



**AN UNWANTED GIRL** who was subjected to severe beatings by her stepfather, Donald Mier, 29-year-old logger, is assured a happy Christmas at the County Juvenile Home. Four persons have also asked for an opportunity to adopt her. Pictured above is the child, Flora Jean Trowbridge. Bruises are visible on her face. A large amount of her hair was torn out by the roots. Mier pleaded guilty to assault and battery. District Judge D. E. Van Vactor deferred sentence pending a psychiatric examination of Mier. Victim of many beatings, Flora Jean Trowbridge, is at the juvenile home.

### Man Admits Beating Child

A tragic story of how an unwanted little 2-year-old girl was subjected to brutal beatings was unfolded Tuesday in District Judge D. E. Van Vactor's court after her stepfather, Donald Mier, 29-year-old logger, pleaded guilty to assault and battery.

Judge Van Vactor deferred sentence pending an examination of the confessed child beater by psychiatrists at Oregon State Hospital.

A complaint against Mier was issued after neighbors told county juvenile officers Faye Blackmer and Francis Mathews that the logger was abusing the child, Flora Jean Trowbridge.

When they appeared before Judge Van Vactor, Mier admitted beating and kicking the child. The mother, told the judge she did not want the little girl.

"Although I am her mother," Mrs. Mier said on the witness stand, "I have no motherly feeling toward her."

The woman, who has another child of whom Mier is the father, said little Flora Jean had been in a foster home near Los Angeles most of her life.

Under questioning by Deputy District Attorney Robert Nichols, Mrs. Mier said her husband often beat her. She blamed the beatings on the fact Mier was out of work and "very nervous."

Sheriff Murray Britton, who arrested Mier Monday night in a cabin at Weyerhaeuser Junction, said four persons called him and offered to adopt the child.

Bill Haske, a neighbor of the Mier family, said he saw Mier beat and kick the child. He said he often heard Mrs. Mier and Flora Jean screaming.

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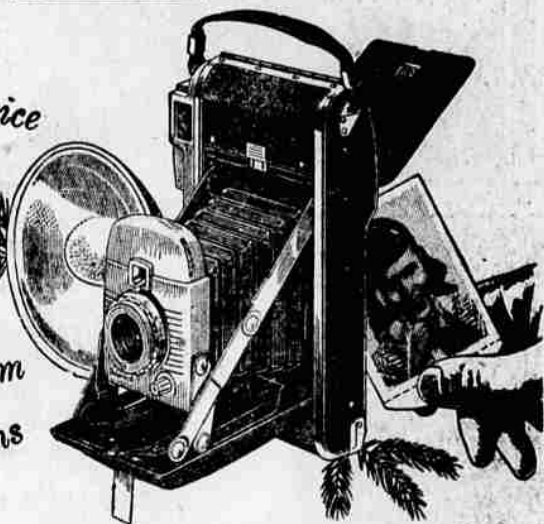
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