

### Cross Beams

On W-KYK  
Sunday At 1 P.M.

With FRANCES KAUFORD, MINISTER

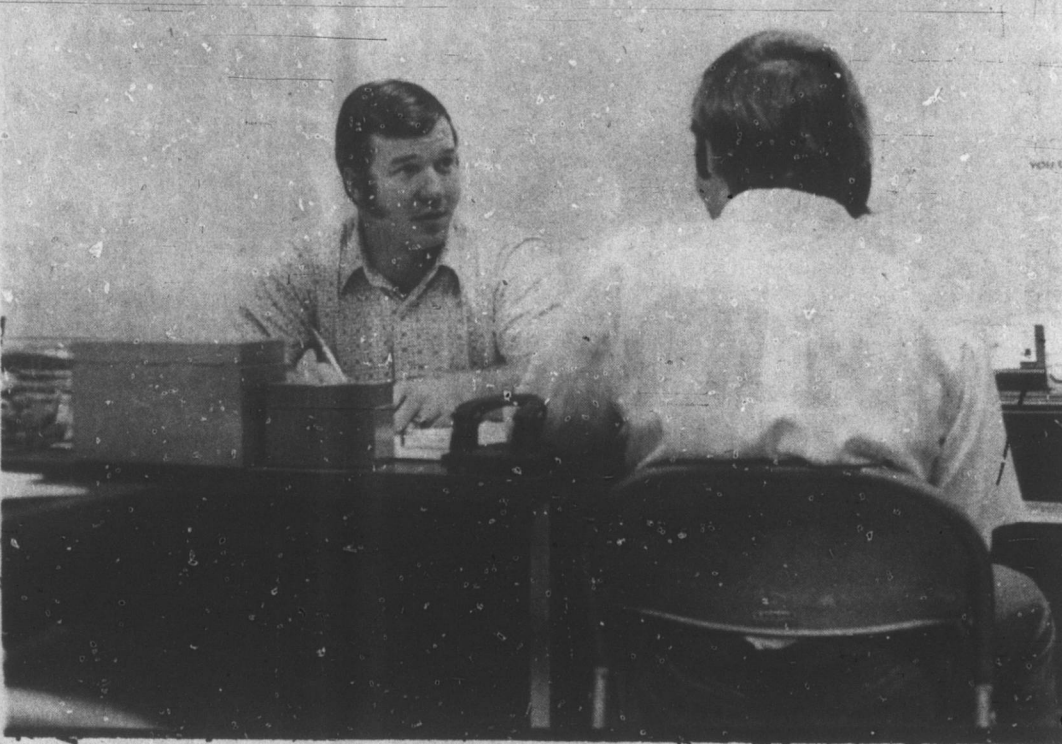
"HEARD COAST TO COAST"

### Note Of Thanks

We would like to express our deep and sincere appreciation for the food, flowers and cards of sympathy we received from our friends and relatives during our bereavement and sorrow. Also for the kindnesses shown to us in many other ways, our deepest gratitude.  
--The family of O.W. Riley.



Marilyn Kunzweiler, Social Worker, Discusses Role Of Foster Parents



Mike Higgins, Juvenile Worker, Talks To Youth With Problems

### Open Letter From A Social Services Worker

By Wanda Austin

In the past eleven months in which I have worked as a social worker in the Family and Children's Unit of the Social Services Department, I have been struck by the fact that very few people I meet have any idea what social work is. At best, I hear, "What do social workers do?" At worst, I have heard strange and untrue rumors.

This is not surprising. One of the peculiarities of social work as a profession is that it has no clear-cut image in the public eye. Because I believe good work is being done, which informed people would support, I would like to tell a bit of what we do.

There is a great deal more to a Social Service agency than giving out checks--which, by the way, can only be given when there are children without one of their parents, or a father is too disabled to work, and there are no other resources available. (There is a great deal of red tape and paper work, as our tireless secretaries know). But financial aid can be of no lasting help unless accompanied by services to help the family function better as a family, and to solve, if possible, the problems which keep a father from being a wage earner. If this is not possible, we still try to promote family stability by helping to meet health, educational and other needs.

Additional areas of work are prescribed by our State Department of Social Services, and all of these are to promote family stability.

We work with runaway children, who have often run away because of serious problems in the home, such as alcoholism, quarreling or abusive parents, severe conflict with their parents, or other serious conflicts. Unless these basic problems are worked with, the child will run away again. Sometimes we must provide a foster home for the child. In this case, casework services must be provided to the foster home parents as well as the child, for at best, the addition of a new person to a family requires adjustment. Unless the foster family is helped with this, they or the children may have to be seen in mental health clinics, as I know they have in other counties which do not provide follow-up foster care services. At the same time, help must be offered to the child's own family, so they can change and look forward to having their child home again.

Unwed mothers are also helped by Social Services. Often these are young girls who are not promiscuous, and if given understanding help, will not be repeaters. For those without funds, resources can be found to help them go to maternity homes, away from curious eyes and gossip, where they can be given a second chance. These girls need casework help, as illegitimacy is often connected with feelings of conflict, of one kind or another, with their parents. Better understanding of their own feelings can help them work out more constructive plans for their future.

The Social Services Department is also responsible for probation work. Most of our juvenile offenders are boys, who have never learned to read well, and become school drop-outs. There are few constructive alternatives for them here, and they take out their sense of frustration and worthlessness in acts of vandalism and drinking. Here, too, there has often been conflict in the home for many years--from which the whole family suffers--and to help the boy we must work with the family. These boys have usually become mistrustful of adults in authority, but we are fortunate in having a male caseworker who is sensitive to the needs and feelings of these boys, and able to relate well to them.

Much of foster care work is with young children, usually from broken homes. Because of their experiences, they often have developed behavior problems, and foster families must be helped to understand and cope with these. Foster families must be recruited before they are needed, so they can be studied and selected with care.

We also work with the Juvenile Court, and are required, by statute, to be present at all Juvenile Court sessions. The judge may request information, investigation or a full social study before he makes a decision. We have had a good working relationship with Judge Braswell, who has our highest respect.

Adoptions must be approved by the Department of Social Services, which involves many visits and careful home studies. Occasionally a family must be helped to find better ways of achieving what is best for all. Since adoption is a legal process, it requires care in helping to see that proper procedure is followed.

A full description of our activities would take a much longer article, but perhaps it can be seen why we often wish--as Judge Braswell puts it--that we had the wisdom of Solomon. It takes a lifetime to learn all there is to learn about social work, and every bit of training helps. We share the problems we face, with each other, trying to pool what wisdom and knowledge we have managed to acquire. We sometimes refer clients for psychiatric evaluation, to help us understand better what the basic problems are, or for psychological or vocational evaluation, to help us understand what potential the client has which we can help him to use.

All of these services take time, but in the long run, they save the public money. And the run isn't really all that long. It takes only about sixteen years for the child of an AFDC mother who did not receive adequate services to come to us as another unwed mother, needing support for her child. Most of the problems which come to us have an underlying reason. Unless we have an opportunity to work at this reason, the problem comes up again and again, costing more and more in terms both of money and human misery. Prisons and mental hospitals are full of people who have indications in many ways, at a younger age, that they had problems with their needed help. Preventive social services are a bargain; prisons and mental hospitals are very expensive to the taxpayer.

Perhaps it would not be inappropriate for me to point out that I have seen evidence that the social services given in this county are above average. State Department personnel have commented on this to us. Our Child Welfare Consultant also tells us this, which is much-needed encouragement, since we often cannot see the results of our efforts for some time. I recently learned that in another county, not one individual used the available mental health services for a whole year, for lack of transportation. That would not happen here.

I hope this may help to clarify what our social workers have been doing. It is challenging work, and well worth the effort it involves.

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### Answers To Your Questions About The Hospital System

## Facts About Blue Ridge Hospital System

Q. When will prospects be contacted for campaign pledges?  
A. Most of the public will be contacted by their neighbors during July and August.

Q. What is the pledge payment period?  
A. A 36 month pledge period, covering four tax years, has been established by the Board of Trustees. Payments can be made annually, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, or in any other manner you may prefer.

Q. Are pledge payments tax deductible?  
A. Yes. The federal government has reaffirmed its encouragement of giving to philanthropic causes through the Tax Reform Act of 1969. The deduction ceiling for giving was increased from 30% to 50% on an individual's adjusted gross income and the ceiling for corporations is 5% of tax-able income.

Q. May I give securities or other properties?  
A. Yes. In addition to helping provide more comprehensive health care, investments of this nature are advantageous to the donor. A capital gains tax need not be paid on appreciated stocks or other property, while credit is given the donor for the full value. Your attorney or accountant can provide more detailed information on this matter.

Q. Will a pledge do more to provide adequate health care than a cash contribution?  
A. Yes. Out-of-pocket gifts, while gratefully appreciated, cannot possibly provide sufficient funds to reach our goal of \$1,000,000. Thoughtful and proportionate giving is essential for success. Such meaningful gifts are more easily made over a scheduled pledge period.

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