

Missing children? Contact Child Find

United Press International
NEW YORK — A South Carolina teenager abducted almost two years ago returned to her grandparents and leads on five other missing children were received following the broadcast of a television docudrama on missing children, a national agency said Wednesday.

Child Find, a 3-year-old agency based in New Paltz, N.Y., said that since the Monday night airing of the NBC show "Adam" — the true story of a missing

child — it has received 150 calls an hour from people either reporting leads on missing children or asking for information.

Kristin Brown, spokeswoman for Child Find, said the agency had leads on five of the 55 youngsters whose pictures were flashed on the screen following the show. She said another child — not one of the 55 — was brought home this week because someone telephoned Child Find.

The agency has located 595

children since its inception.

Alice Byrne, a member of the board of directors of the agency, the largest of its kind in the nation, said that although the broadcast didn't change the problem, it did touch people.

"We needed a good storyteller," Byrne said.

The toll-free number of Child Find — 800-431-5005 — was also flashed on the screen following the telecast about Adam Walsh, a child from Hollywood, Fla., who was killed in 1981.

The flood of calls and the first success came soon after.

Valerie Stockie, 15, of South Carolina, missing for almost two years, is now back with her grandparents in Arkansas, Brown said.

"She had allegedly been abducted from her mother's home by two male friends of the family," Byrne said. "She read about the program in TV Guide. Then she called Child Find."

Byrne said 80 percent of the calls into Child Find have been from people giving information on the whereabouts of missing children. The other 20 percent, she said, are from parents who want information.



Parking problems

Handicapped students have had problems with cars parking too close to handicap parking spaces. Here, Carla Kassler moves A&M's

Handicap Service van to allow Jeff Scott to enter. Scott said that often non-handicapped students park in handicap spaces.

staff photo by Gay

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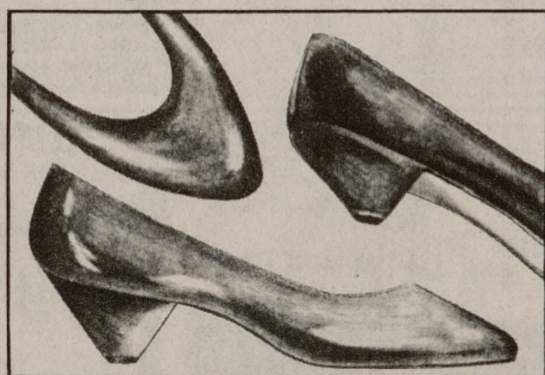
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Doctor spends birthday hoping for another trial

United Press International
BASTROP — Former Green Beret physician Jeffrey McDonald marked his 40th birthday in prison Wednesday, hoping for a new trial in the brutal 1970 murders of his wife and two daughters at a North Carolina Army base.

McDonald is serving three life sentences at the Federal Corrections Institution at Bastrop for the February 1970 stabbing and beating deaths of his pregnant wife, Colette, and his two children, Kimberly, 5, and Kristen, 2.

The Princeton-educated McDonald, who was first cleared by Army investigators at Fort

Bragg, was not indicted for the crimes until 1975 and was eventually convicted in 1979.

McDonald has maintained from the beginning that his family was killed during a Charles Manson-like rampage by four hippies, who also attacked him.

But federal prosecutors claimed he flew into a rage over a recurrent bed-wetting problem with his oldest daughter, killed his family and then inflicted wounds on himself to cover up the slayings.

McDonald went to prison in March 1982 and his conviction was affirmed by the Supreme Court 10 months later.

"It's really an insane system of justice in this country," McDonald said in an interview with the Austin American-Statesman. "They twist everything."

McDonald, who was director of emergency services at a Long Beach, Calif., hospital before his imprisonment, has a lawyer and two private investigators working to turn up new evidence in the case.

He says he's hopeful of filing a motion for a new trial based on new evidence later this year.

McDonald's lawyer, Brian O'Neill of Santa Monica, Calif., says he believes his client is innocent.

"I just hope the new evidence

is sufficient for a new trial," said. "We're shooting for a December filing with the trial back in North Carolina, if necessary, the appeals court in Virginia."

McDonald's story is the subject of a newly released "Fatal Vision," in which the author, Joe McGinnis, a freelance journalist, concludes that McDonald is guilty.

But McDonald, who receives one-third of the profits, is harshly critical of McGinnis' work, calling "Fatal Vision" a "trashy book."

"I opened my life to (McGinnis) and in return he has accused and willfully not shaded the truth but in fact manufactured lies," he said.

"In several recent interviews no attempt whatsoever was made to print the truth or facts," he said in a letter to McGinnis in which he declined to be interviewed.

"I am astounded by the backbone and integrity of members of the press who are too willing to climb on and journalists' (McGinnis) version of the truth," he added.

McDonald, who was transferred from a California prison in late 1982, began his prison day with a loudspeaker wake-up at 6 a.m.

Authorities at the prison, about 25 miles east of Austin, refuse to allow him to practice medicine but, otherwise, treat him like any other convict, he said.

"I can't complain about anything except the transfer (from the California prison)," McDonald said. "Except that just being here when you're innocent really messes up your mind."

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