

Hannah's Harpoons

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

"Dear Mom: I am sorry that nothing fits me except those brown and black ones but I am at an ugly stage." (signed: NS).

The above letter may need a little exposition. It was written to me by my ten year old after eight hours of fruitless searching for a pair of shoes that not only fit but also had a little style. No soap!



HANNAH

Instead of having a tantrum, she was consoling me. I couldn't be more proud.

RINGS AROUND THE NECK

The point, however, is this: That although the shamefully painful practice of binding little girls' feet into deformed lumps of bone and flesh was discontinued many years ago in the Orient, you will be less than delighted to learn that in our enlightened country the practice has only now begun. While, in some remote tribal countries they are still — for beauty's sake — forcing iron rings around necks of children until they resemble nothing so much as ostriches, we, in this civilized part of the world, are forcing young, pliable-boned feet into needle-pointed "shoes" that are guaranteed to leave the wearers with a lifetime of painful foot troubles.

Vitamins and orange juice; balanced diets and fresh air; all of these we give our children. We study nutrition with the assiduity of Fermi in the cave under the bleachers at Chicago University. And we apply what we learn with a will.

OBVIOUSLY UNSUITED

Why, then, do we permit the manufacturers of children's shoes to negate all of our excellent work by our one foolish action of buying the obviously unsuitable shoes they offer for our growing children?

Dedicated shoe clerks throw up their hands in despair when they see you walk in with a ten-year-old. One such motherly woman told me that no provision was made for the transitional period in the feet of our children.

It is a proven statistic that feet are larger all around today, even with grown women. The big joke many years ago (about Garbo's size sevens) is a common reality nowadays. Nevertheless, shoemen go right on providing the same old sizes with a bland disregard for reality.

There are four or five manufacturers who make well-designed shoes for children... that is, not imitation "grown-up" shoes. Of these, only one has a line of shoes made wide enough and long enough to permit the natural spread of the foot, and even these shoes leave much to be desired in style and beauty.

Perhaps some of us cater too much to style. One saleswoman told me ruefully that when she measured a youngster and found that she required a larger size than was "average," the outraged mother demanded a smaller size and actually insisted on buying the incorrectly fitted shoes over the objections of the salesclerk. Such a shopper, is, I feel, the exception.

But what can we, who do care a great deal about our children's health and comfort, do about this senseless situation?

CRITERION FOR SELECTION

One thing we can do is to notify the stores of our needs. We can refuse to buy what is obviously unsuitable. (The fact that "everyone" is wearing narrow, inflexible, needle-pointed shoes is certainly not the criterion for selection.)

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

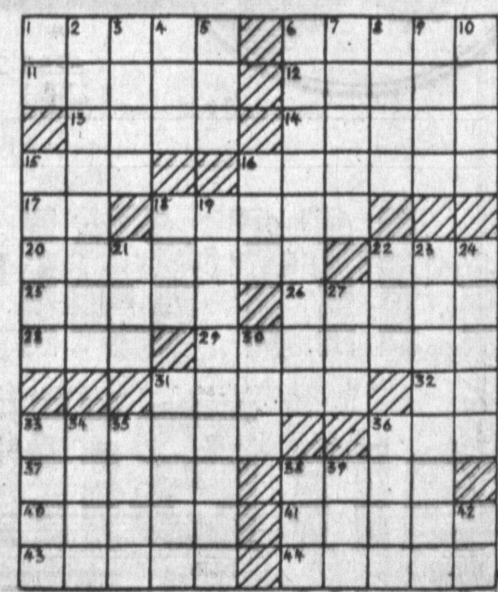
1. Shaft
6. Leader of Israelites
11. Command
12. Adult insect
13. Old Norse work
14. Dwell
15. Speak
16. Changes
17. Bone (anct.)
18. A chasm
20. Most stupid
22. Malt beverage
25. "Tempest" sprite
26. A news paper
28. Japanese coin
29. Not severe
31. Telegraphed
32. Tellurium (sym.)
33. King's residence
36. Pronoun
37. Friend, in Spain
38. Wild hog
40. Domesticates
41. Think
43. Darken
44. People of Britain

DOWN

1. Thus
2. Hoard
3. Mary Baker

ACROSS

4. Guided
5. Christian
6. Heavy burden
7. Leaves out
8. Keep
9. German river
10. Lays, as turf
15. Ice cream drinks
16. Affirmative votes
18. Mr. Lincoln



DOWN

1. Thus
2. Hoard
3. Mary Baker

Dr. Charles Price Dept. Head at Aero Space

Dr. Charles M. Price, of 16811 Elgar Ave., Torrance, has been named head of the astrodynamics department in the Systems Research and Planning Division at Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo.

Price, who was awarded his Ph.D. in mathematics by the University of Chicago, has been with the company since 1961.

Aerospace Corporation supplies research, advanced planning and technical management to U.S. ballistic

missile and space programs, primarily for Air Force Space Systems and Ballistic Systems Divisions.

GUESSWORK

Guesswork nowadays is as needless in home laundering as in cooking, says the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Assn. The new gas dryers can be pre-set for various degrees of drying, depending upon the types of fabrics being washed. And some of the new washing machines—or combination washer-gas dryers—feature built-in automatic dispensers of bleaches and detergents, so that the wash load gets just the right amount of each.

I think I'll write to each of the leading makers of children's shoes stating my dissatisfaction and see what they "have to allow."

Furthermore, it occurs to me that the Bureau of Standards may perhaps enjoy setting a few standards for proper shoes for young children. They might even standardize sizes (which are so disparate now that a 6½ made by three manufacturers can vary by as much as a size and a half.)

Why don't I write to the Bureau of Standards and see what happens? I'll keep you posted.

Civic Symphony Orchestra to Present Public Concert

A musical program featuring two soloists and the Civic Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Elyse Aehle, will be presented at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, at Torrance High School auditorium.

Highlighting the program will be: the Horn Concerto in E flat major by Mozart; the Andante and scherzo for trumpet solo by Barat; and the overture to Rossini's "Barber of Seville."

Leroy Anderson's "A Trumpeter's Lullaby" and highlights from Richard Rogers' "Carousel" will be heard.

Featured number will be the French horn solo by John Ayre, former soloist and "first horn" with the world-famous Halle orchestra of England and the London Symphony.

Ayre has played under Sir Henry Wood, Sir Adrian Boult, Sir John Barbirolli, Sir Henry Beecham, Sir Malcolm Sargent, Kostalanitz, Krips, Unger, Nicolai Malko, Previtali, Vaugh Williams, and Iturbi.

He has made between 15 and 20 records for RCA Victor, and has been soloist on many radio concerts in England and Ireland.

At 16 he won a scholarship to the Royal Manchester College of Music and at

of Torrance, Torrance Civic Symphony Orchestra, and the Torrance Recreation Dept.

EGOTISM SPEAKS

Egotism speaks all sorts of languages and plays all sorts of roles, even that of disinterestedness.

—La Rochefoucauld

Fill Cracks And Holes Better

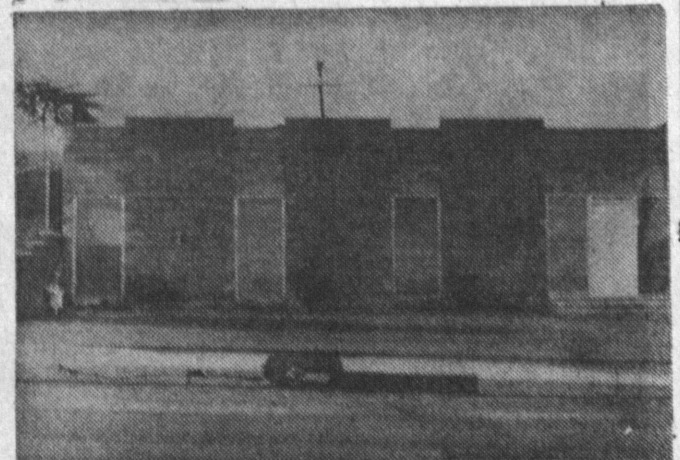
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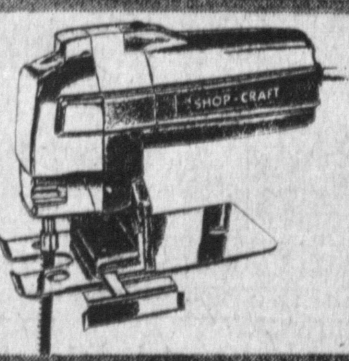
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B.F. Goodrich

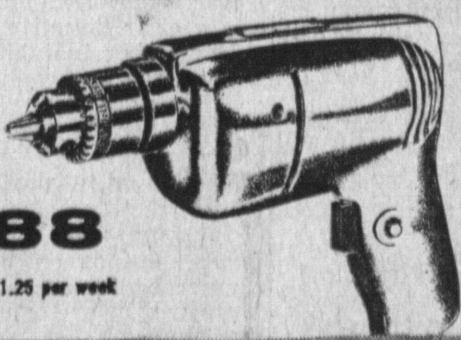
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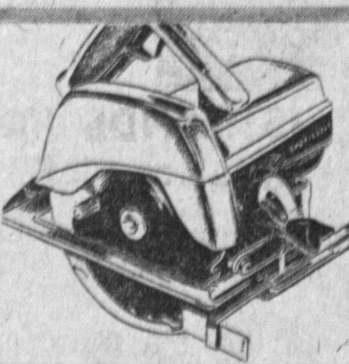
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