

New Bern parents owe it to themselves and their youngsters to consider these facts revealed in a new Accident Handbook published by the Children's Hospital Medical Cen-

ter in Boston. In 1900, accidents were the fifth cause of death in children. Today they are first, and kill more children than the next three causes of death com-

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bined--cancer, congenital malformations, and pneumonia. Unless there is a significant change this year, 17,000,000 American children between the ages of one and 21 will be injured, maimed, or killed in accidents in 1963.

Nine out of 10 accidents can be avoided. They are rarely caused by a single factor, but rather by a chain reaction--a sequence of events. Over 50 percent of the children in the accident study lived continually in more or less hazardous homes without injury. It took additional strains like hunger, fatigue, or family illness to bring about the accident.

Accidents will happen more often, says the Handbook, when children are hungry, particularly during the hour before a meal is scheduled; when children are tired, before naps during the late afternoon, and before bedtime.

Another danger period is when children are in the care of people other than parents, particularly older brothers or sisters or persons unaccustomed to the child. Accidents occur frequently when parents lack understanding of what to expect at particular stages of child development.

They are inclined to happen when the relationship between parents is continually tense, when a child's environment suddenly changes, often at moving or vacation time. The accident rate rises too when mothers are busiest.

More accidents occur on Saturday than on any other day, and the most dangerous hours are from 3 p. m. to 6 p. m. on every day of the week. Half

the battle in stopping the chain of troubles from building to an accident is being aware of the

danger signals, and taking extra precaution during pressured times.

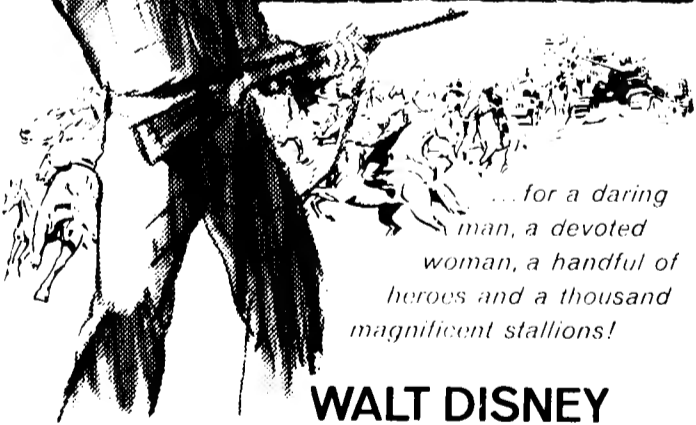
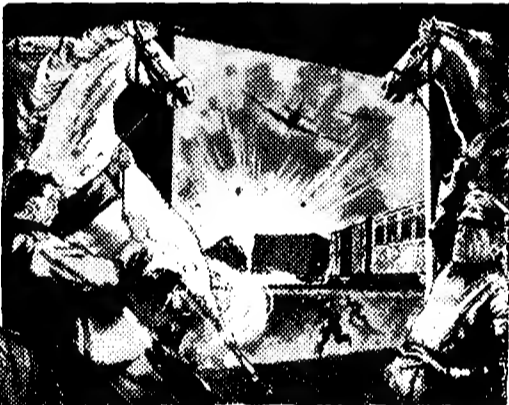
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