

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychologist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. 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. (Copyright 1961—General Features Corp.)

Lillian S.—I'd like to give our baby a striking, unique, original name.

Robert S.—I'd like him to have a name he won't have to blush over.

Lillian S.—We are expecting a baby and are having the usual fun discussing and rejecting names for our son or daughter. To illustrate our different points of view, I'll pretend that the baby is definitely a boy.

I say that since our last name is one of the most common in the Manhattan telephone book (31 rows!) we ought to give Junior a distinctive, unforgettable first name. I have friends who, in order to show their children that there's no one else in the whole world exactly like them, make it their business to coin brand new names. For example, they've just named their new daughter Keltia!

I'm not asking Bob to go that far. But how about my maiden name, Fairchild? Or a family name from Bob's or my side, like Gonzalez or Polard?

But no, he's holding out for plain old Tom, Dick, Harry. Not even Kennedy.

Robert S.—When I saw what fellows named Ethelbert and Percival had to put up with, I blessed my parents for giving me such an ordinary name.

There are certain names

which ought to go hand-in-hand with early boxing lessons. Why inflict the inevitable razzing on a kid? He'll have to learn to "take it" for enough other things—red hair, maybe, or big feet.

My idea is to project myself into my son's life eight or nine years from now. With all the names in the world to pick from what would he choose? I'll bet it would be one that a few other kids in his class have.

Those family names that Lily likes are fancy all right and eye-catching, too. But if our son is going to stand out from the crowd of S's, let him do it in other ways.

The Council—There are almost as many reasons why people receive the names they do, as there are parents. These range from "first one I could think of" to "I wanted to please Uncle Tecumseh." Gay, young parents like the S's will certainly know why they gave their putative son his name. It will be the Winnah of these interesting preliminaries.

But the best guide will be the question: "Will little Anonymous thank us some day for the tag we pinned on him?"

Both parents might examine their position. Lillian must not make her son a victim of her name-dropping pretensions. Nor should she make him a perpetual banner-bearer.



BOAT SHOW SLATED—This new 14-foot inboard runabout, which will be on display for the first time in southern Oregon at the Family Boat Show at Phoenix Saturday and Sunday, is expected to draw much attention from water ski enthusiasts. Clyde Reese, who operates the marine center, is shown here indicating the inboard engine to Mrs. Reese. Capable of speeds up to 35 miles per hour, the craft should find much popularity on nearby lakes this summer, Reese believes. (Whitland Locke photo)

Some Misconceptions About Kennedy's Food Stamp Plans

Washington—(UPI)—There are some misconceptions about the purpose of President Kennedy's food stamp relief plan.

It is not, as many persons believe, a grandiose scheme to get rid of surplus foods stacked in government-owned or rented warehouses and thus ease the farm problem.

It is purely to help people who are destitute and hungry or whose means are so meagre their diets are substandard.

Authority for the program has been on the books since 1959. President Eisenhower never used it on advice of his secretary of agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson.

Benson felt it would be an idle gesture; that it would be more effective to distribute surplus foods directly through welfare agencies rather than indirectly through the stamp plan.

This direct distribution to welfare cases was used by Eisenhower and is being used by Kennedy. In fact the new president ordered it improved by including canned pork and dried eggs.

But this system differs considerably from the stamp plan. Under direct distribution, eligible needy families show up at welfare distribution centers at specified times. They are given a packet of food in surplus that month. It can range from potatoes to powdered milk to dried beans. But the recipient has no choice. He takes the packet, and that's it.

Used at Stores

Under the stamp plan the hungry family would get a book of stamps. These could be turned in at local grocers for specific foods. These would not necessarily be the surpluses the government had at the moment.

The foods could include items the government bought to support a market. The needy, in effect, would be acting as purchasing agents for those foods. The government would put up cash for the stamps when they were turned in by banks.

Kennedy ordered the plan established on a pilot basis in six depressed areas as one of his first acts in office. But

several months may elapse before it is working. Stamps still must be printed and the mechanics of distribution set up.

There also are hazards. When the stamp plan was used in the great depression era some recipients abused it. They traded the stamps for liquor and cigarettes. This caused a Congressional rumormongering which is still remembered.

Those who favor the stamp plan say it is a way of providing a greater variety of foods for the hungry; that it allows greater flexibility by permitting purchases of foods not in government stockpiles at the moment; and—a point stressed by Kennedy—it helps preserve the dignity of the impoverished who are not poor by choice.

What this means is that the recipients would not have to appear in beggar roles at welfare stations to get a sack or box of food.

Opponents argued the system is inefficient and too costly. It would cost about \$50 million the first year.

Under the law the stamps can go not only to persons on relief but to others in need. For example, the plan is intended to provide stamps for families of the unemployed. These families might have some resources and so would not qualify for the welfare rolls. But the stamps would keep them from having substandard diets.

Sherlock Holmes Believed Real by British Tourists

By HARRY FERGUSON

London—(UPI)—The problem, Dr. Watson, is that people are insisting on visiting a man who never lived at a house that never existed. To hundreds of tourists Sherlock Holmes is a real man and they demand to be taken to 221-B Baker Street so they can have a talk with him.

"Some of them think he is dead," said a tourist agency manager, "but most of them believe he has merely retired. We tell them it's true that there is a Baker Street in London, but that there never was such a number as 221-B. It's difficult to convince them."

The great detective, like Santa Claus, also gets mail although his is not so seasonal or in such vast volume. There seems to be no corner of the world that has not heard of the lanky man in the deerstalker cap who smoked a curved stem pipe and took narcotics to spur his mind from one brilliant deduction to another.

Belief Born at Festival

The belief that there was a real Sherlock Holmes apparently started in 1951 at the Festival of Britain.

The borough capital of Mrylebone set up a reproduction of Holmes' lodgings equipped with curved pipe, violin, armchair, the Persian slipper in which he kept his tobacco and all the other possessions. It was one of the most popular exhibits in the festival and many tourists were convinced they had visited 221-B. With only a slight stretch of the imagination they could tell the folks back home that Holmes was a real man and, perhaps, they even talked to him.

Disgusted at Success

Sherlock Holmes was born in April, 1888, in the mind of Arthur Conan Doyle, a physician who was having trouble making a living at the practice of medicine. It was a painful birth and Doyle never really liked his brain child. Three publishers rejected "A Study in Scarlet" and the fourth one accepted it only because his wife happened to like it. Doyle got \$125 for the story, but had to surrender the copyright to the publishers.

Holmes' success was sensational to the disgust of Doyle who wanted to devote all his

time to writing historical novels. In February, 1892, he wrote to his mother:

"They have been bothering me for more Sherlock Holmes tales. Under pressure I offered to do a dozen for 1,000 pounds (\$5,000 in those days) but I sincerely hope they won't accept."

They did. Since then the Holmes stories have been translated into almost all languages, including the Russian. In 1959 Doyle's heirs brought suit in Moscow for more than 2 million rubles which they claimed were due in royalties, but the Soviet supreme court ruled against them. Lawyers for the estate estimate that 11 million copies of the stories have been sold in Russia since 1957.

If Perry Mason fans will excuse the expression, Holmes is the most famous private eye of all time. Detectives come and go, but millions of persons still read about how Holmes and Dr. Watson went clopity-clop in a hansom cab through the London fog, caught a train and came at last to the desolate moor and looked with awe at the gigantic tracks made by the hound of the Baskervilles.

Deadline Listed For Festival Entries

March 18 is the deadline for entries in the annual queen and king contest for the Pearl Blossom festival, according to Art Wood, president of the festival association. Entry blanks for the contest have been mailed to clubs and organizations in the area. Groups not contacted may obtain the forms by calling Wood at Spring 3-3821.

Candidates may be any five or six-year-old boy or girl. The royal couple and court will participate in the parade. Entry blanks for children who wish to enter the parade will be distributed in the schools and are to be returned by Wednesday, April 5. The festival will be held April 8.

FARM COSTS

Des Moines—An average farmer in the U.S. spends about \$3,500 a year for seed, seed, fertilizer, oil products, machines, building material and hardware.

Four Men Appear In Circuit Court

Four men appeared before Circuit Judge James Main Tuesday. Two were sentenced to the Oregon State penitentiary and two received suspended sentences.

Daniel W. Durbin, 31, San Diego, was sentenced to 18 months on a charge of cashing a check with insufficient funds and Richard Crane, 47, a transient, to four years for obtaining money under false pretenses.

Imposition of sentence for Thomas Edwin Cornwall, 145 South Ivy st., charged with burglary in a dwelling, was suspended for one year and he was placed on probation. Imposition of sentence for Ernest William Small, 32, Phoenix, charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, was suspended for two years and he was also placed on probation.

NEW INDUSTRIES

Youngstown—This Ohio city, long known for its steel industries, has added new companies in recent years to work aluminum into consumer products.

Nixon Said Still GOP Titular Head

New York—(UPI)—Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York said Thursday he still regarded former Vice President Richard M. Nixon as the "titular head" of the Republican party.

Pressed by reporters as to what this meant, Rockefeller replied:

"Don't ask me." Commenting on conservative Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Rockefeller said he was a "very active" member of the Republican party. He also said Goldwater presents his point of view "with great vigor."

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