



# TOT TALK

Most of us as parents are apt to kid our kids occasionally with some tongue-in-cheek statement or a cock and bull story.

Jimmie Simpkins recalls such an incident from his own boyhood, and the resulting repercussions. He related it to fellow Civitans the other Sunday, while they were passing one of those Washington oaks at Hampstead—just this side of Wilmington.

It seems that Jimmie's brother, Oscar, heard the story of George Washington from his dad, with some extra trimmings. The Simpkins family lived at Wilmington, and saw the oak many times when they were going to Hampstead for a visit with relatives.

A good natured man with a keen sense of humor, Mr. Simpkins told Oscar that Washington sat under the tree to rest, on his Southern jaunt, and that he thoroughly enjoyed some sandwiches that Mr. Simpkins provided for the occasion.

According to Simpkins, Washington had a hearty appetite, and he related in vivid detail to Oscar how the Father of our Country would eat a ham sandwich, then a lettuce and tomato, and then another ham.

Oscar took the story at face value, although Mr. Simpkins might not have realized it at the time. It came out later at school, however, when Oscar's teacher asked the class if they knew who George

Washington was.

Needless to say, Oscar held up his hand, and proceeded to tell the teacher about the time his daddy had lunch with Washington, under an oak tree. And if Oscar was anything like his brother, he probably made quite a speech about it.

Flabbergasted, the teacher tried to argue Oscar out of his story. He stood his ground, and when she ended up accusing him of telling a fib, he got his cap and his books and went home.

Mr. Simpkins finally straightened it out, and after that he was doubly careful not to tell Oscar anything, even in jest, that he couldn't back up with proof if necessary.

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## Good Housekeeping, Safety Said to Go Hand-in-Hand

Are you a good housekeeper? The way to answer the question—objectively, that is—is to count up the number of accidents you've had in your home in the last year.

If you went accident-free, then you probably keep a pretty neat place. If you had a couple of serious accidents, then there's probably room for improvement.

According to the National Safety Council, good housekeeping and safety go hand-in-hand.

"Good housekeeping," the Council says, "can especially help reduce the number of falls. Keep roadblocks such as hassocks, stools and toys, for example, out of traffic lanes. You'll have far fewer falls."

Other Council suggestions: "Don't leave medicine and potential poisons around where children can get at them."

"Keep your home neat and clean—but don't overdo things. A floor too highly polished is an invitation to a fall."

### UNMOVED

Lebanon, Kan. — Lebanon (Kansas, that is) is going to continue to promote itself as the geographical center of the United States when and if Alaska is admitted to the

union.

Mayor Raymond Schwette pointed out that a monument marking the geographical center was erected a mile north and a mile west of Lebanon 17 years ago.

The city "has invested a great deal of money in promoting the spot," said Schwette, and doesn't intend to write off its investment.

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