



TALL CACTUS - Mrs. Raymond Senesac of Manteno, Ill., has a cactus plant that just doesn't know when to stop. She and her husband purchased the cactus planted in a ceramic pot in Arizona during their honeymoon about 13 years ago. It was one inch high then. Now the cactus measures 49 inches tall and is only three-quarters of an inch in diameter at the base. Mrs. Senesac has never taken it out of the original pot. (UPI Telephoto)

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Gina C. - They make me babysit, no matter what I've planned.
Mrs. T. C. - She should be glad to see us go out for a change.

Gina C. - I'm 13 and my parents make me babysit for my kid sister any time they get it into their heads to step out. It never occurs to them that I might have some plans. They never ask me if I'll stay in and mind Margie. They just tell me, "Take care of Margie. We're going out." Margie is 6 and we have lots of fun when I'm in the mood. Believe me, I wasn't in the mood the other night and I took it out on Margie. I was furious. I was supposed to meet my girl friend and go to the "Y" for folk-dancing. Out of a clear sky, my mother said, "Dad's waiting for me downtown. He has a pass for the movies. Put Margie to bed and finish the kitchen."

My girl friend was disappointed too. She wanted to stay with me but I told her to go ahead and tell me all about it later. I was tempted to dress Margie again and take her along. That's how badly I wanted to go. Instead, I dumped Margie into bed and didn't even read to her the way I always do. They'll all have to learn I have some feelings too.

Mrs. T. C. - Gina knows we don't have money to spend on babysitters. For years my husband and I stayed home to take care of her and her baby sister. She was so proud the first time we left her in charge of Margie. She was a real little mother to that child. Suddenly she is sulking about minding Margie. She only wants to get away. It's such a change because she always adored the baby. There's seven years between them and, from the beginning, Gina said Margie was her baby, not ours. She played with her for hours.

What does she expect me to do, pay three or four dollars every time we go out? We give Gina a fair allowance and why shouldn't she do her share and earn it? Now that she has a chance to give us a little freedom, you'd think she'd be happy about it. Instead she seems to begrudge us our evenings off.

The Council: Beneath the surface of this argument, we see the fabric of a devoted family which can surely work out this problem of the fair

apportionment of time off. Evidently the C.'s haven't yet moved along to see Gina as an individual in her own right, not just as a daughter and sister. She can no longer be "assigned" as a possession or inanimate thing. While Gina respects her parents' wishes and orders, the missing ingredient here seems to be her parents' respect for her new teenage status. Gina's plans are important. So is her parents' need for recreation. Tackled as a family enterprise, the question of who stays home with Margie can be answered with some loving give-and-take and sympathetic flexibility. Incidentally, Mrs. C. mentions allowance and implies that Gina earns it, in part, by babysitting for her parents. This puts a rather crass face on what should be a labor of love, a contribution to family solidarity. Salary for services rendered is one thing and it can come from any employer. Allowance is another matter and is tangible evidence of a child's share in the family's affairs, and of faith in his ability to handle money. As a usual practice, there is something demeaning in paying a daughter to babysit for her own sister. Yes, Gina now has new plans, new moods - as she admits - and new feelings about her family. Taken with understanding and a sense of humor, these can strengthen the ties that bind them. She needs the ties, but she's asking that they change from ribbon to elastic. Nights out for all? Of course, but with Gina's parents still in charge, only glad to meet Gina halfway most of the time. (Copyright 1960, General Features Corp.)

Hatfield To Suggest Liquor Revenue Hike

Salem-UPJ-Gov. Mark Hatfield is recommending to the 1961 legislature that the state increase the cities' share of liquor revenues from 10 per cent to 15 per cent, his office said Tuesday.

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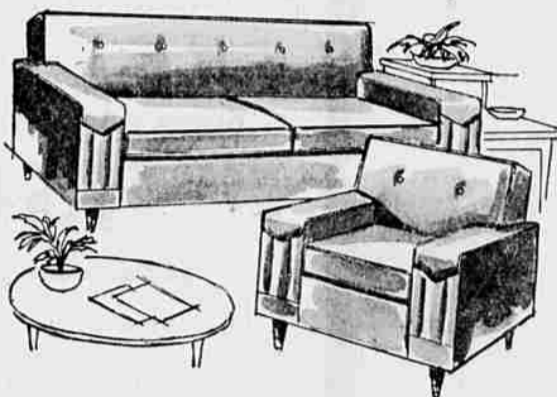
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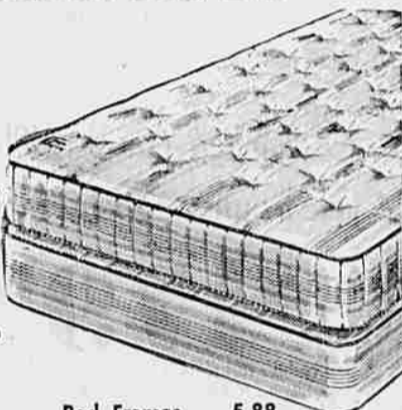
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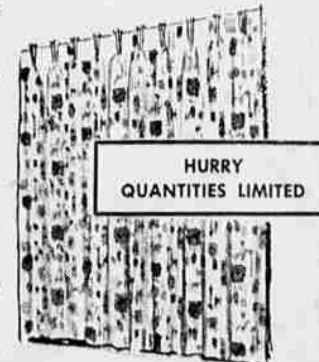
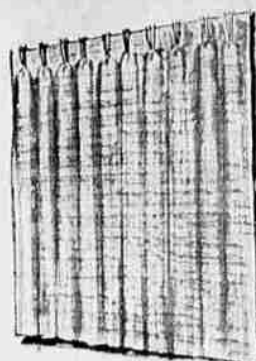
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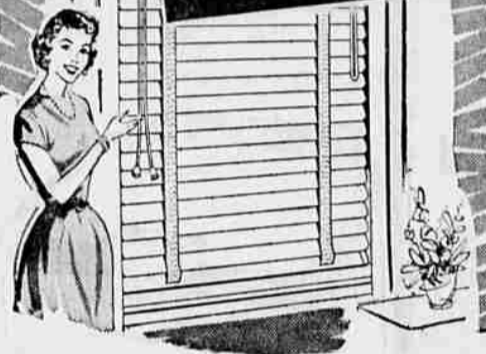
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