

But do they listen?

"Children should be seen and not heard"

There is an old adage that says, "Children should be seen and not heard."

Like all old adages, it says a great deal in a few words. Unfortunately, what it does not say is how to make the children believe in it.

I have these words for thought burned into the woodwork of my girls' bedroom so they see it as soon as they wake in the morning, but it's not enough. Their mouths are off and running before their feet even hit the floor.

I can't hide the facts so I must admit that both my girls suffer from severe oral afflictions common to quite a few children. My youngest has a heavy case of motor mouth and her sister has a drainage problem often called, "running off at the mouth." There is no apparent cure so to keep my sanity I've had my hair cut like ear muffs. Now at least no one can see the transistor radio plugged into my left ear and the wad of cotton in my right.

The DEQ spends a lot of time worrying about the noise pollution of jets, autos and factories but little concern is given to the intensity of noise in a small room full of fighting children, a couple of space toys, a battery operated train that whistles tunes, a cat begging to be released, and an ignored record player whose needle is stuck.

If a representative from DEQ ever got trapped in such a deafening situation there would be federal regulations on when children could speak. Environmentalists know,

however, that it's easier to battle with corporations than it is with children.

It never ceases to amaze me though how quickly the girls can come down with a case of lock jaw. They can be standing in the middle of broken glass and spilled milk and know absolutely nothing. They immediately become



Margaret Schmale's

Bits and pieces

amnesia victims and can't remember a thing. When questioned about how the accident happened they won't remember going to the refrigerator. They won't be able to recollect who got the glasses down from the cupboard. They won't even recall the sound of breaking glass. They just stare blankly into space and plead the 5th amendment.

Just within the last couple of months I could swear a new girl has moved in with us. I don't see her much, but I hear her name every day so she's got to be around somewhere. All I have to do is ask, "How did the jam get all over the wall? Why dog laying in the laundry basket? who let the cat in the chicken coop?" or "why is every light in the house turned on?" The guilty party responsible for all these things is this new girl because when I ask these and other questions my girls just look at one another and say, "Ida No." If I ever get my hands on this Ida No I dunno what I'll do to her.

When the girls aren't fighting, they're arguing and the tongue is mightier than the fist at times. I was about to announce lunch as I entered their room, but got cut off by a vicious cross fire. My oldest daughter, I've labeled as the Lip, was giving her sister a tongue lashing for not turning off the record player. The Lip, acting as prosecuting attorney, put her case to me, the circuit rider, pointing out the neglect of her sister and wastefulness of electricity.

Before I could pronounce sentence on the accused she stood up on the bed acting as her own defense, pointed a finger at her sister and shouted her rebuttal, "She won't let me touch any of the buttons!"

"Case rests," I said, "lets break for lunch."
"But" . . . began my oldest. "Silence is Golden." I demanded.

"That's too rich for my allowance," quipped the Lip.

Local students enter regional skills contest

More than 350 high school students are expected to attend the Third Annual Clackamas Regional Skills Contest to be held Feb. 26 at Clackamas Community College.

The competition, which is co-sponsored by the Clackamas County Education Service District, allows students to match wits in areas ranging from auto mechanics to journalism to life sciences. CCC faculty participate in judging. Schools expected to attend include Sandy, Clackamas, Colton and Estacada.

Students interested in participating in the skills contest should contact their high school teachers for additional information, or call Clackamas Community College at 657-8400, ext. 216.

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State shows gain in agriculture

Oregon's agriculture made a strong showing in 1980 with total gross income from farm sales of a record \$1.74 billion, up 17 percent from 1979.

Last year's billion-dollar plus sales figure made 1980 the seventh straight year that farm sales in Oregon have grossed over \$1 billion.

Marion, Umatilla and Malheur counties topped \$100 million in farm sales in 1979. In 1980 these three were joined by Clackamas County which had total farm sales of just under \$101 million.

Credit for the state's continuing agricultural growth can be traced to the broad diversity of farm commodities produced in Oregon.

Oregon's agricultural diversity is demonstrated by the fact that in 1980, Oregon had 82 commodities that grossed \$1 million or more in sales.

Sales from all crops were \$1.135 billion, up 25.3 percent from last year, and sales from livestock and poultry products were \$607 million, up 3.2 percent from last year.

These figures reflect gross sales only and do not represent net income. Farmers and ranchers experienced a 12 percent increase in farm costs due to inflation in 1980.

Besides the record \$1.7 billion gross sales figure, a highlight of Oregon agriculture in 1980 was the record wheat crop of 78 million bushels. Total sales for wheat were over \$300 million.

Favorable weather in eastern Oregon throughout 1980 went a long way in making the record wheat crop possible.

The effect of volcanic ash from Mount St. Helens on Oregon agriculture was only significant in Washington County where it hurt some growers.

Many crops were affected by the ash in Washington County but mostly the ash was a problem with wheat, small fruits and some vegetables.

Substantial gains in grains, hay and silage, field crops and specialty products were recorded for 1980. Sales were down for small fruits and berries, and cattle and calves.

Grain sales were up 46 percent due in large part to the excellent wheat crop in the Columbia Basin, which was 60 percent above 1979. The wheat crop in western Oregon was about the same as last year.

Other factors that had an effect on grain sales and the price of grain were a smaller than expected feed grain crop nation-wide and the recently concluded China grain-trade agreement.

Sales of hay and silage totaled \$91.6 million, up 86.5 percent from last year. The primary reasons for the dramatic increase were higher prices influenced by a poor hay crop in Canada last year and the spoilage of some of Washington's hay crop by Mount St. Helen's volcanic ash.

Grass and legume seeds remained fairly stable, increasing 2 percent over 1979 with sales of \$107.8 million.

Small fruits and berries was the only commodity

group to show a significant decrease in sales from a year ago, showing a total \$30 million, down 21 percent from 1979.

The cause for the decrease was a drastic drop in price caused by overproduction of raspberries and blackberries.

Field crops were up 29 percent with sales of \$153 million. The increase in this commodity group was caused largely by hops and potato sales and the high prices these products brought in 1980.

Tree fruits and nuts remained stable, showing a modest increase of 2.4 percent with sales of \$107.8 million. There was a record apple crop in 1980, but low prices absorbed much of the increases that apples might otherwise have brought.

Vegetable crop sales increased 11 percent with sales totaling \$102.5 million. There was a generally favorable market for fresh vegetables in 1980. This year's excellent crop of peas and an improved onion crop rebounding from a poor year in 1979 also helped vegetable crop sales.

Sales of specialty products (nurseries, greenhouses, bulbs, Christmas trees, farm forestry) were up 22 percent with \$209.8 million in sales.

A strong market for Christmas trees and the continuing expansion of the nursery-greenhouses industry in the Willamette Valley were important factors in the increase.

Livestock and poultry sales weren't changed much from last year, showing a gain of just 3.2 percent with sales of \$607 million.

Cattle and calves were the only commodity in the livestock group to show a decrease in sales over 1979. The 1980 sales were down 7.7 percent with sales of \$313.8 million.

The decrease was primarily due to higher feed prices which have caused feeder cattle and calf prices to drop below last year.

Dairy products had the greatest increase in sales in the livestock commodity group, up 20 percent with a total of \$160.5 million gross sales.

Higher milk prices (about 10 percent higher than last year), increases in the number of dairy cows in Oregon, more milk production per cow and in general a continuing positive trend in the dairy business over the past few years were responsible.

Eggs and poultry had total gross sales of \$70 million, up 15 percent from a year ago. Contributing to the increases were more broilers, layers and eggs produced and a higher price for broilers.

Other livestock, primarily sheep and hogs, had sales of \$62.7 million for an increase over 1979 of 16 percent. Much of this increase is due to greater numbers of sheep in Oregon, an indication of how the sheep industry is turning around after many poor years.

Sheep prices remained basically the same as last year.

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