

WHO'S WHO

and doing what

By EDDYE K. KIM

Sorry to not afford our readers coverage on Les Femme Douze (Ladies 12) presentation of the 1967 Cotillion Ball Saturday night in Convention Center's Gold Room...Despite 'year round' publicity coverage in the VOICE anent the Club, announcement of selected debutantes of the year and their subsequent activities, we were not invited along with reporters and photogs from the Daily Press to the dress rehearsal for pre-Cotillion publicity coverage, and then were informed the Club could not afford to pay for VOICE coverage of the actual presentation. (Editor's note: Don't fret Eddy--you'll learn that some people don't know they are Negroes --a.k.)

THE LONG ARM of co-incidence is really incredible. I mentioned to the VOICE editor that I had received a telephone call from Mrs. Melvin Oie of Kent, Washington, a former Las Vegas who, with her husband, has found unalloyed happiness as adoptive parents of a brood of youngsters of mixed blood.

The editor allowed as how the timing couldn't be better inasmuch as Nevada's Governor had proclaimed this week as "Adoption Week" according to a member of the local staff of the State Welfare Department.

"Write it up," suggested our caustic editor, adding "it surely has more reader interest than who wore what at that 'Society' ball that was above the Negro press."

So our story begins with Mrs. Oie's telephone call during a recent visit here. Mrs. Oie may be remembered by some long time residents as Norma Jones, an alumnus of Las Vegas High School. Her father was pastor of the First Church Assembly of God located at Monroe and 'C' streets that later became known as the Full Gospel of God Church.

Norma Oie's call to me was motivated by her enthusiasm for the Holt Adoption Program.



EDDYE K. KIM

Norma Lynn Oie and her present spouse, Melvin, are so delighted with their international adopted family, they'd like the world to know how it all came about.

It may be recalled that on May 4, 1966, 800 guests attending a \$10 a plate dinner in Washington, D.C., honored Mrs. Bertha Holt of Creswell, Oregon as American Mother of the Year. All the accolades bestowed on Mrs. Holt that evening by dignitaries which included Vice President Hubert Humphrey could not match the gratification that must have been hers in remembering the numbers of unloved and helpless babies who had found homes with loving foster parents through the compassion and dedicated efforts of Mrs. Holt and her late husband Harry Holt.

Mrs. Oie related how Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holt of Eugene, Oregon had attended a lecture in October, 1954 where pictures were shown of suffering children in Korea, cast aside because of their mixed blood. What they saw that night changed their lives.

ON THE spot the Holts signed up to adopt two Korean orphans. The following day Harry announced to the family that he had decided to support eight more orphans. The six Holt children decided they could support three. So that quickly 13 little children were given hope and a new life.

But it was not enough. Unable to erase the memory of the horrors he had seen, Harry Holt flew to Korea in May of 1955. There he selected eight orphans who were the most pitiable cases to adopt and bring them home. It actually took an act of Congress for Harry Holt to bring the new additions to his family home. The arrival of the Holts home with their Korean-American GI babies touched off unprecedented publicity and the beginning of an epic.

Letters from all over the nation began pour-



THE MELVIN OIE FAMILY--Pictured here is the 'international' family who inspired Eddy Kim's story in her Who's Who column... "Mom" is flanked by six-year-old Starla Ann and nine-year-old Gary. "Dad" stands proudly with the family teen-agers Jean Marie (left) and Norma.

King's Moscow Mission

ATLANTA - (NPI --Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., recently released from a Birmingham (Ala.) jail, is planning to visit the Soviet Union soon on a peace mission.

In scheduling his trip, he was following in the footsteps of A. A. (Sammy) Rayner, Jr., a Southside Chicago alderman, who has stirred up a fuss by going to Moscow for the Soviet Union's 50th anniversary celebration.

Traveling to Russia is perfectly legal and in no way casts a reflection of a person's political leanings. Many Americans visit Russia, not out of admiration, but in an effort to find out for themselves how the Soviet regime makes life miserable for its minorities.

But some people, who don't see things that way, have asked questions about Ald. Rayner's trip to Russia. They were especially upset over the fact that his visit was sponsored by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, cited as a left-wing organization by Congressional committees.

THE ALDERMAN answered his critics by saying he was going to Russia to see conditions for himself, not to support any ideology.

Dr. King said he had been invited to attend talks in Russia aimed at ending the Vietnam war. The Nobel Peace Prize Committee, he said, had invited him to the parley, along with representatives from North Vietnam, the National Liberation Front, South Vietnam, and the United States.

Main purpose of the talks is to get peace negotiations under way, he said.

Passports for Dr. King's trip were reportedly being prepared.

ing in to the Holts from people wanting to know how they could adopt these homeless waifs. Remembering all those he had left behind, Harry Holt could do only one thing. In February, 1956, the Holt Adoption Program began and although the welfare department required that one have a Masters degree to direct such a program, and Harry had only an 8th grade education, the scholastic requirements were set aside.

ALTHOUGH Harry Holt died in Korea in April, 1964, the work has continued. Children are still being placed in American homes. The need for adoptive parents is great. Especially needed are Negro Christian homes for the Korean-Negro and Japanese-Negro youngsters.

Many of the children are either mentally or physically handicapped; therefore not adoptable but sorely in need of support and help. In

The Difference In Belonging Or Not



CHOI OK MOON, now 15 years of age, is pictured near Harry Holt's grave (in Korea) was one of the babies picked up in the streets by the founder of the Holt Adoption Program (See Eddy Kim's Who's Who). Choi has now outgrown the orphanage, and her greatest desire is to come to America and become a nurse. Eddy is especially anxious to solicit aid for Choi who still does not "belong".

DOINGS AT THE ELKS HARVEST MOON BALL

Paran Lodge #1508 extends a cordial invitation to the public to join them on November 24 and help select the HARVEST MOON QUEEN who will begin her year's reign immediately... The BEST DRESSED LADY in attendance at the Ball will be a guest of the Brother Elks at Caesar's Palace where Tony Curtis and Tammy Grimes are currently starring, and at the Dunes Hotel Lounge. She and her escort may choose another show of their preference if they desire. All expenses will be paid by the Lodge including transportation by chauffeured limousine for the evening.

ALL DONATIONS from the HARVEST MOON BALL will go into the coffers of the ELKS XMAS FUND which provides toys and Christmas baskets for needy families in our community every Yuletide.

REMEMBER--The money you spend will be used to help others--and YOU WILL BE HAVING A BALL at the ELKS' HARVEST MOON BALL.

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1961-63, the Holts spent their life savings to build an orphanage in Korea which provides a home for 400 orphans, one-third of whom are handicapped. It is estimated that Seoul, alone, produces 4,000 orphans per year.

I would like to add my plea to that of Mrs. Melvin Oie, who was responsible for all this information, that members of clubs, churches, any organizations who are interested in helping in some way to please get in touch with me at 642-6333, or write to me 1100 Doolittle Ave., or the Holt Adoption Foundation, P.O. Box 95, Creswell, Oregon.

Footnote: I am reminded by Miss Key that the State Welfare Department also has a crying need for Negro Christian homes for unwanted children. Equal time will be given next week to deserving local cases.