for guidance, for a model of womanhood — not for a pal, sister or rival.

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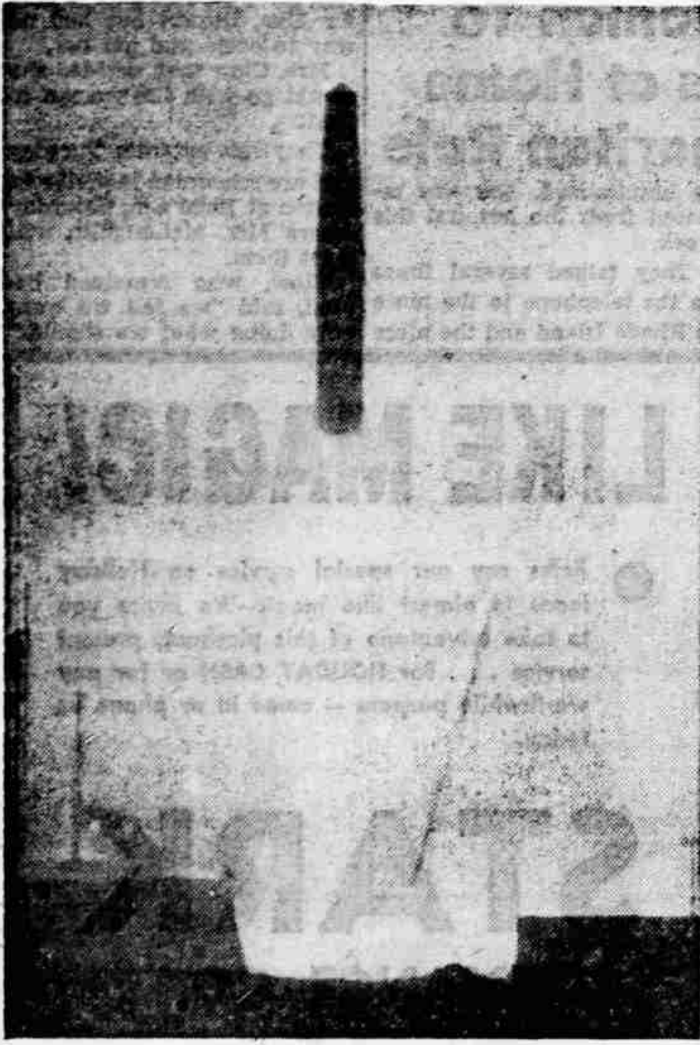
4-H Agent Attends Planning Session

Glenn Klein, county 4-H agent, attended a planning meeting of the Great Decisions program in Roseburg Wednesday. He represented Wallace Iverson, county chairman.

The group of 15 persons representing Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry and Douglas counties reviewed the program set up with Oregon State college extension service officials and members of the foreign policy association.

The Great Decisions program, a national project, will start Jan. 25 with nine meetings scheduled. The fact sheets which are available to aid groups in the program this year include two topics which concern Oregon.

Klein stated that Oregon is the only state that has topics of state level interest included in the program.



FIRST WEST COAST THOR—A 65-foot Thor missile lifts off the launching pad at Vandenberg Air Force Base, on the beginning of its trip over the Pacific Ocean to a point halfway to Hawaii. This was the first large rocket to be fired on the West Coast. The firing was conducted by a crew of Air Force technicians, without assistance from civilian scientists.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Washington—President Eisenhower, on the launching of the Atlas satellite:
"This launching constitutes a distinct step forward in space operations. The success opens new opportunities to the United States and all mankind for activities in outer space."

Moscow—Former Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin, on the "anti-party" group of Kremlin leaders who were ousted from top jobs:
"I supported them and became their partisan and accomplice. Being the chairman of the Council of Ministers (Premier) I not only became their accomplice but also nominally their leader."

Cape Canaveral, Fla.—B. G. MacNabb, operations manager for Convair at the launching site here, in a tribute to the late Dr. Heinz Friedrich, "the father" of the Atlas satellite:
"This was his greatest tribute."

Washington—Racial moderate Rep. Brooks Hays (D-Ark.) on his defeat by segregationist candidate Dr. Dale Alford:
"I have not suffered from the South but with the South."

Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

Salmon may be the most valuable fish in the world today, but the cod has had the greatest impact on history — largely because he was readily available in larger quantities and could be more easily preserved by salting.

Fishing fleets from western and northern Europe were bringing them into port for centuries before Columbus.



By the time the Newfoundland Banks were discovered, cod had already become a staple food, and so when word of the discovery reached Europe, fishermen from all

over the major nations of the North Atlantic converged there.

Though there were cod there by the millions and the Europeans fought among themselves, they finally decided they should do something about conservation. In going ashore on Newfoundland and other islands to dry and salt their catch, they noticed that the native Indians ate cod also. Too many of them, they thought, and so they eliminated the Indians.

As the supply of salt cod increased in Europe, so did the demand. Prices rose. And so, in 1602, when one Bartholomew Gonsnold saw the sea alive with cod off the Massachusetts coast, he named the nearest point of land Cape Cod and sailed for home. Captain John Smith corroborated his story 12 years later when he returned with the proof. He had 40,000 cod caught off Massachusetts and 7,000 taken off Maine. The 40,000 were salted and the 7,000 "corned." He promptly sold all of them for a net profit of \$7,000.

Made Money Out Of Fish
That was a lot of money in those days, and in 1620, when the exodus of Pilgrims and Puritans to the New World got underway, they naturally headed for the Cape Cod country. The cod were there, just as reported, and when the colony really got going, the Puritans made so much money out of the fish they made it the emblem of the state, which it still is.

But it isn't only people that cod feed. They are among the most prolific of fish. A female cod may lay over 9,000,000 eggs in a year. They are laid free in the fairly shallow water of the spawning grounds. They are not much more than a twentieth of an inch thick. As they hatch, the tiny creatures become part of the plankton — floating organisms that even human beings can eat — and because there are such myriads of them they form an important part of the food supply even of whales.

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Sorry, I simply cannot answer your many friendly letters individually, but I will be glad to answer letters of general interest through the column. Please address your letters to: Is That So? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 1069, San Francisco, Calif.

Arbitration Board To Hear Dispute

Portland—State Labor Conciliator Paul Tinning said today that an agreement has been reached to submit the Central Catholic high school labor dispute to arbitration.

The dispute broke out Monday when the Building Service Employees union listed the school as "unfair." The union wanted a contract covering the four custodial workers of the school.

Tinning said the arbitration board will be impartial.

Turner Boy Killed By Speeding Train

Turner, Ore.—(UPI)—The son of the Turner chief of police was killed here Thursday when he ran into the path of a freight train traveling 60 miles per hour.

Dead is 8-year-old R. Kenneth Rose, son of John Rose. State police said the youngster apparently was on his way home from school when the accident occurred.

Inhabitants of the Philippine Islands speak 87 different languages, all related, and some of them only dialects.

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