



Jim and Carolyn Landess share a rare quiet moment.

DOES A TEEN-AGE MARRIAGE WORK ?

For each other, Jim and Carolyn Landess have given up the hopes and pleasures of youth; theirs will be a rare story only if their happiness continues to outweigh their disappointments

By JOHN HOCHMANN



Teeth clenched over his pipe, Jim teaches Lisa Mae to drink from cup instead of bottle.

AT FIRST SIGHT Jim and Carolyn Landess seem too old to play "house." In their Fort Wayne, Ind., apartment, 20-year-old Jim, in T-shirt and cotton pants, lounges over an accounting textbook, sucking at a pipe that does not quite fit a face still showing some of the traces of adolescence.

Meanwhile, Carolyn finishes the supper dishes with the gawky, deliberate motions of a 16-year-old; she still wears the sneakers and socks she put on that morning to go to school.

But Jim and Carolyn are not playing. This becomes clear when 8-month-old Lisa Mae awakens in the baby carriage which doubles as her crib, crying for her bottle.

Jim and Carolyn Landess are not unusual in their age group. Early dating, going steady, more spending money, the idealization of marriage by TV and motion pictures, the unsettled world situation, in some cases the desire to avoid military service, all have resulted in a rising number of teen-age marriages.

Many teen-agers undoubtedly marry to escape adolescent responsibilities, and it is the shock of marriage's even heavier burdens that often wrecks these unions. Yet Jim and Carolyn have assumed their obligations willingly, and in the opinion of Central High School's dean of girls, theirs is the only marriage in the school likely to last.

Jim and Carolyn first met when she was 10. Jim was the newspaper delivery boy, and he ignored the crush Carolyn had on him. But when she was 13, Jim took another look and they began dating. Jim was a shy boy,

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