

Board games . . .

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The men feel that young people may be getting bored with video games, anyway. "I've read some stories that say the video game market may have peaked," Lekas said. "After a kid has played all the video games, where is there to go? Maybe to board games. A lot of kids have probably never even played 'Monopoly' or 'Clue.' They may think it's nice to sit around and play a game that actually lets them talk to each other."

Now that 'Danger Island' is completed, Lekas and Monteleone are discovering that marketing a board game is even harder than inventing one. They have formed a company called Literary Games Inc. to try to get their game into stores. The going is slow, but they are optimistic.

"After spending this long designing the game, we're not about to give up just because getting it out to the public looks so difficult," Lekas said.

"I've got a 5-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son," he said. "When they get old enough, I'd like for them to play my game. I like to think of them having that option, instead of standing in a video arcade with a handful of quarters, staring bleakly into a screen. I'd like for them to sit around with their dad playing 'Danger Island' and talking."

When the two men dream of what it would be like if their game somehow became a hit, their thoughts aren't entirely of the financial awards.

"I know I'll never write the great American novel," Lekas said. "But if people actually played my board game, that would feel just as good. I've created a special world and filled it with characters. It's like an open-ended story."

"I think of what it would be like to have hundreds of thousands of families playing 'Danger Island.' I think of all those people, instead of talking about Baltic Avenue or Colonel Mustard, saying:

"I've dug up the treasure four paces northwest of the volcano."

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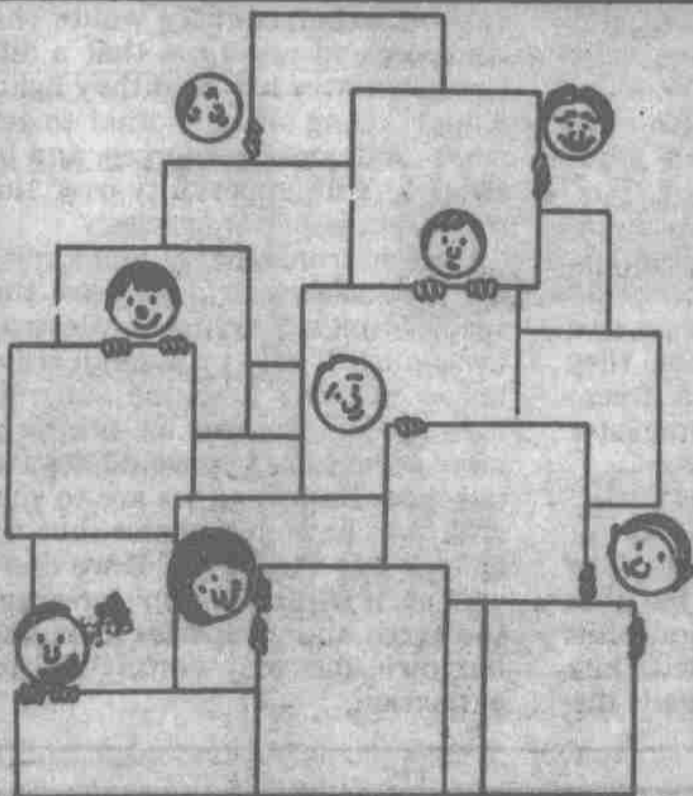
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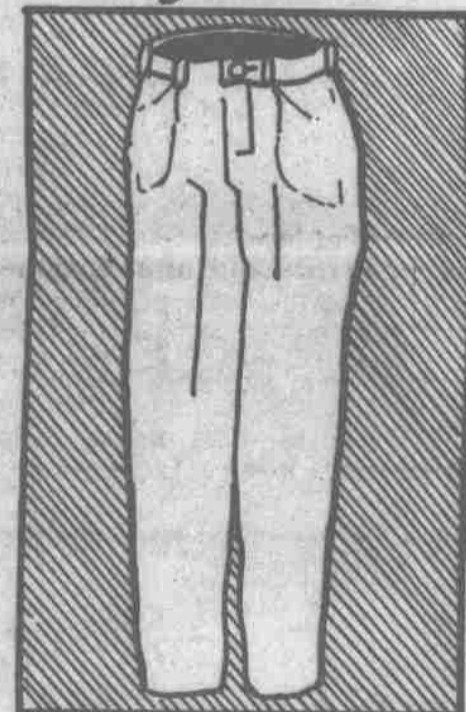
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