

Families held together by teamwork

Every man for himself. You're on your own. Those are only expressions, but ones which recently have become the motto of many families.

More and more, each person in the home is expected to take care of his or her own needs. Meal time? Grab a bite. Clean house? Take care of your own room or leave the door closed. Dirty clothes? When the hamper's full, throw the clothes in the wash.

Work schedules are often erratic with family members arriving and leaving at different times. Children come and go to classes and neighborhood interests. Everyone seems able to manage alone and soon no effort is made to manage together.

The reality of divergent and independent lives is inescapable. The ability to care for oneself is certainly positive. Family members, including children, are testing the freedoms that non-supervision brings. But it is not the freedom to do as you please or license to ignore the others.

Independence should not mean an end to sharing. Families as a whole have mutual needs and desires and need to work together to achieve these goals.

We have a unique opportunity to create a different social pattern based on working together as significant individuals who are basically equal save for the greater life experience of the older individuals.

EACH INDIVIDUAL must do his part for the good of the group, while remaining responsible for himself. The family must become the model of cooperation where the individual can look for support, aid, and the



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sharing of burdens. There can be no head-honcho, only teammates.

Sometimes we need to look far backward for models of new behaviors. The game of Polo, though 4,000 years old, follows this basic pattern of interaction.

There is no main leader. Instead, like the family of four, there are four players. If all four move along together, they score points and play a smooth game.

But if one of the team tries to score points alone, or doesn't care to hold up his weight and responsibility, no points will be scored.

Even in watching the game, there is not the foot-stomping, seat-banging, screaming reverence for the individual's goal. In fact, the field is so long, it is impossible to clearly see when a goal has been scored.

What is clearly seen is the grace of galloping horses, the extraordinary efforts at cooperation, and spectators in quiet admiration of teamwork.

A visit to the Detroit Polo Club is a different sporting experience. The game is viewed from alongside the Polo Club either right in your car, or on a blanket spread on the field. Bring a picnic lunch and watch the game at the stables and paddocks are within a few feet for intermissions.

The Detroit Polo Club is at 2770 North Milford Road. To get there take I-96 West and exit at Milford Road. Go north past Milford about three miles. The polo grounds are adjacent to Milford High School.

Polo matches are held on most Sundays at 2 p.m. throughout the summer. Admission is \$2 per adult and children under 12 are free. For more information phone 685-9920.

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has a master's degree in Early Childhood Education. She has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures.

Mrs. Bordman welcomes suggestions and comments. Please write her c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia 48150. © PATRICIA BORDMAN

Symposiums held with Chicago's exhibit

A symposium series in conjunction with July Chicago's "The Dinner Party, An Historical Tribute to Women Through Folk Art" continues in Cleveland Heights, Ohio through July.

On Monday, July 20, the program will feature,

"The Traditions of Women in Folk Art: Fabric Arts" and on July 27, "Women As Makers of Culture." Participants include knowledgeable and articulate members from a variety of academic and art disciplines.

Everything you wish you knew about your new car

All too often, the most important questions about a new car don't get answered until after you've taken delivery. How are the maintenance costs? Will the car hold up in a crash? You certainly can't tell by looking at the model on the showroom floor.

But you can get answers to some of these questions — in a new free booklet by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. "The Car Book" is a consumer's buying guide, by make and model, covering both domestic cars and imports. For a free copy, write the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 612J, Pueblo, Col. 81009.

If you're looking for a compact car, you start with the summary section on compacts at the beginning of the booklet. For the Dodge Omni, you'll find that the costs of preventive maintenance are low, and so are the costs of fixing problems after they've developed, both during normal use and following an accident. The picture is different for the Datsun 200SX — with medium costs for repairing problems that develop in normal use, and high costs for both preventive maintenance and accident repairs.

WHAT'S "LOW" and what's "high"? Another chart gives the costs in actual dollars. For preventive maintenance in the first 45,000 miles, for example, the Ford Mustang costs the least of the compacts — \$119 — while the BMW 320i costs the most at \$522. The chart also lays out the costs on each car for replacing a water pump, an alternator,

two front brake pads, a carburetor or fuel injector and several other representative parts and subassemblies.

Crash safety data include the results of a collision test with a concrete barrier at 35 m.p.h. In the summary section on subcompacts, for instance, you'll find two cars rated as passing overall — the Fiat Strada and the Chevrolet Chevette. In the more detailed charts, you'll see that the Volkswagen Rabbit did better than most, providing adequate protection at least for the passenger. Of the other subcompacts tested, none gave sufficient protection to either the passenger or the driver.

Are you interested in saving money on your insurance? Because the costs vary from model to model, these are also covered in "The Car Book." Most large cars are given discounts, although the Cadillac Eldorado and Lincoln Mark VI get surcharges.

Naturally, fuel economy figures are provided for all the cars. (The Volkswagen Rabbit diesel leads with 42 m.p.g.) There's also a special chart showing safety recalls and their reasons for each model from 1977 to 1989. And there's supplemental information on the wear characteristics of different types of tires, a guide to resolving complaints with dealers, a section on buying used cars — plus a good deal more.

When you order "The Car Book" you'll also receive a free copy of the "Consumer Information Catalog." Published quarterly by the Consumer Information Center of the General Services Administration, the catalog lists more than 200 free and low-cost publications of general consumer interests.

Tax workshop held in B'ham

Tax advice for persons who have recently opened a small business is available from the Internal Revenue Service at a July 21 workshop in Birmingham.

The six-hour session includes discussions on federal income tax withholding requirements, other federal employment taxes, proper recordkeeping, filing requirements for federal business

tax returns and features of the IRS assistance program available to small business persons.

The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in room 212 at the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education, 746 Pundy. To register, call toll free 1-800-482-0030, ext. 3674 and ask for Helen Madro, tax education coordinator.

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