

The Family Council

Editors 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 case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Bruce C. - Ethel cuddles our boy.
Ethel C. - I know what's best for him.

Bruce C. - My wife and I have a long-standing conflict about a problem that affects our youngest son, Tim, aged 10.

Tim was seriously ill in his early childhood and still suffers from a slight physical handicap. The doctors say he may or may not grow out of it. But whatever the outcome, I feel he must learn to be a man in a man's world.

Ethel cuddles him too much. She makes a baby of him. He gets up with everything. He starts up with the other kids and then runs to her for protection. He won't always be able to do that. He must learn to fight his own battles.

Ethel C. - I feel that nobody knows what is best for her child as a mother does. Everybody says I spoil Tim, but if it weren't for me he might not be alive and healthy today. The doctor has said that many times.

Tim is definitely very delicate. He can't fight. It is also important that he shouldn't be emotionally upset. It's true he gets his way too often, but I can't run the risk of letting him get over-excited.

As Tim becomes better able to reason, I'll be able to help him cope with things. He is an unhappy boy because he can't be just like the others.

The Council: The problems of dealing with an invalid or

handicapped child may be more delicate and involved than the usual ones, but, essentially, the child himself is not very different.

Like all children, the handicapped boy or girl wants to be independent. All children want to grow up into strong, capable adults and all children are at times uncertain whether they'll ever be able to make the grade.

Parents give children a sense of security through their love, but this very love can undermine the child's sense of security if it isn't bestowed judiciously. The over-protective kind of love frightens the child because it leads him to believe his parents have no confidence in his ability to fend for himself.

A frightened child can be very aggressive when he feels he can get away with it. He may pick on those who are smaller and weaker, or even attack bigger children if he is assured of adult protection.

What is upsetting about Tim's case is not his inability to fight back, but his aggressiveness. We don't doubt Ethel's contention that he is unhappy and easily upset. We don't think Ethel ought to worry about what "everybody" says; of her treatment of Tim, but she should try to understand her boy and her relationship with him even more deeply than she has in the past. Naturally she has a great deal of anxiety about a delicate boy, but she must use this anxiety more constructively in helping him build his confidence.

The answer for Tim is to help him find abilities through which he can exercise his powers. He should learn to play a musical instrument if he has the inclination, or he might be good at drawing, woodcarving or photography. When he accomplishes something on his own he will gain belief in his ability to become "a man in a man's world." Fighting physical battles won't be necessary.

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Holtzinger Speaks At Jaycee Meeting

George Holtzinger, sales representative of the Colotex corporation, was guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce.

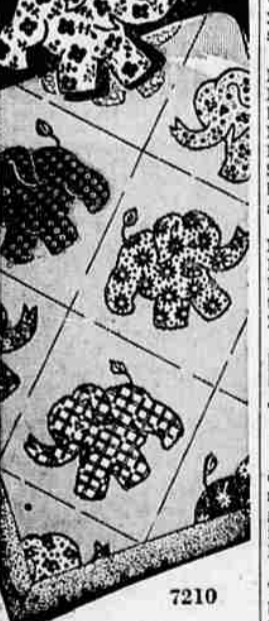
He showed a movie entitled, "Your Home Comes First."

Two new members welcomed into the local club were Robert W. Remington, 309 Marie st., Medford, branch manager of General Electric Credit corporation; and Bruce R. Rogers, 927 West 13th st., formerly of Vista, Calif.

Richard Greer, Medford Jaycee, spoke on proper handling of the U. S. flag at a meeting of the Grants Pass Jaycees Wednesday. Douglas Peters, Medford Jaycee secretary, accompanied him.

Approximately 16 people from the Medford Jaycees planned to attend the Grants Pass Jaycees' installation banquet and dance Saturday.

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by Alice Brooks

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Rogue River Pupils Take Examinations

Rogue River-Rogue River eighth graders took achievement tests in the high school gymnasium last week, according to Superintendent John B. Harr.

Scores from the California Testing Bureau battery will be used in counseling at the beginning of the freshmen year next fall.

"The results will be of particular value in placing them in the proper mathematics program," Harr said. "Those showing higher achievement will be started in algebra rather than in general mathematics and will be encouraged to pursue another three years of more advanced mathematics," he added.

Other valuable scores for counseling and guidance purposes are the ratings for reading ability and level of English usage. Harr pointed out.

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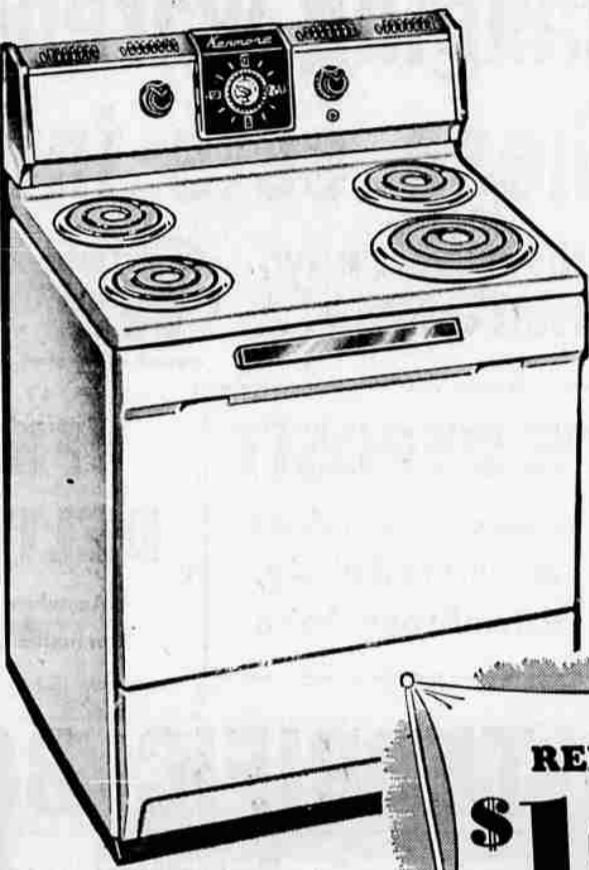
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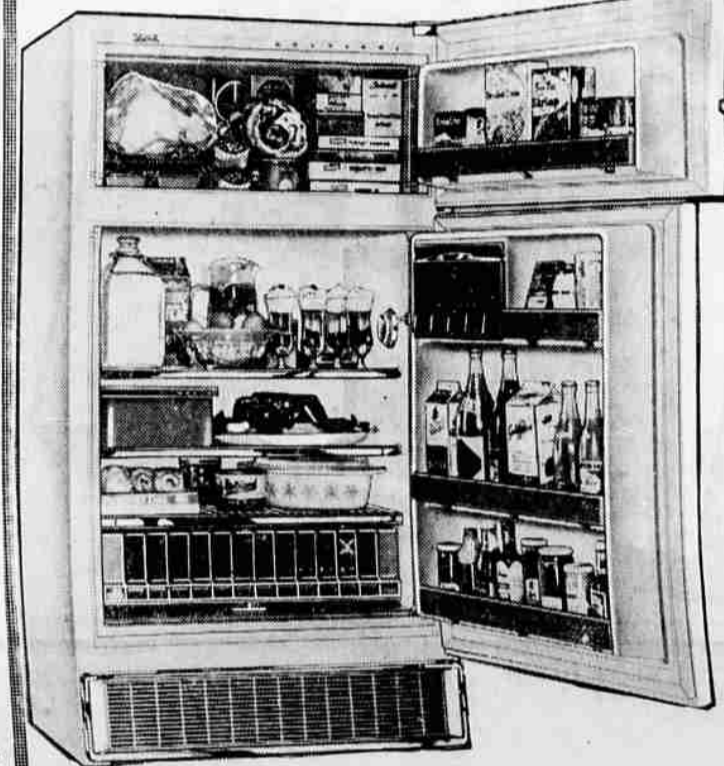
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