

Critics Oppose Speaker's Idea Of Home Births

VANCOUVER — Aderman Anna Spratt started something when she proposed that more mothers have their babies at home instead of in hospitals. She told a meeting of the Vancouver Metropolitan Health

Commission that the modern trend towards hospital care of maternity cases "is bringing a great financial worry to young parents."
"Surely it would be possible for mothers to have their babies at home and save the costly hospital bills," said Mrs. Spratt, a mother herself. "We used to do it that way all the time."
But the reaction to the proposal wasn't favorable. Baby doctors, mothers, social workers and even a woman newspaper columnist biased the idea

of saving money on "Baby." One mother, who has had eight children, but only one born at home, summed it up:
"It cost more to have a baby at home. I paid a nurse \$10 a day for 24-hour duty and then had to hire someone else to wash clothes and feed the nurse. On top of that mother does not get the rest she deserves. She is always worrying about the house or something."
Obstetricians said the infant mortality rate has been reduced by hospital care, and most agreed that mothers having their first baby should be in hospital.

Rebel Leader's Relative Fights with the Army Now

WINNIPEG (CP)—Less than 70 years ago the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Battalion made a name for itself fighting Louis Riel and his Metis. Today the unit and one of the Riels are again carrying arms—but this time they're on the same side.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurie LeMire and family are leaving here Sunday to establish their home in Terrace. Mr. LeMire has been transferred to that city to work for Albert & McCaffery, Ltd., builders supply house. He has been with the company in Prince Rupert for several years.

L-Cpl. Ignace (Cury) Riel of Winnipeg, a great-nephew of the Metis leader, will accompany a section of the rifle battalion to Germany for service with the 27th Infantry Brigade there.

Tanned and fit, the 28-year-old Riel, a veteran of the Second World War and of Korea, is one of the Winnipeg company joining other Canadian rifle companies to make up the newly-formed 2nd Rifle Battalion as a replacement unit for some of the men now in Germany.

"Curly" is proud of the Riel name and of the unit, which fought against his great-uncle. A career soldier after spending 1946 to 1950 in civvies, Riel was twice wounded in Europe. He has affection also for the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's, with which he served a year in Korea.

"I went in with the Rifles on D-Day but I'm equally proud of my service with the Patricia's," he says.

He enlisted as an 18-year-old in 1942, "to join my big brother," and he enlisted again in the 27th Brigade in 1950 because "I like army life and wanted a change from civvy street." Now he wants to see how Europe looks without a war on.

Curly says however that too many people remember the name Riel. "No matter where I've been, there's someone asking about it," he smiles.

STAINES, Eng. — A Christmas card stamped "Post Early for Christmas" has just arrived at its destination near Doncaster. The card was mailed in this Middlesex community on Dec. 20, 1950.

Canada is not only the leading newspaper producer in the world, in 1951 the Dominion became the world's leading exporter of woodpulp.

Biggest Hills, Trees, Now Twins

British Columbia, which has produced some of the biggest mountains and trees in the world, has received a new national honor. MacLean's Magazine has credited it with producing "the biggest twins in history."

The twins are the six foot ten inch three hundred pound Leavy Brothers, Jack and Leo, of Vancouver. Leo is a federal inspector in the Pacific Meat Co. Ltd. Marpole. Jack works in the Horny street liquor store in Vancouver.

In the MacLean's article, author Clyde Gilmour reports that Dr. Vernon C. Brink, a biologist on the University of B.C.'s medical faculty, recently examined a stack of scientific records dealing with multiple births.

"He reported he could find nothing to indicate either the past or present existence of identical twins anywhere in the world as tall or as heavy as UBS's Jack and Leo," the article says. "One of Brink's associates, warily refusing to let his own name be published, told me he was 'utterly convinced' that the Vancouver behemoths were the biggest duo ever," Gilmour adds.

He points out that "the vast sizes are all the more remarkable because the Leavys are not abnormal or pituitary monsters like most of the giants authenticated in medical annuals."

The article recounts some of the more lively episodes connected with the twins' enormous size and points out that "since high school days, the Leavys have never met anyone they couldn't look down on."

EPSOM, Eng. — Sir Phoenix, a thoroughbred colt worth £10,000, broke a leg during training exercise. Instead of shooting the horse a veterinary placed a plaster cast on the leg and it is hoped the horse will be saved for stud purposes.

TOBERMORY, Scotland — HMS Reclaim has been fitted with television equipment for deep-sea diving experiments and may take pictures of the Spanish treasure galleon Duc de Florencia, sunk in Tobermory Bay on the Isle of Mull in 1590.

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