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Copy of Sonora Dodd's Remarks to Knox Presbyterian Church, June 13, 1967

Sonora Smart Dodd

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Knox Presbyterian Church which was formerly, The Centenary Presbyterian Church of Spokane Falls, has a rich historical background through the many years of its life, and we are happy to share the following personal message given to our members:

June 13, 1967

"On this 57th anniversary of Father's Day, I am so happy to send greetings to you, Dr. Dilworth, and to the members of Knox Presbyterian Church, the church in which Father's Day had its nativity. Our beloved Dr. Conrad Bluhm, who in 1910 held the pastorate of the Centenary Church, was to me an incomparable inspiration and help. Through this he aided me in the framing of the original Father's Day Resolution which was read before the Spokane Ministerial Alliance at their regular meeting at the Y.M.C.A. on June 6, 1910.

It was because of his enthusiastic recommendation and sponsorship that the petition was adopted and the 3rd Sunday of June was named as Father's Day. You may wonder why the 3rd Sunday of June was named. It was like this--I wanted that Father's Day should fall upon or near my father's birth anniversary which came upon the 5th of June. When we wrote the Father's Day resolution some time in May, Dr. Bluhm told me that the Alliance would not meet until the 6th of June, and he felt the ministers should have about 3 weeks' time for the placement of the day on their regular programs. Consequently, the 3rd Sunday of June was named. The day was first officially observed on the 3rd Sunday of June, 1910.

Dr. Bluhm chose for his sermon topic of the service, "The Knighthood That Never Retreats"! With my family, John Bruce and our infant son whom we called Jack, I attended this service. To me this was a very special sacred occasion. The 'Alphas', a young girls' organization of the church gave a red rose, the flower of Father's Day, to each father present. There was special music and our first Father's Day at Centenary was something quite worth remembering. (Mr. and Mrs. Albert Arend, who were both doubtless Cradle Roll babies of the church, were present.) Jack was baptized by Dr. Bluhm later.

We attended Knox Church for several years then transferred to First Presbyterian Church on 4th Avenue and Cedar streets because of the nearness of First Presbyterian to our place of business.

I regret deeply that I cannot be with you at this service as it would be a real spiritual experience and joy. Please will each of you accept my sincere gratitude and thanks."

- - Mrs. John Bruce Dodd

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