

**Both father and mother**

# Single mother has her trials

By NANCY HOSKIN

They were happily married. They had three young children. She never expected that her husband would run off with 'the other woman'. There she was, left alone, to run the household and care for her children.

Sounds like a dime store novel, but this same scenario happened, but this Markham resident and mother of three, has been handling life as a single parent for six years.

Her former husband married his 'new love', left Markham for greener pastures leaving Joan (not her real name) and her brood of three, now aged 9, 11 and 13, to fend for themselves.

Joan had left her job as a computer programmer when her first child was born, and was thankful to have had prior work experience when she was forced back into the working world.

Joan insists that a university degree behind her and prior experience helped make life easier when applying for positions.

The last six years of her life

have been solely committed to her children. She quickly realized that a single parent must combine the love and understanding of a female figure with the strong, protective patience of a father figure. The freedom to enjoy her own company and maintain her favorite hobbies was lost.

As her children grow up and are able to care for themselves without as much guidance, Joan is able to spend some time on herself.

She is now taking a night course in a subject she has always enjoyed. The worst problem, when the children were younger, she explained, was finding sitters.

"Finding babysitters who were older than my own kids was hard. Finding sitters during the daytime was a real problem." Her oldest daughter is 13 now and able to take charge occasionally, Joan said.

"You find out who your friends are when a marriage breaks up," says Joan. After being married 13 years, Joan found the pains of divorce and constant conflict with

her ex-husband trying, but has, in the last three years, been able to cope with her new lifestyle and responsibilities.

After becoming a successful single parent, whether by choice or necessity, it takes a lot of effort to make friends.

"There are plenty of single people out there. You meet them through friends or by chance. If you don't meet a great variety through your job, joining clubs and groups is a great way to make new friends, who many times can relate to your situation," Joan said.

With no father around, it took all her energy to care for her children. All of them have active extra curricular schedules. Her son, for example, played numerous hockey games this year, and at nearly all of them Joan could be seen in the bleachers cheering his team to victory.

"The male environment that surrounds hockey has been very important for him, because his dad just hasn't been there for him," she said.

The three children help with household chores each weekend, do yardwork, have learned to make their own dinner when mom has to work late and have, for the most part, have become independent.

"There is a big difference between mine and the children I see whose mother is home all the time. My kids have to learn to be independent; they don't have a choice."

Joan is proud of the fact that each child is good in school, with the youngest in fourth grade.

Joan is sole financial supporter for her family, having purchased her home in Markham over two years ago as her only investment.

"It is a good atmosphere for the children to grow up in a neighborhood with friends close by," Joan said.

Though the three children are too young to fully understand the responsibilities their mother

deals with daily, they are supportive and thoughtful.

"You do what you have to do," Joan said. "Basically you have to build a new life. My family is supportive and we see my husband's family during the holidays." Joan expects there will be no

further hardships down the road.

"It's still hard when a major decision has to be made and you don't have anyone to discuss it with. You learn and grow because you're on your own, there isn't any another choice."

## Taco salad has Mexican flavor

### TACO SALAD

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 1 green pepper
- 3 - 4 green onions
- 8 oz. Catalina dressing or taco sauce
- 2 - 3 tomatoes
- 1 small head of lettuce
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 bag plain taco chips

Prepare ground beef with seasoning according to package directions. Chop and fry bacon well. Cool both well. Finely chop and mix remaining ingredients except dressing and chips. Mix with cooled meat and refrigerate. Just before serving crush chips and mix with dressing and salad.

Mrs. Diane Yaskovitch Markham

## This mom's dip has fresh ingredients

### MOM'S DELICIOUS DIP

- With ingredients from her own garden
- 3 cups mayonnaise (real)
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 3 tsp. chopped green onion
- 1/4 tsp. curry powder
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder

- 1 1/2 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- 2 tbsp. fresh chives
- 1/2 tsp. paprika

Mix and refrigerate for a few hours. Serve with fresh vegetables or chips.

Heather Grainger Unionville

## Did you know?

Some facts about Mother's Day:

- Canadians will exchange as many as 14 million Mother's Day cards in 1987.
- Suggested retail prices for Mother's Day cards range from 75 cents to \$5. The average expenditure on a Mother's Day card is higher than for almost all other

card sending occasions. Research indicates that all age groups across both sexes send Mother's Day cards. Many people will send more than one Mother's Day card: young women send cards to their mothers and to their friends and sisters who are mothers... grandparents send Mother's Day cards to their daughters and nieces.

## TRUCKLOAD SALE

Never before has a microwave with all of these features been advertised for such a low price in Canada.



**Save \$90**  
on the *Quasar*  
**Easy-Matic 479**

- "Easy-Matic": Quasar's version of the Panasonic "Genius" humidity sensor feature
- Auto weight defrost
- Custom Cook
- Auto reheat
- Auto start
- Rota-Flow even cooking

30 day money back guarantee

With over 1/4 million micros sold  
**WE'RE THE #1 TO BEAT...**

• price • service • selection • guarantees



**micro**  
cooking center

300 W3 Paddy Micro cook tonight!

SALE ENDS MAY 9th



markville Shopping Center  
Hwy. 7 & McCowan Rd.

Upper Level  
**477-7343**

## EXTRAORDINAIRE


Gold-smith, Designer

Jewellery by *Joan*

Services Include:

- Appraisals
- Designing and remodeling
- Jewellery and watch repairs
- Clock repairs

159 Main St.  
Unionville, Ont.

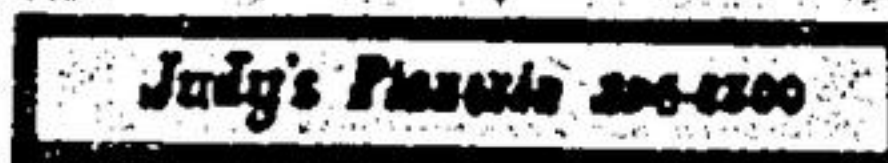


**Mother's Day SALE**


Begins May 2

All Extraordinaire Jewellery drastically reduced just in time for Mother's Day

**479-5673**



Judy's Pizzeria 294-8500



**JUDY'S PIZZA 294-8500**

"INTRODUCTORY OFFER"

**\$2 off**

ANY PIZZA OVER \$7.00

**\$1 off**

ANY PIZZA UNDER \$7.00

Offer expires June 1/87

10 FINCHAM AVE.  
16th Ave. & Fincham  
MARKHAM 294-8500



"INTRODUCTORY OFFER"

**\$2 off**

ANY PIZZA OVER \$7.00

**\$1 off**

ANY PIZZA UNDER \$7.00

Offer expires June 1/87

10 FINCHAM AVE.  
16th Ave. & Fincham  
MARKHAM 294-8500

- Free local delivery on food orders over \$9.00.
- We accept most other pizza discount coupons.
- Not to be used with other coupons or discounts.

Advertising Corrections  
Eaton's Spring Preview Insert appearing in the MARKHAM ECONOMIST and SUN, Wednesday, April 29, 1987.

Page 33 - Item "A" Floral Bandeau swimwear incorrectly described. SHOULD READ: Floral tank.

Inadvertently, the error listed above has appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

## EATON'S