

PLATONIC FRIENDSHIP BOSH IF 30-YEAR DISPARITY, SAYS JUDGE STELK

"A man of 30 or 60 who goes out with a girl in her teens to supper parties and cabarets has something else than platonic friendship in mind," remarked Judge John Stelk of the court of domestic relations.

"A man in his 50s takes a girl less than 20 to dinners at cafes, the theater, suppers after the show. Perhaps, too, there are taxis, flowers or candy.

"Who pays?"

"The man! Oh, no! The man is not paying; he is only making a loan. He expects to collect with usurious interest. The girl pays in the end. Some day she may wish she had never seen the kindly old codger who seemed to take such a fatherly interest in her.

"Certainly there is such a thing as close friendship between a man and a woman where there is no thought of love, and yet no thought of evil where a common interest in something in life, art, music, social or economic problems or the desire for agreeable hours together in theater, home or cafe is the stake.

"But while the gray-haired old grandad may prate of 'platonic friendship,' 'mutual ideals' or 'pleasure of young miss' company,' if he is sincere and has not a hidden evil object he is not likely to seek to further his 'disinterested friendship' with an accompaniment of wine and a banjo orchestra.

"Take for instance the case of Isaac Neuman and Sadie Weisbaum, whose clandestine amours were aired in the court of domestic relations and the S. Clark street police court.

"This was the case where a man of 55 singled out a pretty young girl from among those who worked for him, took her to lunches and cabarets and on frequent taxi rides.

"A man like that can't plead 'platonic friendship' and convince me he was sincere.

"If I could have been convinced that the girl was less than 18, and I held the case open two weeks while I looked for

proof, I would have given Neuman the limit, for he would have been clearly guilty, but I could find no proof that the girl was less than 18. In fact, the records of two schools and the places where she worked shows that she gave her birth date as having been in 1897, which would make her 19.

"So long as she was over 18 I could do nothing with Neuman on the charge on which he was before me, though I believe he was guilty of wild indiscretions."

Neuman is the superintendent of delivery at the Rothschild & Co. department store. Sadie Weisbaum was a girl who worked for him.

CROWN IN TUCKS; BRIM OF STRAW



Here's a brave little spring hat with which to brighten our drab and somewhat frayed winter raiment.

It's a Fisk model in navy blue faille, the crown tucked in tiny tucks, the brim faced with navy blue straw. The simple little "decoration" in pastel braid at the front of the crown is quite trimming enough for a hat that is to be worn in spring's uncertain wind and weather.