

Accusations Are Denied By Welfare Commission Head

The accusation that a representative of State Public Welfare Commission "persuaded" Mrs. Harriet Wilson to leave the home of her son, Clifford Wilson, was emphatically denied by H. D. Olney, administrator for the Curry County Public Welfare Commission, following publication of the report, December 30.

The December 30 report accused the State Public Welfare Commission of inducing Mrs. Wilson to leave her son's home and then concealing her whereabouts. Olney said the first accusation was untrue but that the State Public Welfare Commission was within its rights in later refusing to divulge Mrs. Wilson's whereabouts.

The events which gave rise to the reports occurred Oct. 24, Olney said, when Mrs. Georgia Baker, who was then administrator for the Curry County Public Welfare Commission, called at the Wilson residence, in response to a written request from Mrs. Wilson herself, and talked with Clifford Wilson. Upon leaving Mr. Wilson's house, Mrs. Baker found Mrs. Wilson and her niece, Miss Gladys Hulbert, already in Mrs. Baker's car. They insisted on being given a ride to Brookings and since Mrs. Baker was going to Brookings she felt she could hardly refuse.

"The statement that 'the local representative of the State Welfare Commission, went to the Wilson home and persuaded the old lady . . . to leave' is absolutely untrue," Olney said. "Mr. Clifford Wilson himself would be the first to deny such a statement."

On Nov. 23, a Gold Beach attorney wrote to the State Welfare Commission office and requested information regarding Mrs. Wilson's whereabouts, Olney said. The only reason that the State Public Welfare Commission positively knew where Mrs. Wilson was living was because she had applied for Old

Age Assistance in another county, he said. Therefore, both sections 126-622 and 126-108 of the Oregon law and the Federal Social Security regulations applied in this case.

Section 126-622 of the Oregon law states: "It shall be unlawful, except for purposes directly connected with the administration of old-age assistance, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state public welfare commission, for any person or persons to solicit, disclose, receive, make use of or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in or acquiesce in the use of any list of or name of, or any information concerning, persons applying for or receiving such assistance, directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files or communications of the state public welfare commission or county public welfare commissions or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties."

Section 126-108 of the Oregon law states: "The public welfare commission shall make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the custody, use and preservation of the records, papers, files and communications of the state public welfare department and county public welfare departments . . . Such records are confidential subject to the rules and regulations of the state public welfare commission."

In addition, Olney said, the Federal Social Security Regulations state: "No disclosure of any information, obtained by any representative or employee of the agency in the course of discharging the duties of the agency, shall be made directly or indirectly, other than in the administration of the public assistance program."

"I believe that the quoted sections of law clearly state that all information regarding applicants for public assistance is confidential," Olney said. "I cannot imagine how any attorney could get a different interpretation."

"This whole affair was simply a regrettable family quarrel," Olney stated, "and it is too bad that it had to be aired in the newspapers. However, since the first story was published it was necessary to clarify what actually did happen."

OPHIR NEWS

Betty Whittaker has returned after spending the vacation visiting friends at Portland and Seaside.

Eudora Moore is quarantined with scarlet fever. At last report she has the only case in this vicinity.

Mrs. Eldon Miller and daughter, Marian, spent last week visiting friends and relatives at Portland and Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller and children of Myrtle Point and Mr. and Mrs. George Long and Doris of Portland spent Christmas day with Eldon Miller.

Eddie Parry of Myrtle Point spent last week visiting friends in this area.

Among the collegians who vacationed at home were Dick Whittaker of University of Oregon; Dave Thompson of Vanport and Ted Wimmer of Humboldt at Arcata.

Jimmy Wimmer who is working in Coos Bay was in Ophir last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hines have returned to their home after spending Christmas as Roseburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Noel of Klamath Falls are visiting their friends in Ophir.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillon Miller entertained a group of friends on New Years Eve. Present included Mr. and Mrs. Guy Noel, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Neal of Gold Beach and Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Buffington are in Washington on vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Moore and daughter, Anita, have moved to the Harwood home.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bechtel and sons of Myrtle Point were visiting at the home of Mrs. Bechtel's father, Frank Moore. Arthur, in the navy, is stationed at San Diego, and was home on leave.

Bruce Burns, Dick Nash and Lee Palock are now employed by the R. E. A.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Buffington and family of Eugene are visiting at the Ken Ryans.

New Plane Added To Airport Fleet

GOLD BEACH—Three of the aircraft at the Leith hangars are being wired for night flying by Frank Wagner of Grants Pass. The Beachcraft Bananza that has been added to the local field makes five planes available for the training plan and charter use.

The Bananza is a four-place plane. It cruises at 165 miles per hour at 8000 feet. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rader made the trip to Grants Pass and returned in 45 minutes Tuesday for repair parts.

Don Clauson of Crescent City was the first out-of-town plane to land, using the newly-installed night landing lights. He landed to refuel, and was pleased that the field was lighted. The lights from the field can be seen from Mt. Humbug when the weather is clear. They are turned on in the evening and left on all night.

Eugenia Moore To Be Wed. January 13, in Va.

Word has been received here of the forthcoming marriage of Miss Eugenia Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil R. Moore, to Herbert Lee Banton, Friday evening, January 13, 8 o'clock, at Wesley Methodist church, in Norfolk, Va.

The bride-to-be is a graduate, in 1946, of Brookings high, and attended Southern Oregon College of Education for a year. She has been employed in Norfolk for more than a year.

Immunizations To Be Given Children

The year, 1950, will usher in immunization clinics for all children four years of age or over, reports Bertha Whirry, local leader of the Curry County Health Association, who have not already received their diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus series of those who need a booster shot. Vaccinations against smallpox will also be done to those who have not been previously vaccinated or where it has been a longer period than seven years.

These clinics will be held each month from 10 to 12 a. m. in the grade school building of the following places:

- Port Orford on the second Tuesday.
- Brookings on the second Wednesday.
- Gold Beach on the second Thursday.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Pearson of Corvallis, were week-end visitors at the Lynn Hampton home. Mrs. Pearson is a sister of Mrs. Hampton.

Recent guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Swinney were their granddaughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Garboza, Santa Cruz, whose marriage was an event of Dec. 18. Other guests have been another granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cayvill, and a grandson, Harry Elmore, all of Selma. Mr. and Mrs. Swinney celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary Dec. 24. They have two daughters, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. The Swinneys moved from Selma to Harbor several years ago, later moving to their present home near Harris Park.

Dr. and Mrs. Guy Rice, accompanied by Mrs. Rice's daughter, Miss Nancy Stone, returned last week. The Rices spent Christmas with Dr. Rice's father and mother in San Jose and Miss Stone spent the holidays with relatives in Los Angeles. She left on Saturday for Grants Pass to spend New Years, then return to Stanford University where she is a sophomore.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hempel, son, Billie, and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fielder returned home early Tuesday morning after spending Christmas with Mr. Hempel's family in Texas. They were accompanied home by Mrs. Edwin Chapman (Ina Payne) of Farmington, N. Mex., who will visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Payne, for two weeks. She and her husband plan to return to Harbor to make their home, this spring.

Mr. and Mrs. William Tolman returned home Thursday after spending several weeks at Santa Barbara and Bay area. While they were gone, Mr. Tolman underwent an operation on his eyes.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Crawford and two children of Tulelake arrived during the week-end to spend several weeks at the home of Mrs. Crawford's mother, Mrs. Ruth Bathiany. Mrs. Bathiany is now visiting at Los Angeles, but hopes to return home soon.

Mrs. Irene McPherson had the misfortune of fracturing two of her ribs, Tuesday morning when she slipped on the ice in her yard.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bolin left the middle of the week for Chicago and other midwest points, planning to drive a new car back from the factory.

FASHION FINDS BY CONNIE CONNIE'S

Next To The Theatre GOLD BEACH, OREGON After the mad dash of the holiday season let's check our practical togs—our every-day favorite jeans, Levis, made of 10-oz. American denim. They are positively superior to any made in the United States and enjoy a national reputation. Buy them for the entire family at Connies. Children and mens priced as follows: waist measure, 22 to 26, \$3.05; 27 to 29, \$3.25; 30 to 38, \$3.45; Ladies Levis, \$3.95.

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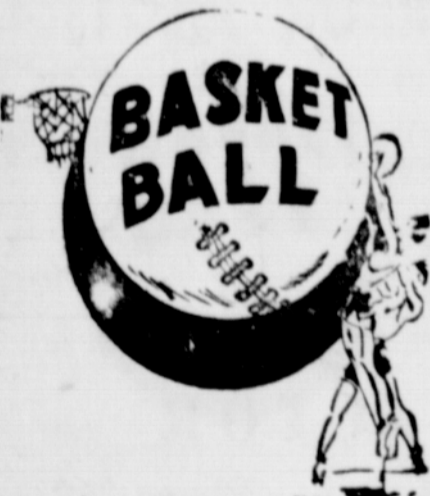
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