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Records Conceal Stigma Of Babies Born Behind Bars

By William J. Conway

CHICAGO, Aug. 7 - (AP) - Hundreds of children have been born in a strange, obscure world. They are the infants of women prisoners in penal and correctional institutions.

This has been a virtually unknown chapter in the story of life behind the bars. But now the information has been gathered by the John Howard Association, a private agency that seeks to rehabilitate released prisoners, improve prisons and prevent crime.

Questionnaires were sent out to get the answers to such questions as these: How many such babies are born? How long can the mother keep them? Can mothers, when freed, regain their little ones?

The survey, made in the U. S., covered 65 state penitentiaries, women's reformatories and girls' training schools in 30 states, the District of Columbia and Hawaii.

The study showed 325 babies were born last year to prisoners of 21 institutions. The women were pregnant when they were imprisoned. Some had husbands.

Some were single. The babies were delivered in prison hospitals in only eight of the institutions. In the other cases the births were in state, county, city or private hospitals.

Officials use a variety of means to avoid leaving a blot on the child's formal record in reporting the place and circumstances of his birth. In most cases the birth certificate just lists the name of the hospital and city, or only the name of the city or county.

But illegitimate youngsters don't have such a good chance to escape a stigma. The birth certificates bear a stamp of "illegitimate" in a dozen states.

At training schools, the prisoners are minor girls. In seven places they can keep their babies as long as they are in the hospital. The period ranges from two weeks to three months. In one school the mother never sees the child. In two others the babies are taken away at birth if they are to be adopted.

Adult women in reformatories and penitentiaries can keep their youngsters longer. Mothers in two prisons can keep their children two years. In all places, babies remain with the mother until weaned.

Relatives have first call on babies sent out into the free world, and they get most of them. The bulk of the others go to adoption of foster homes. But in eight places they can end up in orphanages.

Are any arrangements made for the mother to be reunited with her child after her release if she so desires? Three institutions replied "no." The answer from the others was "yes" - in cases where the mother is able, fit and willing and has not staid away her rights through adoption.

THE EASTERN GUARDIAN

AGENTS: MONTAGUE: Harold F. Landry, Albert Aitken, Mrs. Byron Stewart, Miss Harriet Stewart, AGENT GEORGETOWN: Waldon Lavers, AGENTS SOUBIS: Miss Edna Richards and Gordon Farrell

The Guardian may be bought at any of the following places in Montserrat: Miss S. A. Llewellyn; Mrs. Clay, in Georgetown; The Post Office; in Soubis: Condon's and Florence Roper, in St. Peter's: The Post Office.

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"WATER SAFETY" AT FORTUNE BRIDGE-On Friday evening, August 6th a Red Cross film show was presented at Fortune Bridge. Approximately 100 people saw "Water Safety," "Heads Up" and a Sing Song, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. Robert Kelly of Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety Department introduced the films and spoke on Water Safety.

Georgetown And Vicinity

Mrs. Rupert Garrett of Soubis is visiting relatives in Georgetown.

Miss Kay Lavers of Charlottetown is the guest of relatives in Georgetown.

Mr. Keith MacDonald of Halifax, N. S., is in Charlottetown on business where he is a guest at Linden Lodge.

Mrs. Daniel Mahar of Charlottetown is visiting at Morison's Beach as a guest of Mrs. May, Yorkton.

Georgetownians visiting the city on Friday included: Mrs. W. T. Wood, Mrs. Hartman and Mrs. Henry Larsen.

The many friends of Mrs. Minnie Rafuse will hear with regret that she has entered the P. E. Island Hospital and all express the wish that she will soon be able to return to her home again.

Friends of Master Wayne Llewellyn, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmerson Llewellyn, are sorry to hear of his illness. He entered the King's County Memorial Hospital in Montreal on Friday for treatment. All hope for a speedy recovery.

CLARKE-DOYLE WEDDING

At St. Peter's Cathedral, Peterboro, Ont., Saturday, July 24th, Catherine Patricia Doyle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Doyle, Charlottetown, and Win. F. Clarke, son of Mrs. Janet Clarke and the late George Clarke of Orillia, Ontario, were united in marriage.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Garbey. Tall standards held a profusion of seasonal flowers forming a beautiful background. Mrs. Robert Aman played the wedding music and Mrs. J. Collins sang "Ave Maria" and "On This Day."

The bride wore a gown of white figured satin fashioned on princess lines with a yoke of net, long pointed sleeves and flowing skirt falling into a short train. Her fingertip veil of tulle illusion fell in a coronet from a crown of orange blossoms and she carried red roses and bouvardia. She was given in marriage by her brother-in-law, Mr. Steven Stacy of Orillia.

The groom wore a tuxedo. The bride's bridesmaid, Miss Margaret Wandley was maid of honor, gowned in petal pink madrasette, fashioned with cap sleeves and a flared peplum over the full skirt. Miss Theresa Handley was bridesmaid, gowned in turquoise blue bengaline fashioned with bouffant skirt falling in folds to the floor. Miss Gail Ann Patterson was junior bridesmaid and wore baby blue nylon net. Each wore mitts to match their gowns and heart shaped hats of nylon net and carried Colonial bouquets of red roses.

The groomsmen were Mr. Roy Currie and ushers were Russ Johnston and Frank Dawe. For her wedding trip to Prince Edward Island the bride chose a two piece dress of French blue bengaline with red accessories and her corsage was of Tallman roses.

Minille Returned In Chains To Prison

(By The Canadian Press) - KINGSTON, Ont., Aug. 5 - Handcuffed, his legs in chains, Nick Minille tonight was returned to Kingston Penitentiary from where he escaped with two other convicts just a year ago this month.

Three R.C.M.P. officers brought Minille here by automobile from Fort Erie, Ont., where earlier today they took over the convict's custody from United States immigration officers who had escorted Minille from the Pacific coast to Buffalo. Minille was arrested in May during an attempted drugstore hold-up at Los Angeles.

Wearing a maroon jacket with sand-colored pants, Minille was half-lifted from the car at the penitentiary entrance. His legs chains appeared to give him only six inches of movement.

NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

Addressed to Agricola, care of The Guardian, this letter is just to hand: "While my husband and I were strolling through our fields of potatoes, looking for bugs (and hoping we wouldn't find any) I noticed a plant bearing a bright yellow flower, with leaves resembling a clover. "Golly," I said, "Look at the weeds in the hayfield," but he smiled superiorly and said "Those are not weeds. That is a new kind of clover, maybe what is called 'sweet clover.' In the argument which ensued we almost came to blows, but I settled it by saying 'I'll ask Agricola,' so would you please settle the case?"

I'm an avid reader of your column and find it very helpful, especially where wild flowers are concerned. I like to read about wild flowers and the bees too, out as for stars - what farmer, or his wife, could stay awake long enough to look at the stars, especially at this busy time of year? Good luck and as one commentator says, "May the good Lord take a liking to you." Just Mary."

Well, Mary, you've set me a task! Without seeing the plants I must decide whether they are weeds or not, and the only information given is they have yellow flowers and trefoil leaves. Three plants have these features and are found in P. E. I. fields. The Yellow Sweet Clover is tall and has its yellow flowers in a narrow elongated spike which is fragrant in drying. Its name is Melilotus officinalis and it is not a true clover. The next is the Hop Clover (Trifolium agrarium), a true clover which is quite common this year. I notice the yellow flowers are in a roundish rather (spherical) head, which turns brown in age, and the three leaflets spring from the same point. Lastly the Low Hop Clover (Trifolium pratense) has yellow flowers in a head like the previous species, but the leaflets do not all spring from the same point; the middle leaflet has a long stalk to itself. This plant grows about half the size of the preceding species. The flower-heads are supposed to resemble the catkins of the Hop-plant.

Some philosphic botanist once defined a weed as "a plant in the wrong place"; if a geranium was found in a hayfield it would rank as a weed! That is an extreme view, of course. I consider the two Hop-clovers weeds because they are of such little value that nobody has put them to practical use. The Mellilot or Yellow Sweet Clover is a weed for it was formerly sown here as a soil improver, and perhaps still is in some regions.

Sorry you take no stock in the matter. Nowhere do we get a clearer view of the grandeur of the universe, than by looking up at the starry heavens. "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork."

I myself do not "stay awake long" to star gaze, but whenever the night is favorable I give a "glance" round to keep in touch with my old friends - the constellations.

Thanks for your good wishes. Has not the good Lord already blessed me? Consider the blessings I enjoy! He has prolonged my life much beyond the allotted span. He has shown me the marvels of His works and taught me to appreciate them, and not least, He has given me good friends.

BRUCCELLOSIS

The Maritime Farmer of July 28th, 1948, contained an account of the Brucella organisms, which deserves the attention of farmers and city dwellers alike. Here is a part of the article:

In 1887, Dr. Bruce set out to find the cause of the "Milk fever" which was afflicting the British troops stationed in that island. It was traced to a bacterium in the goat's milk solely used there. The organism was named Brucella melitensis.

In 1897, Bang, a Dane, isolated another organism, Brucella abortus which produces abortion in cattle ("Bang's disease").

In 1914, Evans isolated Brucella suis from aborting swine.

In 1918, Truants of Washington, D. C. found that B. abortus and B. melitensis were very similar, and were both capable of producing undulant fever in man.

Undulant fever is so called because the temperature chart shows undulant curves. It is an enervating disease and victims are often supposed to be indolent when they are in reality ill. The proper place to attack the disease is in the cow; but so far little progress has been made. Penicillin has been found ineffective, but Streptomycin plus Sulphonamides have been effective in certain cases. Vaccinating the calves with "strain 19" of B. abortus has given fairly good results but the disease is a long way from being mastered.

Brucellosis is a general term covering all the symptoms produced by B. melitensis and B. abortus in man and cattle. (It is a wise precaution to pasteurize all milk by boiling it.)

THE PIPING FLOWER

This little flower is called the "Piping Plover" in Francis Bain's "Birds of P. E. I." In general markings it might be mistaken for the Semi-palmated Plover, but for the paler hue of its back and upper parts. It frequents sandy or shingle beaches, where it constantly searches for the insects on which it feeds. When disturbed it utters "a peculiarly sad and wailing cry which

is more than usually consonant with the grandeur and soliloquy of the scenes which it frequents. . . The bird lays its eggs on the bare shingle, as a gull does on the sand, and it uses all its powers of feint and decoy to lure the stranger away from its strangely exposed treasures. . . The color of the bird itself so closely resembles that of the shingle, that when it squats down on the beach, it is impossible for the eye to distinguish it." -Bain

Piping Plover, AOU 277. Summer resident - 1916 check-list. Spring Plumage: upper parts light sandy gray; forehead, throat, and "collar" round neck, white, a black band above the forehead, and a black line from bill to eye, and a black ring round the neck, though this may be broken and appear as a separate patch on each side of the breast; underparts white. In autumn the birds lose the black neck-ring and the colors are weaker. Length of adults about 7 inches.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

August 8th at 23 hrs. 46 min. the moon is in conjunction with Mars. Aug. 11, Moon in First Qr. Perseid meteors should be seen on Aug. 12th, night conjunction of Moon and Jupiter. Aug. 13th, Aug. 19, Conjunction of Saturn and the Sun; also Moon is Full. Thus Jupiter, the Sun, the Earth (Terra), and the Moon will be in a row; a situation likely to cause trouble. The Moon circles round the Earth but does not always keep the same distance. It is in Apogee (furthest away) on Aug. 20th and starting place of Uranus, Aug. 29; with Venus Aug. 30.

A NOTABLE BOOK

Through the kindness of Mr. George A. Leard, I have just received a copy of "Historic Bedeque" which has an explanatory subtitle, "The Loyalists at Work and Worship in Prince Edward Island." This is a historical work of the first importance, well illustrated, and embodying a marvellous amount of research. Worthy especially devoting its interest to the Bedeque region, it includes as showing its starting-place of the family in Bedeque in 1831, and perhaps in 1830. Here may be mentioned a unique and most useful feature of the book under consideration: every individual mentioned is to be found in the index under his or her surname, with initials of baptism names attached. The illustrations include portraits of many of the Ministers from 1817 to the present time and there is truly a "new look" to the clergymen of the 20th century. (I received a booklet some time ago from the Church where I was once a choir-boy, and noticed the same change in the clergy.)

To sum up, Prince Edward Island is becoming conscious that it has had a wonderful past history, and this will inevitably promote a hopeful outlook and a brighter future. Mr. Leard's contribution to our history is quite evidently a labor of love; and the extremely low cost should give "Historic Bedeque" a place in every home.

URGES PRE-MARRIAGE TESTS OF FERTILITY

CAMBRIDGE, England, Aug. 7 (AP) - Dr. Bethel Solomons, Dublin gynecologist, recommends fertility tests of couples before marriage. He made his recommendation to a meeting of 200 doctors and experts on child-bearing during a debate on the problem of childless marriages.

"There are more men and women miserable from the lack of children than from most other complaints," he said. "I have found this misery so acute that, if at all possible, I would like to see a test of fertility before marriage."

Dr. Solomons opposed "donor insemination" which, he said, "involves too many principles." He also advised newly-married couples to avoid using contraceptives because they might cause sterility. Dr. Oswald Lloyd of Cambridge recommended "baby borrowing" as a means of curing sterility. He said: "The matter of a wife adopting a baby and then becoming pregnant is as rare to be a coincidence. The tension of wanting a baby is sometimes so great that it may cause sterility in a woman. "When she adopts a baby the tension relaxes."

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CHAMPION DESCRIBES HOW TO IRON SHIRTS

NORTH BAY, Ont., Aug. 8 (CP) - Make every turn of your shirt count and use a hot iron, is Mrs. Mary Stevens' advice if you aspire to her record of ironing and folding a shirt in three minutes and three seconds.

The North Bay woman who averaged 18 shirts to the hour, challenges anyone to beat her in the special shirt ironing competition at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Only nine turns of the shirt are required in her self-developed technique. First she irons both sides of the collar and the shoulders, each step making one turn. The sleeves require two turns and the body of the shirt five.

To fold the shirt Mrs. Stevens fastens every button down the front, folds the shirt towards the back on each side, and flips the sleeves and body in three folds.

Mrs. Stevens' ironing experience goes back to 1912 when she began working in a Vancouver laundry. She also ironed in a North Bay laundry for a short time, but left there when she married.

Following her husband's death 15 years ago, she went back to work to support her three children.

However now her only interest in ironing is to get through the Monday wash and compete in the C.N.E. contest of course.

BIRMINGHAM - (CP) - City council expects to be the first local authority in Britain to build a comprehensive health centre under the new National Health Service Act. It will serve a population of 20,000, and cost about \$30,000.

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NOTICE

All Outstanding Accounts as at December 31st, 1947, and Fertilizer Accounts of 1948 must be settled by August 16th. After that date all unsettled accounts will be passed to our Attorney for collection.

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Advertisement for Kellogg's Asthma Relief, featuring the text 'KELLOGG'S ASTHMA RELIEF FOR ASTHMA & HAY FEVER'



(Canadian Army Photo)