## Young Adults Returning To Empty Nest

SCRANTON (Lackawanna) — Recent studies have shown that more young adults are living with their parents now than they did a few years ago. In 1984, 37 percent of persons 18 to 20 years of age, over eighteen million young people, lived at home. The percentage drops sharply by age, from 80 percent of 18 and 19 year olds to 14 percent of 25 to 29 year olds.

Young adults live with their parents for many reasons: to continue their education, to recover from an illness or injury, to save money toward a particular goal, for companionship and/or mutual help, or to get on their feet again after a marriage breakup or job loss. In some families, grandchildren are also part of the newly formed household.

When adults of two generations live together, misunderstandings can be avoided if they communicate what they expect of one another at the beginning of the jointure. Most people like a certain amount of structure in their lives. When new members enter a household, it is important to establish new "rules" by which the group will live.

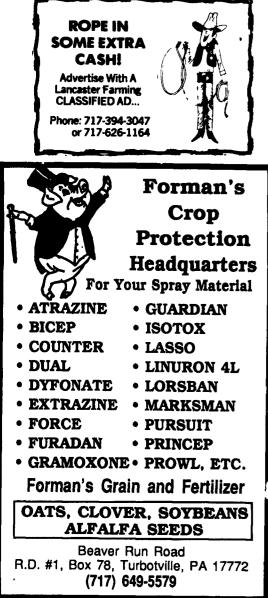
Before you settle in together, make time for a planning meeting. Work out a mutually agreeable plan for living together under the same roof. Be sure to involve all family members who live in the household.

Some points to consider for discussion in your planning meeting are:

\* Departure date- Set a target date for when the young adult expects to move out.

\* Financial arrangements- Discuss how household expenses will be shared. Most authorities suggest that it is best for younger adults to make some monetary contribution to the household.

\* Household responsibilities -Discuss who will prepare meals, wash clothes. mow the yard, etc.



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\* Care of grandchildren- Discuss arrangements for child care and how discipline will be handled. Living together as mature adults is now always easy. Here are some suggestions to keep in mind to help foster harmony in the home.

1. Recognize that a joint household requires effort by each person to make it work. The lives of each member will continue to change, so be prepared to revise expectations and responsibilities accordingly. 2. Be open about discussing what bothers you. Work out differences so there is something positive in the outcome for both generations.

3. Don't be afraid of occasional arguments. They are part of life and often help to clear the air.

4. Treat each other as a good friend. This includes courtesy and respect for individual tastes and opinions.

5. Use humor to brighten your life and relieve tension.

6. Avoid prying about girlfriends, boyfriends, or other personal business. Sharing information about such matters should be voluntary.

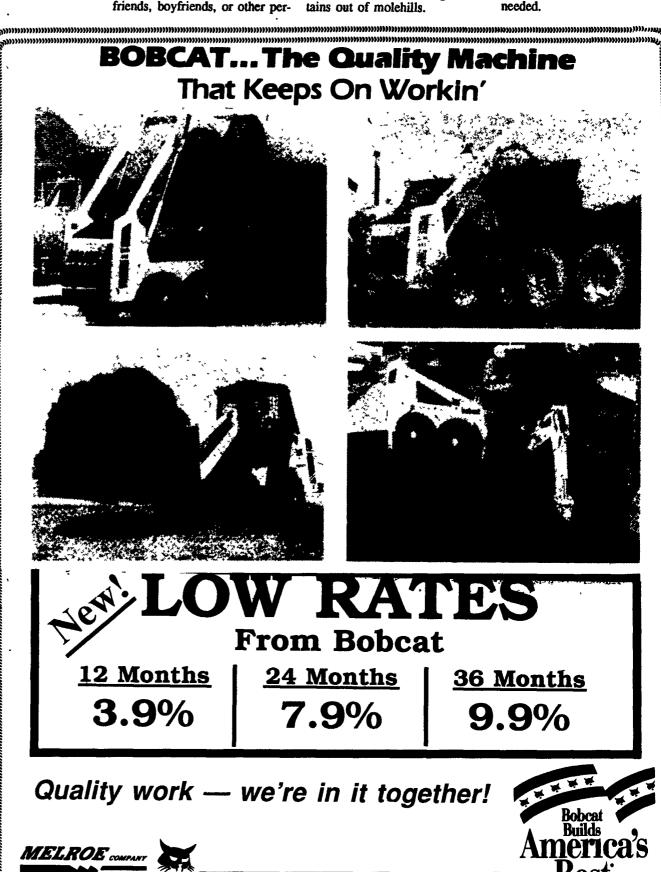
7. Make requests of parents, sons, and daughters - not demands. Demands threaten good feelings about yourself and others.

8. Communicate calmly about work you think needs to be done. Try not to be a nag. Discuss expectations about the quality of the work.

9. Be as flexible as possible, without giving up your own rights and values. Avoid making mountains out of molehills. 10. Show application for help given by others. It may be what you agreed on, but everyone likes to be appreciated.

11. Be businesslike in dealings associated with your joint living arrangement. If you let some things slide now, there may be double trouble down the line.

12. Do not complain to friends or relatives about other adults in the household. Take your concerns to each other. If problems persist, perhaps a discussion about separate living arrangements is needed.





**bobcot** DEALERS