



ANN ARBOR TRAIL at MAIN STREET PHONE 453-1620





To hear some people talk, "Mother's Day" is strictly a campaign conceived along Madison Avenue to promote the sale of flowers, candy and women's apparel in the month of May.

Actually, Mother's Day was proclaimed a national holiday in the United States by President Woodrow Wilson on May 8, 1914 following

a joint resolution by Congress.

The resolution designated the second Sunday in May to be observed as Mother's Day. It authorized government officials to display the United States flag on all government buildings and the people of the United States to display the flag at their homes as "a public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

Although the original intention—may have been partially obscured by the hard-sell advertising which surrounds Mother's Day as we know it now, still in most family groups there is the recognition of a special day for mom.

The idea of Mother's Day is not a modern one. Mother-love antedates the Christian religion; mother-worship with its own rites and ceremonies reaches back-into pagan times.

Earliest records of formal motherworship come from stories of the ceremonies in which Cybele, or Rhea, "the great mother of the gods" was worshiped in Asia Minor. The power and majesty of motherhood rather than its tender maternal spirit was celebrated.

The worship of this superlative

"mother of gods" traveled through Greece into Rome about 250 B.C. It was known as the festival of Hillaria and people made offerings into the temple, which though confiscated by the priests, still served to recognize motherhood.

With the advent of Christianity, the festival changed in spirit and emphasis as it grew into a celebration—in—honor—of—the—"Mother Church." It became the custom on Mid-Lent Sunday for the faithful to visit the church in which they were baptized and brought up—bringing gifts for the attar.

How this in turn gave rise to the English observance of "Mothering Sunday" is uncertain. It is thought that a custom grew among young men and maidens, who were bound out as apprentices and servants, to visit their parents on Mid-Lent Sunday, taking with them some little present, cake or trinket meant primarily for the mother.

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A youth engaged in this act of duty was said to "go a-mothering".

We cannot say that our own Moth-

We cannot say that our own Mother's Day is directly descended from the old holiday when English apprentices went "a-mothering". However, the presents which we give mothers in our own country are in that tradition as is our idea of making a special visit.

As American families continue to move apart geographically, if not in other ways, the observance of Mother's Day is one more way in which family members reunite--if only by telephone, card or letter.

odes to mom

They say that man is mighty, He governs land and sea, He wields a mighty scepter O'er lesser powers than he:

But mightier power and stronger Man from his throne has hurled, For the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world. W.R. WALLACE

A mother's love!
If there be one thing pure
Where all beside is sullied,
That can endure,
When all else passes away,
If there be aught
Surpassing human deed or word, or
thought,
It is a mother's love.

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