caring is basic

by Don Hollister

The ability to care for another person, to put someone else's needs ahead of one's own, is essential both for creating a family and creating community. Infants, and to a lesser extent older children, require almost constant care in order for them to develop fully. Emotional care and attention to physical needs are required.

"Constant care" does not mean continual attention, but children do thrive best in a constant atmosphere of loving interaction in which adults are available and sensitive to more than routine maintenance. Much as a plant may barely survive, or thrive, on the nutrients that are available in the soil and air, so children can only grow to the extent that their physical, emotional and psychic environment nourishes them. A child's environment requires input and support to remain nourishing as does the soil to maintain fertility.

Community has similar needs. Only to the degree that people give to others with no expectation of direct return will there be community. Not only the individuals in it, but the community itself needs to be cared for. Caring is very much the essence of both child rearing and community building, and the need for caring is never ending. Community never grows beyond the necessity of selfless behavior. Similarly, adults stop developing without continued love and support.

So we come full circle in caring. Children need care. Adults need care. And the basis of fellowship among adults is caring. This circle of caring is community in its fullest form.

Life is not quite so perfect, and it may be less and less so as more and more people have limited experience with caring. In the previous issue of this NEWSLETTER, Urie Bronfenbrenner expresses his concern that perhaps American parents care less nowadays for their children than in the past. He suggests that if this is indeed the case, the reason is that parents are less cared for themselves.

Through the ages family and community have been the chief agencies for transmitting human culture from generation to generation. Character is largely fixed in early life. As children see parents and neighbors in many relationships and activities, what they learn becomes second nature. The mutual confidence and respect, co-operation, integrity, and sharing of burdens of the community are the foundations of civilization. Where community dies these qualities weaken.

-Arthur Morgan
How can parents be expected to care for children if the parents are not cared for themselves? Taking care of a child's physical needs and providing loving attention is one of society's most difficult and demanding jobs. People should be greatly supported and rewarded as dedicated caretakers. This is what makes a supportive community of friends, neighbors, and family so important. The stronger the adult circle of caring, the easier it is for parents to care for children.

With increasing urbanization and the accompanying mobility, community has declined. Parents are less likely in today's relatively fragmented society, to have relatives or friends nearby for emotional support. This in turn makes the stress of raising children ever more difficult. As community has decayed and more and more of the caretakers have entered the workforce, the need for a child care "system" has increased.

To approach the child care problem by proposing increased spending on child care centers is ignoring the real problem. Institutions are a stop gap remedy at best. What long term good can child care centers do without humans that care for each other? No matter how hard we try to perfect a child care system with professional staff, sanitation standards, mental health guidelines, the latest educational toys and parent input, more and more children will still grow up without the enduring, mutually satisfying interaction with one or more adults that is necessary for a child's full development. To establish a permanent system of child care will reinforce a negative cycle of deprivation.

Many children today can benefit from a child care center part of the day. A single parent who has to work and has no one to help in child care needs somewhere to turn. Similarly, when both parents need to work and have nowhere else to leave their children, a child care center may be a great boon. Child care centers, however, are an inadequate substitute for personal, one-to-one continuing contact with a parent or an adult friend. As such, these institutions should be viewed only as a bandage until the individual situation and the wider social conditions can be improved. It would be short sighted to advocate extensive programs of child care centers other than in the context of a wider movement towards the improved family and community conditions under which such centers would be unnecessary.

How can we move towards a situation in which community and family can thrive? Much has been written on the disintegrative nature of modern life. It is as if contemporary life was designed to squelch personal caring behavior. One teacher has twenty-five or forty students in a classroom and perhaps five times that throughout one day. Parents are forced to work two jobs overtime in order to support their family. People move so often that neighborly trust and friendships are routinely broken off. Outside of the supportive atmosphere of an extended family and a network of friends it is very hard to maintain a sense of caring. Fellowship is based on caring, and caring needs the sustenance of fellowship. Where this circle of community has been broken it is hard to create anew, yet the re-creation of community is what is needed.

Everyone is in community to some extent. Everyone has acquaintances, neighbors, friends, relations. Improvements in this face-to-face community requires an awareness of the nature of the contacts. A review of the routine contacts with neighbors, people at work, friends, and relatives can be very revealing. Who cares for whom? In what ways? How is it expressed? Where do children fit in? Is the responsibility for the children shared? Through paying attention to other people as individuals and becoming aware of the ways in which people interact, the ground is set for a sense of caring to grow.

There is no hope for the success of a national program or a formula for local action to improve community life and child care without changing the hearts and minds of people. An uncaring social environment breeds uncaring people who design uncaring
institutions. The result is a society which is dependent upon day care centers, schools, mental health clinics and nursing homes to supply "professional" care. Only by simple, yet profound changes in the attitudes and behavior of individuals can the cycle be broken.

Each act of kindness reinforces any tendency towards similar behavior in others. Caring is contagious.

In order to develop, a child needs the enduring, irrational involvement of one or more adults in care and joint activity with the child.

The psychological development of the child is brought about through his continuing involvement in progressively more complex patterns of reciprocal activity with persons with whom the child develops a strong and enduring mutual emotional attachment.

The involvement of caretaker and child in patterns of progressively more complex reciprocal activity generates an emotional bond, enhanced motivation, and cognitive and manipulative skills that are mutually reinforcing to both participants, are then reflected in the child's competence and cooperation in other situations, and thereby facilitate the child's future development.

To develop the enduring involvement of one or more adults in care, activity, etc. requires social policies and practices that provide opportunity, status, encouragement, example, and approval for parenthood.

-Urie Bronfenbrenner

The Vanier Institute of the Family was founded in 1965 by the then Governor-General George Vanier. It was a visionary achievement which brought together men and women who knew that the contribution of families is vitally important and ultimately shapes the world in which we live.

If our technological, economic and social efforts are to "influence significantly the creation of a more humanly purposeful and directed society—a familial society—they can do so only on the basis of our reperception of the nature of those mediating processes and the way in which we use them in our daily lives."

The Vanier Institute's studies clearly indicate that people have lost sight that communication is first and foremost a human interchange between and among persons and that the technology needs to become more person-based and oriented to human interaction because, whatever the content, the media of communication themselves are the means by which we shape the future.

The Institute questions the current heavy placement of emphasis and resources into the formal educational systems without equal attention to other non-institutional but fundamentally important centers of learning experiences such as the family.

Their studies also demonstrate that families and communities are moving toward increasingly new economic patterns of a self-reliant nature and that this must be taken into account in any efforts by policymakers.

Mr. Alan Mirabelli, Coordinator of Communication and Information at The Vanier Institute of the Family, plans to represent the Institute at the Community Service Conference on Children and Community in July.
Children and Community Conference -- July 27-29

Who cares for the children? And who cares for those who care? How do we show it? These are the concerns which will be addressed at our conference this year. Our focus will be on children and families and their need for community. Urie Bronfenbrenner's article, "Who Cares for America's Children?", in the previous two NEWSLETTERS, is a resource for our topic. We will consider the following questions: How do we show our concern for those who do the parenting whether they are biological parents or not? What can we do in our communities to help industries and businesses become aware of the needs of those who do the parenting? What kind of things can we do in our own place of work and neighborhood to show our concern for the needs of parents?

Resource people will be Thomas Abel, Director of Education at St. Margaret's Hospital and founder of New South Lifestyles, a family fellowship group in Montgomery, Alabama; Alan Mirabelli of the program staff at the Vanier Institute of the Family in Ottawa, Canada, a research and publishing organization concerned with the many aspects of family life; and Dorothy Clark, Director of Head Start Programs in Greene County, Ohio.

We will gather at the Outdoor Education Center of Antioch College, in the beautiful "Glen Helen," Yellow Springs, Ohio on Friday, July 27th, to register at 6:00 PM. The first session will be at 7:30 PM and the closing session will be on Sunday, July 29th at 1:00 PM. The first meal will be Saturday breakfast.

We will be housed in the Outdoor Education Center dorms with 16 bunks per room. The cost will be $44 per adult and half price for children under 12. There will be no charge for infants under 1 year.

Those planning on coming should bring sleeping bags or bedding and musical instruments. If you forget bedding, it can be rented for an additional $1.75.

For experience of community fellowship and to keep costs low, attenders are asked to help with meal preparation and clean-up and with child care at certain times.

For further information and registration form please write Community Service, Box 243, Yellow Springs, Ohio, 45387. Phone 767-2161 or 767-1461, area 513.

Conference on Living in Christian Community

Intentional living means living by design. In a summer conference held at Camp Kanuga, an Episcopalian Center, open to all faiths, near Hendersonville, North Carolina, a small group will live in a community that is Christian by design. Christian community is part of every Kanuga conference. Yet this occurs while the group is pursuing another, more specific topic.

LIVING INTENTIONALLY IN A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY is a different kind of conference, devoted to learning about Christian community as it can be lived right now. From August 18-24 Camp Kanuga will become a community.

Inspired by Christian communities such as Koinonia, Wellspring, and Alleluia, LIVING INTENTIONALLY IN A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY will be coordinated by the Reverend William Coolidge. Bill is the rector of St. Paul's, Cary, N. C. He is particularly interested in the relationship of community, spirituality and mission.

"Our goal is to provide a setting where we learn from each other what compassionate living means in the context of Christian community," Bill said. "Individuals and families are encouraged to attend this event if they have a yearning for a spirit of community in their own lives. Children are especially welcome."

Special emphasis will be given to simple living and good simple food with the opportunity for physical work undergirded by individual Bible study, prayer, solitude and group reflection.
Save money by buying these first six BASIC BOOKS as a package for $10 plus postage.

THE COMMUNITY OF THE FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY
1957. Arthur E. Morgan
A view of community potential and its aspects. Suggestions for community improvement are made: cooperation between communities, local government, economic life, recreation, religion, intentional communities.
166 pp. Paper/$2.00

THE SMALL COMMUNITY AS EDUCATOR & HUMAN SCALE IN SCHOOLS
1970. Griscom & Arthur Morgan
The small community as fundamental to the education of youth.
School size and America's future. Biological and physiological effects of large school populations.
22 pp. Paper/$1.00

GUIDEBOOK FOR INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES
1977. ed. by Community Service Staff
Theory and practice for conscious community living. Background and perspective from experience of successful intentional communities in pioneering a better social order and way of life. Fundamentals for community living. Education. Economics.
43 pp. Paper/$2.00

THE HERITAGE OF COMMUNITY
1956. ed. by Arthur & Griscom Morgan
64 pp. Paper/$1.50

HELPING OURSELVES: FAMILIES AND THE HUMAN NETWORK
1975. Mary C. Howell
How families can help each other more and depend on professionals less, particularly in the areas of child care, education, and health care, by forming networks of kin, friends, neighbors, and communities of identity with whom we can share energy, knowledge, services, disclosure and trust.
Beacon Press.
231 pp. *Paper/$4.95

THE HERITAGE OF THE COMMUNITY HERITAGE
1971. Griscom Morgan
What is the place of mankind's heritage from the small community in this modern world of giant corporations, metropolis, atomic power and huge universities? Essential elements of culture are being lost in modern society because of inadequate understanding of their reality and their profound role in life. An appendix summarizes a social field theory.
23 pp. Paper/$1.00

THE COMMUNITY'S NEED FOR AN ECONOMY
1969. Griscom Morgan
Local community economics are of national as well as local importance. Our monetary system and economic assumptions contribute to the disintegration of community economy. Morgan suggests ways to change our system in order to foster local economies.
31 pp. Paper/$.75

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZER'S HANDBOOK
1977. Rachelle and Donald Warren
237 pp. *Paper/$4.95
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1956. ed. by Arthur and Griscom Morgan
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LANDSCAPE FOR HUMANS
1972. Peter van Dresser
A modern development plan based ecologically upon the human and natural resources of its region. Outlines alternative human objectives, approaches for strengthening community, infusing new vitality into the already existing patterns. Written for New Mexico, but of general interest to community builders.
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THE COMMUNITY OF THE FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY
1957. Arthur E. Morgan
A view of community potential and its aspects. Suggestions for community improvement are made: cooperation between communities, local government, economic life, recreation, religion, intentional communities.
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THE SMALL TOWN BOOK
1978. James and Carolyn Robertson
A description of seven small towns working to build and renew community as they fight poverty, taxes, growth, and government regulations. An inspiring look at the vitality and future of rural America.
208 pp. paper/$5.95

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A brief statement on the importance of the small community; how to achieve it; vision for the future.
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Local community economics are of national as well as local importance. Our monetary system and economic assumptions contribute to the disintegration of community economy. Morgan suggests ways to change our system in order to foster local economies.
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14 pp. paper/$1.00

HOW TO SAVE FREE ENTERPRISE
1974. Arthur O. Dahlberg
A brilliant economist's presentation of a new inflation -- and depression-free order, the same that Community Service has presented for decades. Devin-Adair.
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CAPITALISM'S DEFECTIVE MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE
1977. Arthur Dahlberg
A succinct digest of Dahlberg's How To Save Free Enterprise. Graphic representation of economic forces and trends, showing how a profound benefit to society can come from needed modification in the financial system. Devin-Adair.
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THE LIBERATION OF WORK
1969. Folkert Wilken. Foreword by E. F. Schumacher
How the business enterprise can take steps towards a new social order. Case studies of businesses that are "working communities." Roy Publishers.
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A new economic order will require new skills and attitudes. How this is being approached in the Akron, Ohio, ghetto.
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1972. Brown, Kaplan and Morgan
The economic, political and administrative dynamics of metropolitan population congestion and the decline of small communities today and how it can be reversed.
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SIMPLICITY OF ECONOMIC REALITY
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Non-inflationary full employment by a taxed currency. Historical evidence and theory. Reveals economic forces that today, as in past civilizations, destroy social health.
42 pp. paper/$1.50

THE BIG IDOL
1963. Richard Gregg
Discusses the nature of money, and its different functions: "a medium of exchange, a measure of value, transferrer of value, a symbol of trust." Gregg advocates a demurrage currency. Navajivan Publishing House.
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From a full life as leader and inspirer within the decentralist, community and peace movements, "Ralph Templin offers us a vision of what a new kind of society, a non-violent society, could be like." -- from A. J. Muste's introduction. This book helps in the thinking through that each one of us needs to do in order to be effective in social change. Porter Sargent. 334 pp. *cloth/$4.00

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Utopias are as essential to human society as plans are essential for building bridges. This book discusses the interaction of utopian vision and existing societies. The central example is Thomas More's UTOPIA and the Incan Empire. 234 pp. cloth/$5.00

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Study of harmful effects from high population densities of large cities through history.
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INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES DIRECTORY
Communities Magazine
An annual listing of intentional community groups with brief descriptions.
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LIVING TOGETHER IN A WORLD FALLING APART: A Handbook on Christian Community
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THE MAGIC OF FINDHORN
1976. Paul Hawken
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STRANGE CULTS AND UTOPIAS OF 19TH-CENTURY
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nity, of which Noyes was the founder. In-
cludes interpretive commentary speculating
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to successful societies. Dover Publications, Inc.
678 pp. *paper/$4.50

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1875 (1966). Charles Nordhoff
A first-hand report of the major 18th
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One of the best accounts of 17th through
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Simple Living

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1975. American Friends Service Committee, San Francisco
A how-to-do-it for simple living, personal and social change. Clear, concise and very useful.
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1976. Richard Gardner
A listing of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and descriptions of 5,000 alternative lifestyle groups and organizations. Includes a zip code sorted geographical listing, an alphabetically sorted name listing, and an alphabetically sorted listing by descriptive keywords.
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FOOD CO-OPS: AN ALTERNATIVE TO SHOPPING IN SUPERMARKETS
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A manual for starting and operating a food cooperative. Includes a list of nationwide wholesalers who supply co-ops and a national food co-op directory. Beacon Press.
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Education

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The small community is fundamental to the education of youth.
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PIONEERING IN EDUCATION REQUIRES PIONEERING IN COMMUNITY
1973. Community Service Staff
On higher education and community. Landrum Bolling, former President of Earlham College, wrote: "... it is an exceptionally fine number. I am concerned about the general failure of liberal arts colleges to achieve either community or a meaningful vision of a liberating life."
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DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
1978. New Schools Exchange
Practical information on: alternative community schools; adult community education; home study; operating a community program; parenting; choosing a school. Includes listing of alternative community schools, bibliography, and curriculum enrichment guide.
124 pp. *paper/$5.00

FAMILY DAY CARE
1976. Alice H. Collins and Eunice L. Watson
A comprehensive guidebook for the cooperative community approach to child day care. Includes information regarding informal family day care, co-op child care exchanges, family day care associations, and day care neighbor services. Beacon Press.
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JOIN US. Each person who contributes $10 or more becomes a member of Community Service, Inc. Members who can attend the annual members' meeting may apply for "voting member" status. Membership includes a subscription to the NEWSLETTER. Our NEWSLETTER is a vehicle for sharing experience, information and ideas about community.

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Book Reviews

FAMILY DAY CARE by Alice H. Collins and Eunice L. Watson, Beacon Press, paper, $3.95, 1976, 144 pages. (Available from Community Service for list price plus 50¢ postage and handling.)

Family Day Care is a comprehensive guidebook giving practical day-to-day advice to parents, caregivers, organizers, and professionals for the cooperative community approach to child day care. The benefits for both children and adults are assessed. Whether on a paid or a rotating cooperative basis, this arrangement for child care has significant emotional advantages for children and offers adults a promising area for self-fulfillment.

Information is given regarding informal family day care, co-op child care exchanges, family day care associations, and day care neighbor services.

COMING TOGETHER by Dave Jackson, Bethany Fellowship, Inc., paper, $3.95, 1978, 200 pages. (Available from Community Service for list price plus 50¢ postage and handling.)

The newest addition to Community Service's booklist is an attractive paperback entitled Coming Together. It was written by Dave Jackson, the co-author of Living Together in a World Falling Apart, which is also available from Community Service. His newest book is the story of a growing network of Christian churches and communities whose "total commitment is to discovering and doing God's will in the context of a local, self-conscious body of believers living with and under the authority of the Lord."

The author describes the various styles and purposes of some of these congregations and church-communities with much attention to individual struggles and successes. He cites the spiritual and practical benefits of "living in the context of a Christian sub-culture" and offers organizational and personal guidelines for successful community life. The selected list of 100 Christian communities in the appendix is expanded from the one that appeared in Living Together and includes a brief description of each.

Community Service Activities

RECENT VISITORS:

Chris Schaefer, co-director of the Centre for Social Development at Emerson College in Sussex, England. He shares an interest in Rudolf Steiner's social ideas with our staff member Don Hollister.

Mary & Lloyd Danzeisen and Elizabeth See-berg from Cincinnati, Ohio, were here in April to talk with our Land Trust Committee about the possibility of starting a land trust for southwestern Ohio.

Pete Claussen, Director of the Office of Tributary Development (community development) at the Tennessee Valley Authority. His visit grew out of correspondence with the TVA's new progressive Chairman, David Freeman.

NEW PUBLICATION. A bibliography on "Parenting and Childcare" is available from Community Service for 30¢ in stamps. This is an outgrowth of our studies in preparation for this summer's conference on "Children and Community."

BACK ISSUES of the NEWSLETTER are available. The assortment of 16 issues available from 1974-78 is yours for $1.50 while they last. Sets of varying number on specific topics may be ordered at $.50 per topic. Specify: education, Raven Rocks Community (3 issues), Mitraniketan (6), Cel0 Community (2), economics, Arthur Morgan, Conference reports (4).
Economics in Society

By Griscom Morgan

The different aspects of society cannot be dealt with in isolation from each other. The problems of inflation, unbalanced federal budgets, unemployment, war, failing communities—and inadequate child care—are all bound together. Underlying and greatly contributing to them is a simple cause for which an effective solution is available.

Consider the increase in federal deficits. In 1930 the public debt per person was $131. By 1950 it had increased more than ten times. Beginning after the second World war until 1976 federal deficits increased, progressively, multiplying to be one hundred and thirty times as great. The great depression happened because wealthier people with more money than they needed to spend stopped investing their surplus income, which then flowed out of circulation. This left an inadequate market and the collapse of employment. The Roosevelt administration borrowed and taxed that income and put it back into circulation through government spending. Whenever the government stopped borrowing that flow of income, another depression ensued, ending profitable investment when there was too poor a market.

More government spending programs had to follow and were inflationary, putting money into circulation without producing goods. Federal indebtedness per person increased to $3,117 in 1977 and private indebtedness increased twenty-five fold in twenty-five years. Indebtedness to whom?

The growth in the financial burden caused money to flow into financial centers and people had to move to the cities where the money had gone, making our cities displaced persons concentration camps and unfit for humane living. Labor is driven to work exhaustively with both spouses working to keep us with living costs, leaving their children ill cared for.

Per capita debt in the United States—public and private—now exceeds $16,000 per person, with interest and principle owing to a small proportion of the population. All the functions and relationships in society are harmfully affected.

All of this is a consequence of the financial system in which there is no necessity for people with money to invest comparable to that of farmer, merchant or industry to sell goods, or workers without employment benefits to labor. Capital consequently asks and gets higher remuneration than the economy can afford to pay, leaving people and schools with inadequate time and resources for child care.

Whole eras of civilization have been free from this problem of artificial scarcity by the simple circumstance that currency was designed to include a depreciation similar to that of the goods which are the ultimate security for living. The standard of value—equivalent to the dollar—was constant. The currency was secured by real goods that a people must have in reserve. But in contradistinction to the standard of value, the currency lost value to cover the depreciation and storage costs of these goods so that it could not be held out of circulation without loss. With this simple change in the financial system, civilizations have had full employment, freedom from inflation, healthy stable small communities, leisure for wholesome living and child rearing, and freedom and incentive to give good care to land and natural resources—within a free market economy.

This is not politically feasible today because it would take from capital its whip hand over society, giving it necessity to actively invest even at very low interest rates. But it is possible for aware communities to benefit from such a sound economic order. The family and child care can then be on a very different basis than under "capitalism."
MEMBERSHIP is a means of supporting and sharing the work of Community Service. A $10 annual contribution includes a subscription to our NEWSLETTER. A subscription alone is $5 per year, $6 outside the U.S. COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC., is a non-profit corporation which depends on contributions so that it can offer its services freely to those who need them. All contributions are appreciated, needed and are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

EDITOR'S NOTE
We not only welcome letters to the editor, but articles about any exceptional communities you know of or people who are doing unusual things to improve the life in their towns. Anyone submitting an article should enclose a self-addressed envelope if he/she wishes it returned if we cannot use it. The only recompense for use we can offer is the pleasure of seeing it in print and knowing that you have spread a good and useful idea.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND?
Do you have a friend who might be interested in Community Service's work and publications? One of the most helpful ways of supporting CS is to send the names and addresses of friends who you think should receive a sample of our NEWSLETTER and a copy of our booklist. If you wish a specific issue of our NEWSLETTER sent to your friends, please send 15¢ postage per name.

STAFF
Don Hollister, Jane Folmer, Gris Morgan, and Jane Morgan, editor.

CONSULTATION
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Conference '79

CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY, conference at
Yellow Springs, July 27-29
See page 4

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