



Mr. and Mrs. Cardona with their children, from left, Julie, Peter, Christina, Brian, and Marcy.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

It's All in the Family for Cardonas

Julie Cardona of Fairport is typical of most five-year-olds. She likes the same foods, plays the same games, and goes to kindergarten.

She has no unusual health problems, doesn't find difficult the adjustments a growing child must make with the world, and fits in perfectly with her four brothers and sisters.

All very average - until one considers that just 2½ years ago, Julie Cardona was a "street child" in Korea. Someone, presumably a parent, simply affixed a note to her clothes containing pertinent data and set her loose. She lived in the streets, until a policeman came across her and took her to a Catholic orphanage. Now Julie, through an international

adoption, has a new family and her mother, Mrs. Alfred Cardona of Fairport, explains that "although we Americans may find it shocking that a child was just abandoned, it is actually commonplace in Korea."

How Julie and her Fairport family found each other is truly a story of two countries.

The Cardonas, Alfred is a marketing representative with Service Bureau Corporation, had always planned on having a large family, including adoptions - "it just seemed the natural thing to do." And a large family they have - Peter who is 6; Julie, 5; Brian, 4; Marcy, 18 months, and Christina, 5 months - all except Julie biological children of the Cardonas.

Back when there were only Peter and Brian, the Cardonas began exploring adoption possibilities. Coincidentally, they saw a television commercial sponsored by the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) concerning international adoptions. The Cardonas are now one of 45 families in the International Adoptions Group, an affiliate of CAP.

The group provides information for people interested in international adoptions as well as help for those who have already adopted children from abroad, assist in the adjustment of adopted children, and act for changes in policies, laws, etc., where needed.

It works with Catholic Family Center, Northaven, and Monroe County Social Services. Besides these local agencies there are several international adoption agencies. The Cardonas worked through Welcome House of Doylestown, Pa.

"International adoptions take time," said Mrs. Cardona. "Expect a wait of from 15 to 18 months. And also figure a minimum of about \$1,500 to cover costs - this is figured on a sliding scale figured on income."

According to Mrs. Cardona, there are no standard methods regarding international adoptions since each nation sets its own policies. But she feels that the international agencies she knows about are well organized.

Of course, an interested family will learn about such things as a matter of information from the agencies involved. But what about the problems that arise when a family brings a child from another country, perhaps even another culture, into its own home?

"Practically no problems at all," said Mrs. Cardona. "Julie had a little tantrum when she first got off the airplane but since then absolutely no problems. It took maybe six hours for her and the rest of the children to adjust to each other but they were playing successfully even before they could understand each other."

As for the other children they just realize that "some babies come from hospitals, others from airports," said Mrs. Cardona.

An indication of the success of the adoption may lie in the fact that the Cardonas are now planning another international adoption. "Possibly siblings," smiled an optimistic Mrs. Cardona. "Anyone interested may contact the local adoption agencies, Council of Adoptive Parents or the Cardonas (223-6798) for information about the international operation.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

The New Year's resolution around here remains consistent from year to year. In four words: Stick to the Diet!

Realizing that the first solution to the problem may be anticipation of the pitfalls I have herewith jotted down a few of the situations which have led to downfall other times.

* Company's coming. You must sample everything beforehand to make sure it is fit to eat.

* Company's not coming. You're bored to death.

* The kids all got good report cards. Time to celebrate.

* The kids could have done better. Drown your sorrows (and theirs) in ice cream.

* The scales were down this morning. You were down half a pound. A little cheating won't hurt.

* The scales were up. Another éclair won't make any difference now.

* Your parents come to visit. They bring 10 different kinds of treats for the kids. Ha!

* Your husband fails to notice how trim you look in your new outfit.

* You notice he looks slimmer in his new court-duroy pants than you do in yours.

* The new mixer with the

bread hooks needs a trial run. Before you catch your breath you've made four kinds of cookies, a Christmas delicacy your grandmother always made AND cinnamon rolls.

* The kids say they're tired of cottage cheese and salad. Where's the spaghetti?

* You take a trip and at lunchtime the only restaurant visible for miles is what else? A pizza parlor.

* You attend a cocktail party and devote yourself exclusively to the vegetable platter chattering non-stop all the while. You pause for breath and the hostess slips a miniature weiner stuffed with cream cheese and mushrooms and wrapped in pimentoed pastry between your teeth.

* The Christmas bills begin to arrive. The heating bill rises 47 per cent. The telephone bill takes a turn for the worse.

* It's somebody's birthday. Anybody's.

* The car won't start and you're stuck home all day.

* The car does start and takes you right to the donut place.

* You go to the grocery and there right next to the delicatessen is a girl handing out samples of hot knockwurst and cold cheddar.

* You give in to the kids, and make popcorn for Friday night TV.

* You don't give in to the popcorn bit. You tell them they can finish off the ice cream instead.

* You re-read your favorite Agatha Christie in which she describes high tea replete with crumpets, scones and three kinds of plummy jam.

* ABSOLUTELY NO REASON AT ALL.

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