

Welfare Chief Warns Against Unethical Adoptions

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Examples of attempted unethical adoption practices were cited today by the local welfare superintendent, and he issued a warning to individuals who might be tempted to meddle in adoptions.

"In addition to violating the law," Supl. Wallace H. Kuralt said, "these people are flirting with heartache, either for themselves or others."

"The only safe way to adopt children is through a licensed agency," he said, "such as the Welfare Dept., the Family & Children's Service, and the

Greensboro Children's Home Society."

He cited two recent cases that would have been in violation of the law, and which would have ended in tragedy for two local couples had the adoptions been completed.

In the two separate cases, an unwed girl was to become a mother. Arrangements were made privately for two couples to adopt the children as soon as they were born, if the children were boys.

Both children, fortunately for the would-be adoptive parents, Mr. Kuralt said, were girls, and the couples refused to take the children.

As it later developed, both children were in serious physical condition and probably will require expensive life-long medical care.

The Welfare Dept. learned of these cases when families of the unwed mothers appealed for help.

If the children had been boys," Mr. Kuralt said, "and had been accepted by the families, the families would have been responsible for them."

A SAFETY FACTOR

In the case of adoptions through licensed agencies, a child can be returned if something unforeseen develops before the adoption is completed, he said, and

added, "There is no such assurance from a mother when an adoption is obtained through illegal means."

"An agency gives parents a better guarantee of a physically and mentally healthy child than if they had their own," the superintendent said. "The adopted child has the physical and mental attributes which families have every right to expect."

In the cases Mr. Kuralt used as examples of what can happen when adoptions are not handled properly, he said attorneys had been negotiating to place the children.

Had the adoptions gone through, he said, they would have been in violation of the statute that makes it "unlawful for any person to separate or aid in separating any child under six months old from his mother for the purpose of placing such child in a foster home or institution."

FINE AND PRISON

Conviction of such an offense carries a penalty up to \$500 fine or a year in prison, or both.

It is legal to work out an arrangement with a mother, Mr. Kuralt said, but the preferable approach is through social agencies that will make the necessary investigation to assure the adopting parents of a sound child.

"We receive exceedingly good cooperation from the legal and medical profession," Mr. Kuralt said. "But you will always find a few persons, close enough to the problem, interested in tampering with adoptions."

North Carolina law on adoptions is so written that the prime consideration is for the child. Where adoptions are handled properly or illegally, the intent of the General Assembly is destroyed, Mr. Kuralt said.

PROTECTION FOR CHILD

The primary purpose of the adoption law "is to protect children from unnecessary separation from parents who might give them good homes and loving care, to protect them from adoption by persons unfit to have the responsibility of their care and rearing, and to protect them from interference, long after they have become properly adjusted in their adoptive homes, by natural parents."

The secondary purpose of the law "is to protect the natural parents from hurried decisions, made under strain and anxiety, to give up a child, and to protect foster parents from assuming responsibility for a child about whose heredity or mental or physical condition they know nothing and to prevent later disturbance of their relationship to the child by natural parents whose legal rights have not been fully protected."

Often, Mr. Kuralt said, couples who want to adopt children are unsuitable, and the child's interest would not be protected. It is not unusual for doctors to suggest that women who are neurotic adopt a child, but Mr. Kuralt said, "We don't play that kind of game."

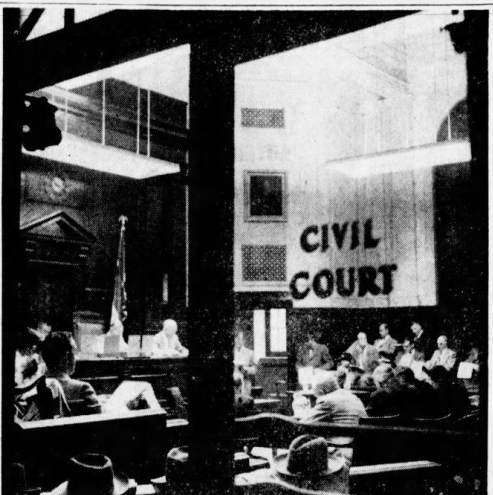
At the same time, parents who have lost a child through death often want to adopt one. To this type of request, Mr. Kuralt's reply is: "We don't replace dead children. We place children for their own welfare."

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Local attorneys are shown here at cleanup call for Civil Superior Court today. The 1,310 cases were either non-suited, referred to the "off" dock, or placed on the trial calendar. Next Friday cases will be set for trial from the new calendar. The big cleanup today is one of the preliminary steps in bringing the Civil Court calendar up-to-date.

'Blacked Out' Driver Finds Justice Can Be Speedy Too

A 21-year-old Mount Holly youth who claimed he "blacked out" while driving more than 100 miles per hour, today found justice can be speedy too.

Identified as Vernon L. Whiteman, he drew a 10-month sentence on the roads after leading City Police on a 20-minute chase early this morning through streets in the northern section of the city.

Whiteman was cut on the nose and forehead when his 1954 Ford wrecked by striking the embankment and railroad tracks at the dead end of Franklin St. at Hutchison Ave.

Judge Basil M. Boyd sentenced him to a total of 10 months on charges of speeding 90 miles per hour inside city limits, reckless driving, and failing to heed a police siren.

Patrolmen G. C. Hater and S. A. Funderburk saw the car this morning chase through the highway 49 nearly as far as Harrisburg before Whiteman's car, well in the lead, turned around, and passed the patrol car on the way back into Charlotte.

The young driver, traveling alone, said he did not remember anything about the chase and had, during recent Army service, suffered previous "blacked out" spells.

The chase began on Blakesville Ave. and lasted from 29 to 30 minutes along streets in the northeast section of Charlotte, and patrolmen said they clocked Whiteman's speed on Highway 49 at over 100 miles an hour.

The youth said he was discharged from the Army in October of this year and has been working as a printer for a Gastonia newspaper. He was sentenced to 6 months on the roads on the reckless driving charge 30 days on the speeding charge, and 30 days on the failure to heed the police siren, all sentences to run consecutively.

Cherry-Makers Die in River Waters

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Five women on the way home from an evening of dancing drowned in the icy Minnesota River early today when their car skidded on a slick parking lot road and plunged down an embankment.

A sixth woman fought her way out of the submerged car and was rescued by a group of youths who had stopped at the night club where the women spent the evening.

The victims were identified by the Dakota County coroner's office as Margaret Miskowicz, 30; her sister, Dolores Mary, 26; Ann Clark, 30; Carol Ann Reed, 20, all of Minneapolis, and Ruth Ann Pulkrabek, 21, Walnut Grove, Minn.

Donna Mae Willis, 24, Minneapolis, cousin of the Pulkrabek girl, was taken to a St. Paul hospital and was reported recovering.

The women, long-time friends, left the club at the 1 a.m. closing hour and got into Miss Matras' car in the parking lot. Snow was whipping across the river bottoms and the ground was coated with ice.

Other words which police described as vulgar expressions were painted on the front steps and front columns, and an empty gray paint can was discovered in front of the school building.

Youth Bureau officers said they are attempting to locate the persons responsible for the vandalism which they said doubtless resulted from the rivalry between Harding and Central High Schools. The annual football game between the two school teams is scheduled Friday night.

'Mushrooming' Categories News Withholding Concern Expressed

WASHINGTON (AP)—A spokesman for the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) expressed concern today over the mushrooming of "new categories of withheld information" in government agencies.

The ASNE's views were given to a House Government Operations subcommittee in a prepared statement by J. R. Higgins, executive editor of the Washington Post and Times Herald and chairman of the ASNE freedom of information committee.

The subcommittee, headed by Rep. Moss (D-Calif.), has been set up to inquire into government policies and practices on giving information to the public.

Higgins was one of a panel of press, radio and television leaders invited to today's opening public hearing which is an open discussion of information policies and difficulties encountered in getting information from federal agencies.

Wiggins said the nation's editors are "disturbed by the withholding of information in many areas of government, local, state and federal, legislative, executive and judicial."

He added:

"We think it due to the size of government; to the emigration of governmental power from publicly operated legislative and judicial agencies to secretly operated administrative agencies; to the declining faith in the wisdom of the federal government; to the generation's counter revolution against free institutions; to the requirements of national military security which have increased steadily since World War I."

Because they acknowledge the need for secrecy where national military security is clearly involved, Wiggins said, newspapers generally have accepted the necessity for classification of security data as "top secret," "secret," "confidential" as provided for in an 1953 executive order signed by President Eisenhower.

But, he said, the secrecy thus granted is being used to "infectious and contagious" matters which officials themselves admit are not nonclassifiable for "policy reasons" "which have been withheld."

Committee investigators have reported 20 new classifications—such as "Secret" and "Medical"—"have been created by federal agencies to keep material secret after its arrival despite the presidential order."

Wiggins cited examples of what he called "a philosophy of secrecy" that seems to pervade the Defense Department and the National Security Council, and he expressed concern that some existing policies "can be altered without prejudicing our national military security."

Newspaper editors, he concluded, do not think "that we need to make the hard choice between allowing our safety and abandoning our freedom. They think we can have both safety and freedom."

"Unless both objectives are kept constantly in mind," he said, "there is a danger that in our frantic scramble for absolute secrecy and complete safety we may destroy our own liberty."



AN UNWANTED PAINT JOB

Sploches of gray paint covered the front columns, steps and front door of Harding High School when teachers and students arrived this morning.

On the front door were painted the initials "C.H.S." and on the side of the school auditorium, the word "CENTRAL" was painted in gray letters.

Other words which police described as vulgar expressions were painted on the front steps and front columns, and an empty gray paint can was discovered in front of the school building.

Youth Bureau officers said they are attempting to locate the persons responsible for the vandalism which they said doubtless resulted from the rivalry between Harding and Central High Schools. The annual football game between the two school teams is scheduled Friday night.

Women Die As Rescue Try Fails

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Will He Leave Denver?

DENVER (AP)—This is a big day for President Eisenhower as he decides today on the basis of doctors' advice whether to leave the hospital Friday and fly back to Washington.

Dr. Paul Dudley White, eminent Boston heart specialist arranged to give the President a full report on his condition outlining a further convalescence program for the immediate future, then let him pick the date for return to the capital.

In advance of the White session with Eisenhower, White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said the "best guess" still is that the President will check out of Fitzsimons Army Hospital Friday, the day tentatively fixed by physicians there.

That will be seven weeks after his Sept. 24 heart attack and nearly two months after he arrived in Denver Aug. 1 for a work and play vacation.

The next item on the President's agenda for the day was a business meeting with Secretary of Welfare Folsom. Secretary of Commerce Weeks, will see the President after he returns East.

The present plan is for Eisenhower to leave Denver next weekend, then travel on to his farm at Gettysburg, Pa., probably a week from today.

White arrived here yesterday afternoon for his fourth examination of the President in six weeks.

The physician went immediately to the hospital, consulted at length with staff doctors, and then spent some time with Eisenhower.

"There was no immediate word on the conclusions reached, but medical bulletins from the hospital continued to report the President's condition was satisfactory. Because it has been satisfactory so long, the doctors now are putting out just that simple statement without detail."

No Negroes Put On Till Grand Jury

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP)—A grand jury began work this morning with the Till kidnaping case high on its list of business.

No Negroes were picked on the 10-member Leflore County grand jury, Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said yesterday.

"We've had them before," Sanders said. "There may be some on there this time."

The 20 men will divide their half-brothers Roy Bryant and John E. Milam, who were tried on charges of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

The grand jury possibly will consider the case today.

Mose Wright, Till's 64-year-old uncle, and Willie Reed, an 18-year-old farm hand before he went to Chicago, waited in the Leflore County sheriff's office to testify before the grand jury.

Wright and Reed arrived in Greenwood last night from Chicago, where they sought safety after testifying in the famous trial.

Wright said he was a copper before he let his home and cotton crop flee to Chicago, said he plans to remain in Chicago.

"I like it here pretty good but it's just a little too cold," he said.

Reed said he planned to finish one week of dancing in Greenwood, but seemed nervous and anxious to return to Chicago.

Wright and Reed were arrested in Chicago, said he has a \$1,000 scholarship for college. He lives with his mother.

Scheele Statement Anti-Polio Shot Called Protection

WASHINGTON (AP)—Surgeon General Leonard Scheele said today that results of using Salk polio vaccine this year "give strong evidence that children who receive even one dose were substantially protected against paralytic polio."

"Preliminary data show," he added, "that paralytic attack rates in vaccinated children have been lower by 67 to 99 percent than in unvaccinated children of the same ages."

He gave the appraisal in an address prepared for the 62nd annual convention of the Assn. of Military Surgeons of the United States.

He predicted the eventual elimination of paralytic polio as "another triumph of preventive medicine and public health," which he said had made progress also against other diseases.

"It would seem then," he added, "that in another generation—two or three decades hence—the population of the United States could be as free of venereal disease, tuberculosis, paralytic poliomyelitis, rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, and the complications of streptococcal infections as it is today from smallpox, typhoid fever, yellow fever and malaria."

100-Year-Old Bricks Unearthed At City Hall

Physical evidence of ante-bellum Charlotte in the form of handmade bricks was stacked on the City Hall lawn today.

Between 75 and 100 of the odd-size bricks were unearthed as workmen dug a large hole for transplanting a 25-foot willow oak tree on the west lawn of the City Hall.

R. L. (Munk) Barnett, engineer for the Park and Recreation Commission who supervised the tree transplanting, calculated the bricks were made "back in slavery times."

"That would make the bricks around 100 years old," Mr. Barnett said. The bricks were scattered in the earth and were not in any special pattern as workmen found them in their digging.

He added there was no question but that these were hand-made brick. There was no conformity in the sizes, but most were around three inches thick, four inches wide, and eight and one-half inches long.

The lack of compact texture, resulting from modern-day pressure kilns, was confirmation, Mr. Barnett said, that the bricks were of ancient origin.

There was only conjecture as to how or why the odd bricks came to be where they were.

The present-day City Hall square is the former W. S. Liddell property where three houses once stood. The square, bounded by Trade, Davidson, 4th and Alexander Sts., was purchased by the city government in the early '20s from Miss Westray, Battle of Asheville, one of the Liddell heirs.

Mr. Barnett said he knew of no use for the bricks and he planned to haul them away with the excess dirt from the tree planting.

DRIVER UNHURT IN BARREL ROLL FROM BRIDGE

A 1955 Buick ran off the bridge over Southern Railway tracks on Remond Rd. about midnight last night, dropped between 35 and 40 feet, and landed upside down.

Nobody was hurt.

Police listed the driver of the car as E. B. Crain Jr., 181 Camp Greene Ave. He explained that his front wheel had run over the edge of the narrow bridge. No charges were preferred.

Square Dancing Found Fine Physical Therapy

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Grade school youngsters are finding 30-minute daily square dance sessions not only a real treat but a "practical" physical therapy.

It's part of a program started recently by Mrs. Lucy York, physical therapist at W. J. Bryan School of Physically Handicapped Children.

Mrs. York says the do-it-yourself exercises have produced amazing results for the brace-burdened youngsters ranging in age from 6 to 11.

"The teacher believes it is the first time square dancing has been worked into a physical therapy program for crippled children."

"The children know the other schools do square dancing and now they feel they are keeping up with them," Mrs. York explained.

HELPED SPEECH

She said one polio victim who has been dependent on crutches for losses them to one side and whirled with the best of them.

A girl also crippled by polio had a speech impediment attributed to an emotional problem. After one week of dancing, the speech difficulty was "practically eliminated."

"She relaxed and she felt she was accepted as one of the square dance group," Mrs. York added.

"We had lots of spills in the beginning but the parents and children knew this would happen. Now they are gaining strength and there are few falls."

Mrs. York says square dance routines do more to strengthen muscles and improve coordination than traditional exercises.

Mrs. York went through routine exercises such as riding a bicycle and walking between parallel bars, she heard the usual complaint "I'm tired, I don't want to do it today."

"Now it's a dancing party," the teacher said happily.

Man Kills 2 Women

COMPTON, Calif. (AP)—A 40-year-old man killed his estranged wife and another woman and wounded a third person yesterday, police reported.

Mrs. Alice Decker, 32, and Miss Helen Witt, 25, were shot and killed. Witt's mother, Mrs. Jean Witt, 40, was hospitalized with two chest wounds.

Ray Vernon Decker was booked on suspicion of murder after surrendering while standing in front of the Witt home.

Bowater Ups Newsprint

An increase of \$4 a ton in the price of newsprint was announced today by The Bowater Paper Co. The announcement by Bowater followed price increases in the past weeks by several North American newsprint producers.

The Charlotte News has a newsprint contract with the Bowater firm for approximately 20 percent of its annual newsprint requirements.

The \$4 a ton increase, effective Dec. 1, brings the price of Bowater newsprint delivered in Charlotte to \$14 a ton, the highest newsprint cost on record here.

The News was advised of a \$3 a ton price increase last week by the Montgomery Paper Co. The News has a contract with Montgomery for approximately one-half of its newsprint. The Montgomery increase became effective on Nov. 1.

Our Weather

Mostly cloudy today. Occasional very light rain ending this afternoon. Partly cloudy and colder tonight. Tomorrow partly cloudy and cold.

Low this morning—45.
Low tonight—40.
High today—65.
High tomorrow—59.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

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