

The Children Who Wait

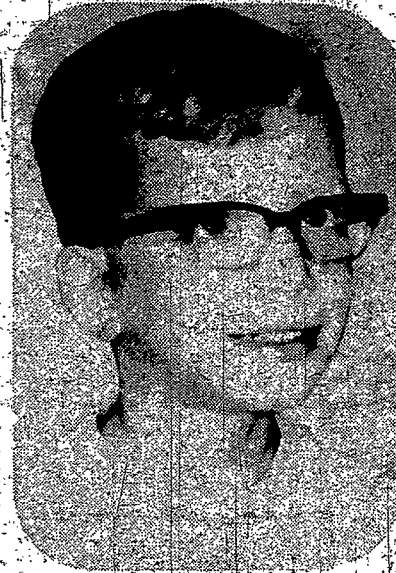
John, an Affectionate Child

"John is an affectionate, attractive, 7-year-old little boy. After Head Start and pre-kindergarten classes, John is now entering a class for the educable, mentally retarded. He is generally well-behaved, and his speech has improved greatly.

"John has had many foster care placements in his short life, and it has been suggested that this may have contributed to his retardation.

"He can play well with other children, but must be encouraged to play. He requires little discipline. He eats and sleeps well and is healthy.

"John's problems are of a complex nature and not easily defined. His potential is unknown, as after three years of schooling he has made little academic progress. He needs a permanent home as his



JOHN

foster care placement is not long term possibility."

find it and the chances of moving there.

Idle pastime that it might be, I still derive enjoyment from the prospect of someday being where we could literally live out of doors for say 11 months of the year.

I am convinced that people who can open their doors and windows to the fresh air every day, who can work and putter about a garden or yard or enjoy some other al fresco activity any time they so choose must be far healthier than we creatures of the North.

"I know—I know. I've read those articles, too, saying how much harder inhabitants of the temperate zone are—that severe cold tends to make us stronger and less prone to an early demise. But I sometimes wonder about the value of a climate where a stuffed head, a clogged sinus and scratchy throat seems to be the rule and not the exception six months out of the year. (Obviously I am biased having just spent a full month catching, half recovering, and recatching a case of the flu I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy.)

The first place I always think of is Puerto Rico, having spent some time there with my husband's brother's family.

It is also the first place I veto, never having had much of a liking for a sauna-bath which pretty well describes the island.

No matter how lovely it may be every morning to open the doors to the patio without benefit of screens (insects were not a problem either), no matter the lush tropical flowers growing as prodigiously as ragweed, a climate which requires a minimum of three showers a day and turns gentle wave to frizz is not my ideal either.

Arizona would seem the most likely contender for my dream site, dry heat having any number of physiological advantages as well as the esthetic considerations.

But the truth is that born and bred in Pennsylvania mountains so verdant as to have forever conditioned my eye and heart to the splendor of the forest, it is difficult to imagine existing in a place where greenery depends on a water valve and a telephone pole is sometimes used for shade.

The solution, of course, would be to have several homes in as many different temperature zones. The northern Maine coast in July and August, Pennsylvania and New York for Spring and Fall and New Mexico for all of January and February.

Since that prospect is about as likely as my inventing a cheap energy source or a pollution solution either of which would undoubtedly make me as rich and mobile as Bob Hope, I had best get out my long underwear, stock up on decongestants and hope the four walls do not become progressively more confining within the next three (six?) months.

Finding that permanent home for John is a task the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) has set for itself. John is one of more than 200 who are "hard to place," listed in the CAP Book, a photo service of CAP.

For the last few months the Courier-Journal has been presenting readers with children from that listing in its series The Children Who Wait.

Children are considered hard to place for a variety of reasons. Some, like John, have mental, physical and/or emotional problems. Some are older. The age range for The Children Who Wait runs from infancy through early teens. Some children are from a minority race and some are racially mixed. Some are sibling groups who should not be separated.

The one thing they all have in common is the need for an adoptive family.

In years past there was a great emphasis on placing healthy infants in adoptive homes. Today however, a special drive is underway to find loving and secure homes for children like John.

Persons considering adoption of The Children Who Wait should know of the dramatic change in adoptive patterns in recent years. Today both couples with large families and singles are taking these children into their homes.

Children are being placed across religious and racial lines. Financial subsidies are available to ease the burden of adoption. The basic requirement is a loving, caring environment that can meet the needs of the children.

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 John, THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

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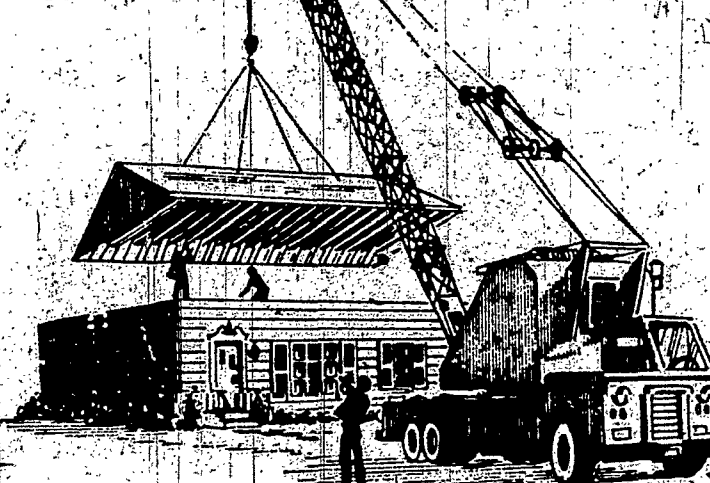
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ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

It is this time of year—the excitement of Christmas over and the prospect of a hard, bleak winter ahead—that I always begin ruminating as to what the ideal climate might be, where I might

New Officers Elected by State RTL

Imogene Galogero of the Tompkins County Right to Life Committee has been elected secretary of the State Right to Life Committee.

Helen Greene of Buffalo has been elected chairman to succeed Johanna Jankowski of Port Ewen who is retiring after 15 months in the office to devote more time to her family.

Other new officers are Robert McKeon of Westchester, first vice chairman; Barbara Meara of The Bronx, second vice chairman; and Richard Conklin of Dutchess County, treasurer.

Mrs. Jankowski was the first woman chairman of the state group, founded in 1967 by Edward Golden of Troy.

St. Paul's Sets 'More About You'

St. Paul's Church in Webster will sponsor three "group experiential sessions" this month, with Tim Manning of the Drug and Alcohol Council as leader. The series, entitled "More About You," will explore such matters as what motivates an individual to make the decisions he or she does, what causes people to explode at one another and why it is so hard to be truthful with others and with ourselves.

The meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays, Jan. 13, 20 and 27, from 8 until 10 p.m. at the church, 783 Hard Road. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission charge.

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