



Monica Foley finds that time is in short supply in holding down a full-time job as an account executive with Xerox and the demanding job of being a mother to Sean, 11, Adam, 8, and Matthew, 9.

— Nancy Hoskin

Working

By NANCY HOSKIN

Monica Foley juggles a demanding career as an account executive for Xerox with her role as mother of three children — Sean, 11, Matthew 9½, and Adam 8.

Before she and her husband began their family she worked for IBM as a support person and manager before embarking in a lucrative career in sales.

Eleven years ago when she was first pregnant, daycare was not as comfortable to deal with as it is today, she explained. With a husband who travelled nearly three weeks out of the month the decision was made to stay at home when Sean was born.

"It was a very hard adjustment, and consequently it lasted three weeks before I was ready to work again, at anything," Mrs. Foley said.

She started working part-time, four days a week which included one weekend day selling pine furniture.

"It was ideal at the time because I could take Sean with me," she said.

Next on the scene was Matthew

and almost and immediately following, Adam. With three to take care of now, working outside the home wasn't practical. Monica joined in, like other mothers, with swimming lessons, library outings, gym, friends, etc., as well as, involving herself in different activities — The Markham Little Theater and courses offered at Markham High School.

"I always felt something was missing. I started a small catering business with a friend, but it wasn't enough. I was missing out on the professional world. I missed business, the communication, the contacts and felt I was losing the competitive edge. The fear of falling behind the technology was frightening," Mrs. Foley explained.

"At about this time, when Adam, our youngest was three, a friend who was working at Xerox asked me if I was considering working again, I said I had been thinking about it, and before I knew it I had an interview and an offer with the company," she said.

Accepting the position was the easiest decision for Mrs. Foley, next came the trying moments of finding the right child care and preparing the children.

"My husband and I had had conversations about joining the work force again and came up with certain criteria I'd have to meet," she said. "Finding a nanny would be of prime importance. I had to make sure that the salary I would be earning would cover the extra help, my wardrobe, as I had lived in jeans and sweatsuits for six years, and my transportation, as I would be driving to the city."

Mrs. Foley worked on hiring a nanny immediately. She explained that it was a confidence builder in getting the job so quickly, but a huge worry in making sure you find someone capable to trust your family to who can maintain your household.

"It was difficult for Brian (Mr. Foley) at first, being raised in a traditional environment, but he got used to the fact that I was back in full swing in the work force," she said.

A three week training course took Mrs. Foley away from her family for 21 days, probably the most traumatic experience for the boys, she explained.

"I was torn between leaving them for that long period of time and doing something that would make me feel whole," she said.

With a husband and wife team both working full-time, the

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