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Bogus parents to testify in court on sale of baby

Associated Press

DALLAS — A New York university professor and his school-teacher wife who have a baby, 9-months old, that prosecutors say was sold here in a Dallas court hearing on the case, an attorney said Wednesday.

The couple is not charged with any crime. But another couple in Dallas and a Dallas attorney, along with his wife, face felony indictments in connection with the alleged sale of Rachel Marie Hagge of Grand Prairie.

Robert Cox, a lawyer who was appointed by a Dallas judge to locate the child, who had been missing since June, said the New York couple will appear at a hearing in state District Court here Oct. 3.

The hearing is the latest chapter in an alleged cross-country baby sale, officials say.

Prosecutors say a Dallas couple obtained the child from her mother for adoption, and sold the infant to a Dallas attorney, who in turn sold the baby to the New York couple.

Dauler-Phinney is a professor of philosophy at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, and his wife is a teacher in the Manhasset School District on Long Island.

The couple could not be reached for comment Wednesday at their home in Huntington, N.Y.

Mary McKnight, an attorney for Tammy Hagge, the child's natural mother, said Hagge wants her baby back.

She also said the Dauler-Phinneys had to know everything wasn't "on the up and up."

"In 1985, we just don't buy and sell babies," McKnight said.

Dallas County prosecutors allege that the baby was sold for \$14,000.

Indicted in the case are Larry and Donna Blanton and Dallas attorney Robert I. Kingsley and his wife, Mary Zoe.

Authorities had not known where the baby was since Hagge signed a "relinquishment of rights" to her daughter for adoption.

Prosecutors say Hagge gave the baby to the Blantons, and they sold the child for at least \$1,200 to Kingsley.

Assistant District Attorney Gary Arey said Kingsley sold the baby for \$14,000 to the Dauler-Phinneys.

But one source in the case, who asked not to be identified, said the Dauler-Phinneys contend they thought they were paying legal fees and expenses, not purchasing a child.

Judge Craig Penfold's court hearing Tuesday was an effort to locate the baby. He had threatened to jail the Blantons unless they revealed the baby's whereabouts.

They initially maintained they had given the child back to her mother and didn't know where she was.

Arey said that in the Tuesday hearing Blanton testified he had lied about returning the baby to her mother.

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Ground breaking first step in construction of new clinic

By WADE WILSON Reporter

The first multi-specialty medical center will open in College Station upon completion of the Scott & White Clinic in 1986, Donald W. Nelson, public affairs director for the clinic, said Tuesday.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the 46,900 square foot clinic building that took place Tuesday was the first step in constructing the multi-specialty facility.

"The new building that we broke ground for today will have dermatology, general surgery, general medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, otorhinolaryngology, plastic surgery, psychiatry, radiology and urology," Nelson said.

He added that the clinic will work on an outpatient basis, with utilization of the two hospitals in town if more care is required.

While the clinic is not due to be completed until July of 1986, Nelson said an interim clinic, at 2402 Broadmoor, was opened Monday.

Currently the interim clinic has one family practitioner and one pediatrician, Nelson said.

Although the planned clinic will be College Station's first multi-specialty facility, a quick glance through the General Telephone yellow pages

reveals that all of the mentioned specialties already exist here, though they are not housed in the same building.

Dr. William E. Ward, associate dean of the Texas A&M College of Medicine, said that while the Scott & White clinics have been very successful elsewhere, the benefits the local clinic offers the College Station community is limited.

"I don't see it as having any benefits over any other health care organization in town," Ward said. "If you have trouble getting into some physician's office, you might have a little less trouble because it's going to provide additional health care facilities to this community."

The clinic is a satellite of the Scott & White Hospital in Temple, where some A&M medical students fulfill their residency requirements, Ward said.

He added that although the clinic is a satellite of the Temple hospital, it does not have the classification of a teaching hospital and would not contribute to the University program in that respect.

"All residencies must be done at teaching hospitals," Ward said.

Nelson, however, sees the possibility of setting up teaching programs at the clinic.

"I would say there is a possibility

there might be a teaching program set up there," Nelson said, "going to be a hospital but might be some opportunity for work."

"I think people are still going to have to come here (the Temple hospital) sometime, although might spend some time there."

"In a sense the clinic will be (of the Temple hospital) in people who are there with titles, as all Scott & White do."

Dr. Robert S. Stone, dean of the College of Medicine, said that while White staff have titles at the clinic, that is Scott & White's use of the hospital.

"They said they would not be people on the Scott & White staff who are eligible for appointment at A&M," Stone said, "their rule."

Summing up the clinic's status for the University, Nelson said, "Basically, it's a clinic where specialties are staffed, and outpatient sort of thing."

"I would not consider it a same category as an emergency clinic. Not that they could be person in an emergency."

"But I don't see it as a teaching facility at all for our students."

River Authority investigating claims of wrongdoing

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Lower Colorado River Authority intends to hire an outside investigator to check allegations of wrongdoing by staff members in the use of house trailers and a farmhouse, possibly including parties with prostitutes.

LCRA board member John Scanlan said the investigator will study the use of three trailers rented by the river authority in 1983 and 1984, and a renovated farmhouse at the Fayette Power Project near La Grange.

The board authorized the hiring of an independent investigator at a closed-door session last week. Scanlan was appointed to oversee the investigation along with LCRA general counsel John Bagalay.

The trailers, located southwest of Austin, were rented by the authority

for \$4,000 a month from the Morrison-Knudsen Co., whose subsidiary has a contract with the LCRA to operate the Powell Bend mine in Bastrop County. The firm also has done engineering work for the river authority on the Cummins Creek mine.

The trailers were intended for overnight stays by Morrison-Knudsen employees working in Austin. Sources reported that LCRA employees attended parties in the trailers. Some board members questioned whether prostitutes were present on some occasions.

LCRA staff officials have denied any wrongdoing by the staff. The trailers are no longer rented by the river authority, the officials said.

Board members also have questioned whether LCRA employees and contractors used the farmhouse for parties. The farmhouse property

was acquired by condemnation from the river authority to make room for the Fayette Power Project in 1970s.

LCRA has used the trailers for meetings, training and temporary quarters, according to General Manager Eloy Soderberg, who said authorized repair work on the building because it was run down.

Tom Duffee, a spokesman for state Sen. John Sharp, D-VT, said a former LCRA employee had been dismissed, appointed Sharp last week with the allegations.

Tom Purdum, LCRA spokesman last week the charges had been investigated by an auditor. "They were just that-gations," he said. "We have nothing to support the wild world that were said."

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