

WE WANT A BABY

BY GERTRUDE WALTON
ATKINS

"We want a baby."

Every year thousands of couples write the Children's Home Society in Greensboro, all with the same question, "Can you help us adopt a child?"

And for over a half century the Society has been finding homes in every county in North Carolina for 6,000 babies and little children.

These are the "displaced children" of North Carolina, from homes broken by death or divorce. These are the babies who do not have an established family. Often the Society knows about them months before they are born. The expectant mother may write, or her family, her doctor, lawyer or minister. Or sometimes an agency may inquire for her, such as the circumstance in the case of Pat and her baby, Nancy.

Pat was the oldest of eight

children. All her life there had been a struggle "to make ends meet" on their small farm in Eastern North Carolina. When she was 15 she escaped from the drudgery of home life by marrying Ned, an 18-year-old boy from a state 1,000 miles away.

The "marriage" lasted only two weeks. They saw their mistake and separated, but it was too late. Pat was stranded, alone and pregnant, in a city 1,000 miles away from "Tar Heel" borders.

As the months passed, Pat became panicky, and finally contacted the local Community Chest. They in turn called the Greensboro Community Chest who phoned The Children's Home Society to see what might be done.

"Of course, we can help. The child is born of a legal resident of North Carolina," Harriett L. Tynes, Executive Director of the Society, said. Immediately plans were made for Pat to return to North Carolina as soon as her baby was born.

Soon after Nancy's birth, Pat returned home, first to Greensboro to leave Nancy at the Society's Nursery. Pat felt she had to give up Nancy for the baby's own welfare, but the Society insisted that she return home and consult her parents before taking such a step. The Society consistently refuses to take a baby unless it is convinced it is the best plan for the baby.

A week later Pat and her parents came to Greensboro and visited the Nursery, a big white-framed house on Cypress Street. It was a hard decision to give up the baby which had Pat's own blue eyes and red curls, but they knew Pat, barely 16, was too young to accept the responsibilities of motherhood alone. Pat's mother and father had a house filled with their own children. There didn't seem to be much "promise

Comedy Team



Johnson and Owen (above) will present their popular comedy act on a horizontal bar when "Hippodrome of 1931" appears in the William Neal Reynolds Coliseum at North Carolina State College January 8-15.

of a future" for Nancy there. After being accepted in the Nursery, Nancy entered a "waiting period" to give Pat still more time to be certain she had made the right decision. They kept in touch with Pat. Then one day she wrote, giving permission for Nancy's adoption, but "find her a good mommy and daddy, please," the letter begged.

Meanwhile, doctors and lawyers in Greensboro, who offer their services free to the Society, were watching over little Nancy. The pediatrician declared she was a fine healthy baby to all appearances.

The lawyer reminded the Society that Nancy's father as well as her mother had to give consent to her adoption. This posed another problem, for Ned hadn't been heard from since he left Pat nearly a year ago. "Don't try to find me," he had written.

The Society, through its membership in the Child Welfare League of America, had a network of resources to trace Ned's whereabouts. It wasn't long until they found him and obtained his consent to the adoption. However, in obtaining information about his parents for the baby's record, it was discovered there was a physical defect in Ned's family which might be inherited.

The geneticist who advises the staff was called in on the case. After examining all the facts and seeing Nancy too, he said there was a slight chance that Nancy would inherit the defect but more than likely she would escape the defect entirely. This bare possibility had to be reported to the potential adoptive parents, along with all the other information about the baby's background.

Now the Society must seek a couple "just right" for Nancy. What sort of home would be selected? First, a home not in Eastern North Carolina since that is where Nancy's mother was living. This is in line with a strict Society rule never to find homes for babies in the section from which they come.

Second, a home of modest means where she will get a high school education but where parents will not expect a "mental giant."

Third, a home where Nancy's carrot top and blue eyes will be welcome and appreciated by parents with similar coloring. Her looks and build must blend with those of her parents.

Fourth, a home willing to accept Nancy, with full knowledge of the possible defect and

her full background.

There was one home on file at the Society that filled the bill exactly. When the case-worker explained to the potential parents, the possibility of a physical defect, they exclaimed, "Why, of course, we want her. If we had our own child, we would run a greater risk than that bare possibility."

Nancy gurgled when her new mother took her in her arms for the first time, while her new father stood by, beaming with slightly misty eyes at his new family.

This month the Children's Home Society's annual Christmas drive is underway for funds to continue to give service to the hundreds of Nancy's

and youngsters like her that need a home and loving parents.

The Society is the only state-wide, voluntarily-supported agency licensed to handle adoptions in North Carolina. It receives no tax funds, gives its services free to all and exists entirely on voluntary gifts.

Contributions may be mailed to the Children's Home Society, 740 Chestnut Street, Greensboro, North Carolina.

The all-farm products index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased 27 points (8.9 per cent during the month ended November 15.

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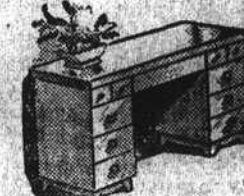
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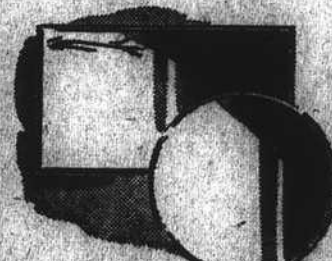
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