

Million Hillbilly Children Found in Need; Welfare Workers Bring Hope to South

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 12 (NEA)—A million children living sub-standard lives, and at least 100,000 of them undernourished and in dire need.

That is the picture of 205 Appalachian Mountain countries, side of the picture not often seen by tourists and others fascinated by the "quaint" lives of the natives of the mountain regions of Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina.

It is a vivid side-light on the National Emergency Council's picture of the South as a great region need-

ing so many things for development. It is an accurate picture, for it is drawn by Dr. Alva Taylor, Nashville sociologist and educational director of the Save the Children Fund.

This fund since 1931 has reached 50,000 children in the mountain regions, bringing welfare services, food, clothing, and simple medical help in regions where no other welfare organization penetrates. It has touched some 50 of the 205 counties surveyed by Dr. Taylor.

Its workers have found many instances of the stark privation that lies behind the "quaint" life of the

highlanders. For instance, in one

condemnation to ignorance and ill-

literacy.

The reports of such welfare

workers tell a tale of squalid helplessness that includes children brought into the world without a doctor's services, old flour sacks

their only layette, sent shoeless to

school if indeed a school is avail-

able, condemned to a life of heart-

breaking toil on washed-out hills-

sides, deprived of medical care in

illness, and even of an undertaker's

services in death.

Half of the farms in the 205-mountain-county area, Dr. Taylor found, are of less than 50 acres. A fourth of them are of less than 20 acres. The average of cultivated land is only seven acres per adult

male worker. Three-fourths of the

face to face by welfare workers

who are going back into the hills

to attack at its roots the acute prob-

lem of the South's mountain people.

Hundreds of gallons of cod-liver oil have been sent into the area by welfare organizations to counteract the monotonous and deficient diet. One mountain woman walked six miles each day to make soup for her own and 50 other school children. On one occasion she asked each child to bring one potato for soup. Only five were able to do so.

That is the sort of condition met

SKEETERS AID POLICE

DALLAS, Oct. 12 (U. P.)—Nature came to the aid of law officers who for several days sought Luke French, after French—self-styled "tough guy"—got drunk and shot two men. Hiding out from the officers in bottoms of a river, French was attacked by mosquitoes and bitten so badly that he became ill and surrendered.

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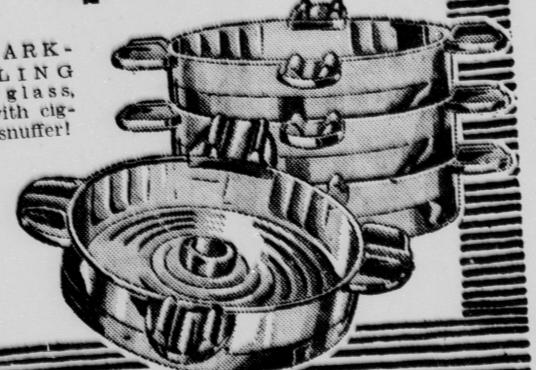
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