

IF HE IS ALIVE—

Ronnie, '44 Kidnap Victim, Should Be in School Now

Dayton, O., Sept. 27 (AP)—Little Ronnie Thompson, victim of a black market baby kidnaping five years ago, started to school this fall—somewhere.

That is the hope today of the little boy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Thompson, as the fifth anniversary of the lad's disappearance nears.

Ronnie disappeared with a new nursemaid October 7, 1944. The trail wandered to Detroit, to northwest Michigan, then vanished. Police said he was taken by a ring operating a black market in babies.

The Dayton baby—a towhead with a round, smiling face—was 18 months old when he vanished. Now he is 6, if he still is alive.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are certain Ronnie is alive. Their unflagging hope resulted today in offer of \$4000 in rewards for information leading to Ronnie's return.

Montgomery county commissioners are offering \$2500, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson \$1000 and private detective Russel Pfauhl of Dayton \$500.

Pfauhl bolstered the parents' hopes with his offer of \$500. Pfauhl was a detective in the Dayton police department when Ronnie disappeared. He worked on the case then, and still thinks Ronnie is alive.

"We have never given up hope," said Mrs. Thompson. "We just know Ronnie is alive somewhere."

The father also shares Mrs. Thompson's confidence. He is a factory worker; Mrs. Thompson a part-time nurse.

The Thompson's trouble be-

gan when a woman of about 40 years old and calling herself Mrs. Mary Wilkey answered Mrs. Thompson's advertisement for a nursemaid.

The day she took over her duties, both she and Ronnie disappeared. Witnesses on bus routes led police to Detroit, then to Ashton, Mich. The trail vanished there. In Detroit Paul Jehvahlrian was kidnaped by a woman answering the same description.

Both the Thompson and Jehvahlrian families received telegrams from the abductors telling them not to worry. The babies would be returned, the wires said.

The hue-and-cry raged for weeks. Gradually it died away. Police said the babies were stolen by a ring which operated a black market in children for adoption.

They theorized Ronnie would be sold into adoption, perhaps to some couple that couldn't find a legal means of adopting a child.

Children began going to school in Dayton a few days ago. The Thompsons watched these children. They remembered their Ronnie would have been going to school this fall for the first time.

"I still hope," said Mrs. Thompson today. "Someday, if—"



She has 'Borrowed' Bone—Mary Robins (left), 6, of Chicago, laughs happily as she shows Nurse Betty Ann Armstrong how she takes her doll's temperature at Children's Memorial hospital, Chicago, Ill. Mary is recuperating from surgery to correct a fusion of the spine. In the operation a bone provided through a co-operative bone bank was used. Mary is one of the first patients to benefit from the bank established by two Chicago hospitals. (AP Wirephoto)

Boys in Gray May End Meets in 1950

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 7 (AP)—Eight of the heartiest survivors of a fast-vanishing army are expected to attend the annual reunion of Confederate veterans here this week.

They represent about one-fourth of the living members of Gen. Robert E. Lee's gray-clad legion in the historic 1861-65 campaign. The average age of the Confederate veterans is 102 1/2 years.

The reunion, which probably will be the semi-final meeting of Confederate veterans, opens Tuesday and runs through Thursday.

The veterans are expected to vote to hold a final reunion next year at the scene of the first Civil war action—Charleston, S. C.

11 Air Force Men Killed in Guam

Guam, Sept. 27 (AP)—Eleven men were killed and three were critically injured when a B-29 crashed at the North Guam air force base Friday night, the air force said today.

Witnesses and survivors said the Superfortress crashed when the engine failed on a routine takeoff, causing the plane to explode.

The dead: Aircrafter Commander Capt. Frederick L. Mantle, Sacramento, Calif.; First Lt. J. L. Bertie, 29, bombardier, Morgantown, Va.; First Lt. Theodore R. Quinto, 27, co-pilot, 924 49th street, Brooklyn, N. Y.; First Lt. Joseph O. Segal, 30, navigator, 135 Charles place, Atlantic City, N. J.; S. Sgt. Victor G. Samford, Jr., 23, radio operator, Kilgore, Tex.; Pfc. John F. Oleis, 20, North River road, Auburn, Me.; Sgt. Norman C. Vivian, gunner, Chicago, whose father, Norman Vivian lives in Bayfield, Wis.; Pfc. Joseph J. McKenna, 21, electrician, 2843 North 4th street, Philadelphia; Cpl. Richard L. Spaulding, mechanic, Washington, Ind., whose father lives at 420 Oak street, Tyrone, Pa.

Cpl. Jack E. Wells, 20, mechanic, 136 East Harrison, Palestine, Ill.; S/Sgt. Billie L. Hogan, gunner, Danville, Ill.

The injured: Lt. Col. Clarence G. Poff, pilot, Roanoke, Va.; First Lieut. Daniel J. Hasson, 30, observer, Portland, Me.; M/Sgt. Carlos Fay Moody, flight engineer, 5427 Hoffman avenue, Riverside, Calif.

Faye Denies Report To Wed Soon as Free

New York, Sept. 27 (AP)—Actress Faye Emerson Roosevelt, estranged wife of Elliott Roosevelt, denied today a radio columnist's report that she would marry a New York newspaperman as soon as she is free to do so.

Miss Emerson, who announced earlier this month that she would

seek a divorce from the late president's son, said of the report:

"There is no truth to it whatsoever. That's an absolute flat denial."

Firemen at Lebanon Subdue Two Blazes

Lebanon—Two fires on Saturday were subdued by the Lebanon department. A spectacular

blaze occurred during the morning when a poison oak fire ignited a tall pine on Russell road. Fire swept up the trunk to the top where it burst into a giant conflagration among the bushy needles. Firemen played water on the 80-foot high branches, quenching the blaze. Saturday afternoon the rural trucks were summoned to McDowell creek where a slashing fire was burning.

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On the great bend of the Columbia River, 50 miles below Grand Coulee Dam, one of the nation's largest power sources will rise. It is Chief Joseph* Dam, which will have an initial power output of more than a million kilowatts, about twice that of Bonneville Dam. When it is ultimately expanded, the installed capacity of Chief Joseph Dam will be as great as Grand Coulee's.

Many power dams are being built or are planned throughout the Pacific Northwest. When the dams are completed, they will produce a combined output of 10

million kilowatts of firm power at a cost far below the cost of such power in other regions. Still, the power situation will remain critical for several years to come. Big plans take time and this winter, like last, may call for sparing use of electricity.

* Chief Joseph Dam is a monument in concrete and power to the wisdom and bravery of Young Chief Joseph, a Nez Perce Indian who died in 1904 near the site of the dam. He was born in 1840 in the Wallowa region and held the profound respect of both his tribe and the white man.

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