

OSTH: LN-NY70

JULY 20 78

MSG: FIL, RUSH

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON

BY: BONNIE ANGELO

SLUG: TEST TUBE BABY TK: 5

ECH:

**THE BROWNS**

ONE OF THE POINTS OF CONCERN AS N. VITRO BROWN GETS READY TO BE BORN IS WHAT THE PUBLICITY WILL DO TO HIM/HER PSYCHOLOGICALLY. WILL THE OTHER KIDS MAKE THE BROWN CHILD FEEL LIKE A FREAK? WILL A NORMAL CHILDHOOD BE POSSIBLE?

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIRTH MAKES ANSWERS IMPOSSIBLE AND POSTULATIONS MEANINGLESS. BUT ONE THING MIGHT BE RELEVANT: IF THE SENIOR BROWNS CONTINUE TO LIVE AS PRIVATELY AS THEY HAVE LIVED ON HASSELL DRIVE, NEWTOWN, EASTON, NEAR BRISTOL, THE PROBLEMS WILL BE MINIMIZED. JOHN AND LESLEY BROWN, THE CENTRAL FIGURES IN A MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS, LIVE SO QUIETLY IN THEIR TURQUOISE-TRIMMED WHITE ROW HOUSE THAT NEIGHBORS IN THE SURROUNDING IDENTICAL ROW HOUSES KNEW NOTHING OF THE UNIQUENESS OF HER PREGNANCY AS IT BECAME OBVIOUS.

WHILE LESLEY CONFIDED TO LONDON'S DAILY MAIL THAT "WE HAVE BEEN TRYING ALL OUR MARRIAGE TO HAVE A BABY," THE NEIGHBORS WERE ONLY AWARE THAT THEY WERE A AS JOAN CADDICK PUTS IT, "EVER SUCH A NICE COUPLE," BUT THEN THE DAILY MAIL IS GIVING PLENTY IN EXCHANGE -- THEIR WHOPPING FEE FOR EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS WILL ASSURE THE BROWN BABY A FINANCIAL SECURITY THAT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED

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BY JOHN BROWN, WHO DELIVERS PARCELS FOR BRITISH RAILWAYS, DRIVING HIS VAN FROM BRISTOL'S TEMPLE MEADS STATION DAILY, UNTIL HE WAS PUT IN SECLUSION IN OLDHAM, UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE DAILY MAIL.

IN HIS SPARE TIME, BEFORE THE IMPENDING BIRTH HIT THE HEADLINES, BROWN WOULD TINKER ABOUT WITH HIS CAR. A FRIEND, JOHN WATERFIELD, SAYS, "I DON'T THINK HE SOCIALIZES WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE -- HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF. HE IS A VERY POLITE BLOKE." BROWN'S DAUGHTER BY A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE, SHARON, 16, LIVES WITH THEM, BUT LIKE THE REST OF THE FAMILY IS IN HIDING.

BEFORE SHE WAS SEQUESTERED IN OLDHAM HOSPITAL, WITH ROUND-THE-CLOCK MONITORING OF THIS MEDICALLY HISTORIC BIRTH, LESLEY BROWN WOULD TALK ABOUT BABIES WITH A FEW NEIGHBORS. LILIAN HUTCHINGS SAYS, "SHE WAS VERY PLEASED INDEED." MARILYN HODGE SAYS, "WE TALKED ABOUT BABIES IN GENERAL, BUT I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS ANYTHING UNUSUAL. I KNOW THAT HE WAS OVER THE MOON ABOUT IT."

SAFE TO SAY THAT THINGS WON'T BE THE SAME ON HASSELL DRIVE WHEN THE BROWNS COME HOME WITH THEIR LITTLE BUNDLE FROM A TEST TUBE.

SENT 2020 AM

ETX

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