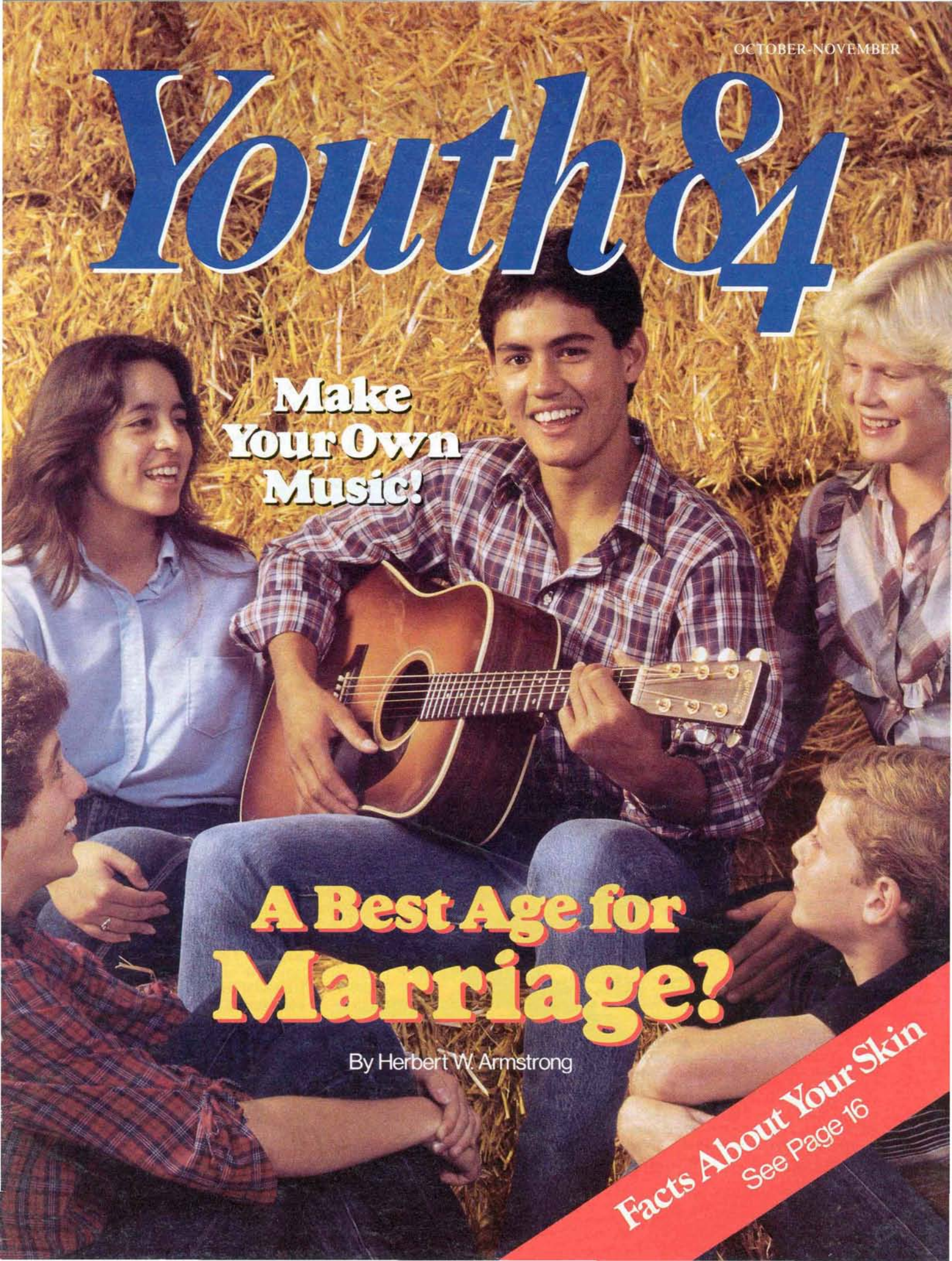
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Youth 84



Make Your Own Music!

A Best Age for Marriage?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Facts About Your Skin
See Page 16

October-November

Youth 84

VOL. IV, NO. 9

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Contents:

What Is the Best Age for Marriage?	1
"Nowilaymedowntosleep . . ."	3
A Hobby With Strings Attached	5
News That Affects You	7
What's It Like to Be a Teen in the Isle of Man?	10
Never Say Never	12
Roundup!	13
Amazing Facts About Your Skin	16
Ideas Plus	18
Teen Bible Study: Why Be Thankful?	21
Dear *Youth 84*	23
Reader By-Line: Plan Now for Your Future	24
By the Way . . . What's All the Fuss About Gays?	28

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COVER: When it's time for a sing-along, people who play the guitar are in high demand. Could you learn to play this popular and portable instrument? Read, "A Hobby With Strings Attached," starting on page 5. Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

Letters

"The Divine Purposes of Sex"

Thanks a great deal Mr. H.W. Armstrong for the article "The Divine Purposes of Sex" that you wrote in the February issue of *Youth 84*.

I really appreciate this article. I am 18 years old and I feel it's just time I begin to take the basic facts of life more seriously than ever. Using sex the right way and at the right time is one of the greatest blessings God ever gave mankind. Please write more of such articles.

Mbome Christiana
Cameroon, West Africa

"I've Been There"

I wanted to let you know that your article "I've Been There" ["Reader By-Line," June-July] was really inspiring. I wish to get a note to the 17 year old who wrote it, if possible.

Dear 17 year old,

Your story in the "Reader By-Line" section of *Youth 84* was a true inspiration. You've had a bad experience and I wish you only the best for the future.

Sharing your experience made me realize that my family life could be better. But even more than that I now realize that I haven't got it so bad after all. What I mean is, every teenager has a phase [he or she goes] through. You know, the "My parents just don't understand" phase. Your article really opened my eyes, maybe my parents really do know best, and it's my best interest they have at heart every time they say "no" or "wait till you're older."

I have a feeling that you will continue to grow spiritually and be an inspiration to those you meet along the way. Keep your armor on and nothing can prevail against you.

Name Withheld
Kentucky

Advice that worked

Though I have never written to a magazine, I want to respond to the young lady who wrote in concerned about premarital sex with her boyfriend. Here's what worked for me:

HE: If you loved me, you would.

SHE: If *you* loved *me*, you wouldn't.

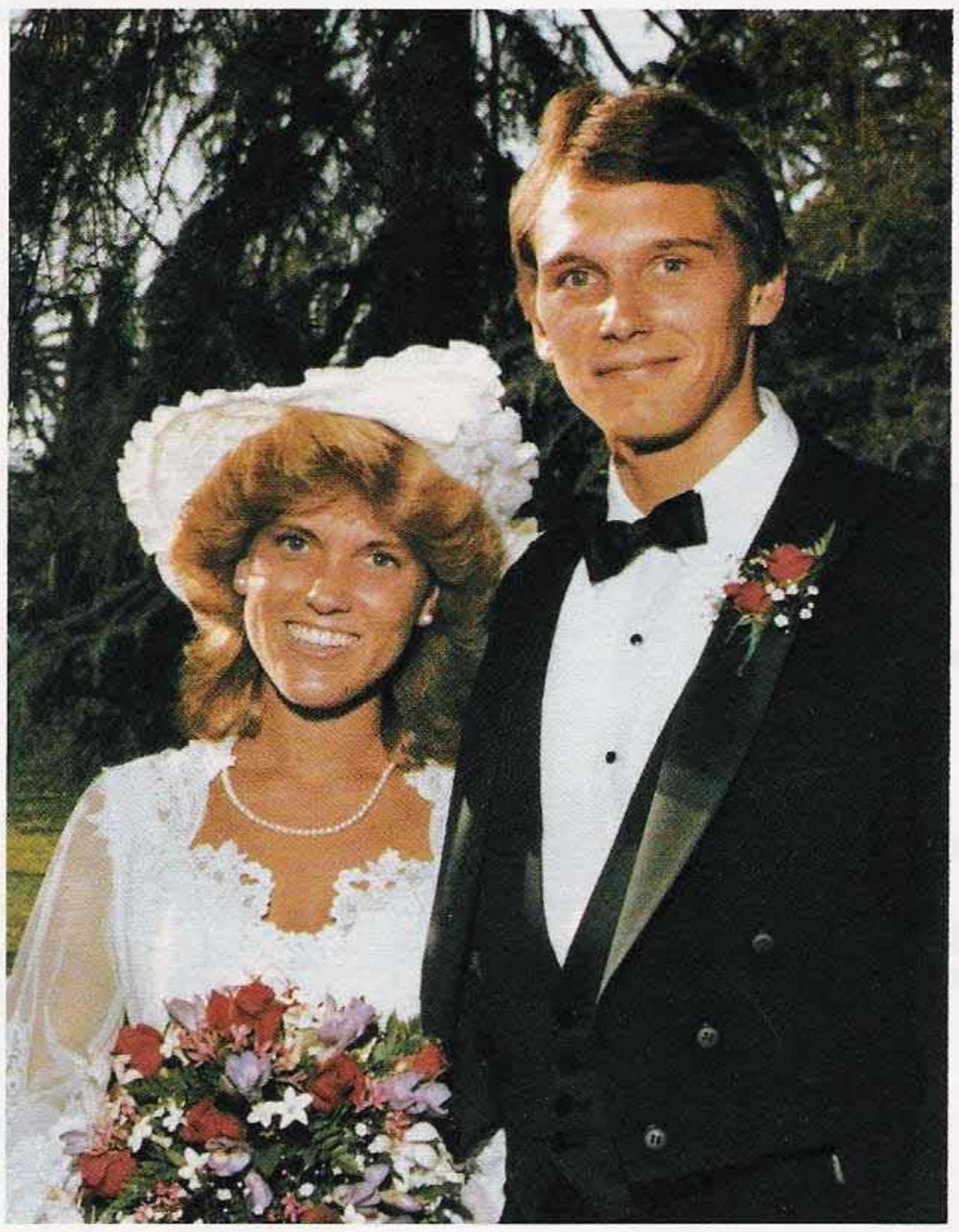
I think I read that in an advice column in the newspaper, but whatever the source, it works. I married a wonderful man five years ago who didn't pressure me, and our marriage is strong . . . it is based on a hearty mutual respect.

Deborah H. Stubbs
Benton, Arkansas

What Is the BEST AGE for Marriage?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Is there a BEST AGE for marriage? Here is the answer, from a wealth of counseling experience.



"I thought I couldn't live without Archi," said Gloria. "So I got my mother to sign for the license. I am 16, and Archi is 19.

"Of course my folks didn't want me to get married. But I threatened Mom that if she didn't sign, I'd run away or get pregnant. Now we've been married two months, and nothing is like I thought it would be.

"Marriage isn't a bit like I supposed. I don't know just what I supposed it was — but more fun — more romance — different. The day after the wedding I knew it was all a big mistake. And it's only been getting worse. Archi's mad at me, and swears at me because I don't know how to cook. I never made a bed in my life till we were married, and then I found I didn't know how. You know how it is. My mom did everything for me — washed my clothes, ironed them — even bought them. I never had any responsibility at home.

"And now all Archi and I do is fight. He wouldn't give me any money when he had a job, and he doesn't have any now. He leaves me alone evenings, and he runs with his boy friends; and he's even dated some old girl friends. I don't want to tell my folks what a mistake I made. What shall I do? Nothing's like I thought it would be!"

What are the chances of teenage marriages being happy and succeeding?

Is there a BEST AGE for marriage?

But first, WHY are so many marriages failing today? WHY the alarming increase in UNHAPPY marriages, broken homes, divorces?

No one reason — there are SEVERAL causes. One of the greatest is marrying TOO YOUNG! The actual RECORDS — the FACTS — show that slightly fewer than half of such marriages last.

Primary causes

A young man and young woman "fall in love" — or at least *think* they do — and marry. In his mind, she *belongs to him,* is allied to him and, as long as things go well, like part of him. He is the same to her.

But just as soon as things go wrong — perhaps she denies him his desires — perhaps he doesn't give her any money, or fails to be considerate — just as soon as one

Photos by Hal Finch

steps on the other's toes — then the sense of alliance is broken. Then SELF wells up *against* the other. Then the other is no longer PART of self.

In other words, just what IS this thing they usually mistake for LOVE?

It is NOT really LOVE. It is, rather, a sort of sense of being enamored — captivated (taken captive by), inflamed with passionate desire, blinded by unreasoning ardor. It is a being impassioned with anticipated rapturous delight. In plainer language, it is an aroused anticipation of what one expects to GET, RECEIVE, to HAVE from the other.

Real and *true* love is basically an OUTGOING CONCERN. It is OUTgoing, not INcoming. When it is INcoming — as "love" falsely so-called is in almost every romance — it is in fact LUST, not truly LOVE!

Just as long as she pleases him — as long as she gives him that delightful sense of enamorment, of luscious enjoyment — he thinks he loves her deeply. In reality, he loves what he receives from her. This, in turn, gives him the feeling that she is a PART of his extended SELF. He loves SELF — and as long as she is able to remain, in his sight, that allied part of SELF, he will feel that he is in love with her.

This works both ways. As long as she is pleased with him — receiving FROM him what she desires — retaining the sense of alliance — she will feel she is in love with him.

The SELF is simply carnality. It is human nature.

What chance, then, does the average marriage have? There are more factors than this one involved. But, so long as each *receives* from the other what satisfies his or her SELF, the marriage will last.

Another basic factor has been religion. Up until World War I the religious teachings of the Western world injected a sort of inbred conviction that marriage MUST be maintained "until death do us part." A large portion of marriages *endured,* due to this conviction, which today would end in divorce.

Another factor, very prominent as a CAUSE today, is the economic one. Formerly women were mainly dependent on their husbands for economic security. The very factor of SELF-PRESERVATION held them to their husbands — drove them to try to "satisfy him" under circumstances in which the modern wife would rebel. Today, with so many wives being employed, being independent, they are far less impelled to satisfy their husbands against their own desires, and far more ready and willing to leave them and break up their homes. They probably weren't real HOMES, anyway, with the wife employed outside the home.

Another prominent factor is this modern "50-50" idea about "who wears the trousers." When the husband abdicates his responsibility, the wife takes it over. Men were intended, by nature, to take the lead and the responsibility.

All these — and more — are CAUSES of broken families today. And they are the BAROMETER of the CRASH of civilization — the HANDWRITING ON THE WALL forecasting a death sentence on modern society!

Of course another MAJOR cause is the new morality, which is simply misnaming cesspool immorality!

But put all these factors together with the immaturity, the unpreparedness, the inexperience of teen marriages, and one should have little difficulty understanding that a teen marriage has less than a 50-50 chance of surviving!

Is there, then, a BEST AGE for marriage?

There is!

Some time ago I officiated at a wedding in stately Memorial Hall at the former Ambassador College campus in England. My next-to-youngest grandson, Richard David Armstrong II, then age 2½, thought the ceremony so very nice, he said:

"Mommie, *I* want to get married!"

"Well!" answered his mother, a little shocked, a little amused, "and whom do you want to marry?"

"Karen," replied little Dicky promptly.

"But Karen has just been married. She can't marry anybody else, now."

"Well then," decided Dicky, "I'll marry Sheila." Sheila is a very nice Irish colleen, and was then a student in the college.

"But Sheila is grown up now, and in college," protested "Mommie." "What if she won't have you?"

"Then I'll marry you, Mommie," came the quick decision.

We may smile at the idea of 2 or 3 year olds getting married. It *would* be a bit irregular! Marriage is not for children! Marriage

(Continued on page 25)

'Nowilayme downtosleep...'

By John Halford

Could you be wasting your time — and God's? There is a better way!

Have you ever prayed? Sure you have. Most of us were taught to pray when we were children. When we went to bed, Mother or Grandma said a little prayer with us ("Now I lay me down to sleep, bless the Lord my soul to keep").

Maybe Dad would sometimes let us ask a blessing before a meal ("For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful").

Or at church, perhaps you learned to rattle off prayers without stopping to think what the words meant ("Ourfatherwhichartinheavenhallowedbethyname . . .").

But now that you are growing up, are you getting out of the prayer habit? It's OK for little kids, but for you, a teenager, it has begun to be — well — pointless.

A waste of time?

Those prayers you once recited so faithfully don't seem to have anything to do with the real world around you.

And, anyway, you don't get any answers. To mumble some righteous-sounding phrases just because you're supposed to is nothing but a boring ritual and an utter waste of your time. Is that how you feel?

Well, you're right.

God would agree with you. He doesn't want you to waste your time or His. Jesus said that God does not listen to memorized prayers, repeated over and over until the person praying doesn't even need to think.

But neither does God want you to give up praying as you get older.

There is something that a teenager ought to know about prayer — something you may not have thought of. Maybe God has become less real to you. But have you ever considered that you might seem unreal to God?

Something you should know

As you get older, it is not only your body that changes. Your mind is growing up, too.

You begin to think in ways you haven't thought before, and question things that you had always taken for granted. You begin to develop your own beliefs, goals and dreams.

People start to expect more from you. They no longer think of you as cute if you do childish things.

Parents find it rewarding to see their little children grow up and become mature. It is a thrill to see the personality blossom along with special talents, abilities and a sense of humor. It is satisfying for them to be able to talk with you in a grown-up way, about important things.

Imagine how disappointing it would be for a father to sit down with his teenage son for a serious conversation, only to have his son say, "Gub, gub, gub — Bobby want cookie."

Or a mother trying to teach her teenage daughter to sew, finding her in the corner playing with some dolls.

Like your physical parents, God is concerned with your development. Like them, He has been enjoying seeing you grow up. Imagine how God must feel when, expecting a serious conversation with a teenager, all He gets is "Now I lay me down to sleep" or "Ourfatherwhichartinheaven . . ."

When Jesus grew up

Do you remember the story about Jesus in the Temple when He was 12? You'll find this example of a young person's relationship with God in Luke 2:41-49.

Joseph and Mary, returning home from a visit to Jerusalem, discovered that their Son was lost. They had assumed that He was with relatives.

After three days of frantic searching, they found Him in the Temple asking question after question of the wisest teachers in the land. These learned men were astounded at the young boy — because of His understanding.

When His parents corrected Him, Jesus told them, respectfully but firmly, "I must be about My Father's business."

Jesus, it seems, learned a lot in those three days. His heavenly Father had seen that His maturing mind was ready for some adult understanding.

The young Jesus came away

God would like to get to know you better. What makes you happy? What worries you? How can He help?

with a new sense of responsibility. He was no longer *just* Joseph the Carpenter's little boy, although, of course, He still loved and honored His physical stepfather. But even though it would be many years before He began His work, Jesus' relationship with God was now on a different level.

Getting to know you

Of course, Jesus Christ was a special person with an important responsibility. But so are you. God has plans for you, too.

He already knows a lot about you, even to the number of hairs on your head.

But He would like to get to know you better. What makes you happy? What worries you? What do you enjoy? What do you dread? What do you want to do with the rest of your life? How can He help?

He doesn't *only* want to hear about you. He wants to know how you feel about other people. So many people when they pray have a bad case of the "gimmes." "Gimme this, gimme that, do this for me . . . and hurry."

That is a rather boring, selfish, uninteresting, one-sided prayer for God to have to listen to. He'd like to know how you feel He can help your friends. Are they sick? In trouble? Going through a bad time in their lives?

Are you concerned about the threat of nuclear war, starving children of Africa and Asia or young soldiers being killed daily in Central America and the Middle East?

These things concern God, and He is planning to do something about it. He wants to involve you in these plans, if you are interested. Are you?

Being real to God

As you grow up, you should be talking to God about the things that are important and *real* to you. Baby-talk prayers are fine for little children, but God expects more from you.

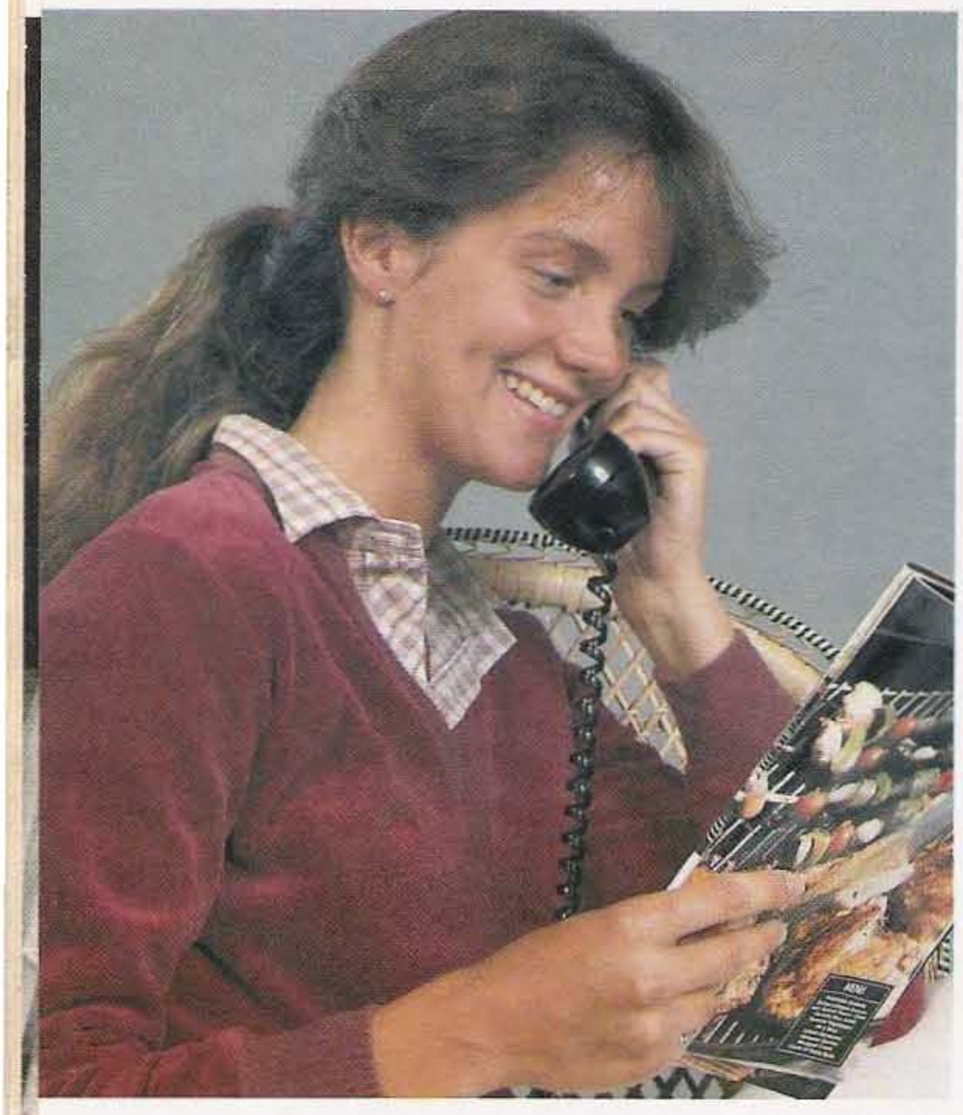
Everyone has to learn to pray. It doesn't come naturally. Like learning to play the piano or basketball, you have to practice. That might sound funny at first — practice praying. Like any other new thing, you may feel uncomfortable in the beginning, but when you learn how, it will become something you enjoy more and more. You'll find your day goes better, you feel better and you get more done.

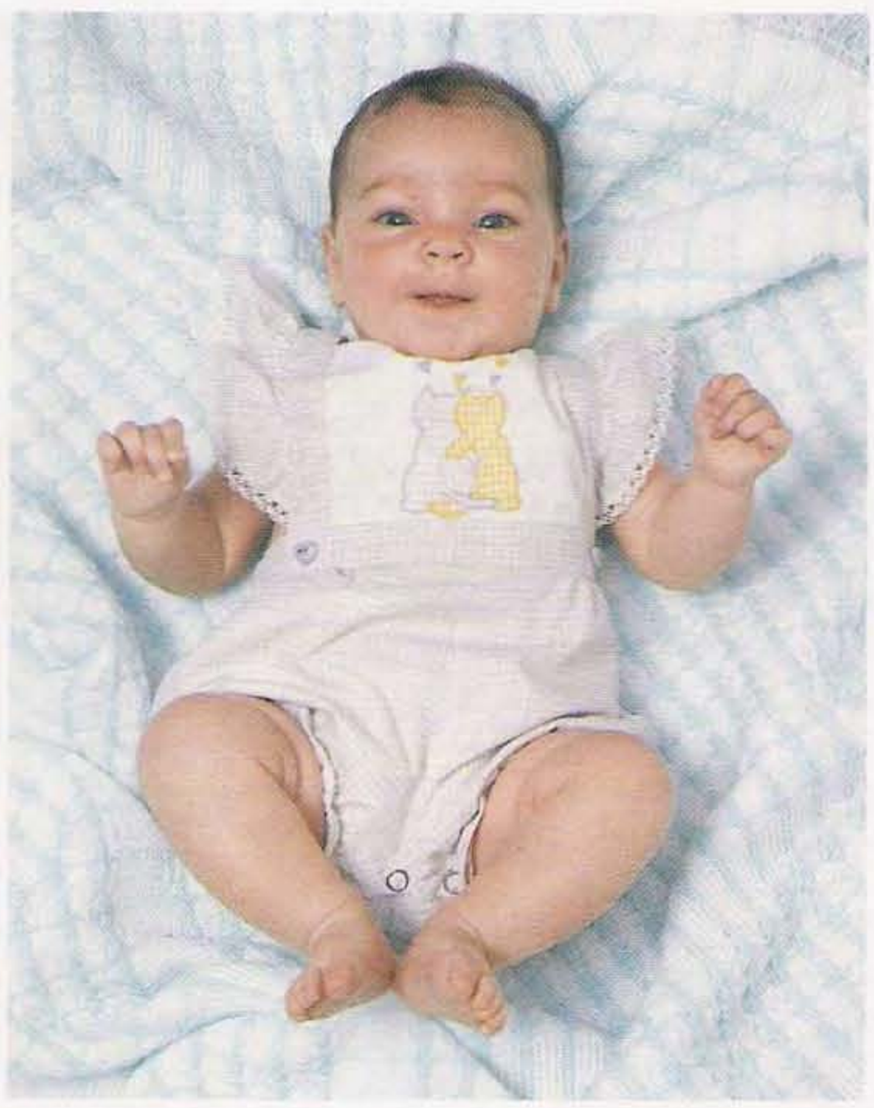
Talking to God is a whole lot like talking to an understanding person. Remember, God is your heavenly Father. He wants to hear what you have on your mind. And He wants to help!

He is easy to talk to. You can forget all those artificial, religious-sounding words. God does not have to be spoken to with *thees* and *thous*.

Jesus specifically said that we shouldn't use those long-winded, memorized prayers that people often associate with praying. He wants you to talk to Him like a person — not a parrot! God speaks your language, and He understands the kind of things that you want to say.

If God has not seemed real to you as you have grown, perhaps you haven't seemed real to Him, either. Maybe it's time you let Him get to know the *real* you. □





You expect a totally different kind of communication from an infant than you expect from a teenager. And so does God! He speaks your language and wants you to talk about the things that are real to you. (Photos: left, *Youth 84*; right, Hal Finch)

Photos by G.A. Belluche jr.

A Hobby With STRINGS Attached

By Robert C. Taylor

Have you ever watched a musician singing and playing guitar and wished that you could do the same? Perhaps he or she was playing your favorite song — and making it look so easy!

Could you accompany yourself with a guitar?

The answer is probably yes! The guitar is a lot easier to play than many people think. The basics are easy to understand.

The guitarist uses his left hand to hold down the notes while his right hand plucks or strums the strings. (Many left-handed players prefer to reverse this by using a left-handed guitar.) Chords are created when certain combinations of notes are played at the same time.

Learning to play a guitar can be as simple as following chord diagrams. You don't even have to read music. The diagrams show you where to place your fingers to make a certain chord (see the sample diagrams, page 24). Songbooks and sheet music generally include guitar chords.

Popular and portable

The guitar does not need the help of other instruments to make it sound complete. Like the piano, it allows you to play either the melody or the rhythm, or both, at the same time.

Because only your hands are required, you are free to talk or sing. (But just try to play tuba and sing at the same time!)

A guitar is portable. You can take it to the beach, to parties, on camping trips — just about anywhere. For this reason, the guitar is

The guitar is a lot easier to play than many people think. It can be as simple as following chord diagrams.

extremely popular at picnics and sing-alongs.

The kind of guitar you choose to play depends largely on the kind of sound you like. If you enjoy country and western music or the finger-picking sound, an acoustic folk guitar might be your choice. A nylon-stringed classical guitar produces a mellow, easy-to-listen-to tone.

Although electric guitars are useful when playing with a band, they are not preferred for personal enjoyment, solos or sing-alongs.

Of course, if you learn to play any type of guitar, you can easily adapt to the other types. And, owning a classical or folk guitar does not mean you may play only classical or folk music.

Buying a guitar

How do you know if the guitar you are buying is a good one? Quality is important. A poorly constructed guitar not only sounds bad, it is difficult to play. Here are the main things to check:

- Neck. The guitar neck should not be bowed or bent. Sight down the neck with one eye. The neck should not tilt left or right.
- Action. The action concerns the distance the strings are from the board you press them against. The strings should be no more than one-eighth inch high at the halfway point. If the guitar has poor action, don't buy it! The guitar will be impossible to tune and difficult to play — and it will become worse.
- Tuning gears. The tuning gears should turn easily but not allow the guitar to slip out of tune.
- Heel. The heel is what joins the neck to the body of the guitar. It should be solid with no cracks.
- Soundboard or face. The front surface of the guitar should not be sunken next to the bridge or anywhere else. The wood should have narrow grains with no knotholes.

The price of guitars varies widely. As a general rule, you can expect to pay $80 or more for a new nylon-stringed guitar, while steel-stringed guitars start at about $100. Secondhand guitars are less expensive and are usually not too hard to find. Classified ads and discount stores frequently offer used guitars at bargain prices. Remember to check for quality.

If you like the versatility, simplicity and sound of the guitar, consider owning your own. Talk to some people you know who play the guitar to learn more about this popular instrument.

Persistence pays off

Like anything else, learning to play the guitar takes practice. The first time you try to contort your fingers into a chord, you might be a little discouraged. "My hand can't do this," you might say.

But think back on the first time you tried to whistle — it took a bit of experimentation and persistence, didn't it? Before long it became second nature.

Playing guitar is much the same — you cannot expect perfection the minute you touch the strings. The reward of being able to create your own live music, however, is well worth the effort required.

Many would-be guitarists have said, "I tried playing guitar once, but it hurt my fingers." Starting to play guitar is like beginning a new sport — you have to endure a little pain until your body adjusts.

After a couple of weeks of guitar playing, your fingertips will develop calluses. You will then be able to play longer without becoming sore. Practices may need to be kept short until this happens.

If you have friends who know how to play the guitar, they may be willing to give you a few lessons just to get you off to a good start. Your first lesson may include tuning or holding and fingering the guitar *(Continued on page 24)*

News That Affects You

Photo courtesy Cape Times Photographic Studio

In a parched land, a ewe and kid search for a drink of water. Chances are growing that they will have to go thirsty.

A Harvest of Dust

• Sand dunes covering farms and villages. That's what most people think of when they hear about the deserts expanding. And that misconception is part of the problem, according to a United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) report.

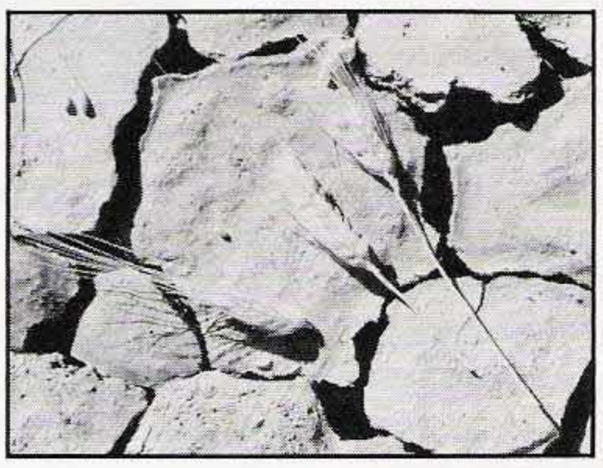
The report, called "Harvest of Dust," evaluates the fight against the world's expanding deserts. In the seven years since the world's nations began working together on the problem, it has grown worse, not better, the report says.

According to the report, the word usually used to describe the problem — *desertification* — adds to the confusion about the problem. It causes many people to think of blowing sand dunes eating up farms and villages in their paths. But sand dunes are only a small part of the problem.

Desertification is a gradual process with many causes that eventually leaves once productive farmland dry and barren. Much of the land affected is in underdeveloped countries where the money to fight the problem is harder to find.

"Currently about 35 percent of the world's land surface is at risk," the report said, "and the livelihoods of the 850 million people who live there are directly threatened."

Environmentalists agree that there are four main causes. Each of them poses life-threatening problems.



Bad farming. In many of the areas affected, land that was marginally fertile to begin with has been overworked until much of it has become useless.

Overgrazing. In the past few decades, the population in many of these affected areas skyrocketed. This rise in the number of people also meant a rise in the number of animals grazing on the land. In many areas, the grass has been so heavily grazed that the ground is left bare and open to erosion.

Deforestation. The explosive population growth has also caused an increase in demand for firewood. The distance from town that people must travel to find firewood is steadily increasing. In the Sahel, a part of Africa, some people travel up to 30 miles (50 kilometers) or more to find wood.

The lack of trees also exposes the land more directly to the environment, contributing to the problem. In some areas, the demand for wood is so great that trees planted to help the land recover have often been cut

down to burn for cooking.

Bad irrigation. In Pakistan, hard hit by this problem, half of the farmland is now too salty to grow crops in. How did this happen? Most water contains a certain amount of salt. When the water used in irrigation evaporates, it can leave salt behind on the soil. Over the years this salt builds up, eventually making the land too salty for plants.

The United Nations realizes the problem will be difficult to solve. Their original goal, set in 1977, was to solve the problem by the year 2000. But the United Nations has had to take a new look at that goal. Now, they feel their recommendations "could go a long way to improve the situation by the year 2000."

But who will *solve* the problem? How will these desert areas become productive again? The book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like* talks about these deserts and shows how they will one day blossom like a rose. Write today for your free copy. — *By Lowell Wagner Jr.* □

Photos by Warren Watson.

The Abacus Takes on the Calculator

• There are plenty of calculators, cash registers and computers in Japan, but many store owners, railway clerks, corporate employees and others aren't using them. They are using the ancient calculating device, the abacus, instead.

Some companies in Japan are encouraging this because they feel that employees accidentally press the wrong buttons on calculators from time to time without realizing it. Decimal points are commonly misplaced when calculators are used.

And so some merchants, bankers and others tally long columns of figures on a computer, but then check the results on the abacus — just to be sure. Employees of one insurance company in Osaka are not even allowed to use calculators because their bosses claim the abacus is faster and involves fewer mistakes.

The abacus is also preferred over the computer because it is usually less expensive. Another reason is tradition. The abacus has been around for hundreds of years. And tradition, even in this land of electronic marvels, is slowing the transition to calculators and computers.

The abacus, called *soroban* in Japanese, is a simple construction of beads running on rods arranged in a frame. It is an ancient ancestor of modern electronic computers. The first computers were even designed to

Ancient and modern meet in a boy's hands. Many Japanese bank tellers use the abacus to double-check the electronic calculators.

calculate like the abacus.

An experienced abacus user at work grips the abacus with his left hand, keeping it steady. The fingers of his right hand race back and forth over the beads, sliding them swiftly up and down the rods to calculate the desired answer.

Japanese children begin studying the *soroban* in the third grade for about five hours a week. National *soroban* contests draw hundreds of competitors.

More than 2.5 million junior high school students take national *soroban* proficiency tests each year. Scholarships are awarded to students who show a skill in manipulating the abacus.

In the long run, experts aren't sure if the abacus will be able to stand up to competition from computers. But they are sure that it won't be easy to knock the *soroban* out of the hearts — and hands — of the Japanese.

— *By Jeff Zhorne* □

Synchronize Your Watches

• Time as we know it is 100 years old this month.

It was in October, 1884, that Greenwich mean time (GMT) became the basis for the time zones used around the world today. In a conference in Washington, D.C., the world's leading nations agreed to synchronize their watches, ending centuries of confusion.

Imagine what life would be like if a standard time had never been set. What if every town and city set up its own system of telling time? If you lived in one town, had to go to school in another, to music lessons in a third and to the movies in a fourth, you would have to wear a watch set to each town's time. Can you imagine wearing four watches at once?

In the 1800s, that's almost the way it was. With the coming of fast-moving trains, it became vital that everyone agreed on what time it was. If each town were to set its own time, based on the sun, there would be no telling what time the train would pull into the station.

Choosing the Greenwich meridian as the basis of the time zones we use today ended that problem. This imaginary line is a giant circle that passes through both the north and south poles as well as the observatory at Greenwich, England.

The observatory was originally built in 1675 to find a way for sailors to stay on course. One side benefit of the observatory's efforts was the discovery of a way to standardize time.

Today you may have to cross time zones once in a while, but even then, most of the time the difference will be whole hours. If it is 10:28 a.m. in London, it will be 5:28 a.m. in Washington, D.C., and 8:28 p.m. in Melbourne, Australia.

Using GMT as a standard has made life much less complicated than it would have been if you had to wear four watches, don't you think? — *By Kerri Miles* □

What Are You Worth?

• Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be rich?

Well, you may never be rich, but one man has come up with a novel consolation — you have a lot more money at your fingertips than you think. Or should that be *in* your fingertips?

If you were to estimate the value of the minerals contained in your body — iron, magnesium, calcium — you probably wouldn't be impressed. The minerals in the average human body are only worth about $7.28.

But Dr. Daniel A. Sadoff, of the University of Washington, has come up with another approach. In the *New England Journal of Medicine,* he calculated the value of the body in relation to the market value of seven different biochemicals. The results were amazing.

For example, Dr. Sadoff found that the body's 40 grams of myoglobin, a protein in the muscles, would be worth $100,000! Our 34 grams of immunoglobulin, a protein that helps neutralize poisons in the body, could bring $30,600.

Now here's something we've all been told to reduce in our diets: cholesterol. However, the body's 140 grams of cholesterol would be worth $525 on the biochemical market. The four other biochemicals examined brought Dr. Sadoff's total to almost $170,000.

But before you get too excited, remember that there is no way for you to cash in on your newfound biochemical wealth because your life depends on these substances.

So, it looks like we're right back where we started — wondering what it would be like to be rich. — *By Dan Taylor* □

What's It Like to Be a Teen in the Isle of Man?

By Philip Stevens

"Isle of Man? Where's that? And is there an Isle of Woman, too?"

These are questions you may be asking yourself. Even with a world atlas in front of you, the location of this picturesque island nation may not be immediately obvious. It is, after all, only 572 square kilometers (227 square miles) in area.

So, to find the Isle of Man, turn your atlas to the page that shows Britain and Ireland. Between these two islands is a stretch of water called the Irish Sea. Jutting up in this sea, and just about midway between England and Ireland, is a small piece of land. That's the Isle of Man.

Long history

The island got its name, it seems, from *Manannan McLir* — a legendary Celtic sea god who supposedly ruled the island and used magical powers to protect the area.

During the A.D. 700s, however, this "god" must have let down on the job, because marauding Vikings invaded the island and used it as a base for their skirmishes. Indeed, so strategically placed was the island that it soon became the center of the Viking Kingdom of Man.

Although they were pirates, the Vikings did bring law and order to the island. What's more, they established a system of government that exists to this day. The government, known as Tynwald, is the oldest parliament in the world, with more than 1,000 years of history behind it.

Today, even though the Isle of Man is close to the mainland, it remains an independent nation, not part of the United Kingdom.

Links with the past

Many of the island's ancient customs are still enacted today. For example, each July 5 a colorful ceremony takes place at Tynwald Hill, when all the new laws for the year are read aloud to the assembled crowd.

But don't get the idea that this is a boring ritual. Around the mound where the proclamation is read, there are many stalls where produce is on sale. And the atmosphere is more that of a country fair than the pomp and ceremony of a state occasion.

You might be surprised, too, at hearing the laws being recited by the officials. You'd probably only understand part of the proceedings, because the laws are read in both the English and the Manx languages.

Although English is widely spoken throughout the island the locals are careful in their preservation of the native tongue. For instance, you'll see quite a number of street signs written in both languages.

Another common sight is the nation's symbol of independence — the three legs emblem.

One prominent place you can see this symbol is on the tails of the island's aircraft. Yes, despite its small size, the Isle of Man maintains its own airline, as well as its own radio station, currency and postage stamps.

Modern motorcycles

During the summer months, islanders can see some of the top motorcyclists from around the world. More than 20 miles (32 kilometers) of the public roads are closed to normal traffic while the annual TT (Tourist Trophy) races are run around the normally tranquil countryside.

The winding course lends itself to the thrill and excitement of top-class riding, as the bikes travel through small towns, along narrow lanes, up mountainsides and around hairpin bends.

For those who want something a little less noisy, there is always the World Championship Tin Bath races! It's quite a sight to see those hardy mariners racing around the watery course in bathtubs of various shapes and sizes.

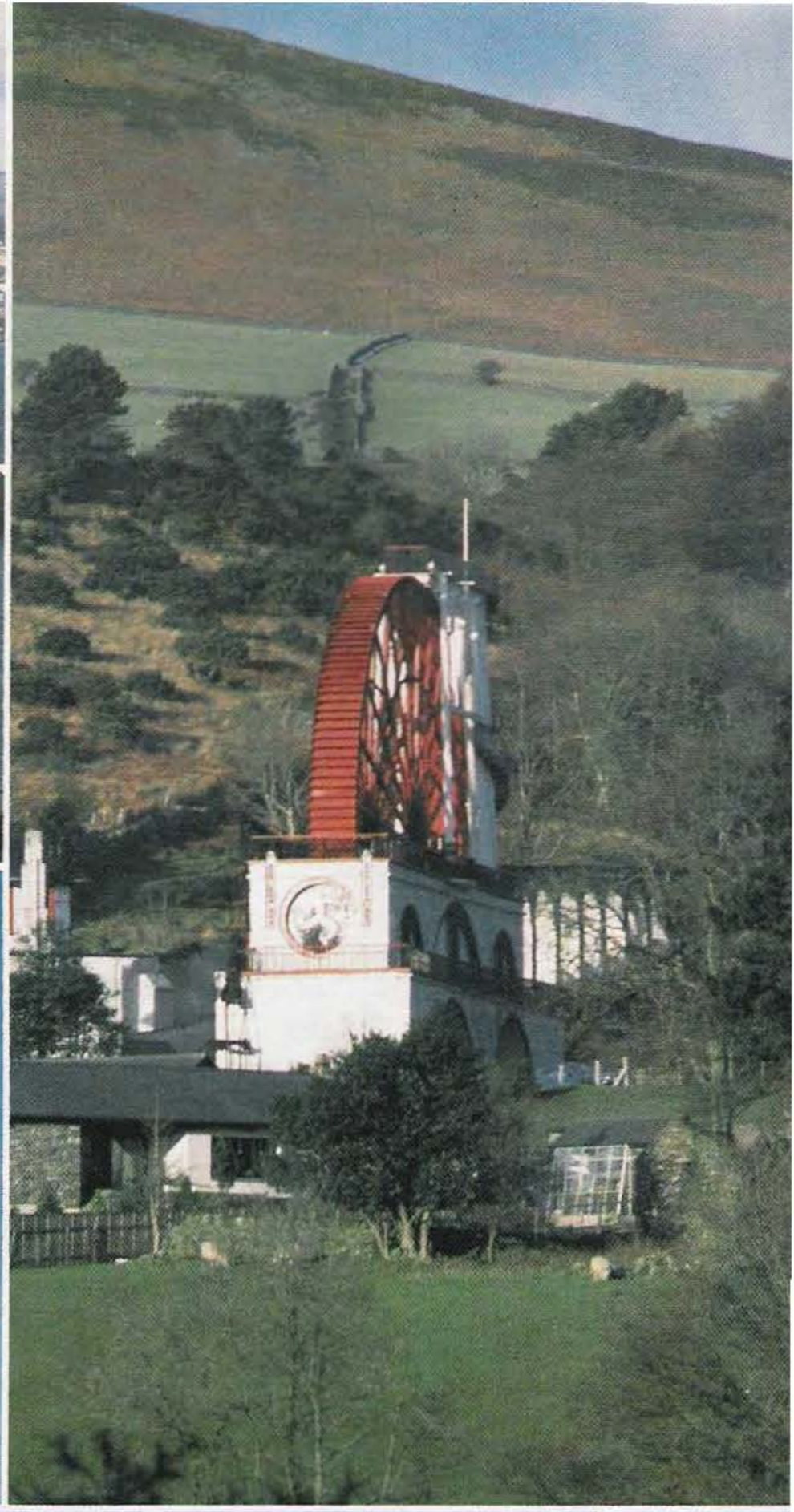
The Isle of Man also offers

(Continued on page 27)

Photos by David Payne and Philip Stevens

Ferryboats (upper left) and the Isle of Man's own airline, complete with the Manx three legs emblem on the tail (center), bring many tourists to this picturesque island nation. Center left, an electric railway car; and upper right, the Laxey wheel.

STEAM PACKET RO-RO



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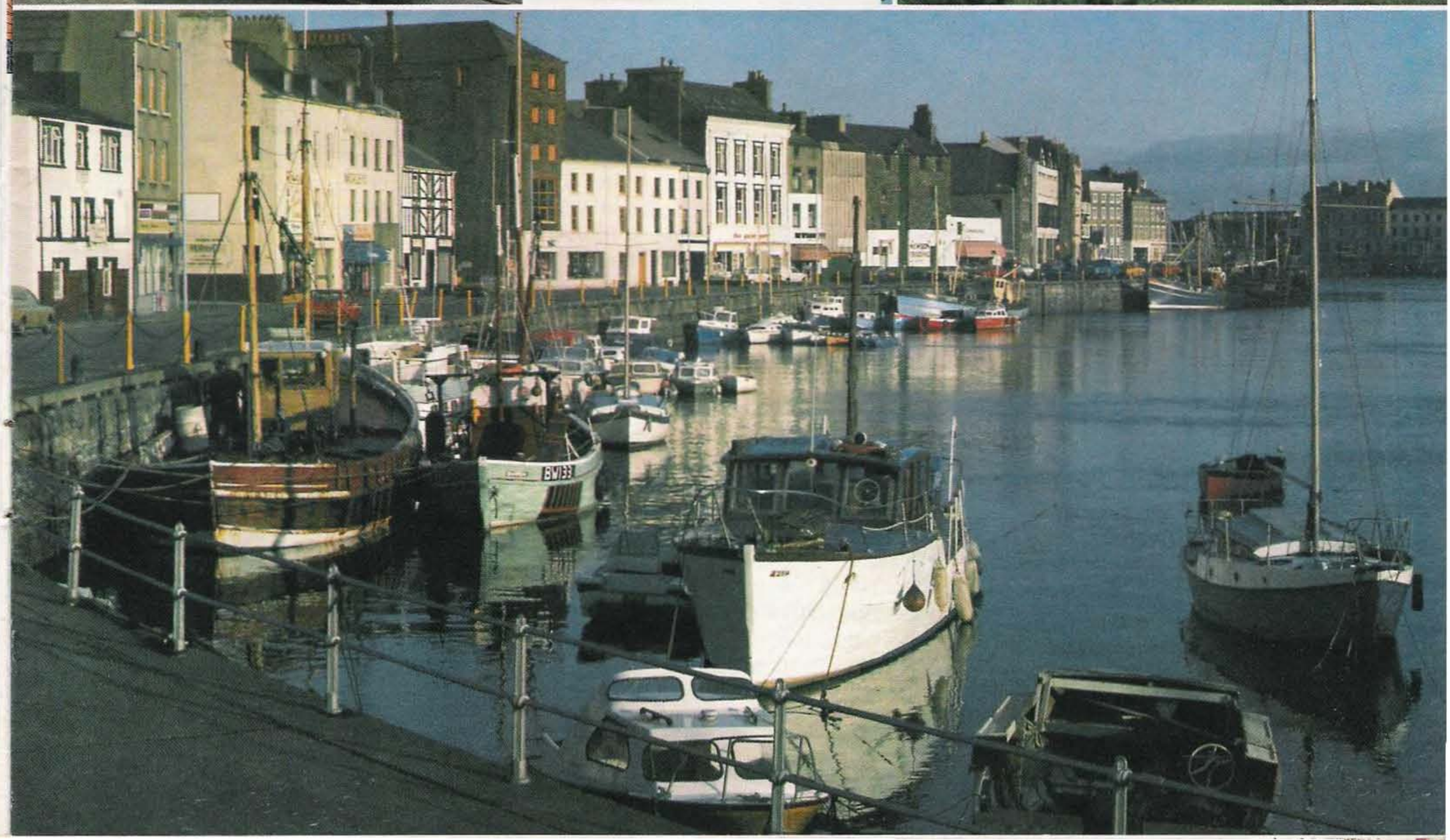

BW33

Never Say Never

By Ron Toth

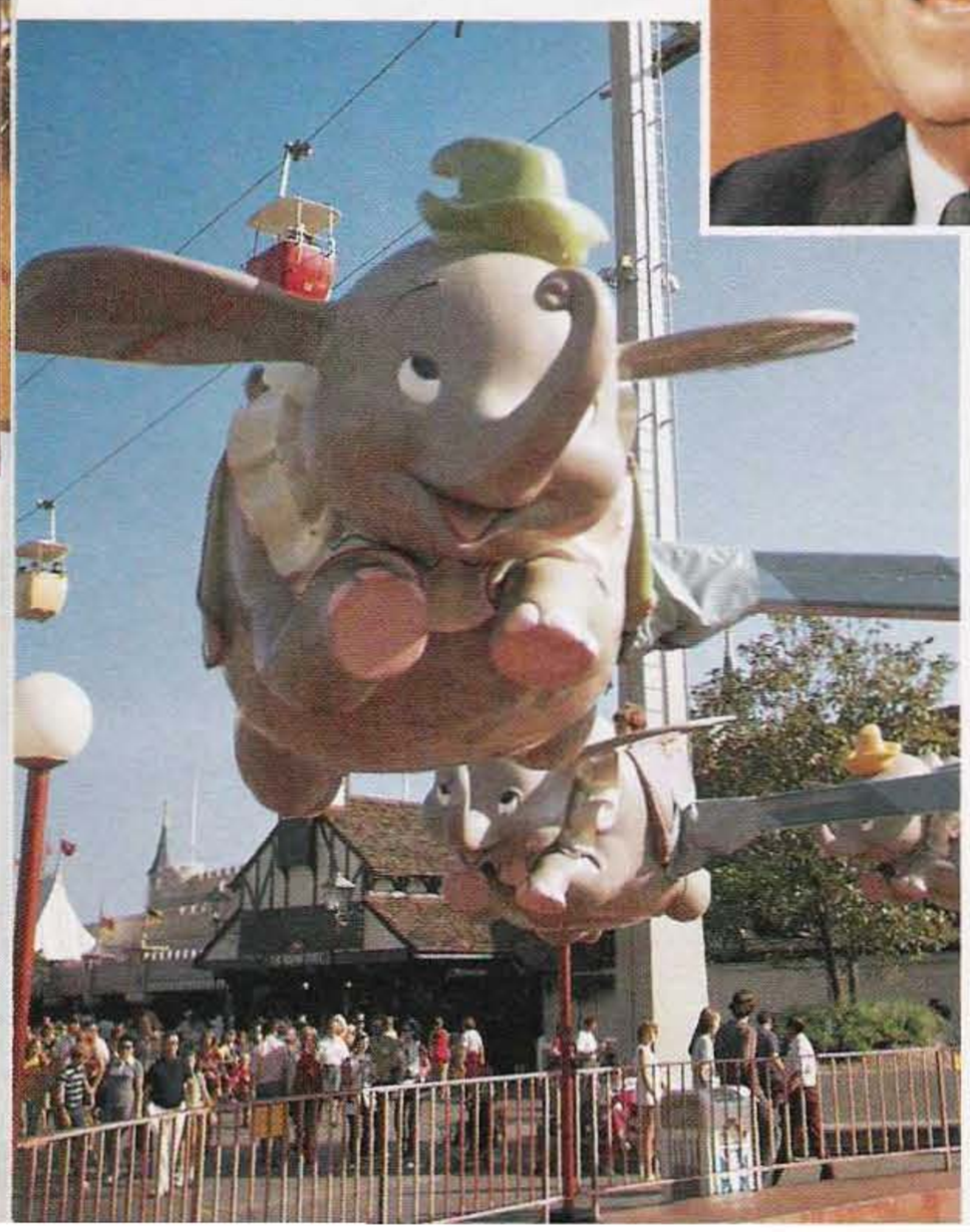
You don't have to let discouragement or other people convince you that your goal can never be reached. You can do it!

"I can't do it! I'll never be able to — just leave me alone!"

Maybe you just can't understand algebra, or maybe no matter how many times you swing the baseball bat, you just can't hit the ball.

Are you convinced that you will never be able to do these things? If you can't do it, then you just can't, so you should give up. Right? No! Look at the example of one man who didn't let discouragement or other people convince him it couldn't be done.

When Walt Disney, the legendary moviemaker and founder of Disneyland, first started out, he was always being told, "Your plans will never work — you're just a dreamer." He faced obstacle after obstacle, but he kept working and persevering.



Walt Disney was often told, "Your plans will never work." But the founder of Disneyland (left) didn't give up!

"Disney's Folly"

Walt Disney had an "I can" attitude. When he started working on the first full-length feature cartoon, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, people told him it couldn't be done. There were many technical difficulties to solve and, besides, people in the movie industry told him no one would watch a cartoon for an hour and a half. They called *Snow White*, "Disney's Folly."

Mr. Disney didn't let this discourage him. He believed that he had a worthwhile plan. He believed that it could be done, and he did it. He did it so well that the movie made $8 million in 1938 when tickets for adults only cost 23 cents and for children, only 10 cents!

My two friends

The "I can" attitude can be important in every area of life. In school I saw this clearly when two of my friends both faced the same requirement but with different attitudes.

The field of battle was the typing class, and the challenge was to type 40 words a minute.

It didn't take long to find out how one of my friends felt about typing. Every time I saw him, he would complain about the typing class. "I can't do it — I'll never type 40 words a minute!"

He was always finding fault with something. He would complain about the typewriters. He would say the instructor was out to get him. Nothing was right in his mind. He poisoned his mind to typing, and finally he failed the class. He convinced himself he could never type, and he didn't.

My other friend also had never typed in his life and considered this class one of his biggest obstacles. How could he type 40 words a minute? He needed a plan.

First, he determined to have the "I can" attitude. He told me: "I'm going to give it my best shot. I can do it and I will."

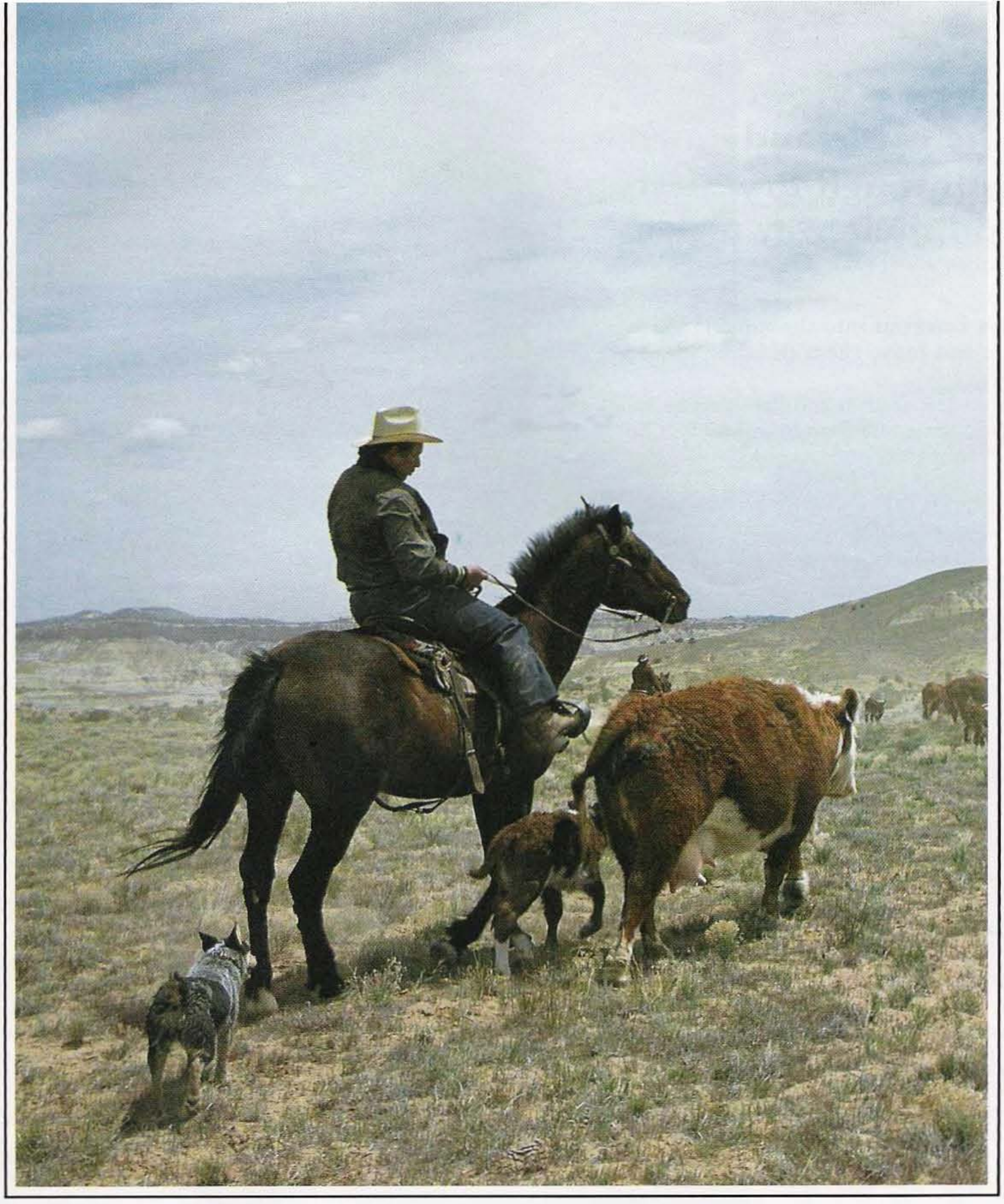
Second, he knew he had to go above and beyond in order to reach the goal. He went after class and spent hours practicing. He would go over each lesson, making sure he knew each letter.

He also knew he needed help to stay positive and achieve his goal. He asked God for help and was convinced God would help him if he put forth an all-out effort himself. All through his typing class he remained positive, encouraging the other students with a friendly "you can do it — don't give up!"

Soon his typing began to improve. First it was only 10 words a minute, then it was 20, then 30. When the final test came, he not only typed 40 words a minute, but 43.

Next time you are faced with an obstacle, don't give up. Never say never. Look at the positive, not the negative, put forth an all-out effort, ask God for help, and you will be on your way to success. You can do it! □

Photos: top, courtesy Walt Disney Pictures; bottom, Youth 84



Photos by G.A. Belluche Jr.

Roundup!

By G.A. Belluche Jr.

Dust kicked up by plodding hooves sprays the air with a sandy haze.

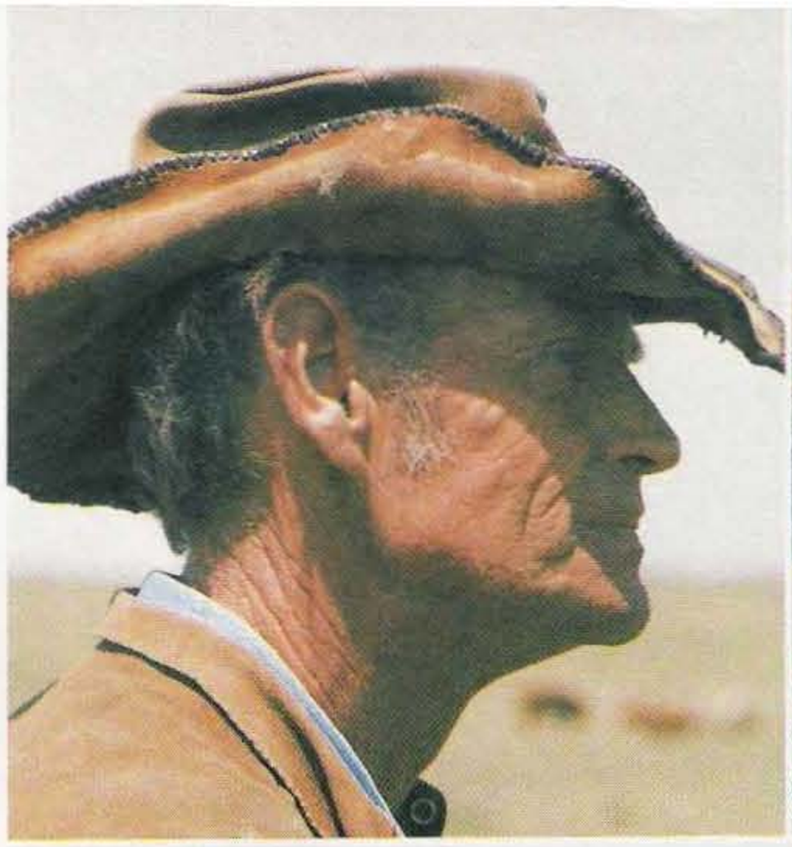
The cowboy, a young man with curly hair and oversized cowboy hat, chokes as the brisk wind blows the dust his way. He is riding swing on a herd of cattle moving slowly up the trail toward the watering pond.

Pushing the cows through this hot, dry land is the worst part of the roundup, but it will be over soon, and then he can breathe freely again.

A Western tradition

Is this a scene from the Old West, around 1884? No, it's 1984. The American tradition of a cattle drive still happens in some areas every spring and fall. When it's roundup time, some people in the West still saddle up their horses before the morning sun appears. Then these

The cattle and cowboys pass through dry, desolate land on their way to water.



hardy cowboys head out into the rangelands to round up their cattle and move them to other grazing lands or to market.

The cattle on the roundup we're joining spent the winter in New Mexico and are being moved up to the Colorado mountains for the summer.

Cowboys, horses and . . . trucks?

Since the range isn't as open now as it was years ago, and since technology does have its advantages, the cows will be taken most of the way in huge trucks. But first they must be rounded up and herded to where they can be loaded on the trucks.

The day starts early with the cowboys scouring the rolling hills for the cows and calves. The 10 riders, both men and women, spread out over the land, searching ravines and gullies, looking behind trees and bushes for small groups of cattle.

Each rider gathers the cattle he finds and brings them to a central spot where they are counted. They are also allowed to pair up — that is, the mothers and young calves are given time to find each other. This is important because if a calf can't find its mother, it will bolt from the herd and race back to the place where it last fed.

After the animals are rested and accounted for, the drive begins. The cowboys will move the herd about five miles to a stock pond and corral where they will spend the night before being taken by truck to Colorado.

The cattle and cowboys will pass through dry, desolate land on their way to the water. Virtually nothing grows here. Gray-white cliffs of baked rock rise up on each side of the trail. Only some weathered scrub brush survives in the cracked earth. But this is the shortest route to the stock pond.

Slow and steady

Many people who have seen a cattle drive only in the movies think the cattle stampede along the trail at 100 miles an hour, but in reality the herd moves along at a slow, steady pace. The young calves cannot walk fast and tire easily. Besides, if the cows run, they will lose weight, which means less money for the rancher when the cattle are sold on the market.

From the top of a high, sun-seared hill, the riders spot the stock pond, and so do the cattle. Sparse yellow-green grass spreads out from the edge of the small pond.

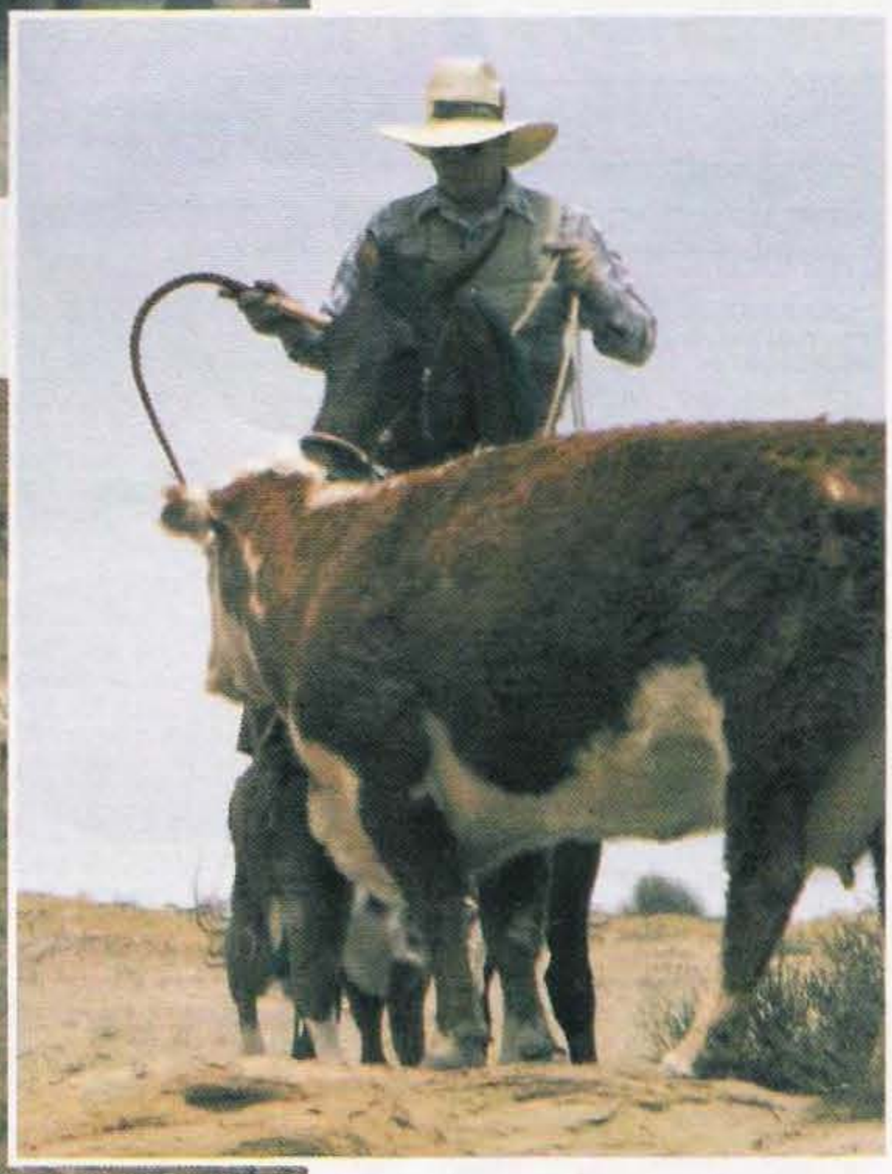
The cattle and the riders start to move a little faster now, down the steep hillside and up to the water.

Trail's end

Standing knee deep in water, the cows drink deeply. Cowboys circle them, watching for calves that may run, and making a count of the herd. It has been a good day — none are missing. Tomorrow the cattle will be loaded into trucks and driven north.

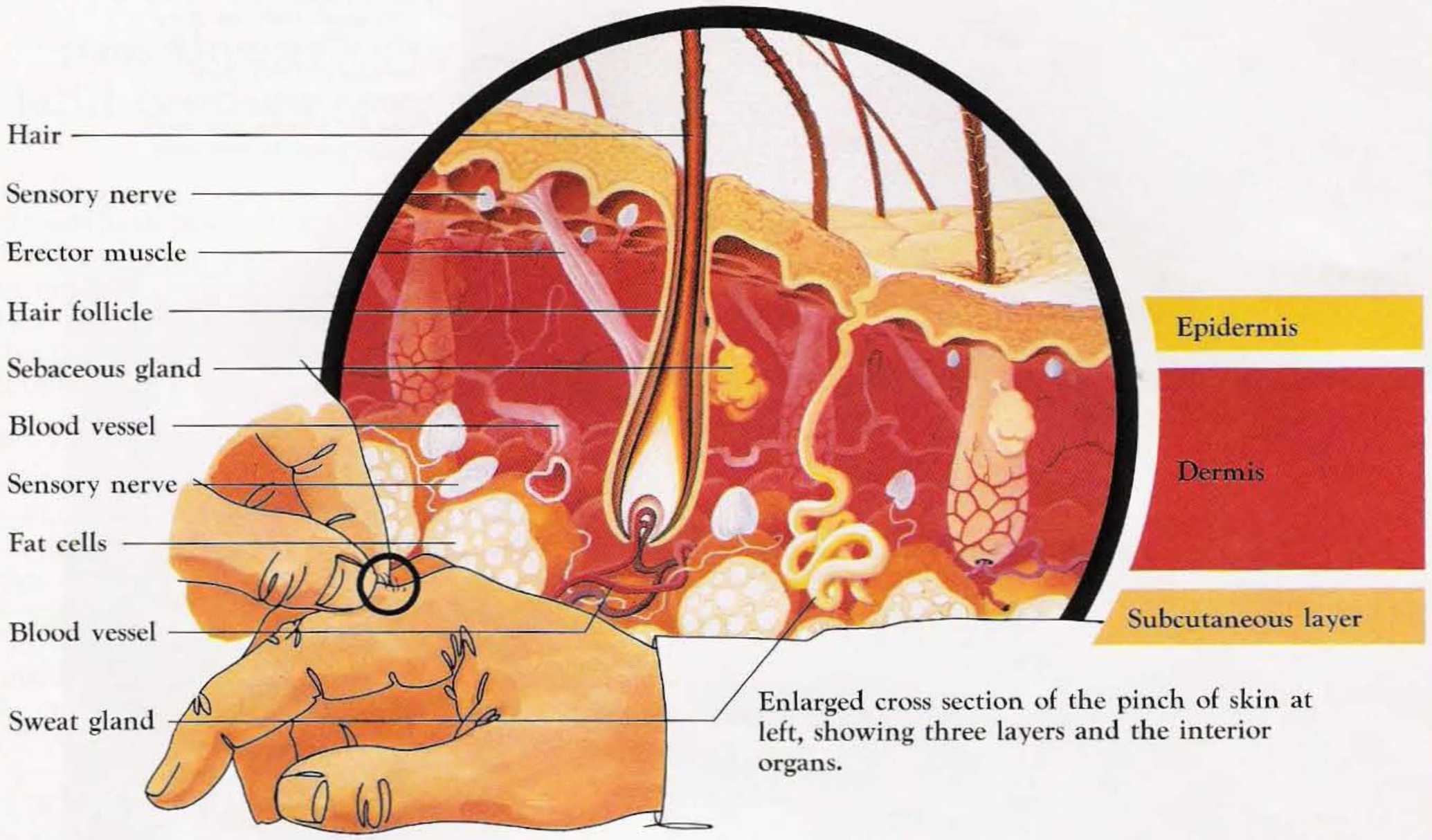
So modernization has affected the cattle industry in some ways, but even in 1984 there is still an element of the Old West here in the New West. □

The cowboy's job isn't an easy one. Dust kicked up by the cattle and the wind chokes the cowhands as they ride through desolate territory. They must keep a constant eye out for strays and ease them back to the herd.



Left: At trail's end, the cattle head for the stock pond at the corral where they will spend the night. In the morning they will be loaded on trucks and moved to Colorado.

Even in 1984, the cowboy's faithful horse is still a vital part of a cattle drive. When it's roundup time, it can be hard to tell if you're in the New West or the Old West.



Enlarged cross section of the pinch of skin at left, showing three layers and the interior organs.

Amazing Facts About Your Skin

It may only be skin deep, but it does some pretty fantastic jobs!

By Phillip C. Jones

Thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours go into designing space suits that will control the environment around an astronaut — almost like a second skin.

But even the most technologically advanced space suit is nowhere near as complex or efficient as the special suit it is designed to cover — that engineering masterpiece, the human skin.

The skin, the body's largest organ, is a most marvelous invention.

It is also the only organ that comes directly in contact with the environment and so has the great responsibility of protecting the other organs as well as itself.

Let's zoom in for a closer look at your amazing skin.

Illustration by Ken Tunell

The outer you

Consider for a moment the smooth, supple, yet durable, coat that you wear from the day of your birth. Every square inch of your outer body is skin. The finger and toenails, the hair on your head, the calluses on the soles of your feet, even the delicate transparent cornea that protects the outer eyeball — all are a form of skin.

Skin does many jobs. It protects underlying

tissues from mechanical and radiation injuries. It protects against invasion by bacteria and other organisms.

It is a sense organ, relaying to the brain information about surface conditions and maintaining the body temperature to within a few degrees of the average 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit (38.7 degrees Celsius). Also, the skin stores body fat and eliminates water and salt.

Skin is composed of three layers: the outer epidermis, the middle dermis and the inner subcutaneous tissue.

When you look at the skin, you see the top layer called the epidermis. Its main job is to protect the tissue that lies below. In most places on the body the epidermis is paper thin, being thickest on the soles of the feet and the palms of the hands.

The epidermis is made up of millions of tiny epidermal cells. Formed at the bottom of the epidermis, these jellylike cells constantly push their way to the surface, where they harden to form keratin. The outermost layer consists of these dead keratin cells.

Shedding your skin

Every day of our lives, millions of these dead cells are washed away when we bathe or are rubbed off by our clothes.

This natural process, called keratinization, takes about 27 days from the time the cells form to the time they are shed. So, each month we have a totally new outer skin!

Cells in the epidermis also determine the color of a person's skin. These cells, called melanocytes, produce the pigment melanin.

All humans have the same amount of melanocytes. But the melanocytes of the darker races produce more melanin, which determines the color of the hair, eyes and skin.

The fair skin of the Caucasian, the golden tone of the Oriental and brown-black of the black are all determined by the amount of melanin in the epidermis.

The inner skin

Even more amazing than the epidermis is the dermis. It contains the sebaceous glands that manufacture an oil that lubricates the skin and hair.

Besides that, the dermis houses blood and lymph vessels, nerve ending cells, muscles, sweat glands, fat and connective tissue.

The skin's dermis layer serves as the body's air-conditioning system. This system has to be delicately balanced because if the body temperature varies more than a few degrees from normal, death will result.

To maintain a steady temperature, the skin has between two and five million sweat glands spread over the body surface. Buried in the dermis, each gland is a tightly coiled tube with a one-fifth-inch (0.5 centimeter) duct rising to the surface. Tiny as they are, there are about six miles (nearly 10 kilometers) of these ducts in the body. The skin is cooled by the evaporation of water secreted by these glands.

Even the most technologically advanced space suit is nowhere near as complex or efficient as the special suit it is designed to cover — that engineering masterpiece, the human skin.

Regulating body heat

The dermis also serves as a regulator of the flow of heat from the body. This is done by controlling the amount of blood allowed into the numerous blood vessels of the skin.

When the outside temperature drops below 66 degrees Fahrenheit (19 Celsius), muscles in the dermis contract allowing less blood to flow, thus retaining heat in the body. The reverse occurs when the temperature outside the body rises above 66 degrees Fahrenheit.

Also involved with body heat is the subcutaneous layer. This thicker interior layer serves as an insulator to conserve heat inside the body.

The subcutaneous layer is basically composed of fatty tissue that acts as a shock absorber to protect the internal organs. This layer is also responsible for giving the body its smoothly curved contours.

Just a few of the skin's jobs have been highlighted here. There are many more awesome tasks that your skin is carrying out even as you read this page. When you're sleeping, jogging or studying, your skin will be working to keep you healthy.

The skin is truly an amazing feat of engineering genius! It's a tribute to the great Engineer — the Creator God! □

IDEAS PLUS

Start the Presses!

Are you interested in writing, photography, graphic arts — or even just finding a way to be involved with what's going on at your school? If so, your school newspaper needs you.

Think of all the activities at your school — dances, club meetings, award presentations, class projects, sports. Recording these events in a newspaper will help develop your talents, interests and creativity while helping other students at the same time.

If your interest is photography, you will get to be where the action is. If it's writing, you will get to interview people and report the news when it happens. Of course, working on the paper will require some extra time on your part. Sometimes it's a challenge to meet deadlines, but you'll feel like you've accomplished something when you do.

Another challenge is to make the paper interesting. Everyone works together at this, pooling their individual talents to make the paper exciting. Writers develop a nose for news, stay aware of what's going on and then report on it from different, exciting angles. Photographers capture the mood of the occasion on film. The layout staff designs eye-catching pages to attract readers.

Staff members need to know the audience. This means keeping in mind what other students want to see in the paper, not just what you want.

Working on the newspaper staff is a good way to sharpen your English skills and to learn how to communicate with others, both skills that will help you when you look for a job.

If you want to become a part of the excitement at your school newspaper, consider taking a journalism class and talking to the faculty adviser of the paper. You'll get a better idea of what's involved in producing a paper and how you can help.

Get involved. You may even be on your way to a career in journalism. — *By Kerri Miles* □

Illustrations by Monte Wolverton

What Your Bank Can Do for You

Jake didn't like banks. He was afraid of them, actually. It was something about the mammoth granite pillars, the smooth marble floors — and the guards — that seemed to make him feel unwelcome.

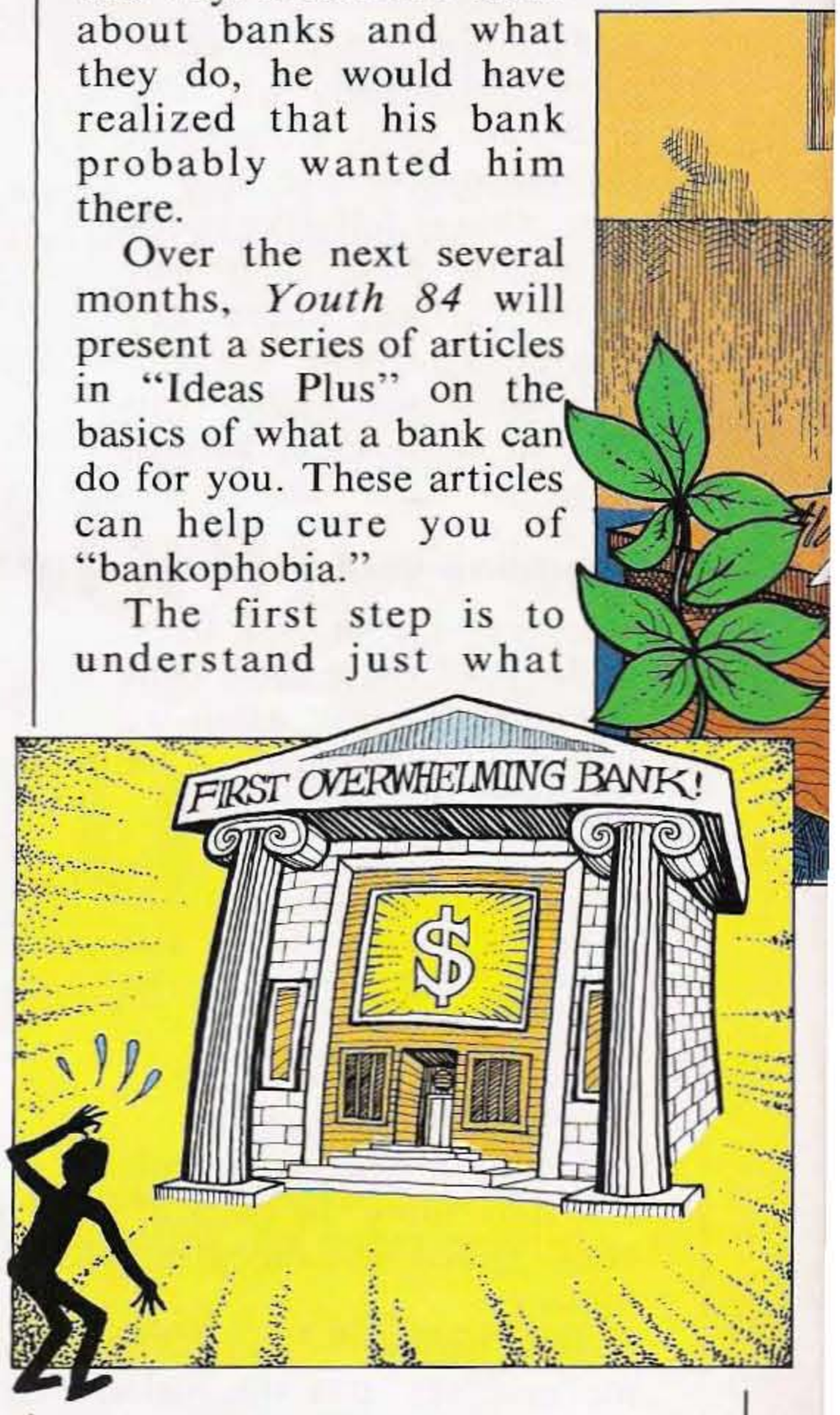
Whenever Jake *had* to go to the bank, he scurried in and scurried out as quickly and as quietly as possible. His greatest fear was that someday, some gray-haired banker would look up from his ledgers and boom out in the awful silence, "Hey! What's that *kid* doing in our bank?"

But Jake didn't have to feel this way. If he knew more about banks and what they do, he would have realized that his bank probably wanted him there.

Over the next several months, *Youth 84* will present a series of articles in "Ideas Plus" on the basics of what a bank can do for you. These articles can help cure you of "bankophobia."

The first step is to understand just what banks are and how they make their money. Basically, a bank is like any other business that buys and sells things in the hopes of making a profit. The raw material that a bank buys is money. What it sells is the use of that money.

The way they go about buying money is in the form of savings accounts. (There are



other ways, but we'll ignore those for now.) When you deposit your money in a bank, the bank will pay you a certain amount of money (called interest) to be able to use your money for a period of time. During that time, the bank will loan your money out to someone else, charging him or her a certain amount of interest for the use of the money.

The bank makes its profit by paying you a lower interest rate than it charges the person who

borrowed the money.

Suppose you put $10 in a savings account for a year. During that year, the bank also loans $10 to someone else.

At the end of the year, say, the bank gives you your $10 back plus $1 interest. Also at the end of the year, the person who borrows $10 repays the bank $10 plus $2 interest.

So the bank receives $12 from the borrower but pays you only $11. The bank has sold the right to use $10 for one year for a price of $2. The bank's cost to pay you for the use of your money was $1. Subtract the amount the bank charged, $2, from the cost, $1, and you see the bank gets a $1 profit.

Another step in understanding banks, is to realize that banks need you. Because of this, most bankers will be happy to help out a young person who's interested in their bank.

Although you may not have much money now, through your life you will probably handle a large amount of money.

Good bankers know this. Most will want to establish a good relationship with you in hopes of keeping your business for life. If not, go elsewhere. A bank that doesn't want you around now, may not give you good service in the future.

It's difficult to get along today without using a bank. It makes sense to learn as much about them as you can. *Next month: how to save. — By Lowell Wagner Jr.* □

The Colorful Life of a Leaf

Meet Bud, He's a tree leaf.

This time of year, he and his buddies get a lot of attention.

In the Southern Hemisphere, where spring is now starting, Bud and his friends are popping out all over. Meanwhile, as the Northern Hemisphere moves into autumn, Bud's friends are putting on a dazzling display of colors.

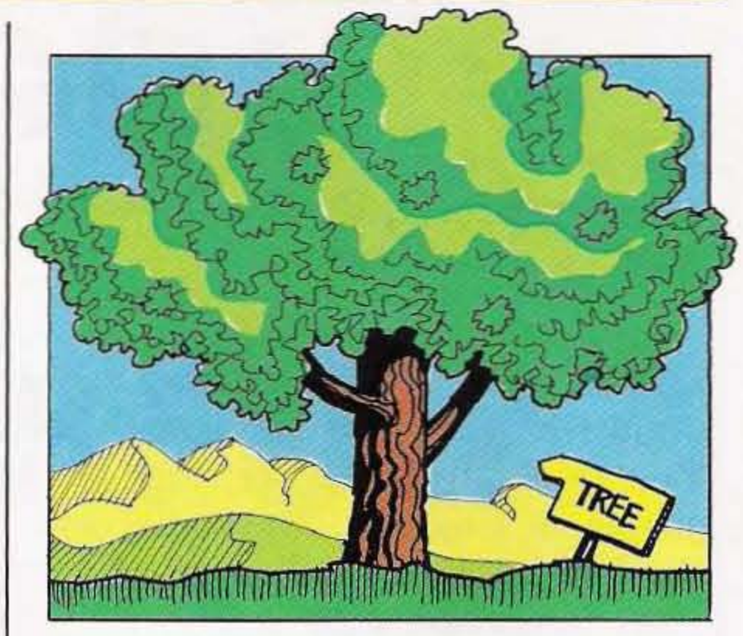
But there are times of the year when Bud and Co. get completely ignored. Like winter.

It may seem like there are no leaves to be found during the winter, but they are there. They're just harder to find is all. They are quite small and hidden inside protective buds.

During the winter, Bud lies dormant, waiting for springtime before he can begin to grow.

The warmth coaxes him out. At first, he must rely totally on food supplied by the tree.

As he matures, he begins to



make an amazing substance called chlorophyll ("Aw, it's just this green stuff," Bud would say humbly) that he uses to make food, first for himself, and later for the whole tree. Chlorophyll gives Bud his healthy green color.

Bud makes food out of chlorophyll through a process called photosynthesis. ("That," Bud would say, "is just a fancy way to make things out of light.") Bud absorbs sunshine all summer long and converts it into food for himself and the rest of the tree. By the end of the summer, the tree has grown by leaps and bounds.

But as autumn nears, the days get shorter and the nights cooler. This cooler air causes Bud's chlorophyll to break down.

This gives him a chance to show off a bit. Once Bud's chlorophyll is gone, his other colors, hidden by the green

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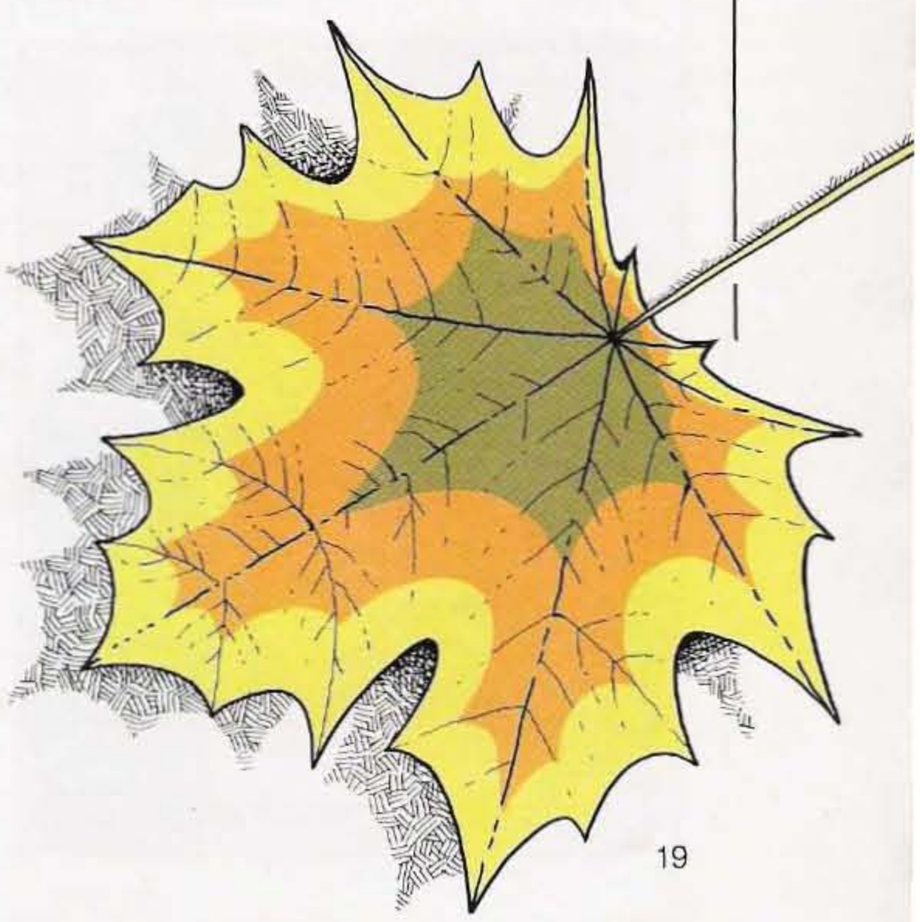


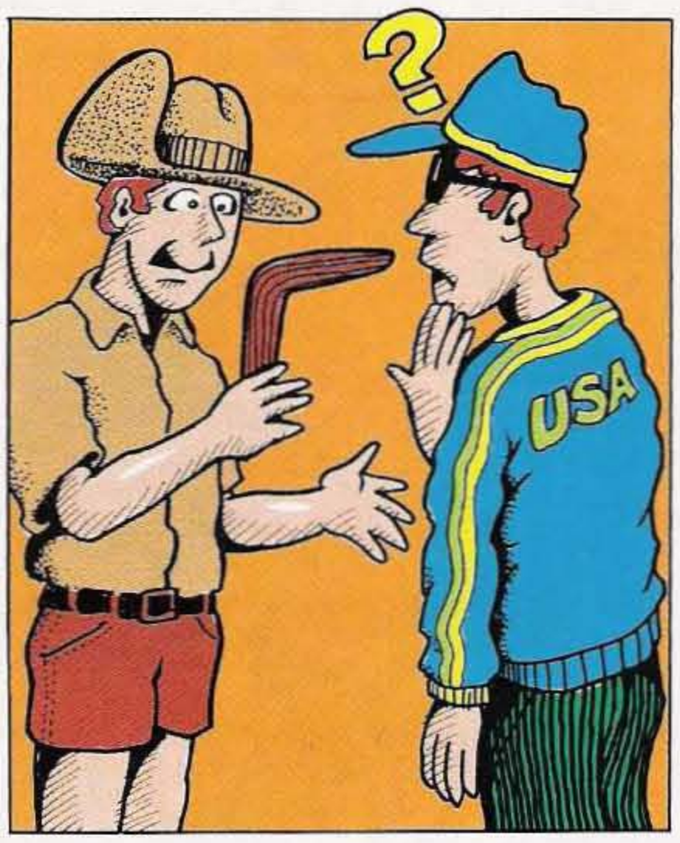
Is This English?

So you think English is the same wherever you go, right? You think, for instance, that people in England, Australia and the United States all speak the same language, right?

Well, think again. Match the English and Australian words in the left column with their American equivalents in the right column.

English/Australian	American
1. Bonnet	A. Soccer
2. Greengrocery	B. Buddy
3. Flat	C. Windshield
4. Post	D. Suspenders
5. Queue up	E. French fries
6. Barrister or solicitor	F. Vegetable, fruit store
7. Chips	G. Elevator
8. Boot	H. Dessert, Candy
9. Windcheater	I. Apartment
10. Don	J. Mail
11. Bloke, chap	K. Lawyer
12. Petrol	L. Cookie
13. Football	M. Line up
14. Mate	N. Windbreaker
15. Lift	O. Trunk of a car
16. Braces	P. Gasoline
17. Windscreen	Q. Second floor
18. Biscuit	R. Professor
19. First floor	S. Guy
20. Sweet	T. Hood of a car

Answers: 1-T, 2-F, 3-I, 4-J, 5-M, 6-K, 7-E, 8-O, 9-N, 10-R, 11-S, 12-P, 13-A, 14-B, 15-G, 16-D, 17-C, 18-L, 19-Q, 20-H



(Continued from page 19)
stuff, begin to appear.

Bud could talk forever about his favorite pigments. "Xanthophyll is one of my favorites — so cheery," Bud says, all decked out in bright yellow. "But it's the carotenes and the anthocyanins that really turn people's heads. They'll drive for miles just to see me and my buddies decked out in orange, red or purple!"

But the colors fade, and sadly, so does Bud. The winter chill begins to deepen and Bud begins to die. The tiny pipelines that once carried water from the tree to Bud stop working.

Bud, brave as always, knows he's going. "I'm philosophic about it, though," he smiles. "Look at that thing now!" he smiles, pointing at his tree. "Last spring, it wasn't anywhere near that big. We did a good job this year, all of us leaves."

A chill wind blows through the forest, and Bud lets go his feeble grasp on the branch.

But even as the old leaf falls, a tiny new leaf forms, wrapped tightly in its bud. In just a few months, a new leaf will pop out, and the cycle will begin again.

— By Lowell Wagner Jr. □

Proverbs for Today: Rise and Shine

"R-r-r-i-n-g-g-g!"

How dreadful that alarm clock can sound at times! How could morning have come so quickly?

Have you ever felt like bashing your alarm clock against the wall and crawling back under the covers for a while?

King Solomon learned the importance of getting up on time. In Proverbs 6:9-11 he warns: "How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep — so shall your poverty come on you like a robber." (See also Proverbs 24:30-34.)

Youth 84 Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong tells about his battle with this problem. He used to shut off his alarm and drowsily plunge back into bed, causing him to miss business opportunities.

On a trip in 1914, when he was 22, he decided he'd had enough of this. He was going to break this bad habit. He paid a hotel bellhop to pound on his door until let in, then to stay in the room until Mr. Armstrong was out of bed and wide awake.

"I found those bellboys would . . . even wrestle or fight with me to prevent my crawling back into bed," Mr. Armstrong wrote later. "Thus I put a prod on myself that broke the morning snooze habit and *got me up and going!*" (This is from our free booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success*. Write for your copy.)

What can you do to form good wake-up habits? Set a goal to get up at a certain hour. Each night, list the things you want to do as soon as you get up.

Then examine your evenings. If you stay *up* too late, you'll stay *down* too late in the morning!

If you still have trouble, you may have to get some extra help, like Mr. Armstrong did. Try the same basic plan he used. Ask your parents, brothers or sisters to help you get up and stay up. Do this until you establish that new wake-up habit. Pretty soon you will find yourself jumping out of bed — and staying out — eager to get started on a new day!

— By Jim Roberts □

Teen Bible Study

Why Be THANKFUL?

By Richard A. Sedliacik

Each year, many countries around the world celebrate a day of giving thanks.

For example, in Canada it's the second Monday in October. In the Virgin Islands it is celebrated Oct. 25, at the end of the hurricane season. Liberia has chosen the first Thursday in November, while the United States commemorates the fourth Thursday of that month.

The custom of Thanksgiving Day in the United States began with a group of settlers known as the Pilgrims in 1621. Those who survived their first year in the new world held a festival in gratitude for a successful harvest. They recognized God as the source of their blessings, and gave Him thanks for their still being alive and having food to eat.

But the giving of thanks to God should not be limited to one day a year. It should be a daily occurrence, for each of us has so incredibly much to be thankful for!

In this study, we'll discuss some of the things for which we should be grateful, as well as some of the ways we can show our appreciation for the many blessings that the Almighty showers on us daily.

But before you begin this study, be sure to get a Bible, pen or pencil and paper. Reading and writing out the Bible verses given in this study will help you remember the important principles you will learn.

1. Just how great and powerful is God? Revelation 1:13-16, Job 42:1-2, Psalm 147:5, 4, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Matthew 19:26. Is He the source of every good thing that we enjoy? Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 104:24, James 1:17.

God is the Creator, Sustainer and Ruler of the entire universe, estimated by astronomers to contain more than 40 sextillion stars! (That's the figure 40 followed by 21 zeros.) He made the star systems and planets, the seemingly limitless variety of plant and animal life on the earth, as well as human life — the most intricate and complex of all His physical creations!

2. Do the angels in heaven, who are very much aware of God's supreme power and glory, thank and praise God for all His wonderful works? Revelation 4:8-11, 7:11-12, 11:16-17.

3. Does God want us to thank Him for all the many blessings and opportunities He has given us? Ephesians 5:20, I Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 92:1.

Consider for a moment just a few of the things we have to be thankful for. We are alive and breathing. We have minds that can think, reason, plan, design and come to conclusions based on acquired knowledge. These incredible blessings are from the Creator God!

Furthermore, God gives us air to breathe, food to eat and water to drink. Other gifts from God include the ability to see a beautiful sunrise or sunset, to hear a symphony orchestra, to taste a delicious, mouth-watering piece of apple pie or to smell a rose! Our talents and the ability to develop them were also given to us by God.

4. Was King David a man who was well aware of and thankful for the many blessings he received from God? Psalms 28:6-7, 30:12, 103:1-5. Was he a man after God's own heart — a person in whom God delighted because he did God's will? Acts 13:22.

One of King David's greatest qualities was his gratitude toward God. Even amid sorrows, trials and persecutions, he constantly praised God. He often sang psalms of thanksgiving and appreciation for God's mercy, goodness and boundless blessings. David knew that when he faced difficulties God would deliver him, and was he ever thankful for that!

5. Are young people encouraged to rejoice — to be thankful and happy — during their youthful years? Ecclesiastes 11:9. Is it also important for them to

remember God in their youth? Ecclesiastes 12:1.

While we are still young, we should thank God for the strength, health, energy and vitality that He has given us.

Besides thanking God for all He has given to us, we should also show our gratitude to other people for the good things they give us.

For example, our parents deserve a great deal of credit and thanks. Young people who are truly thankful will honor and respect their parents. They will cheerfully and promptly do household chores without being told to, and will help in other ways. They will thank their parents for the time they spend with them and for all of the things that they receive from them.

A grateful young person will demonstrate his or her appreciation for summer employment by working enthusiastically for the employer. And he or she will show appreciation for receiving an education by diligently studying class assignments.

There are many other ways to express our gratitude and appreciation. The easiest, simplest and least costly is simply to smile and say "thank you." Sending thank-you cards is another good way to show appreciation. Small acts of kindness count much, and may even be remembered for a lifetime.

God has given us so much, and He encourages us to rejoice — be thankful and happy — in our youth. (Photo by Nathan Faulkner)

6. Will the young person doing his or her best to live God's way enjoy peace of mind and abundant well-being? Psalms 119:165, 128:1-2.

A young person who understands and follows God's way of life, as revealed in the Bible, can be especially thankful for the blessings that will come.

God gave His law to promote the health, happiness and welfare of each of us. God's law is the way to success, accomplishment and joy.

It is the way to freedom from every headache and heartache, from every war and financial panic — literally from every sorrow that faces humanity today.

Those who know and understand the priceless knowledge God has revealed to us in the Bible can be exceedingly thankful. If we diligently follow God's way early in life, we can avoid making mistakes that lead to unhappiness, frustration and disappointment later in life. We will enjoy a happy and productive life both now and in the future!

7. One important way to express thanks for the many blessings God has given us is to share them with others. Did Jesus stress the benefit of giving? Acts 20:35. And is it important to give cheerfully? II Corinthians 9:7. Will a generous person be blessed? Proverbs 22:9. Will God see to it that he or she does not lack the necessities of life? Proverbs 28:27.

The truly thankful people experience the joy of giving. They appreciate their blessings and want to share the generosity that has been expressed toward them by God, parents and friends. They will spend time helping others — including fellow classmates, the elderly and those less fortunate than themselves.

8. When we acknowledge God in all our ways, what has He promised to do for us? Proverbs 3:6. ("To give thanks" is one meaning of the word *acknowledge.*)

Giving thanks to God for His many blessings should be a regular part of our daily lives. If we acknowledge God and try to the best of our ability to please Him, we will have His continued blessings, including His guidance and direction.

God shows that being really thankful to Him and expressing it is a wonderful way of life — a way of life filled with great rewards! □

Dear Youth 84,

Practical Bible-based answers to the problems of growing up.

Q. I am a 13-year-old girl who will be 14 this March. Do you think that 13 and 14 year olds are too young to have boyfriends or girl friends and to kiss? I am not interested in advice about the '50s and '60s. I need your advice about the '80s.

A. We've answered this question, or ones much like it, several times in this column and in our regular articles in *Youth 84*. And, yes, we do think 13 is too young to do these things.

Many people, however, assume that the answer to these questions might, or should, change depending on the times (that is, that these things might be OK now in the '80s).

But stop and think a minute. People say, "Times have changed," and they mean by this that some things are happening so much that we should think they are OK.

These people try to imply that modern young people of the '80s are somehow more mature than people were in the '50s or '60s, or that circumstances are so much different in the space age that common sense or Christian values don't apply anymore. But this kind of thinking is simply not correct.

Sure, we have personal computers now, and we have pocket calculators and space shuttles and microwave ovens, and there is a lot of divorce, and lots of adultery goes on. These things don't change the fact that right is right and wrong is wrong, or that a 13 year old is 13.

What people are doing is confusing the sophisticated scientific understanding we have today with a belief that we are also more mature or sophisticated morally.

Not only is that thinking not logical because it compares two things that are not equal (technology and maturity), but it is refuted by the facts (like the incredibly high divorce statistics). Don't allow yourself to be deluded by this common, and age-old, argument.

Q. I carefully read *Youth 84* and see the sense in the life-style it teaches. I try to follow it as best I can.

But I sometimes feel like I am wasting my time going to school when so much of what I am taught there seems based on wrong principles that contradict God's way.

Even my basketball coach teaches us to try and hurt the other team's players if we can and not get caught. Why should I waste my time going to school?

A. We agree that today's school systems teach much error. From the biology class and the false concepts of evolution, to the basketball court, today's schools impart false concepts and morals to their students.

That is part of the reason Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong started *Youth 84* magazine in the first place — to help counter the negative influences of modern education.

The ideal is that all teens would be taught only truth and proper values in our schools.

But even though that is now impossible, quitting school is not the answer either.

The proper approach is to realize two things.

First, not everything taught in school is error. Many subjects, such as mathematics and reading, are good and necessary skills.

And, in the Western world today, a high school diploma, and in many cases even a college degree, is a virtual necessity. You need to stay in school to be able to get a good job and earn a living.

Second, if a teen supplements his studies with proper reading, like the Bible and this magazine, he will be able to sift through many false concepts (like your coach's improper instructions) and still learn what he needs to succeed in life.

The very mental work necessary to analyze what you learn in school, to see if it is true and proper, can help you appreciate and understand true concepts more.

This is not to say that it is good for you to hear wrong teaching, but merely that you can make the best of a bad situation if you try. □

We welcome your questions and will excerpt as many as possible. Sorry we can't answer them all. Answers are prepared by Bernard W. Schnippert, a minister of the Worldwide Church of God. Address your questions to "Dear Youth 84," *300 W. Green Street, Pasadena, California, 91129.*

STRINGS

(Continued from page 6)

in the correct way.

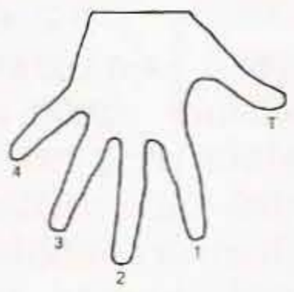
Guitar playing is a hobby you can use to entertain and please others as well as yourself. You may not become a virtuoso in the first week, but with practice you can learn to strum the chords used in many popular songs.

Guitar playing is a skill you can continue to develop throughout your life. In time, *you* might become the musician who inspires someone else to learn to play the guitar! □

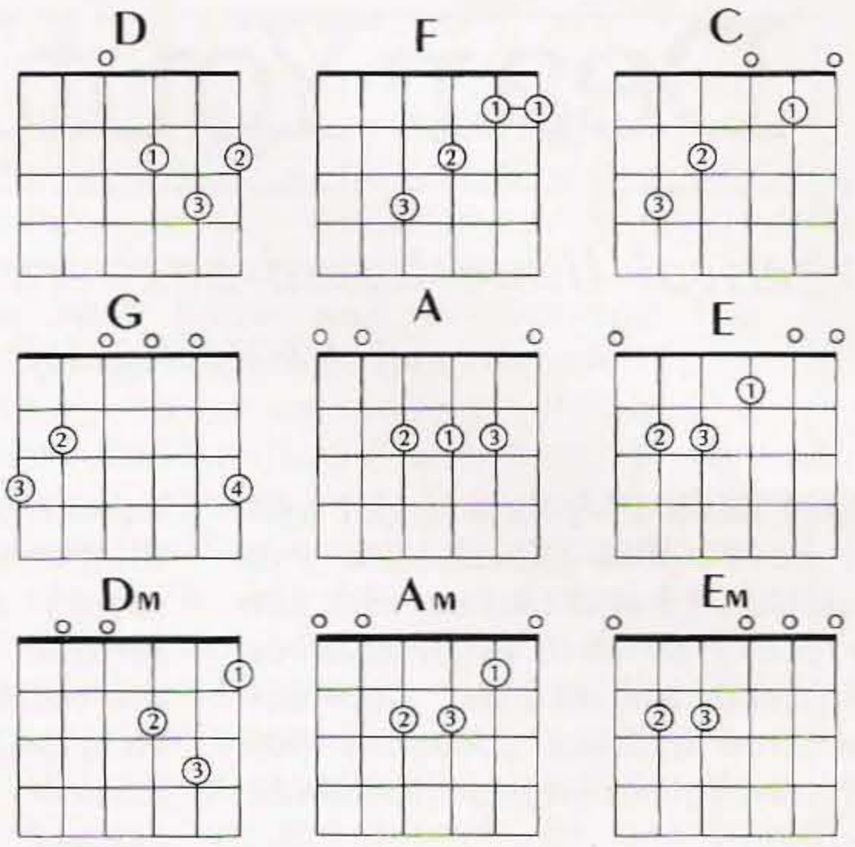
COMMONLY USED GUITAR CORDS

○= Play this string, but do not touch it with your left hand.

①= Press down here with appropriate finger.



Left Hand Numbering



READER BY-LINE

Plan NOW for Your Future

By Rosalind Y. Harrison

One of the most critical issues facing young people today is that of planning their future. It is vital that young people fully realize the necessity of planning their future because it encompasses nearly every other issue. The way in which a young person prepares for a career, the friends he chooses and the way he spends his free time all involve planning for the future.

The failure to plan for the future is a mistake that far too many young people make without realizing the possible consequences. Accounts of young people violating the law can often be traced to the fact that those involved in crime did little or no planning for the future.

"Before you can be successful, you have to know where you're going. If you don't, regardless of how old you are, you have an empty spot in your life. Without major goals, you can't direct your energy" (Michael Snyder, "Do You Know Where You're Going?" February *Youth 82,* page 5).

It is not sufficient merely to write about the importance of planning now for the future, but to also practice what is advocated. One of the best methods of encouraging young people to plan now for the future is through examples of sincere young people who have done so and succeeded. This method is the basis for my first suggestion. Young people must be made aware of the value of individual effort.

The most inspiring example that I have read of a young person's individual effort is that of Terence Stanley Fox. Terry, himself a cancer patient, set out in 1980 to jog the entire 5,300-mile span of Canada on an artificial leg to raise money for cancer research. Terry Fox's determination and individual effort resulted in the donation of $23 million for cancer research. "He proved that, in this age of bureaucracy and bewildering complexity, individual efforts still count" (K. Neil Earle, "A Teenage Dream That Stirred a Nation," May *Youth 83,* page 18).

Second among my suggestions is to emphasize the importance of controlling one's mind. It is amazing what a human being can accomplish when he sets his mind to act and is not overcome by difficulties and criticism. However, to fully realize this potential, discipline, perseverance and determination are vital to utilize the abilities of the mind to their greatest extent.

Last among my suggestions is to encourage young people to seek the advice of their parents in planning for the future. Their interest in your future is greater than that of anyone else. Once they see your sincerity and interest, they will be willing to go to great lengths to support your efforts for success. □

Editor's note: The author, age 18, won a $500 scholarship for this essay from the Illinois Sheriffs' Association. She is from Chicago, Illinois. If you would like to submit an article for this section, send it to: "Reader By-Line," Youth 84, *300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91129.*

Age for Marriage

(Continued from page 2)

is for ADULTS. Marriage is pretty serious business!

Age for acquiring knowledge

Human beings know *nothing* at birth. We have to learn, or be taught — EVERYTHING! Without any knowledge, or with erroneous knowledge, we are helpless — as newborn babes. But there are some things many fail to learn. One of these is the right age for marriage.

Whatever an adult knows, true or false, has come into his mind since birth.

It may sound surprising or incredible, but a person actually learns more during his first year of life than in any succeeding year. If a 1-year-old baby could talk plainly with complete and adequate vocabulary, you'd be completely amazed at how much he has learned that first year!

The second year he learns a trifle less than the first, and the third year a little less than the second. Gradually, his capacity for learning decreases year by year, if only slightly. This is hard to believe for the simple reason that a 2 year old *adds* his second-year acquisition to what he learned the first year, the third to that, and so through the years his *total* store of knowledge increases continually.

But a person past 60 cannot learn something new in a field new and strange to him as readily as a young person of 22 or 23. Does this mean that a well-educated man of 60 knows less than a young man of 22? Of course not. Other things being equal, he knows infinitely more — because he has the accumulated knowledge of all those years since age 22 *added* to what he knew then — and he has learned much by *experience*. That is one reason wisdom comes with age!

Of course, by age 16, the young person may think he *knows it all*. Many, in their own minds, know more than Dad or Mom. You see, what they do not yet know, they don't *know* that they don't know! But there is still much to learn.

But by age 16 the average normal young person of good mind is ready to *begin* a little more advanced study into more solid fields.

When bodies mature

But along in these early and midteenage years, usually 12 to 14, the physical body suddenly speeds up its growth and development. The teenager at this point sprouts up much taller within a single year, with *bodily* changes from child to man or woman.

Suddenly the young person feels grown-up — adult. He usually does not realize that at this stage the body makes a rather sudden leap toward maturity, *while the mind makes no corresponding advance!* The mind continues on at only the same year-to-year *gradual* development. The *mind is still more child than adult*. Its interests are still mostly having fun, games, entertainments. Sexual maturity is suddenly reached, long in advance of mental, emotional and spiritual maturity.

A human being is not a mere body. The married state needs maturity of mind, emotions and spiritual qualities as much as physical adulthood.

A boy or girl is physically able to become a father or mother years before he or she is qualified to assume the *responsibilities* of parenthood.

But, suddenly becoming taller and physically developed, the boy or girl *feels* mature. A new awareness of the opposite sex is present. What the young person of this age does not yet know, I repeat, he usually fails utterly to realize.

The attraction of the other sex acts as a magnet. The girl dreams of her Prince Charming; desire is awakened in the boy to hold an attractive girl in his arms.

The girl often falls in love with love, a certain boy being the focal point of her fantasy. Of course she only sees this particular boy as she imagines him to be, not as he really is. She is dead sure she is in love. And no one can awaken her from this entrancing dream. There are many facts of reality about this puppy-love affair of which she is totally unaware.

But, again, what she doesn't know that her parents see so plainly, she simply doesn't know that she doesn't know! She has to outgrow it! The very *fact* that she is not mature enough to recognize her immaturity is proof that she is still too immature for marriage.

At this stage, the parents have a problem on their hands, and need great wisdom to deal properly with it.

The preparatory years

But when does a child become an adult? When is one ready for marriage? Marriage is in itself a career. One is not ready to enter upon any profession or career

until after full preparation. This *preparation* may be divided, roughly, into three stages. First, that of infancy, preparing the child for school. Second, elementary and preparatory schooling prior to, thirdly, more advanced education and specialized training for the adult life's work.

There are really three stages, roughly, of mental development that parallel these stages of preparation. First, the change from babyhood to boy- or girlhood around age 6. Then the mind as a rule has absorbed enough elementary and semimature knowledge by age 16 to *begin* more mature thinking and learning. Age 16 is a crucial year in mental development.

But the mind does not really mature, on the average, until age 25. At age 25 a more definite adulthood of mind, attitude, interests, is reached. The mind becomes more set in its ways.

The years between ages 16 and 25 are the *vitally important* years of adult preparation for life's work. These are the *crucial* years of *PREPARATION*. During these years the mind is capable of *acquiring* faster than at any other stage of life the advanced knowledge needed *before beginning* one's adult career — whether it be business, profession, occupation or marriage. Before age 16 the mind has not acquired the basic elementary knowledge needed as a foundation for entering more advanced study — and the mind has not developed in serious comprehension to the level of advanced knowledge. After age 25, the mind that has stagnated since age 16 finds it difficult to enter upon more mature study.

Before age 16 the mind simply is not mature. At age 16 it is merely prepared to *begin* acquiring the more mature *preparation* for either career, business or marriage.

It should be borne in mind I am speaking of average ages. There are, of course, exceptions to all rules — but in my experience about 99 in 100 follow this pattern.

Another stage of maturity seems to be reached at about age 30. I have noticed that, although most young people reach a certain mental maturity at age 25, a far more complete maturity of mind, personality, performance and influence on others is reached at age 30.

By age 30 the man or woman has added five years of practical *experience,* in addition to further study, to the preparatory knowledge and final reaching of mental maturity attained at 25. Prior to 25, the young man is often called just that — "young man" — by older men.

Somehow, the vanity in a young man of 18 and older makes him want to be considered *mature* — as a completely adult, fully experienced MAN. He wants to be considered older than he is. But as soon as young women are past 20 to 25, female vanity usually causes them to want to be considered *younger* than they are!

The right age for marriage

The fact that man attains a more complete maturity of personality, leadership and influence by age 30 seems fully recognized by the Eternal God. In ancient Israel the Levites were ordained to full priesthood at age 30 — although they were put into physical *service* at age 20.

Jesus Christ, the Example of the Christian world, did not begin His active ministry until age 30. All years prior to that were years of learning and preparation.

Apparently the Bible has not given specific and direct instruction or command as to the proper age for marriage. God did not even count people in the census, as adults, until age 20. While there appears to be no punishable prohibition against marriage prior to age 20, there is every indication that on God's instruction juveniles were considered children until 20. At 20 they were considered of age. *This by no means implies they were expected to marry by age* 20! Rather that they were expected not to marry *until* at least 20 — OR MORE!

Based on actual experience, my judgment — and I think it is sound judgment — is that until out of the teens a boy or girl is too young to marry! And it is also my judgment — based on lifelong experience counseling on marriage problems of hundreds of people — that even 20 is too young to be *the best age for marriage.*

Two factors are the major causes of broken marriages, or of unhappy problem marriages, in the hundreds of cases that have come to me for advice and counsel: sex ignorance and marriage prior to age 20. Quite often these two are merged in the same case. A majority of all unhappy or broken marriages that have been brought to my attention were those of people *who married too young!*

Only too well I know that

teenagers who *think* they are in love will not listen or heed. *That very FACT proves* they are too young for the responsibilities of marriage.

Marriage is so much *more* than romance, necking, lovemaking and immature emotional bliss. Thousands of young people have gone ahead heedless, and been sadly disillusioned to learn that lesson TOO LATE!

But in my judgment, except in rare cases or circumstances, even 20 is too early an age for marriage. I can only give my judgment. But it is based on experience. It is based on facts and knowledge. It is based on what biblical revelation God has given us. It is based on hundreds of case histories.

But here it is, and young people will do well to heed it — and later be glad they did!

The *best* age for a man to marry is around 24 to 26, after he has devoted those *top aptitude years* between 16 and 25 for mature education, experience and preparation — *after* he has acquired the knowledge, preparation and preliminary experience to assume adult responsibilities *— after he is able to assume the responsibility of supporting a wife — and family!*

And the *best* age for a girl to marry is between 23 and 25, when she has utilized those top aptitude years for preparation, and is prepared to assume the *duties* of wifehood and motherhood — the responsibilities of planning, decorating, arranging a home, keeping it and being a help and inspiration to her husband.

Mrs. Loma Armstrong and I were married when we were both 25.

We were mature enough to assume the responsibilities. Our marriage was *happy,* and blessed beyond words to describe. In fact it was happier after age 70 than ever before, because it had grown constantly more and more happy. WHAT A BLESSING!

Wouldn't you like yours to be equally so? Then heed! Use wisdom! □

Isle of Man?

(Continued from page 10)

reminders of the more leisurely days of transportation. Horse-drawn trams run along the promenade of the nation's capital, Douglas, and an electric train system that dates back to the last century still operates to the seaside town of Ramsey. For steam train enthusiasts, the island runs a stretch of narrow-gauge track along the southern tip of the countryside.

Limited opportunities

Most people who come to the island travel by ferry from the English coast. The Irish Sea is not always as friendly as it might be, so a strong stomach is sometimes necessary if you are to enjoy the journey!

The ferries bring the tourists — and that's important for the island's economy — but they also take some of the island's young people over to the British mainland to look for jobs. On such a small island, the employment opportunities in some trades are limited for those just starting out. Fortunately, the government has a policy of encouraging light industries to develop, and so future prospects for young job hunters may be brighter.

Students on the Isle of Man can leave school at 15, but those who want to get examination qualifications can stay on for another one or two years. Passing these tests (G.C.E. or C.S.E., as they are called) can help in finding a good job.

But life isn't all school and tests. Sports are popular with young people on the island. Soccer, basketball, squash and badminton are played. Horseback riding, roller skating and BMX bicycles are also favorites.

Now that you know a little bit about the Isle of Man — and you know where to find it on the map — maybe you'll want to visit. And if you do, you may hear "Ta mee jeeaghin roym cur failt erriu" — the welcoming greeting in Manx. □

BY THE WAY...

(Continued from page 29)

warns us: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). God does not want humans — young or old — to lose their chance for mature human development, happiness and success. That's why He reveals what He does about human sexuality!

The key is this: If you have a wrong sexual thought, put it out of your mind *immediately.* Do not meditate on it. God says to bring every thought into the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10:5). It doesn't mean that you won't have wrong thoughts. But when you do have them, you must put them out right then.

If you have already begun to experiment with homosexuality, or any other wrong sexual practice for that matter, break off that relationship immediately. Don't let wrong thoughts about it stay in your mind.

If you can't make that break without help (and don't kid yourself that in time you can conquer it when down deep you know that by yourself you can't), talk to someone. Perhaps your parents, a trusted counselor at school or a minister. But do get help. Don't allow the practice to become so all-consuming that a virtually unbreakable habit is formed.

Controlling the thoughts and actions, especially in the area of sex, is difficult. It takes conscious effort and work. But it can be done — it *must* be done. The price for such sins — unhappiness, disease, loneliness, despair — is far too high to pay.

The reason many homosexuals and others violating God's sex laws feel as they do was addressed in an article in *The Plain Truth.* You may want a free reprint of, "Is It True Some Are Born That Way?" It explains why humanity is plagued with so many harmful, yet at times, on the surface, alluring, sexual feelings, emotions and desires. □

BY THE WAY...

What's All This Fuss About Gays?

By Dexter H. Faulkner

I just read some astounding statistics. The Kinsey Institute says that one out of every 10 people is homosexual.

Even if those statistics aren't completely accurate, and it's hard to know for sure, other statistics alarmed me as well.

There's a lot of experimentation with homosexuality among teenagers today. The report says 60 percent of boys and 30 percent of girls have had an intentional homosexual experience by age 15.

It's not that I didn't know the problem existed — I did. But not until I read this report and did further study did I realize its magnitude.

Today it is surfacing by leaps and bounds socially and in the media. In our anything-goes world, many young people — and undoubtedly some of you — are experimenting with this life-style. It seems that this damaging "love" is fast becoming accepted almost everywhere.

This problem must be squarely addressed by *Youth 84* because many times it is in the teenage years, with their rapid sexual development, that this tragic problem starts or becomes deeply embedded. We wish to be candid and frank in discussing the issue as God reveals it.

You will hear homosexuals say they believe they were born that way. They weren't. Our Creator in the Bible commands human beings to *avoid* this serious sexual sin as well as a variety of other sexual sins. The reason is the damage these sins do to human society and to the persons involved. God doesn't enjoy seeing us suffer.

Homosexual acts are condemned several times in the Bible (Genesis 19:1-13, Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Judges 19:22-24, Romans 1:24-27, I Corinthians 6:9, I Timothy 1:9-10). *In no scriptural reference is homosexuality approved.* It is always strongly emphasized that the practice is not only sinful, but unnatural. If you have any doubt, take the time to read these accounts.

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul speaks of men who "deliberately forfeited the truth of God and accepted a lie . . . God therefore handed them over to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged the normal practices of sexual intercourse for something which is *abnormal* and *unnatural*. Similarly the men, turning from natural intercourse with women, were swept into lustful passions for one another . . . receiving, of course, in their own personalities the consequences of sexual perversity" (Romans 1:25-27, Phillips).

God created Eve — a woman — to be Adam's companion. And any good high school anatomy class supports the fact that a man and woman are compatible physically. It was God's original intent and purpose for man and woman to be sexual partners — not man with man or woman with woman.

Why homosexuality?

Many don't understand why homosexuality exists. The roots of this and so many other sexual and social problems go back not only to the sexual permissiveness of recent decades, but often to the lack of right teaching in the home.

Homosexual and other wrong sexual feelings can develop out of ignorance. Many families fail to teach their children right knowledge about sex. How many young people are taught godly and wholesome sex knowledge by their parents?

In many homes there is no mention that certain sexual practices are wrong or damaging and why they are to be avoided. Even in today's more open society, parents shy away from talking about sex to their children.

In some cases, wrong sexual or emotional feelings may begin in the earliest years of life. Some children, without proper parental guidance, have misunderstood their feelings of affection toward others and started a wrong pattern of sexual association in their minds so early some don't remember when it happened.

Some young men and women go into homosexuality because, for various reasons, they have developed a feeling of social inadequacy with members of the opposite sex.

For a variety of social or emotional reasons numbers of young people do experience sexual attractions to their own sex. Others, out of curiosity,

experiment with various same-sex sexual relationships and then worry if they are a homosexual or are becoming so. No, they aren't, but if they continue in their destructive practices they certainly can become bisexual or homosexual.

Homosexuality defined

What is homosexuality, then?

Anyone can be tempted by a fleeting thought to commit a wrong sexual act. That is a temptation. It is not a sin unless given in to and allowed to stay in the mind. Allowing wrong sexual thoughts to continue in your mind is dangerous, because just before action comes thought.

The Bible repeatedly warns about the deceitfulness of sin. By allowing homosexual or other lustful thoughts, a person is actually planting the seeds of wrong and damaging sexual desires. If such desires are repeatedly allowed and entertained in the mind, they can be deeply ingrained in or etched into a person's innermost feelings and desires. Then, it's almost impossible to break these desires that have become habits.

One author wrote: "Once a person fantasizes sex with a member of his [or her] own sex, it is easier to do it again . . . The more he [or she] does it, the more the habit is formed and the more entrenched his [or her] homosexual thinking and fantasizing become" (*The Unhappy Gays,* by Tim LaHaye, page 88).

So realize that homosexuality is an *ongoing* erotic preference for partners of the same sex, expressed in fantasy or action. Note the emphasized word *ongoing*. There's a problem if wrong thoughts and emotions keep repeating.

Again, wrong sexual desires and feelings become an ingrained habit just by repeatedly allowing yourself to *fantasize* about them.

Everyone needs to be guarding the doors of his or her mind! All need to recognize damaging thoughts and fantasies. Young people, you need to be aware of the dangers of pornography and friends who may want you to start experimenting with homosexual or other immoral sexual acts.

Homosexuality, it seems, is fast becoming accepted almost everywhere. But what does the Creator God have to say?

Some of you may have had a "friend" who wanted to sexually experiment with you. One young woman was shocked to be awakened by a girl friend fondling her when she spent the night with her. She was also confused about the feelings she experienced.

You — almost anyone — can be sexually excited if such experimentation is allowed. Having those feelings doesn't mean you are homosexual. It does mean you should diligently guard your mind and body against wrong thoughts and wrong sexual acts.

God has revealed His laws on sex and morality in the Bible so mankind could know about, on the one hand, the way of life that produces happiness, health and a stable society and, on the other, the ways of thinking and living that produce heartache and suffering for you and others.

The use of sex *within* marriage between a woman and a man is the only God-ordained pure expression of erotic love. Many people will disagree, but God's laws are not mocked.

Penalties

Those who have adopted such life-styles don't like to face the fact of AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — the incurable, fatal disease that ravages the male homosexual and bisexual community.

Nor do they like to talk about the other sexually transmissible diseases rampaging out of control in the homosexual community. (Many of these are rampaging among promiscuous heterosexuals, too.)

Sin, reveals the Bible, is the breaking of God's law (I John 3:4). Sexual sin distorts wholesome feelings toward one's own and the opposite sex. Sexual sin works to destroy respect and appreciation of the God-ordained family unit.

Multiple sexual relationships and homosexual relationships destroy the development of self-discipline, self-sacrifice and loyalty required for lasting marriage and the proper rearing of children in a family. Sexual sin gives children and future generations the wrong example to follow, and children learn more from example than they do in almost any other way. Scripture

(Continued on page 27)

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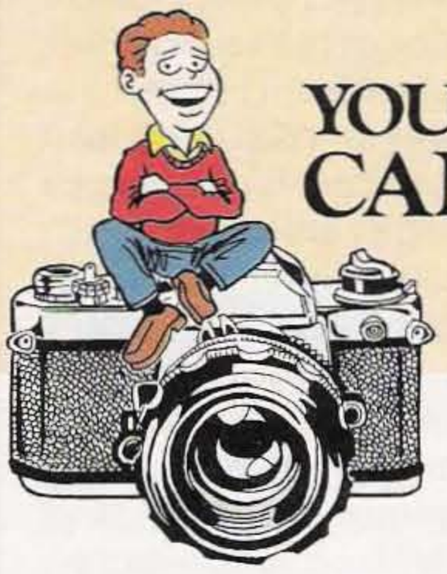

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