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Refuting their dad's recent admission that he was a flop as a father, the four Crosby boys insist:

“Bing Didn't Fail Us!”



Dennis



Philip



Gary

BING CROSBY is a father who is usually right in his sons' opinions. Except, that is, when he tells people that despite his years of success in Hollywood, he has failed in his most important role—that of a father.

“I gave them too much work, too much discipline, too much money, and too little attention,” he recently told an interviewer. The result, he lamented, was that his boys—Gary, 25, twins Philip and Dennis, 24, and Lindsay, 21—have been embroiled in frequent trouble, ranging from drunken driving charges to an illegitimate child.

Bing had no sooner sounded this sour note when his boys did the unusual—they “talked back.” Their rebuttal, however, was not in defense of themselves but of Dad. He was tops, they agreed, even when criticizing them publicly for their shortcomings.

Only Gary exhibited any peevishness. At first he denied knowing about the interview which made headlines all over the country. Finally, he snapped, “Why don't you talk to the twins? They have something nice to say about everybody in the world.”

Gary, unlike his brothers, had been hurt by his father's statements. He felt they were directed primarily at him. Commenting on this, Philip said, “He and Dad always get along well together. Gary's Irish temper must have gotten the better of him.”

For the most part, though, the boys confined their remarks to what a fine father Bing has been. “He was always there when we needed him,” says Philip. “Like when I got hurt in a car accident in Washington. Dad was in

the middle of a picture, but he took right off and flew north to be with me a whole week!”

Dennis insists Bing always encouraged them to discuss their problems with him. “If we didn't sometimes, it was because we felt he had enough troubles without ours.”

He isn't specific about these “troubles,” but the boys were all old enough to understand their father's feelings of frustration and loneliness after the death of Dixie Lee Crosby in 1952.

Dennis also points out that Bing has always striven to make the boys independent. “He told us many times that he was responsible for us only till we were 21.”

The record speaks for itself. The boys stayed clear of headlines while they were under Bing's jurisdiction. Or, as Dennis puts it bluntly, “If we made the wrong decisions and got into trouble after that, how can anyone blame Dad for it? We don't.”

Lindsay adds, “I don't know of many fathers who gave more consideration to their children. Certainly he had to

be away a good deal of the time. But what about all those Summers we spent together? Two months on the ranch at Elko, another month at Hayden Lake in Idaho? And after Mom died, he took me to Europe for nine months. I don't understand how he can tell people now he didn't give us enough of his time.”

Curiously, it was Gary who inadvertently commented on one of Bing's complaints before it was ever made public—that he had spoiled his sons with money. “When I was a boy, Dad made me do all sorts of chores around the house without paying me a cent, just so I wouldn't expect to get paid for everything I did. I wouldn't call that being ‘spoiled rotten’ with money.”

The three younger brothers concur. “We got \$5 a week allowance in high school and \$60 a month in college,” comments Philip. “I think that's about average for most students.”

The boys acknowledge Bing's strictness, but don't feel it did them any harm. “Sure we got a whipping once in a while,” Philip says. “So what?”

Dennis concedes their father wanted them home comparatively early on school nights and warned against smoking and drinking. “But not so much as to make us rebel or go overboard the other way.”

Philip adds that Bing always wanted to meet their dates—frequently Las Vegas showgirls—but never objected to any. Philip married a Tropicana cutie, Sandra Drummond, and Dennis another girl from the same chorus, Pat Sheehan, who once dated Bing. The twins say their father knew of the