



Parents' Problems

By DONALD M. MAYNARD

QUESTIONS ABOUT DEATH

My three-year-old heard a neighbor and myself talking about a person who had died four days ago. Just now she asked me, "How come did Lee's mother die?" What would your answer be to this?

Death does not mean a great deal to a three-year-old girl, although she may have had some contact with it by seeing birds or animals that were dead. Certainly death is not yet associated in her mind with a great sense of loss or sorrow.

Therefore, in answering her question I would suggest that in a very matter-of-fact way you tell your daughter that death comes when a person's body wears out or sometimes when he has had an accident. In this

case you can say that Lee's mother died because her body was worn out. That is probably all you need to say.

Do not go into any of the details concerning her death. Change the subject to something else. In this way you are not avoiding her question, you are answering it honestly, and at the same time you are avoiding that sort of dwelling upon death that might cause great emotional upset or fear on her part.

UNHAPPY WITH FATHER

My husband has never had any sympathy for our little girl—always laughed when she was sad or upset. Consequently, she will never go to him except when angry. How can he overcome this? She gets so upset when I leave and unless she is happy never

looks forward to being with him. He never has sympathy and I know this because, even though he has been the same.

I judge from your question that your husband was violent that he should not have laughed at your daughter when she was sad or upset and that he is probably aware that he did so.

Let me suggest the following: The next time the little girl is upset or unhappy and is with you, let your husband remain with you also and let him be unusually sympathetic and understanding with reference to your daughter's feelings.

At first she will undoubtedly cling more to you and may even express some hostility toward your husband for being present. If he will be patient however, if he will guard at all times against laughing at the little girl when she feels bad, if he will try to increase the number of times they can have happy experiences together, it is likely that she will learn gradually to accept him at all times.

TEEN MONEY TROUBLES

We have a modest income. Our son, sixteen, is unhappy because he can't

keep up with his school friends in social life. The girls expect company and expenses, and we can't afford any suggestions?

I have no suggestions for an early solution of your problem. In fact, I don't think there is one.

It isn't pleasant to be unable to keep up with financial expectations of one's crowd, but after all, there is no mean in life that is more important than that of learning to accept one's financial position and to adjust to it accordingly. If the income of your family doesn't permit your son to keep up with his crowd, then he'll just have to accept that fact and make the best of it.

There must be other boys who are as embarrassed as your son. Suggest that they get together and decide that on their dates they'll not temper the whims of the weaker sex. Let them plan dates together. Adolescents with a little ingenuity and creativeness can have good times together without spending a lot of money.

And let's not be unfair to the girls. Most of them are sane and sensible and won't expect the boys to provide entertainment they can't afford.

It should be remembered, too, that

a boy who has "cutting" on the ball" that is, who has an attractive personality and is active in school affairs, can get by without always providing expensive entertainment.

LAYMEN'S RETREAT AT ACC TOMORROW AND SUNDAY

Sam D. Bundy, president of the Laymen's League of the Disciples of Christ in North Carolina, states that everything is in readiness for the second annual Laymen's Retreat to be held tomorrow and Sunday on the campus of Atlantic Christian college in Wilson.

Registration and fellowship hours will be from 3 to 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, and from then until Sunday afternoon at 2, a well planned program will be presented.

Among those taking part on the program will be Bundy, C. W. Riggs, director of men's work in North Carolina, and E. L. Leonard, president of the Winston-Salem league.

It is expected that between 100 and 150 men will attend the retreat.

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So what gives us a chuckle in this: No other type of engine has ever been used in a Buick—which means that Buick owners, all along, have been getting a lot of things that others have just "discovered."

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