

"Dawn of Tomorrow" a Family Affair



By Irene Taylor

She is a career woman because she is a mother, not in spite of the fact.

Mrs. Frank Howson inadvertently gives you the key to her success, when she states her creed, known to all mothers.

She says: "I am very proud of my family. Every time I look at them and think how well they have done, I feel that the effort was all worth while."

When Mrs. Howson's first husband, James F. Jenkins, died leaving her with a family of eight children, the eldest of whom was fifteen years of age, she solved her problem in a unique manner.

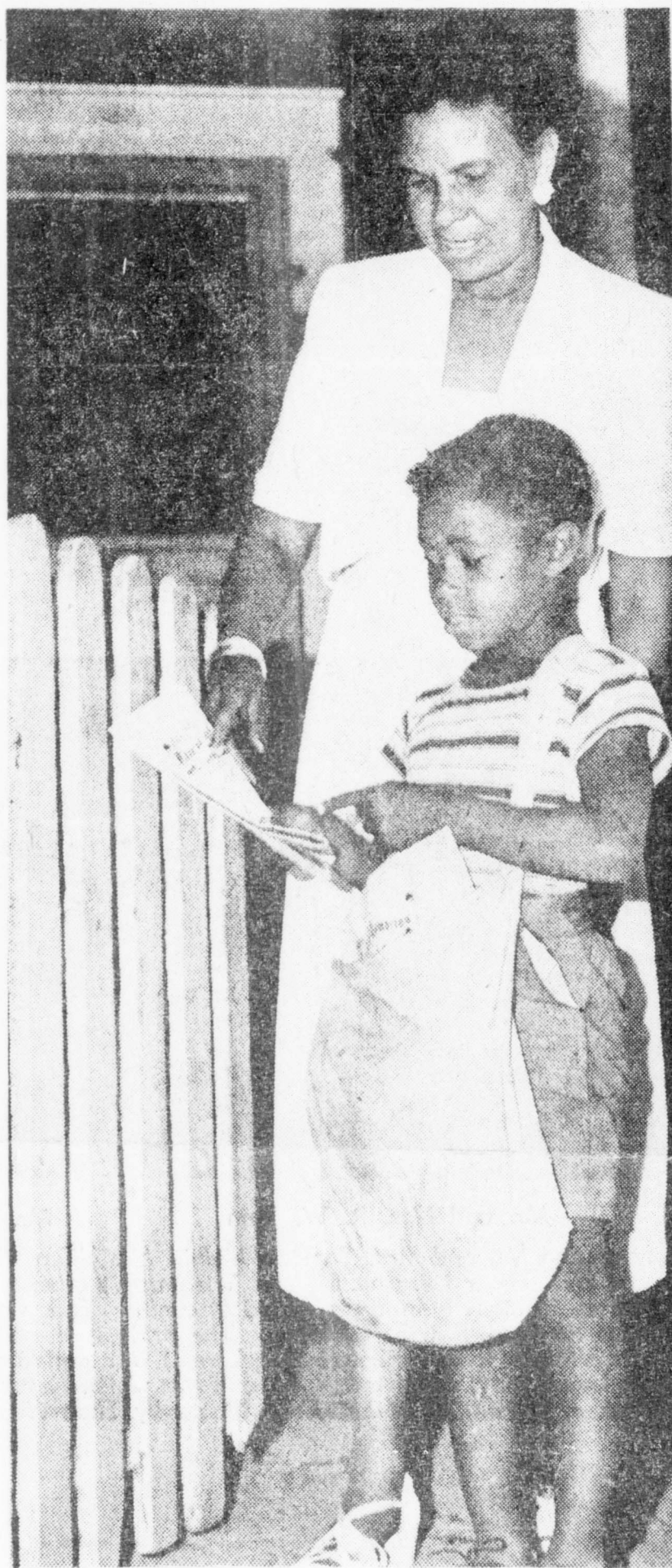
Mr. Jenkins, who was assistant judge of the juvenile court when it was first formed here under Canon Quintin Warner in 1920, had in the same year begun the publication of a Negro weekly, "The Dawn of Tomorrow." His wife had assisted him whenever she could spare time from her demanding family. With this limited experience and great courage she decided she must carry on the publication of the paper to keep her family together.

Nearly twenty years later her courageous choice is a source of pride to her now-grown family who help get the paper out. When Mr. Jenkins died she changed the paper to a monthly publication, which it still remains.

"The Dawn of Tomorrow," the only registered Negro paper in Canada, has a circulation of 5,000, practically encircling the globe, with copies going to Africa, England, Brazil, the West Indies, Bermuda and New York, as well as Canada. When the children were small they took on the job of selling copies in London streets and their brightly expectant smiles were irresistible. One London businessman used to buy a paper every time it appeared on the streets chiefly for the pleasure of seeing the look of complete bewilderment on the small face, when to the query, "Buy a 'Dawn of Tomorrow' sir?" he replied "How can I buy a Dawn of Tomorrow today?" Eight small boys, including Douglas Jenkins, grandson of the publisher, now have the responsibility of selling the city copies.

Of the family of nine, five still remain under the family roof. A daughter, Kathleen, now Mrs. George Livingstone, in Toronto, is an elocutionist, who has been heard reading her compositions over CPPL, as well as on Toronto broadcasts. Marion, on the office staff of Westminster Hospital, and known in the city for her community activities, is vice-president of the Inter-race-Inter-faith committee. Christine is a qualified machinist, Donald, one of the twins is an electrician, and David, the other twin, is a teacher. The family circle also includes Mrs. George Johnson, Freddie and Barrie, and ten grandchildren.

The interests of the children in the community are of great concern to Mrs. Howson, who has taken an active part in the Family Club. She works five afternoons a week whipping the publication into shape, but finds time to be president of the board of directors of Bethemanuel church, a director on the financial board, a member of the W. M. S., and sing in the choir. In her spare time she is an ardent gardener.



Executive-mother Mrs. Howson and her family turn the dining room of the Howson home into publishing office. Shown working in their official capacities are (left to right): Donald Jenkins, assembling the paper; Marion Jenkins, who is her mother's secretary; Mrs. Howson, editor-publisher; Christine Jenkins, in charge of clipping service; and David Jenkins, his mother's advertising manager. In the picture, right, Mrs. Howson sends her grandson, Douglas Jenkins, off on his route with the "Dawn of Tomorrow," giving him some last minute instructions as he leaves home.