



Puddle Jumper

August 2000

August Meeting

This month we will be going out to the Chatanika Lodge. This has always been a fun place to go and we are always treated so well there. The price will be the same as when we have gone there before, which I can't remember exactly what it is--around \$15.

We are going to gather along the Steese Highway at Shields Rental around 6 p.m., for those who want to caravan. For those who can not make it at that time, we will see you at the Lodge.

Wasilla Trip

Squeaky Benham has been calling to see who will be going to Wasilla August 11, 12, and 13. If you have not received a call from him or have not returned his phone message, please give him a call, so he can get an accurate count of who is going.

Because most of us decided not to drive the Denali Highway, this trip is our annual rally

with Anchorage. My understanding is that it will be at the Transportation Museum in Wasilla. Our last trip there was a lot of fun and the museum is excellent.

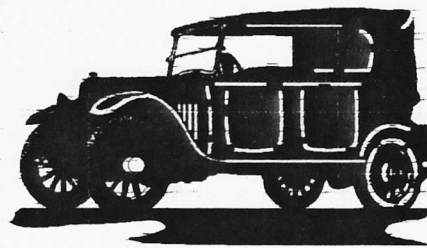
For Sale

1951 Buick Riviera 2 door hard top

6500 actual miles
new interior
drive anywhere -- excellent condition
see in Anchorage -- will drive to Fairbanks
\$7,500.00
Call Bernie Saupe for information 457-3302

The Price of a Child

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140 for a middle-income family. Talk about sticker shock. That doesn't even touch college tuition. For those with kids,



that figure leads to wild fantasies about all the things we could have bought, all the places we could have traveled, all the money we could have banked if not for (insert child's name here). For others, that number might confirm the decision to remain childless.

What do you get for your \$160,140? Naming rights. First, middle and last. Glimpses of God every day. Giggles under the covers every night. More love than your heart can hold. Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs. Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds and warm cookies. A hand to hold, usually covered with jam. A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, building sandcastles and skipping down the sidewalk in the pouring rain. Someone to laugh yourself silly with no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For \$160,140, there's no greater bang for your buck. You get to be a hero just for retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof, taking the training wheels off the bike, removing a splinter, filling the wading pool, coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless. You get a front-row seat to history to witness the first step, first word, first bra, first date, first time behind the wheel. You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications and human sexuality no college can match. In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there with God. You have the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever and love them without limits, so one day they will, like you, love without counting.

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Monthly Meeting @ Chatanika Lodge
Joint Meeting with Anchorage @ Wasilla Transportation Museum
Rick Schikora Wedding
Monthly Meeting
Monthly Meeting
Monthly Meeting
Christmas Party
Monthly Meeting
Monthly Meeting
Monthly Meeting
September 14, 2000
October 12, 2000
November 9, 2000
December 10, 2000
January 11, 2001
February 8, 2001
March 8, 2001
April 12, 2001

