

... per cent of the retail dry cleaners in the area, operated a "dropoff" store on the ... sending his cleaning to a wholesale cleaning ...
 Now with the help of his family—"everyone pitches in"—he does his own cleaning in the hot, steamy room behind his Arlington Heights shop. More will be taking the "do-it-yourself" route, he says, because it's one way to combat high costs.

CHICAGO'S RETAIL dropoff cleaning stores almost always have been "ma and pa" family affairs, perhaps with mother or daughter waiting on customers and dad

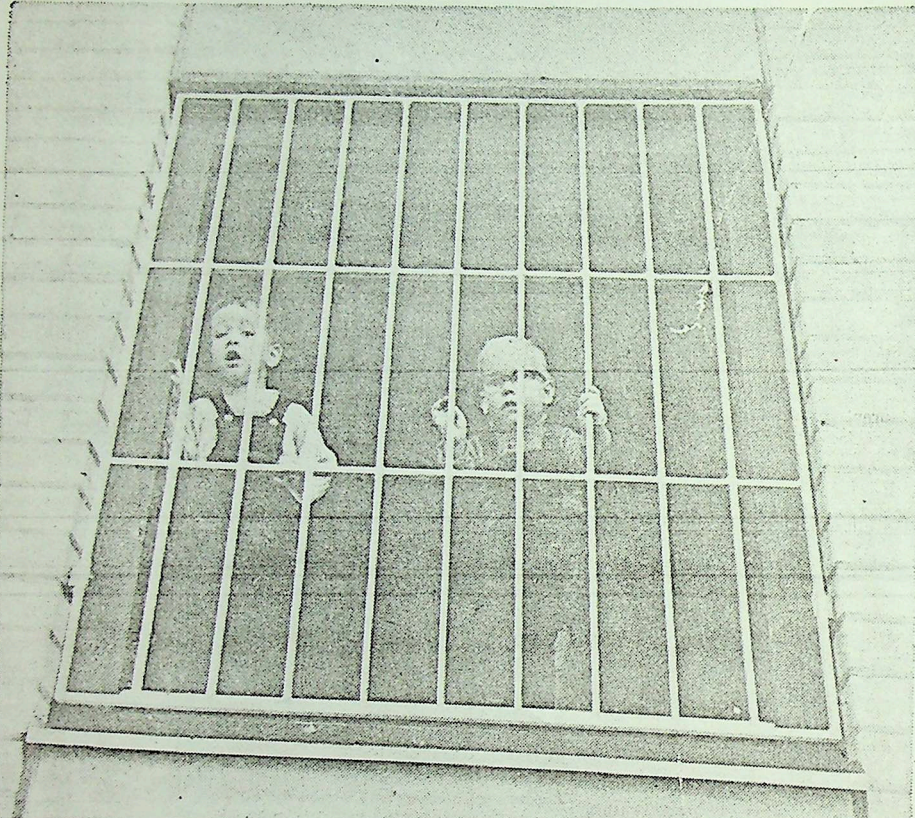
up—higher ste...
RETAILERS Wholesalers of costs. "In the cent," Sandler says, "cent, you're lucky."
 And both agree that if high sales in the only problem, they wouldn't be in trouble. "I want to know what's killing the industry? It's those polyesters," Bicouvaris says. As costs increase, sales volume has decreased steadily because of the many new fabrics that do not require dry cleaning.

FD, contella 4, 26

... came in and ... delivering cleaning directly to building ... he has eliminated costs of operating retail stores. Residents can drop off and pick up cleaning without leaving their buildings.
 Cornick admits, however, that his outlets have de-
 Continued on 3d Tempo page

Claudia Cassidy, longtime music and theater critic for The Tribune, prepared this remembrance of Lotte Lehmann.

Lotte Lehmann: At heart she was younger than springtime.



Sunday Group

At Preugesheim Prison, it is believed that a baby is better off with Mom—even if she's behind bars.

Mom, baby together—in prison

By Curt Gunther

FRANKFURT, Germany—They look out at you with tense, haunting expressions, gripping the prison bars with chubby little fingers. They often shout and try to shake the bars. These kids, all under age 7, seldom are old enough to realize their circumstances. They are in prison because of their mothers' crimes, which range from murder to prostitution. Prison terms range from one year to life.

Officially, the institution is known as Preugesheim Prison for Women. It's better known as Children's Prison and the sight of baby-faced youngsters looking out of cell windows is indeed strange if not shocking. Hardened guards tell you they still cannot get used to seeing the youngsters, who are considered inmates of the prison and each evening, along with their mothers, are counted at roll call to be sure none are missing.

The main prison, in the town of Preugesheim near Frankfurt, West Germany, is an old structure which has long served as a detention center for women. Its new wing, a four-story structure, is reserved for inmates with youngsters. On two occasions, babies have been born in the prison hospital. Recently, in the new wing, there were 11 mother-child pairs, about half the institution's capacity.

"This is a comparatively new idea," explains the female warden. "Many psychiatrists feel what we are doing is much better for the children. They think a baby is better off with its mother, even if it means prison."

WHEN A CHILD, beyond the infant stage, first joins its mother in prison, most of them are under the impression that "mommy is sick," and they are in a hospital with her. But when youngsters reach 4 or 5, they begin to realize "something else is wrong."

"Children at this tender age are much smarter than we think," says the warden. "They begin asking questions at an early age." It is most difficult for the warden and her staff to find the right answer to such questions. They have found it best to change the subject. At age 7, the children must leave, and they are either taken in by relatives or cared for in a government shelter pending mother's release.

Prison guards have taken the unofficial role of father for these infants, since many of them have none legally. As the guards will tell you, "Whenever one of us passes their cells, these youngsters reach out to touch us and grab hold of us. They are always hugging and kissing us. It really puts a lump in your throat, even tears in your eyes, when they begin calling you dada and papa."

During the day, the mothers work in the prison laundry while the children are tended to by five prison nurses in the prison nursery. "It's like one big family," confides one of the nurses. "It's a heartbreaking situation, but don't you think it's much better for a child to be with its mother even if it means sending them to prison?"

WEATHER PERMITTING, the children play outdoors in the prison yard, which has

been turned into a playground with the walls of the prison painted with colorful pop-art.

At lunchtime, the tots rejoin their moms in a common room. Then they go back to the nursery, and the women return to work. At four p.m., the end of the workday, the children are returned to their respective cells to be reunited with their mothers.

Mother and child play together for a time in their spacious cell, which is furnished like a dormitory room. Evenings, the children sleep in the cells with their mothers in a crib or small bed.

The mothers who are willing to be interviewed all say about the same thing—that having the children with them, even if it has to be in prison, makes life bearable and takes some of the bitterness out of prison existence.

Even though this is an experimental program which began only in April of 1975, results are considered promising. Officials point to the general good health of the youngsters and, in most cases, to an improved outlook by the parent. The system was planned to help mothers and children bridge a family crisis which might otherwise scar the youngsters emotionally.

IN THE SHORT time the program has been operating, prison authorities from all over the world have been visiting and writing to the prison, seeking advice in setting up similar programs.

"It's just wonderful, the support we've been receiving," says the warden. "We're not only hoping to save these mothers but their children, too, and it looks like we're on our way."

Sunday Group



Friday in Weekend

From the beginning of September into November, Midwesterners observe the rites of autumn with every type of festival: from corn boils, wine stomps, fish fries, leaf tours, and rodeos to turkey trots, thresherests, Oktoberfests, apple-buttering and barbershop harmonizing. We've got the best of the Midwest in our roundup of fall festivals ranging over five states and two months.

Smile

We can't help wondering if big computers don't shove all the work off on small computers.

—Glasgow's Gloombusters