



Martin Theophilus
Child Protective Services
Ector County Children's Services
November 15, 1970 to November 1 1977

Ector County Children's Services - July 1972

Martin Cheryl Charlotte Phil Linda Jane Pat
Sylvia Beverly



Dear Mr. Sheophilus,
Thank you for the interview
concerning social work. Your
information was most
helpful.

Sincerely yours,
Joni McCord





The Board and Staff
of Ector County Children's Services
cordially invite you to attend a dinner
in Recognition and Appreciation of
Foster Parents in Odessa

Thursday, April 20, 1972 — 7:00 to 9:00 P. M.
Coach Room — Inn of the Golden West
\$1.15 per person — Guests Welcome — RSVP 332-4141

PROGRAM

7:30 p. m.

- Welcome, Recognition of Guests, Explanation of Board's Function ----- Mr. Bill Barnes, Board Representative
- Who Are These Children? ----- Mr. Phil Moser, M.S.W. Supervisor
- Film (30 min.) ----- "The Neglected"
- Who Are Foster Parents? ----- Mrs. Jane Conner, Licensing Worker
- Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation; Recognition of Foster Parents ----- Dr. William D. Furs, Board Representative
- Benediction ----- Rev. Raul Solis, Board Member

Wednesday, September 20, 1972 THE ODESSA AMERICAN

Welfare Pay To Be Lower

Because Social Security payments were increased 20 per cent on Sept. 1, as many as 22,000 persons in the state could lose their Old Age Assistance

payments from the state. Aid to the blind and those permanently disabled will also be affected.

Martin Theophilus, supervisor for the Odessa office of the Texas Department of Public Welfare, said many persons would not only lose cash payment from the State Welfare Department because of the higher Social Security payment, but they would also lose benefits under Medicare and the Vender Drug Program which covers medical payments to the needy.

"Since a large portion of Social Security payments are deducted from the personal needs allowance," Theophilus said, "this will scale down the amount the person is eligible for under state welfare payments."

He said when cash payments to the needy are discontinued from the state the Medicare and Vender Drug benefits are also discontinued.

8-31-72
Crackdown Planned On Welfare Fraud

A crackdown on fraudulent welfare claims has begun in Odessa and criminal charges will be filed against anyone caught on the welfare rolls who lied to get there.

Martin Theophilus, financial services supervisor here for the Texas State Department of Public Welfare, said the crackdown comes as a result of a recent staff meeting of all regional supervisors.

He said three cases were filed last week in Midland, two are being readied for filing in Fort Stockton, one in Monahans, and another is being investigated in Odessa.

"As the result of this recent emphasis toward more prosecution in these cases," Theophilus said, "we are also tightening down on investigative procedures before we place any new applicants on the welfare rolls."

For example, he said that when a mother asks for welfare under the aid to dependent children program, a worker goes to the home, does a head count on the number of children and asks for birth certificates.

"Before it was not required that the applicant produce birth certificates for children," he said.

In Ector County, the one case which has

been prosecuted was filed in Ector County as a misdemeanor under a law receiving benefits from state welfare on a false statement. A fine of \$25 was levied and the case was dropped.

Under the new crackdown, Theophilus said, the five case workers in Ector County will screen new applicants and interview those already on the rolls. The information on violations is then sent to the legal division of the welfare department in Austin.

The case will be reviewed and sent back to the originating county for a recommendation as to whether prosecution is warranted.

Theophilus said he is frustrated because of federal regulations in effect that prevent welfare recipients from the rolls.

"For instance," he pointed out, "if we find evidence of fraud, we must drop the person that they're being dropped. We must also tell them that they have the right to appeal. If they appeal, the case is suspended up to 90 days during that period, they continue to receive benefits."

Nacogdoches
Ector Welfare Unit Awaiting Information

Ector County welfare officials said Tuesday they did not know the effect of new policies adopted Monday by the state board that will keep 8,131 recipients on the rolls who were scheduled to be removed because of the recent Social Security increase.

Martin Theophilus, Ector County supervisor of welfare programs, said, "I haven't heard about this action yet. Possibly, we will have information on it in a few days."

Carrol Crum, regional administrator in San Angelo, said, "I am sure that the policies will affect some Ector County residents. But we have no information yet."

Recently, the federal government told each state to include the 20 per cent increase in Social Security payments for welfare. Automatically, 27,374 Texas recipients were placed above the maximum income qualifying level.

Monday, however, the Texas Welfare Board, meeting in Austin, standardized personal needs allowance for adult categories at \$7 a month — an increase of \$4 for old age and \$3 for the blind and permanently and totally disabled.

This action was expected to keep 8,131 of the 27,375 persons involved in Social Security increased on the welfare rolls.

Just Remember
Martin!

Today is the
last day of
first of your
life!

STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 9, 1972

SUBJECT: Unit Transfer

TO:

Mr. Oliver Theophilus, PW Supervisor I
Region 002, Unit 10
Odessa 781-7

FROM:

John H. Heir, Director
Personnel Division
State Office 031-0



MARTIN THEOPHILUS
... Named Supervisor

Children's Services Head Named

Martin Theophilus, supervisor of financial services with the Ector County Welfare Department, has been named as supervisor of Ector County Children's Services.

Theophilus replaces Phil Moser, who resigned the post to accept a commission as captain in the U. S. Air Force.

The new supervisor will make \$796 a month.

He is a graduate of Sul Ross State University where he received a bachelor's degree in music education. He has done graduate work in education, police science and psychology.

Theophilus came to Odessa from Alpine in August of 1970 to work with Children's Services here as a financial services worker. He was promoted to supervisor of financial services in July.

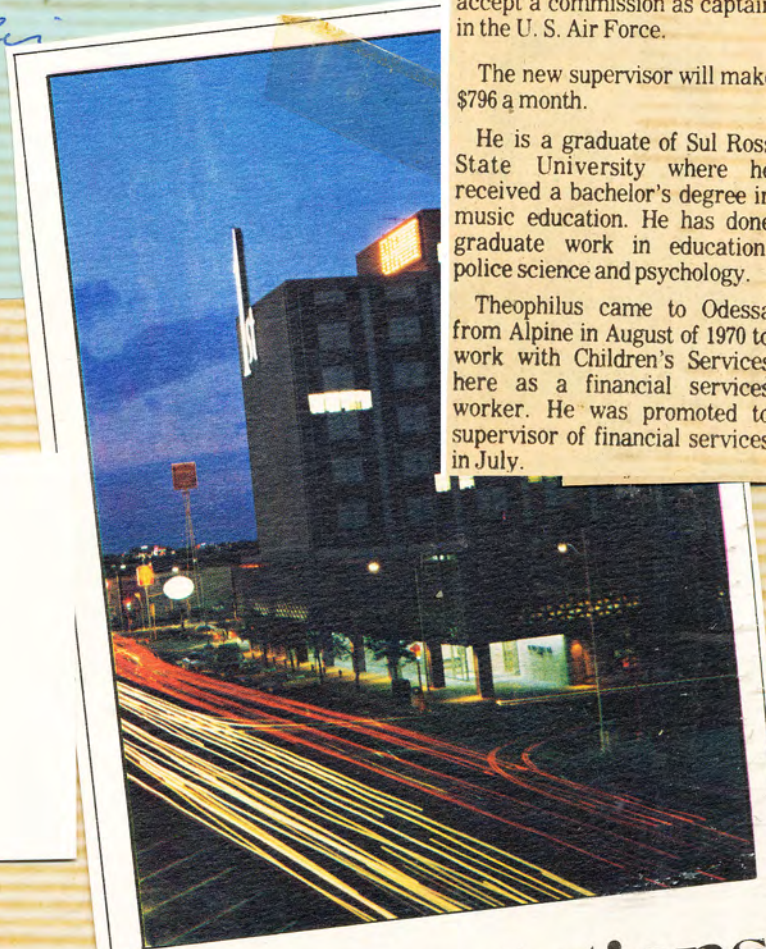
This will confirm our approval of your unit transfer from BJ# 002-09-A-01-108-250 to BJ# 002-10-A-01-319-781-7. *Children's Services*

This unit transfer was effective September 1, 1972.

John H. Heir
John H. Heir

JHH:rp

cc: Mr. Carrol D. Crum, 277-7
Mr. Harold E. Rader, 277-7
Mr. Dave Stuteville, 277-7
Mr. Homero Rodriguez, 056-0
Mr. George Maberry, 051-0



Congratulations and Best Wishes.

Your friendly bank,



THE FIRST NATIONAL

BANK OF ODESSA 7TH & NORTH GRANT, ODESSA, TEXAS

MEMBER F. D. I. C.

Congratulations



Martin —
 They made Charlotte
 and Pat "Sweethearts
 the Day"! They were
 read the letter on the
 radio and pronounced
 your name "THEE-O-FIN
 US"!
 Oh Well!



Go-Away Party - Charlotte - Pat
 9-23-72 SATURDAY
 7:00-7:30 Until Whenever
 3715 Fern Circle



- ✓ Martin - Cokes + Ice Tea
- ✓ Bruce - ~~Satad~~ soft Drinks
- ✓ Cheryl C. - guacamole dip, meat d
- ✓ Jane -
- ✓ Sylvia - ~~tostadas~~ + sandwiches
- ✓ Bev - **NACHOS**
- ✓ Linda - dip & doritos
- Keith -
- Janett - cheese dip + doritos
- Molly - **cookies**
- Mr. Davis -
- Cheryl L. - Assorted mints





Ector Co Children's Serv
December 1977
MARTIN THEOPHILAS
Bruce Carter
Jane Conner
Fran Wilson
Linda Commander
Sylvia Ramirez
Cheryl Carter
Cheryl Lea



Most Not Blamed On Poverty

Child Abuse Cases

Average One

Per Day

THE ODESSA AMERICAN
Monday, November 20, 1972

BY C. ANNE PRESCOTT
American Staff Writer

Ector County authorities are investigating an average of one child neglect and abuse case a day and most of them are in homes where poverty is no real problem.

That was the report Monday of the county's Children's Service Office on the heels of a growing number of tragic child abuse cases throughout the nation.

And 80 per cent of the homes, reported Martin Theophilus director of the office, are those of middle-class and lower class Anglo families.

"They have enough money to take care of their children—and usually they have more than one child," Theophilus said, "but they spend their money foolishly, like staying in bars for eight or 9 hours.

"They'll leave babies in the

care of a five-year-old brother or sister because he's "older."

"The homes are usually dirty and disarrayed on the inside but all right on the outside."

Theophilus, who lives at 3715 Fern Circle, has been director since September but before that spent three and one-half years as a caseworker and a financial services supervisor.

He said that investigations are started as soon as complaints on

children are received, and he usually is faced with a decision within 24 hours on whether the complaint was valid.

"It's hard to tell when they call in if they are just griping, until we make an investigation."

Many of the referrals come from schools, where teachers notice lack of shoes or warm coats and sometimes even large bruise marks, the 26-year-old social worker said.

"But the vast majority of complaints come from neighbors," he said, "and anonymous tipsters. Sometimes the children themselves come into the office to tell on their parents, but that's usually out of

spite for a recent spanking they got."

Twenty to 30 per cent come from "walk-ins" at the office on the second floor of the Ector County Courthouse.

Complaints are verified within hours, especially in a reputed child abuse case, when the child's life might be endangered, but these cases number only four to five per month, and of these, only one to three are serious, he added.

"A great deal of abuse comes from step-parents and a great deal of cases involved divorce, where the parent who has custody of the child beats the child and blames it for the

parent's failure to hold the marriage together," Theophilus explained.

"Parents are usually careful to beat the child where it doesn't show, like on the arms and legs, which can be covered with clothes, and especially on the back. But then they don't realize the extent of internal injuries that can be inflicted that way."

Caseworkers, when going to the household complained about, are careful not to visit neighbors for fear the parents involved can guess the reason for the visit and take preventive action, like cleaning the children and the house, one caseworker said, who asked to remain

anonymous, because "I'm getting pretty well known around town."

"Strong-arm" tactics are sometimes used to get into house, the caseworker said, "but once inside we explain why we're there.

"The most common reaction is 'Who called you,' but only about 10 per cent of the parents are belligerent. The rest, mostly mothers, realize they need help and are cooperative. After all, our aim is to help the people, not lecture to them.

"In abuse cases, we ask to see the child if it's at home, because in abuse cases, the hardest thing to prove is actual abuse," the caseworker said.



MARTIN THEOPHILUS
...Airs Problem

"When we talk to parents, we're not hung up on morals, if the couple is living together and the children are illegitimate, or if the house is filthy and the children are, too. Our only concern with morals is how it affects the child."

What happens after the face-to-face talk?

"Well, contrary to what people think, we don't make a habit of placing the children in foster homes or taking custody away from the parents," Theophilus explained.

"We prefer to have the child remain in his own home if possible, because it's too jolting to be whisked away and put into a foster home.

"The only reason for taking them out of the house is that the child's safety is in danger, he's been abandoned or for medical reasons.

"In serious cases we'll obtain legal custody, or the parents will keep custody but be under our supervision for six months to a year.

"When we do end up in court, it makes the parents realize how serious the case is, so we usually go the supervision route," he explained.

"We're real hesitant to take custody unless we're real sure, and district judges are real hesitant to remove permanent custody from the parents.

"If we can't leave children in the home, then we try to find their relatives, then a foster home, then adoption, but a children's home or institution is the last resort, and we make sure it's the very last."

The three caseworkers, who earn \$600 to \$630 per month, split the total caseload of 35 to 50 cases per month, involving about three children per case. Most of their work is investigation, Theophilus, who earns \$850 per month, stated.

Other services provided by the department include counseling unwed mothers, numbering there to five per month, who voluntarily come into the office to place their baby for adoption.

The department pays all the mother's medical costs, about \$300, if the baby is put up for adoption.

However, with more prevalent use of birth control methods, the department's budget reflected a drop in cases, with only \$3,000 budgeted this year compared to \$6,000 earmarked for unwed mothers last year.

Caseworkers Bruce Carter, Jane Conner and Fran Wilson also try to place children of natural parents who can't afford the child and counsel runaways referred by juvenile services.

Cost of operating children's services is split with the state, which pays two-third of the annual cost, or \$60,000 for salaries, and the county picks up the tab of \$30,000 for building use, supplies and transportation.

Other children's services staffers are Marcia Tunnell, who licenses foster homes and day care centers, and Linda Commander, a case aide.

All staffers have a bachelor's degree in sociology or psychology except Theophilus, who has an undergraduate degree in music education from Sul Ross State University.

NOV 5 1972

Foster Parents

Play Vital Role In County

By VICKIE DAVIDSON
American Staff Writer

Like flowers need rain, the Ector County Children's Services needs foster homes.

Foster parents take non-adoptable children, age 17 and under, into their homes from one day to one year while the children's home problems are worked out or other permanent arrangements are being made for them.

Foster parents give children love they need and understanding for their sometimes severe problems.

The Ector County Children's Services has 12 licensed foster homes now, but they need more. At times they've had to overload

available homes or place children out of county because of a lack of facilities here.

Although the Children's Services investigates 35 to 50 new complaints on child abuse or neglect each month, they keep about 80 cases open continuously. Ten per cent of these 80 cases are children who have been seriously abused, 75 per cent have been neglected and the agency has taken charge of the rest by parental request.

Out of the 35 to 50 new cases investigated only three to six

removed from their homes each month and they need a place to go temporarily.

Foster parents can take up to six children at a time if they have the facilities, but two is the average number. Foster parents can designate age, number and the sex of the children they want. When the parents feel a child has a problem they can't handle, they can turn the child down before he ever comes to them.

While qualifications for foster parents depend primarily on

their attitudes and ability to care for the children, foster parents must also meet other regulations to be licensed. They must be financially stable, have adequate space for the extra children, everyone in the home must have a medical examination and a fire and health inspection must be made of the home.

Prospective foster parents must be over 21 and their marriage must be at least one year old. The parents must also be residents of Ector County. In some situations, particularly with school age children, a new regulation has been set which allows both parents to work outside the home.

When a couple is interested in becoming foster parents, Martin Theophilus, supervisor of the Ector County Children's Services, says the people are visited several times during a one-month period. "We don't hurry them along — in case their interest is going to die out." All references are also checked.

Foster parents are paid \$2 per day for each child and an additional 50 cents for older or handicapped children. A \$4 per month allowance is given for school age children, and the county pays for all medical and clothing expenses. "There is no way anyone can make money on this," Theophilus said, "which is why we require that foster homes be financially stable."

Although Theophilus says that 80 per cent of their complaints come from Anglo families, the Children's Services "really needs Chicano and Black foster homes."

Theophilus says his agency is trying to work more closely with the foster parents and make them "more aware" of what is happening.

The primary function of the Ector County Children's Services is to improve the home situations. Theophilus says, "rarely do we remove and get actual custody of the children." "Even 75 per cent of those we do get custody of go back to their homes after the situation is

improved."

To improve various home situations or problems the Ector County Children's Services, which is on 24 hour call, often recommends psychiatric counseling or testing. Theophilus says they do a lot of work through Mental Health and Mental Retardation in Odessa, as well as the special education department in the schools.

Most complaints received at the Children's Services are from hospitals and schools.

Speaking of the types of cases they deal with Theophilus said the greater number of abused children were step-children. The most common neglect complaints the agency handles are children left alone, children in cold weather without proper clothing, children left alone at

night, medical neglect and unsanitary housing. Unwed mothers also are referred to the Ector County Children's Services.

Even though Christmas is a family time, a number of children will spend their Christmas in foster homes, said Theophilus. The agency which receives two-thirds of its funds from the state and one-third from the county, will not be able to buy the children Christmas presents without public help.

Theophilus said that donors are often disappointed because they can't see the children open the presents. Any interested person, however, can purchase a gift for a particular child or give the Ector County Children's Services the money to buy a gift.

The children who will spend Christmas in the foster homes are asked to make a list of what they would like for Christmas. They will get more than three items from their list.

Theophilus smiled as he spoke of the dedication of their foster parents. "they do those children a lot of good — their rough problem is seeing them leave.

TEXAS DPW

ECTOR COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES UNIT 10

O N C A L L S C H E D U L E

| Week Beginning | Week Beginning | Week Beginning |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 9-18-72 | 10-23-72 | 11-27-72 |
| MT | BC | JC |
| 9-25-72 | 10-30-72 | 12-4-72 |
| BC | BC MT | FW |
| 10-2-72 | 11-6-72 | 12-11-72 |
| JC | BC MT | MT |
| 10-9-72 | 11-13-72 | 12-18-72 |
| FW | MT | BC |
| 10-16-72 | 11-20-72 | 12-25-72 |
| MT | BC FW | JC |

11/10/72

MT Martin Theophilus BC Bruce Carter JC Jane Conner FW New Worker

UNIT 10

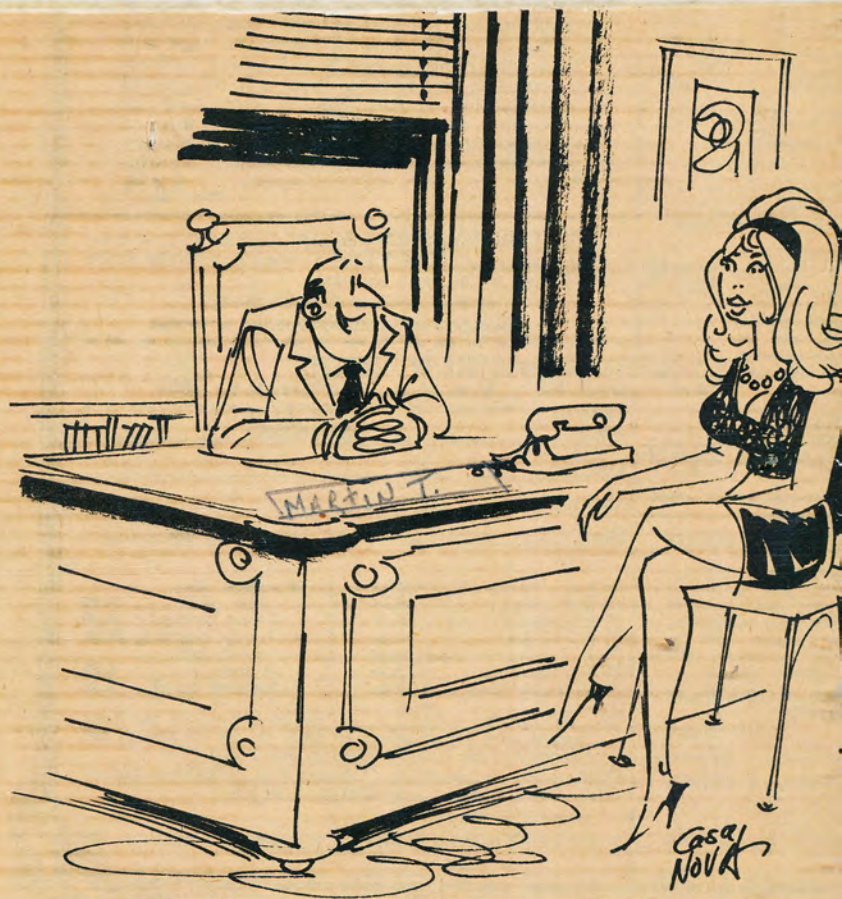
THEOPHILUS, O. Martin, Supervisor
 CARTER, Bruce M., PW Worker I
 WILSON, Fran E., PW Worker I
 CONNER, Jane R., PW Worker I
 BAILEY, R. Keith, PW Worker I
 DOWDY, Billie Jane, CSA
 RAMIREZ, Sylvia M., Steno II
 BROWN, Leslie J., Clerk Typist I



UMW General Meeting To Be Held

The General meeting of United Methodist Women will be held on Thursday, March 6, beginning with a noon luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Mr. Martin Theophilus from Children's Service will bring the program.

Ector Co. Courthouse
 P. O. Box 4636
 Odessa 79760 (366-1)
 915-332-4141



"Well then, in how many minutes can you type one word?"

56

You are cordially invited
 to attend the
 Third Annual Foster Parents
 Appreciation Banquet
 Thursday, March 29
 7:00 p.m.
 Inn of the Golden West

Ector County Children Service
 R.S.V.P. 177AR
 332-1578 1973 \$4.75 Per Person





Martin,
 This is your last
 chance to correct or
 change anything!
 Thanks

Sunday, September 23, 1973

Foster Care Is Seeking More Cash

Ector County commissioners Monday will consider a request from Childrens Services for \$4,000 in additional funds for the county's foster care program.

The present budget calls for expenditures of \$17,000 for the program, but CS director Martin Theophilus, said the additional funds would be necessary for use during the latter part of October, November and December.

"We have been averaging expenditures of \$1,750 a month this year," he said, "which is up from the previous year because of the increased daily rate paid to foster parents, which became effective Feb. 1 this year."

The Childrens Services board recommended this transfer of funds at a meeting Sept. 4.

Commissioners Monday during the 10 a.m. meeting will consider a recommendation from the Ector County Park Board that the county dedicate an approximate 125-foot-square wedge-shaped property to the Optimist Park to the City of Odessa.

The city has requested land so that 37th Street may be extended to Grandview. The street presently ends at an intersection east of Redbud.

In other action, commissioners will:

- Consider approval of a preliminary plat for University Park, Unit II, submitted by an engineering firm of Frisco, Nichols & Esmond.

- Consider a request from Tommy Jones, Route 1, to install a low pressure gas line across West 15th just east of Avenue F.

- Consider a request for easement by the Texas Electric Service Co.



11-11-23 Foster Homes Sought In Odessa

By HOWARD HUNT
American Staff Writer

If caseworkers at Ector County Childrens Services can't come up with additional foster parents for some of their homeless children quickly, they'll have to put their wards in the county jail.

The need for more foster homes has become acute, according to CS Director Martin Theophilus.

Over the years, the number of foster homes available in Odessa for child placement has averaged between 20 to 23, but now only 13 homes are available.

Five children, whom Theophilus calls "orphans of the living", now are in unlicensed homes, and can not stay there.

Like most of the other children who need placement in foster homes, the five "in transit" children have living parents.

BECAUSE OF abuse or neglect or because of imprisonment of the parents, the five youngsters, ranging in age from infancy to 14 years, have legally become wards of Childrens Services.

Theophilus said that in the case of the 14-year-old girl, now living with a temporary "family", jail is the only other home she presently faces if he doesn't soon find more couples who will assume the role of licenced foster parents.

He said the decline in available foster homes is cyclic.

"For one reason or the other, couples have asked that their names be removed from our list of foster homes," he said. "Many have had faced emotional setbacks when we've had to remove foster children from their home for adoption or to be returned to the natural parents."

He said foster parents play a paradoxical role when they take in a homeless child.

"We have to ask them to take in a child," he explained, "feed him, give him a warm bed, treat him as one of their own — but we have to add, 'Don't learn to love him'."

IN SPITE OF the last admonition, Theophilus said, some foster parents simply cannot avoid becoming emotionally close to a young charge.

"Sometimes, taking a child away from its foster home gets pretty rough — not only on the foster parents, but also on the child, especially if the foster child spends a length time at the home," he said.

"But the law will not allow a foster home couple to adopt a child placed in their charge."

He said his office presently is handling the cases of 17 homeless children, including the five who have not yet been placed in licenced foster homes.

He said that while there are black children who are homeless, he has no black foster homes listed for possible placement.

Of the 13 foster homes licenced in Ector County, six are Mexican-American homes while the other seven are Anglo-American residences.

Theophilus said his office does not "consciously avoid integration in the placement of homeless children, nor do we strive for it."

HE ADDED, "If we suddenly acquire a little Chicano child and one of our Anglo families will give it shelter, we could care less about racial or ethnic overtones."

He said the major problem is in finding a haven for teenagers, whom he calls the "senior citizens of our homeless children."

He said, "Most of our foster parents are happy to accept a cuddly blue-eyed infant, but are reluctant to take in a teenager."

Some foster parents simply decline to take a teen-age child, according to Theophilus, because they envision school problems, dating problems and other problems peculiar to adolescents.

Other children difficult to place are the handicapped. "It doesn't matter whether the child is emotionally, mentally or physically handicapped," the agency director said. "The foster parents realize there will be the inconvenience of taking the child to the doctor's office, to the hospital or possibly to centers for mental retardation."

He said the prime requisite for any foster parents is that they approach the other parent role as a "labor of love".

"Lord knows, they'll not get rich off the money paid them by the state," said Theophilus' aide, Keith Bailey, who is licencing worker for foster homes in Ector County.

Bailey pointed out foster parents are paid at the rate of \$2.50 per day for a pre-school child, \$3 a day for a school age child and \$3.50 a day for a physically handicapped youngster.

"A HOUSEWIFE could make more money than that taking in ironing," Bailey commented, "and it would be much less trouble."

The Childrens Services reserves the obligation to furnish the foster child clothing and medical care. Additionally, CS furnishes an allowance for school age children from \$4 to \$16 a month.

Bailey said that once a couple are approved an license in the foster home program, the husband and wife are first consulted before taking a child to their home.

"We don't just go to a home and drop off a child," he pointed out. "We first discuss the matter with the foster parents and if they want to decline, that's their prerogative. Most of these kids have already gone through enough without placing them somewhere they're resented or unwanted."

Bailey said that among the licenced foster home now in Odessa, only two will accept children over the age of 12.

Theophilus pointed out that "there is no average time" a foster couple may expect a child to be in their charge. He said the period of time could be as short as overnight.

"SAY THE child's only parent, a mother, is jailed overnight on a shoplifting charge — as has been the case here," Theophilus said. "The child would most likely remain in a foster home overnight."

He said at the other extreme one child has been in a foster home for six years.

"That child is physically handicapped, and at one time was expected not to live very long," he said. "She fooled everyone, and the case is no longer considered as terminal."

Theophilus said, "We're really hurting for foster homes and what's more important, there are some of these homeless kids. We just wish we could get people interested. Many are willing to send money to Save The Children and UNICEF, but being a foster parent involves little more than the mere giving of a buck. It means giving one's self."

The director urged a interested couples to contact his office for application forms.

HE LISTED the following necessary qualifications for prospective foster mothers and fathers.

- Aged 21 through 65.
- Pass a physical examination, including a blood and TB patch test.
- Have less than six other children already in the home.
- Subject the home to a health and health inspection by investigators.
- Maintain a home without adult roomers or boarders.
- Be willing to accept a child as a member of the family.
- "We ought to stress the requirement," Theophilus stated. "We've had foster parents work out very well on something like a vacation camp. Then we've had them bring the child to us to keep while they took their vacation. They would be visiting relatives. They were ashamed of the "other" child."

Former Odessa Detective Is Hurt In Fight

MIDLAND (Staff) — Estino V. Acosta, 33, of 2713 Malina, A former detective with the Odessa Police Department, was in satisfactory condition Tuesday at Midland Memorial Hospital with multiple knife wounds suffered a Midland night spot.

Midland County sheriff's deputies said no arrests have been made and no charges filed. The investigation was continuing Tuesday.

Acosta was admitted to the hospital with severe wounds in his abdomen and on his throat. The wounds were suffered on the parking lot of the Doll House Lounge on the Rankin highway, deputies said.

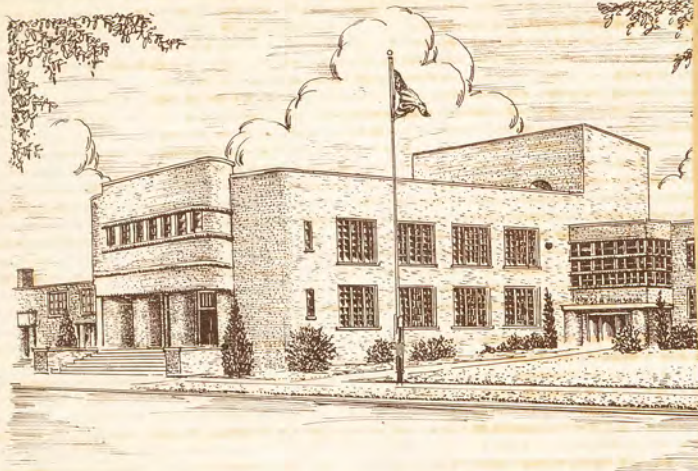
Acosta was with a woman at the lounge when the incident occurred, according to deputies Sam Smelser and Jack Hill.

Acosta was admitted to the hospital here at 12:01 a.m. Monday, a hospital spokesman said.

Deputies said Acosta was injured on the parking lot of the tavern after an argument inside a bar with another man.

Acosta resigned from the Odessa Police Department March 30 for "personal reasons," according to Assistant Police Chief Tommy Kendall. Acosta joined the department in August of 1970.

Juvenile Office Staff Changes Are Revealed



Odessa Senior High School

Odessa, Te

December 7

Dear Mr. Theophilus -
 Your presentation was such an informative, eye-opening discourse. The students have referred to both the slides & your address with more interest and enthusiasm than they have about anything we have studied this year.
 Thank you for taking

time out of your busy schedule to share with us. I admire you for choosing this type of service as your life's vocation.

Sincerely yours,
 Sam Paul



Ector County Court at Law Judge Phillip Godwin and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Morris Petty both were busy in their first week in office trying to finalize re-organization of personnel in the juvenile office.

All except one worker in the juvenile office left last Friday along with outgoing County Court at Law Judge John H. (Buddy) Rogers.

Assistant Probation Officer Larry Crawford, who joined the staff from Odessa's Police Department in February of 1971, is remaining with Petty in his same capacity.

Petty, although Godwin announced his selection to head up the juvenile office Nov. 12, was not himself officially appointed by the new judge until after Godwin was sworn in ceremonies Monday.

Presently, Petty reports that his staff is complete with the exception of one probation officer, who will become assistant chief probation officer when chosen.

Besides Petty and Crawford, present office i

Named this week were Larry Funcell, 27, 210 Montecello Drive, and Mrs. M. C. Hopkins, 41, 4110 Springdale, who will serve as probation officers. Also named were two other women who'll see double duty as secretary and matrons.

They are Miss Beverly Reynolds, 51, 2018 West Seventh, and Mrs. Bette Munsey, 22, 4201 North Grandview.

Petty, 51, is a 30-year veteran of the Air Force. He has served as executive director of the Odessa chapter of the American Red Cross. After his retirement from the service, he served for 15 months as warden of the Orange County Rehabilitation Center in Florida, working with both adult and juvenile offenders.

Petty and his wife, the former Ellen Zugg, and their two children, Sandy and Morris Petty Jr. reside at 8400 Florida.

Francell received a bachelors degree from Austin College in Sherman in 1967 and a masters in education from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969. Since

He is married to Bette and they have one child.

Mrs. Hopkins has a bachelor's degree from Texas State University and masters from Southern University. She attended the University of Houston.

She taught as a teacher with the Ector Independent School District during the 1970-71 school year.

Both Miss Reynolds and Mrs. Munsey have some experience. Miss Reynolds is a graduate of the Business College and Mrs. Munsey holds an education degree from East Texas Mexico University.

Godwin serves as juvenile judge by virtue of his previous office as county court judge and that office operation of the probation office.

"I appointed Mr. F. Godwin," but then gave him a free hand in the selection of staff."

Petty said he hopes to have a member of the staff in a week or so.

July 24 - 1973
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11-25-73

'Quiet Crimes' Can And Do Happen Here

By HOWARD HUNT
American Staff Writer

Child abuse has been described by some sociologists as "the quiet crime."

Like sex criminals, child abusers do not attack in the presence of witnesses.

Ector County Attorney Bill McCoy and Childrens Services Director Martin Theophilus agree that criminal court cases against abusers are hard to make.

"But don't think it hasn't and isn't happening here in Odessa," the pair concedes. "You just can't make a case when the only victim to the crime is a small child or an infant. They can't testify."

For the most part a child abuse case in Ector County is handled much like it is in other Texas communities.

Theophilus says that civil action can be taken, and is, when a child is victimized, and the case is called to his or McCoy's attention.

"What we have to do," Theophilus points out, "is file a neglected and dependent child suit against the parent or parents, and remove the child from that environment."

He noted that civil cases are easier to make than criminal cases because of the difference in the burden of proof required of his office.

In a criminal case, the burden is to prove the defendant's guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt," while a civil case requires only that a finding "by a preponderance of the evidence" be shown.

Theophilus last week began a new approach to deal with the problem of child abuse here.

He prepared a slide presentation, depicting color slides and case histories of two dozen child abuse cases his office has dealt with over the past two years.

The slides are not pretty. They depict children whose backs, heads, feet and arms tell the gruesome story of the young victims of child abuse.

"We know the pictures are shocking," says Theophilus. "But that's exactly what child abuse is."

His plans to display the slides and narration to principals and teachers of the Ector County Independent School District, to members of classes in education at Odessa College and the University of Texas at the Permian Basin and to personnel at Medical Center Hospital — especially those in the emergency room.

"What we're trying to accomplish," he said, "is to shift emphasis from the corrective program to a preventive program."

He said he'd like to help in the detection of early symptoms of child abuse.

When Theophilus presents his program with slides, he begins by tracing the events of some of the cases depicted in the presentation to illustrate that it does happen here.

He narrates as an example:

Two uniformed officers walked casually toward the small frame house from their patrol unit.

"There's a horrible smell coming from that house," neighbors had complained.

No one answered their knock, so the pair walked to the back of the house.

Then they saw the source of the stench.

The uncovered body of an old woman lay in only semi-shade on a small back porch. Her lifeless form was on a weather beaten and crippled couch.

As they began to investigate the woman's death, both heard muted noises from within the house.

One peered through a dusty window. He saw the movements of children.

They broke open the door and saw three young girls, ragged, hollow-eyed and skinny, crouched together in the corner of the kitchen. They looked scared.

Police learned the children were seven, six and four years of age.

No. The parents weren't there.

The officers noted that the only evidence of food or groceries in the kitchen were large chunks of red meat on the kitchen counter.

The entire counter appeared to have been used for a cutting block. Several pounds of meat were scattered across the surface.

The officers learned from the children that the meat was that from butchered dogs.

Later, when the parents arrived home drunk, the character of the meat was authenticated.

"Well, we didn't have nothin' else to feed 'em," the father said.

"What about the body of the woman on the back porch?"

"That's their grandmother. We didn't have money to bury her."

"How long has she been dead?"

"Three days."

The three malnourished girls were taken by Children's Services, and now are in foster homes. The fallen out hair has returned, dental work has corrected the missing teeth the officers saw.

What disturbs Theophilus is: "How will these three children repair emotionally?"

Attendants at Medical Center Hospital notified Theophilus in another case of a six-month-old boy who was being treated in emergency. He had severe head injuries and was having difficulty breathing.

The mother who brought the child to the hospital said that another child had hit her son in the head with a milk bottle. Later, she changed her story and said the boy had fallen.

Finally, she admitted she had beaten the boy when she "lost my temper."

Still, an Ector County district judge held off declaring the child to be neglected and dependent and a ward of the state.

He said he would not take the child if the parents both would get psychiatric help from the Big Spring State Hospital.

Instead of seeking medical help the parents simply vanished from Odessa, and

custody of the child was given to Children's Service for placement.

Theophilus has included in his slide presentation the graphic before and after photographs of a five-month-old infant whose skinny, malnourished body weighed just five pounds when police officers found the child alone at home.

A photograph taken a few months later shows an apparent healthy, fat, laughing baby.

What the second photograph does not reveal, according to Theophilus, is the brain damage that all the nourishing food available could not repair.

Child abuse comes in unusual shapes, character and assortment, the agency director points out.

In the case of one Odessa family, abuse to the children in the form of severe beatings occurs only when the child is very young.

"We handled the case of one son in this family," Theophilus said, "and finally thought we had the parents straightened out and on an even keel."

"What we didn't know was that the next child born to this couple also became the subject of severe beatings. The parents could handle their emotional, or psychiatric, problems after the child was two or three years old, but just couldn't cope with an extremely young child."

Theophilus and his case workers went one day to the home of a two-year-old boy, who had not yet learned to stand.

He was not physically handicapped nor retarded mentally.

His parents simply had seen fit to feed him only milk from a nursing bottle for the first two years of his life.

One glaring slide in Theophilus' collection shows the nude body of a 10-year-old girl. Her entire flesh from her ankles to the back of her neck bears black whelps from the lash of an electrical cord.

Theophilus is quick to point out that parents who abuse their children are "sick people."

He said the emotional or mental illness can be triggered by holdovers from the parents' own experiences in their childhood, depression or frustration.

In one instance, a 20-year-old mother who apparently had never abused any of her four children, became distressed, sad and then angry when one of her children became seriously ill.

She gave vent to her frustrations in the senseless beating of another child who was not ill.

The result was a broken arm, a broken nose and ugly bruises over the head of the target child.

Another case in point which illustrates what Theophilus calls man's inhumanity to children is one involving three children.

Police officers went to a house trailer in response to neighbor's calls and found the three children, aged five, seven and eight, locked inside.

All were hungry and weak. Their tell-tale bloated bellies and skinny limbs spelled malnutrition.

They were huddled together in a four bed to escape winter's cold in the unheated trailer.

The officers noted that the three children were stroking the fur of the house cat, which the policemen estimated to have been dead for several days.

Theophilus learned that the mother already had had four children taken away from her because of child abuse by a California court.

Theophilus said that his office had launched a new policy of prevention rather than just detection and treatment in child abuse cases.

"In many instances, symptoms of child abuse go unreported by the schools and the hospitals," he said.

"We're asking that any suspicious cases be reported, rather than giving the parents 'the benefit of the doubt,'" he said.

"If we can catch some of these cases when child abuse symptoms first are noticed, maybe we can prevent torture and possibly save some lives."



SADISTIC EVIDENCE OF THE CHILD ABUSER ...Termed "Man's Inhumanity To Children"

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By County Commissioners

\$300,000 Allocated For Juvenile Shelter

Ector County commissioners Monday earmarked \$300,000 for the design and construction of a juvenile detention shelter, and committed federal revenue sharing funds to finance the project.

The action came in answer to a request of the Ector County Juvenile Board — consisting of District Judges R.L. McKim and C.V. Milburn and County Judge Michael Earney and County Court at Law Judge Phillip Godwin.

The presentation was made by Godwin, who advised the court that he and Ector County Probation Officer Morris Petty had been working on the study for two and a half months —

before either had become a county official.

The facility site was suggested by Petty as a northwest section of Ector County Airport property encompassing four to five acres.

Godwin estimated that operational costs should run in the neighborhood of \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually.

He said the facility would replace the county jail as a detention center and shelter for children ranging in age from 10 to 17.

As the county juvenile probation officer, Petty would be in charge, according to Godwin, and two foster parents would be hired as live-in

directors.

The facility would accommodate 20 youngsters — 12 boys and eight girls.

On hand to lend support of the proposal were adult counselors and student council representatives from Odessa's three high schools.

Earney, speaking in support of the proposed plan, said:

"I can't conceive of a county which calls itself Christian to be in favor of placing children in jail."

Presently, not only youngsters who are charged with crimes, but homeless or abandoned children in the 10- to 17-year age group are locked up in what is called the juvenile section of the

county jail.

Martin Theophilus, director of Children's Services, told the court that recently a child who had been abandoned by his parents had spent several weeks in jail.

"You take a youngster out of a home where the parents are hopeless alcoholics, for example, and put him in jail, and he feels he is being punished and that the problems at home with his parents are his fault," he said.

Godwin interjected, "We have the problem that it's quite easy to find a foster home who'll take in a cute six-year-old, but a troubled youngster older is far more difficult to place temporarily, and we've had to put them in jail."

Petty told the court that the facility would serve as a detention station for youths who are charged with crimes, for an overnight holdover for runaways pending arrival of their parents and for "kids who have committed no crime at all but who are just homeless until permanent placement can be made."

Petty said that to hold even seriously delinquent children in jail causes forced association with other delinquents and intensifies "his hostility to society and exalts his status in the delinquent."

He added that the construction of a detention shelter would "return needed jail space to the sheriff."

Godwin called for construction of the facility "as soon as possible."

Commissioners Salvadore Guerrero said he felt this project was long overdue but would "like to see the shelter constructed closer to the courthouse."

Earney made the motions for approval of the project, himself, calling for the budgeting of \$300,000 from revenue sharing funds and for the employment of architects to plans and design the shelter.

At first, no second was heard to the judge's motion.

"Well, I guess that died for lack of a second," he said.

He started to go to another agenda item when Commissions Bill Elms said, "I second the motion."

It carried unanimously.

Young Offenders Cost Expected To Increase

County Judge Michael Earney foresees continuing increases in expenses of the Ector County Juvenile Probation Department for transportation and placement of young people who are in trouble.

Earney commented in the wake of Commissioners Court approval of a transfer of \$800 from the department's salary account to its out-of-county travel expense account.

The issue arose at a commissioners court meeting Oct. 23 when Commissioner Kellus Turner suggested the court "take a look" at the request for the fund transfer, to cover expenses beyond the budgeted amount in the travel account.

Earney fired back at that meeting that if there was any

question that might involve wrongdoing, an audit should be made.

County Auditor Bill Hicks said the travel account had been overspent by some \$400 principally because of increased state requirements for juvenile probation officers to attend conferences and training seminars.

Earney said Wednesday, however, that he had found most of the overspent amount was "connected with transportation and placement of juveniles."

"I hate to see innuendoes that something is wrong," the judge said. "I was satisfied that day (Oct. 23) the first time it was brought up (that nothing was wrong)."

"But some remarks were made that caused me to feel other people needed to be

satisfied," he added.

"The most difficult problem in Texas is the 13-year-old, the 14-year-old, the 15-year-old, the 16-year-old, and where to put them. If the family doesn't want them, or if they are delinquent, what do you do with them?"

"We have a few foster homes, and there is the jail, and that's it. We have made arrangements with a number of ranches."

"It's easy to place an infant, but a 16-year-old who has been in trouble — what do you do? As the population goes up, we're going to have more expense."

Hicks said he felt the fund transfer, and the reasons for it, would not have created any stir if he had been at the Oct. 23 meeting to explain it.

However, Hicks was out of town — attending a conference.

Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet
at the
Barn Door
presented by
Ector County Children's Services and Board
Tuesday, April 2, 1974
7:30 p.m.

\$6.50 per person

R.S.V.P.
332-1578



Dear Mr. Theophilus:

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to present your program on Children's Services to our Provisional Class. It was so informative and thought provoking. You and your able staff are to be commended on the excellent way in which you are helping the children of our community.

Sincerely,
Lee H.

Junior Service League

May 10, 1974



Citation of Appreciation

PRESENTED TO

Martin Theophilus

As an expression of appreciation for courtesies extended this chapter and the American Business Women's Association, we hereby present this Citation.

Odessa Circle Five

4-23-74
DATE

Dina Gray
PRESIDENT

Shirley Dowe
RECORDING SECRETARY

Foster Parents To Be Honored

An appreciation dinner at the Barn Door is set for Tuesday night for foster parents who furnish child care for the Ector County Childrens Services. The ECCS board at its meeting Tuesday morning agreed on the appreciation dinner, according to chairman Jay Poyner. About 50 to 60 persons, including board members, staff and foster parents, were expected at the 7:30 p.m. dinner, Poyner said.

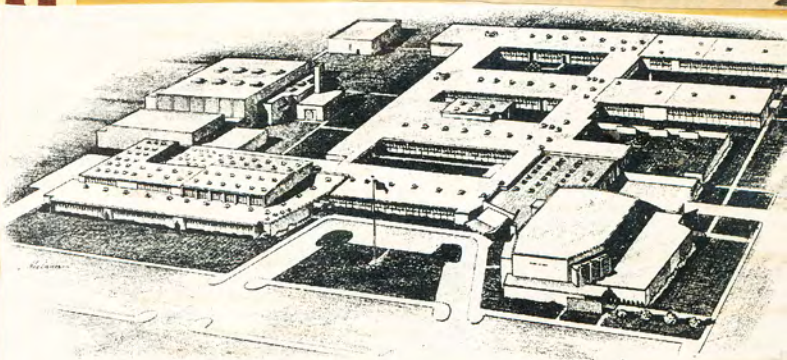
(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Permian Basin Community Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MH-MR) offer a variety of services available to people in the Midland-Odessa area. In a series of four stories, staff writer Karen Malkowka explores just what services are — and are not — offered by the six MH-MR facilities used by Odessans.)



FENNER



GLASS



Permian High School
Odessa, Texas

May 18, 1974

Dear Mr. Theophilus,

I wanted to write you a note to tell you how much I appreciated your coming to speak to my sociology class on child abuse. Your talk and slide presentation was very informative and enlightening to the class. Thank you ~~again~~ again for taking your time to come speak to us.

Sincerely,
Paula Thompson

Child Abuse Study Planned Tuesday

A Child Abuse Workshop will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Fine Arts Building at Odessa College.

Featured speaker for the workshop, being sponsored by the Junior Service League, will

be Mrs. Jolly "K," founder of Parents Anonymous. Parents Anonymous is a program aimed at preventing damaging relationships between parents and their children.

Other speakers for the

Tuesday workshop include Dr. William Furst, an Odessa pediatrician; Martin Theophilus, supervisor of the Ector County Children's Services; and Bobbie Matthews, director of Family Children's Services for the State of Texas.

A panel discussion is also scheduled for the Tuesday workshop. Panel speakers include Mrs. Avalyn Whitmire, head nurse for Ector County Independent School District, and Keith Dial, director of Special Education for Ector County Independent School District.

The public is invited to the workshop, which is also an organizational meeting for a local chapter of Parent's Anonymous.

Junior Service League of Odessa, Inc.



(Staff Photo)

PREPARE FOR CHILD ABUSE WORKSHOP ...Earline Smith And Billy Brookshire

Martin Theophilus, head of the Childrens Service Division, is seeking an okay for a budget amendment and a change in the 1976 budget. 7-13-75

Theophilus said his department, in certain cases, is forced under the new Texas Family Code to appoint attorneys ad litem in district court cases. He said a normal fee for an attorney ad litem is \$50.

He is seeking to adjust this year's budget upwards \$300 and add \$600 to the 1976 budget.

Martin Theophilus, Ector County Services, made a commissioners to travel allowances for staff from 12 cents p 16 cents permit accordance to recent by the state. 4-1

"I don't see how v them 16 cents pe objected Pressly, "a own people only 12 c

However, County Bill McCoy advised t believes that the signing a contract state for the servic partially state-funder services office, obligation to comply travel rates.

"We may nee contract, then," Pre

The commissioner table the request un budget hearing, at w would also cons possibility of revi contract.

Dear Martin,

Words cannot express the excitement that we, as League members and parents, experienced by working with you and the other speakers on Parents Anonymous workshop.

Through your interest and dedication we are more informed on child abuse and feel that a program to help parents who have problems has become a reality in our community.

Thank you for taking time to share with us your knowledge and experience.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
Ector County Childrens Services
Date JUN 17 1974

Shirley Dreamf



PARENTS ANONYMOUS

Identification - Treatment - Prevention of Child Abuse

National Office:

2930 W. Imperial Highway • Suite 332
Inglewood, California 90303
Phone (213) 777-8221 or 754-6660

Director of Programs
Jolly K.

National Office Administrator
Leonard L. Lieber

June 25, 1974

Founder:
Jolly K.
OFFICERS AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President:
Jean Matusinka, J.D.
Vice-President:
Roland Summit, M.D.
Secretary:
Margot Fritz
Treasurer:
Gerald S. Tarlow, J.D.

Mr. Martin Theophilus, Supervisor
State Department of Public Welfare
Ector County Children's Services
P. O. Box 4636
Odessa, TX 79760

Dear Martin,

Just a note of thanks and congratulations for getting P.A. off the ground in Odessa.

Please call on us if we can be of any help. Judging from the wisdom evidenced in the invitation to parents, I doubt that you'll have many problems.

Keep us up to date on happenings.

Sincerely,

Leonard L. Lieber, LCSW
National Office Administrator

Helen Boardman, ACSW
Leigh S. Colitre
Garold Faber, M.D., M.P.H.
Norman Fleishman
Betty L.
Ed Welz

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

John Edward Allen, M.D.
James Apthorp, M.D.
Donna Bradshaw
John Caffey, M.D.
Howard Hansen, M.D.
Ray E. Helfer, M.D.
C. Henry Kempe, M.D.
James Kent, Ph.D.
Eli H. Newberger, M.D.
Morris Paulson, Ph.D.
Wyman Sanders, M.D.
Theo Solomon, Ph.D.
George W. Starbuck, M.D.
Grandt Steele, M.D.

Battered Child Meet Wednesday

The fourth and final in a series of workshops on battered child syndrome will be held at the University of Texas at Permian Basin at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday.

The purpose of the seminar is to create informed awareness in the community of the battered child problem in West Texas to provide educational material available from the state.

Directing the seminar is Dr. William D. Furst, Odessa pediatrician and associate clinical professor of pediatrics at Texas Tech University, and Martin Theophilus, supervisor of Ector County Children's Services.

Mollie Whittington, program director of social services for Midland-Odessa, will discuss how child-abuse neglect cases are handled.

Persons participating in the seminars include UTPB and Odessa College staff and students, district court judges, local attorneys invited through the Ector County Bar Association, members of the Ector County school system, interested personnel from the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission, and local agencies including mental health, welfare, police department, hospital and nursing and emergency medical technicians with local fire departments.

Odessa American 12-8-74

'Child Abuse' Program Presented To Chapter

Mrs. Martin Benavidez presented the program to Eta Sigma members of Beta Sigma Phi May 16 at the Beta Sigma Phi House. Her program was on "Child Abuse."

She presented Martin Theophilus, with the Ector County Children's Service, who showed film slides on the management of his office and actual cases of child abuse. "There are over 200 cases a month of child abuse in Ector County," he said. Offices are in the Ector County Courthouse with a staff of three social workers.

He stated that in when possible the office tries to

counsel with the family before removing a child from its home. Workers try to provide jobs and any other help that the family might need in order to provide a safe home environment for the child.

The reason given for most child abuse is that the parent cannot cope with everyday problems, and therefore inflict punishment on the child.

Often children are left by themselves with no adult to look after them. If conditions can be worked out with a child's parents at home, then the child is left in the home or returned to the home when situations improve. It was explained to

the members that child abuses cases come more from the High-income bracket because of the social pressure then they do from the lower-income.

Theophilus stated that in most cases, when they receive a call about a child, and go to investigate, the parents are just waiting some kind of help with their children and their problems.

Becky Knight was introduced to the chapter as being associated with a new group being started here in Odessa called Child Abuse Parents Anonymous. She explained that they are trying to work with just the parent to help them

overcome their inabilities. She explained that there are many forms of child abuse, including, verbal, sexual or emotional.

The organization was founded in 1970 by Jolly Kay of California, with two chapters now in Texas. She also told members that a workshop was being set up for June 1-3, sponsored by the Junior Service League to hear Mrs. Kay speak and to better organize the new group. It will be at the Fine Arts Department at Odessa College at 1 p.m. and the general public is invited.

Miss Knight, a nurse, explained that all parents abuse their children in one form or another, and that educating the people will help eliminate this.



Texas DPW - ECTOR CO. CHILDREN'S SERVICES Units 13 & 21

SUPERVISORS

WORKERS

CLERK

MARTIN THEOPHILUS
(Administration)

Linda Hannah - Unit Steno
(Book Keeping & Unit 13)

JANE CONNER
(Case work Development)

() - Unit Steno
(Office Manager & Unit 21)

INTAKE

- Chad Spears
- Beverly Mahon
- Connie Wagner

JUVENILE

- Kathy League
- Bruce Carter

ON GOING

- Pat Jones
- James Allison
- Katie Gustafson
- Gail Goodrum

SUBSTITUTE CARE

- Billie O'Dowdy
- Sylvia Ramirez
- FH Licensing Worker

Donna
(backup recep)

Elma F
(Receptio

Ginnie Storey

Patsy Prater



Child Abuse Program Set

3-9-75

The Ector County Community Service Organization will hold its next meeting at noon Wednesday at The Branding Iron.

Child abuse will be the subject of discussion, and Martin Theophilus, ECCSO supervisor, will give a talk entitled "Wednesday's Child."

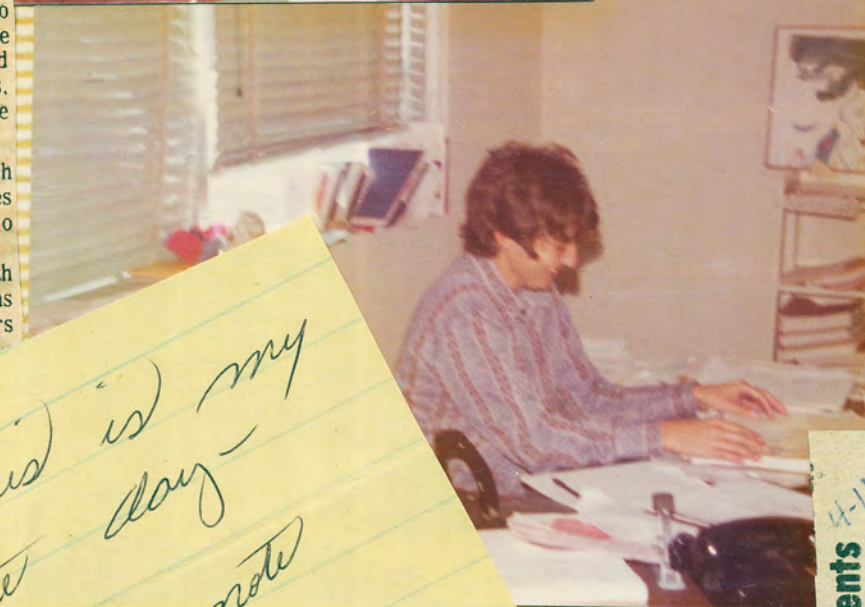


Gamma Phi Kappa Welfare Topic BSP

Gamma Phi chapter Kappa met Monday 1. 13 in the home of Cylan Johnson, 38

... for the meeting was by Mark Theophilus the Child Welfare ment, Ector County who an informative slide on depicting child symptoms, victims, the solutions to the

responsibility of each reporting such cases ed as the key to on. ussion followed with as telling of the actions county staff workers e.



This is my note day - note note Gillin

Foster Parents Banquet Slated

4-10-75

An appreciation banquet for Ector County foster parents will be held at 7:30 p.m. today at the Branding Iron, 2425 East 11th. County Juvenile Judge Phillip Godwin will make a talk at the affair and County Judge Joe Connally will give certificates of appreciation to the 18 couples who act as foster parents here. Members of the board of directors as well as the staff of the Ector County Childrens Services Department also will attend the banquet. Godwin will talk about the role foster parents play in solving problems concerning youngsters.

Foster Payments Up

Ector County Commissioners Monday raised the payment to families caring for foster children to \$4.50 per day.

The Ector County Children's Services two weeks ago requested an increase from \$3.50 per day to \$4.50 per day for school-aged children. They said it costs more than \$3.50 per day to care for each school-aged foster child.

At the suggestion of Commissioner Erskine Wunsch Monday, the payment for pre-school children was also raised from \$3 per day to \$4.50 per day.

Commissioner Julian Pressly said he checked with Midland County, which is paying \$3 per day for foster care.

County Judge Joe Connally said, "I want our kids to live a little better than they do in Midland. They live in a better county."

Wunsch presented a list from one foster mother detailing expenses totalling well more than \$3.50 per day.

Pressly said the increase should have been included in the 1976 budget presented by Children's Services and already approved by commissioners.

Connally agreed it should have been, but said, "I don't feel we should penalize the kids or the foster parents because some department head didn't do his homework."

Apparently the four commissioners agreed, since the increase passed unanimously. Wunsch said, "I think we are just fortunate to have them (foster parents)."

Chapter Hears Program On Child Abuse Problem

Epsilon Mu chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International met in the home of Mrs. George Wilson for their March business meeting. Officers were elected. The program was on "Child Abuse."

Mrs. William Richards, educational director, introduced as guest speaker for the evening, Martin Theopolis, supervisor of Ector County Children's Services, who showed the film, "The Wednesday Children" and discussed the problem of child abuse.

He emphasized that the caseworkers try to solve family problems within the family unit. The children are not removed from the homes unless it is absolutely necessary. Child abusers are people who can't cope with their problems and they take out their frustrations on their children.

It is the duty of every citizen to report suspected cases of child abuse. The report will be kept confidential, and the case will be investigated by trained workers. The theme of the Texas anti-child abuse campaign is "Lift a finger, Save a life."

Mrs. Don Johnson, president, conducted the business meeting. Three guests introduced were: Mrs. Will Molinar, Mrs. Bobby Watkins, and Mildred Chapman.

Correspondence was read from the Oasis Foundation. Dr. Moody Alexander, president of the Foundation, will address Epsilon Mu next month.

Mrs. Johnson reminded members of the District VIII meeting to be held in Andrews on April 20. Chapter members have been helping with the Cancer Crusade and will finish stuffing packets for the block marchers.

Mrs. John Dyson, Mrs. Donal Barnes, and Mrs. John Cook, from Lambda Alpha chapter visited the meeting to exhibit crafts made by queen

contestants for the Charity Horse Show.

A progress report was given on the Harvest Fair to be held Sept. 13-14 in Exhibit Hall A. Booth reservations will be open to new exhibitors April 1. Previous exhibitors have been contacted. Epsilon Mu will have a booth with all members participating. Anyone desiring to reserve a booth may contact Mrs. Richards, or Mrs. James Hicks. Proceeds from the Fair will be donated to the Ector County Association for Retarded Citizens, and the Texas Birth Defects Centers.

Election of 1975-76 officers was held with the following results: Mrs. Richards, president; Mrs. Wilson, vice-president; Mrs. Johnson, treasurer; Mrs. Joe Van Arsdall, secretary; and Mrs. Hicks, educational director. Installation of officers will be held April 22.

Other members in attendance were Mrs. Maurine Parker, Miss Beverly Hicks and Mrs. Bill Evers.

Child Abuse Workshop Set

A child abuse workshop will be held in the Odessa College student union building from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, sponsored by the Texas Department of Welfare and Odessa College.

Admission cost is \$2.50 per person and the public is invited to attend, according to Martin Theophilus, head of Ector County Children's Services.

The workshop will be moderated by Gordon Gillette, associate professor of sociology at OC.

Among speakers will be Hartley Sappington, assistant deputy commissioner for the state Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in Austin; District Judge George Hansard of Lamesa; Dr. Gayland Hurst, consultant to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; Lois Sonstegard, a nurse from the Texas Tech University School of Medicine; and Rosemary Neill, coordinator of child abuse help for the state welfare department in El Paso.

The workshop will point out how different organizations and individuals can work together to aid in stamping out child abuse, Theophilus said.

Board New Officers

New officers will be elected at the Ector County Children's Services board meeting Tuesday.

Dr. William Theophilus, pediatrician, was elected chairman, and Dr. George Hansard, head of special services, was named vice chairman. Mrs. W.E. Connally was named secretary.

They serve a one-year term beginning in January. Dr. Furst was last year's chairman but to be replaced when Jay Poyner is elected chairman about the year.

The outgoing board is headed by Shirley Rodman. The board is appointed by the Ector County Court, then the public chooses their own.

Law Academy Plans School

MIDLAND (Staff) — An in-service training school entitled "Factors of Abnormal Behavior" has been announced by the Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy. It will last all week.

The school is open to all law enforcement officers in the region by the Academy and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education.

It is being undertaken under a Criminal Justice Division grant from the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission.

Classes will begin Monday and end Friday.

Officers are to receive 40 hours of instruction from several instructors throughout the state to enable them to identify crimes resulting from abnormal behavior.

Hospital Job

carried through.

In other action, commissioners will get their fourth crack at considering a request from Martin Theophilus of Ector County Children's Services to hike mileage and per diem payments.

Currently, Ector County pays all county employees 12 cents per mile for official travel in private cars. But, Children's Services is seeking 16 cents per mile, the amount the state pays. Some of the Children's Services employees are paid by the state through the county, and are thus getting the 16

cents.

Connally said all county employees will be getting 16 cents per mile starting Jan. 1, 1976.

+++

CHILDREN'S SERVICES is seeking an increase of from \$18 to \$22 per day for expenses on out-of-town trips, the amount the state is currently paying. Connally said generally the county does not pay a flat per diem rate.

Rather, he noted, the county reimburses the employee for actual expenses incurred on the trip.

In another request, Children's Services commissioners will consider a parttime legal secretary for the group.

Commissioners will be at a plan to purchase construction of the north Interstate 20 from G to Industrial for use as a vice road.

The state will pay for construction of the project which will allow easy access to the industrial corridor southeast Odessa — county will have to contribute \$140,000 for the right

Monday, April 5, 1976

Foster Parent Banquet Set

The fifth annual foster parent appreciation banquet is scheduled at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Villa del Sol' according to Mark Theophilus, supervisor of childrens services for Ector County.

Board president Dr. William Furst will present certificates during the event which is expected to be attended by some 17 foster parents plus representatives of Ector County Commissioners Court.

Guest speaker for the banquet will be Dr. Eugene A. Nini, acting dean of the college of management at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

*May 13

7:00 P.M.

Permian Bank

- 7:00 Municipal Government
- 7:30 United Fund
- 8:00 Ector Co. Children's Services
- 8:45 Public Health
- 9:00 Public Education

Ron Neighbors
Beauford Jones

Martin Theophilus
Beulah Blair
Bill Holm

The Junior Service League of Odessa, Inc.

Dear Mr. Theophilus,

We are delighted that you agreed to speak to the Provisional Class of the Junior Service League on May 13th at Permian Bank and Trust.

I thought you might be interested in seeing the complete list of speakers for the evening. You will be the third speaker.

I'm looking forward to learning more about our Ector County Children's Services.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Herschel O'Kelley
Assistant Pres. Chairman

RECEIVED
Ector County Childrens Services
Date..... MAY 13 1975

ECTOR COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
3RD AND N. LEE - 332-1578
ODESSA, TEXAS 79761
OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION



EMP. No. _____
DL. No. _____
HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____ EYES _____

Dear Martin,
Thank you so much for being a part of our annual FHA Sweetheart Banquet

A note to thank you

And mention, too—

It's wonderful knowing

Someone like you!

The girls thoroughly enjoyed your talk. They were very impressed and talked about it for several days.

Thanks again

Bobbi Messer

5-75

Children's Service Of Odessa Cares

By KAREN JOHNSON

Permian Basin Bureau Chief
ODESSA — What can a person do if he suspects a neighbor's child is being physically or emotionally abused or neglected?

How much involvement is necessary to help the child, and where can a person turn to get that help?

These problems and many others are handled every day by the staff at Ector County Children's Services, now a part of Texas Department of Public Welfare.

Children's Services, with the day care licensing staff and adult services, has recently moved into new offices at 3603 Andrews Highway and is settled into the daily activity of looking out for the welfare of the county's children.

According to Martin Theophilus, supervisor of Children's Services, complaints coming into his office fall into five main categories — although sometimes the categories overlap and it's really impossible to place a case in only one.

Many calls concern unsupervised children; a typical case is a seven- or eight-year-old left to care for infants or preschoolers — as many as three or four at a time.

Children's Services attempts to verify the complaint, and as a last resort may place the children with foster parents.

Theophilus considers leaving a 13-year-old with smaller children a borderline case, since many 11- and 12-year-olds babysit, and said it's often difficult to reach a working agreement in such a case.

When the office gets a report that a child has been injured and is not receiving medical attention, a worker has authority to remove the child from his home on the spot. In actual practice, the worker always checks with a supervisor before such action is taken. When a petition is filed by the county attorney in district



court, a judge can either grant temporary or permanent custody to the county or return the child to its parents.

The office receives from four to six child abuse complaints each month, and Theophilus said one or two will usually be very serious. These complaints, he said, come usually from the medical community or a relative.

The greatest number of complaints — about 50 a month — deals with child neglect. Several different things can constitute neglect, and determining neglect often can be a matter of judgment. Lack of care, inadequate clothing, lack of supervision and children taken into bars are common complaints.

An increasing number of complaints deals with sexual abuse, an increase Theophilus attributes as much to better education as to an increase in incidents.

"People are becoming more aware that this is not a normal situation," he explained. Cases that aren't reported usually concern incest in a family and family members are too afraid to talk.

Children's Services is doing more to educate the public on problems of child abuse and neglect.

Slide presentations have been put together and are shown throughout the community. Because more people have become aware of the department's services and have realized that all it takes to help a child is a phone call, the number of reports-complaints has increased.

People are also more aware that the department doesn't remove children from their natural parents every time a complaint is received.

"We have found it may be as psychologically damaging to a child to be removed from his

home as the original problem is," Theophilus explained.

Instead, the department now refers parents to available counseling such as that offered at the Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center. The Youth Encouragement Services often counsels youngsters. In addition, special education programs in the school system and the Permian Basin Rehabilitation Center are utilized.

Even when Children's Services takes parents to court, the ultimate goal seldom is to have children removed from their home by a judge.

"If parents go to the trouble to hire a lawyer and appear in court, we know they care enough to fight for their children," Theophilus said, "and that's often proof enough that they will go ahead and get help that they might not otherwise."

Theophilus is supervisor of the intake and juvenile staff, and Jane Conner is supervisor of social workers. Theophilus worked in protective services five years before he was promoted to supervisor of the unit in September 1972.

Latest project for the department is an attempt to establish a group home for non-delinquent runaways. Theophilus is trying to find a house with enough room to accommodate as many as six children and house parents.

It's difficult to place teenagers and runaways because most foster parents want younger children, and Theophilus is concerned about placing non-delinquents — those who have not been in trouble with the law — in juvenile detention centers with delinquents.

The office also has started working with unwed mothers, counseling before and after a baby is born. If the child is put up for adoption, the office handles medical expenses for the mother.

The office no longer conducts adoption studies on

children it places in foster homes, nor does it place foster children with adopted families. The supervisor indicated obvious conflicts had created problems in the past.

Theophilus said there is an increasing number of parents who just don't want their children. Many people say they can't handle children and ask his department to place them in foster homes. If they are placed, the natural parents can be forced to pay for foster care.



MARTIN

1976

Ector County Fair

EXHIBITOR



CHILDREN Campus Minister 10-11-76 Named To Board

Mike Miller, campus minister for Odessa College University of Texas of the Permian Basin, was named by county commissioners today to fill a vacancy on the Ector County Children's Services board when Kellus Turner resigned last week. Miller was appointed by Commissioner Joe Johnson. A member has been named to fill the vacancy when Mrs. Shirley resigned from the board recently. Commissioner Johnson said he's still on that replacement. Miller was appointed to the ministry post in 1973 and has been active in various capacities since then. Miller, 33, was born in Kansas, and holds a degree of arts degree in religion and English from the University of Texas at Austin. He also has done his youth minister work at Sul Ross University and the University of Texas at Austin. He also worked at Methodist and Church of

England youth club in Southampton, England. While serving as pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church in Alpine, he was campus minister to Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Disciples of Christ students at Sul Ross. He is a former fifth grade teacher and junior high school teacher in Hubbard and also worked for a family counseling service in Fulton, Mo. He and his wife, Judith Helen, have two children and live at 2839 Spur.



REV. MIKE MILLER
...Appointed

Child Abuse Is Not Something That Just Happens Elsewhere

We Have It In Odessa, Too
Join The Odessa Jaycees
In Fighting Child Abuse
By Watching

"Children In Danger"
To Be Shown on KOSA-TV.
Channel 7, On November 22
At 8:30 P.M.
Only You Can Make Odessa An Abuse-Free City

Child Services Appointment Made

Evelyn Almanza, 24, of 202 West Schell was appointed unanimously to the Children's Services Board at County Commissioners Court Monday. Commissioner Salvador Guerrero originated the motion which was seconded by County Judge Joe Connally. Miss Almanza is an instructor of business and GED courses in the adult and continuing education division of Odessa College. She is a

part-time reporter for the San Angelo Standard Times. Miss Almanza holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Angelo State University where she studied journalism and English. She is working on a masters degree at UTPB.

Child welfare program topic

Mrs. Brooks Harman was hostess to 23 members of the Thursday Study Club meeting recently at the Odessa YMCA. Mrs. Phillip Zeeck introduced Martin Theophilus, Director of Children's Services of Ector County, under the auspices of the Department of Public Welfare.

Theophilus, began by saying the program began with a staff of 5 in 1973 and now has a staff of 15 with many volunteers needed in various capacities. Ector County began a campaign in 1973 against child abuse, to make aware the need for community involvement in detecting child abuse cases, saying one out of every five children admitted for emergency treatment in the hospitals are cases of child abuse.

Theophilus expressed a need in Ector County for an active chapter of Parents Anonymous, an organization geared to help parents, as child abusers to help them be proper parents, by recognizing

and teaching parents how to recognize and control parental rage. He also expressed a need for more foster parents citing the increase in the last nine months from 20 foster homes to an average of 60 to 80 that now need to be placed in foster homes.

Following a 15 minute slide presentation on child abuse and child abuse cases, causes and detection he concluded the program by answering questions from the members.

Mrs. George Churchill reported on the Western District Convention held in Fort Stockton, and the many awards won by the Thursday Study Club.



THE HIGHLANDER



He Profits Most Who Serves Best. October 28, 1976

President Elmer presided, Elton Miles read all the news, Bob Wallman gave the invocation, and J.M. introduced Rotarian Eddie Orth, Marfa, Texas, Paul Forchheimer introduced his guest City Manager Bob Stevens, and Peg Theophilus was a guest of her husband Oliver Theophilus. Oliver also introduced his son Martin Theophilus from Odessa who presented the program on "Child Abuse."

UNIT 13

| NAME | EMPL. # |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Martin Theophilus | Supv I 5548 P O II |
| Ruce M. Carter | Wrk II 0241 supv I |
| at L. Jones | Wrk I 2402 Wrk III |
| llie J. O'Dowdy | Wrk I 6317 Wrk II (COPUS / REIST) |
| ne Conner | Wrk I 0184 P O II |
| ad M. Spears | Wrk I 1117 MSW |
| verly K. Mahon | Wrk I C870 Supv I |
| nnie L. Wagner | Wrk I B982 ? |
| il Goodrum | Wrk I Texas Int. For. Dir |
| thy League | Wrk I Mother |
| mes Allison | Wrk I MSW |
| ren Gustafson | Wrk I Hallmark Cards |
| lvia Ramirez | Case Aide 1022 Tech II |
| nda Hannah | Steno II 8034 Tech II |
| anna Malone | CT I 4645 ? |
| nnie Storey | CT I 8495 CT II |
| tsy Prater | CT I D078 TRC CT |
| ma Fuentes | CT I SOUTH WEST AIRLINES HOSTESS |



Foster homes have changed

Sir:
I have had almost 50 children in the last 10 years. Oh, I didn't give birth to them, but I loved them, cared for them, held them when they were ill. They were black, brown, white, and Oriental. They were all mine! And, I cried when they were all gone. We are foster parents.

They are a child's haven of peace when they are in the care of the local Child Welfare office. The child might be neglected, abandoned or released from adoption. Maybe Momma and Dad are having problems and need a chance to get it out without the child. From birth to 18 years of age these kids need a home. We need more interested people to give them homes and their love.

We would never try to take the parents out of a child's mind. We never speak ill of a parent to a child no matter why the child is in foster care. Parents are spoken to in loving terms and as often as a child needs the reassurance. Almost all of us have children of our own as well as foster children. All the children do their chores, but I would not ask a foster child that I do not ask my own child. I simply want them to have a sense of belonging. My children

receive three balanced meals a day and snacks, their own bed (not necessarily their own bedroom) and are corrected as I correct my own children. The children participate in Scouts, Y.M.C.A., F.H.A. or any other group they might be interested in. If they have a church preference, we try to see they attend there. They receive an allowance to pay dues, go to the movies, skating, etc. . .

I guess what I am trying to tell you is that when a foster child comes to our home that child is our child. Years ago the foster home might have been a terrible place, but time changes. We are all working to better the foster home image. If you love children and care what happens to the neglected, abused, or abandoned child, we need you! If you have lots of love and a spare bed, a child somewhere needs you!! Contact your local Child Welfare office and give a helping hand to a child. Most areas now have a Foster Parent Association. Ask the local Child Welfare worker for the name of a member. We would love to talk to you about joining us. We really need you.

Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Cavender
ODESSA

Police, welfare office seek identity of toddler

Police and welfare officials Tuesday were attempting to locate an abandoned toddler in a shopping cart in a local supermarket Friday.

Welfare officials are seeking to identify a girl one year to 15 months of age.

Store employees called the police about 2 p.m. when a customer in the store became concerned a child might fall from the cart. She was standing in a toy department.

The child was placed in foster care by Ector County Child Welfare services workers.

The child is well adjusted, even a bit "spoiled,"

she has a doctor's check revealed she is healthy and has a slight cold.

Welfare worker Ermino Uranga said the first goal is to locate the child's parents, and then the child. He said he is assisting the welfare department in the search.

Philus, protective services supervisor with

the welfare department, said this is the first incident of its type in Odessa in three or four years. They remembered two boys were found abandoned in a shopping cart, although they later were identified, both wound up in welfare custody and were placed for adoption.

The welfare supervisor said policemen investigated the store in which the child was found, searched the restrooms for evidence of accident and questioned shoppers, all to no avail.

Theophilus, offering speculation on the matter, said the mother had lost the child while shopping, surely the child would have been found in the shopping cart and the mother would have been none. He also ventured the possibility a babysitter might have become angered, and simply left the child unattended.

But, he said, the police department and the welfare department remain uninformed as to her identity. Phone calls offering clues have been received.

The case worker assigned to the case is F. Sanchez.

Hobbs Daily News-Su

HOBBS, NEW MEXICO 88240. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1976

From Page 1

Abandoned

Baby Linked To Hobbsans

Hobbs police have unraveled the mystery identity of a baby abandoned 11 days ago in a shopping cart in an Odessa supermarket, Detective Lt. K.P. Wright announced today.

Wright said intensive investigation by Detective Jim Ott, other detectives, the patrol division and the Tactical Unit has established the child is the daughter of a Hobbs couple.

police positively identified the baby from a photograph Saturday search of the couple's mobile home.

A Hobbs woman babysat for the couple and found the baby's photograph in Thursday's Odessa Advertiser when Odessa police were trying to learn the identity of the baby's parents. Wright said the woman thought she recognized the infant as the daughter of a Hobbs couple.

Wright said McCoy told them he and his wife were in the process of separating and that he left his wife and child at a bus depot in Odessa Nov. 4 to catch an airplane. He said that was the last he saw of his wife and daughter, according to Wright.

Mrs. McCoy had been a checker at Foodway Supermarket Co. 29, 400 East Marland Ave. as supposed to be a divorcee, v. 5, but did not show up, detective said. He said Detective Ott left for Odessa with photographs of the baby to see if anyone could assist in locating the woman.

Detective Ott said he located the woman's parents, Troy L. Rambo, 38, S. Nev., said that he did not know the whereabouts of the child. Ott said he had other relatives in the area. Wright said he was in Greeley, Colo. on the night of the abandonment.



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INFANT
(ODESSA, TEXAS)---A BLUE-EYED 16-MONTH-OLD BABY GIRL FOUND
ABANDONED AT AN ODESSA, TEXAS SUPERMARKET TWO WEEKS AGO HAS BEEN
IDENTIFIED BY A FORMER BABY SITTER...BUT AUTHORITIES TODAY SAID THEY
CAN NOT LOCATE THE CHILD'S MOTHER.
THE FATHER, CLARENCE RONNIE MCCOY, WAS FOUND IN HOBBS, NEW
MEXICO...AND ARRESTED ON FELONY WARRANTS ISSUED FROM OTHER STATES.
MARTIN THEOPHILUS, SUPERVISOR FOR THE STATE WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
TODAY SAID THE MYSTERY BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 5TH...WHEN POLICE FOUND
ANGELIA CHRISTINA MCCOY ABANDONED AT A SUPERMARKET.
HE SAID THE GIRL WAS PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME UNTIL HER PARENTS
COULD BE LOCATED. A FORMER BABY SITTER RECOGNIZED THE CHILD'S PICTURE
IN NEWSPAPERS AND IDENTIFIED THE INFANT TO POLICE.
HOBBS POLICE SAID AFTER THE WOMAN IDENTIFIED THE BABY...THEY BEGAN
CHECKING THEIR FILES...DISCOVERING THAT MCCOY WAS RESIDING THERE AND
HAD SEVERAL FELONY WARRANTS AGAINST HIM.

UPI 11-18 10:42 PCS

Abandoned tot identified



A SINGLETON

no longer Shelley — although remain homeless.

Identification was made late in a 17-month-old toddler who was found 12 days ago in a West Odessa supermarket. And the story is a long one.

The blonde, blue-eyed little girl is really Angelia Christina McCoy, and the man who says he's her father, Clarence McCoy, is in a Hobbs, N.M. jail on charges that he's a "fugitive from justice," according to Hobbs chief of detectives K. P. Wright.

The child's mother has not been found, but Odessa police and Hobbs police are continuing the search for a woman thought to be 21-years of age.

McCoy, 25, is wanted on several felony charges including embezzlement and fraud, in three states including Texas. The man is expected to sign a waiver of extradition and relocate to Lubbock where charges are pending, according to Wright who spoke with McCoy late Tuesday.

McCoy was working as an electrician for a well servicing firm in Hobbs and Mrs. McCoy was a checker at a Hobbs supermarket. The couple lived in a mobile home in Hobbs.

The identification was also confirmed through a Hobbs babysitter, according to police. The woman who reportedly said she had cared for young Angelia was visiting her mother in Lubbock when she saw a copy of The Odessa American carrying a picture and story on the toddler.

That's when the identification process began rolling. She reported her knowledge to the Hobbs Police Department, who then contacted the Odessa Police Department.

The child was footprinted Tuesday afternoon, and was driven to Hobbs by Sgt. Robert Hill of the Odessa Police Department and a social worker in the Children's Services Division of the Department of Public Welfare. The toddler was taken to the jail where McCoy said he was her father.

According to welfare officials, McCoy and his wife had been fighting when McCoy brought his wife and daughter to

Odessa Nov. 4, to catch a bus. He then reportedly went hunting.

The little girl was found the next afternoon standing precariously in a shopping cart in the toy department of the West Odessa supermarket, where she had been abandoned other left her.

Capt. Jack Fillyaw, chief of detectives in Odessa, said the Police Department is continuing a search for the mother as a missing person. Fillyaw, still not sure of her birthdate, said the little girl is either 17 or 18 months old.

A Hobbs detective reported Mr. and Mrs. Troy L. Ramsey of Las Vegas, Nev., parents of Mrs. McCoy, were notified, but could offer no clues as to their daughter's whereabouts.

Detective Wright in Hobbs said the McCoy couple had been residents of Hobbs for about five months.

Even if the mother is found, Martin Theophilus, protective services supervisor in Children's Services, said the child would not be released to her custody. The next thing the welfare officials will do is seek relatives who might want custody of the child.

Theophilus said the relatives' homes would have to undergo a study by the social services department in whichever state they are living as a cooperative effort between other state welfare departments. Their recommendations would then be sent to the Odessa welfare department.

Relatives of the child are living in Nevada and New Mexico "as far as I can remember," Theophilus said.

Theophilus said a home study entails evaluating whether there is adequate space and other resources, determining why the relatives are willing to care for the child, and discussing the future of the child in that environment.

Until such a determination is made, Angelia will remain in the custody of her Odessa foster parents.

When the original petition for custody was filed, Theophilus said, a hearing date was set for early December. He said he hopes the Children's Services division has made a decision regarding where Angelia should be placed by that time.

Possibilities remain for the relatives and parents to be declared unfit, and in that case the Children's Services

departement would advise the district judge to terminate parental rights, and the child would be placed for adoption.

It's all just part of a long process now, Theophilus said, with the toddler's best interests at the heart of it.



TODDLER IDENTIFIED
... Angelia McCoy

3-3-77

Child abuse-neglect discussed

Child abuse and neglect were the topics discussed at the Permian Study Club meeting held recently in the home of Mrs. Bill Turner, 1540 Westbrook.

Mrs. Charles Lambeth introduced guest speaker, Martin Theophilus, representative of the Texas State Welfare Department in Odessa.

Theophilus showed a film and then explained what constitutes child abuse and neglect and the causes for such incidents. The Welfare departments main purpose is the protection of the child and in most cases they recommend the child stay with their natural parents, after both receive counselling. In some extreme cases the children are removed to a Foster Home.

Theophilus outlined the preparation and duties necessary to become a Foster Parent, emphasizing the great need for more Foster Homes in this area. He

opened the floor to questions and this enabled members to get answers to a lot of things about the workings of the social worker and the neglected or abused child.

Plans were discussed for the up-coming Husband's Night, which will take place next month.

The next meeting of the Permian Study Club will be March 3, in the home of Mrs. R.C. Shreve, 3301 Cambridge, where members will hold a plant auction.

1977

Ector foster parents to be honored Thursday

The Ector County Childrens Services board will host its annual Foster Parents Appreciation Banquet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the banquet room of Furr's Cafeteria on Andrews Highway.

The Rev. Mike Miller, pastor of United Campus Ministries and Childrens Services board member, is to be the speaker.

Certificates will be given to those foster parents who have served the community for five, 10 or 15 years.







Martin Theo
Odessa

366-

Ector County Children's Services Annual Report

Mr. John K. Miller
Regional Director for
Social Services
El Paso

111-7

Ms. Bobbie Mae Matthews
Program Manager
Protective Services for Children
Social Services Branch 530-0

May 9, 1977

I appreciate the annual report prepared by the Odessa staff for its county. The report reflects a very good grasp by Region 12 supervisory and administrative staff of the management of their program — to say nothing of their commitment to children.

Since we may have a small staff cut-back by the current legislature, I was relieved to see that the caseloads did no more than double as a result of the child abuse campaign (1186 and 1092 cases in '73 and '74, as compared to 1885 and 1917 in '75 and '76), since all we were able to do in '75 and '76 regarding staff was to double the number of staff. I am also greatly relieved to see that we have apparently leveled off in relation to the number of children being reported.

I noticed in the report that a serious need, as identified by staff, is the need for a group home. Since an underexpenditure of \$116,000 is being projected by Region 12 in Title IV-B funds, I wonder if that money could not be put into the development of a group home for teenage children for that Region.

If there is any way we can be of help, please let me know.

Bobbie Mae Matthews

cc: Burton Raiford
Clifton Martin
Charles Jenkins
Hazel Baylor
Mollie Whittington
Martin Theophilus ✓

RECEIVED
Ector County Childrens Services
MAY 12 1977.....



Budget nearly doubles for children's service

The need for children's services in Ector County increased significantly in 1976 causing the joint county and state

agency to almost double its budget.

In an Ector County Children's Service's annual report though, the agency listed several new needs including establishing an emergency shelter for nondelinquent children and a group home for older children who have no place to live.

In 1975 children's services spent about \$41,700 and was budgeted about \$39,300 in 1976 by the county, but the budget was amended and more than \$70,500 in county funds was spent by the agency last year.

The increased funding was required by a larger number of children needing foster care. In 1976 children requiring foster care increased 68 per cent over the number needing foster care in 1975.

About 22 children per month received foster care in 1975 and an average of 37 children per month received foster care in 1976.

Budget amendments were also necessary to handle increased child caseloads in other areas, programs on child abuse prevention and specific responsibilities mandated to the State Department of Public Welfare by a new Texas Family Code.

The children services program in Ector County began in 1944. In 1970 the county and state DPW agreed to provide child care services jointly.

Since the state and county started working together children's services in the county has grown steadily each year.

The increased number of caseloads requiring foster homes was so great in 1976 that a licensing worker conducted a major recruiting campaign. The recruiting, however, did not get all the additional foster homes needed.

Consequently, the agency's report listed among its needs more foster homes and parents and volunteers to assist the staff in providing transportation, to help applicants complete forms, to assist with

child care and other items.

When the agency's 1976 yearly budget is broken down the county spent 65 percent for foster care, nine per cent for medical care, nine per cent for travel, four per cent for clothing, 3 per cent for telephone and 7 per cent on miscellaneous items.

With those funds 1,917 children were served by the agency in 1976 but in 1970 only 557 children were served by the agency in some way.

Some of the special programs made available to children and parents were protection programs on child abuse and neglect and counseling services in the home with Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center's employees.

The children's services board and staff are now working on developing more resources locally for older children. The projects discussed include the emergency shelter and group home but nothing has been definitely decided.

The group home is still in stages but some type of facility to be built eventually, Keith chairman of the board, said.

He explained that a new program required that juvenile delinquents who have committed a crime, will have to be supervised as runaways.

Ector County now uses a program to keep both types of problem

2C THE ODESSA AMERICAN Friday, June 10, 1977

\$5,310 more for travel expenses, \$1,636 more for equipment, an additional salary for a mid-wife registered nurse for a proposed pre-natal clinic, an additional telephone line and an additional clerk.

Martin Theophilus, supervisor of Ector County Children's Services, told commissioners that 85 per cent of the department's budget represents direct payment for the care of children. They include payments to foster parents and for medical services and clothing.

□ □ □

Theophilus said the number of children in foster care in Ector County has more than doubled in two years — from 17 in 1974 to 37 in 1976.

"During the same period, the number of new referrals and the total children served also doubled (1,092 children in 1974 to 1,917 children in 1976)," Theophilus reported.

In all, Children's Services wants \$82,385 for foster care next year.

Theophilus said the State Department of Public Welfare will spend more than \$300,000 during its 1978 fiscal year for protective services to children in Ector County.

This includes staff salaries, travel, office space, supplies, administration and Medicaid payments to many of the children in foster care.

The state will reimburse Ector County for children in foster care qualifying for Aid to Families with Dependent Children funds, more than \$20,000.

Commissioners indicated they would pare \$5,500 from the budget recommendations of Children's Services. The library system is asking for a budget of \$388,630 next year, compared to its \$357,700 budget for 1977.

The adult probation department wants its budget increased from \$142,022 to \$181,699.

Godwin had asked for a salary of \$37,000. If he didn't get it, the judge indicated, he would apply for judgeship of a third district court to be created in Ector County if Gov. Dolph Briscoe signs a statewide courts bill.

Childers late Thursday said, "I would be in favor of setting Judge Godwin's salary at \$28,824 if he will accept it."

Commissioners are likely to discuss Godwin's salary again before making a final decision.









Martin, really
well you're
not be you.
without you. ~~same~~ ~~dit~~

tin
thanks for
your help.
Kris

Martin -
I sure hate to
see you leave.
We'll miss you
around here. Best
wishes on your
new job.
Gloria

Martin
The office
will be different
without you.
Hinnie

Martin,
Enjoyed working
with you. Best of luck
on your new job.
Ronnie

I'm going
to miss
you. You've
been a good
friend, a little
crazy sometimes,
but still a good
friend.
Sylvia

Martin -
I hate to see
you go!
Don't forget
me! (How
could you?)
Anyway!
Jeanie friend.
Betsy Perry

Betsy Perry

Martin - the past 7 mos have been
the best out of 4 yrs w/PHE. I've had a really
ideal job - I love my duties & you're such
a terrific person to work for. You're such
an easy going person - it really makes the
most hectic & cup of the mo. easy. I hate
Martin

to see you leave - but I'm glad for you.
We appreciate the opportunity of working
with you - now I know there's such a thing
as the perfect "boss".
Opportunity

We're hoping that our gift for you

Will somehow help to show
We think you're very special
And we want to tell you so
And we'd also like to mention
That today and always, too
We're wishing you the things in life
That mean the most to you!

Ronda Hooper
Yvonne Howard
Lory Marquez
Bell Adams
Gail Dickerson

Hope Acosta

Sandy
Randolph

Jean

MEMORANDUM

STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Selection for Educational Director
BJN: 120-11-A-05-458-235-7

TO:

Mr. Martin Theophilus
Educational Director
Midland 235-7

FROM:

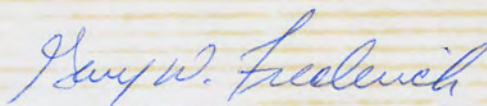
Mr. Gary W. Frederick
Regional Director for
Continuing Education
El Paso 111-7

DATE: November 7, 1977

This is to confirm that you have been selected for the above named position. Your functional title will be Educational Director and your responsibility will be orientation of new Food Stamp Workers in the West Texas regions. Your merit system classification is now Welfare Program Director II and your promotion was effective November 1, 1977.

Your first major task will be on November 15, 1977, in Midland. You, along with the rest of the Orientation Educational Directors, will present your orientation designs to the Regional Administrators and appropriate Regional Directors in the West Texas regions. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Big Spring Street office and is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. You will need to indicate what came out of the Orientation Design Workshop for Food Stamps and how you have incorporated its priorities into your design.

I congratulate you in your selection and I am very excited about the contribution you can make to staff and to clients through your new position. Welcome to Continuing Education.



Gary W. Frederick

GWF:mlr

cc: Mr. Joe Tarin, El Paso 111-7
Mr. Bill Pace, Abilene 001-1
Ms. Molly Whittington, Midland 235-7