



## Absconding Fathers Increasing; Knowledge of Welfare Care Eyed

New York — (U.P.) — Boom times are upon us, but a social problem usually associated with hard times is still around and bigger than ever. Child abandonment cases are on the increase.

George Lamb, who has made a 36-year career of tracking down runaway fathers, believes he knows why.

"When a man takes off today he knows the public welfare bureau will take care of his kids," he said. "We used to have the fellow's conscience working on our side but now I'm not so sure. At least he doesn't have as much cause to worry about his children going hungry."

Lamb, 68, chief of the abandonment bureau of the Queens district attorney's office, carries on a farflung dragnet operation from a cubbyhole office in the Queens county courthouse. He hopes to be off to Florida in a week or two. He has a line on a couple dozen New York fathers who went south for the winter, unannounced to their families. Closing in on Texas Quarry

After that he hopes to move on to Texas to close in on a quarry who have given him the slip for three years.

New York law provides a maximum penalty of two years in Sing Sing prison and \$1000 fine for child abandonment. Few men serve time for the offense, but the law is a persuasive force in getting them to pay for the support of their children.

Lamb said his office pays for itself in money saved by getting children off the relief rolls, even when his expense voucher has included trips to the Canal Zone and Canada.

Absconding fathers usually migrate to warmer climes, but Lamb once tracked his man to a snow-swept village in the New Brunswick province of Canada. The man was a florist and was working in a greenhouse un-mindful of the 40-below temperature outside.

Race Track Haunts

Lamb's long experience has led him to look for a woman in most abandonment cases. Few men run away by themselves, although he has found that Florida race tracks have a particular lure for New York fathers.

When a case is brought to his attention, Lamb usually allows a month or six weeks as a cooling off period. Many absent breadwinners show up at home under their own power within that time and are more likely to stay if the wife hasn't brought charges.

"There's a lot that doesn't make sense in this business," he said. "Actually it should be easier than ever to locate a missing person. He has a social security number and may be drawing unemployment insurance. He may be on file with the Veterans Administration or belong to a union."

"Often it's to his own benefit to let these agencies know his whereabouts. But the agencies won't tell us."

Lamb would like to see federal and state agencies open their records to law enforcement officials seeking the whereabouts of a citizen. The agencies now are prohibited by law from doing so.

## Interruptible Power Supply Near Normal

Portland — (U.P.) — Bonneville Power Administration said today that interruptible power supplies to 14 industrial customers, cut to 25 per cent a few weeks ago, were now up to 95 per cent on a day-to-day basis.

BPA said that rains were helping to ease the power situation although temperatures were 10 to 12 degrees below normal.

Officials said that BPA loads are up 150,000 kilowatts above average for this time of year and that this made it uncertain as to just when the restriction in interruptible power could be removed entirely.

**IN WOLF'S CLOTHING**  
O'Neill, Neb. — (U.P.) — A group of farmers near here organized a hunt when a mountain lion was reported on the loose. Instead the posse bagged an extra fat timber wolf.

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## McLeod

McLeod—Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hume are Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Denninger Jr. of Forest Hills, Long Island, N.Y. They also visited the former's father, Tom Denninger.

The community was shocked to hear of the sudden death of Arthur Mullin and sympathy is extended to his son and family, Raymond Mullin of Shady Cove.

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harding were the Rev. and Mrs. Albert Rander of Toledo, Ore. They also spent a night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Larson of Shady Cove. All attended the Episcopal convention in Medford, April 18 and 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Carlton and daughter have arrived home after spending the winter at Three Hills, Alberta, Canada, where Mr. Carlton attended Bible Institute.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gillispie have gone to Salt Lake, Utah, to attend the Pioneer party picnic which is held there.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Taylor from Plymouth, Calif., are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Carlton.

Mrs. Arthur Hume, Mrs. Oscar Hanson and Mrs. Lee Merriman have gone to Portland where they are attending the PTA convention.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Knudson of Medford are spending a few days at their cabin on Butte Creek and doing some painting. Week end guests April 23 at "Harding's Paradise" were Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Kobornik and son Rickie of Roseburg. The former is the grandson of the Hardings.

When using a paint roller, line the roller paint tray with aluminum foil when using an oil-base paint. This facilitates the clean-up job.

## Around Hollywood

Hollywood — (U.P.) — A real Texan has become the hottest western TV star since Hopalong Cassidy—and after only three programs.

Fess Parker is rated a show business phenomenon because on only three "Disneyland" programs over ABC-TV have viewers seen him portray his historical "Davy Crockett" character. Yet a coonskin cap revival has swept the popgun set around the nation, and Parker has wound up with a hit record, "Davy Crockett," oil wells, a deal for more Crockett shows and a cut of Crockett Products for children.

"It's all purty wonderful," Parker said today, appearing slightly dazed by his sudden success.

Parker thinks Davy Crockett brought him fame because the programs are "real," based on historical fact instead of fictional Gene Autry-Roy Rogers plots.

In person Fess Parker turns out to be a real western character, too. He has an honest, homespun manner and a genuine Texas drawl. Yet he's a veteran of five years of struggling as an actor in the land of orange trees and sunglasses.

Parker came from a 400-acre farm near Fort Worth, Tex. While a senior at the University of Texas he met actor Adolph Menjou.

"He asked me if I was interested in outdoor pictures and said if I came to Hollywood he'd help me," Parker said.

Fess didn't make the grade in law school, failed in an attempt at accounting and finally got a degree in American history. Then he lit out for Hollywood. But the studios told him to "lose my accent and get acting ex-

perience."

He kept the accent but worked first as an extra in the road company of the play, "Mister Roberts." Then he got an agent who helped him work in westerns at Universal and Warner studios. Once he played a "stupid country cousin" in a Tony Curtis epic. On a horror film, "Them," he had the role of a Texas ranch foreman.

Walt Disney happened to see "Them" and asked the six-foot-five Texan to come over for an interview.

"I brought my guitar along and played a song or two for him," drawled Fess.

Disney signed Parker to portray western characters on "Disneyland," starting off with only three Crockett stories. The last episode killed off the western hero. But the nation's children raised such a fuss that Disney scheduled some fictional films about Crockett for next fall. The three TV episodes also are being released to theaters as a full-length movie.

Parker still is "campy" out in a bachelor apartment, but he plans to build a house now that he's a star.

"I'd like to do light comedy, the sorta thing Henry Fonda does, and have my own production company," he said.

I'm grateful to my friends who have helped me, and to my family. I'm sure I must have disappointed my folks over and over, but they never stopped backing me. They gave me a second chance."

New York — (U.P.) — Robert Mandel predicted today that more babies will be born in the United States this year than in any previous year. Mandel is president of the Diaper Service Institute of America.

## Additional Money For Legislature Voted

Salem — (U.P.) — The joint ways and means committee has approved an appropriation of another \$175,000 to cover the expenses of the Legislature.

The 1955 session, already the second longest in history, has nearly exhausted its finances and requires the added money to continue in operation, according to Sen. John Hounsell (R-Hood River).

Sen. Francis Ziegler (R-Corvallis) quipped, "I hope we don't have to stay here until that \$175,000 is all spent."

The committee also approved a motion by Rep. Edwin Cone (R-Eugene) to appropriate \$10,000 for the Willamette Basin Commission.

## Abnormal Rainfall Hampers Crop Seeding

Portland — (U.P.) — Abnormal precipitation in western Oregon has so softened croplands that it will be impossible to seed many fields for spring crops, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture here.

The weekly crop and weather summary prepared by the department's agricultural marketing service said the situation was of particular concern to land for vegetable canners and freezers.

In eastern Oregon, especially to the south, amounts of precipitation were beneficial.

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