

# Dependable, Well-Behaved John

This is the story of John. He is one of The Children Who Wait, one of more than 1000 children registered with the New York State Adoption Exchange, one of more than 200 "hard to place children" the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) is trying to find a permanent home for.

His story, in the CAP Book reads:

"John is 12 years old.

"He has dirty blond hair and hazel eyes. He is slender in build. He is a dependable, well-behaved boy with a good sense of humor.

"His activities include bowling, riding his bike, and playing with his dog, Murdock. He gets along well with others and is very helpful. John is in an educable mentally retarded class. He has had ear surgery to correct a minor defect and has hay fever periodically.

"John needs a family who can offer love, warmth, security, and stimulation."

Children are considered hard to place for a variety of reasons. Some have mental, physical and/or



MURDOCK AND JOHN

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 their necks winging their way into what they must have thought was a free and clear passageway to the new world.

In spite of having two sliding glass doors only four feet apart in our kitchen-family room, no feathered creature, nay no gnat, has ever been deceived as to the uncompromising nature of the glass so careful have I been to keep intact small fingerprints, the earmarks of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich mightily enjoyed, the swipes of snowy mittens.

After absorbing the import of this non-act of mine, the whole spectrum of my compassionate nature burst forth upon me.

The reason I did not iron my kids' shirts and blouses, of course, was that the spray starch might cause rashes to rise on their tender necks. When they demand apple pie and are given apples instead it is not that pie making is time-consuming but rather that raw apples are so good for them.

I clean my oven only twice a year because who knows what those horrible fumes from the caustic cleaners do to our lungs and the atmosphere.

Ditto for ecological considerations in overuse of the vacuum cleaner. No one could accuse me of wasting energy in daily sorties with the Hoover upright.

Ah, my own beneficent nature astounds me. I'm sure I can add to these few examples with lists of others. All I have to do is look around.

**NEWS ITEMS NEEDED**

**Savannah** — A plea for old news items and photos concerning parish activities at St. Patrick's has been issued by a committee compiling a church history in celebration of its year of the 100th anniversary of its founding. Items may be sent to Mary McTeak or Aggie Arliss.

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.

## Blue Army Sets Vigil, Bus Tour

An all-night vigil in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 6, at Holy Rosary Church, 414 Lexington. Father Edward Lintz will celebrate the opening Mass, at 9 p.m., and Father Robert Meng, pastor, the 6 a.m. closing Mass. Msgr. John M. Duffy and Father Paul Wohlrab also will take part.

Mary Kelly, announcing the program for the Blue Army, pointed out that the U.S. bishops had suggested the observance of First Fridays as preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia.

She said also that a few reservations were available for a chartered bus trip to the congress during the first week of August, and that they could be secured by telephoning her at 586-1664.

### AUBURN PRE-CANA

Auburn — Pre-Cana conference for the Seneca Cayuga Region will be held from 7:15 to 11 p.m., Feb. 1, and 4 at St. Alphonsus, 95 East Genesee St. Reservations may be made by calling 252-7005 or 252-7261.

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**Sarah Child**

Not too long ago I read a National Safety report that waxed floors in the home accounted for a stupendous number of serious accidents.

"At last," I cried upon reading that astounding bit of information "someone realizes that I have not been so such the slothful one as a guardian of life and limb, a watchdog of the physical well being of family and friends."

Dwelling on my own thoughtful concern I reminded myself that no one need ever worry about breaking a leg at our house on that score — falling over clutter, yes and our youngest did sustain just such a fracture trying to do a broad jump off my bed. But waxed floor — never.

So pleased with myself, I began looking around the house and immediately realized I hadn't even scratched the surface of my own humanness.

In one of the houses we lived in when I was a child, there was a picture window which had been installed in the dining room to modernize and help lighten the dark corners of the old Victorian style structure. My mom kept that window so sparkling clean that three or four birds per year broke

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