

# The Pennsylvania Probation and Parole Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION AND PAROLE

•  
MARCH, 1942  
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Volume 1

Number 9

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION AND PAROLE

Officers and Committees for the year 1941

- President: Mrs. Helen K. Spencer, Girls' Probation Officer, Erie County, Erie.
- First Vice-President: Mr. Harvey Huff, Senior Field Agent, Pennsylvania Department of Justice, Board of Pardons, Parole Supervision, Harrisburg.
- Second Vice-President: Mr. Robert C. Tabor, Chief Probation Officer, Municipal Court, Philadelphia.
- Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Mary H. Rinsland, Probation Officer, Lackawanna County, Scranton.

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Membership Committee

Mr. George G. Jeffries, Assistant Visiting Agent, Glen Mills Schools, Glen Mills, chairman.

(The committee to be announced later)

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Editor - Mr. Jacob Zang, district visiting agent, Glen Mills Schools, State College.

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The Pennsylvania Probation and Parole Quarterly is published and distributed jointly by the Pennsylvania State Association On Probation and Parole and the Institute of Local Government of The Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to send articles and news notes for the Quarterly to Mr. Jacob Zang, Editor, Box 572, State College, Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania State College  
Institute of Local Government  
H. F. Alderfer, Executive Secretary

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## PROGRAM

## PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION AND PAROLE

To be held at Harrisburg, April 6-8, 1942

## Monday - April 6

- 4:00 p.m. - Registration  
 8:00 p.m. - Preliminary Business Meeting  
 "A Boy in Court" - Gomer Jones, parole officer  
 Schuylkill county, Pottsville  
 and Merle Foust, Division of  
 Child Delinquency, Harrisburg  
 Police Department, Harrisburg.

## Tuesday - April 7

- 10:00 a.m. - General Session  
 Topic: Treatment of the Negro Delinquent  
 Presiding: George G. Jeffries, assistant visiting  
 agent, Glen Mills Schools.  
 Speakers: Dr. Lawrence Foster, executive director  
 of Pennsylvania State Temporary Com-  
 mission On Conditions of the Colored  
 Urban Population; Wayne Hopkins,  
 executive secretary, Armstrong  
 Association, Philadelphia, and Dr.  
 J. O. Reinemann, district supervisor,  
 Juvenile Division, Municipal Court of  
 Philadelphia.
- 2:00 p.m. - General Session  
 Topic: Classification Clinic at White Hill  
 Presiding: Dr. E. Preston Sharpe, supervisor  
 of Rehabilitation, Eastern State  
 Penitentiary.  
 Speakers: Major Henry C. Hill and staff  
 Discussant: Harvey Huff, senior field agent,  
 Pennsylvania Department of Justice,  
 Board of Pardons, Parole Supervision,  
 Harrisburg.
- 4:00 p.m. - General Session  
 Topic: Employment Opportunities for the Youth  
 of Pennsylvania  
 Speaker: George P. Scurria, director of the  
 Division of Youth Personnel, National  
 Youth Administration for Pennsylvania.
- 6:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting  
 Topic: When the Prison Door Swings Open  
 Presiding: Carl B. Sheeley, district attorney,  
 Harrisburg  
 Speaker: Sanford Bates, commissioner, Board  
 of Parole, New York State.

Wednesday - April 8

10:00 a.m. - General Session

Topic: Methods of Procedure in Non-support  
Presiding: Helen C. Easterwood, probation  
officer, Crawford county.

Speakers: Hon. Edward Schmidheiser, associate  
judge, Municipal Court of Philadelphia;  
and Hazel Brown, assistant district  
attorney, Philadelphia.

Discussant: Mary T. Denman, Public Charities  
Association.

2:30 p.m. - General Session - Joint meeting with Delinquency  
Division and Child Welfare  
Division, Pennsylvania Con-  
ference on Social Work.

A panel discussion of Juvenile Court Judges  
Topic: The Need for Uniformity of Practice Under  
the Juvenile Court Act

Judge Gustav L. Schramm, chairman,  
Juvenile Court of Allegheny county,  
Pittsburgh; President Judge Charles L.  
Brown, The Municipal Court of Phila-  
delphia; Judge Elmer L. Evans, Erie  
county, Erie; President Judge Paul  
N. Schaeffer, Reading; President Judge  
W. C. Sheely, Fifty-First Judicial  
District, Gettysburg.

Presiding: Robert C. Tabor, chief probation  
officer, Municipal Court, Philadelphia.

Discussant: Leon T. Stern, secretary, Pennsyl-  
vania Committee on Penal Affairs,  
Public Charities Association.

3:30 p.m. - General Session

Topic: In-service Training

Presiding:

Speaker: Dr. Fred W. Hosler, principal,  
Public Service Institute, Department  
of Public Instruction, Harrisburg.

4:30 p.m. - Business Meeting

Classification Committee, Pennsylvania Industrial School,  
White Hill: Mr. A. W. Castle, deputy superintendent; Captain  
W. O. Harris, Captain of the Guard; Mr. E. R. East, director  
of Classification (chairman); Dr. McClelland Wilson, Jr.,  
medical director; Mr. David P. Snare, parole officer; Mr.  
John H. Gorsuch, senior psychologist; Mr. W. Gordon Wanbaugh,  
assistant director of Education; Father Chester Loszewski,  
Catholic Chaplain, and Reverend Eugene Keller, Protestant  
Chaplain

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION AND PAROLE

Meeting at the Harrisburger Hotel, October 24, 1941. Those present were Mrs. Roy Spencer, president; Mr. Huff, vice-president; Mr. Zang; Mr. Jeffries; Mr. Tabor; Mrs. Kastner, and Helen C. Easterwood, secretary.

After the meeting was called to order, there was a discussion of the program for the conference to be held in Harrisburg in April, 1942. Mr. Jeffries stated that he felt there should be a discussion of the administration of the new Juvenile Court Act. It was further suggested by Mr. Tabor that Judge Schramm of Pittsburgh, who is chairman of the new association of Juvenile Court Judges, be asked to speak or suggest a speaker. There was another suggestion that part of the program be given to a discussion of the Negro as a delinquent, both juvenile and adult. Possible sources for speakers were Inter-racial Commission, Governor's Commission for the Negro in Urban Areas, and the sociologist who made the study for Western Pennsylvania Penitentiary on Negro crime.

Mr. Leon Stern's letter regarding the co-ordination of our program with that of the State Conference, Division of Delinquencies, was discussed. Mr. Jeffries expressed anxiety over the domination which he felt the State Conference wished to exert. He emphasized the necessity for insisting on our own identity, with cooperation with the Pennsylvania Conference.

Discussing the local publicity committee for the Conference period, it was decided that Mrs. Joseph Yates, Mr. Merle Foust, and Mrs. Kastner be in charge of local publicity in conjunction with Mr. Zang and the regular publicity committee.

In relation to finances, it was voted to pay the president \$5.00 for stenographic service to date and an additional \$15.00 for traveling and incidental expenses relative to her office. It was voted to pay to the executive committee, \$7.00 to defray expense for the executive committee meeting in progress. It was also voted to pay the Bulletin committee for their expenses and a request was made that Mr. Zang send a bill to the treasurer.

Relative to the program it was decided that a main speaker was to talk for forty minutes. In instances when the meeting would have several speakers, each speaker would be limited to thirty minutes. A tentative program for the annual meeting was drawn up.

After the discussion of the program, the committee turned its attention to the revision of the by-laws. It was decided to have the proposed revisions printed in the Bulletin so that they would be familiar to members in order that action might be taken at the business meeting of the conferences. The executive meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Helen C. Easterwood, secretary, pro.tem.

## REVISION OF THE BY-LAWS

Proposed by the Executive Committee

## Article I - Name

The name of this association shall be "The Pennsylvania Association On Probation and Parole

## Article II - Objects

The objects of this Association shall be:

1. To work for continuous improvement of methods in the field of juvenile and adult probation and parole and for a state-wide uniform system of supervision and administration.
2. To promote appropriate legislation.
3. To co-operate as far as possible with all movements promoting the progressive treatment of delinquency and its prevention.

## Article III - Members

Section 1 - All persons professionally engaged in probation, parole, and treatment of delinquents may become active members of this Association upon enrolling their names with the secretary and paying two dollars annual dues.

Section 2 - Judges of Courts of Record and District Attorneys in the Commonwealth and all other interested persons may become associate members of this Association upon enrolling their names with the secretary and paying one dollar annual dues.

## Article IV - Officers.

Section 1 - The officers of this Association shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, and a secretary-treasurer.

The president and vice presidents shall serve for a term of one year. the secretary-treasurer shall serve for a term of two years.

Section 2 - The above officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting.

Section 3 - At the first annual meeting following the revision of these by-laws, three active members of the Association shall be elected by ballot, one for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of three years. Thereafter, one member shall be elected each year to serve for a term of three years.

These three members together with the officers and chairman of the standing committees shall constitute an executive committee.

Section 4 - No officers shall serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same office.



## Article V -

Section 1 - There shall be an annual meeting of the Association and such other meetings as the executive committee shall determine.

Section 2 - Notice of the annual meeting of the Association shall be sent out by the secretary at least thirty days before the meeting.

## Article VI

The duties of the executive committee shall be:

- (a) To have general charge of the business of the Association between annual meetings.
- (b) To set times and places of all meetings of the Association
- (c) To fill vacancies on the executive committee.
- (d) To consider legislation concerning probation and parole work, with power to approve or disapprove proposed legislation in the name of the Association in the interim between annual meetings.
- (e) To initiate legislation which they deem desirable.
- (f) To approve the appointment by the president of such committees as shall be necessary for the work of the Association.
- (g) To plan a program for the annual meeting.
- (h) To prepare a budget and provide for necessary expense of officers and committees.

## Article VII - Committees

Section 1 - The president, with the approval of the executive committee, shall appoint the following committees, and such others as shall be found necessary from time to time.

These committees shall serve for one year.

- (a) Committee on Membership
- (b) Committee on Nominations
- (c) Committee on Publicity
- (d) Committee on Quarterly Bulletin

Section 2 - The committee on membership shall consist of five members. It shall be the duty of this committee to promote membership in this Association.

Section 3 - The committee on nominations shall consist of three members. It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare a ticket containing names for all places on the executive committee where vacancies occur. This ticket shall be sent out with the notice of the annual meeting. On the day of the election nominations from the floor shall be in order. No name shall be presented either by the committee or from the floor unless the nominee has consented to serve if elected.

Section 4 - The committee on publicity shall consist of five members. It shall be the duty of this committee to co-operate with the press and radio in bringing the work of probation and parole to the attention of the public and to attend to the publicity for the annual meeting.

Section 5 - The committee on Quarterly Bulletin shall consist of five members. It shall be the duty of this committee to collect and edit material for the Quarterly Bulletin. The chairman of the committee shall serve as editor of the Bulletin.

#### Article VIII - Parliamentary Authority

"Robert's Rules of Order Revised" shall be the parliamentary authority in all meetings of this Association.

#### Article IX

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any annual meeting, provided the proposed changes have been sent to the members with the notice of the annual meeting.

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### THE PENNSYLVANIA CORRECTIONAL AND PENAL WORKERS MANUAL

The manual for Pennsylvania correctional and penal workers, Principles and Methods in Dealing with Offenders, by Helen D. Pigeon and others is now available for distribution. It is of particular importance to the work of probation and parole officers in Pennsylvania.

The book can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Municipal Publications Service, H. F. Alderfer, manager, 733 North Holmes Street, State College, Pennsylvania. The price is \$2.00 for heavy paper bound, and \$2.50 for cloth bound. It contains 428 printed pages.

The book is a publication of the Public Service Institute of the Department of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth, which is responsible for the carrying on of the correctional workers' classes throughout the State, and who are using this manual as their basic text. Co-operating with the Public Service Institute in the publication of this manual is the Pennsylvania Government Administration Service, which is composed of the Institute of Local and State Government of the University of Pennsylvania and the Institute of Local Government of The Pennsylvania State College. This manual is very well written and includes all subjects of importance to the administration of correctional and penal workers in Pennsylvania. It is written by authorities on the subject, and besides the contributions of Miss Pigeon includes articles by Dr. J. O. Reinemann of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia and a number of articles on institutional management and treatment which appeared in The Prison World and were assembled and organized by Austin H. MacCormick of the Osborne Association, New York.

The following are the chapters and an outline of their contents:

## Part I - The Criminal Justice Program of Pennsylvania

I. The Police  
 The Police Power - The Police Authority - History and Development of the Police - General Police Problems - Enforcement of the Penal Code - Organization of Police Departments - The Performance of Police Duties - Crime Prevention Units.

II. Detention  
 Definition - Place of Detention - Use of Bail - History of Detention - The Importance of Detention - The Laboratory Use of Detention - Detention As a Part of Treatment - Reasons for Using Detention - State Control - Suggested Solutions for the Detention System.

III. The Courts of Pennsylvania  
 Functions of the Courts - Organization - The Minor Courts - The District or County Courts - The Juvenile Courts - Special Courts - The Appellate Courts - Federal Courts - The District Attorney - The Public Defender - The Jury - The Judicial Approach.

IV. Probation  
 Definition - History and Development - The Provisions of Probation in Pennsylvania - Organization and Administration - The Functions to be Performed - Desertion and Non-support - State Control and Supervision.

V. Penal and Correctional Institutions  
 Definition - History and Development of Prisons - The Classification of Institutions - Classification of Offenders - Education and Training - Prison Labor - Correctional Institutions for Juveniles - The County Penal Institutions - State Control: The Department of Welfare.

VI. Release Procedures and Parole  
 Introduction - Definitions - History and Development - Development in Pennsylvania - Pennsylvania's 1941 Parole Act - Present Parole Procedures - Underlying Principles of Parole - Supplementary Local Correctional Agencies and Resources.

## Part II - The Treatment of the Delinquent

VII. The Behavior of the Delinquent  
 The Purposefulness of Behavior - Influence of the Past - The Importance of the Emotions - Reality - The Unconscious - Pleasure, Pain, and Habit - The Development and Adjustment of the Personality - Mechanisms Explanatory of Conduct - Mental Disease - Epilepsy - Psychopathic Personality

- VII. The Behavior of the Delinquent (continued)  
Neurosis - Alcoholism and Drug Addiction - Post  
Encephalitis - Abnormal Conditions Relating to  
Crime and Delinquency - The Means of Treatment  
- Social Factors Relating to Behavior.
- VIII. The Treatment of the Individual  
Social Case Work - Case Study and Diagnosis  
- Institutional Diagnosis.
- IX. Case Work As a Means of Treatment  
Introduction - Developing Strength and Resistance  
in the Offender - Improving the Social Situation  
- Modifying the Environment - Establishing a  
Relationship Between Offender and Case Worker  
- The Use of Authority - The Use of Volunteers.
- X. Developing Community Understanding of Probation  
and Parole Work  
Newspapers and Magazines - Talks and Lectures  
- Radio Broadcasts - Motion Pictures - Dramatic  
Plays - Exhibits - Leaflets and Circulars  
- Research.
- XI. Institutional Treatment and Management  
American Jail Standards - The Regional Work  
Farm - Discipline and Custody - Recreation  
in Institutions - Medical Service in Institutions  
- Prison Treatment of Psychopathic Cases  
- Malingering Among Prisoners - Institutional  
Sanitation - Feeding the Inmate - Planning,  
Preparing, and Serving Meals - Clothing the  
Inmate - Mail Censorship - Controlling the  
Visiting Privilege.
- XII. Prevention

THE IMPORTANCE OF A JOB  
IN PLANNING FOR THE JUVENILE PROBATIONER AND PAROLEE\*

Robert Clark Taber

The Significance of the Job

To stress the importance of a job for the juvenile probationer or parolee to an audience of persons who are keenly interested in the field of probation may seem unnecessary. One might say that even a person who does not know any better knows enough to know that a job is important. This is borne out very forcibly by an incident which recently took place in the Domestic Relations Division of our Courts.

A feeble-minded girl, while waiting to be interviewed, was engaged in a conversation with one of Court officers. She was very talkative and disclosed during the course of the conversation that she was holding two very important jobs. The Court officer remarked that was indeed fortunate to be able to hold two jobs in these difficult times, and he inquired about them.

She said, "I runs Byberry." (the Philadelphia State Hospital for the Mentally Ill)

The Court officer was taken aback and asked what else she did.

She replied that she and her father trained all the policemen and firemen in the city of Philadelphia. Again he expressed surprise and in a jesting way called her attention to two burly policemen, who were then walking through the door. "And these gentlemen," said he, "you train these men too?"

"Oh," said she in disgust, "those 'sons-of-guns' done show up for rehearsal."

When a feeble-minded person goes out of his way to trump up a job in his own imagination in order to impress others, we realize full well that a job has a tremendous psychological importance. Although the financial compensation is not to be minimized, it is only a part of the significance which a job symbolizes for all of us.

Increased Responsibility of Juvenile Courts

This matter of work for our probationers and parolees has become increasingly important. In the first place the extension of the Juvenile Court age to 18 years in September of 1939, has added

a new responsibility to our caseloads. Perhaps we appreciate more than ever the role the school system plays in providing a definite constructive program for the major portion of a child's day. Now we find ourselves responsible for the child, who is not compelled to go to school and who, in most instances, has no job, or for the child who has reached the saturation point as far as education is conceived, but who is compelled to continue his schooling until he secures a job.

#### Adolescence - A Problem Period

In order to appreciate more fully the importance of a job to the juvenile offender and parolee, we need to reflect upon adolescence itself. The child under 12 tends to follow a life which is patterned by his parents' basis. Life IS and he tends to take it pretty much as it is. In general, he has, at this stage, no racial or class prejudice. He either likes a person or does not and he does not stop to wonder why. The child of 12 is usually protected by his parents. If he gets into trouble, his parents intercede for him and there is security for him in knowing that he can rest back on their reputation. He has no great decisions of his own to make.

However, that unpredictable state, which we have labelled adolescence, inevitably enters the picture. Adolescence might be described as a stage of hothouse or mushroom growth, by reason of the fact that so much is concentrated in so short a period of time. Physically, the child changes, and frequently these changes are uneven with the result that he is apt to be ungainly and awkward, and more frequently than not, self-conscious. He constantly experiences new physical and psychological drives. Life takes on new form and meaning. He becomes aware of himself as an individual, as different from the next person. He becomes aware of impulses and drives within him which press for an outlet, and at the same time he is conscious of the need to control them. He no longer takes his parents for granted. He begins to question their authority over him and their wisdom as quite the "God given thing," which he had always assumed. He may find himself openly rebelling against them in his new search for independence, but all of this is confusing, because together with his impulse to be different, he also wants to be like others and to be accepted by others. He is pleased with his own sense of independence on the one hand, but he is guilty about it on the other.

The adolescent also becomes aware of the opposite sex. In general, his first attitude is one of indifference but this later is followed by a sensitiveness to, and attraction for, the opposite sex. The shift, which is required to bridge this gap, is too frequently confusing. Before the child has gotten over the feeling of "I have no time for boys or girls," a new feeling of "That person does something to me," gets into motion and the cross currents are at work.

These are only a few of the conflicts which attend that kaleidoscopic experience of adolescence, but we need to be aware of the operation of these forces if we are to understand this stage

of development. So frequently we think of the adolescent as one who is completely irresponsible, who is eternally gay, and who just does not care. If we lose sight of the fact that opposite forces are also at play, pressing him to a sense of responsibility and maturity we overlook the very qualities which make the adolescent susceptible to constructive change.

Adolescence, then, is characterized by both physiological and psychological changes. His emotional responses play an increasing part in his life. It is a period of reorientation and reorganization, the threshold of gearing into life on an adult level. When we fully appreciate some of these disturbing experiences which the adolescent goes through, then we are in a position to see more readily how a goodly portion of delinquency represents the growing pains of adolescence. Although we have come to believe that criminals are not born and thereby predestined to a life of crime, we also know that the impress of destructive influences at this crucial stage, can turn the tide from one of respectability to one of degradation.

#### The Role of the Job in Adolescence

As brief as this discussion of adolescence must be, it gives us some clue as to the role which a job plays in helping an individual to reorganize himself and to give direction to his many impulses and drives. There must be a medium or channel, where he can work through this struggle to some kind of an adjustment. The majority of us find that we can work out these adjustments in our social relationships, in high school or prep school. The very fact that we have something absorbing to engage us takes us outside of ourselves and permits a self-expression, which though it may involve problems, permits us some satisfaction. We have the feeling that we belong, that we are useful, that we are part of something which is larger than ourselves and that our world in general stays out.

Among our probationers, however, we are apt to find two problems in this area. The child may be compelled by the attendance law to continue school, despite the fact that he has no desire or ability to profit by further education. In this instance, school becomes the focus of his problem and only adds to his confusion. If, on the other hand, the individual has nothing to which to turn, he finds himself in a vacuum. All of the drive, which needs to be worked out, has no place to go. It accumulates and turns back upon the individual. The youth who has a job moves into a new and interesting experience, one that demands something of him, which toughens his fibre, which he can put his teeth into, so to speak, so that the focus of his problem is outside of himself rather than within. The routine of a job tends to serve as a stabilizing factor; it holds him to account. In short, the job becomes, in a sense, a disciplining agent, whereas if he has no such framework within which to operate, he himself has to become the disciplining agent.

## Special Difficulties Facing the Unemployed Adolescent

Why should we not expect serious crimes and offenses of these adolescent boys and girls between 16 and 18 years of age if unemployed? They have no activity which challenges their resources or engages them in a way that the conflicting forces are softened. If you have had experience with a made-work program, you have witnessed the confusion to which the employee comes to his job and then finally finds himself and gets under way with increasing momentum. All of us must have a medium for our self expression. We all have a desire to DO and to BE and these drives become organized and directed if they have a constructive channel in which they can operate. But when there is no outlet for their expression, they freeze up inside the person and lose their direction and become disorganized. In a sense, they tend to become raw impulses, and raw impulses are dynamite because there is no mechanism within the individual which curbs or inhibits their expression. I dare say that this is one of the reasons for a large number of offenses involving the theft of automobiles, committed by boys between the ages of 16 and 20 years. Stealing a car does not satisfy a need on a physical level, nor can it be regarded as a necessity. If it is not the actual car which he desires, then what does the offender seek to gain by committing such an offense?

I wonder if we do not have to look back to the meaning of experience to get some clue as to the reason, and then I think we find that such an offense satisfies an emotional rather than a physical need to a great extent. At least, he has the thrill at the moment of matching his wits against the world's. At least, for the moment he is more than a non-entity. He has little to risk, and it breaks the monotony of being on dead center. It may involve retaliation on his part, or it may represent a sudden outburst of this disorganized energy which is within him. Needless to say, every case presents its own problem, but certainly stabilizing forces can help in such a predicament.

## The Function of the Probation Officer

The tools of the probation officer in the treatment of the individual are limited. We have no formulas, no insulin shock, no blood transfusions, and no X-rays. As probation officers, we are dealing with one of the most elusive and intangible forces which exists; namely, those qualities which go to make up personality and human behavior. For the moment, technical training and equipment will be taken for granted as a necessity. If we are to cope with this problem effectively, we need in addition to our training, to corral every practical tool that is within our reach and certainly the use of a job in planning for the juvenile probationer and parolee is an extremely important one. Admittedly, we cannot make jobs. The problem has grown beyond that. Occasionally, we can help in enabling an individual to secure employment, but these occasions are rather few and far between. I am convinced that those of us who have come to know, day in and day out, the devastating effects of unemployment upon youth, have a responsibility to interpret this problem to the community with a hope that something can be done about it.



## Experience in Philadelphia

Our experience in Philadelphia with juveniles between 16 and 18 has been very encouraging in that the general run of cases give real promise of rehabilitation and adjustment; during the 4-month period from September 1, 1939 to January 1, 1940, 616 cases between the ages of 16 and 18 have come under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Division of the Court. Of these, 171 were girls and 445 boys. Half of the boys' cases concerned themselves with such trivial offenses as running away from home, truancy, and acts of mischievousness. The dispositions are of real interest: 207 discharged after investigation by the Probation Department (large percentage with physical and mental examinations); 85 placed on probation to the Crime and Prevention Association; 2 placed on probation to the Big Brothers Association; 36 placed on probation to the Court; 6 medical probation; 61 committed to institutions - 21 to Huntingdon, 36 to the House of Correction, 2 to Pennhurst, 1 to Protectory, and 1 to Allentown State Hospital; 2 referred to Quarter Sessions Court, and 46 other dispositions.

On the serious side of the ledger we find that nearly 10% of the offenders were auto stealing. Nine cases involved robbery, 65 cases other forms of stealing, and 30 injuries to person.

Among the girls we find that disorderly street walking and other sex offenses begin to loom larger.

The one problem which consistently cuts across the caseload is unemployment. Knowing as we do the importance of a job to the adolescent offender, this question warrants a real concentration of effort on the part of all of us.

## Dilemma of Delinquents in Regard to Employment

Our made-work programs have performed a very valuable purpose, but when we consider the youth between 16 and 18 we find a decided gap. The National Youth Administration aids those who are in school, but the age limit for work projects starts at 18. The WPA has set its minimum age limit at 21. In addition to the age limitation, the CCC camps reject the individual who is on parole or probation. In addition to all this, the private employer hesitates to hire a person under 18, except in restricted trades.

Our youthful offenders, who would profit more from work than further schooling, are therefore, caught in a dilemma. I should like therefore, to submit for your consideration the suggestion that a special committee be appointed by the Pennsylvania State Association On Probation and Parole to explore the resources we have at hand and to approach these official organizations with the hope that a special program could be developed. The whole matter warrants careful investigation and thoughtful evaluation with a special view to the youth who is limited in intelligence and who is "hand-minded."

Although made-work at its best should only be regarded as temporary, it is certainly far superior to having our youths languishing in idleness. Made-work would provide wholesome activity and foster a sense of independence and self-reliance until premanent employment could be secured.

A job plays an essential role in the process of growing up. It serves as a kind of "finding ground" where a youth may get his bearings. If a job is lacking at this crucial stage in his development, it may mean postponed maturity, or perhaps even eternal adolescence accompanied as it would be with disorganization, irresponsibility, and instability. We have a real job ahead of us in securing job opportunities for those who daily come under our supervision.

- \* The above article was delivered at the 1940 Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Probation and Parole Association held at Wilkes-Barre. Although it was written during the depression, the main thesis of the article is valid today. Mr. Taber is the Chief Probation Officer of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia. - Editor

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#### EDITORIAL COMMENT

Before the next issue of the Quarterly the annual conference, held in Harrisburg on April 6-8, will have become history. The executive committee have given careful thought and preparation to make the program one that will serve in some way toward the solution of those problems which confront the probation and parole work.

For the first time, at least for a period of years, the problem of the Negro delinquent is to receive consideration. The speakers are leaders in their field and should aid us in gaining perspective in reference to this problem.

Another first is the opportunity of seeing a classification committee of one of our correctional institutions in operation. Later in the afternoon we shall have a discussion on "Employment Opportunities for the Youth of Pennsylvania."

At the annual Luncheon Meeting, Sanford Bates, commissioner, Board of Parole, New York State, will speak on the topic "When the Prison Door Swings Open."

On Wednesday, the program will include "Methods of Procedure in Non-support Cases," a panel discussion by juvenile court judges on the topic "The Need for Uniformity of Practice Under the Juvenile Court Act."

The meetings will close with the final business meeting. The detailed program will be found elsewhere in the Bulletin. Plan to come to attend the Monday evening business meeting and prepare to stay through the final session. Among the important matters under consideration are the revision of the by-laws and the election of officers. Make this your organization!

Ugo Carusi, executive assistant to Attorney General Francis Biddle, said in reference to a plan to parole skilled workers in Federal prisons for military service or defense work, "a youngster who may steal his first car or make a little liquor in the backyard would nevertheless make a good soldier."

We believe Mr. Carusi is echoing the feeling that many a probation and parole officer has had that the delinquent should not be barred from military or naval service or enrollment in the Civilian Conservation Corp after he has succeeded in making a successful adjustment. This refusal has sometimes discouraged a probationer or parolee and neutralized the good effect of the treatment which had been good.

Several months ago the editor on one of his trips picked up a well built young man who was on his way to Pittsburgh to enter the navy. He said he had travelled over one thousand miles in his efforts up to that time. When fourteen years of age, he with another boy had been involved in store theft. He had been placed on probation and had made a satisfactory adjustment under the direction of a skillful probation officer. But his so-called "criminal record" barred him from serving his country. The judge before whom he had appeared several years ago interested himself in the matter, gave him recommendations, but all to no avail. Finally, the matter was brought to the attention of the Congressman of the district, and after the passage of some time he was allowed to put on the uniform of the navy.

The purpose of probation and parole is to return the former delinquent to society as an asset rather than a liability. It seems rather inconsistent to ask private industry to accept these men and boys when the government refuses to accept them. We are glad to note that the government is giving some indication of a change of policy. We believe that it should be broadened to include state probationers or parolees as well as those from Federal institutions.

J. W. Zang, editor

## DELINQUENCY AMONG NEGROES IN JOHNSTOWN

The following facts are taken from a survey of the Negro population of metropolitan Johnstown made under the direction of Miss Florence M. Hornback, M.A., LL.B., Dean of the School of Social Service, Xavier University, New Orleans. The editor, together with a group of Pennsylvania State College students, participated in the survey. The matter is presented here as being of interest, because of the inclusion of the subject "Treatment of the Negro Delinquent" on the program at the annual conference.

Of the total of 12,311 arrests during 1937, 1938, 1939, and 1940, 895 were those of colored men and women - 7.2% of the total. Mr. Hartnett states that of these arrests, many persons were brought in two, three, four, five or more times a year, particularly on charges of drunkenness, and he suggests that by taking a fourth of the number of arrests, the number of persons involved can be computed. A fourth of 895 represents 1.9% of the total number of persons arrested as compared with 2% of the population.

Arrests sometimes involve non-residents, but for purposes of computation and the fact that the number of non-residents is not known we shall not consider this fact in arriving at the following:

- (a) 12,311 total arrests in four years represent 18.5% of the total population.
- (b) Subtracting the Negro population of 1,444 from the total population of 66,648 and the 895 Negro arrests from the total of 12,311, the percentage of arrests other than Negro involves 17.5% of the population, assuming that the balance of arrests occurred only once per person and the colored persons were arrested only once.
- (c) The 895 arrests of approximately 223.75 (one-fourth of 895) Negroes represents 15% of the total Negro population of 1,444, mostly on charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct and disorderly houses.

Persons habitually arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct are often persons who have no home in which they can go, but wander about the streets where they are picked up by policemen in their line of duty. Arresting women for maintaining "disorderly houses" does not eliminate these places if the community countenances them by permitting places of bad repute to continue. Both the causes of drunkenness and disorderly conduct and disorderly houses represent people who composed 1.9% of the total number of arrests.

Of the total number of arrests (regardless of number of times each person was arrested), 18.5 out of every hundred involved the total population of which 1.35 was colored and 17.15 was White.

Assuming that the great number of arrests for White persons occurred only once in four years, the arrests of White persons involved 17.5 of every hundred White persons. The number of Negroes arrested approximately four times in four years involve 15 persons of every hundred colored persons.

Aside from the 223 colored persons involved in misdemeanor, the Negro population as a whole is not a problem to the police.

#### DELINQUENCY

	Percentage	
	<u>White</u>	<u>Colored</u>
386 white, 13 colored children, as parts of a total of 399 . . . . .	96.7	3.3
Committed to institutions - total 399 . . . . .	13.5	1.0
54 of 386 white - 4 of 13 colored . . . . .	14.0	30.8
Probation - total 399 cases . . . . .	31.1	.02
124 of 386 white - 8 of 13 colored . . . . .	32.1	61.5
Discharged - total of 399 cases . . . . .	52.1	.0025
208 of 386 white - 1 of 13 colored . . . . .	54.0	7.6

Of the white and colored cases, 46% of the cases for each group involved children from 10 to 15 years of age. The proportion of delinquent colored children more than triples the proportionate rate of population for the county as a whole, but the number of commitments to institutions equals the proportion of whole population. The number of colored children placed on probation almost doubles the proportionate number of white children, which may indicate that many of the 3.3% were first offenders or not involved in very serious charges, which seems indicated by charges made on Mrs. Bennett's report. In proportion to their numbers, only one-eighth as many colored children as white were placed in custody of relatives, employment or returned to places of legal residence.

Both probation and discharged Negro children in proportion to the total number of cases is far less than the proportionate total population.

## THE ROOM WITH THE LITTLE DOOR\*

by

Docham H. Harris  
Probation and Parole Officer  
York

He was sixteen years old when I first met him; when I first knew him in "The room with the little door." He was one of the many I meet each day in my work as a probation and parole officer of the Court.

I liked his frankness as he related his story. His steady grey blue eyes hardly left mine as he went over the events which brought him here. He was born in an alley; he lived in an alley. There was not much more for him than just an alley. He left school because he had no money to buy decent clothes to wear to school. He could not work, because he had not yet reached the age of industrial employment. The overalls he wore were torn in many places and his shoes were broken at the toe and sides. His ropey uncombed and uncut hair capped a well shaped head. But he seemed contented here behind these bars. It was a resting place for his tired little body and a full meal awaited him, something he had not known in the alley.

He stole an automobile. He could not tell me why; there was just no reason. Possibly he wanted to get away from the alley. He wanted to get out where the grass was, where he could walk through fallen leaves, where he could see the stems of faded flowers. It was a way to get out of the alley. But the consequences . . . .

It was not the situation itself. It was the personal reaction to the situation that made this boy a thief. The accumulating circumstances surrounding the desires, the wants, and anticipations were so overwhelming his thoughts and his feelings were susceptible to what presented itself. Crime is a conscious act, but boys who commit crime are not always conscious of the punishment.

Boys must have the opportunity to decide for themselves and the chance to decide wrong if they are to learn to decide right. The making of rules and regulations does not materially assist this decision, whether it is right or wrong. There must be something above decision - a something that has meaning, something that has reality, and that reality, then is the restriction imposed by authority, the stern reality of the law's redress. He only wanted a chance to live. Not within the confines of a complicated tangle of habits, attitudes, and reactions, but within the sphere of individualism where moral obligations and responsibilities are for conquest of those who run the race. And he wanted to have a chance to run that race. He asked for nothing more.

And that is what he wanted to say to that kindly man wearing that long black robe sitting high above him. He was standing with his hands resting on the rail in front of him, and I was standing beside him. He was shifting from one foot to the other as the district attorney was reading aloud something about stealing an automobile and legal phrases he could not understand. And then he handed it up to the man in the black robe. I noticed his hand was trembling; I touched it, and it was cold. He was looking up into the face of the man above him. And somewhere within his soul, he was conscious there was a great divide between them. And yet in an instant almost, that distance was bridged. He found for the first time in all his years, a friend.

The judge called him by his first name. And he spoke kindly to him. However, he just could not understand why this man in the black robe did not speak cross to him and send him back to jail. But the judge told him to go home and come back some other day. But not home in the alley, not back to that narrow strip of city pavements where the curses and the cries and the drunken brawls are bedtime stories to the alley. No, the judge would not send him back there. But he sent him out to a place where he could kick leaves and see the stems of blooming flowers, and he could sit down on a grassy mound and look up to the blue heaven and feel that his soul is free.

This boy was more in need of formation than reformation. He had to be transplanted. The judge saw in him a prospect for readjustment. His moral obligations must be correlated with his fitness for a new social setup. There must be put in motion a programme of variations which reach the utmost in his limited sphere of education, of intelligence, of understanding. This alley waif found in the judge a friend and because of this friendship, it was not difficult to persuade him to renounce the immoral and accept a constructive principle of self-conduct. And he found it. He found it because he had a new vision, he had a new concept of things. He just severed the motivating influences which subjected him to his alley associates. He had to lift himself from the criminal embryo to a statutory code of higher ideals.

The judge was not so much concerned about the history of what made this good boy bad as he was about what could be done now to help make this bad boy good. And this experiment was worth the chance.

If a defective social setup had made this boy a thief, it is the duty of society to give this boy the opportunity to readjust himself to these ever changing sociological developments. And he met this challenge with a firm determination to keep faith with the judge, his friend, whose confidence he would not dissipate. He had the chance to make good; it was all he asked.

A year later when I stood beside him for the final order to be made, his hand did not tremble, neither was it cold. He came back to meet his friend, the judge. He was no more afraid.

- \* This article above was presented to the class in Principles and Methods in Dealing with Offenders sponsored by the Public Service Institute of the Commonwealth, held at York. The writer reports the sequel of the story: The young man is employed in one of the industrial plants at York, has a wife and baby, as well as a comfortable home, and he is respected by the community.

### NEW YORK STATE'S 1936 PAROLEES MAKE GOOD RECORD

Five years out of New York State's prison, only 7.5% of the 1,606 prisoners paroled by the New York State Parole Board in 1936 have been convicted of new felonies while under parole supervision, according to a special study of persons released in that year and made public by Dr. Joseph W. Moore, chairman of the Parole Board.

Another 7% of these men and women, all of whom have served in prison for a felony, were convicted of committing new misdemeanors, the lesser degree of crime not punishable in the courts of New York State imprisonment.

A total of 85% were not convicted of any new infraction of law, of a major or minor degree.

This special study of the group paroled in 1936 is the third five-year survey to be made of a whole group paroled in one year. The other two were the histories of those paroled in 1934 and 1935. Those paroled in 1936 showed lowest rate of crime conviction among the three groups.

A comparison among the three groups of felony and misdemeanor convictions follows:

With the 1934 group the proportion convicted of felonies was 9.4%; among the 1935 releases, 8.5%; of the 1936 releases, 7.6%.

The percentage convicted of misdemeanors in the 1934 group was 8.1%; among 1935 releases, 7.1%, and of 1936 releases, 7.1%

#### Sixty-five Percent Live Up to Parole Agreement

Of the 85% in the 1936 group not convicted of new law infractions, the five-year study indicated that about 65% not only did not get into trouble with the law, but were found by the Parole Division apparently living up satisfactorily to their parole agreement.

The remaining 20% were not convicted of new law infractions, but as a matter of public safety were returned to prison by the



Parole Board, either to complete their sentences or to wait until they were better prepared to meet their parole obligations. This 20% returned by the New York State Parole Board, not by the courts, included 4% who were arrested, but against whom charges were dismissed on grounds of insufficient evidence.

The tabulation of the record of the 1936 parolees follows:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Felony convictions	122	7.6
Misdemeanor convictions	114	7.1
Ordered returned to prison by board for parole violation	327	20.4
Satisfactory adjustment	1,043	64.9
Totals	<u>1,606</u>	<u>100.0</u>

#### Background of Parolees

While parolees in 1936 represented prisoners from all types of background, training, and homes, most of them had little education and came from poverty-stricken or unsettled home conditions.

Nearly 60% of all paroled in that year left school before reaching their sixteenth birthday. Less than 25% studied beyond the eighth grade.

Two-thirds of those paroled were single. Thirty-seven percent paroled during the year came from homes broken by death, divorce, or separation before they reached their sixteenth birthday.

While the parolees were selected from those with less serious criminal records, only one-third in so far as official records show, had no previous arrests or contacts with law-enforcing agencies.

The median age of all paroled in that year was 27 years and 9 months. About two-fifths were 25 years old or less.

- The New York Times  
November 30, 1941