

Grandmother's Fugitive Charge Dropped by Judge

Denver - (UPI) - A grandmother who has been "on the lam" in Denver for 11 years will be allowed to stay here. California authorities have been looking for Mrs. Constance Lebrun, 58, since 1949, when she broke parole and fled to Colorado.

Mrs. Lebrun finally gave herself up, but District Judge Don D. Bowman has dismissed the fugitive charge which would have forced her return to California.

Attorney Comes To Aid

The woman called Denver police May 24 to confess. They figured she was just a little drunk, jailed her for the night and then released her. But after checking her fingerprints with the FBI, a routine procedure, they rearrested her and extradition proceedings were started.

An attorney for a former employer came to her aid. The lawyer, Robert Rottman, wrote to California officials about Mrs. Lebrun's good record in Denver and pleaded that she be kept under supervision in Colorado.

California was agreeable to this, so Bowman released her from custody.

"I found happiness in Denver despite the shadow hanging over me," Mrs. Lebrun said. "The people here have been grand."

She was never arrested in Denver until she turned herself in after brooding over the illness of her aged parents in California.

Served Prison Term

Mrs. Lebrun, who has three children and nine grandchildren, first was imprisoned in 1932 for aiding her husband in car thefts. She spent two years in prison and then was divorced.

In 1940, she passed two bad checks for \$60 to obtain money for food, and was sent to prison for five years. She was released on parole in 1944, but was returned the next year for failing to make reports to her supervising officer. She was again paroled in 1948.

"I'm out looking for a job," Mrs. Lebrun said. "When I'm free of this thing, someday, I hope to return to my children. All my life the only thing I've wanted was a home."

USSR Youngsters Said Lacking in Hospital Care

Washington - (Science Service) - Many critically ill Russian children must be treated at home in spite of major increases in the number of hospital beds, John F. Kantner of the Bureau of Census here reports.

In a recent year, 44 per cent of the children who died from pneumonia in Russia's city areas died in their homes, Kantner writes in Population Trends in Eastern Europe, the USSR and Mainland China, a study published in New York by the Milbank Memorial fund.

The percentage of home treatment reached 73 per cent in one rural area of Russia in 1955, Kantner writes.

"There is evidence of certain deficiencies in the regular medical establishments and other institutions for child care which could contribute to a high incidence of deaths from pneumonia, as well as from other diseases."

Lists Inadequacies

Kantner reports inadequacies in the care of premature infants including "the use of hot water bags instead of incubators."

Kantner reports that a survey of hospitals in Baku showed that of 59 children who died from diphtheria in one hospital, only six had gotten anti-diphtheria shots.

The researchers also noted that Russian doctors assigned to out-of-the-way places sometimes do not show up. Because of these AWOLs there were 30 hospitals that had no physicians at all in one remote area.

Kantner says observations leave "little doubt" that the Soviet medical system is unevenly developed and that the conquest of disease is a broken, uneven front.

In contrast to the failures, "progress seems to have been made" in those areas where simple administrative actions or low cost preventive measures are effective.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

AUSTIN, Tex. - (UPI) - Forty-five hundred highway signs will have to be replaced because of the 1960 census. That's the number the State Highway Department uses on roads leading into 750 towns to show up population.

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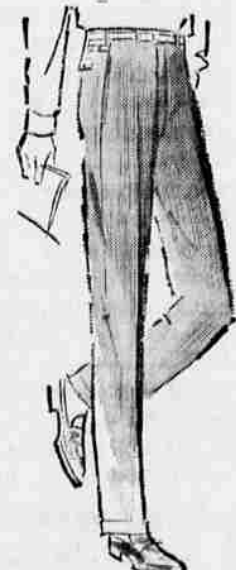
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