

Children Who Wait

Michael — A Lovable Child

The Courier-Journal has been gratified to learn in the past few weeks of the number of inquiries made to area adoption agencies for The Children Who Wait.

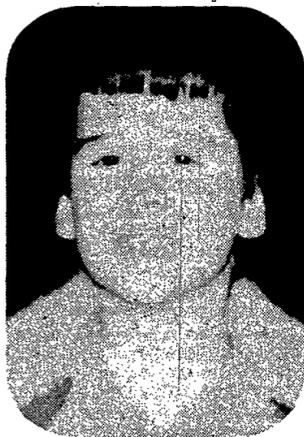
These children are all in search of homes which will be receptive to their particular problems. There are children who have mental physical and/or emotional handicaps. Some are from minority races; others are of mixed race. Some of The Children Who Wait are siblings who should be kept together. And some of the children are older, — the age range is pre-school through early teens.

Among them is Michael. The Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) says of him:

"Michael, age 7 1/2, is an affectionate, lovable child with a friendly, outgoing personality. He is tall for his age and slender, a good-looking boy with brown hair and eyes and light complexion.

"Michael is brain-damaged, likely having suffered some injury prior to birth. As a result, he is partially paralyzed, requiring special shoes and a brace on his right leg, and having little use of the right hand. He is hyperactive and prone to seizures, but the latter is reasonably controlled with medication. He also has nystagmus in both eyes.

"It is felt that Michael has considerable potential, if allowed



MICHAEL

to progress at his own rate. He is alert, can learn quickly, and has good retention. He functions quite well in first grade at a school for the physically handicapped.

"Since age one, Michael has been in the same foster home, and recently was surrendered for adoption. He would need an affectionate, understanding and patient family in an area where good medical, educational and occupational facilities are available.

Adoptive patterns have changed in recent years. Once there were many healthy infants available for adoption. Today, however, a great emphasis is

being placed on finding homes for children agencies once considered hard to place.

Once adoptions were done by childless couples. Today, families with six and more children are adopting. Even singles are becoming adoptive parents.

Children are being placed across racial and religious lines, and to ease the financial burden of adoption, financial subsidies are available.

What is being sought are loving, caring, adoptive homes that can meet the needs of the child.

Michael is one of more than 1,000 children registered with the New York State Adoption exchange who are waiting for adoptive placement.

In addition, Michael and more than 200 other children are listed in THE CAP BOOK, a photo listing service of CAP.

For general information about adoption, the following agencies should be contacted:

Catholic Family Center, 546-7220; Monroe County Department of Social Services, 442-4000; Northaven, Inc., 266-4330; the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP), 288-7989.

For further information about Michael, THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

Workshop on Planning

Methods and means of mapping plans for parishes in rapidly changing neighborhoods will be examined at a workshop this week and next. Thirty city parishes have been asked to send representatives to sessions at the St. Joseph Motherhouse.

The workshop is sponsored by Msgr. George Cocuzzi, as vicar for urban ministry; the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy and the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the diocesan offices of Pastoral Planning and Human Development. A study of six central city parishes completed within the past year will be used as a teaching tool.

Those invited include the staffs of the 30 parishes, the parish

council presidents and heads of the human development committees, and representatives of various groups concerned with urban ministry. Daytime sessions are scheduled for tomorrow and Saturday, Nov. 15; evening sessions, next Monday and Wednesday, Nov. 17 and 19.

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Sarah Child

My address book is falling apart. Its condition clearly calls for a replacement which will mean copying all of the "working" phone numbers and addresses and discarding the others.

Leafing through it is almost better than a diary or a scrapbook in recalling past events. With nostalgia, amusement and time blurred recollections I've been sorting out the melange of names, places.

Some remind me of worrisome days — the medical center in another city where my mother-in-law underwent successful surgery — for example, and some of annoying situations, i.e., the paper boy who delivered the morning paper only when he felt like it and collected regularly every eight months on the dot.

Under the Cs I found a whole list of interesting reminders. One was the address for Campbell's Soups and the president's name to whom I intended to write a scathing letter about the horrible potato soup it cans under its label. I never did write it obviously switching attention from soup to cheese. Also under the Cs was the address for the Amish family who made Baby Swiss Cheese in Ohio.

Under C also: a piano tuner, a lumber yard where I found our eight-foot picnic table, a stationery company in Colorado and the name and number of an excellent restaurant near my parents from which we had a gift certificate sent for Christmas one year. Names of baby sitters long off to college or full time jobs fill many pages along with other child-related activities. The pediatrician's number I have burned in my skull and have no

need for a written record but teachers scout leaders, opticians, music instructors, dentists, swim clubs, skating rinks, bowling alleys and nursery schools, etc., are all there.

For me, a dressmaker I used once, a hair dresser, and three of my most used numbers: the downtown library with its terrific information service, the county agriculture and home extension service and the local post office.

The number for Thruway information reminds of the time we worried out an evening while relatives traveled during an unofficial blizzard. Rochester Gas and Electric gets top billing for both its service department for emergencies and its home economics department for sundry questions.

There are friends who've moved and kept in touch and friends who didn't. Tips from friends on where to buy distinctive wallpaper, or a good buy on rugs or the man who puts in patios. The names are all there.

And because I'm the one who is home to make all the service calls I also have the lawnmower repair man, the firewood man, the plumber, the best hardware, the garbage removal, etc. in my little plaid book — a far cry from the little black book syndrome.

Now and then I come across a name which means nothing. After jogging my mind a little I remembered — the entry was the uncle of some friends who moved to Vermont through whom we kept in touch with the friends' comings and goings.

One number I've yet to place. It's either a dog grooming service, a Chinese midwife, once recommended by an independent thinking friend, or a pay station outside the public restrooms on Luquillo Beach, P.R. Happily none are in immediate demand and I can take my time checking it out.

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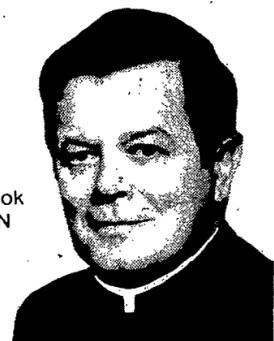
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