

July 8, 1980

NEWS

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*****The Davis Quints at 5: Portraits

CHRISTA: "Christa," says mother Debbie Davis, "is like the little 'mamma' of the group. She likes to mother them all; she's the ring-leader, and they all sort of do what she says. She's also the emotional one; she gets her feelings hurt easier. She has a tendency to tattle, and when we say, 'Christa, stop tattling,' she goes off and pouts."

CHARLA: "Charla's the tomboy of the group. She plays with Casey all the time. All he has to say is 'Charla, let's go.' She's good at dancing and gymnastics, at which her teachers says she's outstanding. She's always the first. She was the first to tie her shoes. And she's the only one of the girls to learn to ride her new bike yet. Casey learned to ride real fast, but all the girls gave up except Charla. She fell off backwards and scratched up her face. But she's determined, and she got right back on. She was always up first when she was a baby and wanted to be with people."

CHANDA: "Chanda's real sassy. She always has a comeback. When we go places, if anybody runs in the street, it's Chanda. We have to watch her more. Chanda and Chelsea are real close. (These two are twins.) For a long time they didn't get along; they fought more than all the others, but now they like to do things together. They're quieter than the others. If anybody comes in from the heat it will be one of them, and the other will follow. They don't much like to play outside. They play quieter games than the others. They like books and coloring books and are not as outgoing as the three other children. And they don't talk as much."

CHELSEA: "Chelsea (Chanda's twin) is the most babyish. She's real affectionate and likes to be held. The others take care of her. They baby her, and she eats it up. Chelsea and Chanda really have fun playing around when they're dancing; the other girls concentrate more."

CASEY: "Everybody was afraid he wouldn't do anything with the sisters to take care of him. But it's not like that. He gets up and gets dressed by himself. Casey wears boots, long pants and a cap wherever he goes. He's quieter and more contented and is the only one who will watch TV and concentrate."

Debbie Davis says her main problem is making the five go to bed, a particular problem in Daylight Savings Time.

Has she studied up on being the mother of quintts? "The only thing I have read is Twins and Supertwins, and it scared me. I told Jerry (her husband) about some of the things in it like twins' having 'super languages' and he said, 'Throw it in the trash!' and I did."

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