

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 a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Flo T. - Because of her theories, she's holding her child back.
Karen F. - I refused to let my child be pushed, just to show off.

Flo T. - I'm here from Denver, visiting my sister and her family. I'm particularly fascinated by my niece Debbie who's three years old, a year younger than my little boy. I hear Debbie babbling the A B C's. Then she pretends to read, holding the book upside down and even over her head. She seems ready and eager to read, but her mother ignores this and changes the subject with her, usually for Ring-A-Round-A-Rosy.

I'm amazed at Karen's stubbornness about this. Where I come from they encourage parents to teach pre-school kids to read. My son had a book at Debbie's age. He called it his favorite game. Unless Karen helps Debbie with the letters, the child will ask others and get all mixed up.

Karen F. - There's no one more unfortunate than a youngster who's being pushed to satisfy her parents' vanity. That was done to me and I don't want to repeat it with Debbie.

Why must a child of 3 read? Even Flo's little boy would be better off if they kept books away from him. By the time our children are eleven and twelve they'll probably read several books a week and no one will know or care when they learned or how, whether at 3 or at 7. But this is a child's age for sandbox and climbing and dancing.

Salem Newsman Going To London
 My sister is misled by Debbie's fun with books. It's only imitative. She sees my husband and me holding a book at every spare moment so she curls up with her Mother Goose for Aunt Flo.

The Council: When you gotta go, you gotta go, and when you gotta read, Karen, you gotta read. Controversy abounds on the question raised here, but the majority of experts feels that the Law of Readiness is the one to go by. There's a difference between forcing a pre-schooler to read and allowing her to do so.

Ploughing under, holding back any growth which is ready to function is an unhealthy process. Surrounded by words, words, and more

words, the child of 3, 4, and 5 cannot help but wonder about letters and sounds. They flash across TV commercials, outdoor signs, ever skywriting in the heavens. Interest and curiosity are inevitable. And those are the essentials for learning anything. Hence, many people say, "Seize the moment of greatest eagerness and get in the reading instruction while it's easy."

The project in Denver which Flo mentions is one of several where reading is presented to 3-year-olds as play, often the sort of active play Karen seeks for her daughter. Youngsters carry around large models of each letter, or mould them out of clay. They identify words flashed on screens from an electric typewriter. Sometimes they have their own typewriters on which to bang out letters and numbers.

"At their own pace" is the guiding rule for these courses. Karen must admit that it's a fair approach and that it works two ways. One has no more right to slow up a bright child than to push an average or dull one. And one can't be glib about a parent's motives. Usually the young child who reads really wanted to learn and wasn't hurried along so that his parents might brag.

To sum up, reading can be as much fun as painting, singing, sliding and swinging. Just because it's a skill that will be used all the child's life is no reason for postponing it until he's had his fill of other forms of fun. If Debbie's ready for reading, her mother's quibbling is foolish.

PROGRAM CRITICIZED
 Salem - Gov. Mark Hatfield's proposed \$45 million higher education building bonding program has been sharply criticized by Sen. Ward Cook (D-Portland).

Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS
 (Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)



Nature Selected Figure 7 As Magic Number of Bones
 One of the most amazing characteristics of the giraffe is its exceedingly long neck. That, and the fact the animal is prehistoric, make it a stand-out in the animal kingdom.

Alongside the giraffe in the zoo, not at all amazed at the company it keeps, will usually be one or more English sparrows. Here are two animals with very dissimilar necks - the very short neck of the sparrow and the very long one of the giraffe. Unbelievable as it sounds, there are over twice as many bones in the short neck of the sparrow as there are in the long-necked giraffe. The sparrow has 26 vertebrae; the big mammal only seven.

It must have been nature, not man's superstition, that selected the figure 7 as the magic number. Nature created all mammals from the tiny mouse up to the mighty whale - and including man - with this magic number of neck bones.

Train Hits Trailer, Scatters Pipe Load
 A trailer load of galvanized pipe was scattered for about 100 yards along the tracks Thursday when a Southern Pacific company locomotive and an Armo Metal Products truck were involved in a collision at the railroad crossing on Table Rock rd. near Kirtland rd.

State police said that the collision occurred about 9:25 a.m. Front end of the locomotive was badly damaged and the semi-trailer attached to the truck was demolished. There were no personal injuries, police reported.

Driver of the truck was Rex Arellanes, 52, Portland. Armo is a Portland firm. Engineer of the locomotive, which was towing 31 cars, was John David Burgoyne, 47, Klamath Falls.

and all the mammals in between, with only seven neck bones, are handicapped to some degree. Man can turn his head far enough to either side to look over either shoulder, or can tip the head up or down. But birds can turn their heads almost completely around; bend their neck in a crook, a loop or almost a circle, or, as the great blue heron frequently does, bend the neck in the shape of the letter S.

The neck in all living creatures is a continuation of the backbone, and the backbone classifies the animal as a vertebrate. But enters here a seeming contradiction: the fish is a vertebrate as it possesses a backbone, but it has no neck. It just can't turn its head at all. The fish must turn its entire body, but this proves no real problem. In the environments in which the fish lives, a "stiff neck" or no neck at all is a decided advantage. Could the fish turn its head, the added resistance against the water would slow its forward progress. So instead of having a flexible neck the fish turns its entire body and continues a straight line.

Lacks Flexibility
 The neck of the giraffe lacks the flexibility of the swan's neck, but inasmuch as the long neck gets the animal's head up where the foliage is fresh and green, it serves its purpose. If the poor old giraffe had as many neck bones as the swan, he would be able to bend his neck in order to eat or to drink from a pool without having to straddle his long legs out at such ridiculous angles.

That's where the birds have it all over all the other animals in having so many neck bones: their necks have extreme flexibility. The birds' way of life dictates the number of vertebrae in the neck. The swan needs 23 to make its neck about as flexible as a piece of rubber hose. It comes in handy in reaching down to the bottom of shallow water.

All the other bird species - sparrow, robin, owl, heron, eagle - have to get along with 16 neckbones, but even that many makes it possible for the bird to crook its neck into seemingly impossible positions. By twisting the neck, the bird can clean and oil every feather on its body.

They'll Do It Every Time



Court Records

DISTRICT COURT
 James Talmage Rook, no lights, \$2.50.
 Elaine Nelson, 52 of route 1, box 318, Talent, driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, \$300.
 Ralph Howard Bennett, failure to stop at scene of accident, \$35.
 John Emery Courson, failure to stop, \$7.50.
 Ralph Laroy Bateson, overload, \$40.
 Roy Lee Jackson, disobeyed stop sign, \$7.50.
 Grant Edward Cochran, failure to stop, \$15.
 Ralph Gail Wise, no vehicle license, \$5.
 Elmer Fred Peterson, drunk on public highway, \$100.
 Norman Robert Mallon, overload, \$72.
 George Albert South, overload, \$15.

CIRCUIT COURT
 Vivian A. Shepard vs. Thomas D. Shepard, divorce complaint.

Cascade Snow Lack 'Alarming'

Portland - (UP) - The lack of snow in the Cascades is "alarming," W. T. Frost, snow survey supervisor for the Soil Conservation Service, said Friday.

Snow level at key points in the Cascades in mid-January was less than one-sixth normal, he said.

Frost said the situation was similar to 1959 which produced subnormal water supplies for irrigation.

Stream flow in the middle fork of the Willamette was only 29 per cent of average, in the Rogue about 33 per cent of average and in the John Day river 29 per cent of average, he said. Below normal precipitation, along with freezing weather, is responsible.

Portland Woman Dies When Struck by Car

Portland - (UP) - Mrs. Jennie Henry, 44, Portland, was killed when she was struck by a car here Wednesday night.

STAY REFUSED
 Olympia, Wash. - (UP) - The state supreme court has refused to save condemned murderer Joseph Chester Self from the gallows.

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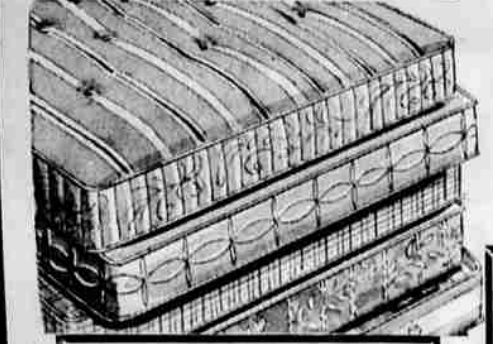
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	26" Pullman Case	37.95	26.97
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