

SARAH CHILD

All In The Family



Selling one's own house is probably never an easy chore unless you happen to be one of those fortunates who find a buyer the first week out.

And the whole procedure can become even more complicated if you happen to have three kids helping you dispose of the home—stead in what you hope will be an equitable, financially agreeable manner.

Once when we were out house-hunting ourselves we inspected the home of a family with eight kids. The powder room was delightfully papered, the floor spotlessly clean. But the wash-basin had definite signs of dirt, fresh dirt.

"Hmmpf," I said to myself, "You'd think if anybody was going to the trouble to show a house, the least they could do would be to have the basin clean."

I have, since we put our house on the market, eaten those words on the average of twice a day. You can clean until the cows come home but unless you do it after the children's father has transported them to the other side of the county for the afternoon, you cannot be sure of dirt-free anything.

A second thing to remember if you've got children helping is never, but never, point out a house flaw, no matter how slight. A tiny patch of wallpaper paste was never removed from the ceiling in the kitchen. When I went to do so, cleaning worsened the situation. Since everything else was fine I decided to leave it as it was. Now, the 7-year-old, pledged to keep her voice silent, stands in kitchen, mute as promised, when prospective buyers usher through, but eyes lifted to the spot.

The 2-year-old, never timid with strangers, has learned that customers are great sources for treats. I caught her last night strong arming a helpless matron.

"Wady," she smiled her most provocative at the woman, "You got any gum?"

Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Weckesser of Aberdeen Street and Canandaigua Lake celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 28 at St. Augustine's Church.

Their son, Maryknoll Father James Weckesser, came home for the occasion from Santiago, Chile. Celebrating Mass with him were two minor seminary classmates, Fathers John V. Rosse and Joseph F. Reinhart, Msgr. John M. Duffy, Fathers Edward J. Tolster and Norbert L. Nolan. A reception and dinner followed the Mass.

The Weckesser family includes three other sons, Joseph, William and Paul, and 14 grandchildren.

Holy Cross Elects School Board

Holy Cross parishioners recently elected Marty Peterson and Mary Ellen Fitzgibbons to their board of education. Anthony Paris, reelected, was named treasurer by his colleagues.

Other new officers are Thomas W. Banaszewski, chairman; Gerald Sauter, vice chairman, and Mary Urtis, secretary.

FESTIVAL

St. Salome's summer festival will be held July 28 and 29 on the church parking lot. A fish fry will highlight opening night.

Courier-Journal

Is There Room In Your Heart?

Margaret has little use of muscles and limbs but plenty of "thinking power." She is an excellent student in her 7th grade class — her attendance record matched by her eagerness to learn.

Margaret suffered neurological damage at birth. Her physical handicaps limit her social life but she enjoys the companionship of other teens. Unfortunately, too much of her recreation is solitary, such as reading, putting puzzles together or listening to music. She would be better off in a stimulating family than in an institution or nursing home, and the life experiences she has had would broaden the outlook of children without physical handicaps.

For more information about her or about being foster parents call Diane Lenzo at the Catholic Family Center (716) 546-7220 or Miss Mary Lou Miller at the Monroe County Department of social services (716) 442-4000, extension 2409.

Our son does not bother with the people filing through. He concentrates on the refrigerator knowing that I cannot or at least will not get out the yardstick when there are strangers looking on.

Sometimes they bring their friends in when there are lookers present, all clamoring for cookies and drinks of juice. In one instance, the couple who had two pre-schoolers in tow themselves found their kids at the end of the refreshment line. It looked good for the sale until our 4-year-old told their 4-year-old to get off his bike. Anybody want to board three kids for a week or so?

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

Adolescents can have all the psychiatric disabilities of any age group, ranging from minor anxiety reactions to severe mental illness. Some of them go into a stage called "adjustment reaction" in which there may be a stormy emotional period and which usually passes. In this stage, there is greater than usual difficulty adjusting to the pressures of life including:

1. The changes that are going on within themselves, such as the increased intensity of their feelings, moodiness and lessened control of their emotions.
2. The influence of others, especially their friends, peer groups, and teachers resulting in a change in their social values and concepts of right and wrong. This may lead to a conflict with their parents' attitudes towards religion, politics and social customs. Thus the "generation gap", the "break with the establishment", the identification with the underdog and the trying of the forbidden — sex, alcohol, pot and other drugs.
3. Conflicts at home such as the parents' marital problems and illnesses and emotional problems of other members of the family may tax the teenagers' capacity to adjust.
4. Problems in school adjustments especially the disappointment in academic performance may increase the strain they feel they are under.

Signs of this type of problem are changes in usual behavior. Commonly, there may be a tendency to stay out late without permission, irritability, more than usual isolation from the family — often by listening to the hi-fi (too loudly, of course), difficulty getting to sleep and arising, fights with parents and/or brothers and sisters, experimenting with drugs, especially beer and wine, and school problems including skipping class, not doing homework as usual and a decline in their marks.

The "adjustment reaction" is very welcomed at the mental health clinics and family service agencies since they are usually very workable and the outcome is satisfying. Proper handling may prevent a more serious condition from developing.

Questions on children's mental health should be mailed to: Mental Health Commentary, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, 14604.



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HERE ARE BUT A FEW!

HAND CARVED STATUARY:

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and several others.

CHURCH SUPPLIES:

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PICTURES:

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