

# The Three Wives of Roscoe Baldwin

Roscoe Baldwin Sr (the author's paternal uncle) apparently could not wait to join the US Navy in early 1919, just days after his 18th birthday. Following his Jan 29, 1919 enlistment, he would spend the next 25 years in and out of, but, mostly in, the US Navy, finally fully retiring in 1945 as a Chief Petty Officer - the highest enlisted US Navy rank at that time.

Trying to build and maintain a family while being fully owned and managed by the US Navy proved to be a challenge for Roscoe. Based on my research, Roscoe went through three distinct periods in his life, periods that I named after his wives: *Fleta Period*, *Helen J Period*, and *Helen M Period*. In this retrospective, with newly discovered documents and insights, we will chronologically examine each of Roscoe Baldwin's three lives, fully restore his memory and the memories of his wives.

NOTE: I requested and received a complete US Navy Service Record for Roscoe Baldwin. This comprehensive set of documents provided extensive details and chronology for Roscoe's life between 1919 and 1945.

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## Principals

Roscoe (no middle name) Baldwin Sr  
BIRTH 27 JAN 1901 • Kitts Hill, Lawrence County, Ohio  
DEATH 13 MAY 1969 • Daytona Beach, Volusia, Florida

Married: 1924

Fleta Ursala Gifford  
BIRTH 18 NOV 1904 • Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa  
DEATH 15 JUL 1974 • Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

Married: 1929

Helen Jewell Thomas  
BIRTH 11 JUN 1911 • Ridge, Carroll County, Missouri  
DEATH 27 JUNE 1982 • Carrollton, Carroll, Missouri

Married: 1937

Helen Marie Lewis  
BIRTH 13 MAY 1914 • Kitts Hill, Lawrence County, Ohio  
DEATH 26 JUN 1968 • Gainesville, Alachua, Florida

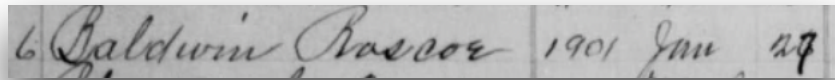
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## Fleta Ursula Gifford Period - 1919-1929

Ship and Shore Duty Stations, and Residences:

1919, 1920 - Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL  
1921, 1922, 1923 - USS Huron, Philippines, China  
1924 - USS Newport News, San Francisco  
1924, 1925 - Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL  
1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 - USS Sinclair, Bremerton (with Fleta), WA  
1929 - USS Farenholt - San Diego, CA  
1929 - Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL

Roscoe was born January 27, 1901 in Kitts Hill, Lawrence County, OH to William and Delcia Baldwin. He was their second child. He did **not** have a middle name.



A photograph of a handwritten birth record. The text is written in cursive and reads: "Baldwin Roscoe 1901 Jan 27".

### Record of births, Lawrence County, OH

He enlisted in the US Navy January 29, 1919, using the birth date of January 8, 1901.

**The following is a statement of Baldwin's enlisted Naval service:**

8 Jan 1901 Born at Ironton, Ohio  
29 Jan 1919 Enlisted in the U. S. Navy as Apprentice Seaman at Louisville,  
Kentucky.

### US Civil Service, 1945

On the majority of his Navy service records, Roscoe claimed his birthdate was January 8, 1901. Why, is unknown; perhaps because he enlisted on Jan 29, 1919 - when he had just turned 18, just to make sure he was a qualified enlistee.

Roscoe's training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, north of Chicago, IL, lead him (and, possibly related to his smaller stature - 5'7", 125lbs) in 1920 to select to become a Storekeeper (SK Rating). In this rating classification he would remain for his entire Navy Service.

SK Third Class - Feb 1920  
SK Second Class - Oct 1922  
SK First Class - Jun 1924  
Chief Petty Officer Storekeeper - Dec 1942

What is a Navy Storekeeper you might ask:

DUTIES: Receives, stores and issues equipment, supplies, material, or tools. Procures supplies, and checks incoming items against orders. Fills requisitions for stock. Takes inventories. Maintains records, including vouchers, invoices, stock cards, and requisition forms. Operates typewriter and office

machines. May sell merchandise in Ship's Service Stores. Handles disbursing and fiscal accounting under supervision of Supply Officer.

EQUIPMENT USED: Record keeping equipment, ledgers, files, invoices, public vouchers, stock cards, requisitions, storage and stock room facilities, packaging and shipping facilities.

TYPES OF BILLETS: Most ships and all except the smallest shore stations.

In mid 1921, Roscoe was assigned to the U.S.S. Huron (DD-CA9 - flagship of the United States Asiatic fleet). He would remain onboard the Huron for about two years. This would be his only actual sailing ship duty experience. For the rest of his career, he would serve either on shore or on docked ships. However, during this tour the USS Huron sailed to Asia, including Philippines and China.

One of Roscoe's service records show he took leave, noted as "Peking Leave", 7/18/1923 to 7/23/1923. Interestingly, I found a photo entitled: "Group of the ship's crew members stop off at Tientsin, China, while traveling by rail to Peking, 18 July 1923. Collection of Henry J. Poy. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph."



I can't be sure, but was a 21 year old Roscoe Baldwin the 4th from the right (carrying a bottle) among this group of sailors? Surely he was in the group.

Roscoe was relieved from USS Huron duty in late 1923 and, by early 1924, transferred on station at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL. Which brings us to Fleta Ursala Gifford.

Fleta Ursala Gifford was born 1904 in Linn County, Iowa. She did not live there long, as her parents moved the family to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin in 1905. There, she grew up, mostly without a mother, who died in 1910 from a typhoid fever infection.

Lake Geneva was and is a popular Wisconsin resort destination. It is a mere 25 miles from the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL. For Roscoe Baldwin, it's quite likely that he frequented the Lake Geneva area, perhaps attending some of the many dances that were held there. In fact, Roscoe and Fleta could very well have met at Lake Geneva sometime in the first half of 1924.

Roscoe Baldwin and Fleta Gifford married December 23, 1924 in Waukegan, IL - near the Naval Training Center, where Roscoe was stationed.

On Roscoe's Navy Beneficiary Form, it can be seen that Roscoe took leave on Dec. 22, 1924, married Dec. 23, and returned on Dec. 28. On January 23, 1925, he changed his beneficiary from his mother to his new wife, Fleta Baldwin.

12-22-24. Granted six (6) days  
Christmas leave to expire on  
12-28-24.

12-28-24. Returned from above  
Christmas leave this date.

*R.A. Dawes*  
R.A. DAWES.

1/23/25 Records changed to show  
next of kin as "Wife" Mrs. Fleta  
Baldwin, 522 Hickory St,  
Waukegan, Ill. instead of "Mother"  
Mrs. Delcie Baldwin, R #1 Ironton,  
Ohio. Accord. Buns. Det. Nav-642-6  
of 1/10/25.

*R.A. Dawes*  
R.A. DAWES

They lived first at 522 Hickory St, then 414 Oak St in Waukegan (now a city park). Roscoe and Fleta had a daughter Marion Delcia Baldwin on Aug 4, 1925 (about 8 months after they married). Marion was named after Fleta's mother. Marion's middle name, Delcia, was a tribute to Roscoe's mother. We will return to Marion Delcia Baldwin in a few moments.

street. After the services, the body was shipped to Milwaukee, where Mrs. Thomas lived, for interment in Forest Home cemetery.

Mrs. Della Coderre, 21 Edison court, underwent an eye operation today at Victory Memorial hospital.

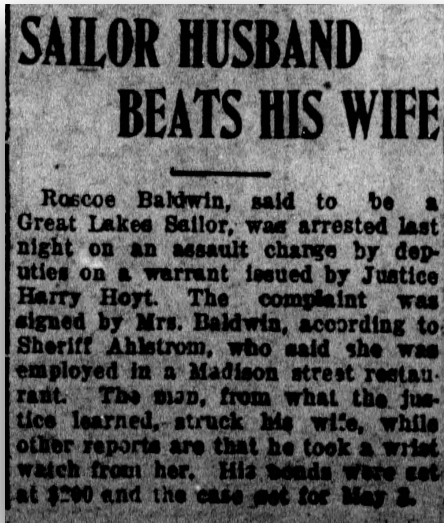
Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Baldwin, 414 Oak street, are the parents of a girl, born last night at Victory Memorial hospital.

John Solomon, 218 South County street, underwent a minor operation this morning at Victory Memorial hospital.

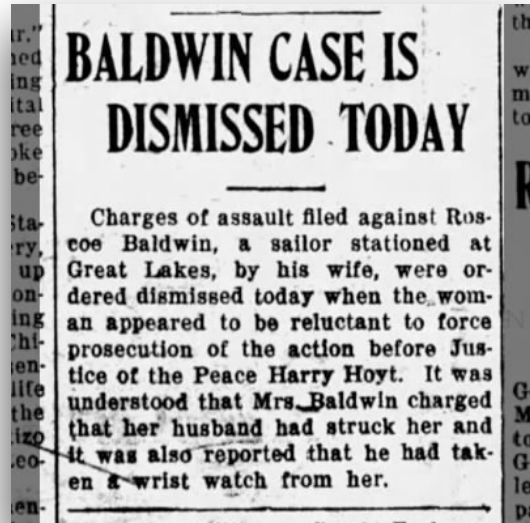
Robert Strahn of North Chicago, held to the grand jury on charges

**Waukegan News-Sun, Aug 4, 1925**

All seemed to be going well in the Baldwin household until April, 1926. On April 30, Roscoe was arrested on assault charges - accused of striking Fleeta and taking her wristwatch. The charges were dropped five days later.



Waukegan News-Sun, May 1, 1926



Waukegan News-Sun, May 5, 1926

Then, on July 19, 1926, Roscoe and another fellow were arrested for being drunk and disorderly - found with moonshine and wine. Fleeta reported to police that liquor was being sold at the boarding house where she and Roscoe and Marion lived. She reported that Roscoe was drunk, and behind locked doors. Roscoe was fined \$25 in police court.

Waukegan News-Sun, July 19, 1926

Recall that at this time in US history, Prohibition was the law of the land (1920-1933). Possession and consumption of alcohol was a serious crime. This arrest was a problem for Fleeta and the Navy. I imagine that by this time Fleeta was starting to have second thoughts about her life choice with Roscoe. And, as far as the Navy goes, his superiors must have known about Roscoe's multiple run-ins with civilian authorities. Their trepidation may have triggered a proximity change for Roscoe, removing him from Waukegan and the public eye.

On July 22, 1926, Roscoe was transferred from the Great Lakes Training Center to the destroyer USS Sinclair (DD-275) then docked in Bremerton, WA, assigned to the ship's Commissary Store.

**ARREST TWO AND SEIZE MOONSHINE IN POLICE RAID**

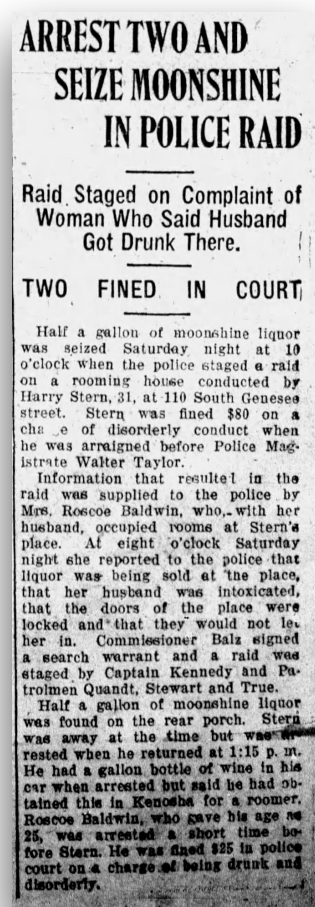
Raid Staged on Complaint of Woman Who Said Husband Got Drunk There.

**TWO FINED IN COURT**

Half a gallon of moonshine liquor was seized Saturday night at 10 o'clock when the police staged a raid on a rooming house conducted by Harry Stern, 31, at 110 South Genesee street. Stern was fined \$80 on a charge of disorderly conduct when he was arraigned before Police Magistrate Walter Taylor.

Information that resulted in the raid was supplied to the police by Mrs. Roscoe Baldwin, who, with her husband, occupied rooms at Stern's place. At eight o'clock Saturday night she reported to the police that liquor was being sold at the place, that her husband was intoxicated, that the doors of the place were locked and that they would not let her in. Commissioner Balz signed a search warrant and a raid was staged by Captain Kennedy and Patrolmen Quandt, Stewart and True.

Half a gallon of moonshine liquor was found on the rear porch. Stern was away at the time but was arrested when he returned at 1:15 p. m. He had a gallon bottle of wine in his car when arrested but said he had obtained this in Kenosha for a roomer, Roscoe Baldwin, who gave his age as 25, was arrested a short time before Stern. He was fined \$25 in police court on a charge of being drunk and disorderly.



7/22/26 To USS SINCLAIR at Bremerton  
Wash. FOR DUTY Nav 630 CJC of 7/16/26.  
Furnished trans. for dependents &  
household effects from Grt Lakes to  
Bremerton Washington.



As can be seen, these orders included provision to transport Fleta and infant Marion Baldwin to Bremerton, WA. In August, 1926, while onboard the USS Sinclair, Roscoe was given an Honorable Discharge and reenlisted for another four years of US Navy service.

The USS Sinclair apparently relocated to San Diego, CA in late August or early September, 1926. This, because a news article shows that Fleta and infant Marion arrived in San Diego, via train, from Washington State. At this time, Fleta was about four months pregnant with a second child.

parents consent will make no difference under the new ruling.  
**WIFE ARRIVES**  
Mrs. Roscoe Baldwin and baby arrived in San Diego last Saturday evening on the Yale from Seattle. Mrs. Baldwin will remain in San Diego with her husband, who is on duty on board the U. S. S. Sinclair.  
HOLE IN ONE

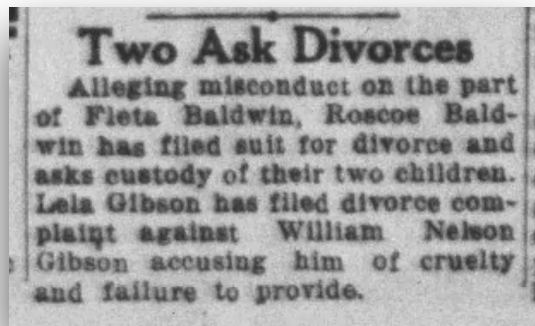
**The San Diego Sun - 8 Sep 1926**

On January 9, 1927 Roscoe Fredrick Baldwin Jr was born in San Diego, CA.

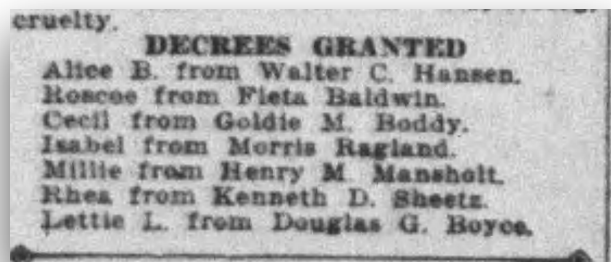
**Announcement of Birth**  
Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Baldwin have announced the birth of a nine pound nine ounce baby boy, Roscoe Fredrick, born on January 9th, 1927. Lake Geneva friends have received the announcement. Mrs. Baldwin will be remembered as Miss Fleta Gifford, and is well known here, having passed her childhood days in Lake Geneva. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin made their home at Waukegan, Ill. up until a year ago, when they moved to San Diego, California.

**The Lake Geneva Regional News - 24 Feb 1927**

The birth of Roscoe Fredrick was not enough to keep Roscoe and Fleta together. By April, 1927, a divorce suit was filed by Roscoe, alleging "misconduct" on the part of Fleta and asking for custody of 18 month old Marion and 2 month old Roscoe Fredrick. The divorce would not be finalised until January, 1929.

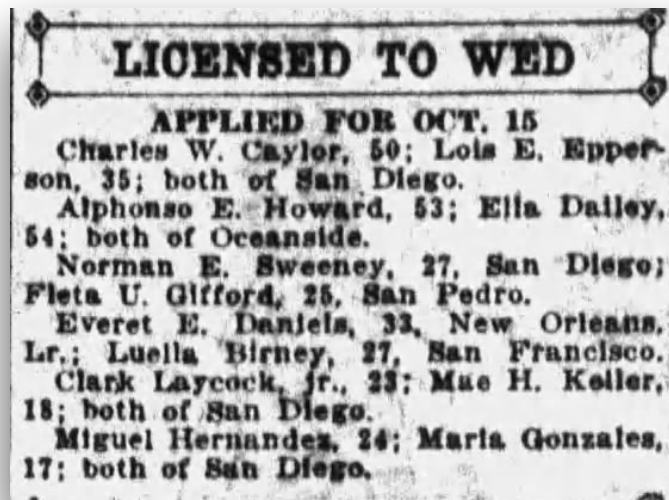


The San Diego Sun - 4 April 1927



The San Diego Sun - 1 Jan 1929

What exactly happened between Roscoe and Fleta to cause a divorce shortly after the birth of their son is unknown. We know, however, that Fleta was licensed in San Pedro, CA, under her maiden name, to marry Norman Edward Sweeney in October, 1929.



The San Diego Sun - 16 Oct 1929

Might Fleta Ursula Gifford-Baldwin and Norman Edward Sweeney (also a US Navy sailor at that time) have had an affair that Roscoe found out about?

What happened to their two children during this family upheaval? Based on the divorce suit filing and final decree, it's assumed that Roscoe was granted custody of the children. We know, based on the 1930 Federal Census, that son, Roscoe Fredrick Baldwin Jr, was sent to Ironton, OH to live with his grandparents, William and Delcia Baldwin. It's likely that, at least for a short time, daughter, Marion Delcia Baldwin, also was living in Ironton. [NOTE: A summary of the lives of Marion and Roscoe Fredrick Baldwin Jr is in Appendix 1 of this story.]

Before we explore the next phase of Roscoe's life in which he marries a 17 year old, let's take a quick side-track to see what happened to Fleta and Norman Sweeney.

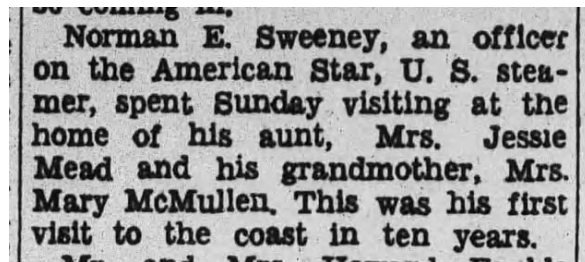
We know Fleta (now using the nickname "Marion"), within months of divorcing Roscoe, married Norman Edward Sweeney in San Diego, CA, October, 1929.

Norman Edward Sweeney

BIRTH 9 MAY 1903 • Snohomish County, Washington

DEATH 28 MAR 1962 • Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

Norman Sweeney was an interesting fellow. He seems to have been drawn to a service of seamanship from an early age. At 19 he, as an apprentice mariner, was issued a Seaman's Protection Certificate Seattle, WA. These certificates, now obsolete, were first issued to American sailors to prevent them from being impressed into service by British warships. Norman joined the US Navy in 1922 and served for six years, being discharged in San Diego, CA.



In 1934 we see that he was an officer onboard a US steamer, visiting his family in Everett, WA.

**The Everett Daily Herald, August 25, 1934**

Returning to our story, the Sweeney's, in the 1930 Federal Census, were residing in San Diego - Fleta a housewife and Norman a taxicab driver. No one else was in the household, i.e., Marion or Roscoe Jr.

In 1932, the Sweeney's were living in Los Angeles, where they registered as Democrats. In 1935, Norman and Fleta had relocated to the Port Arthur/Beaumont/Galveston, TX area. Norman's occupation was shown to be "Mariner". The Sweeney's continued to live in and around Port Arthur/Beaumont/Galveston, TX until the late 1940's.

In the spring of 1941, according to a Social Security record, Marion Delcia Baldwin changed her name to Marion Delcia **Sweeney**. It's assumed that at that time Marion (age 15) moved in with her mother and step-father, Norman E Sweeney, in Galveston, TX.

Father	Norman E Sweeney
Mother	Fleta U Gifford
SSN	460286254
Notes	May 1941: Name Listed As Marion Delcia Sweeney; Dec 1945: Name Listed As Marion Delcia Fontaine; 09 May 2003: Name Listed As Marion D Fontaine

Marion (now Sweeney) lived with Fleeta and Norman Sweeney in Galveston until her 1945 marriage to Ernest Fontaine. (More on Marion in Appendix 1.)

Norman and Fleeta Sweeney moved to Los Angeles about 1951/1952, probably because her daughter, Marion Fontaine (and husband, Ernest and their daughter, Joan) were also living in Los Angeles. In fact, based on residence records, they may all have moved together at the same time.

Norman and Fleeta Sweeney remained married for 33 years, until Norman's death in 1962. To best of my knowledge, they had no children of their own.

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## **Helen Jewell Thomas Period - 1929-1935**

Ship and Shore Duty Stations, and Residences:

1929 - USS Farenholt - San Diego, CA  
1929, 1930, 1931 - Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL  
1932 - USS West Virginia, Long Beach, CA  
1932 - USS Oklahoma, Long Beach, CA  
1932, 1933 - USS Argonne, Long Beach, CA  
1933 - USS Antares, Long Beach, CA  
1933, 1934 - USS Argonne, Long Beach, CA  
1934 - USS Algorma, Long Beach, CA  
1934 - USS Utah, Long Beach, CA  
1934-1935 - USS Argonne, Long Beach, CA  
1935 - San Diego - Placed on Naval Reserve Status

Following the finalised January, 1929 divorce Roscoe Baldwin Sr transferred June 1, 1929 from the USS Sinclair to the USS Farenholt, then docked in San Diego. Again, we don't know exactly what happened to his daughter, Marion or son, Roscoe Jr during this time. Though, it seems likely they both were sent to live with Roscoe's parents in Ironton, OH.

This is where we see a strange turn of events. On September 13, 1929 Roscoe Baldwin Sr married Helen Jewell Thomas at Marceline, Linn County, MO. She was 17, requiring permission from her mother, Della Thomas, which was granted. Roscoe was 28.

How these two met is a mystery. Was Helen Thomas a mail-order bride? Did they meet through a mutual acquaintance? Did the Navy have some sort of program to match sailors with potential wives and/or mothers of sailor's children?

What we do know is that Helen and Roscoe married at Marceline, MO - one county north of her family home in Carrollton, MO. By doing this, was her mother, Della, and father, Harry C Thomas, trying to avoid public scrutiny of their underage daughter marrying a Navy sailor and moving to San Diego, CA? There appears to have been no courtship between Roscoe and Helen.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE.**

STATE OF MISSOURI, COUNTY OF LINN.

THIS LICENSE authorizes any Judge of a Court of Record or any Justice of the Peace, or any licensed or ordained Preacher of the Gospel, who is a Citizen of the United States, or who is a resident of and a pastor of any church in this State to SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE between **Roscoe Baldwin** of **San Diego** in the County of **San Diego** and State of **California**, who is **over** the age of twenty-one years, and **Helen Thomas** of **Marceline** **twenty-one** in the County of **Linn** and State of **Missouri**, who is **under** the age of ~~eighteen~~ **twenty-one** years **Helen Thomas being under Twenty-one years of age, her Mother Mrs. Della Thomas assents to her marriage.**

(SEAL) WITNESS, my hand as Recorder of Deeds with the Seal of Office hereto affixed at my Office in Linneus, Mo., this **10th** day of **September 1929**

By **H. E. Kelley**  
*Recorder of Deeds.*  
*Deputy.*

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STATE OF MISSOURI, } ss. THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the undersigned **An Ordained Minister**  
County of **Linn** } did, at **Marceline** in said County, on the  
**10th** day of **September A. D. 1929** unite in Marriage the above named persons. And I further Certify that  
I am legally qualified under the Laws of the State of Missouri to solemnize Marriages. **Geo. W. Maxwell**

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The foregoing Certificate of Marriage was Filed for Record in my office on the **26th** day of **September 1929**

By *H. E. Kelley*  
*Recorder of Deeds.*  
*Deputy.*

Missouri State Archives: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WT-HGPB?view=fullText>

**BALDWIN-THOMAS WEDDING**

Mr. Roscoe Baldwin, of San Diego, Calif., and Miss Helen Thomas of this city were united in marriage Wednesday afternoon by Rev. Geo. W. Maxwell, at the office of Judge T. M. Ludden. The young couple will make their home in California.

**The Marceline News and the Bucklin Herald - 13 Sep 1929**

By October, 1929, Roscoe had changed the Navy Beneficiary statement to include Helen Jewell Thomas-Baldwin. Here we see confirmation that Roscoe's two children were living in Ironton, OH.

Then, in November, 1929, Roscoe was transferred from San Diego back to the Great Lakes Training Center, near Waukegan and North Chicago, IL.

**BENEFICIARY SLIP**

Name BALDWIN, Roscoe  
(Name in full, surname to the left.)

Service number 286-61-63

Station U.S.S. PARENHOLT (332).  
(Name.)

San Diego, California 15 Oct. 1929.  
(Place.) (Date.)

Under the provisions of the act approved 4 June, 1920, directing the payment of six months' pay to the widow, children, or dependent relative of any officer, enlisted man, or nurse, on the active list of the regular Navy or regular Marine Corps, or on the retired list when on active duty, who dies of wounds or disease not the result of his or her own misconduct, I give below the name and address of my wife and that of each of my children:

Helen Jewell Baldwin  
(Full name of wife; if not married, so state.)

1245 10th St. San Diego, Calif.  
(Address of wife.)

Marion Delcia Baldwin  
(Full name of child; if none, so state.)

Ironton, Ohio.  
(Address of child.)

Roscoe Baldwin, Jr.  
(Full name of child; if none, so state.)

Ironton, Ohio.  
(Address of child.)

11-4-29 Transferred this date to the Ninth Naval district for permanent duty in accordance with BuNav Letter Nav 630 SRF MM 286-61-63 of 7 October, 1929.

The April, 1930 Federal Census reported Roscoe, Helen Jewell Baldwin, and daughter, Marion Delcia Baldwin living at 1702 Sheridan Rd, North Chicago, IL.

By August, 1930, Roscoe, Helen, and daughter, Marion Delcia Baldwin were living at 811 Adams St, Waukegan, IL. Here, we see that Roscoe Baldwin Jr continued to live in Ironton, OH.

In February, 1931 18 year old Helen Jewell Baldwin was involved in a car crash.

**POLICE SEEKING  
VAMPIRE DRIVER**

Mrs. Roscoe Baldwin, 811 Adams street, North Chicago, reported to the police last night that an automobile crashed into her machine at the intersection of Genesee and Washington streets, but did not stop after the accident. Her car was badly damaged. Police are searching for the vampire driver.

**BENEFICIARY SLIP**

Name BALDWIN, Roscoe  
(Name in full, surname to the left.)

Service number 286-61-63, SKIC, USN.

Station Naval Training Station,  
(Name.)

Great Lakes, Illinois. 8/16/30  
(Place.) (Date.)

Under the provisions of the act approved 4 June, 1920, directing the payment of six months' pay to the widow, children, or dependent relative of any officer, enlisted man, or nurse, on the active list of the regular Navy or regular Marine Corps, or on the retired list when on active duty, who dies of wounds or disease not the result of his or her own misconduct, I give below the name and address of my wife and that of each of my children:

Helen Jewell Baldwin  
(Full name of wife; if not married, so state.)

811 Adams Street, Waukegan, Ill.  
(Address of wife.)

Marion Delcia Baldwin  
(Full name of child; if none, so state.)

811 Adams Street, Waukegan, Ill.  
(Address of child.)

Roscoe Baldwin Jr.  
(Full name of child; if none, so state.)

Ironton, Ohio.  
(Address of child.)

Waukegan News-Sun, Feb 26, 1931

In December, 1931, Store Keeper 1st Class (SK1c) Roscoe Baldwin Sr was arrested for drunken driving and paid a hefty \$100 fine to avoid spending 90 days in jail. For this violation, Roscoe lost permission from the Navy to own or operate a motor vehicle.

**FINE LOCAL DRIVER  
IN KENOSHA COURT**

Having paid a \$100 and court costs fine imposed in Kenosha police court last Friday for drunken driving, Roscoe Baldwin, 811 Adams St., was released from jail there yesterday.

Baldwin had been given his choice of paying the fine or serving ninety days in the county jail.

12-14-31: In accordance with BuNav Cir.Ltr. #56-30 permission issued on this station to own or operate a motor vehicle is hereby revoked due to BALDWIN driving an automobile on a public highway while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

*W.F. LaFrenz*  
W. F. LAFRENZ, *LLM*  
Commander, U.S. Navy

**Waukegan News-Sun - 15 Dec 1931**

Recall in 1926, when Roscoe got into legal troubles with local civilian authorities, he was transferred from the Great Lakes Training Center to the USS Sinclair in Bremerton, WA. Once again, following this drunk driving incident, Roscoe was transferred. This time assigned to the USS West Virginia in Long Beach, CA.

1-4-32: Transferred this date to the U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA for assignment to duty by ComBatShips, in accordance with ComBatFor., desp. 6028-0822 of December, 1931.

Date transferred 4 January, 1932.

To U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA

*W.F. LaFrenz*  
W. F. LAFRENZ, Commander, USN (LMH).  
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.

Date received 1-9-32

Ship or Station USS WEST VIRGINIA

From USN's Great Lakes, Ill

*E. R. Warren*  
E. R. WARREN, Commander, USN.  
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-6111

Roscoe and Helen Jewell Baldwin would reside in the Long Beach, CA (Los Angeles) area for the next three years. During their Los Angeles residency, Helen visited her parents in Carrollton, MO in 1932 and 1933.

team by a score of 11 to 6.  
Mrs. Helen Baldwin, of Long Beach, Calif., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas.  
Mrs. Grace Lubner, of Carrollton

June 10th.  
Mrs. Helen Baldwin of Los Angeles, Calif., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas.  
The three-year-old daughter of Mr.

### The Carrollton Republican-Record - 19 Aug 1932 and 16 June 1933

Between 1932 and 1935, Roscoe as a Storekeeper 1st Class, was transferred from one docked ship to another; USS West Virginia, USS Oklahoma, USS Argonne, USS Antares, USS Algoma, USS Utah. In January, 1935, Roscoe, age 34, had completed 16 years of Navy service. He was discharged to the Fleet Naval Reserve May, 1935 and returned to Ironton, OH - apparently, without Helen Jewell Thomas-Baldwin. I found no evidence that Roscoe and Helen Jewell Thomas-Baldwin had any children of their own in six years of marriage.

There's no record yet found to indicate that Roscoe and Helen Jewell Thomas formally divorced in the spring 1935. All we know is that by the summer of 1935 a 34 year old Roscoe was a resident of Ironton, working as an attendant at his father's gas station in Ironton. And, Helen was 24 and living in Carrollton, MO. With her parents. Did Roscoe simply drop Helen off in Carrollton on his way back to Ironton? Did Roscoe abandon her in Long Beach leaving her to make her way back home? Was the marriage conveniently forgotten? And, what happened to Marion Delcia Baldwin during this relocation process? These are good questions with no ready answers.

Helen went on with her life after Roscoe Baldwin Sr. In July, 1936, Helen was a guest at a fish fry in Carrollton.

The following spent the day and enjoyed a fish fry at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Willis, Sunday: Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Griffith, Mrs. Edwin Miller of Carrollton; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Adkins and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Caddle and daughter of Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Fields and

children of Ramona, Okla., Mr. and Mrs. Pat Staton of Carrollton, Richard Staton and sons, Miss Helen Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Huffman, Mrs. Dorothy Perkins and baby, John Huffman and daughters, Jack Noland, Bill Staton, M. M. Winfrey and Harry Huffman of Kansas City.

### Carrollton Daily Democrat - 22 Jul 1936

Please take note that Helen is "Miss Helen Thomas" in attendance with Richard Staton and his sons. In May, 1937, Helen was again with Richard Staton and his sons.

Sherry Thomas of Ironton  
Mrs. Pat tStaton, Richard Staton and sons and Miss Helen Thomas spent Sunday with Mrs. A. S. Huffman.  
Miss Catherine Steil closed a suc-

### The Carrollton Democrat - 21 May 1937

Richard L Staton (1907-1975) was first married to Virginia L Merrell (1910-1932) in 1926 and had two children; Richard Merrell Staton (1927-2019) and Jimmie Joe Staton (1928-2013). Tragedy struck the Richard Staton family when Virginia died suddenly in February, 1932 from food poisoning. Thus, similar to the situation with Roscoe Baldwin, Richard Staton was needing a mother for his infant sons.

Richard and Helen married July 13, 1937. It's interesting to note that they married outside of Carrollton and then announced the wedding four days later.

They remained married until Richard's death in 1975. Helen became the step mother of his sons. Richard and Helen had no children of their own. She lived out the rest of her life in Carrollton, MO. Helen Jewell Thomas-Baldwin-Staton died there in 1982.

**The Republican-Record (Carrollton, Missouri)**  
· Fri, 23 Jul 1937

#### THOMAS-STATON

Miss Helen Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas of this city and Mr. Richard Staton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Staton, also of Carrollton, were united in marriage at Keytesville, Mo., on Tuesday, July 13, 1937.

The wedding was not announced to their many friends here until Saturday, July 17th.

Mrs. Staton has been in the employ of J. Earl Evans, county superintendent of schools for the past several months. Mr. Staton is engaged in the operation of a truck line out of Carrollton which business he will continue.

They will make their home in Carrollton.

As for Roscoe Baldwin Sr, he married one more time. Let's see what happened during the Helen Marie Lewis Period.

## Helen Marie Lewis Period - 1937-1969

We lose track of Roscoe Baldwin Sr between the summer of 1935 and summer of 1937. Presumably, he remained in the Ironton, OH area. In this period he met Helen Marie Lewis. She, age 23, single, and Roscoe, age 36, divorced, married in Greenup, KY on August 4, 1937.

**Marriage Bond**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
*Greenup* COUNTY COURT

No. 439

BE IT KNOWN, That we \_\_\_\_\_  
as principal, and \_\_\_\_\_  
as surety, are jointly and severally bound to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

THIS BOND IS CONDITIONED AS FOLLOWS:

That, whereas Marriage is intended to be solemnized between \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

Now, if there is no ~~lawful~~ cause to obstruct said Marriage, this bond shall be void, otherwise it shall be and remain in full force and effect.

Witness our hands, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Principal,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Surety.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk.

By \_\_\_\_\_ D. C.

**REGISTER OF MARRIAGE**

No. 439

Full names of parties, Husband Roscoe Baldwin  
Wife Helen Lewis

\*By Whom Married \_\_\_\_\_

\*Place of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ County of Greenup Kentucky.

\*Date of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

\*Witnesses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Husband 36 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) Divorced  
Age of Wife 23 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) Single  
Race: (white or colored) White

Husband's Place of Birth Ironton Ohio Residence Ironton Ohio  
Wife's Place of Birth Pedro Ohio Residence Kitts Hill Ohio

Names of Parents of Husband William M Baldwin  
and Selcia Hunt  
Names of Parents of Wife Elmer L Lewis  
and Goldie Rigge

Occupation of Husband Clerk

Date of License 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 1937

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Roscoe Baldwin and Helen Lewis  
this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 1937

By J B Bates Clerk  
Virginia Callahan D. C.

Kentucky County Court (Greenup County): <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C91S-YQBB-B?view=fullText>

We see on the document that Roscoe stated he was divorced. Was he referring to being divorced from Fleta Ursala Gifford or Helen Jewell Thomas, or both. Also, it's very interesting to note that the following written request was added: "Please do not Publish". I looked through a sample of these Greenup, KY marriage documents and did not find this request on other documents. Was Roscoe concerned about news of his marriage reaching Fleta and/or Helen?

By 1940, Roscoe and Helen were living in the Kitts Hill area just north of Ironton, OH. The 1940 Federal Census shows them living alone - no other members of the household; i.e., Marion Delcia Baldwin and Roscoe Fredrick Baldwin Jr.

In October, 1939, following a physical examination, Roscoe was placed on the Navy Retired list. Then, the following year, as WW2 buildup was developing, Roscoe Baldwin Sr was reactivated to Active Duty August 19, 1940. He was stationed again at the Great Lakes Training Center as a Chief Petty Officer Storekeeper. The records for this part of Roscoe's Navy career are somewhat sparse, likely due to the war effort. However, it's assumed that Roscoe and Helen Marie Lewis-Baldwin lived nearby his duty station.

1 Nov 1939 Placed on the retired list of the U. S. Navy as Storekeeper first class.  
19 Aug 1940 Reported for active duty  
1 Dec 1942 Rated Chief Storekeeper (AA).  
24 Jun 1944 Rated Chief Storekeeper (PA).  
4 Apr 1945 Released from active duty.  
By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,

J. M. FORD  
Lieutenant (jg), USNR  
Records Division

After Roscoe's release from Active Duty, April 4, 1945, he and Helen moved back to Ironton, OH. On July 5, 1946 their daughter, Yvonne Carol Baldwin was born in Ironton. They continued to live in the Ironton area until August, 1956, when they moved to Clermont, FL, a suburb of Orlando.

Roscoe died at Daytona Beach, FL, May 1969 at the age of 68. Helen Marie Lewis-Baldwin died at Gainesville, FL, June, 1968 at the age of 54.

Yvonne married twice; 1st to Raymond E Matz (1947-2010), two sons - both Navy veterans. 2nd to Robert Lowell Clements Jr, one son. Robert and Yvonne live in Florida.

## Appendix 1

The children of Roscoe Baldwin Sr and Fleeta Ursala Gifford

Marion Delcia Baldwin-Sweeney  
BIRTH 3 AUG 1925 • Waukegan, Lake, Illinois  
DEATH 30 APR 2003 • Artesia, Los Angeles, California

Roscoe Frederick "Bud" Baldwin Jr  
BIRTH 9 JAN 1927 • San Diego County, California  
DEATH 5 JUL 1989 • Hanover, Jefferson, Indiana

The tragedies sometimes of stories involving divorce and relocations are the life-long effects on children, especially young children. Here, we have a contrast of these effects with one child, Marion, leading a successful and full life and the other child, Roscoe Jr, basically leading a life of crime.

## Marion Delcia Baldwin-Sweeney

When we last discussed Marion Delcia Baldwin we learned that she had relocated To Galveston, TX, probably around the time of her father's return to Navy service, about August, 1940. And, we learned that she legally changed her name from Marion Delcia Baldwin to Marion Delcia Sweeney in May, 1941. She was 15.

In October, 1945 Marion married Ernest Francis Fontaine (1925-1993) in Galveston, TX.

Ernest Fontaine, surprise, surprise, was another Navy veteran: enlisted Mar, 1943, discharged Mar 1947; Rank: SeA1C, TM2; Torpedo Man - This rating was associated with personnel responsible for handling and maintaining torpedoes and underwater ordinance. He mostly served on the USS O'Reilly.

Nomen Familiae	Die Mensis	REGISTRUM MATRIMONIORUM	Dispensationes.
Fontaine & Sweeney	1945 Oct. 31st	<p>Ego infrascriptus, ad hoc officium invitatus ac rogatus, nec vi aut gravi metu constrictus, _____ missis _____ denuntiationibus, et nuptio contrahentium consensu habito per verba de presenti, matrimonio conjunxi <u>Ernest Francis Fontaine</u> e loco <u>Newport, R. I.</u> Filium <u>Francis Fontaine Eleanor Simmons</u> baptizatum in <u>Holy Name of Jesus,</u> <u>Worcester, Mass.</u> die <u>21</u> mensis <u>March</u> Anni <u>1925</u> cujus de statu libero, satis constat. et <u>Marion Delcia Sweeney</u> <u>Galveston</u> e loco <u>Roscoe Baldwin &amp; Fleeta Gifford</u> Filiam <u>St. Mary's Cathedral</u> <u>Galveston, Texas</u> baptizatum in <u>8</u> mensis <u>March</u> Anni <u>1945</u> in hac parochia, per _____ mens _____ (Vel) ann _____ Communentem Præsentibus <u>Geo. A. Matson, Jr. R. Daley</u> et <u>Grammattke Ogorodkos</u> Hujus Matrimonii notitiam nisi ad Rectores ecclesiarum in quibus predicti Sponsi baptizati sunt <u>D. T. O'Connor</u> Pastor (aut) delegatus a Sponsae { Parocho Ordinario</p>	

St. Mary's Cathedral (Galveston, Texas): <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSXY-K5FS?view=fullText>

By 1947, Ernest and Marion Fontaine were living in Newport, Rhode Island, where Ernest was attending pharmacy school. While in Newport, Marion gave birth to Joan Marie Fontaine (1947-2000). She would be their only child. The Fontaines returned to Galveston, TX, presumably, after Ernest graduated from school about 1950. They then relocated (probably along with her mother, Fleta, and step father Norman Sweeney) to Los Angeles about 1951/1952. There, they lived out their lives. Ernest died in 1993 and Marion died in 2003.

## Roscoe Frederick "Bud" Baldwin Jr

Recall that Roscoe Baldwin Jr was sent as an infant to live with his aging grandparents in Ironton, OH. They, I'm sure did their best to provide him a good home. My observation is that he was never in the home of his biological parents, never in a home with his father. This situation took a toll on Roscoe Jr. By the time he was a teenager he had been sent to the Boys Industrial School in Fairfield County, OH. There, he would "escape" the day after his 18th birthday, in early 1945. And, from that point on he began a life of crime.

The physical presence of Roscoe Baldwin Jr must have been impressive. He stood 6' 6" tall and, by some reports, weighed in the 300 lbs range. He was a physical presence to behold. And, reading newspaper accounts about him (some included here), it would seem he was gentle giant, not a violent sort at all. But, make no mistake. He was a chronic, repeat criminal. His crime specialities seem have been theft, particularly car theft, and forgeries. His Rap Sheet was long and contained numerous citations, arrests, convictions, and incarcerations in multiple states. In this regard, here are a select few documents and news articles.

W-370-A FORM APPROVED Budget Bureau No. 95-2012-42 12059A

REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)  
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. NAME (Print) ORDER NUMBER  
W-390A Roscoe Frederick Baldwin Jr 12, 059-A

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) (Town, township, village, or city) (State)  
Kitts Hill Lawrence Ohio

(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL.)

3. MAILING ADDRESS (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, leave void space)

4. TELEPHONE 5. AGE IN YEARS 18 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Los Angeles  
DATE OF BIRTH Jan 9 1927 California

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS  
Mrs. Helen Baldwin, Kitts Hill, Ohio

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) 615-21620-4 (OVER) Roscoe F. Baldwin (Registrant's signature)

We will start with a key document; Draft Registration, dated January 9, 1945 - Roscoe Baldwin Jr's 18th birthday. Here we see his Place of Residence as Kitts Hill, OH, home of his grandparents. His height was 6' 5 1/2" and weight 195.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT			
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6'5 1/2"	195	Sallow
Negro <input type="checkbox"/>			Light <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indian <input type="checkbox"/>			Ruddy <input type="checkbox"/>
Japanese <input type="checkbox"/>			Dark <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Specify)			Freckled <input type="checkbox"/>
			Light brown <input type="checkbox"/>
			Dark brown <input type="checkbox"/>
			Black <input type="checkbox"/>

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:  
Scar - left lower leg

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Special Panel #1 Beatrice R. Kirby  
Registrar for Local Board #1 Fairfield Ohio (Signature of registrar) Clerk

Date of registration 1/9/45 (Number) (City or county) (State)

LOCAL BOARD No. 2  
FOR LAWRENCE COUNTY  
MUNICIPAL BLDG.  
CHESAPEAKE, OHIO

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

615-21620-2

We see that he thought he was born in Los Angeles, CA, which is not correct. He was born in San Diego. He was being registered by a Special Panel for Lawrence County, OH. So, his draft registration jurisdiction was his home county.

**THREE ESCAPE B. I. S.**  
Two B. I. S. inmates escaped Tuesday night, and police were advised the pair were Charles Kent, 15, Akron; Robert Gray, 15, Cleveland. Roscoe Baldwin, 17, Chicago, Ill., escaped Tuesday morning.

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette - 10 Jan 1945**

The very next day, he left the Boys Industrial School (B.I.S.). The article got his age wrong and his home wrong. But, by 1950, in the Federal Census, Roscoe was in Chicago, working as a cook, so maybe the article was somewhat correct. The census also indicated that he was married. There's no evidence to suggest that was true.

The next scrape with police was March, 1957 when Roscoe Baldwin Jr was arrested at Collinsville, IL for car theft and credit card fraud. The FBI became involved when Roscoe was found to have transported a 1955 Cadillac across the state line. He stated that he was on parole from an Ohio penitentiary after serving five years (abt. 1952 - 1957).

Roscoe also reported he was from Columbus, OH and formerly lived in East St. Louis, MO.

**The Belleville News-Democrat - 30 Mar 1957**

One distinguishing characteristic I found reading these criminal exploits is that Roscoe seems always to openly admit guilt and fully confess, and in a friendly manner. The next article demonstrates this tendency.

**Collinsville Police  
Arrest 6 Foot 7  
Man for Car Theft**

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents at Springfield have taken over a "king-sized problem" from Collinsville police after the arrest of Roscoe F. Baldwin of Columbus, Ohio, a 32-year-old six feet, seven inch 325-pounder.

Baldwin is charged with violation of the Dyer Act for alleged transportation of a stolen car across state lines. The car, a 1955 Cadillac, has been impounded at Collinsville. Baldwin was arrested Wednesday by Patrolmen Oscar Fratligione and Arthur Lang after they received a complaint from Elmer Barbeau, operator of a service station. Barbeau told police the man was attempting to obtain money with a gasoline credit card.

Police arrested Baldwin at a tavern. Fratligione said the man admitted stealing the car at Bridgeport, Ohio, in January. Police said Baldwin also took the man's credentials and credit card. The card has been used repeatedly during the three-month period. Police said 60 credit tickets, ranging in value from \$10 to \$60, were in Baldwin's possession. Approximately 30 of the credit tickets were issued in Collinsville and East St. Louis.

The man told police he formerly lived in East St. Louis. Baldwin told police he was paroled from an Ohio penitentiary last July after serving five years.

The next arresting article is from Shreveport, LA, February, 1961, and found 35 year old Roscoe Baldwin Jr. glad to be caught stealing a car in Kentucky. Here he stated he was from Los Angeles, where he was a carnival barker. Roscoe was looking forward to heading back to prison - hopefully for at least five years. He stated he was strictly a "federal prison man."

### The Shreveport Journal - 2 Feb 1961

Roscoe received a hoped for four year prison sentence at the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, KS. However, in 1962, he escaped, was quickly captured, indicted, and served extra time for escaping.

kato, Minn., transporting a stolen car in May, 1963, from Mankato to Kansas City.	36, Galveston, Tex., for escaping in October, 1962, from the U. S. penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas., while serving a 4-year sentence.
Leslie Wayne Hackman, 18, Danville, Ill., and Virgil Caroldean Rice, 18, of 1065 Stine lane, Kansas City, Kansas, transporting a stolen car in June, 1963, from Springfield, Mo., to Miami, Okla., to Joplin, Mo.	Allan Rader, 36, whereabouts unknown, escaping in March, 1963, from the U. S. Medical center, Springfield, Mo., while serving a 10-year sentence.
Three indictments charged escaping justice. They named: Roscoe Frederick Baldwin, jr.,	Harley Leroy Coy, 28, Tulsa, Okla., trying in March, 1963, to leave the U. S. Medical center at Springfield, Mo. He has been transferred to the U. S. penitentiary at Leavenworth.

### The Kansas City Star - 14 Jun 1963

This prison escape story was so intriguing that it landed on the front page of the St. Joseph, MO News-Press in September, 1963. I've included it in full on the next page. It's worth a read.

## Ex-Convict Happy He's Going Back

"I'm sure happy to be on my way back to a federal prison," a 35-year-old California ex-convict told surprised state troopers when he was taken into custody on charges of auto theft early today.

Roscoe F. Baldwin Jr. of Los Angeles, who lists his principal occupation as a carnival barker, was lodged in the Caddo Parish Jail and held for agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on possible Dyer Act charges.

Troopers H. L. Porter and N. F. Strange spotted Baldwin sleeping in a car by the side of State Highway 1 about 14 miles south of Shreveport at 2:30 a.m. They stopped to investigate.

Baldwin readily admitted stealing the auto in Winchester, Ky., about a week ago, and was "docile and sincerely happy about getting caught," Porter said.

The only sour note in the incident, Baldwin said, was the fact he had just put \$5 worth of gasoline in the auto and didn't get to use a drop of it.

He told us this ought to be worth at least five years, Porter said. Baldwin was released from a federal penitentiary in September after serving a three-year term for auto theft in Michigan.

The Californian told troopers he is "strictly a federal prison man. The food is good, it's clean and you get a pack of cigarettes every day. I don't want any part of these state pens."

## HE'S ALSO A POET

# Extra Term to Ex-Prison Guard for an Escape

By **ROBERT L. SLATER**

(Associated Press Staff Writer)

A 6-foot, 7-inch, 350-pound, poetry-writing, ex-prison guard appeared before Federal Judge Richard M. Duncan here today on a charge of escaping from the Platte county honor farm of the Leavenworth federal penitentiary.

Roscoe Frederick Baldwin Jr., who said he fled from the honor farm "due mostly to homesickness and other inmates teasing me," was sentenced by Judge Duncan to an additional 90 days in prison.

Baldwin had been free only two and one-half hours on his escape, and was apprehended within a half-mile of the honor farm. He was serving a four-year sentence for a Dyer act violation—interstate transportation of a stolen motor car—at the time of his flight.

### Warned Officials

Baldwin—who said he can't stand too much freedom while in a prison—told Judge Duncan he had warned Leav-

enworth officials he would run away if given the chance.

The deputy warden of the penitentiary, Baldwin told Judge Duncan, merely said, "Let us know the day before, and we'll pack a lunch for you."

Baldwin, 37, said he had been a guard in an Ohio prison before getting into trouble in 1951. He arrived at Leavenworth April 1, 1961, to begin serving his Dyer act sentence. He fled there Oct. 9, 1962—while on a potato-digging assignment—and was found hiding in some weeds two and one-half hours later.

Judge Duncan listened as Baldwin told of how other prisoners—apparently because of his background as a prison guard—called him a "snitch."

### No Samples Given

Baldwin has written some poetry and mailed it to him, Judge Duncan said following the hearing. No samples were available today.

Incidentally, Baldwin apparently didn't tell the deputy warden he was running away the day prior to his escape. The official report shows, however, he waited until after lunch to make his escape—leaving the grounds while en route back from lunch to his potato-digging.

School  
proved

The crime list goes on and on.

## Man Charged In Mail Theft

An itinerant laborer was jailed on a mail theft charge here this week after witnesses said he had told a mailman he would give a letter to his employer, but didn't.

The mailman said he gave a man the letter on a recent morning, before business hours, in front of Wilson and Sons, a wholesale grocery concern.

It contained a \$154 check made out to Wilson, which later turned up at a downtown restaurant with a man attempting to cash it. But a wary cashier called police.

Identified as the same man who received the letter and then tried to cash it was Roscoe F. Baldwin, 40, who gave his address as Ironton, Ohio. U. S. Commissioner Louise O. Charlton committed him to the Jefferson County jail. Mr. Baldwin said he was innocent.

William M. Wilson Jr. of the grocery concern said he had employed Baldwin to do odd jobs.

## When His Thumb Fails, He Just Takes A Car

Three-year sentences were given to two men in U. S. District Court today, each charged with transporting a stolen car across state lines.

Roscoe Frederick Baldwin Jr., 42, of Stanton, pleaded guilty to transporting a stolen car from Texas to Powell County.

Baldwin, 6 feet, 8 inches tall and weighing 285 pounds, admitted to Judge Mac Swinford that he had been in continuous trouble with the law for 20 years and that he is currently on probation from a 5-year sentence from a court in Texas.

Cecil Hurley, 20, Pike County, pleaded guilty to transporting a stolen car from Grundy, Va., to Pike County. When Judge Swinford remarked that he had a long record of stealing autos, Hurley said, "Sometimes I'm out hitchhiking and when I can't get a ride, I just take one."

Birmingham, AL Post-Herald - 13 Feb 1965. Lexington, KY Herald-Leader - 24 Jan 1968

The Winchester, KY Sun - 31 Mar 1980

If these were the many crimes he was caught doing, you have to wonder about all the crimes he got away with. In each of these stories, he seems to be living somewhere else and never where he committed previous crime.

It was never thought that he married. However, I found a Louisville, Jefferson County, KY Marriage Index record, dated February 1, 1974 for 47 year old Roscoe Fredrick Baldwin Jr and 26 year old Judy Stidham. He stated he was a cook and never married.

The marriage lasted a year, with a divorce registered March 24, 1975. Likely, Judy found out more about Roscoe than she was comfortable knowing.

Roscoe Fredrick Baldwin Jr died July 5, 1989 at a nursing home in Hanover, IN. Hanover is small town on the Ohio River not far from Louisville, KY. He died of lung cancer - possibly due to smoking all those "one pack a day" cigarettes provided free at the federal prisons.

The informant on Roscoe's death certificate was Ronnie Baldwin, a 1st cousin from Ironton, OH. Ronnie made sure Roscoe Jr was brought back to Kitts Hill, north of Ironton, and laid to rest at the Mamre Cemetery - the Baldwin family cemetery.

## *Police jail three men*

Three men were arrested Saturday following an alleged attempt to obtain property with forged checks at Sound Experience, 1210 W. Lexington Ave.

Arrested were Earl Holiman, 31, Pilot View, on charges of receiving stolen property; Casper Holiman, 25, Combs Ferry Road, on charges of criminal possession of a forged instrument, and Roscoe F. Baldwin, 53, Louisville, on charges of criminal possession of a forged instrument.

Winchester police made the arrests with the assistance of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Two stereos valued at \$400 were recovered.

Police said Baldwin is wanted in four other counties on a variety of charges, including 12 counts of theft by deception.

Appendix 2

Pers-3243A-III  
206-61-63

15 September 1945

U. S. Civil Service Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter, File XE:P:B, of 6 September 1945, returned herewith, requesting a statement of service of Roscoe Baldwin, Chief Storekeeper, U. S. Navy, Retired.

The following is a statement of Baldwin's enlisted Naval service:

8 Jan 1901 Born at Ironton, Ohio  
29 Jan 1919 Enlisted in the U. S. Navy as Apprentice Seaman at Louisville, Kentucky.  
8 Jan 1920 Rated Seaman second class.  
16 Feb 1920 Rated Storekeeper third class.  
1 Oct 1922 Rated Storekeeper second class.  
13 Nov 1922 Discharged as Storekeeper second class from the USS HURON with an Honorable Discharge.  
14 Nov 1922 Reenlisted as Storekeeper second class on board the USS HURON.  
1 Jun 1924 Rated Storekeeper first class.  
16 Aug 1926 Discharged as Storekeeper first class from the USS SINCLAIR with an Honorable Discharge.  
17 Aug 1926 Reenlisted as Storekeeper first class on board the USS SINCLAIR.  
15 Aug 1930 Discharged as Storekeeper first class from the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois, with an Honorable Discharge.  
16 Aug 1930 Reenlisted as Storekeeper first class at the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois.  
16 Aug 1934 Extended enlistment for three years.  
16 May 1935 Transferred to the Fleet Reserve and released from active duty after sixteen years of honorable service.  
1 Nov 1939 Placed on the retired list of the U. S. Navy as Storekeeper first class.  
19 Aug 1940 Reported for active duty  
1 Dec 1942 Rated Chief Storekeeper (AA).  
24 Jun 1944 Rated Chief Storekeeper (PA).  
4 Apr 1945 Released from active duty.

By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,

J. M. FORD  
Lieutenant (jg), USNR  
Records Division

Encl

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