

From My Chair—At Midnight
Your Boy And The Fourth

I have been thinking about the Fourth of July—and what people should say to their boy on that day. I turned to a few well-known persons for guidance. They are parents, and leaders in their walks of life. First, I saw a minister whose oratory and books have made him a name and a small fortune. He would advise his children to approach the day with reverence, to consider the blessings of this country and our obligation to the rest of the world—and, he concluded, we must bring disarmament and spread the word of God among the heathen.

He talked for half an hour and then said, "That is not what you wanted me to say, is it?"

It was not what I wanted, but it is what most of us get, on the Fourth of July. And if we were that minister's child, we would know what to do when the sermon ended.

I would like to take the advice of one of our prominent politicians who, when I asked him what he would tell his children on the Fourth of July, said: "Tell them to read the Declaration of Independence—and then go fishing."

I asked several other Public spirited men the same question—most of them drew a deep breath, came to the soap-box attitude, and delivered the stereotyped Fourth of July "Give me Liberty or give me Death" oration. They spoke without serious thought or deep feeling.

Then I turned to a "little old lady" with silvery gray hair, and asked the same question. Her answer was, "Theodore Roosevelt once said, and I quote, 'the Fourth of July is our great National celebration. Around it center the body of traditional ideas for which our country stands. Traditions are splendid things for countries or for individuals only if they are translated into living aspirations. We have all seen men or women who spend their entire time boasting of their ancestors. This amounts to nothing and those who do it are entirely useless. In the same way the country which looks back on its traditions and does not attempt to turn them into action for the present or the future is dying of dry rot. When we celebrate our National Holiday, we should try to make it stand out to ourselves and our children in vivid terms of the present day. We should try to translate our high thought into high action. The obligation laid upon us by our forbearers when they promulgated the Declaration of Independence is not merely to praise and revere them for so doing but really to see that their doctrines of Democracy, Justice and equal opportunity are continued, that the great work which they set under way is carried to a successful conclusion. Nineteenths of righteousness is good acts—not good thoughts.'"

In thanking her for her little lecture, she said, "and what is your answer to that question"—to all the children of America—Long live Democracy, and may God Bless You, Celebrate the Fourth in the best way possible, Drive safely, play safe, keep safe, keep thinking of the future, and the destiny we are creating for our children's children.

It's only six months till Christmas but a whole year until the next Fourth of July.

—"Red" the typesetter

Our Children

By Mrs. W. B. Davis



Two is the age to encourage sociability. At 2 children don't play much with each other, co-operatively. However, they love to watch each other, co-operatively. However, they love to watch each other's occupations, and enjoy playing alongside each other. It's worth a lot of trouble to bring a 2-year-old every day if possible, or at least several times a week, to where other children are playing. A 2 or 3-year-old child won't get the hang of sharing, of rough and tumble, unless he's already spent months becoming used to other children.

Here's what happens once in a while when the needs of the child of 1 3/4, 2, 2 1/4 aren't recognized. A mother decides that she has to go to work, and arranges for a stranger to come in and take care of the child during the day. He makes no fuss the first day, but when his mother comes back that evening, he hangs on to her like a leech and refuses to let the other woman come near. The next morning there is a scene when his mother leaves. That evening he refuses to let her out of his sight, and fights against being put to bed. If she fears herself away, he may cry in fear for hours. If she sits by his crib, he lies down only as long as she sits still. Her slightest move toward the door brings him instantly to his feet.

If your child is around two, be careful about drastic changes. If it's almost as easy to wait six months for a trip or to take a job, better wait, especially if it's your first child. If you have to go now, arrange for the child to get thoroughly used to the person who is going to take care of him, whether it's a friend, a relative, a maid, or a foster mother. (If the child is going to be staying at the other person's house, it's even more important for him to get used to the new person and the new place by gradual steps.) Allow two weeks anyway.

N.A.A.C.P. Confab
To Kansas City In June, 1948

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold its 1948 convention in Kansas City, Mo., the delegates to the 38th annual conference decided Saturday.

The Kansas City delegation headed by Carl R. Johnson, branch president, extended the invitation to hold the next meeting in Kansas City's mammoth, air-conditioned Municipal auditorium. It will be the first time that the NAACP has met in the Missouri city since 1923.

The Kansas Citians presented letters from the mayor and other city officials to back up their invitation. Cleveland also wanted the convention.

NAACP Asks End
Of House Committee

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People denounced what it called the "indiscriminate persecution and condemnation of sincere liberals" by the House Committee on un-American Activities, and called for its abolition.

In a resolution adopted at the thirty-eighth annual convention, the NAACP said the committee "has consistently failed to investigate undemocratic organizations."

TEXAS CITY BURIES 63
UNNAMED BLAST VICTIMS

Lord, Thou has been our dwelling place in all generations... We are consumed by Thine anger, and by Thy wrath we are troubled... Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

In voice resonant as an organ note, the Rev. F. M. Johnson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, read from the Ninetieth Psalm as this death-seiged city laid race, creed and color aside last Monday to bury its unnamed dead in solemn and democratic ceremony.

Over 2,000 Witnesses

Over two thousand witnessed the mass burial of the sixty-three unidentified persons killed in the April 16 disaster. The caravan of hearses that brought the bodies from the Camp Wallace morgue was more than a mile long.

Ahead of the six-volunteer pallbearers that bore casket 243 into the gate of the Texas City Memorial Cemetery were a Catholic priest, a subdeacon, three acolytes, a rabbi representing the Jewish faith, and a trio of Protestant ministers, including the Rev. Johnson.

All races and creeds had to be represented in the solemn rites for the sixty-three graves are marked only with a numbered copper plate... The race, creed or color of the dead will never be known.

"It Could Be Him"

An elderly white lady cried loudly. A teen-age white lad tried to climb a fence to "see his daddy." "You said he was in there he cried to his bereaved young mother as an old man escorted them to a near-by car.

Wringing her hands in tear-jerking fashion, a colored woman, too heartbroken to even cite her name, placed a spray of white Oleanders on a grave. "It could be him...."

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