

COPIES

Report on -

JANE McMAHON or TAYLOR (27)
born 9.10.29.
(known as Mrs. Leighton)
92 Blackcroft, Dundee.

Husband:

Seeking a divorce.

Family:

In a home.

William Bine Leighton, born 26.1.57.

Illegitimate.

*Date corrected of the
Court appearance*

Charge - Abandoning two of her children.

Former Court appearances -

21.6.48.	Perth Sheriff Court.	Theft (from Land Army Bul where she was residing).	2 years probation. Concluded Unsatisfactory.
14.3.50.	Dundee Police Crt.	Fraud (Obtained a girl's wages by writing a note purporting to be from said girl).	12 months Probation. Concluded Satisfactorily.
1.5.56.	Perth Sheriff Court.	H.B. & Theft by O.L.P. (opening gas meters).	3 years probation. Special requirement to repey sum of £3 5/-.
27.6.56.	Dundee Sheriff Crt.	Breach of Probation.	Admonished.
27.6.56.	Dundee Sheriff Crt.	Con. Sec. 52(1)(c)(i) Nat. Insurance Act, 1946 (two charges) Uttering (2 charges).	Fined £1 on each charge (Total £2).

The accused has been known to me over a long period, being at present on Probation for the third time.

She married [redacted] on 3rd February, 1951. There are three children of the marriage and these, I understand, are now in a home. Jane left her husband a few years ago and went to live with Mr. Leighton, by whom she has three children. Mr. Leighton had left his wife. Her life with Mr. Leighton has not been very happy, as he has seldom been employed, and they have been squatting at various addresses.

In July of this year, Jane suddenly went off to Newcastle, taking the baby with her - the two older children were in care of the Children's Committee temporarily. She had gone with another woman whose parents were at Newcastle. After she had gone, Jane wrote me and said she was not going back to Mr. Leighton and she thought of staying in Newcastle. I wrote reminding her of her responsibilities and got the Newcastle Probation Officer to contact her. As a result, she returned to Dundee but not to Mr. Leighton. Recently, through the help of Miss Haring, Children's Officer, a single-roomed house was got for Jane and some furniture and bedclothes given by the N.A.S. and R.S.P.C.S. The Children's Department then returned the two elder Leighton children to her. They had/

They had only been back about a week when Jane absconded. I had visited her on the afternoon of 27th September when she was at home with the three children and her friend Mrs. Brown. There was no suggestion of any difficulties at that time, except that Jane felt her allowance of £3 3s. 6d. a week from the National Assistance Board was not very much. I pointed out that her rent was only £10s. weekly and she would need to manage.

She was very pleasant, as always, full of good intentions towards her family and hoping that they would do better than she had done. I promised to give her a blanket for her own bed and she cheerfully assured me she would come to the office and collect it at any time suitable to me. She would arrange for Mrs. Brown to mind the children while she visited me. I learned later that she had abandoned the two elder children that night.

Jane, in all the time I have known her, has never been reliable for any great length of time, except during her second period of Probation, which was spent mainly in a domestic post in one of the Corporation Homes for old people. She shows a complete lack of concern for the consequences of her actions and is plausible and untruthful. I feel there is some instability but am of the opinion that Jane knows quite well what she is doing. She had the appearance of being pregnant when I saw her on 27th September but when I put it to her, she denied it.

The present period of Probation does not end until 30th April, 1959.

5th October, 1957.

(Sgd.) MARGARET M. CAMPBELL

PROBATION OFFICER.

15th Oct. 1957

On interviewing Jane this morning I learn that she is pregnant, and a child is expected on 21st November. She says it was only when she was in Newcastle that this was confirmed.

M. M. Campbell

TELEPHONE
4185



Miss R. Haring
~~MISS R. HARING~~
CHILDREN'S OFFICER

RR/ML

The Corporation of Dundee

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT,

9 WEST BELL STREET,

DUNDEE, 12th October, 1957.

J. Judge, Esq.,
Chief Inspector,
R.S.S.P.C.C.
17 William Street,
Dundee.

Dear Mr. Judge,

re Jane McBain or Taylor known as Leighton

On 22nd March, 1957 [redacted] was taken temporarily into the care of this Authority under Section 1 of the Children Act, 1948, at the request of her mother, Jane Taylor who had been evicted from 4 Urquhart Street, Dundee and was homeless.

Jane Taylor had however found temporary accommodation for herself and her son William (d/b 26th January, 1957) with a Mrs. Brown, 92 Blackscroft, Dundee. At that time, her [redacted] Leighton was in Kings Cross Hospital.

On 1st April, 1957 when [redacted] was fit for discharge from Kings Cross Hospital, he also was taken temporarily into the care of this Authority under Section 1 of the Children Act, 1948 as his mother had still not obtained suitable accommodation.

On 27th August, 1957, Jane Taylor was again interviewed regarding [redacted] who were still in the care of this Authority.

When Jane Taylor stated that Mr. and Mrs. Brown were removing from 92 Blackscroft, Dundee at her request the City Factor was contacted and asked to grant her the tenancy of 92 Blackscroft, Dundee so that [redacted] could return to live with her. The City Factor granted her the tenancy of the one room flat at 92 Blackscroft, Dundee the same day.

The National Assistance Board were requested to consider making a grant to Jane Taylor so that she could obtain the necessary bedding for the children and she received £7 from the National Assistance Board for this purpose.

On 20th September, 1957 Jane Taylor was given a cot and mattress and a pram (out of stock) by this Department and arrangements were made for her to call that morning for [redacted] who was residing in St. Vincent's Refuge, 22 Roseangle, Dundee. [redacted] who was in a foster home was returned to her care on 23rd September, 1957.

In view of the fact that four days later, on the evening of 27th September, 1957 Jane Taylor deserted [redacted] it is considered that in the children's best interest, they should be committed to the care of the Local Authority. Accordingly, I should be obliged if you would furnish the Town Clerk with the necessary information, so that a petition may be presented.

Yours faithfully,

R. Haring.
Children's Officer.

had finish

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A On 15-11-1957, she phoned quietly in
Dance Staff Club to a lady who said to her if she had not
Yang Pison (Soulless) that 1957 and was admitted. She
is at present in a hospital as a result of a change of heart by
Herself as she said that she was not the same person. She
was present at a dinner on 2 occasions for which I had been
invited and was for an affair with the Chinese and was for local study
and she said she was not the same person as she was then.

John Judge, Chief Inspector, R.S.S.P.C.G., 17 William Street, Dundee, states

The accused, Jane McBain or Taylor, is 27 years of age and the wife of [redacted]. She is the mother of six children, three of the marriage and three born of her cohabitation to a William Leighton.

Accused has led an immoral, improvident and dishonest life. She is well known to the Society and to the Probation Department and every effort has been made to advise her and assist her.

In 1955 she deserted her husband and the three children of the marriage, [redacted] Taylor, now aged 5½, 4½ and 3½ years. The husband was unable to manage and the children were placed in a voluntary Home and have remained there.

Accused then cohabited with William Leighton and has three illegitimate children of this association. She is most improvident and never made any effort to make ends meet. She has lost several homes.

On 25th March 1957 the accused became homeless. Her children, [redacted] Leighton and [redacted] Leighton (children mentioned in the charge) were admitted to temporary care. The accused got lodgings for herself and the child William Leighton. Later the putative father of the children, William Leighton, joined the accused and she lived with him at 12 Pennycook Lane until 5th August, 1957. About that date they quarrelled and parted. Accused made it known that if she could get a home of her own she would like to have her three illegitimate children with her. On or about 27th August, 1957 the Children's Department assisted the accused to obtain a house at 92 Blackecroft. This Department and the National Assistance Board provided all the furnishings necessary to make a reasonably comfortable little home. On 20th September the child Euphemia was returned to the accused's care. On 23rd September the child Daniel was returned to her care. Both children were supplied with good clothing and they had a pram, two cots and a bed (apart from other furnishings). The National Assistance Board provided the income of £4.1.6 per week. Rental is 3/- per week.

On 25th September, 1957 the accused phoned the Society and made it known that she was already tired of being tied down with her children. She wanted them into a Home. An Inspector visited and found the accused having quite a tea party with four women at her table. She was advised that as she already had three children being cared for in a Home she should make an effort to should part of her responsibilities.

On Saturday, 28th September, 1957 at 12.15 p.m. I received an urgent telephone call from [redacted] She complained that accused had abandoned the children [redacted] on the previous night and that assistance must be given without delay. I visited the accused's home, noted that the children were receiving some care from Witnesses Mr and Mrs Brown and Mrs Goff. I also noted that the gasmeter in the home had been robbed. I then arranged for the admission of the children to the Children's Shelter. They were admitted at 1.15 p.m. on this date.

On Monday, 30th September, 1957 I made further enquiry into the case and learned that the accused had not been seen in the district since 27th September. On this latter date she uplifted her National Assistance Allowance in respect of herself and three children. She is known to be associating with a married man, [redacted] who has deserted a wife and children in Fife.

The very least one can say about the accused is that she is utterly callous and must have been well aware that her children play with the gas taps and there could easily have been a fatality or a serious accident when she abandoned them and left them locked in a dark room. Her Probation record should show that she has been very leniently dealt with during the past. I have seen her in Court on various occasions.

The children were in good physical condition and their clothing was good (supplied by the Children's Department).

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(36), Housewife, Dundee, states

/ Accused, Jane McBain or Taylor is well known to me and we visit one another. She is the mother of three children and William. Their father is a man called Leighton but she is away from him and associating with a man called [redacted]

On Friday, 27th September, 1957 at about 8.20 p.m. I met the accused near Samuel's clock in High Street, Dundee. She had William with her. (William, aged 8 months). I asked her about [redacted] and [redacted] and she said that they were all right and that she was on her way home. That same night at about 10.30 p.m. I went up to the accused's home to leave some sweets for the children. [redacted] was crying but there was no reply when I knocked at the door. I felt around in the dark and found that the key was in the door so I went in and put on the light. [redacted] were locked in and alone in the house. [redacted] was sleeping. I comforted [redacted] then I went and got some hot potato chips as there was no food in the house. Later both children were awake and hungry so I fed them. About 11.30 p.m. my husband, witness [redacted] arrived to find out why I was not back home. I explained that I could not possibly leave the children and surely the accused would be back again. My husband went to see if she was at the home of witness [redacted] of [redacted] Road and he brought [redacted] back with him. We spent the night in the home and the accused did not return. I cooked two meals and then the gas got weak so I opened the press to put a shilling in the meter and I then saw the lock was off and that the meter had been robbed. I did not touch it. I then telephoned the R.S.P.C.O. and asked the Inspector to come at once and take charge as I had done as much as I could for the children. There was no need for the accused to treat her children in this way especially as the Children's Officer got her the house and gave her clothes and a pram and a cot. The National Assistance Board gave her a grant to furnish the house. I do not know what would have happened to the children if I had not locked in, probably they would have gassed themselves as they are always around the taps.

On 28th September 1957 the Inspector of the R.S.P.C.O. came to the accused home in answer to my complaint. He noted conditions and advised me to take the children to the shelter. Along with witness Mrs [redacted] I went to the Children's Shelter with the children [redacted] and [redacted] and at about 1.15 p.m. I handed them over to the nation. The Inspector was present and I handed to him the keys of accused's home which I had made lockfast. I then agreed to call at police headquarters and tell them about the gasmeter.

(38), Labourer, Dundee, states,

The accused is well known to me. I called at the accused's home at about 11.30 p.m. on Friday, 27th September, 1957 and can corroborate my wife, witness [redacted] evidence from that point onwards.

(59), Widow, Dundee, states.
Accused is well known to me. On Friday, 27th September, witness [redacted] Brown came to my house and I then learned that accused's children [redacted] had been found alone and abandoned at 92 Blackcroft. I made arrangements for my own daughter and accompanied [redacted] back to accused home and remained there until next day when we decided to tell the R.S.P.C.O. The Inspector called and saw the children and noted that the gasmeter had been robbed. I then accompanied witness Mrs [redacted] to the Children's Shelter where we handed over the children. I think that the accused ought to be ashamed of herself. She has had a lot of help and should have managed. The children might have died if Mrs [redacted] had not discovered them.

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FAMILY PARTICULARS RELATING TO THE ACCUSED
JANE McDAIN OR TAYLOR.

The accused Jane McDain or Taylor is 27 years of age. She married [redacted] aged 27 years, at Dundee on 5th February, 1951.

Three children were born of the marriage, namely:-
[redacted]

Accused deserted her husband and the children of the marriage in 1955 and on 18th May, 1955 the above mentioned children were admitted to the Orphan Homes of Scotland and are still there.

Between 1955 and August, 1957 the accused lived and cohabited with William Leighton and three children were born of this cohabitation, the children are:-

[redacted] Leighton, born on [redacted] dated
[redacted] Leighton, " " [redacted]
William Leighton, " " 26th January, 1957.

On 5th August, 1957 the accused left her cohabitee, William Leighton and is now believed to be associating with [redacted] the latter is said to be a married man who has deserted his family in Fife.

Accused is believed to be in a pregnant condition. It is not known whether Leighton or [redacted] is responsible for her condition.

It is suspected that she may have joined [redacted] at care of [redacted] or care of [redacted] Newcastle.