

HOME FOR YULETIDE

Charlottetown And District

Miss Elizabeth Hofman, student at Edgemoor School, is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.T. Hofman, Summerside.

Miss Ann Ronan of St. Francis Xavier University is spending her Christmas holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G.J. Hayes, Summerside.

Miss Bessie Darby of Toronto is spending the holidays with her parents, Judge and Mrs. W.E. Darby, Summerside.

Miss Bernadine Kelly of Amityville, Long Island, is spending the Yuletide Season with relatives and friends in Morell and Summerside.

Among the students from Mount Allison University spending the Holiday Season in Summerside are Cecilia Darby, Maudie Forbes, Harriet Campbell, Carol MacLean, Barbara Clark, Lorraine Cameron, Carl Miller, Edward Boates, Robert Holman.

Mr. Gordon Forbes, student at Dalhousie University, is spending the Christmas holidays at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Forbes, Summerside.

Among the students from St. Dunstan's University spending the Yuletide Season with their relatives in Summerside are Bill Noonan, Jack Noonan, Charles MacDonald, James Ronan, Michael (Continued on Page 12)

Summerside And District

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Adams Summerside will have as their holiday guests Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Birch and family and Mr. and Mrs. Willard MacCausland of Eberside.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Allen Summerside will have as their holiday guests Mr. and Mrs. George Veale and daughters Christine and Nancy of Charlottetown.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Allen, Summerside will have as their holiday guests, their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Proffitt and their two children of Charlottetown.

Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Allen, Summerside will have their son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Fraser of Halifax, Nova Scotia, as their holiday guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Arsenault of Summerside will have George Arsenault, brother, George Ar-

senault of Quebec as their holiday guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Arsenault of Summerside East will have their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Arsenault, Miscouche as their holiday guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus E. Arsenault, Summerside will have their son Earle of Saint John, New Brunswick as their holiday guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Arsenault, Summerside will have Mrs. Ar-

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MARY HAWORTH

Parents Puzzled About Aid To Children Of Adult Age

Dear Mary Haworth: At what age should adult sons and daughters no longer look to parents for financial help?

My husband and I are in our early 60s. We knew struggle, hardship and self-denial in our early married life. We own our home, a car, a few bonds. We have modest financial security and prospects of a comfortable retirement.

We've raised four children who reached their majority during the war years. Perhaps the unsettled times fostered dependency. Did we feel sorry for them and over-protect them?

One son returned from war, entered school and married (against our better judgment) before he had a job or diploma. From the first, the girl made it clear she

wanted to marry, stop work and have a baby as soon as possible. All this she did. Then three more babies arrived in quick succession.

Now, 10 years later, they are hopelessly in debt. Time and again we've gone to their aid, but where does it end? He's 35. Shall we draw the line, let them lose their house; tell them to reduce their expenses, live on their income? They don't want to hear it. ("Don't tell us how to live," they say).

HAVE PARENTS FAILED?

Love does fly out the window when the bill collector knocks continually at the door. They are incompatible now. They quarrel fiercely in front of the children. The house is dirty and untidy. There is never a peaceful meal. Would the children be better off

elsewhere? What happens next? They've talked to a marriage counselor but maybe haven't told the whole truth. Each accuses the other. How can the marriage be saved, if not by them? I feel it is up to them. But my husband wants to continue financial help; even suggests a separation. I can't see any way to help unless they help themselves.

I know at least eight couples our age who've had the same heartbreak. We want to be proud of our children. But have they failed us? Or have we failed them? Please advise. R.G.

MATERIALISM TO BLAME?

Dear R.G.: Speaking of the numbers of parents you know, burdened, as you are, with adult-age problem-children, it may be that you've hit on the seed of the trouble when you say: "We want to be proud of our children. But have we failed them?" etc. Possibly the truth is that par-

ent theories of values to live by, or goals to strive for, have become almost blindly materialistic in this Mammon-worshipping century. With the result that children are shortchanged on the score of moral development, and influenced unconsciously toward shortsighted, grabby, spendthrift selfishness—wanting monetary ease, and the accessories that money can buy, as the supposed be-all and end-all of human existence.

Maybe there is too much prideful "keeping up with the Joneses" amongst parents you know. Perhaps many older couples of the white collar class, lately arrived at financial substance, haven't the sound social perspective or self-respect to let their grown children make their own way up the ladder too—by dint of struggle and self-denial, as previous generations of workers have done. Maybe these parents feel a

face-saving compulsion to supply the improvident young marrieds with much that they can't afford or don't deserve—largely to help them "keep up appearances" before the world, thus bolstering parental "pride."

SELF-HELP BEGINS

To answer your other questions briefly: Adult-age sons and daughters should be prepared, and expected, to take care of themselves financially (and any dependents they may acquire) beginning and after their schooling is finished.

In marrying, they should know what they are committing themselves to, financially; and should have the wherewithal, or marketable skills, to pay-as-they-go.

As to whether the tensions of war years played havoc with young adult character, I dare say other parents, more mature, many "Mom" type parents re-

sented to the prospective loss of ease in battle, by babying them on the home front. But of course made no such sentimental concessions to the uncertainties of the times. Possibly they got better results.

ENCOURAGE SLOTH

Now about your problem-son: As described, he presents an almost hopeless case at present. Family handout help seems to be perpetuating a bad situation instead of correcting it. As matters stand I don't think you owe the young parents another cent. Indeed if they were cut off dole and obliged to cope with reality, outside the refuge of parental

cedding, they might straighten up and fly right. The urgent consideration, recognized by you, is where to draw the line—and how—without throwing the grandchildren to the wolves. To decide this, you need first-hand specialist help; and I advise you to review the situation, confidentially, with a family relations expert. One thing sure: you should draw the line against bankrupting yourselves, or jeopardizing your retirement security. M.H.

Mary Haworth counsels through her column, not by mail or personal interview. Write her in care of this newspaper.

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