



Jim takes a break from stock-clerk job to ponder future while Carolyn arrives late for school.

## TEEN-AGE MARRIAGE (Continued)

and Carolyn says he wouldn't kiss her until they had been going steady for a week.

They were married when Carolyn was 15 and Jim was in his senior year. Since Lisa Mae was born, Carolyn attends classes three hours a day, and though her grades dropped while she and Jim were dating (she had been an "A" student), they have gone up again since the marriage.

Jim completed high school after marriage, and now he studies accounting at night at Fort Wayne Commercial College while keeping a full-time job as a stock clerk.

**T**HEIR DAY begins at 6:30 when Carolyn gets up, feeds Lisa Mae, and prepares Jim's breakfast. Jim eats while Carolyn fixes his lunch, then leaves for work. Carolyn then does the dishes, makes the bed, and takes care of the baby. Her mother comes in at 8, and Carolyn hurries off to school.

After school, Carolyn prepares dinner, and after dinner Jim rushes off to night school while Carolyn does dishes and homework. Jim gets home at 9:30, does his own homework, and reads the paper. They watch TV for a while and go to bed. Lisa Mae can have no idea how tired her parents are when she wakes up crying; once after staying up with her nearly all night, Carolyn

fell asleep on the bus and passed her stop.

Jim pays the bills and gives Carolyn \$20 a week for food, \$2 for bus fares, and \$1 for church. They pay \$10 a week to rent their three-room apartment. Sometimes they go to a drive-in movie, occasionally to a dance, while a grandparent baby-sits. On weekends they do homework together. Once in a while Jim goes off with his friends for a day of fishing while Carolyn reads and works crossword puzzles.

How has a teen-age marriage changed their lives? Carolyn had planned to go to college for scientific training. Jim had planned to join the Army and make the service a career. Though Carolyn's mother was heartbroken at the marriage at first, the two are now reconciled. Carolyn herself, who seems the more mature partner in the marriage, has no regrets—except perhaps having to give up baton twirling for Central High because married students are forbidden to participate in extracurricular activities. "I cried," she recalls, "at the first game I wasn't allowed to twirl."

Jim says he loves Carolyn and the baby, but adds: "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't get married at such an early age." He accepts the burdens of marriage, but sometimes resents them.



When old unmarried friends get out of school, Carolyn stops chores to watch them pass by house.

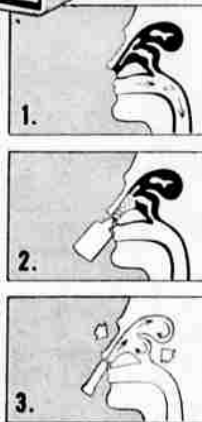
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