

Phoenix Couple 'Adopts' Girl in Bogota, Colombia



MARIA INES VARGAS
One of Five Girls

Mr. and Mrs. Keith B. McAlear, Phoenix, have financially "adopted" Maria Ines Vargas, 9, a Colombian girl, who lives in Bogota.

Maria Ines is the second oldest in a family of five girls. After the family fled from their native province due to political violence, the mother died.

Due to the influx of people into Bogota there is not enough work for all, so Maria's father is a peddler of candy. He makes about 70 cents a day.

Maria's sisters are Disnarida, 12; Siechernarda, 7; Gertrudis, 5, and Francisca, 2. Due to poverty, none of the girls are in school. They live in a house with two other families. The Vargas family rents a room which is 12 by 6 1/2 feet. Its floor is of rough boards and the walls are of brick, plaster, bamboo and papers. The kitchen, which is shared with the other families, has an earth floor.

Helps Make Candy
In another area of the house

there are two stone places where all the families do their washing and a tank to hold water.

The family's food is principally boiled rice or potatoes, corn soup, an occasional vegetable, and a drink of brown sugar and water called agua de panela.

Maria has become close in sympathy with her father since her mother died, and helps him make the chocolate which he sells. Maria was in the first grade when her mother became ill and had to quit school.

Through the Foster Parents' Plan, with headquarters in New York City, the "adopted" child receives \$8 a month as a cash grant. The remainder of the \$15 monthly contribution is spent for food and new clothing, medical care, school fees and equipment, and translations of letters.

Washington Bows On Auto Licenses

Olympia, Wash. — (AP) — The Washington Reciprocity commission Monday voted to permit Washington residents to drive home from work in company-owned cars carrying Oregon or Idaho license plates.

In effect, the commission gave in to Oregon officials who refused to ratify a plan which would have required Oregon and Idaho corporations to purchase a Washington license plate for any vehicle permanently assigned to an employee who lives in Washington.

The new agreement also permits season farm work contractors to operate in Washington for six months with an out-of-state license plate. The earlier agreement allowed only 90 days.

Oregon passenger car plates cost a flat \$10 each while a Washington plate can cost up to \$100 or more depending upon the value of the vehicle.

Pinafore of Huck



7126

by Alice Brooks

Right for now and summer days ahead — a pretty pinafore of huck, in white or color!

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River Boat Renovated As Community Project

By TOM GRAY
Louisville, Ky. — (AP) — A community project has given an old lady of the rivers a paint job and a future as the "Belle of Louisville," a symbol of this city's past during the romantic era of steamboats.

When the excursion steamer Avalon was purchased last summer for \$34,000 by Jefferson County Judge Marlow Cook at an auction in Cincinnati, she bore little resemblance to the river boat launched at Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1914, and christened the Idlewild.

The weatherbeaten and rusty sternwheeler was towed down the Ohio river and put in dry dock here. Cost of renovating the boat, renamed the Belle of Louisville, is expected to total \$17,000 by the time the project is completed next spring.

Hurdle Removed
A legal hurdle was removed when a suit challenging purchase of the steamer by Cook with taxpayer's money was dismissed.

But community response to the Belle has surprised even some steamboat buffs here. More than 60 firms and organizations have contributed materials, equipment and workmen. Painting parties, including high school sorority girls.

A local businessman even donated a calliope, operated electrically, for the Texas roof to replace one sold separately when the steamer was purchased.

Allan L. Bates, a long-time student of steamboating and architect of the project, said every effort will be made to recreate the original condition of the steamer.

Repairs Made
The first step was to check the hull by drilling holes and some steel plates were replaced. Rotted wood was stripped away from stern and decks, wallboards, ceilings, stairways and window sashes repaired.

Bates designed the fancy grill work installed around the top of the pilot house and atop the smoke stacks that were lengthened and pro-

vided with hinges for low bridges.

With the exception of an engine room telegraph system installed in the 1920's, the pilot house wheel and other equipment is much the same as that aboard steamboats in the days of Mark Twain.

Some of the Belle's equipment recalls that golden era of steamboating. Her whistle once sounded on the old America that ran between New Orleans and Vicksburg, Miss. The pilot house came from a fast Mississippi river packet boat of the 1880's.

The boilers came off the Gordon C. Greene, now in a museum at Hannibal, Mo., the site of many of Mark Twain's tales of steamboat days.

Has History
Even the new name has a history. The original Belle of Louisville was a fast packet that made a record run between Louisville and Cincinnati in the 1870's.

Since the Belle's boiler deck has no cabins for overnight passengers, she will be used to carry charter parties of conventioners, club members and tourists. The dance floor will be available for dinner parties and civic meetings.

Floating Stage
A steamboat museum featuring historic material from the Ohio valley will be installed on the Belle for a two-month exhibit early in 1963. Plans call for the Louisville

orchestra to use the Belle as a floating stage for concerts next summer.

Until then the old riverboat is a big attraction for visitors to the Louisville waterfront, looking at night like a big white birthday cake.

"She's a beauty and a bargain," Bates said. "You know they don't build steamboats like her anymore."

More than half of homicide victims are slain by firearms.

Man Sentenced To Eight Year Term
Klamath Falls — (AP) — J. D. Kneiss, 38, who pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon in the wounding of his estranged wife, Gloria, at Bly Feb. 26, was sentenced to eight years in the state penitentiary Monday.



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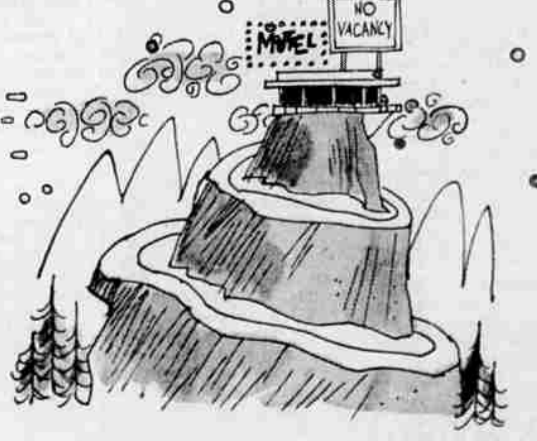
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