FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: AMERICAN CHILDREN

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, New York
January 8, 1981 -- March 29, 1981

SPONSOR: Springs Mills, Inc.
The exhibition is part of the Springs Mills Series on the
Art of Photography

DIRECTOR: Susan Kismaric, Associate Curator of the Department of Photography,
The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENTS: This exhibition of 60 photographs from the Museum's Collection
surveys the changing concept of childhood in America from the mid-
nineteenth century to the present.

Of the work to be exhibited, an ambrotype from 1860, typical of its
period, shows a child as the embodiment of Victorian ideals held by
her parents. Documentary photographs of the late nineteenth and
eyearly twentieth centuries expose the effects of technology and
industrialization on child laborers. At the same time the Photo-
Secessionists made artistic works of timeless, symbolic meaning by
uniting the innocence of children with the innocence of nature to
create a romanticized vision of childhood. Photographs from the
Depression through the 1960s describe the altering face of the child
in America, and the changing attitude towards childhood itself.

Among the photographers to be represented in AMERICAN CHILDREN are
Lee Friedlander, Diane Arbus, Nicholas Nixon, Robert Frank, Walker
Evans, Doris Ulmann, Jacob Riis and Lewis Hine.

PUBLICATION: A catalog, underwritten by Springs Mills, Inc., will accompany the
exhibition. It will include the 60 photographs from AMERICAN
CHILDREN and an introduction by Susan Kismaric. The book is being
published by The Museum of Modern Art and is being distributed in
cloth and paper by the New York Graphic Society. $14.95 clothbound.
$7.95 paperbound.

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648,
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