

## TEAMWORK



### in Marriage



Richard Ruddell and his wife, Jo Marie, with their two children, Franna (left) and Marie Annette, 9 months.

# Internes in Industry

BY KAY MOTT

**S**HORTLY after the Richard Ruddells came back in 1949 from doing relief work in China, the American Friends Service Committee asked the young couple to take charge of its Philadelphia interne-in-industry project.

"And what," queried Jo Marie and Dick, fresh from helping homeless children and expediting hospital supplies in Honan and Shanghai, "is an interne-in-industry project?"

The best answer to that was a visit to the old house at 1402 East Moyamensing ave. to observe the project in operation. There the Ruddell husband-and-wife team saw about 20 college-level students living cooperatively while they made a first-hand study of the problems of industry.

Usually such students rely on reference reading. The internes go out and get their own factory jobs, as regular workers must. They come back tired at night to share their experience and the housework.

Each contributes \$15 a week from his wages for board and keep. Some are there to gain college credits for sociology or social psychology courses. Others plan to go into labor education, personnel work, to become teachers or to run their own businesses.

#### Ruddells Impressed

The Ruddells were impressed, but at first didn't see that it was in line with the work they'd been doing in China . . . except that both jobs were for the Friends Service Committee, although neither Ruddell is a member of the Society of Friends.

Once they had decided that the project was consistent with their program of helping make a better world, the Ruddells took over the next term at

the Moyamensing ave. interne house.

"With 14,000,000 Americans at work in factories, industrial relations loom as a critical point in our country," comments Jo Marie. "To supply people who can bridge the gap between employer and employee here is as vital as to supply teaching and medical aid in China."

Dick points out: "The interne, who comes here and hunts his own job on the production line, or digging ditches, or helping a tailor, knows what such workers have to face. He gains his experience on the same level as the other workers."

#### Internes Share Work

Whatever their object or their background, all internes share the work around the house. One committee contacts discussion group speakers from management and labor, another plans recreation and another field trips. Jo Marie and the dietitian see that nourishing meals also are appetizing within the budget of 25 cents per person per meal.

The Ruddells are on hand to give help or advice. "Though usually our most difficult job is to stand back and let them do it themselves," Jo Marie says.

The Ruddells' trip to China was in 1946. "The Service Committee wasn't signing up couples for China," Jo Marie recalls. "Only individuals. But Dick and I thought it was a contribution we should make. So Dick accepted when he was appointed even though it might mean several years' separation for us."

"But we were lucky. I was appointed soon after, and even sailed a month before he did . . . in May. Each of us went on a freighter."

At the International Center in Honan, Jo Marie, a warden, was working with refugees by the time Dick got there. He was on the last train to get through from Shanghai to Chen-Chow.

Dick's job at Chen-Chow was mainly to see that medicines and supplies for rebuilding and refitting hospitals reached their destinations. Often he accompanied the shipment.

"Someone always had to go with the supplies," Dick explains. "In China any article left unattended is assumed

to be in the public domain. So long as one of us was with our supplies, nothing was taken."

"I went with one shipment when the others were off on other work," Jo Marie adds. "We called our job GADA—go anywhere, do anything."

GADA took them from Honan to Shanghai. They lived in the Friends Service Center where Jo Marie was on the staff. She also taught at the National Fudan University. "Dick, as Service Center agent, went around to the consular people and chartered airplanes to carry supplies," says Jo Marie. "Necessary work, but not so interesting as the Honan job. Then, Dick filled in for Lewis Hoskins, the Friends' head, when Hoskins went into Communist territory."

The Ruddells' first child, daughter Franna, was born in Shanghai on Dec. 6, 1947. "We were fortunate to have Dr. Amos Wong as obstetrician for Jo Marie," remarks Dick. "The Chinese custom is to put a bed for the husband in the wife's room. I guess it wouldn't be practical in large hospitals over here, but Jo Marie and I liked it. I didn't get to know our second daughter, Marie Annette, at all until she came home from the hospital in Philadelphia."

The Ruddells started back the long way round through the Suez Canal in 1948, stopping en route in London and Paris, where they reported on their work at the International Center conference.

#### Met Through Church Work

The couple met in Bluefield, West Virginia, Dick's home state, through church work. Jo Marie was a director of Christian education at the Methodist church and Dick taught a Sunday school class there.

"We're both depression children," says Jo Marie. "I did manage to get to college—was graduated in drama production at Greensboro (N. C.) College and took post graduate work in religion at Duke. But Dick got a job as an optician."

"Jo Marie goes in for drama with a 'Capital D,'" affirms Dick. "Her ambition is to put on a religious spectacle."

"Dick is a 5-B man," describes Jo Marie. "Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, baseball and ballet. He watches the ballet, but he's a good ball player and he umpires in the Army-Navy baseball league."

Jo Marie discusses a welfare problem with a teacher during her stay in China.

