

Not Enough Foster Parents Are Available

Certified Homes For 51 Children Listed in County

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

When is a parent not a parent? When he or she is a foster parent, according to the Jackson county welfare department.

Trouble is, not enough of these foster parents exist, welfare officials say. They have 28 currently certified foster homes for some 51 children in foster care in this county and could use more homes for certain groups of children.

The child welfare staff points out most persons who consider opening their homes to foster children are most interested in the attractive, no problem, pre-school child who will stay with the foster family for an indefinite period of time.

May Have Problems
The children for whom it is difficult to find homes may have serious physical problems, unpleasant and disturbing behavior problems which their own parents have been unable to handle. Or, some of these children may include the teenage child who has committed delinquent acts.

A typical scene on arrival of a foster child at one of these homes might be described this way: 11-year-old girl hesitantly enters. Her social worker has brought her for an afternoon visit to meet the pleasant, easy-going, natural looking woman who would like to be Mary's new foster mother. Mary's parents have had serious problems of their own and they became so absorbed in their own conflicts Mary was left to herself.

Loses Faith
Because of these experiences Mary has lost faith in adults and hates and detests the world around her. It will be some time before Mary will be drawn to her foster parents and take her place in the sun.

So another foster parent receives a child placed in the home by the Jackson county welfare department. The child could be there for any number of reasons — a broken home, sickness in the family, or neglect by parents.

There is nothing glamorous or especially attractive about this job. Many of these children are anything but lovable. Foster parents know, too, that these children will be in their homes only temporarily while they await either adoption or return to their real parents or relatives.

Children Must Be Fed
Meanwhile, the children must be fed, clothed and given the loving care they so desperately need. And nobody makes money on this job. People do it for various reasons. Their children may be grown up and they miss having youngsters around the house, they may want companions for their own children, or having had problems with their children they wish to use what they have learned through experience. Welfare workers say this type often make good temporary parents.

Foster parents are allowed about \$50 a month for board

and room. This is just enough to make expenses and often not quite enough for the teenager.

In a good many cases foster parents have learned of the foster home program from friends and neighbors, liked the idea and decided to do it themselves.

However, not everyone can be a foster parent. Each applicant is carefully screened by the welfare department. Each home is used for the purpose welfare workers feel it is best adapted. Some foster parents may be able to handle teenagers better. Others may be better suited for younger children. Still others may find they work better with boys or girls.

Theme Is Given
The theme of child welfare is best given in a talk by Dorothy Hutchinson, associate professor, New York School of Social Work, Columbia University.

"The field of child welfare has a warm heart. What it needs more is a really tough mind—the tough mind of research, of diagnosis, of accumulated knowledge and discipline, of uncompromising principles — a mind determined to think through again and again habitual and entrenched modes of practice."

The foster home is an important part of child welfare work. It's part of what child welfare workers call "manipulating environment." This means that a child is shifted from his real family to a foster home. "The healing power of the second is supposed to remove the sins of the first."

Welfare workers are the first to admit that how well this is done depends on the people in the new environment—in the foster home.

Keeps Hand on Care
Although foster homes are carefully selected, the welfare department keeps a light but firm hand on the care and training of the children. This is done through frequent visits by the child welfare workers.

Each one is assigned to a certain number of homes to contact. And the social workers emphasize there are not enough of these homes for special problem children.

A child is given first a "trying out" period in a home. This period is usually preceded by one or two get acquainted visits. If both the foster parents and child are satisfied the arrangement is made.

Child welfare workers don't like to be called on for every little thing, but they expect foster parents to keep in touch on the more important things such as a child leaving home without permission, becoming ill, getting into serious trouble with anyone, a serious sickness occurs or school problems arise.

Parents May Change
Foster parents may have angry feelings toward parents like Mary's who have actually mistreated their child. However, the child welfare worker tries to help the foster parents see that with help Mary's parents may be able to change and lick their problems. Eventually, then, Mary may be able to return to her own parents.

Meanwhile, the child welfare worker may arrange visits for Mary with her parents. Often foster parents find it very difficult to share their foster child with his own natural parents.



TEMPORARY MOTHER—This posed picture represents a typical scene when a child is introduced to a foster home in Jackson county. Miss Celia Walker, of the Jackson county public welfare commission, (right) introduces a girl to her foster mother. The other two people in the picture merely assumed the roles in a typical foster home scene.

After visiting a number of foster homes in the county, this composite picture of foster parents may be drawn. They have raised or are raising their own children, are warm-hearted and generous, have been happily married for many years, are usually middle-aged, are well-respected and prominent in their communities and usually have average incomes.

Work Closely
The women are better than average housekeepers with smooth household routines set up—sudden changes in the routine or domestic crisis fail to ruffle them. The foster mother and father work closely together, have lots of patience, but set hard and fast rules which the youngsters must follow.

One such family specializes in teenage boys. In this home, as in others visited, the father works with the boys and does not expect them to do what he wouldn't do himself. Each youngster has plenty to do as part of his regular chores but is given plenty of time to play, too. Discipline pretty much takes care of itself in this group. Rules and group pressure make the newcomers obey. Family and friends accept the foster children as part of the family.

"In fact, I have to stop and think for awhile before I can tell which are really our kids and which are the foster ones," a foster parent said. "Our kids wouldn't have it any other way. It was their idea we go into this program in the first place."

One of Problems
One of the big problems is getting the youngsters to obey and like authority. One foster home has police officers living near by. The children become used to the officers as neighbors and friends besides law enforcement personnel.

Farm homes may be desirable since the children may be given animals of their own. As in one case, this may help to work out a particularly difficult personality problem.

Children who are fearful and hurt may find it difficult to easily love and take to their new foster family. A child may feel more ready to lavish affection on a pet. Then too, the child may have a feeling of a real sense of pride for an object he can call his own.

The welfare department sets definite standards by law on hygiene, religious training, education and discipline of a child. It also requires that a foster family include both a husband and wife so the foster child may have the benefit of a normal family experience. Foster parents are encouraged to make the child a part of the family so they may receive the same rights and privileges that their own children receive.

Good for Children
All foster parents contacted who have children of their own in the home felt it is good for their children, too. One such home which specializes in younger children from infants on up lets teenage daughters share in their care. It gives the girls valuable training in child care.

In one such family a teenage daughter plans to become a welfare worker.

Schools, churches and neighbors are given considerable praise by foster parents for work done with the children. Neighbors may keep their own children away for awhile but it doesn't take long for them to warm up even to inviting the children to their own homes. Neighbors often become foster parents themselves.

Trying Experiences
Such foster parents have both amusing and trying experiences. Accidentally set off fire alarms and broken legs are taken in stride, one foster parent assured. The mother of one child didn't appreciate him bringing home a pet skunk which had not been desecrated.

Boy friends of a teenage girl parked in front of one foster home and sang in loud voices "You're in the Jailhouse now!" In other cases real parents have tracked down their children and tried to take them home before they and the child are reunited.

One parent sums up her experiences—"There is never a dull moment. You must use your imagination. We feel these kids have a terrific need."

Bing Crosby's Son Booked as Drunk

Santa Monica, Calif.—UPI—Lindsay Crosby, 20, son of crooner Bing Crosby, was booked on drunk driving charges Thursday night and released on \$263 bail.

Highway patrol officers said they detained the stocky, handsome youth after his car struck a parked automobile. He was held for city police.

Officers said young Crosby flunked a sobriety test at the scene of the accident and was jailed. A "friend" put up the bail.

The youth was ordered to appear next Tuesday for arraignment on the charge. The parked automobile was unoccupied.

Portland Man Drowns In Lake Washington

Seattle—UPI—Kenneth Gloss, 44, Portland, drowned yesterday when he fell off a dock at Lake Washington while attempting to release the bow line on a boat he intended to take out on the lake. Police recovered the body.

Miss. Minister Enters Sixth Day of Fasting

Gulfport, Miss.—UPI—Negro Minister Clennon King went into his sixth day of fasting and praying yesterday in the hope of getting some Negro family to try to enter its child in a white school in Mississippi.

King, unshaven and maintaining he had had no food since Monday night, said he felt "strong in spirit but weak physically."

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American Flag Is Retained in Wood

Camp White — "Old Glory" before the addition of the 49th star, will be preserved in the hardwoods of Oregon, fashioned into a handsome table top by August F. Lovy, veterans Administration Domiciliary.

Lovy is a native of Switzerland, where precision craftsmanship is the rule. He came to Oregon in 1905 to work in the woods and has been engaged in logging and sawmill work since then, except for his war service as a sergeant in the engineers.

Turning to the careful inlay work noted in the flag he has made, was a natural thing, he says. "My grandfather was a cabinet maker in Berne and I guess this kind of work came naturally when I started in arts and crafts at Camp White."

There are 1,224 pieces, by actual count, massed in the design. The trick of welding each piece, he explains, is accomplished by a wedging method.

Making the table took more than 300 hours of work. The overall size of the flag itself is 44 by 25 inches. Ash, black walnut, birch, myrtlewood, oak and mahogany are the hardwoods used in the pattern.

Grange News

Roxy Ann Grange
Roxie Ann Grange met Friday, Sept. 5, with Master Al Sims presiding. All but two officers were present.

HEC chairman, Verda Quackenbush, reported HEC met Wednesday evening at the hall. Dorene Welkman and Betty Hall were hosts.

Next meeting will be Wednesday evening, Sept. 17, at the home of Evelyn Hendricks. Verda Quackenbush will be co-hostess.

Agriculture chairman, Charlie Whitaker, reported the market had dropped on cattle, and the government had raised the price for tree farming. The requirements are signing for 10 years, and cultivating twice a year. There are 190 tree ranches in Jackson county. He also reported the hog market slipping and milk producers getting less for milk than a year ago.

R. J. Ritchey announced there is more demand for domestic rabbits for meat and California paying more than the Portland market.

Roscoe Roberts, insurance agent, announced the company now extends to 10 states and no change in fire insurance.

May Dalton, Chaplain, reported Paul Larsen progressing favorably, and Mrs. Slater had lost her father, and Mrs. Slater's mother had fallen and broken her hip.

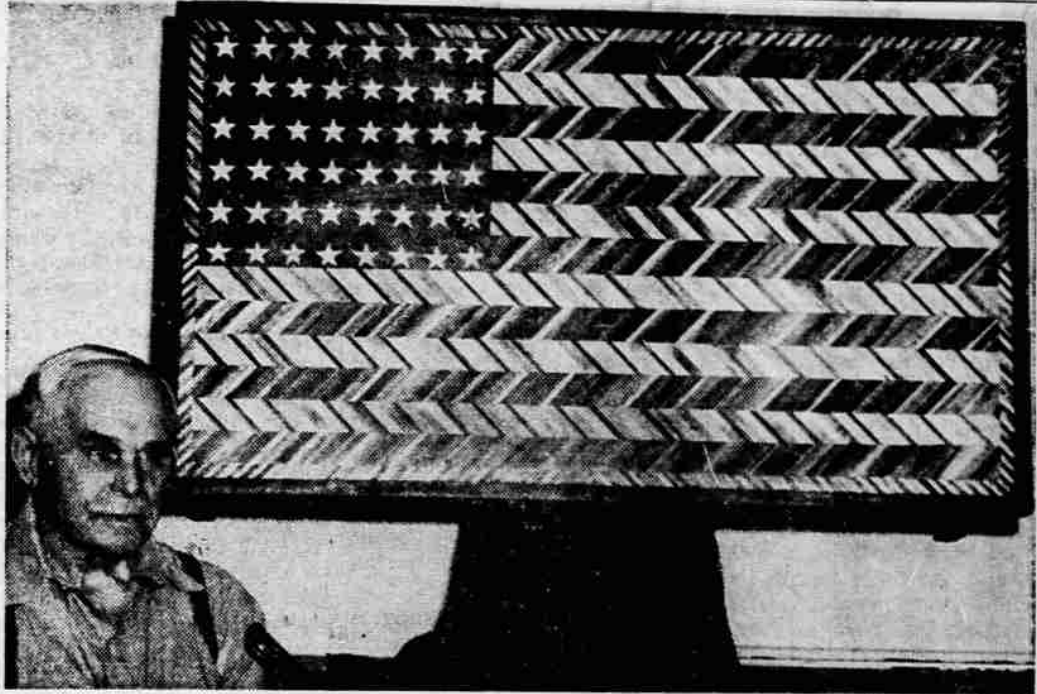
Mrs. Scott from Upper Applegate was a guest. The display table contained pictures of members taken during their school days.

Frances Moffatt, lecturer, had each member tell of school days. A skit of the first day of school and two weeks later was put on by Frances and Al Sims.

Refreshment committee was Mrs. Stevie McMahan, Mrs. Irene Shirley, Mr. and Mrs. Al Sims and Mr. and Mrs. Al Sims.

Willette Sims, Upper Rogue Grange held its regular business meeting Thursday evening, Sept. 4, with Master Herb Carlton presiding.

It was reported that Don and Donna Anderson, elected to membership at the previous meeting, would be present for initiation at the next meeting.



WOODEN FLAG—August Lovy, Camp White veteran, and his flag, made of inlaid wood. The field is made of black walnut, the stars of ash and the wedges of the stripes were cut from assorted hardwoods. It is to be used as a table top. Lovy has worked in the woods all his life. His father was a forester in Switzerland.

PROSPECT Visit in Corvallis

By KATHERINE CHAPMAN
Hornbrook — Mrs. Bertha Bradley, accompanied by Mrs. Laura Swinnerton and Mrs. Grace Quigley, drove to Corvallis, Ore., last Wednesday to visit Mrs. Swinnerton's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Holland. The Hollands, residents of Hornbrook for several years, moved to a new home in the Corvallis area this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. B. T. McRoberts and children left Sunday for Casa Grande, Ariz., where Mrs. McRoberts and the children will stay with her parents while he attends barber college in Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Breceda and son, Larry, of Ashland were weekend visitors of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Breceda.

Visitors last week at the Frank Bear home were their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Baker and son, Bradley, of Portland. To honor Mrs. Baker's birthday Saturday evening, a group of friends gathered at the Bear home for a social hour. In the group besides the Bakers and the Bears were Leonard and Ermin Bear, Miss Linda Rawhouser, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Fick of Fairfield, Calif., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chapman.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Funk of Delta, Calif., are visiting.

Man Backs Up Car, Runs Down His Wife

Burbank, Calif.—UPI—A 36-year-old man early yesterday let his wife out of his car during an argument and then backed the vehicle up and ran her down, killing her, police reported.

William Anthony Azerian, 36, was booked on suspicion of murder shortly after his wife, Vera, 36, was declared dead on arrival at St. Joseph's hospital.

Police said he failed a sobriety test.

During the Civil War, the U. S. Naval Academy was located at Newport, R. I.

Local Firm Bids Low on Building

Cummings Construction company, Grants Pass, was apparent low bidder for construction of the proposed Wilson and McCabe office building to be built at West Fourth and Grape sts. according to Medford Architect Robert J. Keeney.

Cummings bid \$43,890 and offered to complete the building in 100 calendar days. Plans call for construction of a brick structure covering about 5,200 square feet.

It is to include offices for the Jackson county welfare department, the state tax commission, and at least one other tenant. Announced plans indicate that the structure will be the first unit of an office development which will eventually cover the entire block.

Other bidders were Myers D. Jones, Medford, \$46,890 and 100 days; R. J. Batzer, Medford, \$48,413 and 129 days; Don L. Jacobs Construction company, Medford, \$48,425 and 110 days; and Salter and Klein, Rogue River, \$50,843 and 120 days.

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