

Family Council

Dorothy S. - My father embarrassed me in public.
Mrs. L. S. - We had to check up on her.

Dorothy S. - I am 16, doing well in school and I'm pretty popular, so I'd be quite happy if only my parents would quit being so old-fashioned. They just don't realize we're living in the middle of the twentieth century.

My parents told me they didn't want me to go out any more with a certain boy. He happens to be the one I like best. They just wouldn't listen to reason. He is really a wonderful guy, but they didn't give him a chance to show his real self.

Anyway, I went ahead and made a date with him. My father trailed me and then made a scene in the street, embarrassing me in front of everyone. I'm ashamed to show my face outside of the house now. Was that the right thing for a parent to do?

Mrs. L. S. - I didn't want my husband to make a scene and embarrass Dorothy, but something had to be done and that was the only way to do it.

We suspected Dorothy was disobeying us and had made another date with this boy. She looked very guilty and we had heard her whispering on the telephone. There was only one way we could be sure and that was checking up.

This boy brought Dorothy home from a date an hour and a half late. When we gave him a good talking-to, he just stood there with a smirk on his face. He is not a good-looking boy and certainly not well-spoken. We can't understand what Dorothy sees in him when she could have a lot of dates with much nicer boys.

The Council: In general, we are opposed to parents spying or snooping on adolescent children. They must have a measure of privacy, but in this case we think the father's action constituted legitimate checking up. More parents may well do this kind of checking up when children behave suspiciously.

Dorothy was all wrong and she knows very well that she brought this public embarrassment on herself. She proved herself untrustworthy and has no right to a beef simply because she was found out.

Because it is usually quite difficult to check up on adolescent children, parents must sometimes bend backwards a bit in their effort to create the atmosphere of sympathy and understanding that is essential if they are to trust their children. Perhaps Dorothy's parents might have considered giving her one more chance to date this boy if he came forward with a satisfactory explanation and apology for the first late date.

If adolescent boys or girls have a chance to be heard and get a reasonable amount of understanding from parents, it is more likely they will accept restrictions in the right spirit. We wouldn't outlaw "checking up," but it is certainly a far less effective method of control than securing the child's own recognition and acceptance of right and wrong behavior.

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Icy Roads Cause Death Of Albany Woman

Oakridge - (UPI) - Icy roads were blamed for the death of an Albany woman Thursday when her station wagon crashed over a 35-foot embankment. Four other persons were injured.

The victim was identified as Mrs. Norma Jeanne Neccum, 26. Injured in the crash were her husband, John Osgood Neccum, 28, his sister, Thelma Ann, 15; and their two children, Johnny, 5, and Carolyn 1 1/2.

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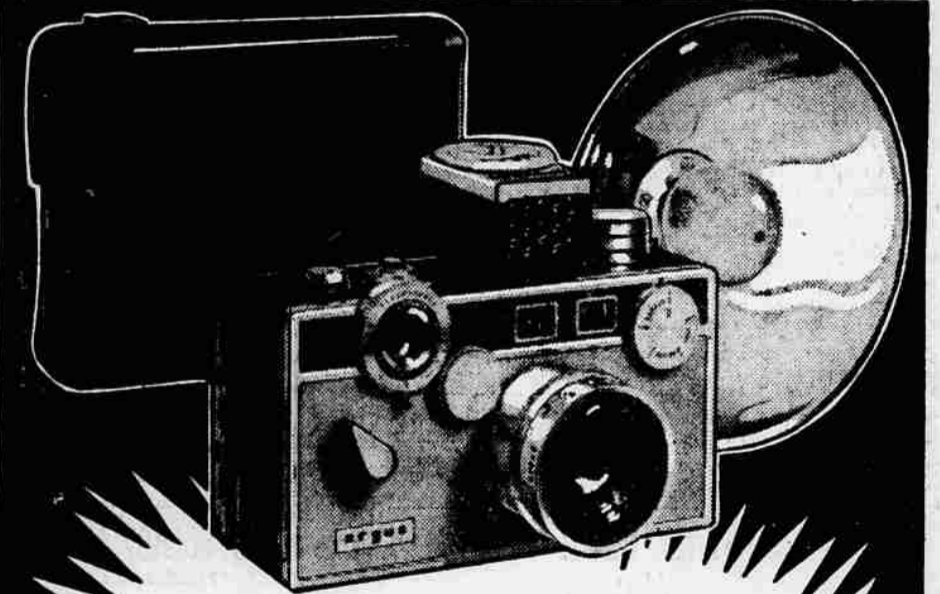
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