

Down through history, nearly every culture has included certain rites of passage.

Many had a relationship to the maturing person, in the form of physical or mental endurance 'tests" to show readiness for adulthood and the accompanying responsibilities -- and privileges.

In some tribal civilizations, young men had to prove their mettle in survival, going off alone, to meditate, to find an inner strength, to prove their courage and capabilities. With this day of equality, our modern "rites" apply pretty much across the board. But they still call forth courage, determination and a chance to prove emerging abilities.

And it still holds true that behind nearly every youth dueling with a rite of passage lies a mother with crossed fingers, hope and maybe more than a little bit of uneasiness.

So it was when they took their first steps. Spent their first night away from home. Got on the big yellow school bus the first day. Went on a first big date.

Most times, a good part of the parental apprehension lay in the fact that we couldn't go with 'em. They went across to a sort of Other Side, an unknown place beyond a barrier, while we remained behind. Another rip toward shredding the apron strings.

All this ran through my mind last week while I sat in the muted gray-blue waiting room of our local state police barracks.

For more than 15 years, since he learned that he could make motor sounds by pursing his lips, gurgling, and pushing a toy tractor across the floor, the family baby had been eagerly awaiting this particular rite of passage.

Application for his driving permit. Which sooner (he hopes) or later leads to that treasured piece of adulthood -- an official motor vehicle operator's license.

A small, unassuming room, this outer office nearly crackled with the tension of the dozen or so. some viably nervous, soon-to-be drivers. Some came hesitantly, scanning the hand-lettered, instructional directions hung on the wall. Around others hung a more confident air, a sure sign that they'd played this scene before.

"Lungs at work -- no smoking" said a red sign patterned after the familiar highway "stop" sign. Only frivolous concession to the ongoing lineup of folks waiting their turn was candy-and-gum machine. Chewing, it would seem,

helps calm the jitters.

About once a minute, a voice, seemingly from nowhere, would burst into the room, booming, "Next!" Some applicants sprang from their chairs, trigger-ready as their turn came up, to charge into battle with this challenge. Others almost dragged away from their chairs, with a nervous grin or glance at accompanying parent or friend. All eventually departed to that mysterious Other Side, beyond the heavily-textured, opaque glass-windowed door.

After about the tenth booming "Next!," our six-foot-tall "baby" slipped beyond the opaque glass.

He had "crammed" up until this last moment, hastily reviewing signs and rules on the 20-minutes ride from home. I, meanwhile, squirmed uncomfortably, wondering why in the world my car's right turn signal had chosen this particular trip on which to malfunction -a nasty trick it had never before pulled.

Meanwhile, interspersed with the "Next!" commands, those who disappeared earlier reemerged from the Other Side. Some wore the broad smiles of success; others returned less cheerful, shaking their heads as they left, making whispered, frustrated, explanation to friends or parents.

Though brief in reality, parental waiting through rites of passage makes minutes seem like forever.

And, it's just the beginning.

Waiting for the sound of a car returning home late at night will no doubt seem even longer. The grin on his face as he returned from the Other Side told me so.

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With spring comes a change of

The American Dairy Associa-

brate these festivities. There are Easter Bread, Strawberry Celebration Cake and Hiker's Hero Sandwich. Or try serving Mom Eggs Benedict with Sour Cream Hollandaise Souce on her special day. Ten recipes in all are offered in the "Specials for Spring" leaflet. To obtain a copy, send a selfaddressed, stamped #10 envelope to "Specials for Spring," American Dairy Association, P.O. Box 760, Rosemont, IL 60018.

season, the first fresh fruits and vegetables of the year and ample reasons to celebrate. You need only to look at the calendar there's Easter, Mother and Father's Day and Memorial Day. There are also graduations, weddings, showers for the mothers-tobe and the first picnic of the year!

tion provides recipes to help cele-

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Dear Golden Pride:

After having 3 operations for plugged arteries... 3 years later having open heart surgery with four bypasses.. 6 months later a heart attack (using).. all the medication and nitropatches #10, I still couldn't walk too well or lift my arms above my shoulders. I started to get liver spots on my hands and arms. I am 69 years old. I was warned about doing nothing but walking. I was talked into trying Golden Pride Formula #1 by a Golden Pride Distributor. I started with one teaspoon a day. Then about 3 months later I noticed I could walk better... my liver spots went away and also no angina pain. I then starting taking 2 teaspoons a day. I started making things in my workshop without pain about 3 hours a day. Now 10 months later I can raise my arms straight up with no pain. I have put a new floor in my kitchen, even painted it. I can climb ladders and clean my eave troughs by myself. Yes, I am very happy with Golden Pride!

Dear Golden Pride:

In 1979 my health started to deteriorate rapidly. Between that year and 1983, I had been to eight doctors... was sent to a hospital... for tests and in 1984 was finally diagnosed as having severe Rheumatoid Arthritis. By this time I had bandages on my feet and knees and 3 times daily I applied frozen vegetable packs to them to ease the stiffness. My hands were crippled and I could no nothing without help! I had to be lifted in and out of any vehicle. I was so sick from medication and ready to give up. My ninth doctor assured me that if I didn't fight this disease, I would be in a wheelchair in two years. And so I began!

In 1965 I found a... doctor who taught me the effects of good nutrition. I knew I had a long way ahead of me in rebuilding my system, but with God's strength, I knew I could do it!

ary of 1986. I was given the name of a chirograptor w treatments intended to dissolve the excess calcium within my badly swollen joints. I also had a severe sciatic problem. Slowly I started to improve.

In August of 1986, I was introduced to Golden Pride products. They are all drug free and formulated to help countless problems. The main ingredient was to do the same job within as the (doctor's treatment) did on the outside. This was just what I was looking for. My doctor approved wholeheartedly!

Within a few weeks, my swelling went down, my sciatic problem was so much better, my energy level started to return, and my skin actually regained its color. I can now write with a pencil, lift my arms over my head, wear shoes again and do many of the simple tasks that most people take for granted. My fingers have even straightened out! Just recently my doctor has given me permission to rollerskate! Many thanks for the prayers of those who cared, also my sponsors and Golden Pride.

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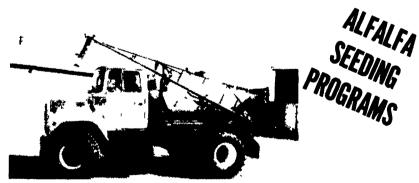
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