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## Parent of the Week

[continued from front page] after calming down."

Janet and John also learned to stay out of their children's arguments. "A teacher once told me that she had her children sit outside of the room if they were fighting," relates Mrs. Rose. "Well, I tried the same thing with my own kids. When they were fighting about some trivial matter (it's never trivial to them) I make them sit outside of the door. At first the fighting continues, perhaps worse than ever. But eventually I hear them giggling, and the matter is forgotten. And, they solved it themselves. That is what is most important."

John and Janet feel that by using some of the methods that they have learned, the job of raising children has become much easier. "They learn to solve problems for themselves," says Mr. Rose. "It is not enough to recognize a problem. They must also come up with a solution. When one of the kids comes to us with a problem, we ask them to write down both the problem and some possible solutions are pretty wild. We would never think of them. But they do get the kids to thinking about solving a problem. And, they get the kids laughing. I think that it is important to be able to laugh at the little problems we face every day."

"Another way of solving family problems is to get the kids involved in planning," adds Mrs. Rose. "At one time we had a real problem with meals. I would come home from work and prepare a meal only to have the kids moan and groan about what they had to eat. I was not in the mood to listen to this complaining every evening.

"To solve this problem, each member of the family took a turn at planning a menu for one week. There were no more problems! The kids wouldn't think of complaining, even about something that they disliked, because if Pete complained about Jonna's menu, then Jonna would

complain about Pete's. No one wanted that, so no one complained."

The Roses also write contracts with their children. "If someone had trouble keeping their room clean, we would draw up a contract," says Mr. Rose. "And, the kids would be in on the making of the contract. As a matter of fact, the child would choose the punishment for breaking the contract."

"The really surprising thing was, that all three of the kids make the punishment much worse than what we would decide upon. They were so sure that they would not break the contract. When they did break the contract, however, they took the punishment very well. They had to. They had decided upon it."

All of this contract stuff sounds like quite a bit of work. Doesn't it become a bother at times?

"Not in the long run," Mrs. Rose tells us, "because the kids learn from the contracts and are less likely to let themselves get in a situation where a contract is needed. It is really amazing just how well it works! I wouldn't believe it if I didn't see the results right in front of me every day."

The Roses believe that each child should be encouraged to be what he/she wants to be. "We never treated them differently; the girls and Pete," says Mr. Rose. "The girls were encouraged, and expected, to do things that were thought of as boys' activities."

Both Jonna and Janet Carol love motorcycles, and Mr. Rose relates proudly that "Janet can fix her motorcycle herself."

"The girls are also very active in athletics. Pete just started playing baseball last year.

"He had a really rough opening season," says Mr. Rose. "He got hit fourteen different times. And everyone expected so much of him. (What do you expect with a name like Pete Rose?) But he really stuck in there, and thanks to his coach, he never developed a fear of the ball. We are very proud of him."

Mr. Rose believes that every person should be allowed to develop skills in their own unique way. "It doesn't matter if they do something different from me. If they fix something in a different way and can get it to work, well that's all that matters. It is rough trying to do something in a way foreign to your own nature. For example, I am left handed, and everything that I have ever been shown is from a right-handed point of view. It is hard to adapt. I feel that it is important to let a child do what is easiest and most comfortable to them."

Mrs. Rose has no qualms about her children growing up and no longer needing her. "That is what I am striving for," she says. "Too many parents can not accept the fact that their child is an independent, functioning adult. When my kids are self-sufficient, I will consider my child-rearing a success. That is what having children is all about!"

## Maytown Fire Co. reports 7 Nov. calls

Maytown Fire Chief Chuck Shaffner reported seven fire calls for the month of November.

The calls included one dump fire, one assist, and five responses to vehicle accidents. A total of 62 firemen and seven fire

police responded on the calls. Fire equipment was in service 5 hours, 48 minutes.

Membership dues for 1980 are now payable to any Fire Co. officer. Applications for membership are welcome. See any Fire Co. member for more information.

## School Menu

Here is the Donegal lunch menu for Dec. 17th to Dec. 21st. (Milk is served with each meal).

**Monday**  
Juice  
Pizza  
Lettuce & egg salad  
Peanut butter bar

**Tuesday**  
Spaghetti/meat sauce  
Cole slaw  
Butt. carrots

Italian bread & butter  
Apricots

**Wednesday**  
Turkey & gravy  
Mashed potatoes  
Butt. peas  
Roll & butter  
Cranberry sauce  
Ice cream & cookie

**Thursday**  
Cook's choice

**Friday**  
No lunch served

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