

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.

Alice J. - Mother is too critical of the children.
Mrs. L. M. - They could become hoodlums.

Alice J. - My problem concerns my teenage sons and daughter and my mother.

The children were brought up close to their grandmother and always loved her very much. They were happy when Grandma came to live with us three years ago. Partly as a result of her being with us, I decided to go back to work. We want to send both children to college and we won't be able to do it on my husband's salary alone.

Now that the children and Grandma are together several hours a day they don't seem to get along at all. We get long lists of complaints every evening. I feel that Mother is too critical of the children and takes things too seriously. We feel that we have nice children - even if they are a bit rambunctious at times.

Mrs. L. M. - Nobody could love children more than I love my grandchildren. It is just because I love them that I worry about them. The way they are growing up they could become hoodlums.

The boy isn't even as bad as the girl. She has no sense of responsibility. She comes home from school and starts playing her rock and roll records. Then her girl friends come over and they fool around with clothes and makeup the rest of the afternoon. After dinner there are the long telephone conversations. Homework? That's left until bedtime.

I used to spoil the children when they were younger and I guess they figured they'd be able to take advantage of me now. My daughter seems to think I'm just a cranky old woman.

The Council - Mrs. L. M. is placed in a very difficult position. If she is responsible for these children a certain number of hours a day, she cannot help but want to guide them according to her own ideas. Yet they aren't fully her responsibility and their parents are evidently satisfied with them. She cannot presume to overrule the parents. Mrs. L. M. should consider the fact that older people tend to be more critical of adolescents than those closer to their generation. Parents are more closely attuned to the needs, desires and conflicts of the young generation and they remember their own teen years. They may be irked by "rambunctious" teenagers, but they are also sympathetic. If Mrs. L. M. must take on the role of parent for a few hours a day, she should try to remember that it is not necessary or desirable for her to take total responsibility for the children's conduct.

On the other hand, Alice should be aware of the fact that her children are not accustomed to seeing their beloved, once-doting Grandma in the driver's seat and they would be behaving naturally if they tried to take advantage of the situation.

Alice's hard-earned money will be of little help in getting her youngsters into college and keeping them there.



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16 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Sunday, Aug. 9, 1959

Diaper Service To Open Here

The Snow White Diaper Service, 622 North Riverside ave., Medford, will open Monday, Mrs. Lyle Perkins, manager, has announced.

The company will offer complete diaper laundry service with pick up and delivery twice a week. The company will furnish diaper buckets and bags and at each delivery will leave 46 diapers, Mrs. Perkins said.

Diapers assigned to a customer will remain with that party for the entire time that the service is in force. She explained that the bundles of diapers from each customer will be separately laundered, sterilized and packaged. Snow White Diaper Service gift certificates will be available, she said. She added that the Service would also pick up, launder, sterilize and deliver privately owned diapers. The business will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

if their marks and their work habits are poor. She should carefully consider whether it might not be better for her to remain at home and help her children develop the kind of self-discipline and resourcefulness that enable many to achieve a college education without family support. (Copyright 1959, General Features Corp.)



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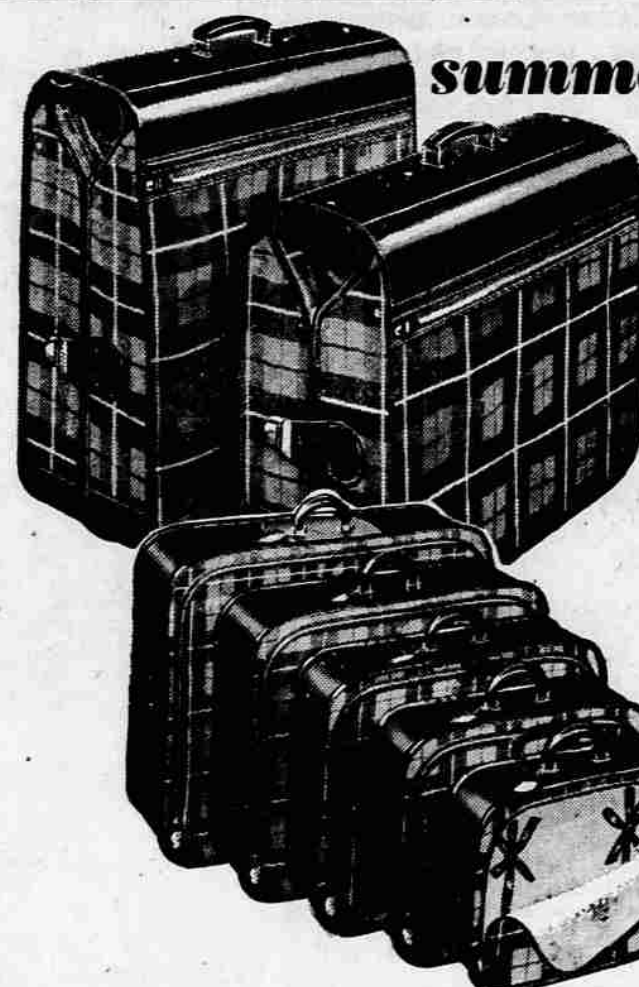
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