



Hors d'oeuvres by Lynn Orr

Camptime confusion

If you're trying to get your kid to camp, midnights sneak up on you. Some mothers of camp-going children can outlive an army supply clerk in organizational expertise. I'm not one of them.

Getting ready for camp is like going into battle: it takes a lot of organization to gear up for the endeavor. A camping list looks very much like a battle plan or pulling off a five-course dinner for twelve—same kind of mental gymnastics. First of all, you have to plan ahead. Try to get a doctor's appointment a few weeks before camptime, and the receptionist will laugh in your ear.

Unprecedented growth patterns, which make everything in the closet obsolete, force the return to your favorite haunts, like Sears' boys' department, which makes a Saks' sale look like a tea party. The search for camping shorts gets more difficult every year, especially when all you can find in June are next fall's mix and match clothes on the rack. Swim suits were

gone in May, the clerk informs me. Where was I? (Contemplating a relaxing summer?)

Pajamas, have always caused my family a great deal of consternation. Camp wants you have them. My son thinks PJ's are for filling up the bottom drawer in the dresser so you have an excuse to cover up the carpet with the rest of the clothes.

LABELING is the biggest hurdle. It takes experience to get good at this. A naive camper's mother three years ago, I devoted myself to four hours of sewing little white labels on each of 20 dark socks. After that experience, I got smart and insisted that white tube socks were the only thing for campers. My son tells me he goes barefoot anyway, but you certainly don't want to look like the kind of mother who sends her kid off unprepared.

What all this preparation does "camp people are smart" is keep you busy enough to prevent thinking about the emotional end of the thing. It's not until you walk into the door with

out hearing WDRQ blasting from the stereo that you realize he's gone. And that experience causes mixed emotions.

You suddenly know what it's like to send your son or daughter off to college or into an apartment, although a little less traumatic. But it's still strange. You look forward to having time to yourself and a chance to go out without paying a babysitter (or child-sitter, as my son prefers).

But you quickly discover it's a little lonely. What can be siller than two adults watching "Star Trek" out of force-of-habit?

Well, three weeks isn't such a long time. But next year I'm planning to beat this spring's effort. We'll get the physical over in January; buy camping shorts in March; and freeze the worms. I also plan to keep a brick on my son's head so he won't grow. He's got two inches left before we're eyeball to eyeball, and that prospect has got to be put off a while longer somehow.

"Around the edge"

by Jackie Klein

How to cope in the crunch

Because my husband, Harold, honestly believes I started the energy crisis singlehandedly, I'm figuring ways to conserve power.

I've been taking to polishing every other tooth with my electric brush and toasting only one half of our breakfast bagels.

I admit I may have contributed my share to the energy shortage, but sometimes I think Harold conspired to create it just to aggravate me.

How many guys do you know who leave all the lights out for burglars, expect their wives to read Braille, and take the house into an igloo, insisting Eskimo women are healthier and live longer?

Talk about laying a guilt trip on a wife, Jane Lee can put my husband's name top of her list. All winter, I huddled and shivered in my flannel robe over two turtle-neck sweaters while Harold perspired in his topless, shortie pajamas.

"Why are you so warm when it's only 62 degrees in here?" I questioned to the tune of my teeth rattling.

Wiping his dripping brow, Harold replied, "I'm thinking about next summer when you'll set the air conditioning at 85 degrees." On where have all my hot flashes gone?

SOME GUYS save stamps, antique coins, guns and guppies. Mine saves matches to light our way through the pitch dark house. He started doing that before anyone thought of the words "energy crisis."

I've been emptying Harold's pocket

ets and dresser drawers and discovered 500 match folders. They say: "Happy Marriage, Sophie and Rudolph, June, 1964." "Bar Mitzvah Blessings Jeremiah, December 1968." and "Trusty Towing Service 24 hours a day, in business since 1900." The company went broke in 1940.

When the matches run out, I'm going to buy Harold a candle-making kit. For some couples, dinner by candlelight is a romantic occasion. In our house we use electric lights for special occasions, like when I cook.

OK, hubby mine, I'll cooperate. But just keep in mind it can't be different strokes for different folks. For the sake of saving gas, you can buy me a high-speed Schwinn. Remember when you said the wife I drive, a bike is the only kind of wheels I deserve?

But, Harold, you have to promise to get a Honda cycle, goggles and a helmet. I'll supply the black leather jacket with the emblem that says, "The over-50 Daredevil..."

I'LL STOP heating the oven for your frozen TV dinner if you'll promise to love what the Colonel cooks and settle for helpers without hamburgers or Peppie Pizza Parlor.

We could go to that charming little cafe where you asked if they had boltz and they said, "No, only what's on the menu."

Don't think I'm unwilling to do my share. I'll even make you Wheaties for breakfast and promise not to burn them. If you'll let me shave one quarter of each leg a month with your electric razor, I'll let you grow a beard

And don't forget, hot water uses energy. There's nothing like 10 push-ups and a cold shower in the morning to get you going after a hearty breakfast of iced instant coffee.

I have to concede three televisions going at one time puts a strain on the energy supply, and I am perfectly willing to compromise.

Once a week, Harold, you can watch football and a rerun of "The Three Stooges at Play." Once a week I get to watch "Return of the Son of Pevton Place," and "As the Stomach Turns..." The rest of the nights we can do something spectacular like talking to each other.

YOU CAN do things like caulking the frames of the windows and doors and installing weatherstripping to keep the warm air from escaping. Lord knows, we have little enough of warm air.

You can put up storm doors, insulate the ceiling, clean the furnace, fix the leaky faucet and seal openings to prevent air flow. We may suffocate, but we'll be saving energy.

I will do my little bit for the energy crunch effort by washing and drying your shirts only once a month and buying your disposable jockey shorts. I'll trade my toasty electric blanket for Dr. Denton's.

I'll even swap my curling iron for rollers that clink upon the pillow and wake you up so I can trade in your electric clock radio.

Did I just hear you say, Harold, that the energy crisis is all about electricity? Let's turn on all the lights and celebrate.

tinkering around

by LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Tink's trivia answers told

Once again, as the fireworks fade in the distance, we bid a fond farewell to the Fourth of July. To round off the celebration, I'm living up to my promise to give you the answers to last week's official Tinkering Around Trivia Quiz.

The quiz began with a nice 18 point question. For ten points, name the actresses who played the sisters in three versions of Little Women. Both points for naming the directors and five points for naming the actors who played Laurie.

Well here goes—In the 1930's version, Joan Bennett played Amy, the artistic, fashion-conscious sister. Katherine Hepburn played Jo, the tomboyish sister (I fail to see how she could have been a tomboy. Her worst fault in the movie was a tendency to whistle out loud. Shocking.) Frances Dee played Meg and Jean Parker played Beth, the gentle one who offers some relief from this sugary tale by dying. Director George Cukor was responsible for this version. Douglas Montgomery (not to be confused with George Montgomery, of furniture polish fame) played Laurie, Jo's friend and Amy's husband. (Eat your heart out Mary Hartman.)

In 1949, Hollywood decided to offer the public an original remake of the film. This time director Marvin LeRoy rounded up Jane Allyson, professional girl next door, to gosh golly her way through the part of Jo. Margaret O'Brien offered the right touch of pathos in her role of Beth. Elizabeth Taylor, way, way, before Richard Burton, Eddie Fisher, Nickie Hilton or Mike Todd played Amy. Janet Lee played Meg. Peter Lawford got to exercise his well-bred manncisms by playing Laurie.

For five points, name the show which featured Cecil B. DeMille. An additional five if you can name the news-erster he created. That kiddo show was called Jingles. It was built upon around the character of a court jester named Cecil B. DeMille. (Page 3. Are you worried about iron poor blood?)

Three Shirley Temple movies got you one point. Captain January, Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, the Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer, a teen-age epic our girl made. The Little Colonel. Heidi. Baby Takes A Bow. Our Little Girl-to name a few of the movies.

One thing our girl knew how to do. She could outdo Little Orphan Annie

For 15 points, identify Siegfried Sassoon, English majors and college professors were handicapped to 10 points here. Siegfried S. was a British author who wrote a series of books which told of the life of a young, fox-hunting man who finds his world and health gone away with the advent of World War I. (Sort of Upstairs Downstairs in the trenches.)

For ten points, name the actress who has won the most Academy Awards. Katherine Hepburn with four.

For another ten points, name the actress who played the title role in television's "My Little Margie." That was the unforgettable Gail Storm. (Not to be confused with Hail Storm.)

Name a series that was shown on the Mickey Mouse program. Ten points. Well, take your pick: Corky and White Shadow (the adventures of a girl and her dog in the west. Spin and Marty, the misadventures of a boy and his brother in the midwest) the Hardy Boys (before they joined up with Nancy Drew); and Circus Boy (who eventually decided that he had enough of elephants and joined the Monkees.)

Five points if you can warble (with gestures and emotion) the Mickey Mouse theme song: "M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E. Mickey Mouse. Mickey Mouse, wherever we are we'll hold our standards high" is acceptable. If you managed to sing "Come along and join the club that's made for you and me," that's OK, too. In fact, any old lines from the song are worth five points. "Y-Y," because I like you.

For five points, name the actor who played the alien in "The Day the Earth Stood Still." Michael Remme.

Three Shirley Temple movies got you one point. Captain January, Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, the Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer, a teen-age epic our girl made. The Little Colonel. Heidi. Baby Takes A Bow. Our Little Girl-to name a few of the movies.

One thing our girl knew how to do. She could outdo Little Orphan Annie

in making homeless children look glamorous. Ad "Little Miss Marker" to the list.

Who is Lord Peter Wimsey and why does he know Dorothy Sayers? One point. Wimsey was the hero of Sayers' detective novels which were written between 1929-38.

Who played the sensitive writer in the Petrified Forest? One point. Leslie Howard, who also played Ashley in Gone With the Wind.

The words, "You ever been stung by a dead bee?" were worth five points if you could name the actor who rasped them out and the movie in which they appeared. Walter Brennan gave that piece of cryptic advice to Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not."

Which actress had the title role in "Morning Glory"? Ten points. Katherine Hepburn made an early appearance in "Morning Glory," the film which made to tell what happens when a star is born and fades almost immediately.

If you want to know how you fit in with trivia experts here's the Official Scorecard.

100 points: You're such an expert, you ought to be writing these quizzes. 100-50 points: Not bad, not bad at all. You probably watch an awful lot of late movies.

49-25 points: A valiant effort. Don't give up, the next installment is bound to be easier.

Under 25 points: You probably have better things to think about than the Mickey Mouse song.

If Henry Thoreau was correct in saying that we furnish our minds with information the way we fill up rooms with furniture, some trivia fans probably have minds that resemble Victorian parlors—a lot of clutter and knick-knacks stuck between a few useful pieces of furniture.

If you want to quibble or if you have a favorite trivia question, drop me a line and I'll include it in the second installment of the quiz later on this summer.

Citizens Can Win

How democracy works

By DOUG ROSS

Will the State Police continue to patrol Detroit's freeways, or will they be replaced by Wayne County Sheriff's deputies? Will action finally be taken to eliminate PBB contaminated cattle in Michigan? What will the state do on the question of providing abortions to low-income women under Medicaid?

Each of these critical questions will be decided by the state legislature in Lansing in the weeks ahead, along with many other issues that intimately affect our lives.

But who will really decide the outcome of each of these questions? According to our old high school civics books, that's not a question we need worry about. They taught that in a democracy, all we citizens had to do was vote intelligently every couple of years and our elected officials would ensure that the public interest was served.

In short, we were taught that if you elect good people to office in a democracy, your responsibilities are fulfilled and your worries are over.

Of course, that's sheer poppycock—and dangerous to boot. Democracy never was intended to work that way and no one understood that better than the founding fathers.

THEY RECOGNIZED that democracy was merely a set of rules governing the competition between different

groups and people to determine what government does. The outcome is decided by those who participate in the fight. And there is certainly no guarantee that the final result will reflect what is best for most of us unless most of us have entered the fray.

In reality, most fights today over what our governments should do are won by organized special interests—usually business, professional and labor groups. They win most of the time not because they are so powerful, though they often have large sums of money with which to buy influence. Rather, they tend to dominate Lansing and other seats of government because the other side in this democratic competition fails to show up.

I mean us. Whether the state does anything about PBB may be a matter of life and death for us and our families. But to date, the major combatant in the fight to determine whether the state acts has been the Michigan Farm Bureau. They don't want anything done. So, nothing has been done. Because the other side—those of us who are being forced to eat this poison—hasn't bothered to enter the fight in any real force.

Can we citizens really win these fights when we decide to do battle? Absolutely. And it's not even terrible difficult.

HOWEVER, no citizen can do it alone. In a society as large as ours, success in getting the government to do what you want requires working with groups of citizens.

More than anything else, most elected officials want to be reelected. This is the key assumption upon which all citizen action is organized. Whenever a group of voters, especially voters an elected official normally would regard as supporters, indicate strong feelings about particular issues, that elected-official

will almost always respond to those citizens rather than narrow special interest groups. It's often that simple.

How can a group of concerned citizens most easily and effectively communicate their strong feelings about an issue to a state legislator? Here are a few pointers based on the Michigan Citizens Lobby's experience:

Arrange an evening meeting back in the legislator's district with 15 or more of his or her constituents to discuss the issue in question. All legislators will agree to attend such meetings.

It's the most effective way to state your case forcefully and to extract a public commitment to act from the legislator.

Get between 25 and 50 friends, neighbors and other like-minded constituents of the legislator to each write him or her a letter requesting support or opposition for a particular bill.

BE POLITE but firm. Deal only with one issue in the letter, and request a specific response on how the legislator intends to vote. Each letter should be individually written; avoid using form letters. Those who dislike writing should be encouraged to telephone Lansing to request a written response from the legislator.

Draw up an informal petition addressed to your legislator stating your views. Then go in front of your local supermarket or door-to-door in your neighborhood and collect 200 or more signatures from your legislator's constituents. Then deliver these signatures, in person if possible, to the legislator as evidence of strong voter support in his district for your position.

These are three of the simplest and most direct ways to make government operate for you. And they work. Citizens can win.

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COMPLETE POOL STORE	X	X	X
RECYCLATING MAIN DRAIN	X	X	X
ONLY POOL MANUFACTURED IN MICH.	X	X	X

Volunteers called for FYA expansion

Expanded programs for the fall, planned by the Parent-Teen Education Committee of Farmington Youth Assistance will need volunteer help from residents.

The fall program will include a longer series of lectures as well as a series of workshops. All of the programs will deal with child-parent-family relationships.

Guest speakers will be programmed to share their area of expertise.

The workshops will be patterned after a series that stemmed from Virginia Beach, Va. and has been successful in other communities, centered around the book "Children, the Challenge," by Rudolf Dreikurs.

"It will only work, though, with a united front of the residents," said Ted Constantine, spokesman for the FYA committee. "We need the lay-

man to baby-sit and make coffee to help us find facilities. And we need people who will take the training to head the workshops," he said.

Constantine said the six-member committee, headed by Gary Gallins, will have a trial run for the new workshops in July. The others, he said, "will have to be lined up pretty quick."

THE VOLUNTEER will be working with Gallins and Constantine, as well as Diane Fortin, Dennis Skowronski, Ellen Yashinski, and John Pinkerman.

The co-leaders for the workshops will be trained by the committee. The training will concern different techniques of handling child-parent problems.

Interested persons are asked to call Pinkerman at 476-8940.