

Rotarians Harken to Youth's Talk on Management of Dad-Lad Company

Fathers Must Not Lose Sympathy in Rush of Business, Says Boy.



Stanfield Johnson
MATSUO PHOTO

Out of the father and son dinners which have been held here during the last 10 days, there is an echo of an impressive feature in connection with the Rotary club's function last Wednesday night.

On this noteworthy occasion, Rotary sat at attention while a junior member of its household spoke on the subject of "What a Son Expects of His Father." This youth was Stanfield Johnson, 17-year-old son of Alvin T. Johnson, attorney. The younger Johnson is a senior at Central High school and is a member of the public speaking class.

As a result of the experience of the Rotary club on this occasion, their policy hereafter will be to have the boys talk instead of talked to. Rotarians have been discussing the success of their program last Wednesday night, when the fathers listened to what the boy had to say of them and to them. The idea, caught the imagination of the members.

The gist of Stanfield's talk follows: "In the early days of our country the stern Pilgrim fathers ruled the household with an iron hand. The sons were commanded to do this and not to do that, and were deprived, to a large extent, of the privilege of making their own decisions. At that time, there was the tendency to force the son rather than to guide him. In this day, in the rush of civilization, the father too often neglects the boy in favor of business, and leaves him to deal alone when the problems of youth. In far too many cases the

boy falls in with bad company, neglects his opportunities, and, as a consequence, either ruins his life or seriously handicaps it. In many cases this is the fault of the father and comes as a direct result of his neglect of his son.

"Somewhere between these two extremes lies the ideal father; and in order that you Dads may be able to guide us better, I am going to try and tell you, briefly, what we sons expect of you—our Dads.

"First of all and of the utmost importance is our desire that you understand us. We want you to understand our problems; we want you to understand our point of view.

"It is a very regrettable fact that too many fathers and sons lack this quality of mutual understanding, and its results are noticeable in a

great many sons. Are you attempting to understand your boy, and are you helping him to decide his problems? Or are you letting him work it out for himself and drift further from you each day? We sons want to come to you for advice, sympathy, encouragement and guidance, but if you are too busy and have no time for us, we are not likely to come.

Secondly, we would like to have you remember that you were a boy once, and perhaps just an ordinary 'ornery' boy like us. You fathers are usually proud to think we can't put anything over on you; but did you stop to think you aren't putting very much over on us?

"If you Dads will come down off your seat of dignity, when we come home from a little scrap with a black eye or bruised knuckle, or bring home a couple of 'D' marks from school, or do some other foolish thing not serious, if you tell us some of the old fights you had, or recall some of the poor grade marks you got, of foolish things you did, you are not going to lose any of your influence over us. Rather, your going to make us feel that you are a regular fellow and one of us and really know what you are talking about.

"Another thing—we sons want you Dads to have faith in us and give us your solid backing. I don't believe that there is a son that at some time or other bet his friends that his Dad can lick any other Dad. That's faith with real backing. If you believe in us, show your faith in us, be proud of us. If you do this we are very likely to do everything in our power to be worthy thereof.

Fathers Should Set Example
Fathers, don't overlook this point. Every father is an example to his boy. We sons naturally look to you, our fathers, as being what we should strive to be and what you want us to be. That places a great responsibility upon you. Help us make this example an inspiration to us. We need

your help not only by advice, but by example of act and deed on your part. Lastly, be a pal and chum to your boy. You know what that means better than I can tell you. Deep in our hearts we know that we need your companionship and help. Perhaps, some of us have come to that stage in our development when we think that we know just about all that is possible for any on human to know. But then, if ever, is when we need you. We naturally have tremendous decisions to make; the decision of our life work is one which we must make, and in making it you are and should be the principal person to help us. We want you to give us the benefit of your experience and example and comradeship in order that we may through your training and love become men of whom you will be proud.

"If you fathers will take the trouble to understand your sons, treat them fairly, back them in every way, and pal with them, then the firm of father and son will be inseparable and both the senior and junior members will be better because of the partnership."

OMAHA WOMAN TO PRODUCE PLAY

Mme. Moeller-Herms, music critic and teacher, will go to New York this week to make arrangements for production in English of one of her plays which has been produced in Germany with much success, and which she recently adapted for the American stage.

She will also study the opera in English as it is now being put on by Andrew Dippel, formerly of the Metropolitan Opera company.

Mrs. Herms is an American artist who has been abroad for many years. She returned to this country and Omaha a year and a half ago and has been conducting an operatic school here.

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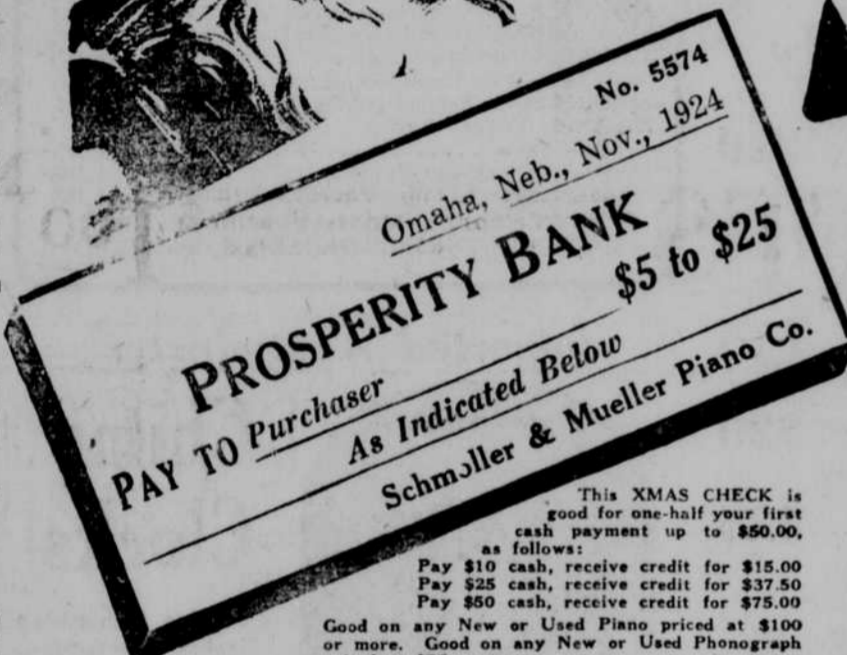
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