Correspondence and Documents

Whitworth Digital Commons Whitworth University

Father's Day / Sonora Dodd Collection

10-29-1965

## Transcript of Interview with Sonora Dodd by R. Belle Colver, October 29, 1965

R. Belle Colver

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.whitworth.edu/fathers-day-correspondence

This interview with Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, founder of Fathers' Day, took place at her home in the Spokane Valley, October 29, 1965, a glorious autumn day, ideal for such an event..Being a retired newspaper woman, I had worked with Mrs Dodd in various club groups, - more recently in the Spokane Branch, National League of American Pen Women, and the June (1965) magazine "The Pen Woman," has full page article which I wrote on Mrs. Dodd, relative to Fathers' Day, how and why it started, and why she hoped it might become world-wide. This interview, in more intimate conversational style, covers some of that same ground, and I might add, through my long connections with the Spokesman-Review, Spokane, I was familiar with the organizational activities from the very beginning. Now for the interview:

Question (Miss Colver speaking). - Did you have any idea Fathers' Day would become world-wide, - in the beginning I mean.

Answer (Mrs Dodd speaking) .- I had only hoped it might.

- Q .- Do you mind the way it has been commercialized?
- A.- No, for I do not think any gift too great for Fathers. On the first Fathers Day I took my little son with me on a friendly call to the advertizing departments of our mercantile places (stores) and requested that Fathers Day gifts be displayed in the window, and that gifts for fathers be given display.
  - Q .- What was your own Father's reaction to that first Dather's Day?
- A.- My own Father never accepted Father's Day as personal to himself, but to all fathers, worthy fathers. Before my Father's death, it had become nationalized... President Wilson, from his desk in the White House, Washington, D. C., pressed a button opening ceremonies at the Fairgrounds, here in Spokane, observing the anniversary of Fathers Day, which attracted an overflow crowd to the stands. Inland Empire high school bands came to partipate in the program, various civic organizations shared in it, church groups and women's organizations. This brought nation-wide publicity, stimulating national interest.
  - Q.- What tribute given you, gave you your greatest joy ?
- A.- When they made my son "The Ideal Father of the Year." The WASHINGTON POST, Washington, D.C., made him "ideal father of the year." That really was the highest tribute.
- Q.- You must have had a lot of fan mail through the years, children, parents, celebrities...tell me some of the outstanding ones you recall.
- A.- Oh, yes, many, time and time again. Ripley, the cartoonist, from somewhere overseas; Dale Carnegie, syndicated columnist; Ralph Bellamy, the actor; Marie Dressler, actress, who invited me to her home; Bing Crosby, Fat ers Day National Coubcil's chairman for the 25th anniversary program; Oh, I could go on and on.
- Q.- What of invitations for personal appearances...there must have been many through the half century and more.
- A.- I visited New York several times (National headquarters are there), and was guest at many luncheons given by the National Fathers Day council. During the World War, the Council gave a luncheon opening the Bond Drive in New York which resulted in drive that raised a billion dollars. President

.... ... LANDI TA DE THE BAT TENETHAL maje interview with arms. I is round 3000, consider of Manhaus lay, books oless at new nome in the Santana Velly, downer 19, 1985, a closione norman bey, ideal for such as a control of the control of the control of the control of with respect in ratios of proces, note recently in the description of the best of the second of the some of thet sing cround, end I allet end, through my long consections with the shore rep-Review, nomene, I vas landlin with the or of after ional south that from our wery beginning, now for the injerview: yed friends took yes even boy bid -. ( billed to 100 Falm) not reach . If In of owner wind but I - . (anis age boot end) neven The the warmed has described were and bris wor off -. . A .- No. for I do not brink any this too greet for Fethers. On the first novin dd er mie ni ertis vad ans wobute and ni bevalcafe ed et il vad swife etranded spirit upod of neithbor of manuer ave may gen dank -. o A. = My own Fromos namer soconted to test substant promisely, but to sld factors, to be not be not be not seld to sld factors. Here any stant seld to be not be not stant to substant seld on the not seld to substant substant seld on the notation of the substant seld on the notation of the substant seld inglen, D. C., pressod a barron opening concannial of the Aric Rennies, b. in booking, observing the antiversary of Federal Lev, rates attracted in over low or own to the class sand and a send of brone wolfrage pate in the program, various of it on salvations shared in it, out on rours and trong or other rours and trong or other publicity, solutions marional interest. . . That dribute wir mere vous vous elected to the A.- when they ande my on The ideal rather of the rear." The Mrshington, U.S., med him wideal father of the year." That I ally ag car bivers tribute. , a You must have had a lot of ran mell throw a case were, - children, . Il need you see outpatation one or lest. . . satisfeed of the real A. - Ob, yes - meny, time end time entropy, the cartoonist, the somewhere oversers: Dale Charne is, by holds bed columnist; halph Mells py, the 2000r: Helle Drayaler, some ba, no invised me to ber mame; sine Orosby, Mat era (lay yes ious) Comboil's chairman for the this endiversery program: Aug beard of blues D . 00 what or the Land open or constant acres and the most been more accidentally to defer The state of the s

-2-Roosevelt sent his personal representative to the luncheon. "Father's Day" listed in the 1965 World Almanac as June 20 (1965) and "always third Sunday in that month." The Golden Jubilee anniversary, June 1960, was observed nationally and internationally...On this occasion Mrs Dodd told me, "I am happy indeed that my dream of a world-wide observance of Father's Day came into being while I was still in good health to enjoy it." Spokane, Washington. -r-b-c-

Roosevelt sent his personal representative to the luncheon. "Father's Day" listed in the 1965 World Almanac as June 20 (1965) and "always third Sunday in that month." The Golden Jubilee anniversary, June 1960, was observed nationally and internationally...On this occasion Mrs Dodd told me, "I am happy indeed that my dream of a world-wide observance of Painer's Day came into being while I was still in good health to enjoy it." Spokene, Washington -9-d-T-