

## Aunt to Adopt Five Children

### Cong Killed Their Parents

By SCOTT WEBBER  
Journal-News Staff Writer

The five Thompson children who were orphaned by the murder of their parents by the Vietcong last week, will be adopted by an aunt who also is a mis-

sionary to South Vietnam, it was learned yesterday.

They are the children of the late Rev. and Mrs. C. Edward Thompson who, together with four other missionaries, were slain at Benmathao where they worked among a group of lepers.

MRS. THOMPSON'S brother, the Rev. Thomas Stebbins of Terrace Drive, Nyack, reported last night that three of the children are in Vietnam (the other two are in the United States at present) but were sent away from Benmathao two days before the Vietcong arrived. Their father told them the situation was so dangerous they might not see him again.

The three children in Vietnam are Dale, a junior high school student; Laurel, who is in the sixth grade; and Thomas, a second grader.

TWO OTHERS, David and Judy, are in the United States. David, 19, is studying to be a medical missionary at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa.; Judy, 20, is a junior at Nyack Masonry College. David graduated from Nyack High School in 1966.

Mrs. Thompson, who was the second oldest of seven children, was a Nyack High School graduate, class of 1942. All but one of the seven children are active as foreign missionaries. A brother, George, serves as a pastor in Maine.

The Stebbins family has been in Vietnam for 42 years, Mr. Stebbins reported, starting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Stebbins, who first met on a ship bound for Vietnam in 1918.

"HAVE NO fear for us, because we are immortal until our work is done on earth," was Ruth Thompson's reply to concerns of her family over their situation.

Mr. Stebbins believes his sister and her husband together with the other four missionaries who were killed by the Vietcong last week were slain because they were Americans more than for religious reasons.

Mr. Stebbins who once played on the Nyack High tennis team notes that the last several days on TV have given them mixed emotions. Until they returned from their second five-year term in South Vietnam last year, they lived in Hue.

Yesterday the U.S. Marines



THE REV. THOMAS STEBBINS  
... with Judy and Ralph Button

raised the American flag over Hue.

SOME OF the fighting has been one block away from their house where they left all their furniture and their car, Mr. Stebbins pointed out.

One of the buildings under siege is on the other side of their back yard fence, he added.

He reports that the three children will be returning to the United States in June in time for Judy's wedding to Ralph Button, 20, a sophomore from Ithaca, N.Y. The wedding was scheduled for August 3 but will probably be moved up for her brothers and sisters to be present. Judy said last night.

JUDY and Ralph were interviewed by ABC Television newsmen yesterday on the college campus. The film tape is scheduled to be shown tonight on a Channel 7 news program.

In an interview last night, Judy told The Journal-News that she had a feeling last

Wednesday that something had gone wrong for her parents. On Friday her fears were confirmed by the tragic news.

"Then I had a wonderful peace about it all because I realized that they had done the Lord's will. If I wasn't a Christian, I don't think I could have taken the blow," Judy said.

"BUT WITH the wonderful conviction that my parents are in heaven and I shall see them again, there is no sense of real loss. I know they want me to go on living and finish up my tasks as they did. And that's what I intend to do," she added.

Ralph and Judy will finish up at Nyack Missionary College in two years, take a year of graduate school at the Jaffray School of Missions on the college campus and then go out as missionaries in the Southeast Asian area in a long family tradition of devotion to Christ and the needs of others, even if it means death.

## Council Fund Bid Studied

The Office of Economic Opportunity is continuing to process the Rockland Community Action Council's application for funds this year although it has not yet made a determination whether to accept ROAC's substantiation of prior expenditures which it had questioned.

Philip Franklin, director of ROAC, said that he had learned these facts in talking to an OEO official in New York yesterday.

The OEO spokesman told Franklin that processing of ROAC's application for a grant is in its final stages, he said.

### Lecture on Cupid By Mathematician

A St. Valentine's Day lecture, "Choosing a Wife," will be given at Rockland Community College Barn at 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Leonard Gillman, chairman of the mathematics department at the University of Rochester, is the guest speaker. The program is part of the lecture series sponsored by the college's science department, and is open to the public.

### Firearms Charge

Siegfried Daniel Rivera, 17, of Lake Road, Valley College, is in the Clarkstown police lockup awaiting arraignment today on a charge of illegal possession of fire arms.

He was arrested shortly before midnight last night.



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