

Fathers and sons

THE MUSSALLEMS

*Michael, Charles IV, Charles II
and Charles Jr, aka Johnny.*

When asked what he and his family did together, Charles Mussallem, II of Mussallem Rug Co. Replied, "Basically, it all. We did it all together."

Charles and his brother have worked in the family business "since they were old enough to move rugs," says their Dad, Charles Jr. "Johnny". His father, Charles Sr. founded the company in 1897. "working here was never easy," says Charles II, "but my Dad had the wisdom to allow us wide corridors so we could spread our wings."

For the Mussallems, children are a "license to immortality." Charles II says. "We were taught to do the best you can do - you can't do more than that - and be happy with your life." That's what he and his wife Marsha are teaching their five children. Charles' son, 4-year-old Charles IV and 3-year-old Michael, are still too young to lift rugs, but they'll probably work in the family business in some capacity when they are older.

Charles II says, "In America, so many people confuse independence with being alone. We teach our kids to be independent with the frame work of the family, but they're never alone. They will always have the family there to support them, to look at a situation or problem dimensionally, that is by surrounding it and looking at it from different angles."

