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Named after that part of the day which provides the greatest opportunity, The Morning News reports activities of the transition grant project. This publication is made possible by a grant from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, contract # 90415.

Life Skills Institute, Jenison Public Schools, Jenison, MI 49428.

A note from Brenda Clark
Carol,

She Morning Dews
is a terrific publication. Shanks
In the copy.

Also, thanks for putting goel + Steve
in Marketing. Old teaching the students luman relations skills I would never have

Brenda

Brenda

MARCH 1990



Left: A note from Brenda Clark, Retailing

teacher, to Carol Gray

Right: Retailing students, Steve and Joel, at the regional DECA conference, Muskegon

Included in this issue:

<u>India, Laundry, and Our</u> <u>Mailing List</u> - pg 2

JENISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

<u>Welcome to guest authors Meg Ledgerwood,</u> and <u>Rich St. Germaine</u> - last two pages

Then and Now...

by Jane Delhaye- pg 3 The D.E.C.A. Conference-pg 4 Plus much more!

## India, Laundry, and Our Mailing List

## by Carol Gray

If you are a child in the Gray household, and you have a test coming up, there is no mercy. We make study cards, we read each text paragraph and discuss it, we...probably drive our kids crazy! Nonetheless, one of my favorite activities in this whole process is when I can find a fact that has implications...so I can ask "What do you THINK about that?"

We've two loveseats in our living room that face one another. These are often the site of question and answer pre-test "Jeopardy" sessions. Recently, my daughter was studying for a test in seventh grade social studies. The topic was India, and I left no bit of rice (the major crop) unturned as I asked my daughter one question after another.

One paragraph grabbed my attention and we discussed it for a while. There are over 200 languages spoken within the country of India. I asked my daughter what implications she thought that might have. She felt it could be a real problem, that it would be difficult to get information to the people of India and keep everyone informed. What was discouraging is that the presence of 200 languages was listed as a problem for India when  $\underline{I}$  was a kid. Jo and I agreed that in a country with such vast problems, perhaps central to those was the communication barrier.

I didn't think of this study session again until a few days later when I spoke with Mrs. Delhaye, Donna's mom. She is our guest "Then and Now" author this month, and she mentioned she hoped her article would be appropriate. (It's excellent! Please read it on page 3). With the variety of subscribers on our mailing list... students, parents, and teachers...in a variety of states... Mrs. Delhaye expressed concern that she wasn't sure how to write her article. "Carol," she concluded, "I finally decided to write it as a parent." She couldn't have been more right.

It seems there's a bit of India wherever you turn. As my doctor interpreted the results of my physical, I had to stop him a few times for a brief interpretation of what he was saying. When the service department at Isuzu wanted to know if I thought the problem with my Trooper was one thing or another (they had terms I didn't understand and have now long forgotten) I looked at them squarely and repeated, once again, "It races itself." All of us, wherever we go, are

equipped with a special version of English, a specialized perspective, reference, and vocabulary, adapted to our experience and needs. Depending on how you look at it, it can be limiting...or interesting.

It never ceases to amaze me how people stuggle to keep themselves "sorted out". We are not laundry. Still, it is hard to imagine any other circumstance that would have brought us all together onto the same mailing list. And while it may seem confusing who the intended audience of THE MORNING NEWS is, if our target audience were narrowly defined, it would be a contradiction of effort for a project working to bring people together. We are all here, on these pages, focused on the same goals, writing and reading from our own perspectives.

Our intended audience is you, and each of us has an open invitation to write for the rest. While we have grown a bit, and, okay, gotten a bit awkward... (in fact, there is no one who has even ASKED for a copy of our mailing list...not even LANDS END), we are all in this together.

This is <u>not PARENTS MAGAZINE</u> or <u>CHILDCRAFT</u> or the <u>SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS JOURNAL.</u>

Named after that part of the day which presents the greatest opportunity, this is  $\underline{\text{THE MORNING NEWS.}}$ 

## THEN AND NOW

## by Jane Delhaye

As a baby, Donna turned over, crawled, and crept all by herself, stood, and walked at the normal times, but speech did not develop. Her social progress stopped between ages two and four. When she started a school program at age four, she had learned none of the things toddlers learn by imitating others. She occupied most of her time rocking, crying, and staring blankly into space, and she threw hysterical temper tantrums for no explainable reason.

By the time Donna entered the program for autistic children in Jenison, at age ten, she had learned to work at projects like coloring or puzzles for short periods of time, but she still couldn't talk, and was "lost in space" much of the time. She threw tantrums