

The Children Who Wait

Jean Is Active, Involved

The Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) is looking for a home for Jean.

She is a member of a group we call The Children Who Wait, children who are considered by adoption agencies to be hard to place.

Jean is featured in the CAP Book, the extraordinary photo-listing of children that is assembled by CAP. This is her description:

"Jean, age 11, is a quiet restrained child in her relationships with adults. In spite of an orthopedic problem which may require surgery she is very active and interested in sports. She has been involved in girl scouts and particularly enjoys arts and crafts. She is doing average work at grade level in school. Background information on Jean is of doubtful reliability and the possibility exists that she may be of mixed racial heritage.

"A Protestant family is preferred."

Children are considered hard to



JEAN

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

modern miracles of the technological age but I can't help thinking that that first gas range must have been far more wondrous in her eyes in that her own mother was still using a wood-burning monster of a kitchen range that had to be kept going on the hottest day in July if any cooking or work was to be accomplished.

Prices in those days: butter 28 cents a pound, milk 10 cents a quart, eggs 29 cents a dozen and sugar 5 cents a pound.

My other visual aid in the trip backward was the April edition of McCall's magazine which is celebrating its 100th year.

There are a host of expected features — such as memories of some women now over 100 years of age. Predictions on what life will be like in the next 100 years (Julia Child says there will be no more cooking for those who dislike it — just drink a cup of nutrients) and a whole section on manners, beauty hints, fashions, domestic philosophy of the day.

It was this segment which struck my fancy most. Some of the contributions are devastating in their condescension, others depressing in their misinformation and still others hilarious in their outlook.

One of my favorites is titled "The Girl Everyone Likes" from the January 1894 issue.

Some of that girl's attributes:

* She is the girl who is not aggressive and does not find joy in inciting aggressive people.

* She is the girl who, whether it is warm or cold, clear or stormy, finds no fault with the weather.

* She is the girl who is sweet and womanly to look at and listen to, and doesn't strike you as a poor imitation of a demi-mondaine.

Ah, Ms. Steinem, if they could see us now.

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.

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 Jean.

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



Father Klem Honored

Father Leo Klem, CSB, was honored March 29 for giving 100 Marriage Encounter weekends. Father Klem began leading Marriage Encounters three years ago and has touched the lives of thousands of couples, priests and sisters. The celebration, held at the Burgundy Basin Inn at Bushnell's Basin, was attended by 400 people.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

I have been indulging myself in past weeks in flights into the past via a couple of pieces of reading matter.

It began with the acquisition of a reproduction of a 1934 cookbook that the Hershey chocolate people put out in that year and recently reissued.

I was attracted to it by the cover featuring a couple of kids with bobbed hair sampling huge wedges of a three-layer yellow cake frosted with chocolate icing.

Something in it attracted me and no, it wasn't the luscious quality of the cake because the colors are dull and faded compared with today's glossy magazine layouts.

Either my mom had a similar cookbook in her first kitchen, or the kids and their outdated clothing strike a chord, or more likely the dessert on the old fashioned blue china plate reminds me of the offerings my mom would too often set in front of us long before the advent of the cake mix and frosting in a can.

Inside, before the recipe section, is a chapter titled "Remember When — the Early 1930's" and while the figures of Will Rogers and F.D.R. and Janet Gaynor are familiar only because of other pictures I have seen of them, there are some other scenes that are warmly reminiscent.

My mother was a bride in 1934 and the up-to-date stove my father bought for her kitchen approximates the wonder of those shown in the book. Today she has a large microwave oven, and her carpeted kitchen is filled with other

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