

Elderly Finnigan Sisters Get First Baths In Several Years

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, England (UPI)—The Finnigan sisters took their first baths in years today and agreed, at last, that life in a chicken coop was for the birds.

But it took all the persuasive power of the welfare state to convince them.

Miss Marcella Finnigan, 85, and her sister Ella, 78, moved into the old peoples' ward of St. Paul's Hospital here Thursday night after living happily for 30 years in an unheated and unlighted chicken coop on a farm near here.

They moved into the tumble-down henhouse in the 1930's "to get away from everybody." A neighboring farmer fed them with chickens. A solitary candle provided their light. There was no water.

Orange crates covered with burlap blankets provided their double bed and burlap pillows cradled their heads. There was no protection from the winter winds that gusted through gaping cracks in the wood walls. And there was nothing to soften the broken brick flooring of the coop.

But when the glare of publicity fell on them last week, the two sisters—both spinsters from Ireland—said they were doing fine.

"We are happy where we are," they said when the local health officer, Dr. Robert Hynd, tried to move them out.

Both were ill at the time, but said it was their first illness in 30 years. Doctors who examined them agreed they were in good shape considering their age.

Hynd said he would apply for a court order to move them. The sisters said they would stay put.

For a few days it appeared to be a struggle between the state's power to protect its citizens and the individual's "right" to die a cold and lonely death.

The sisters' resolve began to crack at the weekend. They moved out of their chicken coop into another nearby chicken coop with all the old discomforts of home.

Hynd and a delegation of friends tried again, and the sisters gave in. They climbed into an ambulance and were taken to the hospital, where they took baths and were bundled into beds between snow-white sheets.

"This is wonderful," said Miss Ella. "At the moment we certainly have no wish to return to our henhouse."

"Take it from me," Miss Marcella added, "we shall be happy here until we die."

"But we certainly needed that bath."

Area Churches To Unite For Prayer-Week Event

The Sutherlin - Oakland Ministerial Association will stage its own overture toward ecumenism next week in the form of an interchange of services in observance of a "Week of Prayer." The observance is being sponsored nationally by the National Council of Churches.

According to the Rev. Richard Case of the Sutherlin Methodist Church, churches of the area will host the services which will feature an exchange of pastors for the sermon portions. The services will be approximately an hour in length and will be held nightly beginning on Monday at 7:30 p.m. With the exception of one, all will be held at churches in Sutherlin.

Speaking for the Ministerial Association, the Rev. Mr. Case said that the exchange of pulpits and mingling of congregations is in line with the ecumenical spirit abroad today and it is hoped that many Sutherlin

Oakland residents will participate in this expression of mutual trust and fellowship. All area residents are invited to attend. Special music will be provided by each of the host churches.

On Monday the Nazarene Church will be host, with D. L. Nultmeier of the Assembly of God Church giving the sermon. The Tuesday service will be at the Assembly of God Church with Elder Elmer Unterseher of the Seventh-day Adventist Church preaching.

On Wednesday the Methodist Church will host the Rev. Neil Brown of the Oakland Community Presbyterian Church who will in turn be host to the Thursday service preached by Case of the Methodist Church. The closing service Friday will be held at the Seventh-day Adventist Church with B. E. Longanecker of the Nazarene Church giving the sermon.

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TOUCHY JOB — Crusading woman editor Mrs. Jean Gardner of Jennings, Mo., received her fourth threatening telephone call Thursday after she had published her weekly newspaper, the Jennings News, the day before. The paper carried a banner "Racial Problem Gives Jennings A Black Eye," and blamed teenagers for recent vandalism and harassment against the David Thompson family (Negro) which moved into the St. Louis suburb just before Christmas. (UPI Telephoto)

Woman Editor Guarded After Telephone Threat

JENNINGS, Mo. (UPI)—Police kept a special guard outside the home of a woman editor today who received a telephone threat Thursday night she had only 24 hours to live.

Mrs. Jean Gardner, mother of four and publisher of the weekly Jennings News in this racially troubled St. Louis suburb, said a man phoned her home at 10 o'clock Thursday night and said, "you have 24 hours to live."

It was the fifth threat by telephone Mrs. Gardner had received in a 30-hour period, but the first that threatened her life. Two other calls threatened damage to her newspaper shop.

Jennings police said the special guard would remain at the Gardner residence during the day. There were no incidents during the first hours after the threat.

All of the calls came after this week's issue of the News was published with a headline, "Racial Problem Gives Jennings A Black Eye."

The story blamed teen-age hoodlums for the firecrackers and window smashing which plagued a Negro family, Mr. and Mrs. David Thompson and their children, since they moved into this previously all-white suburb 12 miles from St. Louis.

In the story, Mrs. Gardner, 45, blamed police for not taking a "firm stand" in the case at the beginning and with contributing to the harassment of the family.

Both Jennings and St. Louis County police denied any dereliction of duty and said they have had extra police details guarding the Thompson home since the first window was smashed New Year's Eve.

Mrs. Gardner said numerous citizens of the community had rallied to her cause. She said "persons from all walks of life, ministers, school faculty members and city officials had telephoned and come into my office in person to sympathize with me."

McLary Gets Verdict Today

AMARILLO, Tex. (UPI)—Russell Wence McLary had a "wait and see" attitude today during a grand jury debate of charges he threatened the life of the late President Kennedy.

A decision was expected today, after the grand jury ends its current term.

The 21-year-old McLary is charged with uttering a threat against the President, a federal offense.

McLary and a classmate, Jim Wilson, both of Dallas, went before the panel Thursday to explain that McLary was only "joking" when he said he would kill Kennedy. Federal authorities have said there was no connection between McLary and accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

The statement was made on Nov. 21, the eve of the assassination, during a break between night classes at Arlington State College. McLary said he made the statement while joking with Wilson.

The remarks were overheard by Mrs. Geraldine Robertson of Fort Worth and another coed. Mrs. Robertson was presented to the jury by the government Thursday.

She was escorted into the courtroom by a Secret Service man, who also accompanied her to a plane after testifying.

"I'm certainly glad to be out of there," she said after leaving the court. She was locked up with the grand jury for 15 minutes and Wilson for 10 minutes.

Bert Laurance Will Seek Re-election As Treasurer

Bert Laurance, a Dillard man who says he likes his job and wants to keep it, Thursday became the third candidate for county-wide office to file for the May primary election.

Laurance, has been Douglas County treasurer for eight years. In the last general election he was re-elected.



BERT LAURANCE eyes third term

He is a member of the Dillard-Winston Methodist Church, Elks and Roseburg Rod and Gun Club. He is a past associate guardian of Winston-Dillard Bethel No. 53 of Job's Daughters and past president of the Winston-Dillard Kiwanis Club. He also belongs to the Oregon Association of County Treasurers, the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers and the National Association of County Officials.

Laurance says he proposes to continue operating an efficient and economical office. He says his office has made more than a million dollars in interest from investment of county funds on a short-term basis for the county in the last six fiscal years.

The term of office for treasurer is four years.

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