

## FATHERS' DAY

In the Spring of 1919, Mrs. J. B. Dodd of Spokane, Washington, listened to a Mothers' Day sermon that was filled with words of praise and admiration for motherhood. The preacher was very eloquent, but failed to mention the word "father" even once during this sermon.

Mrs. Dodd's mother had died when she was very little. Her father was left to

raise six children. She thought it would be nice to honor him and others like him. She told her idea to the preacher. Together, they drafted a resolution and, on June 10, 1919, the first Fathers' Day was observed in Spokane. The observance of Fathers' Day on a national scale, however, didn't occur until 1922. The third Sunday of June was finally established as Fathers' Day.

## WHAT IS A FATHER?

A Father is a person who is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic.

A Father is a person who growls when he feels good, and laughs loudly when he is scared to death.

A Father is a person who gets angry when his children's grades in school aren't as good as he thinks they should be. He scolds his children, even though he knows it's the teacher's fault.

Fathers have very stout hearts; so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what's inside.

Fathers give daughters away to men who aren't nearly good enough—so they can have grandchildren that are smarter than anybody's.

Fathers fight dragons almost

daily. They hurry away from the breakfast table, off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a shop. There, with calloused, prac-

ticed hands, they tackle the dragon with three heads: weariness, work, and monotony.

They never quite win the fight, but they never give up. Knights in shining armour—Fathers in shining trousers; there is little difference as they march away to each workday.

And when a Father dies, I have an idea that he won't be happy unless there's work to do. He won't just sit around and wait for the woman he's loved and the children she bore. He'll be busy there, repairing the stairs, oiling the gates, improving the streets—smoothing the way.

Author unknown

