

SECTION II Sunday, October 12, 1975 IRVING DAILY NEWS Page 1

# Victim of religious sect rejoins children

By JEANNE SARA DORIN

**Women's News Editor**

A 29-year-old Irving woman, Charlene Hill, was supposed to be present at a hearing on Saturday in Esopora, Miss., where she has filed charges against members of a religious order called the Body of Christ organization on grounds of kidnap.

According to Mrs. Hill, she was taken against her will to the group's farm in Mississippi, where sect members are sent when they are believed to be possessed by demons.

"I was flown in a private plane from Florida to Mississippi, where for the next few months she was subjected to physical abuse, tied to a bed, forced to wear earplugs which continuously played tapes of the group's preachings and was forbidden to see her three children, also on the farm. She was allowed to see her husband occasionally."

**THE BODY OF CHRIST** organization, which goes by different names in different parts of the country, studies the "word" rather than the "letter."

When a member is believed to be demon possessed, the group tries to cast out the evil spirit — in long vigils which start slowly and quietly and result in screaming of "demon come out!" "Demon come out!" "exorcise Mrs. Hill."

Problem cases are sent to a retreat in Mississippi.

The order preaches to the "widowless," based on its belief that evil forces will take over the United States and create a one-world government.

These practices are discovered when a member gets deeper into the church structure, says Mrs. Hill.

**SHE STARTED ATTENDING** meetings when she was a student at North Texas State University, and a friend asked her to go along to meetings of the Dallas Northwest Church.

"I was 22. I went three times a week because I was dissatisfied with the Church of Christ. I was hungry for more of God. The church was not controlled by one specific person, but by elders."

"I was pleased with Northwest; women were in control, which was a little bit out of my line."

"I was doing the 20-30 miles from Denton three times a week."

"We sang, we prayed the Lord."

Members of the congregation reported visions and dreams that they believed were supernatural. "But they were things you see when you close your eyes," says Mrs. Hill.

In 1969, Charlene Hill and her husband, who she had married during this period and was the son of one of the elders, became dissatisfied with the group and they were accused of quitting the body. They were said to be demon possessed.

Living in Colorado Springs, Colo., next, the Hills joined another part of the church. "They started preaching to the widowless," says Mrs. Hill.

**PEOPLE SOLD THEIR** homes and their possessions and were encouraged to live off the land. "There was no money in the world; it was Divine revelation — half the shelves in supermarkets were empty and there was gas rationing."

The circumstances were just right.

"We sold our home and went to Colombia, South America, and we lived in a bamboo hut in the jungle."

"Life in South America was deprived, says Mrs. Hill. "We worked all day and there still wasn't enough food. We ate rice and eggplants."

The people were painfully thin down there, she says, and her own husband weighed 125 pounds, 35 pounds less than his previous 160.

Their lives consisted of working and going to church. They ate in quarters a mile-and-a-half from where they lived and walked 10 times a day. They had no furniture except for pieces. Bill Hill made out of jungle bamboo.

**"IT WAS STRANGE.** In the seven years I had been with the church I had never met up with anything like this — it was so crazy. Six or seven people came in and were yelling and praying for me. They laid their hands over me. They accused me of having a lustful spirit and the women were sexually attracted to me, but they never sexually assaulted me."

This exorcism went on for two days. They allowed her out once in a while to walk around. Other members were watching her children. She was forced to look at herself in a mirror when they hallucinated they saw a demon in her, but she claims she saw only her own face. They jumped up and down praising the Lord and two men beat her with a belt, incurring bruises.

"Because she would not yield," they accused Charlene Hill of being possessed. They understood her and dumped her in a bathtub of cold water when they thought she was dead and laid her down on a couch.

"I wasn't going to work for them so I pretended to pass out," says Mrs. Hill. She fell asleep and was awakened to members of the group slapping her.

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**SHE MISSED HER CHILDREN** — Charlene Hill holds up picture of her three children, ages 4, 2, and 1, hostages on a farm in Mississippi at the time this photograph was taken. She was trying to organize for their return through the authorities when emotional strain and mental collapse caused her to return to the religious order and her husband and children.

**4 homes food-filled for lunch**

Plans for a progressive tasting luncheon called "Food Revue" by the Irving Women's Club are being finalized. It is slated for Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Four homes have been selected to participate in the luncheon, which will follow a historical theme. Each will reflect a different aspect of Americana. The Old South will be represented at the home of Jane Greenough, 184 Tuscan Court.

"We have just about sold our 500 tickets. The recipes used in the chow are tried and true ones that have come down through the years in families. At my house, plantation chicken, Alabama cole slaw, and Southern broccoli supreme will be served. We aren't going into decorations much but we are wearing long dresses," Mrs. Greenough said.

"We are preparing shrimp jambalaya, baked eggplant, lime-cucumber gelatin mold and French cheese-cakes," said Mrs. Edrene Martinez, whose home at 3999 Coronado will show the influence of French Creole.

The luncheon will not be a come-and-sit-down dinner, according to Simone Schreier, who will serve deserts. Americans at her home at 2601 E. Cortez Court. She anticipates that guests will spend 15 minutes at her house and longer at homes with the entrees.

"The guests will probably start at the Korkimas home and then go to whichever course they like," she said.

Rita Korkimas, 2621 Wignem, will portray the Great Southwest.

Mrs. Schreier plans to serve luncheon lemon logs, apple spice squares, cherry crunch and deer bread with an unusual topping. Coffee and water will be served with the deserts.

"I've sold the six tickets allotted to me as well as other people's tickets and some extra tickets," she said. "I've had a real boomerang, and I know we'll have a good turnout. A lot of the members of the League of Women Voters are coming."



**"I DON'T WANT TO WEAR MY RAINCOAT"** — Laura Sumner, from left as Esther, Bob Hixson as Ham and Jerry Russell as Noah, fight about the rainy weather in the Irving Community Theatre's new production "Two By Two," scheduled to open Oct. 31. Rehearsals are now in progress for the ICT show, the last of the season.

## Feminine forum

### Irving women reflect on Patty

The baffling and bizarre kidnaping of Patty Hearst has left many women in Irving shocked and dismayed. Most are stunned by their attention to the case. Was she brainwashed by the Black Liberation Army? Should her parents sue her? What was the motive if nothing had happened? Why did she commit the crime? She said she did. Should she be criminally prosecuted and punished for her actions? A woman was interviewed at Irving Mall recently and asked to give her opinions on the case. All expressed confusion over the entire case, and each offered her own conjecture as to what actually happened.

**MRS. MARTHA BLANKENSHIP** thinks that Patty was brainwashed. "Kids that age were taken in by ideas of any kind and are always ready to jump on a bandwagon. I don't think she started out as a revolutionary. I think she was very confused and was brainwashed like members of the Unification Church," she said.

"My husband says I'm a sentimentalist, but I feel that right now she's caught between being loyal to her old friends and being loyal to her parents."

When asked if Patty's mother should forgive her, she replied, "Of course she should. That's what mothers are for."

**MARGARET GALDMORE GAVE** Patty the benefit of all doubts. "I believe that her mother and father and everyone else should forgive her."

**Deadline set Oct. 20 for 'Wonderful World'**

Deadline for information to be used in the Irving Daily News "Wonderful World of Women" section is 5 p.m. Oct. 20.

Forms are now available at the Daily News office, 1627 W. Irving Blvd., for presidents of Irving women's organizations to fill out.

Appointments can also be made for photographs by calling 264-4342, extension 236.

The special section will be published Oct. 26 and all women's organizations in Irving, except school and church groups, are welcome to participate.

It is the Daily News' way of saying "thank you" to these organizations whose contributions to the Irving community can be seen in so many ways.

Friends who were unable to attend the press office recently, should make an appointment now.

**Handmade items for sale Nov. 2**

An assortment of handmade items will be featured at the annual fall bazaar of the Holy Family Altar Guild of Irving. The bazaar will be in the school cafeteria of the Holy Family of Nazareth Church at 2323 Cheyenne from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 2. It will also be open for one hour after the 8:30 a.m. Saturday mass.

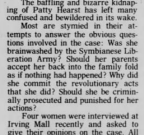
Various booths will show handmade and homemade goodies, jewelry, crafts, greenhouse items and Christmas decorations.

"The entire parish is working on this, and they are doing really well. We have a lot of talented people in the group," said Mrs. Helen Bates, publicity chairman.

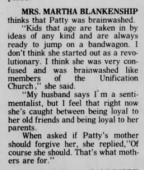
Some of the special items to be sold are: Beinh Nagoboy Am and Andy dolls and an 18-piece nativity set of handmade ceramic figures.

A few of the women in the group meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 to noon for a quilting session. Bango will be played from 2 to 7 p.m., and there will be games to entertain the children. Food will be served all day Sunday consisting of tacos, chilaquitos, hot dogs and homemade deserts.

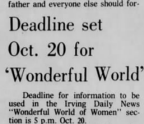
The public is invited to attend.



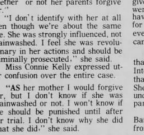
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**MISS CONNIE KELLY** — "I don't know why she did what she did."



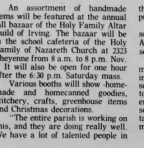
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