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age after package, with adults eagerly watching their reaction to each item, they seemed to care less and less. They got listless and cranky at the same time.

It became obvious what the trouble was: there was just plain too much.

It is hard to believe, in our affluent society, but too much can be depressing. Suppose that all at once you were told that you had won your dream house and a Rolls-Royce and a yacht and a private plane and a new wardrobe and a few other things.

Wouldn't you feel in some way disappointed that it all happened at once, that you could not savor and appreciate each gift individually? After all, it is not just the owning of a yacht that is exciting -- it is the dreaming and planning of where to go and what to see.

And so it was with my children: When one girl was three she received, among other things, a doll buggy which I thought would tickle her pink. All Christmas Day she ignored it; and she ignored it for weeks thereafter. I was quite disappointed. But suddenly one day, after she had worked through the possibilities of several other toys, she started to play with the doll buggy and she played with it almost constantly for months.

Play for children is, after all, serious business; it is their work and their way of learning. I finally saw that we had been presenting Christmas to the children in unimaginative adult terms. A child does not need to be, does not really want to be, stimulated by heaps and heaps of toys, because he can see infinite possibilities in each one if we will let him.

My practical answer to the Christmas problem, besides vainly asking the grandparents to cut down on gifts, was to start a new family tradition, the Twelve Days of Christmas. The children opened only two presents each day, and Christmas lasted indefinitely. The children were quite happy with this arrangement, and were much calmer and busily occupied throughout the Twelve Days.

It is not just at Christmas time that adults impose our dull, mean standards on children. Once, through the kitchen window, I overheard two little girls playing -- one of them was mine -- and they played for hours with their two battered dolls. Those dolls were pirates, they went to school, they had babies, they rode through the jungle on elephants, they did everything that two little girls with imagination could imagine.

Along came a third little girl, in order to show the latest gift that her parents had bought her -- and they bought her many gifts. This was an enormous bride doll, magnificent in her curls and lace, costing perhaps 20 dollars or more.

The first two girls stopped playing, and soon mine came in the house rather subdued. They were not too young to understand one-upmanship.

But the next day they were playing again, and it did not really make any difference that Jackie had the beautiful bride doll, because she did not know how to play. She never really played. Almost the only contact she had with the other children was to show them her presents. I do not know how to bring up a child so it does not know how to play, but it evidently can be done.

The gift of imagination is worth all the toy departments put together. I have seen a child build a world out of a few marbles and an old box. Such a child is not poor, by any means; but he can be made to feel poor, especially in a society like ours.

I was driving in the country one summer day with another woman when we passed some country children by a fence. They looked healthy and eager, but they were mud-streaked, barefoot, and the little girl had on a hand-me-down dress much too long for her.

"Oh look at those poor children," my companion said with compassion. But to me those children looked as though they had been enjoying themselves, and at the moment required no pity. Sooner or later, however, someone would make them very aware of the fact that the hand-me-down dress and the frayed elbows, no matter how neat and clean for school, made them "poor children."

hairpin curves. The ladies got to sit in the car while the gentlemen hoofed it, chocking the wheels with rocks, in case the pull of gravity got too much for the emergency brake and the car, towing its baggage trailer, should start to coast downhill.

The boys returned with a can of gas, the motor started up again, and we made the summit. The station attendant said it was lucky we hadn't tried to make the grade yesterday, everything had been snowed in. We had considered starting on Feb. 1, but we must have been living right, or something.

On the other side of the mountain, the temperature started dropping, and by the time we hiked up for the night at Yreka, California, it was plenty cold.

There were no motels, as we know motels today. Cabin camps, that's what, and you carted your own bedding. By the next night we were down in the orange country, and a few hours later in the outskirts of Los Angeles, where folks were enjoying an unprecedentedly heavy dew, the kind that washes out bridges and transforms highways into a muddy torrent.

Times may have changed in the last thirty-four years, but in 1935 there wasn't a single service station attendant who could give directions for getting out of the environs of Los Angeles. None of them had ever lived there before. They had come from Iowa.

We finally made it the following morning, chasing the storm through El Centro, where it had uprooted trees and washed out some of the road. But at least we were headed East after travelling 1,000 miles down the coast.

It was not too surprising to find floods in Arizona, with astonished cactus standing knee-deep in water, and all the small dips in the road running hub deep. They didn't build bridges down that way. They knew it was futile. Those dips in the road were calculated to shake your back teeth loose.

The flood increased as the day wore on. There was a long line of stalled cars up ahead, and we joined it, via the last dip, the one that sent a bow-wave of water up over the roof of the car, and drowned the trailer.

Arizona highway patrol cars were keeping the travellers in line. Six hours later, after a horse trailer had overturned, spraying frantic horses into the boiling dip, the rain stopped and the flood started to go down, practically simultaneously.

The patrol piloted each car to the brink. "Now, steer right for that spot!" the officer instructed, "right where Mike is standing, and when you get alongside him, give the gun and DON'T STOP, no matter what."

The next dip contained only a foot of water, the following dip a mere trickle, the third only a trace of moisture.

Cactus was emerging, looking astonished but unperturbed. It takes a lot to discourage a cactus.

Gila Bend and another cabin camp at 2 in the morning.

Sgt. Judith earns service ribbon

Sergeant Judith A. Rother, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Rother of 83 Maplewood Ave., Dallas, has been recognized for helping her unit earn the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Sergeant Rother, a supply inventory specialist in the 438th Military Airlift Wing at McGuire AFB, N.J., will wear the distinctive service ribbon as a permanent decoration.

The unit was cited for exceptionally meritorious service in support of combat and re-supply airlift operations around the world from June 1, 1966 to April 30, 1968.

The sergeant is a graduate of Dallas Senior High School.

Our hang-up about clothes, and its influence on school life, probably deserves a column to itself. It is just part of the whole process by which we impose shallow adult values on our children in the mistaken belief that we are doing our best for them.

COUPON
Fireside Sliced
BACON (save 30¢) 1-lb. 39¢
Pkg.
With this Coupon and a \$10.00 Purchase or More.
(W-B and vicinity)
EXPIRES: FEB. 8, 1969

THIS COUPON WORTH **20¢ Off** YOUR PURCHASE OF A
1-lb., 14-oz. Jar **SKETTINO'S SPAGHETTI SAUCE SUPREME**
(With Coupon, 49¢) (Without Coupon, 69¢)
EXPIRES: FEB. 8, 1969 (MFG.)

THIS COUPON WORTH **10¢ Off** YOUR PURCHASE OF A
5-lb. Bag Of **GOLD MEDAL FLOUR**
EXPIRES: FEB. 8, 1969 (MFG.)



LANCASTER BRAND COUNTRY FRESH

CHICKEN

LEGS

49¢ lb.

BREAST

55¢ lb.

Boneless BEEF CUBES	long BOLOGNA
99¢ lb.	49¢ lb.

Vallee Maid Boneless (2 to 2 1/2-lb. avg.)
PARTY HAMS lb. **99¢**

Lancaster Brand Lamb Sale!

ALL PRICES REDUCED!

LAMB SHOULDER ROAST lb. **59¢**

TENDER JUICY

LAMB CHOPS

SHOULDER lb. 85¢	ARM lb. 95¢	RIB lb. \$1.09
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LAMB BREAST lb. **23¢**
LAMB PATTIES lb. **59¢**

UNBEATABLE VALUE!
Lancaster Brand Boneless
Chuck Roast
65¢ lb. by the piece!

- WILSON CERTIFIED TASTY CANNED HAM** 1-lb., 14-oz. can **\$1.99** (SAVE 16¢)
- LANCASTER BRAND (WITH DRESSING) TURKEY SLICES** 3 7-oz. pkgs. **99¢** (SAVE 6¢)
- Lancaster Brand (With Dressing) BEEF or TURKEY** 3 5-oz. pkgs. **99¢** (SAVE 6¢)
- LANCASTER BRAND MINUTE STEAKS** 7 1/2-oz. pkg. **65¢** (SAVE 8¢)
- TOBINS FIRST PRIZE SAUSAGE "BROWN AND SERVE"** 8-oz. pkg. **59¢** (SAVE 6¢)
- DELICIOUS SHRIMP COCKTAIL** 3 4-oz. Size **89¢**
- "Unbeatable Seafood Features"**
- LANCASTER BRAND PERCH FILLET** lb. **39¢**
- HI-BAK BREADED SHRIMP SNACKS** 2-lb. box **\$1.59**
- ALASKAN (MEDIUM SIZE) KING CRAB LEGS** lb. **99¢**
- TASTE OF SEA SHRIMP PATTIES** 12-oz. pkg. **59¢**

FRESHEST PRODUCE UNDER THE SUN!
U.S. No. 1
POTATOES 20-lb. bag **79¢**

GARDEN FRESH
STRAWBERRIES pint box **39¢**
FRESH GREEN
CUCUMBERS 2 for **25¢**
CLEAN WASHED
FRESH SPINACH 10-oz. bag **19¢**

JOIN THE UNBEATABLES AT ACME!

SKETTINO'S **SPAGHETTI SAUCE SUPREME** 1-lb., 14-oz. jar **49¢** (WITH COUPON) (It's New... Save 36¢!)

HEINZ **KETCHUP** Special Low, Low Price! 2 14-oz. bots. **49¢**

ACME **COFFEE** REGULAR or DRIP (SAVE 10¢) 2-lb. can **\$1.29**

- IDEAL PORK & BEANS** 2 3-lb., 3-oz. cans **85¢**
- IDEAL CATSUP** 2 14-oz. bots. **39¢**
- 40 Bonus Stamp Coupon Packed Inside Each 2-lb. Can Of Acme Coffee!

UNBEATABLE VALUE!
PRINCESS PATTI NYLONS 3 pairs **\$1.00**
Seamless Mesh—Beigetone

Virginia Lee Fresh Sugar (Save 4¢)
DONUTS 10-oz. pkg. **29¢**

Virginia Lee Large ANGEL FOOD CAKE 15-oz. size **59¢**

Virginia Lee (Save 10¢) BLUEBERRY PIE 1-lb., 6-oz. pkg. **59¢**

Virginia Lee Pecan Nut or POPPYSEED ROLL 12-oz. pkg. **59¢**

Virginia Lee (Save 10¢) RAISIN PIE 1-lb., 6-oz. pkg. **55¢**

UNBEATABLE VALUE!
KING COLE VEGETABLES
• Mixed Veg. • Cut Green Beans • Sliced or Whole Potatoes
4 \$1.00
1-lb., 12-oz. cans

VIRGINIA LEE **BLUEBERRY MUFFINS** 7-oz. pkg. **39¢**

Princess (White & Colors) Luncheon **PAPER NAPKINS** SAVE 2¢ pkg. 100 **29¢**

PRINCESS (12" x 25" Roll) **ALUMINUM FOIL** 2 pkgs. **45¢**

Princess (100-ft. Roll) **WAX PAPER** 2 pkgs. **39¢**

LISTERINE ANTISEPTIC

OUR PRICE 7-oz. bottle 69¢ (MFG. LIST 79¢)	OUR PRICE 14-oz. bottle 99¢ (MFG. LIST \$1.19)	OUR PRICE 1-pint, 4-oz. \$1.19 (MFG. LIST \$1.49)
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Frozen Foods "Dollar Sale"

IDEAL SWEET PEAS 6 10-oz. pkgs. \$1.00 (SAVE 17¢)
IDEAL CORN 6 10-oz. pkgs. \$1.00 (SAVE 17¢)
IDEAL LEAF or CHOPPED SPINACH 8 10-oz. pkgs. \$1.00 (SAVE 16¢)
IDEAL MIXED VEGETABLES 5 10-oz. pkgs. \$1.00 (SAVE 13¢)
IDEAL GRAPE JUICE 3 12-oz. cans \$1.00 (SAVE 5¢)
IDEAL SUCCOTASH 5 10-oz. pkgs. \$1.00 (SAVE 13¢)

ANOTHER NEW ACME NOW OPEN!
WASHINGTON AVE. and EYNON ROAD
SERVING JERMYN and ARCHBALD AREA

FREE THIS WEEK
12" x 24" MASTERPRINT
Your Choice of World-Famous Art Masterpieces FREE With Mailer Coupon And A Purchase Of \$5.00 Or More. (FRAMES AVAILABLE AT UP TO 50% SAVINGS!)

This Coupon Worth **100 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With the Purchase of Any Bottle of IDEAL VITAMINS
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

Country Style Meaty **SCRAPPLE** lb. **29¢** 3-lb. pan **79¢**

This Coupon Worth **100 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of Any Bottle of IDEAL VITAMINS
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

This Coupon Worth **50 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of ANY GROUND MEAT
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

This Coupon Worth **25 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of IDEAL PRESERVES Strawberry - Peach Pineapple-Apricot or Grape
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

This Coupon Worth **25 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of A 1-lb. Pkg. ACME DAINTIEE CHOCOLATE CANDIES
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

This Coupon Worth **25 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of Any Size Pkg. BONELESS BEEF CUBES
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

This Coupon Worth **25 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of Any (1) 1/2-gal. Jug SPEED UP FABRIC SOFTENER, BLEACH OR AMMONIA
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

This Coupon Worth **25 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of 2 Loaves SUPREME VIENNA BREAD
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

This Coupon Worth **25 S&H GREEN STAMPS**
With Purchase of Either 15-oz. Cake VIRGINIA LEE LARGE ANGEL FOOD or LARGE ORANGE CHIFFON
Expires: Feb. 11, 1969

Dairy Dept.
BORDEN'S CREAM CHEESE 8-oz. pkg. **29¢** SAVE 4¢

KRAFT CRACKER BARREL (SAVE 4¢) **SHARP CHEESE** 10-oz. stick **69¢**

ABBOTT'S COTTAGE CHEESE (SAVE 2¢) 1-lb. ctn. **27¢**

IDEAL SOFT MARGARINE (SAVE 5¢) 3 pkgs. **\$1.00**