

Lesson in Living

PRESERVING PATRIOTISM

Aren't we surprised at the low percentage of citizens who vote? Did we ever wonder why they do not vote? What can we do to encourage them? Perhaps we can begin by following the advice of one of our greatest presidents: ***"Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice "* (Abraham Lincoln).**

Why not memorize patriotic songs and quotes? And why not teach them to our family? Shouldn't every citizen have the **NATIONAL ANTHEM** memorized? I remember when "America the Beautiful" was considered to replace "The Star Spangled Banner" because it was easier to perform, but we maintained the original anthem because of its historical significance. (Consult an encyclopedia.)

Let every citizen memorize the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**: *"i pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. "*

When my daughter, Francene, and I were in New York making a television commercial, we thrilled at the **INSCRIPTION ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY**:

***Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door! (Emma Lazarus)***

My friend, who was a WWII bride from Wales, says her most patriotic experience was when they sailed in sight of the famous Statue after two weeks at sea. There were 5,000 homesick, seasick, young brides standing anxiously at the ship's rail. When pulling into the harbor, the Italian brides were greeted by music from a band; the English brides made their own music by singing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" in honor of the ship's captain.

One of my first patriotic memories was when I heard Kate Smith majestically rendering Irving Berlin's **GOD BLESS AMERICA**. As a mother, I thrilled to play this song, as well as other patriotic tunes on our accordions as a family:

***God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
to the oceans white with foam,
God bless America. my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.***