

# "Raphael"

RYDER-CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

For the Relief of Suffering

DEHRU DUN., U.P., INDIA



Miss Felicity Sopp, a Melbourne Librarian, with Nirmala. Felicity visited "Raphael", on her way to England, to meet this little girl whom she has adopted.

Founders—

GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD CHESHIRE, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C.

Mrs. SUE RYDER CHESHIRE, O.B.E.

Vol. 1, No. 3—June, 1965—Price 1/-

# THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)

## Our First Annual Report

Presented with Gratitude and Pride

In presenting this, the First Annual Report of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria), I do so with a feeling of deep gratitude and pride in the part this State has played in supporting "Raphael"—the International Centre for the Relief of Suffering, Dehra Dun, India, founded by Group Captain Cheshire, V.C., and his wife, Sue Ryder-Cheshire. This Centre was founded in 1959, with seven patients in tents; it now houses nearly 200.

Since May of last year we have provided £2400 for maintenance—covering food, medicines, etc.—and a further £800 will go forward next month. In addition, a Home Unit, costing £1000, has been built to house four Leper families. The building has a plaque showing that it has been provided by the people of Victoria. Also during the year, a Victorian girl has taken up duty as a nurse at the Centre.

At home, an "Activities Group" was founded during the year. This consists of professional and business people, and students, who meet regularly, planning and working to keep alive the interest in Dehra Dun. They have organised 59 talks, and films on "Raphael" have been shown on 77 occasions. In addition, they have "adopted" two leper patients. My Executive feels that a special tribute is due to these busy people who travel at evenings and week-ends to distant centres.

In this connection, I am sure everyone would like to thank Miss Josephine Collins, who has given so generously of her time to visit far distant parts of Victoria, and for the Adoption Scheme she has so successfully encouraged. By the latter scheme, a destitute or mentally deficient child, or a Leper patient, is maintained for a year, and indeed in most cases the sponsors continue to support a particular patient.

It costs £50 p.a. to support a mentally handicapped child; £50 p.a. to support a Leprosy patient; £35 p.a. to support a destitute child.

Another successful venture is the Clothing Appeal. Gift parcels are carried freight free on Victorian Railways to a depot founded by Mrs. J. Arundell at Ormond. Here it is sorted, often washed, mended, and then packed for transport to India. Seven bales and seven chests have already been sent and safely received at International Centre. We have received letters of gratitude for the quantity, the quality, and condition of the clothing. We are all greatly indebted to Mrs. Arundell, her husband, family, and friends who carry out this gigantic task.

With the growing interest in, and the support given the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, we felt it desirable to let our donors know what was being done and how the money was being disbursed,

and so a quarterly magazine, "Raphael," was printed and sent out. For this publication we are all indebted to Miss Nona Sheehan, our Hon. Publicity Officer, for the amount of thought and work involved in what we feel is a very fitting record of our activities. The advertisement from Air India has greatly reduced our printing costs.

In Victoria, groups have been formed in Ballarat, Coleraine and Geelong. To the Chairmen and Committees of these Groups we are very grateful for their co-operation and for the tremendous financial aid they have given. We are also very grateful for the generous and encouraging support by many Apex Clubs and Lions Clubs. This is also very heartening to those people working voluntarily at International Centre. **Our donations are eagerly awaited for food and medicine for the inmates. On this they depend.**

However, it is to the donors of the many small amounts received that we are particularly grateful, and it is this charity that is so paramount in Cheshire's own life and work. So much has come in pounds and shillings—often anonymously—with a note of pleasure in being able to help even in a small way, such a worthy cause. To these unknown donors we say a very warm thank you, and we assure you of the joy you have given the inmates of International Centre.

Another grateful mention is due to the prisoners at Pentridge, who not only made and donated a quantity of lovely toys and clothing for the International Centre, but have formed a Group to maintain a mentally defective child. We have already received some beautifully made pieces of furniture to be disposed of for this purpose.

Following Group Captain Cheshire's visit to Australia last year, Miss Barbara Coleman travelled widely throughout Victoria and also in other States, and was responsible for the formation of country and provincial branches—in this way bringing the work of "Raphael" before the public.

Mr. Philip Opas, our Vice-President, visited International Centre a few months ago and, returned full of praise and admiration for the work being done there, and with the assurance that every penny we send is well and wisely spent.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Hon. Sec., Mrs. A. A. Lord, M.B.E., for her tremendous zeal, the Executive—all busy people—who have planned the work we have undertaken, and the Hon. Treas., who keeps our finances in order.

ARTHUR DEAN, Chairman.



## Office-Bea

### Chairman:

The Hon. Sir Art

### Vice-Chairman:

Mr. Philip H. N.

### Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. D. A. Sinclair,  
21 Moorwatha Street,  
Macleod.

### Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. A. A. Lord, M.B.E.,  
"Homeden,"  
48 Lansell Road,  
Toorak. Phone: 24-5281.

### Committee:

Mr. S. H. Collie, Mr. G. W. Duxbury, Dr.  
N. Singh, Dame Mary Daly, D.B.E., Mrs.  
W. M. Calanchini, Mrs. P. Dance.

### Hon. Australasian Liaison and Victorian Adoptions Officer:

Miss Josephine Collins,  
487 St. Kilda Road,  
Melbourne. Phone: 26-3913.

### Hon. Editor Newsletter:

Miss Nona Sheehan,  
1 Verdant Avenue,  
Toorak.

Mr. S. H. Collie, who has been Hon. Treasurer since 1959, retired at his own request, but remains with the Foundation as a member of the Executive Committee. The newly elected members are Mr. D. A. Sinclair and Dr. N. Singh.

## Ballarat Branch

At the Annual Meeting of the Ballarat Branch the Guest Speaker, Mr. A. D. P. Dyer, M.A., Dip. Ed., M.A.C.E., Headmaster Ballarat College, said:—

One of the most important things that has to be done in the six months that remain of 1965 is to prick the public conscience about the ever-widening gap that exists between the wealthy and the deprived nations of the world. My personal experience of the deprived nations is extremely small, probably far less than the personal experience of many here tonight, and in any case I imagine that you are all well read on this matter and fully aware of the needs.

In spite of this, I preface my remarks with a few pertinent facts:—

Since the discovery of gold, Ballarat has been a centre of one of the wealthiest districts of what is now one of the richest countries in the world.

Outside of New Guinea, Australia gives 0.2% of her national income to foreign aid programmes.

In terms of transport and communications, all countries and all peoples are neighbours.

Three years ago in East Pakistan, three babies were born every minute, one died every 90 seconds, and 44,000,000 people lived in appalling poverty and soul-destroying hunger. It is unlikely that the situation is much better today.

Preliminary figures issued by the Food and Agricultural Organisation about world food production during 1963-1964 inform us that the world population increased by about 2% and food production per head fell by just under 1%.

In 1938 the average income for India and the United States was in the proportion of 1:15; now they are in the proportion of 1:35.

A quotation by Stephen Hearst:—

"Many of us cling with an irrational strength to the belief that white-skinned peoples are superior in ability and intelligence to owners of differently pigmented skins. The absurdity of

this belief is almost cruelly exposed when you pick up any social history dealing with more than 300 years ago. At that time European peasants were as poor, as diseased and as ignorant as any Indian, African or Asian today."

And the last quotation in Hearst's book:—

"Only in our lifetime has it become possible to control and banish world poverty altogether. The developed world has the knowledge to end life on earth, and the knowledge to save it. But, unfortunately, the second alternative requires rather more imagination than the first."

There is a great deal more that one could say on these lines that is very depressing, but it is also very challenging.

Very soon, I imagine, we have to accept higher taxation to meet a much increased defence budget, and quite properly the vast majority of people in this country will accept this as being in the nation's interests. Probably you will agree with me that no political party would be prepared to do this, but I suggest that this is our fault and not the fault of those who draw up political programmes. (The national conscience needs to be awakened up to our responsibilities.) It is a hackneyed cliché to say that one cannot enjoy privileges without exercising responsibility; we have reached the stage in this country when we are trying to enjoy the privilege of being one of the wealthiest communities in the world, without fulfilling our responsibilities to those who are without.

Although I do not feel the nation as a whole is yet sufficiently convinced of the need to bring pressure on political parties to increase foreign aid by increased taxation, I do believe that enough is being done by the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, Community Aid Abroad, and other similar groups for donations of over £1 to be allowable income tax deductions. This would certainly increase the money raised, and would also be more than a token gesture of friendship to friends in need overseas.

# LENDING

by Yolandi



ANNE YOUNG

## An Oasis for 200 People

What is the point of helping so few amongst so many millions? . . .

The "point" is very clear when one sees the worthiness of the people being helped at "Raphael," the Ryder-Cheshire International Centre at Dehra Dun, in Northern India. Since its beginning in 1959, "Raphael" has grown step by step to help yet another few, and now, surrounded by the beautiful sal forests of the foothills of the Himalayas, it has become an oasis for 200 people of various destitution. Financial aid has come from England, New Zealand and Australia, as have come men and women from these countries, to weave their part in the tapestry of development.

It is a good feeling to have been part of all this for the past five months, and I hope to stay for at least one year. With Christina Steers and Barbara Cameron, the other nurses here, I am to work in the hospital which is nearing completion—this first wing will be for chronically ill patients. It is for 41 beds, although part of the accommodation will initially be required for the staff. Meanwhile, we live half a mile from the settlement of "Raphael" and enjoy cycling across the causeway over the now-dry Rispana

I was really amazed to meet two charming young Australian girls, both of them nurses, and a 22-year-old Englishman, who are working at the Cheshire home, "Raphael," in India. They have come all the way from their own countries to lend a hand with our incurables.

A well-known journalist, Mr. J. M. D'Couza, introduced these talented young people at a special luncheon given in their honour.

The girls are Anne Young and Christine Steers, both in their twenties. Group Captain Leonard Cheshire has assigned them to help at "Raphael," the International Centre at Dehra Dun. This centre houses leprosy patients, mentally handicapped patients and destitute children.

The centre has been named "Raphael" after the Archangel of Healing, and it is hoped that the centre will become a self sufficient village for 600 patients. At present there are 200.

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River. I believe that, during the monsoons, this river rises about 4 feet above the causeway, so we are hoping that we will be living in the hospital by then.

At present, I am working in "The Little White House"—a home for 33 destitute children—normal, healthy, delightful children, but most of their parents are victims of leprosy, and here they are given a chance in life that would otherwise be impossible for them. Schooling is given by two Indian teachers, one being also the house mother; their ages range from 2 to 12, and there are ten "little ones" who have not yet reached school age. On the whole, their demands are very simple, and these children are happy in their new surroundings. Following a recent quarantine for chicken pox, on Easter Sunday we had a picnic in the woods adjacent to "Raphael." This was accepted with much enthusiasm and excitement, a "special" on the menu being bottles of Coca-Cola. When, on the following day, Mr. John Martyndonated them a Puppet Show (I couldn't understand the dialogue, but most of the characters seemed to be Rajas), one could not wish for a more attentive or expressive audience. Thus, my job of supervising health and hygiene is busy, but very pleasant and varied.

I have been tremendously impressed by the leprosy patients themselves, and in the Colony



# A HAND

(N.C.I.)

I was indeed charmed by the two young women, looking like schoolgirls in their simple checker frocks and bobbed hair. Somehow one does not associate modern young people with the grim picture of incurable diseases. But it only goes to show what a wealth of idealism there is in the young. Leonard Cheshire surely knows how to tap this idealism for practical purposes.

The General Secretary for all Cheshire Homes in India is Miss Barbara Coleman, also an Australian, young, unsophisticated and business-like. "It is amazing how this movement spreads," said Miss Coleman, her pretty eyes grey luminous. "There are now 70 homes," she told me, "in all parts of the world."

The homes are undenominational; that is, for people of all religions and races.

—Extract from an Indian publication.

\* \* \* \*

Note: Miss Barbara Coleman has now returned to Australia for a time, and was Guest Speaker at our Annual Meeting.—Ed.



CHRISTINA STEERS

I have found a wonderful spirit of a family where the more fortunate members help the others. Of course, there is a lot of prejudice against even these "burnt-out" cases, because of their appearance and because of some strange superstitions; the latter, however, probably contribute towards their magnificent acceptance of leprosy. The "Raphael" Colony resembles a village, and includes its own tailoring, weaving and shoe-making sections. There are now 110 patients, and they keep their cottages neat and clean, and are appreciative of all that is being done for them here.

There is also a unit for mentally defective children (where Christina is working), and even these children have an appeal.

Under the guiding influence of Mrs. Ava Dhar, Mrs. Rawley (Auntie "Dot"), and the other members of the General Council, "Raphael" has expanded according to the ideals of the founders, and it is wonderful to know that Australia is donating so much towards its continuance.

—Anne Young.

## Life at "Raphael" is Absorbing

Life is very varied and always very interesting in Dehra Dun. Ava Dhar takes good care of us, and the work at "Raphael" is most absorbing.

JUNE, 1965

It is very encouraging to see the children becoming gayer and chubbier as the weeks go by. Sushil, who previously sat vacantly, chewing his clothes, now almost turns somersaults off his charpoy, and likes to splash in the pail of drinking water. His chum, Brijesh, who had distorted his mouth to a fish shape by constantly chewing his fist, now calls "Auntiji." Santos gallops around on heels and haunches, loving a game of ball, and chuckling seductively as she rolls her great brown eyes. Three-year-old Prem, our baby, is mentally and physically handicapped, smiles very sweetly, and seems always to be hugging a great secret.

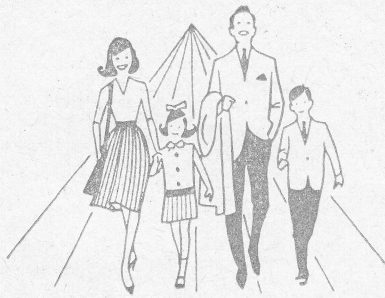
They all have odd, individual characteristics—their subtle charm is very appealing.

This week we welcomed a N.Z. nurse, Barbara Cameron, who will stay for one year. She will work among the lepers. Anne, Barbara and I will move into the hospital when it is completed, with the most physically handicapped children. No doubt, the forty beds will soon be taken up by the chronically sick.

"What harm is there if thy clothes become tattered and stained? Meet Him and stand by Him in toil and in the sweat of thy brow!"

—Christina Steers.

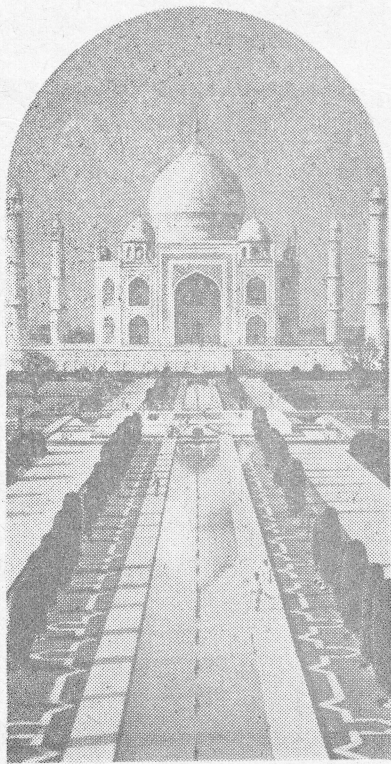
5: RAPHAEL



**EVERYONE'S HEADING  
FOR**

# India

THE COLOURFUL EXCITING NEW HOLIDAY LAND!



TO SEE THE  
**TAJ MAHAL**  
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# Group Activities . . .

## MELBOURNE

**Chairman:** Mr. Bill Galbraith.

**Hon. Secretaries:** Mrs. Coralie Mansbridge, Miss Anne Watson.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. Joe Quigley.

Supported by a strong committee, this Group has made itself responsible for the clothes which have been sent, and are being sent from Victoria, to Dehra Dun.

Under the guidance of Barbara Coleman and Josephine Collins, the members have learnt the story of "Raphael" and they have become proficient in giving illustrated talks at schools, church groups and clubs.

Dinner parties and picture nights have been organised.

Cards with an Australian motif (price 1/-, with envelopes), made and donated by prisoners at Pentridge, obtainable from: Miss Anne Watson, 46 Hartwood Street, East Kew. Phone: 85-2281.

**Pentridge Group:** Consent of the Attorney-General is given to raffle furniture made by prisoners at Pentridge. Prizes are: 1st, Cocktail Bar value £60; 2nd, Coffee Table value £12; 3rd, Coffee Table value £10.

Tickets at 1/- ea., in books of 10, will be sold during August and September in Melbourne and suburbs, and Ballarat, Geelong and Coleraine.

This is the only way the Pentridge Group can maintain the Leprosy Family adopted at International Centre. They donate these beautiful gifts, and we dispose of same. Anyone who can help in the disposal of tickets can contact their local Group, or the Hon. Sec., Mrs. A. A. Lord, M.B.E., 48 Lansell Rd., Toorak.

## SYDNEY COMMITTEE:

**President:** A. V. Ritchie, LL.B.

**Hon. Secretary:** Mrs. E. G. Miles (49-6127).

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. P. Gow (84-4180).

**Hon. Adoptions Officer for N.S.W.:** Mrs. J. M. Josephs (85-5084).

**Committee:** Dr. J. N. Muller, Mr. D. Cunyng-hame, Mr. G. E. Smith, Mrs. G. A. Bell, Mrs. J. M. Byrne, Mrs. F. Brauer, and Miss M. Harrison.

**Theatre Party, Thursday, 22nd July, 1965,** at the "Ensemble," Milson's Point. We hope that next month's theatre party will be a repetition of last year's success.

**Garden Inspection, Saturday, 18th September—Sunday, 19th September,** at 20 John Savage Crescent, Pennant Hills. Once again, Mr. and Mrs. P. Gow are opening their garden to the public to aid "Raphael," and a warm invitation is extended to the readers of this Newsletter to spend a de-

lightful hour viewing a charming and colourful garden. Devonshire tea will be available.

**Cheshire Christmas Card, 1965.** The colourful red and white design has been contributed by Rathin Mitra, art master, the Doon School, Dehra Dun, who designed the drinking fountain donated by N.S.W. to "Raphael" in the form of a gum tree sheltering a koala, with kangaroos on the ground. It seems fitting that the design this year should come from Dehra Dun.

Writing of the 1964 Christmas Card, the Social Editress of the "North Shore Times" said: "It's the nicest way of saying Happy Christmas to the men, women and children of the Ryder-Cheshire International Home." We can think of no better way of asking readers to take some of our cards, priced at 1/- each (with envelope). Enquiries: Mrs. E. G. Miles, 10 Hamilton Parade, Pymble. Tel.: 49-6127.

**Clothes for "Raphael":** A 3½ ton bale of warm clothing was despatched by our Clothing Officer, Miss Margot Harrison, last April, together with a large carton of medical drugs and supplies collected by Dr. J. N. Muller. To the many who have made this possible, a sincere "thank you."

## LITHGOW:

Mr. Pat Robson and Miss Mary Joseph have plans for a special Appeal and a Fashion Parade in October.

## BALLARAT:

The President, Mr. John Hurley, presented a heart-warming report at the Annual Meeting. This Group has organised a Progressive Dinner, a Mannequin Parade and a Woolshed Dance and Barbecue at "Yoothamurra," Carnham.

## GEELONG:

**Chairman:** Mr. Howard Burrowes.

**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. Harry Baker.

Illustrated talks have been given, and we were honoured by a visit from Sir Arthur Dean, LL.M., Chairman of The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (V.).

## COLERAINE:

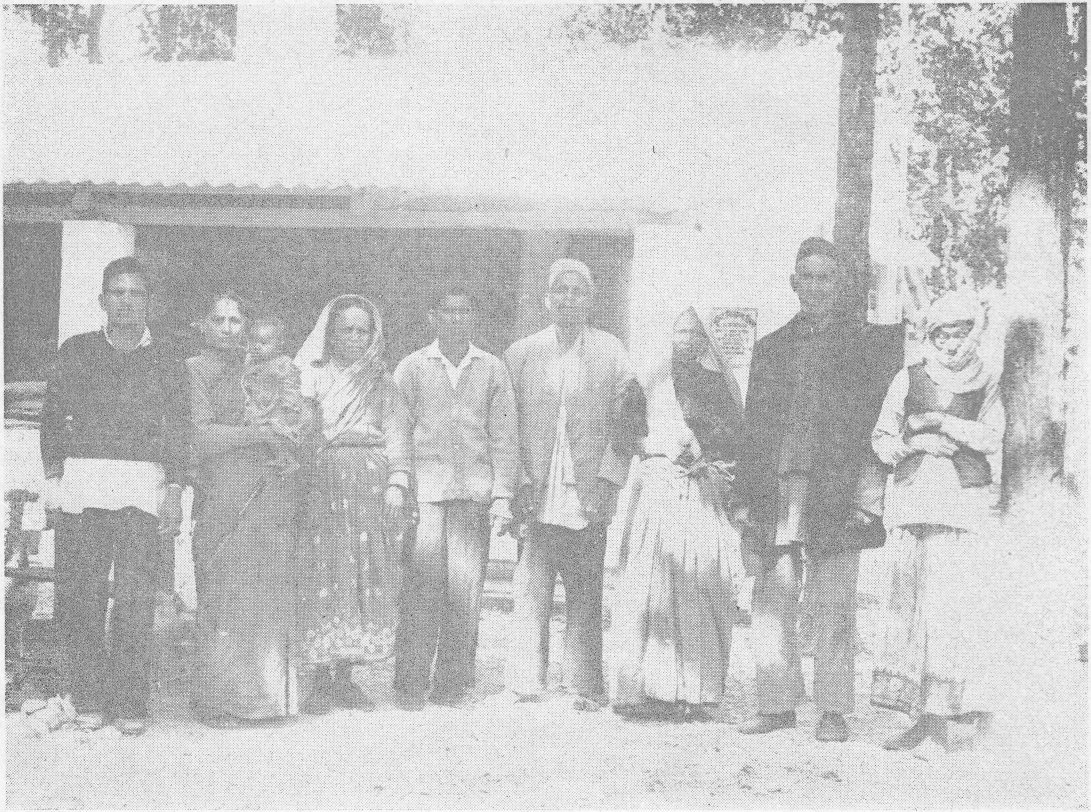
Illustrated talks have been given to C.W.A. groups at Dergholm and Coleraine, and at Port Fairy Apex Club. Arrangements have been made for talks at Portland, Hamilton and Casterton.

It has been proposed to Zone 1 (which comprises 35 Apex clubs) that this zone adopt the equipping of a 40-bed ward at "Raphael" Hospital, costing £1000. Members are sincerely hopeful that this proposal will be adopted.

A Woolshed Barbecue and Dance has been arranged for October, and another bale of clothing for "Raphael" is almost ready.

H. M. WETTENHALL,

Chairman Coleraine Group.



The four married leprosy couples who occupy our first cottage. Each family has a room with fireplace and a verandah. A cottage costs £1000 and, with your help, we will build many more.

**DONATIONS**, however small, may be sent to:—

Mr. P. H. N. Opas, Vice-Chairman Ryder-Cheshire Committee (Victoria), Owen Dixon Chambers, 205 William Street, Melbourne.

Mrs. A. A. Lord, M.B.E., Hon. Secretary, 48 Lansell Road, Toorak. 24-5283.

Miss Josephine Collins, 487 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. 26-3913.

**Sydney Donations to:** Mrs. E. G. Miles, Hon. Sec., 10 Hamilton Parade, Pymble, N.S.W.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS** (£1), made out to Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria), should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. D. A. Sinclair, 21 Moorwatha Street, Macleod.

**Adoptions:** It costs £50 p.a. to fully support a mentally handicapped patient.  
£50 p.a. to fully support a leprosy patient.  
£35 p.a. to fully support a destitute child.

**Clothing:** Freight free Victorian Railways, should be addressed to Mrs. J. Arundell, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, c/o Ormond Railway Station. Clothing (except hats and shoes), buttons, zippers, wool, needles and cotton is needed.

Ed.

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**PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS COUPON**

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