

Reynolds' Class Helps Prepare Children For Water

By BETH GAULT
Staff Writer

thermometer only registered 40 degrees on Saturday morning, at Jim Reynolds'

home, 41 Pat Mell Road, everybody was in the pool.

The class is "drown-proofing" and those who gather in Reynolds' heated pool each week range in age from nine months to five years.

The purpose of instruction varies according to age said Instructor Reynolds, who has been a swimming instructor for 27 years.

"There is really no way to drown proof a child under the age of two," Reynolds said, "what we're trying to achieve with the younger ones is some degree of floatng."

These "baby swimmers" are becoming accustomed to the water and learning to hold their breath and head for the top.

Reynolds first learned of the technique through a professor at the University of Georgia.

Skeptical of the method at first, Reynolds said he later changed his mind.

"When I walked in on the first lesson and saw all those kids screaming I thought it would ruin them, that they would always be afraid, but when I saw the class after four lessons I realized that they really can learn to enjoy it."

Reynolds added that a lot depends upon the parents. "If the parents are apprehensive, the kids are apprehensive."

During the first part of the class the children who are old enough, jump off the diving board to a waiting parent who rescues them after a five second chance to make it to the top.

Those who are not able to

jump are gently tossed off the board by Reynolds.

"We're getting two-year-olds that can turn themselves around, kick and pull themselves out of the pool,"

Reynolds said, adding that this does not by any means mean that these children should ever be left alone in a pool.

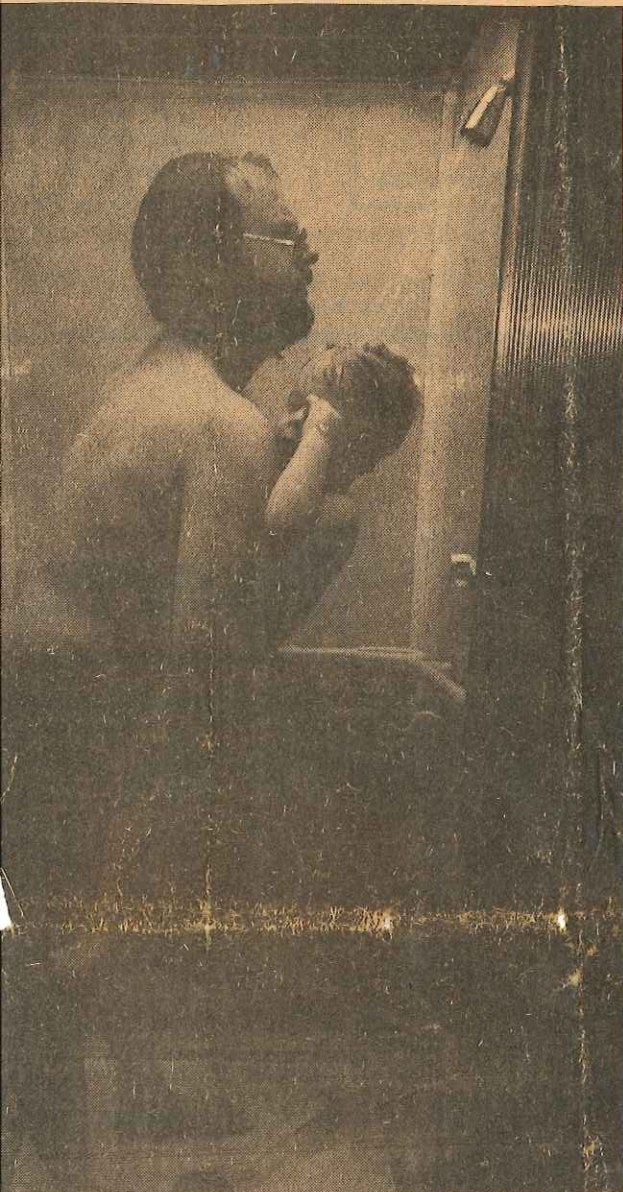
Nine-month-old Lindsey

McCranie, daughter of Kathy and Larry McCranie of Marietta did not seem the least bit upset over all the fuss in the pool as she leaned over the edge and fell into her fathers waiting arms.

"We live on a lake and have a sailboat, so the sooner we can get her used to the water, the better," said Mrs. McCranie.

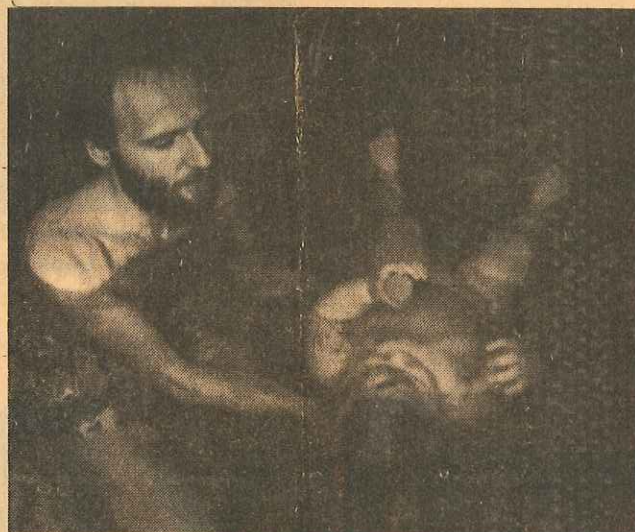
Reynolds offers two classes in drown proofing every Saturday morning through the Cobb County Community School program

and other swimming instruction throughout the week. For information call 433-2495.



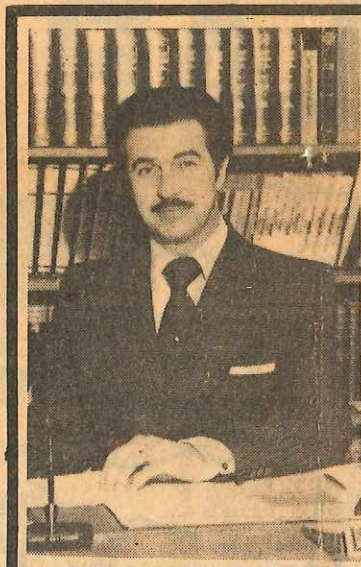
Staff Photo By Judy Watson

JEFFREY HAS HAD ABOUT ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY
The Two-Year-Old Son Of Mr. And Mrs. Jeffrey Parnes



Staff Photo By Judy Watson

WILLIAM GOHR SUPPORTS HIS DAUGHTER, DEBBIE
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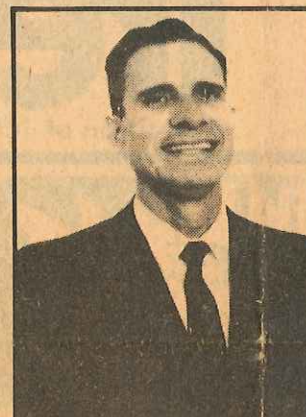
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