

6-20-1914

Newspaper Clipping from Birmingham Ledger, June 20, 1914

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Recommended Citation

"Newspaper Clipping from Birmingham Ledger, June 20, 1914" Whitworth University (1914). *Newspapers, Pre-1924*. Paper 69. <https://digitalcommons.whitworth.edu/fathers-day-newspapersPre1924/69>

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FATHER'S DAY—A TRIBUTE

Tomorrow, June 21, will be Father's Day. Many have protested that poor old father can worry along very well without a day, but the movement started in Spokane, Washington, five years ago by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, has now been officially recognized by both houses of congress and the anniversary will be observed in enough cities to make it a national festival.

The Father's Day movement has even spread beyond our shores. It has been taken up in Germany, Sweden, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Hawaii, Canada and India.

To observe Father's Day one has only to wear a cluster of red and white roses in the button hole or at the corsage on the third Sunday in June.

It is the beloved father who has passed this life rather than the living father who is commemorated.

Father.

He was not the sort of father that you read about in books;
He wasn't long on language and he wasn't strong on looks.
He was not the sort of father that you hear about in plays—
He was just a human father—sort of quiet in his ways.

Just a sort of family father, fairly sound in wind and limb,
Always ready at the word and not a nasty trick or whim,
Seldom off his feed and never had to be turned out to graze,
Safe for any child to drive and broke to harness forty ways.

Steady at the bit was father, found a lot of fun in working;
Threw his weight against the collar; seemed to have no time for shirking
Used to smile and say the feed on kept him steady on the track;
Safe to leave him without hitching; he'd be there when you came back.

No; he never balked at working; but when he was through it once,
Right down to the grass was father, with the children doing stunts.
Everyone would pile upon him, and he'd welcome all the pack,
But I'm wondering, after playtime, did we stay there—on his back?

Wasn't strong on dissipation; said his "gambol on the green"
Was to fill the platter quicker than the kids could lick it clean,
And the next best game he knew of was an equal one to beat;
It was keeping leather covers up to the supply of feet!

Mind! his tailor never told him when his Sunday coat was fitted,
That his wings necessitated wearing shoulders loose or slitted,
And he wasn't any martyr; said that life and love were good
And no man deserved his dinner if he couldn't split the wood.

Always on the job was father, plugging quiet like and strong,
Never making any noise, but helping all his little world along;
And to think, Lord, ain't it funny you can see things years and years
And you never know they've been there till your eyes are blind with tears

Quit his job one day and left us, smiling as he went away.
Eulogy seems all so foolish; what can anybody say?
Seemed like even in his leaving he was saving some one bother,
For the one word in the granite which is over him is FATHER.

—By Edmund Vance Cooke.

Phone 2668.

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Clipping from

Birmingham, Ala. Ledger
Saturday, June 20, 1914.

FATHER'S DAY

Tomorrow, June 21, will be Father's Day, that poor old father can worry about the movement started in Spokane, V. John Bruce Dodd, has now been officiating at congress and the anniversary will be it a national festival.

The Father's Day movement has been taken up in Germany, Switzerland, Canada and India.

To observe Father's Day one has to wear white roses in the button hole or at least a white rose in June.

It is the beloved father who has been living father who is commemorated.

