

# Mostly about People

By Wally Trabing



## How To Adopt A Child

Children are being born out of wedlock faster than they can be placed with adoptive parents.

Many young couples perhaps fear that the process is too long and mentally torturous, but the way it was explained to me by Mrs. Monica Moniz, a veteran case worker for the Children's Home Society of California, it doesn't seem that way at all.

This is an old society, formed in 1891 and last year it placed 1273 youngsters in the state. Last year almost 150 youngsters were born out of wedlock in this county alone, with the mothers starting at the junior high school level on up to women of 35 and over.

Mrs. Moniz, who can be reached through the American Red Cross office here, said that babies are placed with their adoptive parents for the most part (69% of the time) within six months.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Moniz said usually four interviews are all that are needed.

The first one is to sort of get acquainted, and a very important acquaintanceship this is.

For the result of these interviews is the lifetime matching of the child with the adoptive parents.

There follows separate talks with the wife and husband and finally a visit to the home.

"I am a member of a selection committee which actually makes the match," said Mrs. Moniz. "I do not do this alone.

"But I do evaluate the couple. This is so important; not to be nosy, but to help make the right match.

"We evaluate the stability of the marriage, emotional stability, and attitudes about their capacity of loving a child not their own.

"Sometimes a couple is not ready. The timing is not right. They should have ample opportunity to assure themselves that they cannot have children of their own.

"We must know how a couple manages their lives. What are their interests; how do their relatives react, their

health, their financial situation (but understand that their capacity for loving a child is more important than their capacity to support it) and their own ideas on the type of child they want.

"We work with groups in the age range of from 24 to 45," she said.

"I would say that our most difficult placements are children in the minority groups.

"The couple will also have preferences. They will most often want a baby who will pass as their own, although the modern adoptive couple will be quick to make it known to whomever is interested that their child is adopted," she said.

"I must emphasize again, that the more we know about the couple the more intelligent match we can make."

★ ★ ★

"Now the waiting period is dependent upon the time it takes to find the child we think will fit the couple. Sometimes an unwed mother will complicate things by requesting the child be placed in a home practicing a certain religion. There are so many factors to be considered in the matching of one child that it may take as long as a year to find the child which will fit a particular combination of personalities.

"When we think we have made a match we call the couple to our headquarters in San Jose. The couple will have an opportunity to visit with the child alone for a while.

"We will ask them to go home and talk it over, make their decision and return the next day for the child if they decide to take it.

"We will describe the unwed mother and biological father and talk about their background and personalities to the prospective new parents, but never reveal their names. Likewise we will talk to the natural mother about the new parents, but never reveal their names.

"Independent adoptions through doctors or lawyers have caused so much heart-break when the natural mother learns who has adopted her child," she said.

"In one case that I know of, the new parents receive a package every birthday for the child from the natural mother. This is disturbing both for the adoptive parents and the natural mother," she said. "Some mothers actually take their child back. Awful cruel."

★ ★ ★

The adoptive agency has legal right to the child for six months after the actual adoption. Sometimes it just doesn't work out. Nobody is perfect at match-making.

The cost? The agency does not like to discuss it, but it runs about the same as a color TV set.

The agency is dealing with human lives; a lifetime situation of normality, happiness and love.

Is it any wonder that care must be taken?



**600 LBS. WATER PRESSURE FOR UTMOST SOFTNESS**

*it never leaves a*

## Briggs For N

Charles president William R. made res nut Cree offices Costa co Fred V ger of th Pacific a to retain Earlie Glore R William merged, through ing 123 vestmen The fi New Yo and Pa changes.

1965 V Ne

Here ination pair eve gionals.

The were no of spad diamond did not nation making but the make fi

The p of diam two spa card on and the diamond to lead mond o declarer suming West w jack w win w nessee a way ba

When Steuber hand s



Q-1 North 2 ♠ 4 ♠ You, ♠ Q 3 2 What A — heard and sh to a sl

TC Inst spades diamond respons

## Que Hon

Lon II smil at Buck pinning der of their h "She afterwa Adm John L so very comple The

Applicants Flood