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Newspaper Clipping, May 31, 1912

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MARK FATHER'S DAY

Celebration of Holiday Set for June 16—Many of the Churches to Assist.

Mrs. John Bruce Dodd of Spokane, Originator of the Idea, Receives Praise

"Fathers' day" is to be observed at the Centenary Presbyterian church, Sunday evening, June 16, and for the service, the Rev. Conrad Bluhm is having prepared a formulated souvenir program similar to one used for Mothers' day, May 12.

The program will include: Piano prelude, "Home, Sweet Home;" invocation by pastor; responsive reading; song, "Home, Sweet Home;" music, selected; prayer, E. C. W. Hill; hymn, prayer and benediction, and closing hymn.

"Fathers' day is new only because so old," said Mr. Bluhm today. "It was Father's day when Abraham left Ur of Chaldees; when Noah built the ark; when Christ chose the twelve; but it fell to the lot of a young mother to dream into fact Fathers' day." In 1909, Mrs. John Bruce Dodd of Spokane, crystallized her vision, and with a deal of faith and work put the intangible dream stuff into fact.

"In June, 1910, the day became a reality in Spokane. The Y. M. C. A. gave 'Fathers' day' formal indorsement, followed by the approval of Mayor N. S. Pratt of Spokane and of Governor M. E. Hay.

"Accepting the invitation of Mrs. Dodd, the Spokane Ministerial alliance approved and adopted the plan of observing the third Sunday of June as 'Fathers' day', which was done in many city pulpits. For two years the authoress of 'Fathers' day' has been deluged with personal inquiries, has received congratulations from sources reaching high in literary, social, political and religious circles."

PROMINENT PEOPLE TESTIFY.

Following are some of the expressions received by Mrs. Dodd:

Elbert Hubbard—Daddy's day has my approval. He has had his day—all the days—now one day in a year is to be his. Good! One day in a year for father is all right. His office is cheap, transient and requires neither heroism nor self-sacrifice. In nature the mother is always of more importance than the father.

William Jennings Bryan—The setting of a definite Sunday for fathers' day is a good idea. Too much emphasis can not be placed upon the relation between parent and child, and it is well to have the children who are away keep in constant touch with the home. Both Fathers' and Mothers' days rest substantially upon the same commandment: "Honor thy father and thy mother."

Edmund Vance Cook—While acknowledging the prior and superior claims of motherhood, those claims are well nigh universally recognized. Father, being more neglected, needs recognition the more. Nor is it for his sake primarily, but for the sake of the race.

Mrs. Alice Hubbard—By all means have a Fathers' day as well as a Mothers' day. I congratulate you.

Speaking of Fathers' day, Mrs. Dodd herself said:

"I chose June as the month because my father's birthday occurred then. I understand that many churches, not only in Spokane, but in various sections of the country, will formally observe the day."



Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, founder of Fathers' Day.