

Trabing

# Mostly about People

By Wally Trabing



What is this Family Service?

Well, mainly it's an organization composed of people who raise money to hire professional counselors who in turn help save marriages and straighten out personal lives.

I asked Mrs. Elizabeth Tallent, executive director, in Santa Cruz county, to furnish me with a typical preliminary interview, taken from an actual case, but to fictionalize the names.

Mrs. Tallent and three other psychiatric social workers who take up some 35 cases a month, are paid with money raised by the Community Chest. Interview fees, fashion shows, parties and dances.

Here is what Mrs. Tallent wrote:

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Frederick and Alma sit dejectedly on the edge of their waiting room chairs. Mrs. Tallent invites them in and introduces herself and asks them to tell her about their problems.

They look questioningly at each other, then the young man says: "We've been separated for a couple of weeks and we've decided we need a marriage counselor."

"We find fault with each other, argue and fight."

The wife says: "We have a little boy and he gets upset whenever we fight. I don't know if I love my husband or not."

This is the problem. Mrs. Tallent sets separate individual interview dates with each, so they can talk freely about their background.

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Alma returns for her interview promptly and talks about how their fights start.

"We fight about many things, but many times about his jealousy. He doesn't want to share me even with my family. When I displease him he does something to strike back at me. I think this is his father's fault; his father doesn't like women and thinks they are all out to take men."

Mrs. Tallent asked if she was out to take her husband?

"No, but his first wife did this. She lied to him and cheated, and now I guess he's fearful I will do the same."

"I thought I loved him very much when we married. My husband says we were married because we were lonesome. I think he insisted on a large wedding to strike back at his first wife."

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Alma told of her husband's family being divorcees, but her family was closely knit. She felt, at Mrs. Tallent's suggesting, that it would help to sit down and evaluate these attitudes and decide what they could do about them.

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Alma's husband Frederick kept his appointment, eager to "straighten this thing out."

"I want to live with my wife and son. I want to love her. But she doesn't respond to my love-making very adequately. My first wife did, at least at first, then, she began slipping away with other men."

He said he was afraid Alma might do this, but said when he

stopped to think about it she had never given him reason for believing this.

Frederick confessed to having lack of confidence in himself and thought it began back "when my mother and father began having difficulties. I was torn between my parents. I think and think about this."

Mrs. Tallent asked: "Would you like to intellectually look at your problem and yourself? Do you think or feel differently after thinking this thing through?"

Frederick thought so, but said "I decide I'll be different, but I'm not lots of times."

"My feelings get in the way."

Mrs. Tallent asks: "In talking to you and your wife, you seem to want to do something about your problems. Do you want to continue coming in to see if we can look at the causes of your differences with your wife and maybe emotionally feel differently toward each other?"

Frederick said he would.

Thus begins a series of appointments with both Frederick and Alma where the problems are openly discussed where each can help the other.

It may take a little guts to face these sessions, but there's much at stake. Family Service wins a few and loses a few.

The folks pay whatever they can afford. Money is not an issue here.

A family break-up, a child's defiance, a drinking problem, an emotional crackup — these are the issues.

These are human structural mirrors which reflect the validity of our society.

## July Building Up 20 Per Cent

City building permits for July showed a 20 per cent boost over building in July 1962. Permits this year were for a total valuation of \$482,960 compared with last year's \$393,792 in July.

Eighty-six permits were issued during the month, compared with 96 in July 1962. Fourteen were for new residential construction, totaling 38 housing units, valued at \$345,500. Thirty permits were issued for new non-residential construction valued at \$89,347.

The inspection department also issued 52 electric permits, 31 plumbing permits, 43 gas tags, and 24 roofing permits in July.

## MECHANICAL FAILURE

### BLAMED BY NAVY

Alameda (AP). — A Navy Board of Inquiry found Wednesday that a 25-pound, blue, non-explosive practice bomb dropped accidentally off a jet fighter as it flew over San Francisco was due to "mechanical failure."

