

Len built spec homes in New Jersey and is currently involved doing home improvements here. What little time Kathy [a retired nurse] has is devoted to volunteering in the school clinic, library and the computers. Len 'has boat will travel' and has had bad luck with his fishing, and Kathy just loves the beach.

A warm welcome to this energetic young family.

JACKI DAVIDIAN

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WILD BABIES -- THOSE TEENAGE YEARS!

It is important to be aware of the age at which baby animals can care for themselves. For instance, baby cottontail rabbits are self-sufficient, at four weeks of age. They are only about 5 inches long, but no longer depend on their mother. They should be left alone; although they seem too tiny to be alone, they are just fine!

Birds which are fully feathered and unable to fly are called fledglings. Fledglings should also be left alone, as this stage is normal in the development of baby birds. They have just left the nest and must learn to feed themselves. The parents are still caring for the birds, and are usually nearby. Observe the babies for about an hour, and you will likely see an adult return to feed them.

Other ages to remember:

Baby raccoons leave the nest at 8 to 10 weeks to hunt with mom, but remain with her for 6 to 12 months.

Baby gray squirrels are on their own at 10 weeks. Ducklings are led to water by their mother within 24 hours of birth, but stay with the flock for 3 months. Baby raptors [birds of prey] are fed by the parents for about 4 months.

During May, O.W.L.S. had 135 admissions!!!!

The cost of raising our 2 osprey chicks, [born about May 20] is about \$1,100.!! Consider adopting one...we can match every dollar you send with \$3.00 from other sources. Adoptive parents will be allowed to view the osprey as they grow. Call 240-1200.

S. GOETZINGER

LOST AND FOUND

This is certainly the most successful column the Shore Line has run! Up until this month we had enjoyed 100% success and now this month we did even better! Bill Macdonald's canoe can be reported both lost and found in one issue!

Apparently the canoe was taken from its place on the bank as a vandal's prank. Bill says he knows who did it -- and when. Where it was dumped into the water is not certain but it had travelled a good way from home before it was found.

Dick Cumberland, Hank Ingram and Hank's son-in-law were going fishing a few days later. As they were leaving the canal our alert police officer, Bob Hamilton, asked them to investigate an object floating far out beyond the middle of the sound. It was, of course, the canoe. But they didn't know whose it was so after they towed it in they took it over to Commissioner Roderick's for safe keeping while they tried to find the owner. Evan made inquiries at the Town Hall and that was enough. Mystery solved and property returned to owner.

We like to see people have fun but not if it disturbs the peace in the middle of the night and involves damage to or loss of private property. We are glad this incident had a happy ending.