

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.)

Johanna E. — He keeps threatening to have me put away.

Sidney E. — I can't cover up for her much longer.

Johanna E. — I am in mortal fear of my husband. After a mental breakdown, during which I was in an institution, I was released in his care. He keeps in touch with the social worker. The trouble is the doctors and social worker listen to him, not me. And he keeps threatening to send me back whenever I don't jump to his commands.

I don't know where to turn. When I went to see a lawyer about a divorce, Sidney found out and beat me. Others don't think I'm crazy. Some women from the church took me along on a picnic. They liked me enough to have me bake a cake and serve at a barbecue the next week. But my husband keeps saying he'll call the doctor whenever I ask for a little fun. As for clothes and furniture, it's always no to that too. And I don't dare insist.

Sidney E. — If it hadn't been for me, Johanna would still be in the state hospital. They released her on probation and I'm supposed to keep a close watch on her.

But there's a devil in her. She runs away from me, like when I found her talking to a lawyer. I told her not to go to that picnic. I knew it would upset her. She's been carrying on and complaining ever since. Just because those women didn't notice she was crazy she thinks she's all right. She even thinks some body would be foolish enough to give her a job so she'd have some money.

And what would she do with the money? She'd buy presents for all the neighbors like she did before they took her away. Or she'd doll herself up from vanity. I tell her vanity is a sin and to behave herself. If not, I'll send her away for good.

The Council: One wonders what sort of psychiatrists and psychiatric social workers would entrust Johanna to a man like Sidney. Whatever happens to her next must be an improvement over her present lot. For Sidney appears in dire need of treatment himself. Perhaps the best thing he can do for Johanna is to "call the doctor." From the protecting walls of

a hospital Johanna may be able to appeal to a new set of ears, to someone who will look even more closely at her husband than at her. One thing is certain: Sidney is not aiding her recovery. He is "re-infecting" her.

It's quite possible that Sidney was able to deceive the doctors into believing that he was a stalwart, loving mate. With a husband standing by, ready to welcome a wife back home, a busy staff might easily assume the patient would be in good hands. How wrong they can be. That's why the trend in psychiatric treatment now is to treat the family, not just the individual. When the home is unsuitable, the patient is discharged into a foster home, or a special residence hall, called a "halfway house."

We can appreciate how hard it is for Johanna to get anyone to listen to her side of things. After all she has a "record." But after reading her long description (condensed above) of her plight, we're convinced she's not crazy. We're also convinced that she must take some action to preserve her health. Her best bet would be a voluntary return to the hospital which should offer her protection while she contacts a lawyer as to her rights "of person," as against Sidney's rights over her. If possible, she should visit the nearest Legal Aid Society office to end Sidney's persecution of her, as well as his jurisdiction.

Don't despair, Johanna. Try to tell your story to the right ears—those of a doctor, lawyer, clergyman or a social worker, who will take action "on the merits." Never mind "the record." Life moves forward.

4-H NEWS

Mixers and Fixers
The Mixers and Fixers 4-H club met Dec. 14. We had our business meeting first.

Karyl-Ann Robbins showed some doll clothes she made for her Barbie doll. Cheryl Anderson showed some doll clothes her mother made and a blanket her grandmother made.

Joyce Sanderson and Patti Kisse are teaching us a new song called "Old Smoky." K'ren Sanderson, Reporter.

NOTICE

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR CITY SANITARY SERVICE

No pick-ups will be made Christmas & New Years day. The regular Tuesday pick-ups will be made on Mondays.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 24 & 25

SEASON'S GREETINGS

It's such a pleasure to say "thank you" to our friends and customers at Christmas. May your home be filled with merriment, and may it glow with the radiance of warm friendship and love.

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ANYONE having a drinking problem is welcome at the Medford Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. 8:30 p.m. - Tues. & Sat. rear of 212 N. Oakdale. 773-4848. Al-Anon Group 1st & 3rd Tues.

4-LOST AND FOUND
THESE stray dogs are at the County Pound and will be held 5 days. MALES: Brown & white Boston Bull, black & tan German Shepherd, Red-bone hound, yellow mixed Pom, black & silver German Shepherd, black mixed breed, long chain, blond mixed breed. FEMALES: black & blue Australian Shepherd, (2) black & white mixed breeds, 1 brown & white mixed breed.

LOST - Black & tan hound - Apple-gate area, Sunday, Dec. 16. 855-1288.

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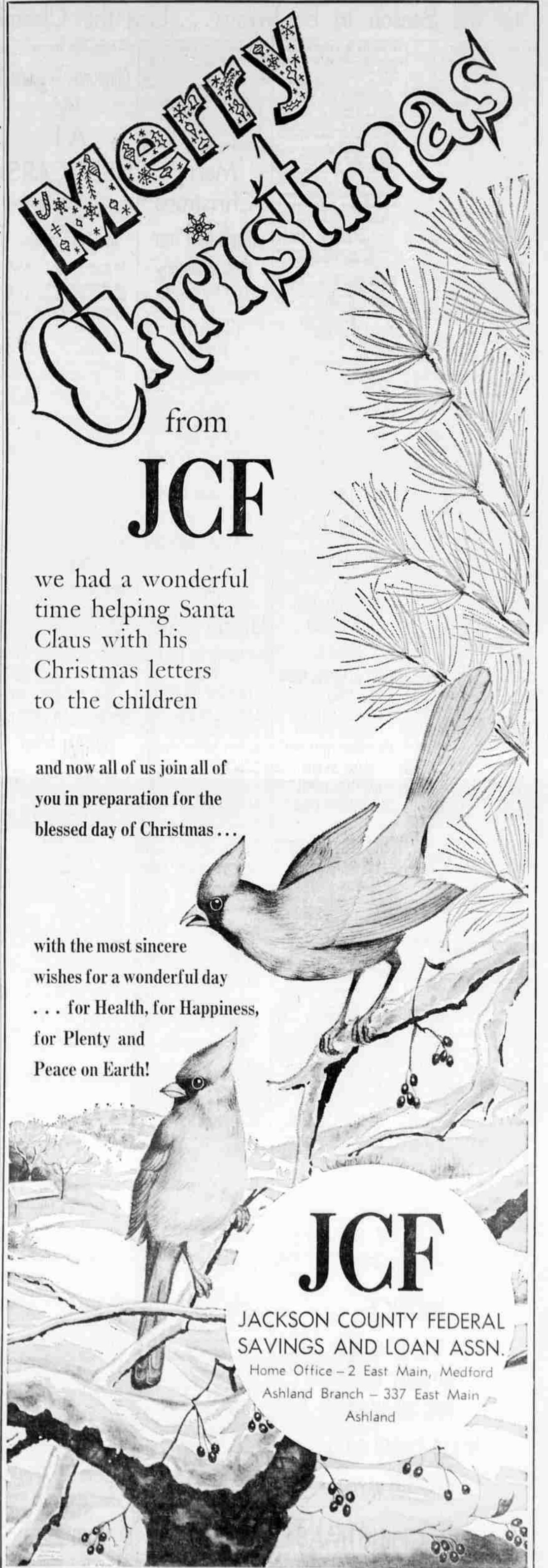
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and now all of us join all of you in preparation for the blessed day of Christmas . . .

with the most sincere wishes for a wonderful day . . . for Health, for Happiness, for Plenty and Peace on Earth!

JCF

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