



**Old-Fashioned
Best Wishes
To Everyone
At Christmas**

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NOEL

God grant you at Christmas the
exceeding great joy the shepherds
felt as they beheld the Star.

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*the
Second
Forty*
by Margaret Brookfield

A FORUM ABOUT MATURE WOMEN

DAREDEVIL SON
Dear Margaret Brookfield: When my husband passed away six months ago, he left us adequately provided for financially, but it didn't seem right now to have a man as the head of family. So I told my 16-year-old son, Bobby, that that was not his job. (He's the oldest of my three children.) But instead of taking on responsibility for the other children as I hoped Bobby has become increasingly wild. He takes all kinds of dangerous risks and is always getting banged up. So far it's been mainly cuts and bruises, but lately he's taken up drag racing. And when his father was alive he used to be such a sensible boy. I'm terribly worried about him and don't know what to do.--G. B., De Ridder, La.

Dear G. B.: Perhaps your son wasn't quite ready to be the "man" in the family and is trying to tell you this by his reckless behavior. Why not ease up the pressure to have him take his father's place during this period of readjustment for all of you? Let Bobby be a boy for a while longer. Then perhaps it might be easier for him to become a man.

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RECREATION, PLEASE
Dear Margaret Brookfield: I am a 48-year-old widow with a married daughter and two wondrous grandchildren. I live alone in a small apartment and go out very little. I'm not anti-social, but a chornic spinal condition prevents me from getting around as much as I'd like. Sometimes it gets pretty lonesome. I wonder what other stay-at-homes like myself do for recreation.--T. R., Burley, Idaho.

Readers: I know some of you with similar stay-at-home problems have come up with interesting solutions. Why not share them with T. R. in Idaho and the rest of us everywhere?

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A DRINKING PROBLEM?
Dear Margaret Brookfield: My husband who is 52 has a good job with a sales organization. He keeps insisting though that drinking is part of his job and that he must do it. He not only has several cocktails at lunch, but also at night with his dinner. I'm concerned about this much drinking, but he says I'm just being a prude. How can you tell if a person has a drinking

problem?--L. U. Paoli, Pa.
Dear L. U.: Dr. Morris E. Chafetz of Boston's General hospital lists these five warning signals; 1. losing a job because of alcohol; 2. needing medical or hospital attention because of alcohol; 3. being arrested because of alcohol; 4. having an automobile accident because of alcohol; and 5. behaving in a way a person says he never

would had he not been under the influence of alcohol. If any of these apply to your husband, you might contact your local Alcoholics Anonymous to talk with someone knowledgeable about the problem. But even if these warning signals don't apply, your husband might still be doing himself considerable physical harm with his drinking.



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TO ALL AT
CHRISTMAS**

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