

# Poor Farm-Hand Defies Wealth In Struggle To Retain His Boy

## Boy's Love Scorns Riches

Tiptonville, Tenn., July 22.—The whole world, it seems, has turned against Bert Noles.

Everybody is trying to take the boy away from him. Millions of dollars, churches, even the courts—are aligned against the poor, uneducated farm hand in his fight to keep his eight-year-old son, Jimmy.

Jimmy Noles, whose home is a 10-foot shack; whose bed is a pile of rags;

Jimmy Noles, who used to be clubfooted and hobbled along on the outside of his ankles, but who now—thanks to the St. Louis school folks and kindly doctors—ramps around like other kids;

Jimmy Noles, whom the nuns in Chicago fought to "wait upon" and who for weeks kept a big city laughing and crying at the things he said and did!

Jimmy Noles, bright as a shiny new dollar, though he never has spent a day in school!

Jimmy Noles, whose smile poverty and pain haven't been able to erase!

A score of wealthy families are making the chance to lay their love and riches at his feet!

It was one Sunday morning more than a year ago. The Young People's Association of the Methodist Church here discovered it would be idle for awhile to do something, or someone, turned up of which it could center its philanthropic activities.

One of its 50-odd members told of running across a little club-footed boy whose parents were destitute.

The class investigated. Ruth E. Whitford, vice president, then describes Jimmy, as he found him.

"He was a ragged, dirty youngster, surrounded by poverty of the meanest sort, yet cheerful in spite of his handicap.

"He was waiting on his sick stepmother when we arrived at the shack. She told us he could pick 75 pounds of cotton any day."

Much persuasion finally gained Bert Noles' permission for the class to send Jimmy to Chicago to have his deformed feet straightened.

The Bible students raised the money for his fare and \$50 more, bathed him, cut his shaggy hair and decked him out from head to foot.

Dr. R. W. Galt, of Tiptonville, got into communication with Dr. Ryerson, a surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago. The latter offered to treat Jimmy free.

And the boy was tagged and actually addressed to the hospital and sent on his way alone, in care of a Pullman conductor. That was in May, 1923.

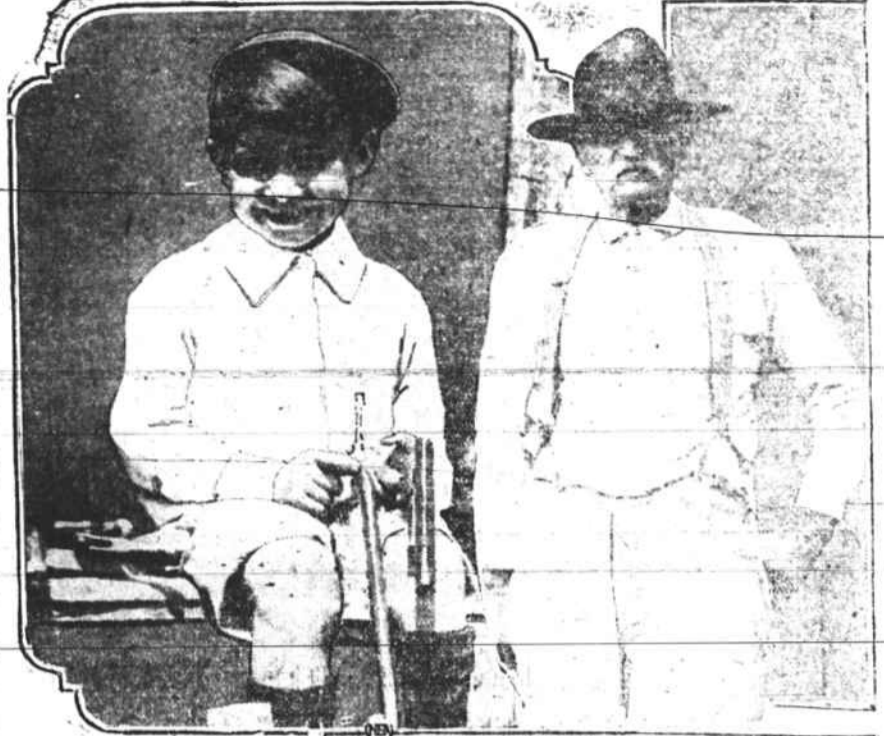
The hospital staff fell head over heels in love with Jimmie. The newspapers "played" him and his little feet.

Men and women of wealth came to see him. Several families, right from the start, wanted to adopt him.

For weeks and weeks Jimmy sat with his legs in a plaster cast. One day a nurse was adjusting the cast—a painful operation Jimmy was bearing it without a whimper. He noticed the nurse was crying.

"Why are you crying," asked Jimmy, "when it is my feet that are hurting?"

Last January his feet were pronounced cured. For the first



time in his life, Jimmy walked like other boys.

There was a "going-out" party for him when he left. Nurses, doctors, his wealthy elders loaded him down with toys. A limousine drove him to the depot.

Jimmy and his father had dropped out of sight. But inquiries revealed they were back in their shack near Hickman, Polk county, Ky., just across the line.

Judge Charles D. Nugent and a community nurse went out to see them.

The stepmother was in the last stages of tuberculosis. Jimmy was sleeping on his pallet of rags in another corner of the room.

"The family was sent" to the poorhouse. A few days later Judge Nugent went out there with the intention of sending Jimmy to an orphan's home, from which he could be adopted.

"But I just couldn't do it," the judge said later. "He seemed to love his stepmother so. He waited on her as tenderly as anybody could."

After the stepmother had died, the Bible Class wanted to tell Jimmy away from the poorhouse. Noles wouldn't let him leave. He was afraid they would kidnap him.

The men finally took Jimmy to Hickman. Bert Noles, went too. He and Jimmy, all dressed up again, spent a week at Tiptonville, the guests of the class.

Then Bert, conscious that trouble was brewing, took his boy to Calvin Kelliston's isolated farm, six miles out of Hickman. There he, in helping Kelliston "lay by" his crop.

There the infirmer found him watering the stock.

"Nobody's going to take my boy away," he declared. "I ain't going to let anybody have 'im. He's mine. And he's going to stay mine as long as I live."

"He's the only one I got now." And meanwhile, as the fight



eight-year-old Jimmy Noles (upper left) would rather sleep with his father on a pile of rags in a shack at the Polk county (Ky.) poorhouse than go into the home of a wealthy Chicago family that wants to adopt him. County authorities are watching Bert Noles, the poverty-stricken father, with the eyes of hawks, prepared to snatch the lad out of his unsanitary surroundings at the first opportunity. "Nobody's gonna get my boy," vows Bert Noles (upper right). The shack is seen below.

still wages, Jimmy is having a good time with the old blind pony, and "Bob," the hound, the Kellisons and the little tame ducks, while wealthy families await opportunity to adopt and educate the boy.

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A. S. Neal, retired planter, 207 East Church street, says: "My kidneys were weak and I had to pass the secretions often and they burned in passage. I had severe pains through my back that felt as if a knife were stabbing me. Every time I went to bend it was hard to straighten. I used Doan's Pills which I bought at the Standard Pharmacy. Doan's cured me and I haven't been bothered since."

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# LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS GOOD

## June and July Drives of Companies This Year Have Produced Unprecedented Results.

By J. C. ROYLE (Copyright, 1924, By The Associated Press)

New York, July 22.—The June and July drives of the life insurance companies this year have produced unprecedented results. The business of the life insurance companies of the United States has doubled in the last ten years and the percentage of persons having life insurance has increased so far in 1924. The heavy volume of business has brought about corresponding increases in fire insurance, while the increase in the automobile has brought a corresponding increase in liability insurance.

The practice of insuring executives for large sums by big building corporations has become more common and the million dollar policy no longer is unusual. Now that the Presidential candidates have been named, it is possible that policies for large sums will be taken out on their lives by voters who are preparing to cast large sums until after the November elections. It has been the policy of the political parties of their national committees to insure candidates.

One notable development in the insurance field in the last year has been the increased number of annuities purchased. Many men of large wealth and beyond middle life are turning to this form of investment, undoubtedly as a result of the heavy income tax payments entailed by other investments. Annuities paid by insurance companies are free from income tax until the beneficiaries shall have received in such payments the amount which the annuity policy cost.

In purchasing such an annuity, the larger of course, policies all

title to the principal, but an income tax does become operative after the amount paid back to him exceeds the cost of the policy. Many of these annuities are being taken out for the joint benefit of husband and wife and provide for payment of a fixed sum annually, with a lump sum at both alive.

Group insurance has been of extraordinary volume in the last 15 months. Many large corporations have insured their employees and in other instances, men of similar occupation or interest have banded together to obtain such protection. An instance in the recent group insurance plan worked out for employees of the New York stock exchange, which by the members' voluntary action, and the decision of the court, has improved in the volume of business done by insurance companies has been accompanied by a marked increase in the number of workers employed by the various organizations. There are but few companies which have not doubled their capital since in the last 10 years and that expansion is still going on.

There are several reasons for this besides the normal increase in the number of policies issued. One instance is the habit of having the policies issued to protect the family. The latter have secured to them and pay for, initial premiums. Events frequently do

the business of closing a reluctant premium but the cost of insuring such policies with the several work necessary to cancel them when they are returned is a large item in the expense of such contracts.

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BY CONDO

MOM'N POP

Hen Stump Is a Bit Wary

BY TAYLOR

YOU THINK BECAUSE MATT MOSS WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO PUT UP AN OIL DRILL THAT THERE'S A FORTUNE MADE AS SOON AS YOU STICK A HOLE IN THE GROUND

I FEEL THAT DAME FORTUNE SMILES ON THE MAN WHO'S WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE AND THIS PROPOSITION LOOKS WORTHIN OF SPECULATION

WELL IF I FELT AS CARELESS AS YOU DO ABOUT SPECULATION I WOULDN'T BE A BACHELOR—BUT MATRIMONY—AN OIL DRILL—ARE TWO THINGS THAT ALWAYS MEAN FOR BETTER OR WORSE

WELL—A MAN NEVER KNOWS WHAT SUCCESS HE CAN ATTAIN UNTIL HE TRIES—IT'S THE FELLOW WHO TAKES A CHANCE THAT MAKES PROGRESS IN THE WORLD

WAA!—I'M OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT ALL THAT GLITTERS ANY GOLD—AN NONSENICAL SPECULATION TAKES THE DOUBLE CHIN OFF'N YOUR WALLET BUT IF YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO HORSE SENSE YOU'LL BE THE SUREST CHILD THAT DREAMS THE FIRE

WHAT'S THE USE OF TRYING TO TALK BUSINESS TO AN OLD FOSSIL LIKE YOU? IF YOU HAD SENSE YOU'D STILL BE READING PAPERS BY TALLOW CANDLES AND LIGHTING OUR PIPES WITH A FLINT AND STEEL

WAA!—YOU'VE HEARD MY PRESENTMENTS AN' I DON'T GIVE A CUSS—GO AHEAD AN' DRILL FOR OIL—THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS—IF YOU HIT A GUSHER I'LL BE MIGHTY SURPRISED BUT IF YOU DON'T YOU CAN GIVE ME CREDIT FOR KNOWIN' MORE THAN YOU!