

THE MUSIC BAG

Exploring the Gap

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

You who are on the road must have a code that you can live by, And so become yourself because the past is just a good-bye. Teach your children well, their father's Hell did slowly go by, And feed them on your dream, the one they fix, the one you'll know by. Don't you ever ask them why, if they told you you would die. But just look at them and sigh, and know they love you.

And you of the tender years, can't know the fears that your elders grew by, Can't you hear that, don't you care that, can't you see you must be free to? And so please help them with your youth, they seek the truth before they can die. Teach your children what you believe in, make a world we can live in.

Teach your parents well, their children's Hell will slowly go by, And feed them on your dream, the one they fix, the one you'll know by. And don't ever ask them why, if they told you you would cry, But just look at them and sigh, and know they love you.

(Published by Giving Room Music)

By THE MISSION SINGERS

Graham Nash, who wrote Teach Your Children for Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, put his song in a publishing company he named Giving Room Music. There's probably no better way to describe the song than to say it tries to give room to people, both young and old, who have been pushing one another into corners for too long.

You don't even have to understand every word to know what story the song tells. The music sets the mood and paints the picture. Have you ever described to your parents something that is honestly a part of you only to realize they can't understand what you mean and what you want?

If you have had such an experience, you'll understand the mood the song sets by its music. The mood is not one of anger or bitterness, but of sadness at the inability to communicate.

Teach Your Children reminds us that if we are of "tender years" we should also be of tender mind to people who

grew up in a style of life different from ours.

At the same time, isn't it true that it's a most irritating experience to explain yourself honestly to an older person and to hear as the only response: "Well, when you're my age, you'll know better?"

If age is to be the determining factor in deciding one's level of competence, where do you stop? A few weeks ago we sang in Pennsylvania. After the concert, the teens in the audience went to a dance next door. While we were taking down the sound equipment, a ten-year-old girl told us how the dance was going.

The kids were enjoying themselves, she said, but there was an old couple there. They were dancing slower than the rest, but, to quote the little girl's exact words, "What do you expect from old people? They must be in their twenties!"

Though the ten-year-old girl was naively serious, her tale is funny. It shows the silliness of those who say age is the requirement for maturity, and it

shows the silliness of those who fear to trust anyone over thirty.

The most beautiful part of Teach Your Children is its appreciation of the fact that while we might not understand our elders (or our juniors) we can still love them. "Don't you ever ask them why, if they told you you would cry, but just look at them and sigh, and know they love you."

"And know they love you." Do you believe your parents love you in their way? Do your parents know you love them in your way? We wrote an article a few months back about a Beatles song, and one paper that ran the column put a picture of the Beatles on the front page. The next week a teen wrote to the paper and said, "My parents nearly had a stroke! But later on we discussed the song at dinner. Thanks."

If you can believe that those parents also probably felt the same appreciation for the chance to talk with their child, then you know the message of Teach Your Children. Now you've got to live it.

Beware of the 3-Leaf Plant!

Don't scoff at poison ivy; if you do, you may have to scratch your vacation. Doctors say eight out of 10 persons are susceptible.

The first rule of protection is to know your enemy by sight. Poison ivy has enough disguises to keep an expert botanist busy, but it still has three leaves to a group, although the leaves vary in shape and size. The miserable ivy has a way of growing as a ground creeper, a vine and even as a bush, so it's best to avoid any three-leaf plant if you can.

Even though you've never had poison ivy, and think you are immune, it is not very likely that you are. And authorities say those few persons having natural immunity can lose it. Repeated exposures don't build resistance; on the contrary, they may make you more vulnerable.

You've probably heard some people say they're so susceptible to poison ivy that they can get it just by looking at the plant. The truth is, you cannot get poison ivy that way. But you can be affected even though there's no direct contact with the plant. It's the oily substance — urushiol — on the leaves that's the real villain. For example, the oil can soak into gardening gloves or outdoor clothes and infect you months later if contact is made. A rake, or shoe, or even a dog that has run through poison ivy can be a "carrier" of the oil that causes trouble.

If you suspect a case of poison ivy is in store for you, first thing is to wash the exposed area with soap and warm water. This may help rid the skin of the oil before it gets to work. If an itch develops there are

analgesic - anesthetic preparations which provide relief.

The obvious way to deal with poison ivy is to avoid it. And that means more than simply steering clear of three-leaf vines and plants. Don't, for example, burn poison ivy with other garden debris. The poisonous oil vaporizes and retains its potency in the smoke wafting through the neighborhood. And when gathering firewood, be on the lookout for dead ten-

drils of ivy clinging to the logs.

If you recognize poison ivy on your property, don't try weeding it out by hand; you're likely to leave the roots behind. Instead, use a good commercial plant killer that will destroy the roots as well as the foliage.

Remember, whether one calls it poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, or mercury — all plants bearing the oil — one thing is certain: it's poison!

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