

80 ★ (T-BA-S-1A-F-9C, Ro-10B, ★6C, P-C-18A, R-W, G-8B)

O&E Thursday, July 15, 1982



Camping with children can be reasonably carefree if their clothing and other items are well organized.

IRIS AND MICKY JONES

# Camping with children: It's easy if you plan ahead

Camping with children is deceptively carefree when you open your freshly packed suitcase at that first sunny afternoon. Three days later, you stumble around the tent with a flashlight in the dark looking for Suzi's pajamas.

You can open only one suitcase at a time now that he coats are up, but you note as you go that Suzi's shoes are on daddy's white nirt, Jimmy's new play-suit is missing a belt, and the family

wardrobe is a rumpled, sandy mess.

Before you trade in your tent, replace those suitcases with inexpensive home-made clothing cases that can be stacked in a corner and identified by the light of the moon. Each case is an empty "two-dozen" beer box. Paint the outside of each box a different color, using any leftover enamel paint dad may have in the basement.

When you are ready to pack, set out

the red box, Jimmy's clothes and two plastic bags. Pack Jimmy's socks, and loose items such as belts, in one plastic bag. Pack his underpants and undershirts in the other.

Place the rest of Jimmy's clothes in a single pile in the red box: first, heavy items such as trousers; next, lighter objects such as shirts; finally pajamas.

Add the two plastic bags, and Jimmy's case is packed. His shoes, bathing

suit and raincoat will go in separate containers in the trunk of the car, and his toilet articles will go in a single family toilet bag.

Pack a different colored box for each member of the family, and you will have sturdy, waterproof clothing cases that are easily identified by their color. They are carried by the existing hand-holds, and stacked in a corner of the tent.

They have an airing hole in the top and a firmly closing lid that can be opened in a small space. Finally, the case is always flat, and the contents are always where they belong.

When you enter the dark tent with a flashlight, you single out the red box and remove Jimmy's pajamas from the top. In the morning you replace them. Drop dirty clothes into a large plastic bag; when the bag is full, stop at the nearest laundromat. Pluck your clothes directly out of the dryer and fold them right back into the individually colored boxes.



1-of-a-kind traveler Iris Jones contributing travel editor

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