

Social Services

Child Abuse Violation Of State Law

(This is the eleventh in a series of articles on social welfare programs administered by the Cherokee County Department of Social Services as prepared by V. O. Ayers, agency director. Today's article explains the role the local social services department plays in the protection of children from abuse and neglect.)

Over 2,000 children in North Carolina were reported in 1968 to the Protective Services Unit of the State Department of Social Services as being neglected or abused. Of these, six cases were reported from Cherokee County.

Child neglect takes many forms in our Society from actual child abandonment to the failure to meet the child's physical and emotional needs. Over 200 of these cases were reported as child abuse involving incidences of bone and skull fractures, burning by scalding or hot objects, brutal beatings with electric cords, wooden objects or belts, malnutrition, freezing, abrasions and lacerations. There are probably at least this many more children who were not reported, did not receive help, and are unable to seek help because they are too young or they are afraid to speak out.

Children's rights are protected under the North Carolina General Statute 14-318.2 and 14-318.3. This legislation was fashioned in allowing for timely intervention, appropriate action within the law, and for defining the reporting procedure.

If citizens of Cherokee County have cause to suspect child abuse or neglect in our community, they should report the information to the county

director of social services. Written reports should include the child's name and address, the names of his parents or other persons responsible for his care, the child's age, knowledge or evidence of previous injury or illness, any additional information which may be helpful such as the date, time, and place of the occurrence and the person committing the abuse or neglect, and should be signed by the person making the report.

Upon receipt of a child abuse or neglect report, the county director of social services is responsible for investigating to determine who caused the abuse, neglect, injury or illness, and shall take such action in accordance with law necessary to prevent the child from being subjected to further such acts.

The county director assigns the reported case to one of the social workers in his department who works with families and children. The social worker makes a visit to the home to discuss the complaint and to offer any help to the family directed at improving the situation that brought about the abuse or neglect.

The purpose of these protective services is to help parents recognize and remedy conditions harmful to a child and to help them better realize and better fulfill their parental roles. Protective services are preventive in nature and are offered within the context of a supportive casework relationship. Resources helpful in working with these families include family counseling, homemaker service, child care education, foster care, day care, family planning, and the use of the court for emergency removal of a child when necessary.

It is not the purpose of the protective services section of

the department of social services to punish parents but rather to help them so that they in turn may be able to meet their children's needs. This approach is based on the recognition and acceptance of the fact that most child abuse and neglect is symptomatic of either emotionally disturbed or mentally ill parents, stress brought on by economic or social pressures, family patterns of neglect or abuse, and the inability of parents to cope with the pressures of an increasingly complex and demanding world.

When parents are unable or unwilling to utilize protective services of the local agency, the authority of the court must be sought to obtain substitute care of protective supervision for the child. Many are removed from the home and placed with foster parents. Some of these are later returned to their parents when the situation has changed and the parents are willing to accept their parental responsibilities.

The increasing awareness of and better understanding of abusing and neglecting parents has shown that the vast majority of them want to be good parents and can be good parents with appropriate and timely services. Further recognition that the majority of these cases are not and should not be taken to court has prompted many private citizens to report child abuse and neglect to the county department of social services before the child abuse or neglect has reached irreversible stages.

Certain persons are by law granted immunity to encourage them to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. These are licensed physicians and surgeons, licensed nurses, school teachers, principals, superintendents or other administrative heads of schools or any employee of a county department of social service.



Cloverbud Club

A Cloverbud Club has been formed in the Tomotla Community for youngsters ages 4-9 to prepare them for 4-H club work. The children are taught about 4-H projects and activities and will hopefully be well-prepared to join the 4-H when they become 9 years old. Lynn Loudermilk and Debra Keener,

regular 4-H members, work with the children. Miss Loudermilk is shown at right. The Cloverbudders, left to right, front row, are Angie Hogsed, David Jones and Angie Angell; back row, Victor Angell, Mike Hogsed, Keith Jones and Ann Manchester.



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Your Weekly Horoscope

November 6 through November 12

ARIES (March 21-April 19): First four days: dismal. Energy low. But by fifth day, money will be spotlighted. And the old buck usually perks Aries up, when all else fails. Reject cheap imitations on last two days of week. You've been taught to settle only for the very best. Do it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Week begins on a rather even keel but tends to diminish funwise. Your zip will seem to have tapped by the third day. Outside forces will demand your attention, and you just might become overly fatigued if you're not careful. Allow yourself to get all fagged-out and the next thing you know you'll be brooding. And nothing is more depressing than a brooding Taurian.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You're going to have to slow your pace, Gem. You simply can't keep going at your present rate. You've been quite a "swinger" of late, and if you don't heed old Olga's advice you'll soon be all "unswung." Last two days will no doubt find you at low ebb. Forget the joy juice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Rather decent week ahead, Moonchild. Indecisions seem to clear, and a searchlight seems turned on toward your future plans. Pressures in area concerning partner slacken. Romance is warming in the wings, and waiting for right cue to take center stage.

LEO (July 23-August 22): Listen here Leo, your plans of late have been rather high and mighty. It's O.K. to aim high, but for Pete's sake, be realistic. Use your fine mind to advantage by listening to advice of one older and wiser who has your best interests at heart. Stick close to phone on last day of week.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22): Virg., have you been fighting the system of late? Olga's bet is that you haven't made much progress. You are an independent thinker and this is good, but in the last analysis, one must "adapt or die." It's the old law of survival.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22): First four days of week will find you in high spirits. Energy will soar. Your intuitive mind will be working overtime. Make major decisions. Forget false humility. You're top notch and you know it.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21): On third day, my wild and woolly Scorp, you'll be surrounded with love and affection. Amor, amor will be everywhere. Olga recommends, however, that you double-check to make sure that it isn't the cut-rate variety. You are entering into a very vulnerable period of your life, as far as romance is concerned. Keep your wits.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21): The secrets of the universe will occupy a great deal of your thinking in week ahead, Sag. The occult will draw you. Your intuition will be extremely keen. Trust it. Good time to enter into new and exciting platonic relationship. Last three days, energy cycle high. Use it for fun.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19): Let it all hang out in week ahead, Cap. You've been keeping too much to yourself. Bloom. Blossom. Blow your mind. Last day of week begins new high energy cycle. Flirt a little.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): Dream, Aquarius. Romance is on the way. At last. And it may vary possibly be of the lasting variety. Words of praise will come your way. Accept with grace, but don't let them get you all unstrung.

PISCES (February 19-March 20): Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut in week ahead, Pisces, my sweet. You have much to learn. And you will only learn when you stop chattering and listen quietly. Listen with your ears and your heart.

R.L. Schuyler Dies In Florence, S. C.

Florence, S. C., Robert L. Schuyler, 58 Machinist for the Seaboard Coast Line Railway died Monday, Oct. 27th in a Florence hospital. "Bob" as he was known to everyone suffered a heart attack Sunday afternoon and was rushed to the hospital and put in the intensive care unit. "Bob" passed away at about 12:30 a.m. Monday.

Funeral Services were held at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon in St. John's Episcopal Church. The body was laid to rest at the Mount Hope Cemetery. "Bob" was born in Salisbury, N. C., a son of the late Albert Clinton and Alice Haynes Schuyler. He was a member of the St. John's Episcopal Church and a former member of the Moose Lodge.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Ann Crowson Schuyler of Florence; two sons, Robert Crowson Schuyler of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and Howard McLaughlin Schuyler of Florence; a daughter, Mrs. Beth Schuyler Collins of Florence; and three brothers, Clinton and Jack of Florence, and L. D. "Red" Schuyler of Murphy, N. C.

Clay County ASCS News

The State Conference of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service was held in Charlotte Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

Attending from Clay County were committeemen Ernest G. Smith, Boyd M. Hogsed and Frank Brooks. Office personnel, June C. Waldroup, Gwendolyn C. Weaver and Mary Stewart.

Rye for winter cover crop is still available.

Acres approved for 1970 winter cover cannot exceed acreage approved under 1969 ACP. Farmers normally seeding winter cover and others should keep this in mind and obtain 1969 approval by November 10, 1969.

A limited amount of 1969 ACP funds is still available. We are now placing orders for tree seedlings and issuing orders for lime. Interested farmers are requested to place orders at once.

Direct program payments will again be available in 1970 for farmers who wish to divert their feed grain bases to a conserving use. Details of the 1970 feed grain program will be announced in the near future.



NOW-BONUSES

plus fresher, cleaner living with electric appliances

Starting November 6 —, and for a limited time — you can collect a bonus with the purchase of certain electric appliances.

- Dishwasher \$20
- Automatic Washer \$15
- Electric Clothes Dryer . . . \$15

Electric appliances are clean —

Help Keep Your Home Clean —

While they furnish modern convenience —

Original installation only

The rules are simple. You must be one of our customers, purchase the featured appliance on or after November 6, and install it on our lines. For your bonus, bring proof of purchase to our office.

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