

# Canton family wonders if '8 is enough'

By JO-ANNE MASON  
Special Writer

On Christmas Day in 1974, Alan and Judy Prince of Canton had two children—Alan Jr. (Lennie), 7, and Bobby, 5. Christmas this year found them with eight children, ranging in age from 4 to 13.

The family's phenomenal growth began early in 1975 when the Princes became actively involved in assisting in the shipment of packages to orphans overseas.

They heard about a handicapped girl who had arrived in the Vietnamese airlift and needed a family. That April, 8-year-old Hanh became the Princes' first daughter.

IN THE FALL of the same year, through their association with AASK (Aid to Adoption of Special Kids), Judy and Alan learned of a Vietnamese lot severely handicapped from polio, thus considered by some agencies as unadoptable.

They began a letter campaign on behalf of the child and all children labeled "unadoptable" by various agencies.

The philosophy of AASK is that no child is unadoptable—that it's merely a matter of finding that special family that will accept and love each child.

In December 1975, just in time for Christmas, that 18-month-old Vietnamese—paralyzed in both legs and one arm—became the Princes' son Danny.

The following year, the Prince family again opened its doors and hearts to welcome Connie and Tony—an orphaned brother and sister from Ohio, ages 3 and 5, and very much in need of love and affection.

This year has been just as special for the growing Prince family because on Dec. 22, Dennis, 13, and his 11-year-old sister Judi, who have been visiting each weekend from the Sarah Fisher Home, finally became an "official" part of the family—a precious gift for the Christmas of '78.

FOR A YOUNG COUPLE as vibrant and resourceful as Judy and Alan Prince, planning a meaningful Christmas for eight children has been quite simple.

It has been a rewarding and enjoyable venture, and not the costly undertaking one would expect.

The past weeks have been filled with the spirit of loving preparation and unselfish anticipation rarely seen these days of the consumer Christmas.

Each member of the family has been busily designing unique gifts for the others. "You have to think about the person and make something for that person with love," Judy has told the family. "No one seems to think about each gift and a person's real likes and dislikes anymore."

So Christmastime at the Prince household is one planned with love and special thoughts for each other.

For instance, 9-year-old Bobby's

love for science fiction is appreciated, and he receives a tailor-made stylish jumpsuit with a picture of the Six Million Dollar Man on it, patterned and hand-made by Dad and Mom.

A home-made backpack personalized with "DP" is one special gift for Danny, who has learned to get around in a walker. "He buzzes around here as quickly as anyone," his mother laughs, adding seriously that it's like a miracle to see him moving around so well.

delights in teasing her brothers. Eleven-year-old Judi's quiet and helpful disposition adds a touch of tranquility to the constant activity in the large but very cozy seven-bedroom house in Canton.

Blond, blue-eyed and dimpled, 5-year-old Tony steals the hearts of everyone with his winsome smile. And the Princes have their own little red-headed "Annie" in Connie, a playful and mischievous 7-year-old.

JUDY'S GENTLE and affectionate but firm approach, and Alan's easygoing disposition and infectious smile never quit.

When the obvious question was presented to Alan at the post office where he is employed, "Is eight enough, Al?" his sincere reply was, "We can't really say that—eight is enough. Who knows? We have plenty of room left."

He may have been referring to the huge house on Sheldon Road. But could he have meant there's more than enough room in the Princes' hearts?

THERE ARE THREE 11-year-olds in the Prince family now.

Lennie loves to help take care of the smaller ones, and he takes special pride in assisting 4-year-old Danny with his physical therapy.

At an annual Christmas party for foreign adopted kids, Lennie was the one who could be found among the tots, playing with them and helping them get around.

Dark-haired Hanh loves to act as "little mother" to the younger family members and, like most girls her age,

## The LaLeche group meets

The Farmington LaLeche League will meet Wednesday, Jan. 10, in the home of one of its members. The monthly evening meeting is open to area women who are interested in

breastfeeding information.

Membership information is available by calling Stephanie Bodack, 661-5814.



Members of the Prince family are: (front row, from left) Connie, 7, Danny, 4, Judy Prince, Judi, 11, Alan Prince,

Hanh, 11; (back row, from left) Bobby, 9, Tony, 5, Dennis, 13, and Alan Jr., 11. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

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