

# Fischer Quints Prove To Be 'Unusually Healthy'

(EDITOR'S NOTE: United Press International assigned a three-man reporting team and a staff of still and movie photographers to Aberdeen to cover the first days of life for the Fischer quintuplets. The team report is by H. D. Quigg of New York, Richard McFarland, Minnesota state manager, and Ray Serati, South Dakota state manager.

ABERDEEN, S. D. (UPI) — Five bundles of kicking and squalling, bawling humanity with heads the size of large oranges and crinkled hands not much larger than a silver dollar — the Fischer quintuplets — were ready today for their first tipping of the nursery scales.

Dr. James Berbos, their physician, said he would probably weigh them for the first time today — if they behave themselves. The pink-skinned, 18-inch-long babies are unusually healthy for pre-matures.

A statute of the infant Jesus looks down from the St. Luke's Hospital nursery wall at the end of their row of "isolette" incubators. A staff of nurses watches over them constantly.

Not once has one of them had trouble taking, or holding, the four cubic centimeters — less than a teaspoon — of sugar-water which each gets every two hours. The feeding, by tube through the nose, began Sunday morning when the quintuplets — born six to eight weeks prematurely — were entering their second day of life.

Another first for them today was the probability that the doctor would put them on some kind of milk formula. Meantime, he said, they're "getting along fine" on the glucose-water intake, by plastic tube which runs down nearly to their tiny stomachs.

Fine, too, was their mother, reddish-haired Mary Ann Brady Fischer, 30, a native of the nearby community of Hecla, S. D., who has been up and walking about in her room. She probably will go home by the middle of the week, Berbos said.

And the papa? Well, Andy Fischer got up early and milked his Jersey and Guernsey today, same as always, in the huge blue barn behind his farm house, two miles out of town. Sightseers are common now on the road in front of the two story, ten-room, grey stucco house, which Fischer rents for \$55 a month. He has five bedrooms but the trouble is, he had five other children before the quintuplets burst on his horizon. They're aged 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, named Denise, Evelyn, Julie, Charlotte, and Danny.

Doctor Foregoes Fee "I don't think I'll charge them anything," Berbos said of the Fischer family. "I always said if there were triplets, I wouldn't charge them anything, but I've never delivered triplets."

He added, "I understand the hospital isn't going to charge them anything either."

But a hospital spokesman said Fischer had said he would pay charges anyway because he has hospital insurance.

Berbos was asked whether he had any other deliveries since the quintuplets. "No, they've all been scared off," he said.

The original five Fischer children were extremely happy at the arrival of Mary, Mary, Mary, and James Andrew — the quint girls so far have only the common name, and Fischer said Sunday he is working on picking first or middle names to combine with the Marys.

"Each of the kids at home has picked a quint for their own," said Fischer, a crewcut, sandy-haired, blue-eyed, 38-year-old shipping clerk for a wholesale grocery who says his take-home pay runs about \$75 a week.

Neighbor Visits "I came over here and set with Andy while he milked his two cows yesterday," said Elroy Harrington, 68, who lives on six acres across the road and owns the 160 acres which contains the house he rents to Fischer.

"What did he have to say? Just about the same as always," "I don't think he quite realizes."

But what he must realize, real good by now, is that if the quintuplets live — the danger zone through which they now are passing should last for 72 hours or to 3:01 a.m. Tuesday — he will be father of the first set of quintuplets to survive in the United States.

picture rights to the already famous five Fischers and their mamma.

Fischer was asked at a press conference: "If you could do it all over again, what would you do?"

"You should have asked me that seven months ago," he replied evenly.

Berbos said the quintuplets probably would be in the isolettes for two months. They are so active already that they sometimes wriggle crosswise in their incubator cells, which are designed to control heat, humidity, and oxygen. They have not been getting oxygen.

The boy is the largest quintuplet — Berbos said he looks to be about four pounds and the girls about 3½. They "somewhat resemble each other," he said, and their hair is "sparse."

Two porches on each side of each isolette allow nurses to handle the babies. By state department of health rule no visitor is allowed on a maternity floor except husbands. The press is forbidden to go to the third-floor nursery here and peek through the window.

smiles Sunday at the hurried influx of reporters, photographers, and television men in the streets around Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, where Fischer attended 10:30 a.m. Mass with his three oldest children and his mother, Mrs. John Fischer.

"We think it is wonderful," a townman churchgoer summed up town opinion.

Both mothers-in-law have been staying at the Fischer home, caring for the children.

"Mrs. Fischer was a farm girl," said Harrington, "and she tended every bit of this garden while she was pregnant — planted and hoed it — and she put up 100 quarts of dill pickles."

"I said that if Andy wanted to put up a new home that I would donate an acre for it. He has always liked it so much out here."

Aberdeen is a farming community in northeastern South Dakota, county seat of Brown County, a Democratic stronghold in a Republican state. It is sometimes called "The Hub City" because

five separate railroad lines once served it. It is world renowned as a pheasant hunting center the birds live on the corn, which is now being harvested.

The courthouse stands at the head of Lincoln Street, dirty brown, with a columned bell tower, topped by a white-faced clock with black roman numerals under a green arched dome, surmounted by a statue of a woman who appears to represent civic virtue, or maybe justice.

The explosion that shook the "Hub City" and sent a shock wave around the world began when that clock stood at 1:58 a.m., central standard time, in the cool, overcast pre-dawn of Saturday, Sept. 14. The first quintuplet was born then and the fifth was delivered at 3:01 a.m. by Berbos and two doctor associates.

Mrs. H. I. King said that when her brother-in-law, Dr. Bernard King, one of the delivery room associates, was told by Berbos that it was going to be quintuplets "he almost passed out."



FATHER OF QUINTS — Andrew Fischer, father of the nation's first quintuplets, leans over to pose three of his five other children as they leave Sacred Heart Church at Aberdeen, S.D., after attending Mass. With the proud father is Fischer's mother, Mrs. John Fischer, left, and Father Conway, parish priest. Children, left to right, are Charlotte, 6, Julie, 5, and Danny, 7. — UPI Telephoto

## Report Shows Many Difficulties Face Negroes In Employment Field

By AL KUETTNER  
United Press International  
One of the major demands by Negroes in their climb up the civil rights ladder is better job opportunities. A report just released shows something of the difficulties ahead.

In his pursuit of economic parity with white workers, the Negro "has to run exceptionally fast in order to stand still," says the report by Dr. Vivian W. Henderson, chairman of the department of economics and business administration at Fisk University. He now is serving as visiting professor at North Carolina State college.

The report points up some facts of life that bother responsible Negro leaders as well as business

and industry. Many firms, with or without pressure, have decided to lift restrictions on Negro employment and to encourage more hiring of Negroes. A big problem is where to find the Negro employees to competently fill the jobs that are available for them.

Problem Two-pronged "Negroes face a two-pronged problem," says Henderson. Along with continued discrimination in employment, he notes "an inadequate flow of manpower to meet such limited opportunities as there are."

Henderson notes that income opportunities for Negroes still fall in the lower income fields and that vocational education programs often teach Negroes either jobs like barbering or other services for Negroes, the same menial trades or those that are becoming obsolete.

Another phase of the Henderson report shows that Negroes made their greatest income gains between 1940 and 1954 and that since then the increase has leveled off.

A big reason for the leveling off is that business and industry have gone heavily into modernization in the past eight or ten years. Firms use machinery to-day that wasn't even on the drawing boards in 1954. With some exceptions, Negroes (who make up 10 per cent of the population) have not learned these new skills.

Negro leaders have advocated as one approach to the problem

the opening of realistic industrial and vocational school training for young Negroes. They also want firms to set up their own training programs, carrying along Negro employees who can't compete for the skilled jobs until they get the training required.

On the other hand, because of the advances that have been made by Negroes, their earning power now is a formidable \$2 billion per year. This is about five per cent of the personal income in the nation.

In some cities of the South with Negro populations of up to 50 per cent, the economic power of the Negro has been used strongly in the winning of desegregation demands.

Until a few years ago, most of the economic problems involving the Negroes were concentrated in the South. Negroes were tied to the land and most of them had strictly a servant-field hand status.

Since World War II there has been a tremendous out-migration of Negroes from the South. Since 1940, according to Henderson, 3 million Negroes have left the South. At the same time, in South and North, there has been a great transition in the central cities with Negroes moving in and white people leaving for the suburbs.

It all adds up to a competition for jobs that will be intensified in the future. The fact is that the non-skilled jobs are diminishing, the skilled ones, which take intelligence, aptitude and months or years of training, are on the increase.

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### Labor Mulls Suburb Vote

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Blue collar voting in suburbia — the last of it — occupied the attention of labor leaders from 22 of the nation's biggest metropolitan areas today.

The leaders gathered at the behest of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) for a three-day meeting to discuss ways of getting more union members to register and vote in 1964.

COPE called the conference to prepare for a labor-sponsored registration drive that is certain to help President Kennedy in his bid for a second term.

COPE director Alexander Barkan said the aim of the sessions was to increase registration among union members from its present average of 60 per cent to the level of 90 per cent he said prevails among members of the American Medical Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers.

"As long as this discrepancy exists, we're handicapped," he said.

Barkan said special attention would be devoted to getting more workers living in the suburbs qualified to vote. He said union members, like other Americans, were moving from cities to suburbs in increasing numbers.

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