



TOT TALK

If you think the kids of today are hopeless juvenile delinquents, lend an ear to this story about some of their Moms and Dads.

The parents referred to were little boys and girls themselves along about the time that the Ham-Ramsey revival came to town, and pitched its gospel tent on East

Front street.

Rev. Mordecai Ham, you'll recall is the evangelist who converted Billy Graham in the far end of the State—up in the Land of the Sky. As for Ramsey, he was a thunderous choir director whose voice was as impressive as the gleaming expansiveness of his very bald dome.

Being very well behaved, at least on the surface, the present-day parents we're talking about naturally accompanied their own parents to the revival, and looked for all the world like little angels as they sat there with hymn-books clutched in their hands.

What nobody knew except the kids was the double purpose that those hymn books served. There were other little boys and girls in close proximity, and when little boys and little girls get in close proximity the next thing you know they're liable to be passing love

notes.

Such things happen in school rooms, but how, you might ask, could you get away with it in the middle of a crowded revival tent. The kids figured it out, with typical juvenile ingenuity.

One of the little boys, looking angelic all the while, would thumb through the hymn book until he found an appropriate title. Then, glancing slyly at that little girl across the aisle, he would hold up fingers to indicate the page number.

She would turn to Page 18, and the title would be that grand old Baptist hymn—"Love Lifted Me." Turn about is fair play in affairs of the heart, so she in turn selected a nice reply like "I Need Thee Every Hour" or "Almost Persuaded." There were plenty of hymns that fitted the occasion, and if it hadn't been for the loud preaching and louder singing it would have been almost as much fun as spinning the bottle, or playing post office or in the well.

That's what some of New Bern's staid parents did in their own childhood. Now they're wondering what the world is coming to, with all this juvenile delinquency.

HOMEMAKER'S CORNER

CHEMISTRY AND THE HOME
—A new dual purpose household sponge designed to perform two kitchen chores—scrubbing and wiping clean—has recently been introduced. Check markets. Two entirely different materials are laminated together: a layer of cellulose sponge that absorbs and wipes, and a layer of tough urethane foam.

A group of 900 homemakers was asked to check laboratory finding with practical kitchen performance. After using the sponge for eight weeks, 89 per cent reported that they liked the sponge better than the kitchen aid they normally used. It is easy on the hands, too. Recommended uses include washing dishes, cleaning range, wiping tables and counters, cleaning pots and pans, scrubbing sink, tub, walls, and woodwork. The convenience of the multi-purpose function was the important advantage listed by homemakers. One sponge can now be used for jobs where assorted cleaning tools have formerly been necessary.

In washing dishes, consumers found the rougher side of the sponge removed food particles easily—even dried egg—without scratching fingernails or silverware. It also is recommended for dishwasher preparation. Most leading grocery stores across the country are now stocking this synthetic sponge, called the "Combo." It is

Higher Ridges and More Plants Mean Good Yams

"The successful sweet potato farmer follows two practices that you can see from the road," according to Mark Goforth, one of Eastern North Carolina's well-known county agricultural agents.

He says, "The successful farmer will plant on a higher ridge than the farmer that just plants sweet potatoes. Then, too, he will have at least 25 per cent more plants per acre. The successful farmer at the present time will have his plants eight to 10 inches in the row. This will give 14,900 plants at 10-inch spacings. The farmer that just plants sweet potatoes will plant them 16 inches in the row and will have 9,300 plants.

Goforth says sweet potatoes are one crop that never mature—they just stop growing and the vines die when frost comes. "We use spacing as a means of producing the greatest per cent of number one potatoes. Plant them too far apart and you have jumbos and plant too close and dig too soon and you have strings," he declares.

"Research has taught us that we should plant six to eight inches in the row up to May 15. From May 15 to June 10 we should space eight to 10 inches in the row. From June 10 to June 20, the spacing should be 10 to 12 inches.

Research has also taught us to change our fertilization practices. We should put about 500 pounds of

4-12-12 sweet potato fertilizer containing Borax in bands at planting time. Then we should topdress with 30 pounds of actual nitrogen and 180 pounds of muriate of potash. (Some farmers prefer to use Sulfate of Potash.)"

G. R. Huffstetter, Jr.

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