



TOT TALK

Every New Bern parent discovers, sooner or later, that a very small tot can stir up a mighty big argument. Not just an argument involving children, but one that spreads to adults, too.

Some of the town's foolish feuds between families result from such squabbling. A child can be mad one minute, and happy and congenial the next, but when grown people get mixed up in the fuss it often causes bitterness that lingers.

What we need to recognize is that everybody's kid, including our own, is at fault at least part of the time. Most arguments among juveniles stem from trivial incidents, and are easily forgotten if indignant mothers, and occasionally indignant fathers, don't make a mountain out of a molehill.

We might as well face the fact that learning the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth is well nigh impossible when children have their differences. The story you get is apt to be just as distorted as the one the other child totes home.

It isn't always a deliberate case of falsehood, although fibbing crops up fairly often. Naturally, a juvenile who has been in a fuss or a fight tries to justify what he has done. He or she is that much like

a grown person.

Telling the truth might lead to a spanking, or at least a vigorous scolding, so Johnny or Mary plays it smart and paints a picture that portrays Jimmy or Peggy as the meanest brat on the face of the earth.

Admittedly, some of our small fry in New Bern are bullies, even at a tender age, and your child may have the misfortune to encounter such a bully. If the circumstances are serious enough, there's probably no alternative but to bring the matter to the attention of the bully's parents.

However, such cases are the exception rather than the rule. Besides, the child who bullies his playmates usually gets his just desert in due time. Eventually some kid clobbers him, and sends him home whimpering with a bloody nose, a black eye, or both.

Of one thing you may rest assured. Parents, whatever their attitude, aren't going to change the antics and misdoings of early childhood. As long as kids come in close contact with each other, there will always be quarreling and fisticuffs.

Humans are selfish from the moment of their birth, and most of us are still selfish and demanding when we reach old age. We readily agree that there are two sides to everything—our side and the wrong side.

When it comes to our children, we are often prejudiced beyond all reason. We admit our kids aren't perfect, but in our hearts we think that they're a little closer to perfection than some of the other neighborhood brats.

If your child is sweet and innocent and inoffensive in all of his dealings with other kids, the chances are he needs a tonic. Healthy young'uns just don't act that way, day in and day out.

The next time your child has a squabble, think twice before you get the other child and his mother told. Using restraint, if nothing else, will keep your small son or daughter from becoming unpopular and unwanted.

Forgive and forget. That's what your youngster will do, if you let the matter take its normal and logical course.

Tehran, Iran—Two doctors have examined Cayed Ali Saleh Kutahi and have come away saying they are convinced he is anywhere from 158 to 185 years old. Kutahi says he is 185.

After the aged man's story was published in newspapers, the government sent two doctors to the village of Keluseh to examine him.

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Soup can be a whole meal when it's as hearty as Down-South Stew. Rich, rich homemade chicken broth is the basis. Corn, tomatoes, okra and spaghetti make soup that is hunger-satisfying and colorful, too. Epaghetti is a wonderful addition to soups. Just add the uncooked Spaghetti is a wonderful addition directly to the soup, and cook until tender.

Down-South Stew

- 1 stewing chicken, cut up
- 2 1/2 to 3 quarts water
- 4 teaspoons salt
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cups whole kernel corn
- 1 cup cooked tomatoes
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

6 ounces elbow spaghetti
1 cup cooked okra
Place chicken in large saucepot and cover with water. Add 4 teaspoons salt and onion. Bring to boiling. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until tender, about 1 hour and 45 minutes. Remove chicken from broth and cool. Then remove all but 2 quarts broth and if necessary skim excess fat from surface. To broth in saucepot add corn, tomatoes, salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce. Cook about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add spaghetti and cook 10 minutes longer. Meanwhile, remove chicken from bones and cut into pieces. Use 2 cups cut up chicken for stew. Add chicken and okra to stew and cook just long enough to heat thoroughly. Makes 6 servings.

Local Farmers Cautioned About Fla. Pepper Plants

North Carolina farmers should beware of Florida-grown pepper plants this year.

J. C. Wells, plant pathologist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension service, reports bacterial spot is causing severe damage in the major pepper-producing areas of Florida, with some counties losing up to 90 per cent of their crop.

"Bacterial spot has also been a problem in North Carolina for the last three years," Wells said. "Most of the loss has come where Florida-grown plants were used."

The best way to eliminate the problem is to produce disease-free plants at home, Wells added.

And since the disease can be carried on the seed as well as the plants, only seed produced in the arid regions of the West or seed

that have been treated with mercuric chloride solution should be used.

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