

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sarah Child

Sarah's Law: The mess expands to fit the space

Two years ago we moved from a middling size house with a one-car garage to a large house with a two-car garage.

There were lots of reasons but mostly there didn't seem to be sufficient room to house our belongings.

The one-car garage, although we had only one car, was insufficient because there was no room for the lawnmower, snow tires, bicycles, etc. etc.

Now that we have a two-car garage there still isn't room for one car. The number of bikes has shot from two to five. The rotary lawn mower became a rider to take care of the additional lawn. A lawn sweeper appeared on the scene. Doll carriages, sand boxes and tot size swimming pools put away for the winter vie for space with yard games, an old picnic table converted to a work bench and boxes upon boxes of books that still need a home within the confines of the house proper.

To add to the confusion the fellow that sells us wood arrived last Saturday with two cords. I wish somebody would have explained to us when we were ordering against the prospect of a hard and cruel winter that two cords of wood are a lot more than one cord doubled in the mind's eye.

Inside, if anything, things are worse. I am a collector of garage sale furniture all of which will become heirloom pieces AS SOON AS I find time to refinish.

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them. In the basement along with more boxes of books, tons of decoupage material, all of my and my husband's old college term papers are one spool bedstead purchased for \$4, an honest to goodness Windsor chair covered with yellow paint that may have been the best buy of my career at \$3 (they threw in a child's quilt as part of the bargain), two children's peeling rockers, an absolutely darling chest which has been waiting for 15 years for a little elbow grease and an early American reproduction bench of pine that my uncle made and which I stupidly covered with orange paint in a moment of abandon.

The downstairs, while nothing to write home about, is probably in the best shape only because can't kick something out of the way every day without breaking a toe or something or something.

The upstairs I don't want to talk about. Suffice it to say that an abundance of closets does not breed organization. Rather it spawns rotten habits like keeping broken Christmas ornaments, stashing away clothes that were out of date five years ago and filing for posterity your fourth grader's kindergarten art.

Should we ever move again I am seriously considering a two-room structure. One a large dormitory style sleeping room with cell like cubicles for privacy and the other a room for eating, watching TV and all other activities.

I can tell you now there will be no closets, garage or basement. Period.

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Industry's Visitors Day 'Fantastic Success'

Sunday, Oct. 20, was a great day at Industry. Families came from all over New York to visit the youngsters at the state school. About a dozen former residents also showed up, and the day was a "fantastic success," in the words of Father Edward Zenkel.

"We're very happy about it; everything worked so well," the chaplain reported. "The whole campus was involved. There was tremendous cooperation — kids, families, staff."

As the parents arrived, many from distant points, their children took them to a specially prepared coffee house and then showed them around the place. About two weeks had gone into "fixing up" of cottages and grounds, and "a strong sense of community developed," Father Zenkel said.

The school, with a variable population of youngsters who have run afoul of the law, had about 175 residents at the time, and visitors brought the crowd near 500, the chaplain estimated.

Outdoor games and a chicken dinner were high highlights of the program, and it was a cold, snowy day.

"We were really sweating it out when it snowed so hard we couldn't even see the barbecue pit — 500 pieces of chicken to cook."

"But everything worked," Father Zenkel said. "The day was great!"

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