

Coffee Break

By Adeline Daley

I wouldn't go so far as to recommend that "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" be required reading for children in the elementary grades. All I wish is that the parents in the "Dick and Jane" type books would stop acting like Goody Two-Shoes and engage in an occasional skirmish with one another as the husband and the wife do throughout the Edward Albee play and movie.

I'm sure of one thing. If children were exposed to a few vivid pages of dialogue from "Virginia Woolf," normal parents would no longer suffer by comparison as they do in the placid "Dick and Jane" series. For parents in the latter books never, but never, raise their voices and shout.

"Come and see," said the father. "See. I do not have one clean shirt to my name, and these black socks you expect me to wear have more lint on them than a cotton plantation."

"Look, look in the hamper for a wash 'n' wear shirt," snapped the mother. "And what's wrong with you plucking the lint off those socks yourself?"

How can parents, I ask you, hope to compete with the ones in the learn-to-read primers who are forever taking their kids on interesting jaunts to the zoo or the fire station and on educational train rides to such focal points of interest as Washington, D. C., and New York, although they live in Pocatello, Idaho?

And always visiting some relative who lives on a farm where Sally and Tom or Betty and Bob can ride horses, feed the ducks and listen to the cows go, "Moo, Moo, Moo."

It's getting to the point where I almost feel guilty that we don't have any close relatives who live on a farm for us to visit. I've even thought of advertising for a few mercenaries so that our kids won't feel left out. Otherwise, about the closest our kids are ever going to get to livestock would be if their paternal grandfather were to take them to watch the races.

So where does this leave the average family such as ours? I suggest that the "Dick and Jane" type books be re-written to include such chapters as, "A Merry Visit to the Finance Company," which would lead off with such unforgettable lines as, "See, Tom, see the envelope with the little window."

I'd also like to see more space devoted to "Jolly George, the Repairman, and His Weekly Visits to the Daley Home."

"See the Spin-Dry," said Jolly George. "It does not work. This will cost you \$35.27 for parts and labor."

There's where the "New Math" will take over.

St. Andrew's Plans Group Of Inquirers

An organizational meeting of an Inquirers Group has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

The new organization, announced weeks ago by the Rev. Hugh R. Percy, rector of St. Andrew's, is being formed in response to several requests from interested persons, he said.

"The purpose of this group is to discuss and to answer if possible some of the many questions about religion, personal and general, that people are asking in these days of changing values," he said.

Persons interested in joining the group are being asked to call the church office or to attend the Sunday meeting in the religious education building at 1432 Engracia Ave.

Pvt. Cynthia Bishop, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Bishop, 22036 Anza Ave., completed eight weeks of basic training at the Women's Army Corps Center, Ft. McClellan, Ala., Sept. 30.



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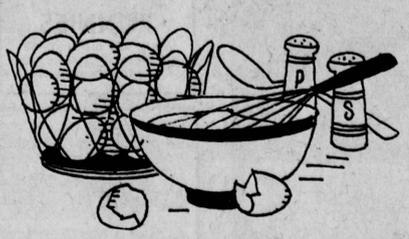


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