

**Children Who Wait**

**Meet Vivacious Rhonda**

For several weeks, the Courier-Journal has been introducing its readers to very special children, The Children Who Wait.

For one reason or another, these youngsters are considered to be "hard to place" by adoption agencies.

The reasons are many and varied. Some of The Children Who Wait are older. Some have mental, physical and/or emotional handicaps which need special care. Some of the children are siblings who should not be separated. Some are of a minority race while others are of mixed race.

The Children Who Wait, however, all have one thing in common: they need the love and security a home life brings.

This week we introduce Rhonda. Imagine her delight to sit down to a Thanksgiving table with a family she can call her own.

The Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) says of Rhonda:

**"Rhonda is a vivacious, outgoing 12-year-old with black kinky hair, dark brown eyes and dark coloring.**

**"She is very interested in church activities, especially choir.**

**"She enjoys school where she**



**RHONDA**

**attends sixth grade. However, she has difficulty in math and reading and periodically has remedial help. She has a congenital heart condition which has been corrected by open-heart surgery."**

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 like Rhonda.

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

maybe once a week or once a month not as often as we liked. Now for many children it is a matter of simply deciding what flavor they'd like. And somewhere in the saturation process, the quality has diminished for both fantasy and ice cream.

As small town residents our family had but one movie theater to go to. My husband, the city boy and youngest of three brothers was more fortunate by far. As surely as Saturday afternoon would roll around each week he could count on a matinee in the company of siblings—barring of course the possibility that he might get himself in trouble during the week and find that the punishment was "no movie."

At our house, being girls, we were not allowed to go alone but we were taken. A younger sister and a young aunt the same age as I would wait with bated breath for Friday nights to come to see either the latest Roy Rogers' film or a special musical. The aunt still bears a scarred knee from trying to get in the movie door without opening it first. The glass shattered at the impact and 14 stitches were taken. It did not dampen our ardor. I can still see my little sister with six hats and a bunch of bananas piled on her head criss-crossing the ends of her blouse to sashay around as Carmen Miranda. And I grew up thinking the best way to get a boy's attention was to walk about with my nose in the air, exhibiting supreme indifference ala the teenage stars Elizabeth Taylor, Jane Powell, etc.

Our children see a movie maybe two or three times a year depending on whether there is anything suitable and on the price which tends to be exorbitant when you count the cost of five tickets. In our childhood the price ranged from 20 to 50 cents. And nobody had to worry about PG or R ratings.

Mostly our kids see Disney films which I think is a shame. Between that pap and their TV fare of "Six Million Dollar Man" there is a whole world of make-believe they are not privy to. Someday hopefully somebody will see that the films of the forties and fifties are an important part of our cultural heritage and bring them back.

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

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

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

In addition, Rhonda 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 Rhonda, THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

**SOUP LABELS**

Ithaca — The parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena are collecting Campbell Soup Labels. These labels will be used to obtain materials and equipment for many programs. All varieties of trading stamps and bonus coupons are also being collected by St. Catherine of Siena Church, Catherine Circle, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

**First Friday Observance Urged as Preparation For Eucharistic Congress**

The celebration of First Fridays was pointed out this week as "a special way" to prepare for next summer's Eucharistic Congress.

Father Daniel J. McCarthy, SSSC, forwarding a recommendation of the American bishops, said, "We are asked to attend Mass on First Fridays, beginning in December, and to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion in a spirit of reparation."

Father McCarthy, pastor of St. Peter and Paul, Rochester, is diocesan director of the Apostleship of Prayer. He noted that the purpose of the congress to be held in Philadelphia in

August is "to deepen our love and appreciation of Jesus present in the Eucharist."

The bishops urge all Catholics "to prepare themselves for the congress by becoming more aware of the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament," Father McCarthy said. "We are asked to prepare ourselves in a special way" by starting first Fridays Dec. 5.

The "spirit of reparation" of the special monthly devotion "is the way we have of showing our love," he explained, "and our concern for the lack of love (shown) especially by the failure of many Catholics to appreciate the Mass and Communion."

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**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

**Sarah Child**

We let our children stay up past their regular bedtime recently to watch most of "That's Entertainment", the cornucopia of MGM musical goodies that had its TV premiere after a lengthy run in theaters across the nation.

In spite of a cultural diet that has included TV almost from birth they were impressed with the kind of fantasy that their father and I cut our teeth on.

There was audible laughter in the room (Donald O'Connor's dance routine in "Singing in the Rain") which I seldom associate with youngsters watching the tube. The common response to antics on the small screen seems to be a glassy-eyed stare.

But the thing that most gladdened my heart as we shared with them this old dream world of our childhood and adolescence was the visible excitement as they watched Esther Williams dive again and again from high swings, makeshift cliffs, highrise theatrical towers against fiery backdrops, thousands of lights and a supporting cast of hundreds and hundreds of swimmers.

Should anyone attempt such a movie today in this age of "The Godfather" it surely would be regarded as high camp. But what a magnificent storehouse of glittering dreams it gave us to draw upon for our own make-believe.

Our children are, I think, the poorer for the lack of such fare — in spite of the omnipresent TV set.

It was like having ice cream before everybody's refrigerator came equipped with a freezer big enough to hold a half gallon or two. A special treat to be enjoyed

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