

THE Sunday JOURNAL

LORAIN, OHIO, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1970 80 PAGES NEWSSTAND PRICE 15c

The Girl Runaways

"My parents can't stop me. I'll run away again if they try..."

By SHERRAINE SPENGLE
Staff Writer

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl, mad at her parents, hides in her boyfriend's bedroom for five days.

A 16-year-old girl, whose mother was tough with her because a 15-year-old sister got pregnant, used to leave home and never come back when "dressed good and ready."

"I am grown up and I am going to get married, no matter what anybody says," says a 16-year-old girl.

THESE THREE GIRLS share a common bond these days — they have been charged as runaways and now are in the Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home in Carlisle Township, just outside Elyria.

"If you write anything about us in the paper, just tell the other kids not to let themselves get in here. It's terrible. There's nothing to do," says the 15-year-old, who was sent to the detention home after authorities found her in her boyfriend's bedroom.

"They take away your clothes, and make you wear these crummy sweatshirts and jeans. No make-up. And you don't get to see any boys," she said.

Last year, there were 108 Lorain County girls, from ages 12 to 18, charged as runaways and held at the detention home.

Sixty-two other girls also wound up there at one time or another last year — two charged with auto theft, 23 with school discipline problems and 46 with being "ungovernable".

LAST WEEK, there were 13 girls at the detention home — all but one charged with being runaways. And among the runaways, 11 had left home to be with boyfriends. Most of the girls were 13 or 14 years old.

The 15-year-old found in the bedroom had chosen a name for herself from a movie magazine. "It's Raquel," she said. But she hates little comebacks in Raquel Welch. Her long, blond hair is thin and stringy. She would have trouble filling a size three dress.

Her best friend, Gerry (also a name snatched from a movie magazine), ran away with another boy at the same time Raquel was living with her boyfriend. Gerry is in the detention home because of a complaint by her parents.

A reporter asked what the girls would do if they became pregnant.

Gerry nudged Raquel with an elbow, giggled and said, "No, I'm smart. I take my pills. I'm not getting caught. Raquel doesn't have to worry yet. How about that?"

A THIN GIRL, with drab-brown hair, who said she was 14, spoke up.

"My sister's 16 and she's pregnant. She's going to be married as soon as her boyfriend gets a job. She's working (part-time clerk in a department store) and saving her money. My mother was pregnant and she got married when she was 16.

"My mother said she was going to make it tough for me, just because my sister got pregnant. But she can't keep me and Steve, and not let me see my boyfriend. When she goes out, I go out. And I mean back when I'm dressed good and ready," she said.

Sandra and Linda, who were listening, say they are "best friends." Both are dark-haired, 14-year-old girls.

"OUR MOTHERS wouldn't let us go out with our boyfriends either. They don't like us going with colored boys," said Sandra.

I. "The colored boys treat us nice," said Linda.

After a few puzzling questions and

their gang, "They take care of us, we're not worried," she said.

A 13-year-old Negro girl, listening to the conversation, bristled when Sandra and Linda were asked what kind of families the Negro boys were from.

But the Negro girl smiled when someone said there were good and bad families among whites and blacks.

"Yes, like my family. They go to church all the time," she said. "That's why I'm here. I pretended I was sick, and wouldn't go to church again. They beat me and I ran away. Me, I couldn't care less about boys. They're all creeps."

ONE GIRL SAT quietly working an needle embroidery for another had brought her. She declined to participate in the discussion other than to say her mother had told her to quit seeing her boyfriend.

The girls sat around and stared for their videos there was no other noise — no record player, radio or TV. A movie hadn't bright yellow movie contrasted sharply with the gray blanket on an iron cot.

Would the girls like some reading material?

They asked for movie magazines and comic books. They didn't want any other books.

For them, school had been a place to meet new boyfriends or see their regular boyfriends. They weren't interested in getting an education. They were going to get married.

TERRY, A TALL, 15th 10-year-old, had been looking out the window. She had acted for two days and that morning had asked to be bathed in her room, alone. She didn't like the other girls and the feeling was mutual.

"I am grown up and I am going to get married, no matter what anybody says," she said.

Her boyfriend is 21 and he has a job. Evidently, the other girls were looking at Terry with respect.

"My parents can't stop me. I'll run away again if they try," she said.

Millions See Eclipse; Next Showing in 2024

Blackout Total in Some Areas

By VICTOR COHN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The sun blinked yesterday, and millions saw it.

More than a million earthlings stood in the full chill and shadow as the moon briefly blotted out the brilliant sun along a 10-to-13-mile wide strip from southwest Mexico to Newfoundland.

Millions more saw some dimming, great or small, in areas of partial eclipse stretching across the United States. Millions more watched on television.

AND A LEGION of scientists, more than ever in history, watched — to add up information to make this history's most viewed, most studied eclipse. It was the last major eclipse of this century. Scientists say the next one will occur on April 8, 2024.

"It was a wonderful eclipse," exulted astronomers in Mexico, the prime viewing site, immediately afterward.

"The weather was perfect here — no clouds. And the corona we saw was the corona of a very active sun."

THE sun's weather stroke almost scientific luck: — to have a total eclipse near solar maximum, the time every 22 or 23 years when the sun's fiery surface is most active.

BUT THE ECLIPSE was "wonderful," however, to new scientific viewer in Washington, where the eclipse was 55 percent total. Whenever there was only partial eclipse, despite some predictions, it took only a bit of the sun to keep the earth lighted.

On Nantucket Island, off Cape Cod, however, there were shouts of "spooky" and "weird" during total blackout.

The great black shadow, traveling at 1,000 miles an hour, supersonic speed, first touched down in the south Pacific at 11:48 a.m. EST.

IT fell land in Mexico's mountainous fullness of Durango, then crossed Mexico, a dusty, adobe Indian village in the area where most scientists gathered, at 12:30 p.m.

FIRST THE SUN surprised to a thin crescent, and suddenly there was twilight. Then the crescent began to break up into small segments, "Bailey's Beads," caused by the irregular mountains and valleys on the moon's edge. The last bead seemed to shine brightest — the "diamond ring" effect.

Then for a few seconds the sun's ruby-red chromosphere or fourth atmosphere was

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SEQUENCE OF photos, taken from jetliner 29,000 feet over coast of Mexico, shows progression of solar eclipse yesterday. At 1:46:35 p.m., plane hurtles into "totality" where moon provides 100 percent eclipse of sun. (UPI TELEPHOTO)

Captain Bush Died in Laos, Didn't Anyone Tell Nixon?

By DON A SCHANCHE
The Los Angeles Times

CAPT. JOSEPH BUSH, an American Army adviser to the Royal Army of Laos, was killed by North Vietnamese soldiers in ground combat at Muong Soui, on the western edge of the Plain of Jars, on Feb. 11, 1968. Before he was almost literally cut in half by enemy automatic weapons fire, Bush, a light-haired, crew-cut infantry officer, killed one Communist soldier.

I was spending the night in a Lao refugee village about 20 miles south of Muong Soui on the night Bush died. Had I not been on hand early the next morning when Bush's assistant, a Negro sergeant who was called "Smokey" was evacuated for treatment of a bullet wound in the right shoulder, I would never have learned of the incident. The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane immediately declared the Captain's heroic death top secret and has not confirmed it to this day.

President Nixon's statement that "no American's statement in Laos has ever been killed in ground combat operations," therefore, is incorrect.

BUSH'S DEATH was not the only ground combat fatality in Laos. A half-dozen young Americans, working for USAID and International Voluntary Services, have been killed in ambushes by Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese soldiers since the Geneva Accords of 1962. One of them, Don Rjestrom of Seattle, Wash., was hit in the head and killed instantly during a North Vietnamese raid on a Lao army base called Nha Khang, south of the Plain of Jars, in January, 1968.

Captain Bush and the 40 to 100 other U.S. Army men who worked under the diplomatic cover of "assistant military attaches" assist advisers to the Lao army, were deliberately engaged in ground combat when I was in northeast Laos during much of the winter of 1967.

At the time, the Royal Lao army and the CIA-supported clandestine army of Meo tribesmen under Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, had suffered severe setbacks throughout the northeast provinces of Sam Neua and Xieng Khouang. They were engaged in fight holding actions, with the support of U.S. Air Force and Navy fighter bombers, at mountain bases surrounding the strategic plain.

I had met Captain Bush and talked to him only a few days before he was killed. He was smiling and eagerly counting the days until his first R & R leave. It was to begin at the end of the week. He planned to meet his pregnant wife in Honolulu.

I wonder if the Department of Defense or the State Department ever told Mrs. Bush how her husband died?

For the matter, I wonder if they told President Nixon? It sounds as if they didn't.

Mom of 2 Wounded In Elyria

By BONNIE LAMP
Staff Writer

ELYRIA — An 18-year-old Elyria mother of two was hospitalized last night after she was shot in the neck during an argument with her husband.

Mrs. Elain Tarrant, of 8 Shaw St., Elyria, was listed in "fair" condition last night in Elyria Memorial Hospital.

Her husband, Ronald, 20, is being held in Elyria City Jail in connection with the shooting. Police said the incident is still under investigation.

Tarrant told police the shooting occurred at their home, where he and his wife were having an argument. He said he got a gun in another part of the house, returned and fired it three times, twice into the room and once at his wife, police reports said.

MRS. TARRANT was hit once in the neck, police said.

Tarrant then said he ran to his father's home at 808 Lake Ave., about a block away, to call an ambulance. His wounded wife was after him to the house.

A friend of the family said Mrs. Tarrant was the mother of two children and was pregnant.

Tarrant's father told police Ronald came to the house, broke the glass in the storm door, and walked in with his wife behind him. Police found Ronald Tarrant in a bedroom of the house being held down on a bed by his father and brother. A .22 caliber automatic pistol was confiscated by police at that time.

Avon Lake Mayor Will Appeal To Fruehauf -- Remain Open

AVON LAKE — Mayor Donald Hartzy last night said he was needing a delegation to Detroit to go effort to persuade Fruehauf executives not to shut down their main Avon Lake plant.

Notice of the shut down of the trailer assembly plant, the largest of its kind in the world, was made public Friday.

THE MAYOR, who has already held a meeting of interested citizens on the matter, said closing of operations of the plant would affect the city of Avon Lake in several ways:

About 15 percent of the

about $5 to $10 million in the community, and the shutdown would probably result

in a reduction of property taxes to the city, Hartzy said.

Cleveland Mom Hears Son Held in N. Viet

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — Mrs. Laura Lorie of suburban University Heights, who has not heard from her son, Air Force Maj. Alan P. Lorie since he was shot down in Vietnam June 21, 1968, received word indirectly this week that Maj. Lorie is among the prisoners of war held by North Vietnam.

Mrs. Lorie said that he had heard that her son was a prisoner but had not seen him.

SHE SAID U.S. military authorities told the family in January, 1967, that Lorie was a prisoner, but no exposure was received to letters sent to North Vietnam, and until a few months ago all packages addressed to Lorie were returned to the senders.

Cloudy, Colder

Partly cloudy and a bit colder today in the way the weatherman reads his charts and dials. Tonight will be cloudy cloudy and continued cold.

Lows tonight will range in the upper 20s. Tomorrow will

The front page of the Lorain Sunday Journal from March 8, 1970, detailed the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. (Martin McConnell — The Morning Journal)

The front page article was written by a Washington Post reporter and The Journal published it.