

Dennis the Menace



"WHAT THE HECK'S WRONG WITH KEEPIN' THINGS HANDY?"

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Mrs. S. F. — He's a grown man but he gives me as much work as a child.

Flora F. T. — She should be sorry for him, not so impatient and annoyed.

Mrs. S. F. — What do you do with a husband who's just a big child? He holds a routine 40-hour-a-week job and then depends upon me to think up bright ideas to fill every other hour of his week — the hours, that is, when he isn't killing time by sleeping.

I didn't realize how dependent he was until our daughter married and moved away. Now I see what a load she took off my hands, just talking to her Dad, playing cards with him, accompanying him on walks and to the movies. With her gone, I'm the one he turns to with his eternal question: "What's there to do now?" He's like a little boy who must be amused and played with. Naturally when I have reading or letters to do, I feel guilty, as though I'm neglecting him. Not once has he said, "Go along. I'm busy."

He's only wait for me.

Our daughter thinks I'm too hard on him when I beg him to take up a hobby or make some friends. But at the same time she makes herself mighty scarce, whereas he's dying to talk to her and enjoy her company.

Flora F. T. — I know how Dad just sits around, but that doesn't mean he's just waiting for Mother to entertain him. He's just a homebody who'd rather be in his easy chair with his family nearby than anywhere else on earth. My mother needn't feel guilty going about her own affairs.

But she shouldn't bawl him out or make fun of him. She's always telling him he's worse than a child, and that she thought she'd have some freedom after raising me but that he's just like another youngster to take care of. Just because she's full of bright ideas about things to do, places to go, she shouldn't treat him as though he's feeble-minded. He reads a lot and he's good company.

It's true that nothing really holds his attention so hard that he objects to being interrupted. He'll always stop whatever he's doing if Mother or I ask him to help us or join in whatever we're doing. But that's the way he is. After all these years, Mother can't change him. Why should she try? He's a dear.

The Council: Thoreau, the wise philosopher, is currently being much quoted in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of his passing. So we turn to his poetic way of explaining, perhaps, why Mr. F. is a follower type, and Mrs. F. the self-starter. It's because each of us "hears a different drummer" in the distance and keeps pace accordingly.

Besides hearing her "special drummer," Mrs. F. is waiting to hear three little words from Mr. F., and they're not "I love you." She wants to hear, of all things, "Leave me alone!" She awaits the day when he'll be so engrossed in an interesting project of his own (aside from sleep) that he'll say, "Go along without me. I'm fine." Then she won't have those guilt feelings over her solo pursuits.

We submit that her problem is one of acceptance. Okay, Mr. F. isn't an initiator, an imaginer. He's a tagalong, a me-too. Fortunately the human race is divided into personality types and each has its purpose. For every creator, there's an appreciator. For every contemplator, there's a doer. At least that's the idea behind The Great Plan. And once a man has reached the stage of life where Mr. F. is,

Per Capita Income Of Farm Population Figured at \$1,373

Washington—The Agriculture Department estimates the per capita personal income of the farm population from all sources in 1961 at a record of \$1,373.

This compares with \$1,255 in 1960 and \$166 in the depression year of 1934.

Of the 1961 per capita income of the farm population, \$898 came from farm sources. This was 65.3 per cent of the total. Income from non-farm sources was \$474 per capita, or 34.5 per cent of the total. The per capita income from farm sources compares with \$791 in 1960 and \$90 in 1934. The per capita income from non-farm sources compared with \$464 in 1960 and \$67 in 1934.

The per capita income of the non-farm population from all sources last year was \$2,345. The per capita income of the farm population in 1961 was 58.6 per cent of that of the non-farm population.

10 Per Cent Rise

In a review of the farm income situation, department economists said the per capita personal income of the farm population from all sources rose about 10 per cent over 1960 mostly because of the substantial rise in farm income and a further decline in the farm population.

The use of a new and more restrictive definition of the farm population in 1960 resulted in a farm population estimate of 15,635,000 as compared with 20,541,000 under the old definition. The new definition of a farm requires a place to have one or more acres of land and to sell at least \$50 of products annually. A smaller place can qualify by selling at least \$250 of products. In the 1950s, a place to be classed as a farm needed only three or more acres of land and at least \$130 of products sold or produced.

Total net farm income for 1961 has been estimated at \$12.8 billion. The department predicted about the same amount would be realized in 1962. It estimated the bill for

running the farm business in 1962 would total around \$27.5 billion and that gross receipts would be about \$40.3 billion. The department estimated

for the first time the income of the farm population on a personal income basis. It said this will permit direct comparisons with the personal in-

come estimates developed by the Department of Commerce in the national income accounts.

Personal income of the

farm population from farming consists of the sum of total net income of farm operators on farms plus farm wages, salaries, and other la-

bor income of hired hands living on farms minus social security contributions.

Personal income of the farm population from non-farm

sources consists of wages and salaries from non-farm employment, non-farm and business professional income, rents from non-farm sources, dividends, royalties, transfer payments and interest in the form of bank services.

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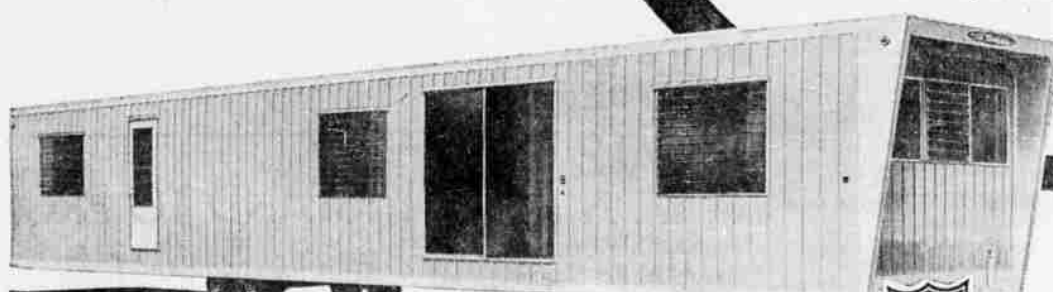
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