

4 Times Christmas = Lots Of Noise

By R.T. THOMPSON
There may have been some quiet homes in Redford Township early Christmas morning, but that was far from the situation at 11385 Dixie where the famed Pulter quadruplets were celebrating the arrival of Santa Claus with all the joy and noise that two-year-olds can and do make.

In fact, there was a bit more noise emanating through the walls of the modest home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Pulter, proud parents of the only quads in western Wayne county.

The three girls and one boy celebrated their second birthday on Nov. 24, and for the first time in their short lives they realized there was such a smiling, bewhiskered gentleman known as Santa who devoted all of his time to make children - especially young ones - happy.

THEN, TOO, there are two older brothers, Brian, 8, and Todd, 3, who kept reminding the quads of the great day ahead. So, small wonder that the four - they are generally on the prowl early in the morning - were wider awake and livelier than usual.

And to give the parents a few more winks, five neighborhood teenaged girls, who have been giving Mrs. Pam

Pulter a hand in taking care of the quads, arrived early to help their tiny charges through all of the excitement.

The five include: Karen Kantor, Karen Kennan, Cheryl Hallman, Dianne Beadle and Pat Cunningham. They have handled the quads so long that each is like a little mother for one of the four.

They anticipate the moods which you can believe change almost as fast as the second hand on a watch; they feed the youngsters and do it so well that when one wants to toss the food around instead of into the mouth, they have ways of stopping the throwing and getting the spoon directed to the proper place.

During the big Christmas rush, Karen Kennan took charge of Bradley, the huskiest and liveliest of the four; Cheryl handled Stephanie; Dianne had Suzanne in tow; and Pat kept Stacey under control as well as a two-year-old can be controlled.

AND WHAT a task keeping the various gifts separated so that none grabbed a toy from the other and claimed it by the ancient law of possession and running for the nearest corner.

Stuffed toys had the attention of each, but just try and figure out which had the teddy bear or the stuffed dog as his or her prized gift.

Then, too, Papa Gus had all the intentions of watching the Lions-Dallas football game on a color television set in the playroom in the basement.

That's about the time the quads decided to shift their scene of activity from the living room to the basement, and only the fact that Pop won't miss a Lions' game on the "tube," regardless, kept him from taking off for a quieter place.

As it was, the three girls

transferred to the adjoining recreation room, which has one of those hobby horses youngsters like to bounce up and down on that took the sting off Pop, who held Brad on his lap while Todd and Brian sat in front to watch the football game.

MEANWHILE, back at the hobby horse, Mamma Pam and the three teenagers encountered a bit of trouble as all three tiny girls wanted to ride the hobby horse at the same time - it only holds one.

As most mothers do, Mrs. Pulter stepped into the breach and brought peace and quiet in that strange way moms have.

"I don't know what I'd do without the help of the five neighborhood girls," she said. "They know as much about handling the quads as I do, and they really keep them well in hand. Thank heavens for such teenagers, especially for a mother of quads."

Then too, Mrs. Pulter gets relief and a chance to do some shopping and visiting on Mondays when Mrs. Ruth Barringer, who resides on Sarasota and is a member of the Redford Suburban League, comes in and takes over for most of the day.

Assisting the Pulters has been one of the Suburban League projects and the most loyal is Mrs. Barringer.

"This was perhaps the best Christmas we ever had," smiled Mrs. Pulter. "It was the noisest, but we enjoyed every minute of it. Just think what it will be like in each of the next three or four years when the quads reach the curious age and really want to sit up and wait for Santa!"

That was Christmas 1970 with the Pulter quads, a happy sight, a real tough task for the Observer photographer trying to get candid shots of four wiggly, squirming youngsters but a happy event for all that saw or participated.



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