

The Children Who Wait Larry Enjoys Being the 'Leader'

"Larry is an appealing 8-year-old child who loves to work with his hands and draw. He loves music and dance and enjoys being the leader."

"He is very popular with everyone."

"Because of minimal brain damage at birth, Larry is currently attending a special center to correct a minor learning disability problem."

"He is doing very well and it is hoped that he will be able to attend a regular school in the very near future."

The Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) uses these words to describe a member of a very special group, a group we call The Children Who Wait. These children, for one reason or another are considered by adoption agencies to be hard to place.

CAP regularly updates The CAP Book, a photo listing service of more than 200 hard-to-place children across the state.

The book is circulated to more than 100 agencies in the state and to more than 20 other states.

Children are considered hard to place for a variety of reasons. Some 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 siblings who should not be separated.

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



LARRY

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 Larry.

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 Larry THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

St. Andrew's Sets Discussion Series

St. Andrew's parish, at 923 Portland Ave., has arranged a series of Wednesday evening Lenten discussions to focus on Sunday homilies given by guest speakers.

On Sunday, March 7, the Rev. Mr. Thomas Mull will talk about ordination; March 14, Father Robert Collins, on marriage, and March 21, the Rev. Mr. Thomas Hanson, also on marriage. The fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, and the Wednesday discussions that follow, will concern penance. The Wednesday meetings are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

There will be a liturgical service at 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, March 3, and a retreat during Holy Week.

CABRINI CIRCLE TO GIVE DINNER

Mother Cabrini Circle will put on a spaghetti dinner Sunday, March 7, at Memorial AME Zion Church, 598 Clarissa. Profits will bolster the group's scholarship fund, which provides financial aid to black youngsters attending Catholic high schools. Dinner will be served from noon until 5 p.m. Reservations may be made with Nola DeRouen, 671-1748, or Dorothy Carroll, 328-6639.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

Some people use their dining room table to dine upon. We do too, when it is free which isn't often.

As I write this — at the dining room table, where else? — the top is covered with two typewriters, the one I use and an old portable the kids are allowed to practice on, a sewing machine and a couple of yards of material which hopefully will turn into a pair of slacks and a skirt before the end of the week with a little help from me.

Yesterday the head of the house had spread out all the income tax papers and other paraphernalia needed to satisfy the government's annual query into our private life. Before he could do so, however, he had to get the kids to put away the jigsaw puzzle they had started (1200 pieces of course, with about 200 in place). Earlier in the week they had used the table for numerous games of cards with a visiting cousin plus "Monopoly," "Sorry," "Battleship" and "Pay Day" interspersed with "Spill and Spell."

I have used the dining room table to spread out the large rug my Mom finally finished hooking for me after three years of vain attempts to finish it myself.

It is the perfect place for folding laundry, sorting out grocery

coupons and pasting trading stamps in a book.

Before Christmas, it is possible while everyone is either at work or school to do mass wrapping jobs without the problem of losing either the tape or the shears, which is what happens when I try to utilize the top of a bed.

Properly protected with layers of newspaper it has been a workbench for decoupage projects, a resting place for 200 books in transit from one part of the house to another and a meeting area for a school committee making glow-in-the-dark posters.

New infants have been settled on top of it to place in bunnings before going outside and my children when smaller discovered that with a long tablecloth still in place the underside made an admirable fort, a sheltering tent and perfect spot for an impromptu nap to say nothing of a secretive repast featuring jelly jar and spoon.

It has been used to polish silver, repot plants, antique picture frames, browse through catalogs, do homework, study maps, do Scout crafts and a myriad of other things I can't begin to list.

I write all this because last week I caught myself telling someone for the umpteenth time that no we don't use our dining room as often as I'd like. I must amend that. No we don't dine in it as often as we could. On the other hand the table must be the most versatile and useful piece of furniture in the house.

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