If I Had A Son . . . " (Concluded).

by J. Edgar Hoover.

I'd have few rules, but they'd be enforced. . . family discipline is the exception rather than the rule today. Boys don't become bad overnight. They get away with little things because their parents are too careless or too soft to punish them. Presently the little offenses become big offenses.

Such weak and careless parents should realize that when their children go astray, it hasn't been the fault of the children . . . A spoiled boy grows into a spoiled man. His doting parents can't protect him from the hard knocks that are a part of life's discipline. He goes to pieces because he has been raised under glass.

I'd like to see my boy grow up to be a real man. He should take his part in good, rough, outdoor games. If he were a little noisier around home than I liked, I'd try to put up with it. . . . Boys were noisy animals when I was one . . . If he got into a fight I wouldn't punish him unless he provoked it . . . The last thing I'd do would be to punish him for standing up for his own rights. I might be a bit harsh with him if he didn't. Bruises in boyhood aren't tragedies; they are incidents in the process of growing up.

I'd try to be a real pal to my boy, but I wouldn't carry that so far that I might be "tagging along." . . . I'd encourage him to join the Boy Scouts and Boys' Clubs and similar organizations. . . . I'd want to see my boy in charge of an upstanding, virile, husky young man who could enforce the practice of manly virtues by example. Boys' Clubs conducted by a police organization are almost invariably successful. The boys turn their hero-worshipping tendencies on the policemen. They say to themselves, "Gee, I wish I was as husky as Big Jim. They say he isn't afraid of nuthin'." So they try to get that husky.

... The summer camps which have developed in recent years present a marvelous opportunity for tempering youth. Usually it's well for a boy to get away from home at intervals to share the wholesome rivalry which comes from the proper type of sport, and develop individual responsibility in camp life. The improvement which a few weeks often make in over-coddled boys is astounding. The softness of babyhood is stripped off and they start on the road to manhood.

... I think every child should have certain definite duties to perform, if it's nothing more than mowing the lawn or spading the garden. Dishwashing isn't a pleasant chore but a child who persistently evades it reduces his mother to the level of a servant. After all the home is not only a place of living, it's a place of learning. It's there and not in schools that children are fitted for the burdens they must bear later.

As a matter of course, I'd have my son go to church. That's more, I'd go with him. Apart from religious instruction, churchgoing is a means by which the young man would meet persons of fine character.

But above everything else, I'd try to understand my son. For I fully realize that if I didn't, I'd be a failure as a dad.

Two Announcements.

Tomorrow the fast-spreading Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows opens in Holy Cross Parish, South Bend. Fr. Hugh Calkins, C.S.M., will conduct services at 2:30, 6:30 and 7:30 Campus Time. The 6:30 service will be broadcast over WHBT-WFAM.

Present juniors, classmates of Bud Fox who died this week, may address their cards of sympathy to his brother, Franklin, at 430 West Main Street, Newark, Ohio.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) Thos. J. Shaughnessy '15; uncle of Don Sackloy, Ill, friend of T. King.