



The Joachims at breakfast. The menu: cereal (cold in summer, hot in winter), milk, juice, toast, jam.



In Biloxi, church-bound Joachims are a familiar Sunday sight. Here they attend a Mass for St. Joachim, their patron saint.

A POST PICTURE STORY

How to Bring Up a Multitude

The seventeen young faces you see on these pages are the offspring of Rose and Jack Joachim (pronounced Joe-ACK'm). The ages of this extraordinary multitude range from little Mary Daniel, eighteen months, to Jack, Jr., who turns twenty-four this week. All but the three eldest children, now out on their own, live here in their parents' seven-bedroom, three-bathroom house in Biloxi, Mississippi.

During the more than two dozen years they have watched their flock expand, Rose and Jack have coped with just about every problem that mothers and fathers can face, including the tragic death of a son who was struck by an auto. But most of the difficulties in bringing up such a prodigious brood confront them every day. Take the matter of appetites. At the rate of fifteen quarts daily, the milk bill alone comes to \$1300 a year. Then there's the cooking. Out of Rose's small kitchen, though it's barren of most modern mechanical help-mates, come something like fifty meals and a hundred snacks each day. "But we have all the gadgets we need," says Rose, pointing to her twelve daughters and five sons. Jack adds, "And when they're through, they don't clutter up the kitchen. They go outside to play."

To keep everyone well-fed and comfortably clothed, Jack holds two jobs, one with the local telephone company, where he's a supervisor, the other with a retail hardware business, in which he has a partnership. This way he manages to make from \$12,500 to \$15,000 annually.

To handle the sheer force of numbers around the house, the Joachims have special rules for nearly everything. Each child is allowed ten minutes on the telephone each evening. No

TV until everyone has finished his homework. Birthdays are celebrated bimonthly for all those who are eligible during the period. And everybody who is old enough has some sort of household job, whether it's routing morning traffic in and out of the bathrooms or helping with the ironing.

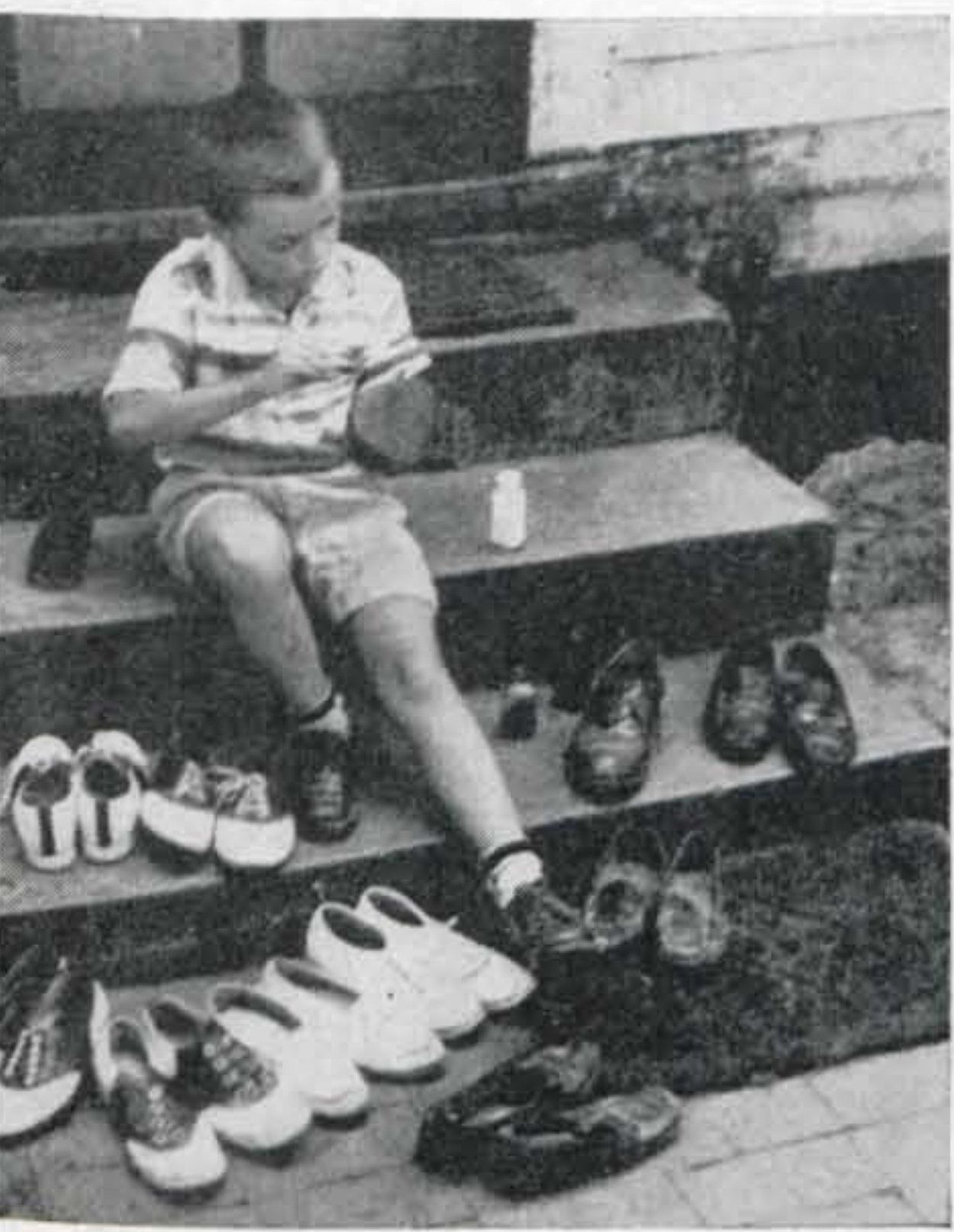
None of the children seems to resent sharing parents with so many others, and a new baby in the house creates little stir. After watching three or four infants come home, Martha once looked into the crib where the newest arrival lay, shrugged her shoulders and said, "Um'm—same thing," and walked away. On another occasion, when Mrs. Joachim went to the hospital for the day because of a minor ailment, she was greeted on her return by a bored child who yawned, "Well, what did we have this time, mamma?"

Teen-age Joe, who has an even dozen sisters, says, "Nothing will ever shock me about a woman again. I've seen them in all their disguises and heard them up to all their tricks."

As for mother and father having any quiet moments alone: "There are times when we just yearn for it," admits Rose. But she and her husband are reconciled to the fact that for some time to come there can be no such thing. "Your own life becomes so much a part of the family's," explains Jack.

Now the Joachims, parents themselves so many times over, are looking forward to a new experience—they're going to become grandparents early next year. Anticipating one sure problem for the new generation, Jack says, "I pity those kids, trying to get their aunts and uncles and cousins straight." THE END





Only infant members of the family escape household chores. At work above is Bill, 9.

In their parents' bedroom, three small Joachims nap before lunch while Rose Ann, 13, fixes 3-year-old Marian's hair.

Scrubbing a brother and two sisters is Martha, 19. Also getting ready for bed are Margaret, 6 (left), and Mary Elizabeth, 10.

Joachim family portrait, taken last August, with their ages at the time. From left: Jack, Jr., who is 23 and in the Army; Bob, 21, who is married; Martha, 19, now at college; Harriet, 17; Joseph, 16; Georgette, 15; Rose Ann, 13; Marylyn, 12; Nancy, 11; Mary Elizabeth, 10; Bill, 9; Mary Jane, 7; Margaret, 6; Maria, 5; Marian, 3; Gerry, 2. At rear are Jack, Sr., 41, holding Mary Daniel, 13 months, and his wife, Rose, also 41.

