

The Quarterly

*Kindness, Patience, Tolerance,
The wit to understand
Are among the greatest gifts
That come from the Maker's hand.*

The Pennsylvania Association
on
Probation and Parole

FALL, 1953

The Pennsylvania Association On Probation and Parole

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In This Issue

ASSOCIATION NEWS

1. President's Letter
2. Comments
3. Regional Meetings
 - a. Western
 - b. Eastern
 - c. Central
4. Notice to the Association

NEWS AND VIEWS

1. A Poll on Youth Problems
2. Pennsylvania Welfare Conference
 - a. Program Meeting
 - b. Regional Meeting
3. Parole Board Member
4. Deputy Commissioner
5. Foreign Visitors
6. People
 - a. Charles Chute
 - b. John J. Humanick
7. Baby Sitting

EDITORIAL

1. Are We Doing Right by Juvenile Offenders

FROM THE FILES

1. Juvenile "Shot-Rod" Runs into Responsibility

REVIEWS

1. Manual for Parole Officers
2. Criminology — A Book of Readings
3. What We Can Do About the Drug Menace
4. Four Pamphlets on Juvenile Delinquency

Association News..



President's Letter

To the members of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation and Parole:

Our Fall Program of Regional Institutes is now completed and, from comments received, I know that many members have benefited from the meetings—I am one of them.

By attending the regional meetings, I not only obtain information that aids me in my work but also I have an opportunity to meet fellow workers in the Probation and Parole field.

The programs were designed to suit regional interest and meet re-

gional needs. The Association officers are interested in knowing whether these aims were realized.

It would not be unusual in an organization for some members to feel that the officials run things to suit themselves and not the membership, but we do not want our Association to operate that way. The officers are eager for comments, suggestions or even criticisms.

Also, the Quarterly is your magazine. Let the editors know what you want from the Association and the Quarterly so that both may serve you.

Peter J. Frascino

Comments

Following President Frascino's thought about what the members want from the Association, we asked a number of people to let us know why they do or do not belong to the Association. We print here a few excerpts from some of the replies:

"Only through a professional organization can standards be maintained and improved. The Association affords the opportunity . . . for personal contacts that are invaluable in strengthening professional relations. The seminars are helpful in keeping members abreast of developments".

Parole Officer

"I belong. The Association helps me through its programs and publication, which also educate others in the community.

"I think the Association might involve more 'rank and file' members in planning and participating in programs. Also, it would help to have more information provided about retirement, social security, tenure, job opportunities, etc."

Former Juvenile Court Worker
"I used to belong, but I lost interest. It didn't seem to me that I got much out of the Association meetings."

Institution Worker

Regional Meetings

WESTERN

The first Regional Meeting of the fall season was held at the General Brodhead Hotel, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, on October 5, 1953. Approximately 100 persons registered, with 150 attending the luncheon session. Panel discussion meetings were held in the morning and afternoon.

Morning Session

The meeting was opened by General Chairman W. R. Ambrose, Chief Probation Officer of Beaver County, who called on the Reverend T. H. Terry, St. John's A. M. E. Church, West Bridgewater, for the invocation. Judge Robert E. McCreary, Beaver County, then welcomed the group to Beaver County, and spoke feelingly about the problems faced by parents and the community in helping young people to grow into responsible citizenship. He felt that our present pattern of life had produced a decrease in religious emphasis in the home and that much of our difficulty with youth stemmed from this fact. Parents, he

thought, faced a dilemma in trying to understand their children's "growing pains" while at the same time expecting obedience and a positive response to discipline. Judge McCreary's comments were warmly received.

Mr. Reiber

Theodore H. Reiber, Pennsylvania Board of Parole Member, was introduced by Richard G. Farrow of the Parole Board staff who served as moderator, as the first panel speaker on the topic, "Community Cooperation in Correctional and Domestic Relations Problems".

Speaking from his many years of experience as an institution worker and Parole Board Member, Mr. Reiber stressed the importance and the difficulty of seeing "the other person's" point of view. He felt that the prisoner's difference in attitude and feeling was not always recognized by "outside" people who tended to credit him with the feelings they themselves might have in his situation.

In support of this point, Mr. Reiber told of a prisoner who had

stated that prisoners have come to want luxury and privilege as a right. If this is true, he went on, then that attitude must be recognized and the corrective effort must be aimed at helping prisoners to learn the need for effort and struggle in life.

A further illustration given by Mr. Reiber, who read from prisoners' letters, concerned the inmate's right to decide to forswear the privilege of parole. One prisoner clearly expressed that such external restraint, justified as he knew it to be, was not for him. He preferred to finish his full sentence and to be released without supervision. Mr. Reiber felt that this attitude, even though indicating a wide gulf of estrangement existing between the man and the community, and showing a tragic component in the man's life, had to be recognized as real and as being perhaps the core of the man's personality.

It is with some of these basic problems that parole deals in its efforts to serve the individual and the community.

Mr. Malone

The next speaker on the panel was Mr. Jack Malone, Managing Editor, Beaver Valley Times, and instructor in journalism at Geneva College. He stated that he believed the responsibility of the newspaper in this area of public service was to publicize all of the community's efforts to cope with juvenile and adult delinquency. As an aside, he added that he considered adult delinquency to be by far the more serious problem.

Newspapers, Mr. Malone said, by following the practice he advocated, encourage respect for law enforcement. Publication, without sensation of crime stories which emphasized apprehension of offenders and disposition through legal process, served, he thought, as a deterrent force.

He stressed the need for mutual respect between newsmen and law enforcement officials. The latter, in his experience, have at times contributed to the public attitude of distrust or suspicion of their work by not having confidence in reporters and not sharing important facts of a case with them. Mr. Malone believed that reporters do honor confidences entrusted to them and that they want to help public officials. Sometimes this may mean withholding publication of stories until a case "breaks", which papers are willing to do. However, where mutual trust does not exist, the reporters seek information through other sources and sometimes print information that police or others do not want revealed.

In relation to juvenile offenders, Mr. Malone said that most papers are eager to cooperate and that except for flagrant offenses do not publish names. He considered this quite consistent with the papers' responsibility to the community.

Reminiscing from his own experience in growing up, Mr. Malone said he could not agree with the statement frequently made that there are no delinquent children, only delinquent parents. Many parents, he thought, were just not aware of the extent of their children's activity and were deeply shocked when they learned of it.

In conclusion, Mr. Malone said that newspapers were constructive forces in a community and wanted to be of help in matters of law enforcement.

Dr. Snoke

Dr. James S. Snoke, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Allegheny County, outlining the job of educational institutions, pointed out that primarily their responsibility was to give instruction in skills and knowledge. At one time, this goal was felt to be sufficient,

but in recent times, schools have shifted their approach to students from an autocratic, "Prussian" view to a more democratic position. The aim now is to work with children in their growth processes.

This new development requires an augmented staff which should include guidance personnel. This program has not yet been fully developed or perhaps fully accepted. When it operates at its best level, personality and behavior difficulties which start as minor irritations for the person and the school community may be prevented from becoming major ailments.

In outline form, the school, according to Dr. Snoke, now offers:

1. Instruction in skills and knowledge.
2. Experience in human relationship.
3. Experience, within limits, in meeting requirements such as attendance and curriculum standards.

The school must function with equal effectiveness in these three areas if maximum benefits are to be derived by students and community. The guidance program serves to locate "trouble areas" with students and provide help in overcoming problems.

Dr. Nesbitt

The Reverend Dr. E. Marcellus Nesbitt, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, Beaver, appeared on the panel as the representative of religious groups of the community.

He stressed the need of human beings for religious and moral training along with training in skills and knowledge. Also, he emphasized the curative power of religion. As an example of this power, he told of the former prisoner, Starr Daly, who is now an outstanding religious worker, using

his experiences as a means to help other people.

Dr. Nesbitt thought the preventive aspect of religious influence was perhaps less spectacular than the curative, but was of equal importance. He quoted a report which indicated that less than half of the youth in the U. S. A. was in touch with formal church training. The churches are cooperating in the "released time" program of some school systems as a means of meeting the need of young people for religious instruction. It is said that 60% of the pupils participating in this program do not attend church.

Dr. Nesbitt concluded that religion must be basic in any training program, including a rehabilitative effort.

Mr. Gladden

William D. Gladden, Superintendent, Pennsylvania Junior Republic, Grove City, Pennsylvania, was the last speaker of the panel. He discussed the need for the community to understand the work of the correctional institution if the program was to achieve its maximum benefits.

As he saw it, the training school is a laboratory, the material to be studied and processed being children with problems. The function of the school is to return these children to the community as better citizens than they were. This can be done through a process of knowing each child, living and working with him in a training situation, and releasing him to a program of follow-up and after-care.

Discussion

Because of the planned discussion in the afternoon session, questions were limited to those aimed at speakers who could not be present later. The principle interest of the group seemed to be in the

area of the responsibility of the newspaper to the community and especially to the juvenile offender and the Juvenile Court. There was some thought that too much protection was being given to juveniles, with a consequent loss of their sense of responsibility for behavior. Also, it was conjectured that concealment of names removed the deterrent influence possible from publicity. Mr. Malone reasserted his belief that most juveniles should be handled anonymously by the papers, but he modified this by saying that repeated offenders could not always be handled in this way, and that the seriousness of the offense might compel the paper to give a story full coverage.

Additional discussion was deferred until the afternoon meeting.

Luncheon

Arthur T. Prasse, Pennsylvania's first Commissioner of Correction, was the featured speaker at the luncheon meeting. He was introduced by Attorney John D. Ray, Beaver Falls, former U. S. District Attorney. Judge Frank Reed, Beaver County Orphans Court, and Judge Walter Braham, Lawrence County, were introduced and spoke briefly. Entertainment was provided by three students of the Junior Republic, Grove City, who received hearty applause for their singing. The invocation was delivered by the Reverend Casimir P. Kosciusz, Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Beaver Falls; the benediction by the Reverend Martin S. Longenecker, Methodist Church, Ambridge.

Mr. Prasse

Speaking on "The Pennsylvania Prison Program", Mr. Prasse stated that he had been promised the utmost in help from Governor Fine in the program to make Pennsylvania's correctional system the

finest in the country. The Governor had pointed out that Pennsylvania's problem was not unique and that no state had yet developed the perfect solution. However, Mr. Prasse, recalling that Pennsylvania had led in prison work, felt that there was still a sound foundation on which to develop an improved system. He added that recently, foreign students of the subject had ranked Pennsylvania third among the states in the quality of correctional institutions, with California first because it had been progressive in experimentation and had spent the most money, and New York being second. Michigan was rated as following Pennsylvania.

The prison program for Pennsylvania, Mr. Prasse said, will be humane but firm, with action being prominent. Institutions will be graded so that as prisoners are classified the men may be sent to the institution best meeting individual needs. Training will be aimed at development of good work habits rather than trade skill, with an additional goal of contribution to the self-maintenance of institution and inmates. Prisoners will be expected to "work their way out, not sit it out".

The primary purpose of incarceration, Mr. Prasse stated, should be to fit a man for his future life. This should apply even to "lifers", who can be aided in finding a useful area of service and self-reclamation within the institution. Mr. Prasse emphasized the need for help from all areas if the correction program is to succeed.

Afternoon

A workshop program was planned for the afternoon, with some speakers from the morning panel available to answer questions and with a new panel of discussants consisting of: Major Kenneth S. Hitch, Personnel Psychologist, U.

S. Army, Recruiting Office, Pittsburgh; Joseph C. Catalano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Allegheny County; Captain William R. Hanna, Pennsylvania State Police, Butler; Charles D. Stone, Assemblyman, Aliquippa; and Richard P. Steward, District Attorney, Beaver County. Discussion was not possible because of time limits.

Major Hitch

The appearance of Major Hitch on the program was the result of difficulties arising in many cases because of prior records, criminal and juvenile, of men being recruited for military service. The Army, the Major said, insists on information about any arrests, despite Juvenile Court law and practice. If information is insufficient or is withheld, the Army bars induction of the person. Therefore, it was requested that probation, parole and police officials cooperate fully in supplying full details of offenses when requested. The Army is interested in knowing the extent of force used, the use and type of weapon, value and nature of stolen articles, and whether a particular person was an instigator in the offense. Active probationers and parolees, and people out on bail, are not acceptable to the military services. An inductee or enlistee **must** be free of all civilian penalty or restraint resulting from an offense.

Mr. Catalano

Recalling that some of the morning speakers had stressed the great therapeutic effect of "understanding the delinquent", Mr. Catalano expressed the doubt that understanding alone had much value. In his experience, offenders needed more dynamic treatment than understanding if any positive results were to be achieved.

Captain Hanna

The press, according to the Captain, is not always so cooperative

as Mr. Malone had considered it to be. One of the biggest problems of police work was that of dealing with reporters. Confidences are sometimes betrayed, resulting in a distrustful attitude on the part of the police. This, in turn, often produces criticism by the papers. Cases have been wrecked by untimely publicity, and police pleas for cooperation have been ignored. If there is a sure-fire way of achieving a harmonious, constructive relationship, Captain Hanna would like to know about it.

Mr. Stone

The only mention of the domestic relations part of the topic of the conference was made by Mr. Stone who discussed the recent legislation concerning the prosecution and follow-up of desertion and non-support cases. This Civil Procedural Support Law, in addition to providing for maintenance of records in each judicial district by establishment of Domestic Relations Division, prescribes the manner for filing complaints, and empowers the attachment of wages of any person owing support, with 2% to be deducted by the employer to cover his costs in handling the matter. Mr. Stone predicted that Probation Officers will be increasingly concerned with desertion and non-support cases. He hoped the new law would effectively reduce the common practice of piling up arrears on court orders for support.

Mr. Steward

An earnest plea for a more realistic approach to the handling of offenders was made by Mr. Steward. Playing some members of the legal profession for their tactics in delaying court processes and in using every legal loophole to help a guilty person evade responsibility for his behavior, Mr. Steward advocated sterner sentences by courts — especially Fed-

eral Courts — as a partial solution to our crime problem.

Too much sympathy and concern are focused on the criminal, he thought, and not enough on the community.

Committee

The committees responsible for program and arrangements were: **District:** Juudge Roy S. Carson, Washington County Court; Angelo C. Cavell, Supervisor, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, Erie; Dan L. Rees, Superintendent, Thorn Hill School for Boys, Allegheny County; Homer L. Sparks, Chief Probation Officer, Uniontown; Jack M. Dunlap, Superintendent, Boys' Industrial Home of Western Pennsylvania; Norbert E. Welch, Parole Director, Western State Penitentiary, Pittsburgh; Charles Ross, Chief Probation Officer, Lawrence County; General John Aiken Administrative Assistant, Pennsylvania Training School, Canonsburg; Regis A. Hoover, Executive Assistant, Pennsylvania Junior Republic Association, Grove City; Laurabelle Gaitens, Parole Agent, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, Pittsburgh; Vincent A. Harratty, Agent in Charge, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, Butler; Harry J. Cancelmi, Supervisor, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, Pittsburgh.

Local: H. C. Elder, Superintendent of Schools, Beaver County; Mrs. Elwood T. Hughes, Federation of Woman's Clubs, Beaver County; Mary E. Burkholder, Executive Director, Child Welfare Services, Beaver County; Edward A. Hitchin, Major, Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion 110th, Beaver; Frances K. Doherr, Juvenile Counselor, Beaver County; William F. Butler, Margaret M. Purcell, Michael J. Jackson, Associate Probation Officers, Beaver County; Thelma E. Dindinger, Mary Lou Deyber, Rose Zielinski, Secretaries,

Probation Office, Beaver County. **Publicity:** R. R. Coates, Arnold J. Felsher.

W. L. Ambrose served as General Chairman, with County Commissioners William V. Kennedy, Sam M. McCune and George L. Werner as Honorary Chairmen.

EASTERN

Morning Session

President Frascino opened the Eastern Regional Meeting of the Association, held at the Americus Hotel in Allentown, October 19. After greeting the assembled members and guests, Mr. Frascino introduced the topic for the morning session, "Problems of Juvenile Motor Vehicle Operators". He then presented the panel discussants: Lawrence R. Campbell, Chief Probation Officer, Carbon County; Captain Arthur J. Oldham, Commanding Officer, Troop "A", Pennsylvania State Police, Philadelphia; and Mrs. Marian Markley, Lehigh County Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Mr. Campbell

Mr. Campbell, speaking only for his own county, outlined the problem as he saw it. Motor vehicle operators between the ages of 16 and 18, who thus are subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, do not come within the authority of justices of the peace for any violations of the Motor Code. The justices very properly turn these offenders over to the Juvenile Court Probation Office. Mr. Campbell, taking the view that because adult offenders against the Motor Code are heard in summary court, was opposed to any more formal action for the juvenile group. In order to have this group processed by the judge in Juvenile Court, petitions would have to be submitted, declaring the youths

delinquent. It was given as the attitude of the court and Probation Office that to follow this procedure would penalize the juveniles more severely than is done for adults, since even Juvenile Court records may later appear as a stigma against youths who seek military service or other fields where arrests may be a barrier.

The offenses are thus handled by reprimand from Mr. Campbell, with no formal action taken by the court. This was recognized as being unsatisfactory, and Mr. Campbell expressed his feeling that Pennsylvania needed legislation to permit Juvenile Court action on such cases with "Motor Code Violation" as the basis, supplementing the present need for labeling an offender "Delinquent".

Mr. Campbell opposed public school training of drivers who do not have legitimate access to a car after they obtain driver's license. In his experience, possession of a license serves as a temptation to drive. He told of instances of this kind involving purchase of old cars and subsequent theft in order to maintain and operate them.

Captain Oldham

The variation in practice among the judicial districts of the state, so far as handling of juvenile Motor Code violators is concerned, causes confusion for State Police, Captain Oldham said. Some courts instruct justices of the peace to dispose of juveniles in the same manner as adult cases. Other jurisdictions want the Juvenile Court to get all juveniles, regardless of offense, while still others prefer to have informal disposition made by the Probation Officer.

From his experience, Captain Oldham thought that all Motor Code violators, juvenile or adult, should receive the same handling, since all bear equal responsibility as drivers. If such a course of

action is not feasible under Pennsylvania law, then he wondered whether consideration should not be given to raising the age for beginning drivers to 18.

In expanding the scope of the problem, the Captain related that many courts do not notify the Bureau of Highway Safety in Harrisburg of the arrests of juvenile offenders and the lifting of drivers' licenses by Probation Officers or Juvenile Court. As a result of this failure, the juveniles are able to obtain duplicate licenses and to continue driving.

Emphasizing that State Police have a positive attitude in this problem and that they want to help young drivers, Captain Oldham stressed the need for action other than the confusion of practices now prevalent. The problem is of utmost seriousness, he said, because our highway death rate is staggering.

Mrs. Markley

The Legislature, Mrs. Markley said, does not make morals. It can only seek to become aware of problems of the community and form laws to cope with the offending behavior. To the best of her knowledge as a member of the Motor Vehicle Committee, the problem under discussion was never brought to the Committee's attention during or before the recent session of the Legislature. If corrective legislation is needed, and she thought it was, then it is the responsibility of groups aware of the need—and the Association would be such a group—to outline the problem and the proposed remedy and to submit material to the Committee. It would be important, she said, to clear the proposal with the Attorney General in order to assure constitutionality before the Committee starts to work on legislation.

In defense of juvenile drivers, Mrs. Markley said she had many more requests from adults than

from juveniles for help in obtaining restricted driving privileges after revocation of license. Also, adults were more critical of police for arrests than were juveniles.

In her opinion, driver's training courses were valuable and should be given as preparation for car ownership or use.

Mr. Schwarz

Chief of Police Schwarz of Easton, was called upon to relate his experience in organizing a Hot-Rod Club. This movement developed from a request made by a group of Easton boys that the Mayor permit them to have such a club. The Chief was delegated to look into this, and he called a meeting of the interested boys and the police officials of all nearby communities of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As a result, the Club was formed and numbers between 50 and 60 members.

At meetings, the members and police officers discuss rules of the organization and also everything about car care, operation and improvement. Violators of Club rules are given hearings before the group, with offenders given three chances to conform. Further violations result in expulsion from the Club, with the Chief talking with the offender before this final step is taken.

The Club program includes road tests and road runs, with prizes for the best performance, not just the fastest. There is an approved "drag" strip for speed trials.

The result of the Club's operation has been the development of friendly cooperation between young drivers and police, with the youths assuming more responsibility for their behavior.

Discussion

A vigorous discussion followed the presentations by the speakers. Examples were offered of juvenile cases being handled in summary

courts, which seemed to meet with some approval. Other persons strongly opposed any such action since it failed to follow Juvenile Court law.

Some people stated their belief that Motor Code violations did constitute basis for delinquency and should be treated like other offenses. Unofficial probation was offered as a solution which imposed guidance and restraint but which did not create a stigma.

The concensus seemed to be that legislation was needed to permit Juvenile Court handling on the specific charge of Motor Code Violation, or to remove such offenders from Juvenile Court jurisdiction. A problem attendant upon the latter course of action was seen to exist in the question of whether confinement in jail would be proper disposition in lieu of payment of fines and costs.

H. Earl Pitzer, Assistant Director, Bureau of Highway Safety, in reply to a question, stated he favored having jurisdiction remain with the Juvenile Courts.

President Frascino reported that as a member of the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth, representing the Association, he has been asked to appoint a committee of Probation Officers to discuss juveniles' problems with other groups. He will appoint the committee in the near future.

Luncheon

Judge Ethan Allen Gerhart, Lehigh County Orphans' Court, served as toastmaster for the luncheon session. He introduced the Reverend Henry Huesman, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church of Catasaqua, who delivered the invocation, and also Judge James F. Henninger, Lehigh County, who commended the Association on its service to all communities. The Reverend Charles D. Rodenberger, Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church, Allentown, later pronounced the benediction.

Mr. Bransky

The luncheon address was delivered by Joseph M. Bransky, District Supervisor of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, Philadelphia.

Mr. Bransky outlined the Federal and Pennsylvania laws pertaining to narcotics, noting that penalties have recently been increased in both jurisdictions, which he considered a necessary step if any effective degree of control was to be established. Pennsylvania law now provides for sentences of from 2 to 5 years for the first offense, from 5 to 10 years for the second, and 10 to 30 years for the third, the penalties being mandatory for second and third offenses. Previously, Federal sentences for narcotics offenders had averaged about 14 months.

Mr. Bransky distinguished between medical addicts, persons who acquire a drug habit as the result of treatment for illness, and non-medical addict who becomes habituated through contact and association with other drug addicts.

The medical addict, Mr. Bransky said, may legitimately obtain drugs. He is no problem to the courts or the Narcotics Bureau.

The non-medical addict, on the other hand, may not legitimately receive drugs from a physician. He is therefore dependent for his supply on the illegal traffic which exacts high payment for the adulterated product it offers. The combination of high cost and adulterated drug means that some users may spend up to \$100 a day for their supply of drugs. One entertainer was cited as spending \$300 daily to get the needed dosage. Criminal activity, Mr. Bransky said, is almost mandatory for the addict whose habit creates this financial drain.

The addict, Mr. Bransky pointed out, is not just a "poor drug addict", he is a menace in the community. 98% of narcotic drug

addiction in this area is caused by association and contact with other drug addicts. It is alleged one drug addict will cause four other individuals to become addicted.

Probation has not been effective with addicts, according to Mr. Bransky, and neither has parole. Comparing the offender to the mentally ill person, Mr. Bransky stated that treatment by confinement seemed to be the only solution presently available. Except for rare cases, he felt that maximum sentences should be served to keep the offender out of the community as long as possible.

A tendency to excuse addicts on the basis of unfortunate early life experiences was scored by Mr. Bransky. This approach, he felt, negated the doctrine that man is in possession of will and is responsible for his behavior. Regardless of causes, Mr. Bransky favored removing the offender from the community because of the rate of crime of addicts and the danger of further contamination.

A marked decrease in the incidence of drug use by juveniles was noted by Mr. Bransky. He decried the "scare" stories about widespread drug traffic in schools and he stated he had no knowledge of an authentic case in schools in Pennsylvania. He commented that stories about sale of drugs in candy and chewing gum are contrary to fact as the narcotic drugs could not and would not be effective if used in this manner. The drug is not readily available for purchase to anyone since sales are transacted in secrecy.

The Federal effort at control of drug traffic is entrusted to 240 agents, 6 of whom work abroad, where the traffic originates. The United States Government operates two hospitals for addicts, one at Lexington, Kentucky; the other at Fort Worth, Texas. The treatment at these centers is highly scientific but is usually not effec-

tive with persons who enter under voluntary commitment and who can leave on 24 hour notice. Commitment by Federal Courts seems to be the only sound basis for treatment.

Mr. Bransky decried the establishment of so called clinics for the treatment of narcotic drug addicts. This system was given a fair trial in 1919 but experience revealed it encouraged narcotic drug addiction and increased the traffic. Speaking from his 35 years of experience, Mr. Bransky reiterated that until present experiments in treatment develop "cures", longterm confinement is the only practical disposition for narcotics addicts.

Afternoon Session

Dr. G. I. Giardini, Superintendent of Parole Supervision, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, served as moderator for the discussion of "Problems of State Parole Agents". Panel members were: Chief of Police Schwarz, Easton; Edmund D. Burke, Parole Agent, Philadelphia; Percy B. Ruhe, Editor, Morning Call, Allentown; and Dr. Roy W. Goshorn, Superintendent, Allentown State Hospital.

Mr. Burke

Problems in any parole case begin, said Mr. Burke, before the actual release. In county prison cases, the Agent may be responsible for obtaining case history facts from the prisoner and for working out parole plans with him. In both county and state cases, investigation of parole plans may reveal problems in the home situation or in the attitudes toward the offender or the law enforcement system held by the participants in the plan. These problems must be dealt with on the spot.

Problems attendant upon supervision of a parolee were held to be many: Changes in an approved plan without observance of prescribed procedure; informing em-

ployers or other persons involved in a parole situation about a parolee's status if the parolee cannot face this requirement; helping a parolee to cope with economic difficulties; seeking solutions to domestic entanglements, such as infidelity; difficulties arising from health and mental defects; handling of alcoholism; emotional disturbances, physical handicaps, family separations and support, unemployment, bad associates — the list was extensive.

Mr. Burke felt that in addition to the Agent being alert and responsive to these situations, he had to be aware of his own problems, including personality traits, bias and individual preferences in order to keep the way clear for the parolee's problem to receive the utmost fairness in consideration and action. Supervision, to Mr. Burke, was an exacting process but rewarding.

Mr. Ruhe

A fine tribute to Probation and Parole Officers was paid by Mr. Ruhe who said he considered these officials to be among the most responsible members of our society. He saw need for great wisdom in working with criminal offenders who by their nature often proved to be difficult and troublesome.

Speaking as an editor, he said that the newspaper's job was to report what happened. Generally, he felt, newspapers are sympathetic to the efforts of parole and probation to guide the convicted offender to more acceptable conduct. However, he recognized that sensational cases cause waves of hysteria which are reflected in the papers. In his own practice, he seeks to cooperate with law enforcement officials in regard to printing or withholding names of offenders. He saw many problems yet to be solved and he wished the Association well in its work toward its goal.

Dr. Goshorn

In an informal talk, Dr. Goshorn, after telling of his experiences as consulting psychiatrist at Rockview and Huntingdon, and with parolees from state mental hospitals, posed some questions which he had developed through discussion with friends, some of them active in correction work.

He wondered if parole was really successful, and if it was stern enough and watchful enough. He asked whether job and sponsor were really necessary in a parole situation, and whether the family was not very important. The questions were left for discussion.

By way of comment, Dr. Goshorn said that recent studies showed that whereas sex offenders seemed to be especially feared, about 30% of them returned to sex offenses as against 33% of other offenders. Also, in refutation of the commonly held belief that lack of intelligence hampered good adjustment, he said there was reason to believe that the lower the I.Q., the easier it was to effect a satisfactory adjustment. Parenthetically, he remarked that many psychiatrists now believed that the psychopaths, another much-discussed group, were born misfits and were not made.

In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Goshorn developed a theme that the "transfer of emotion" between Agent and parolee was of greatest importance, transcending words or even actions as a therapeutic instrument.

Discussion

Time put a limitation on discussion of all the points raised by the speakers, but questions were raised about the desirability of increasing time penalties for offenders. Chief Schwarz, who had preferred to await questions rather than to speak again after his morning appearance, said that an

increase in time penalty for vagrants and petty offenders had been most effective in his community.

One person felt that time, unless implemented by a helping relationship, was apt to be unproductive.

Committee

The meeting was planned by the following committee: Charles F. Genter, District Supervisor, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, Allentown — Chairman; Lawrence R. Campbell — Vice-Chairman; William D. Miller Assistant Probation Officer, Montgomery County; Ben M. Furmansky, Parole Agent, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, Allentown; Raven H. Ziegler, Chief Probation Officer, Lehigh County; Peter J. Frascino, President of the Association.

CENTRAL

The third Regional Meeting of the Association, held at the Pennsylvania Industrial School, Camp Hill, drew an approximate attendance of 250. The feature of the program was a panel discussion by five juvenile boys on the topic, "Juveniles' View of Juvenile Delinquency". The luncheon meeting was addressed by Mr. Prasse, Commissioner of Correction and Superintendent of the Industrial School. In the afternoon, guests had a guided tour of the institution.

Morning Session

After introductory remarks by President Frascino and invocation by Father Mathis, Chaplain at the Allentown State Hospital, Judge Dale F. Shughart, Cumberland County, who acted as Moderator, introduced the young panel discussants: Richard Lefever, Earl Clark, John Gilpin, Carl Straub and William Carpenter.

Richard Lefever

Criminals are not born, but are created by something in their environment, was this young man's opening thought. From this he quickly developed the view that prevention was therefore a possibility and should receive the chief emphasis from society.

In Richard's opinion, adults are responsible for much youthful delinquency because of the confusion they create in advocating one set of standards while living differently. He thought too that some parents were insufficiently interested in their children and also didn't have sound understanding of individual differences in children. Thus, one child might be labeled a "black sheep" and eventually become one. Richard felt that in most instances, the juvenile became an offender through no actual fault of his own.

As a solution, return to re-establishment of homes as centers of family living was advocated, with religious and moral training to be prominent in the home. In addition, Richard felt that communities had to eradicate breeding places of crime and needed a policy of firm treatment for offenders.

Earl Clark

Earl made the point that children need help, as they grow, in learning to make decisions. For this help, they look to their parents, and thus, a sound home is the most important factor in a child's life.

He emphasized the need for parents to develop in children faith in one's self and in one's ability to succeed in life.

John Gilpin

To John, juvenile delinquency is a problem to be solved. The solution, he thought, depends on the contributing conditions, and he questioned whether these might be

the bad examples set by adults, the effect of home life on some children, and idleness.

As he saw the problem, prevention was easier than cure. Stressing the great energy of young people and their need for group association and approval, he offered a program of constructive activity to utilize energy and promote personal development, religious and moral training, and instruction in problem areas such as sex and criminal behavior. He felt that these, along with good homes and good adult examples, would do much to reduce delinquency at all levels.

Carl Straub

The test of a community, Carl said, is the kind of men it has and produces. Thus, the problem of delinquency is definitely a community responsibility.

Contributing factors in delinquency, he thought, were boredom, poor environment, desire for new experience, bad politics, vice, and lack of community concern for its children.

As corrective measures, he advocated: Expansion of character-building agencies; use of a "Community Juvenile Court" as a clearing house before cases go to the county court, with some young people as members; greater promotion and use of Guidance Clinics; a Co-ordinating Council for community efforts and resources; better selection and support of police; and eradication of commercialized vice. Finally, Carl urged, **give responsibility to youth.**

William Carpenter

Finding no single cause for delinquency, William listed a number of causes, some of which he recognized had been discussed by the other speakers. He felt that lack of training, both in education and in ethics, was common to many delinquents. He scored the lack of attention given to what chil-

dren read, arguing that bad reading material had immediate bad effects on young people.

Also, he felt, some families took too little responsibility for their children's welfare and also did not understand or appreciate youth's thinking. More than any other factor, he concluded, parental failure contributes to delinquency.

The presentation by the young men was followed by discussion and questions from the floor. One interesting discussion involved the concealment of the identity of juvenile offenders, with identity of parents to be revealed instead. This proposal did not gain general acceptance.

At the end of the discussion, Judge Shughart identified the schools from which the participants came: Richard, Carlisle; John, West Shore; Carl, Mechanicsburg; and Earl and William, Pennsylvania Industrial School.

Luncheon

Commissioner Prasse was the speaker after the luncheon which was served in the students' dining room, cafeteria style. Introduced by John Lawson, Industrial School Parole Officer, he followed musical entertainment given by the School String Band and the Spiritual Singers.

Mr. Prasse called attention of the guests to the construction project within the enclosure and related that a new education building was being built with money originally appropriated for a wall to surround a section of the institution which would then be used as a Central Classification Depot. Mr. Prasse felt that the school building would give Pennsylvania more benefit than would the wall.

Stressing that the aim of the prison program would be rehabilitation, including training, care, religious and academic instruction, as contrasted with the old emphasis on custody alone, he said

that maximum results could be attained only by having all institutions operate on the same basic philosophy. An immediate goal in the system is more work for prisoners, with training, not profit, as the controlling factor.

Mr. Prasse decried the tendency to object to improvements in prisons. He expressed himself as being strongly in favor of them so long as they contributed something to inmates' development.

Concluding with a tribute to the fine people with whom he had worked in Pennsylvania institutions, Mr. Prasse stated he intended to build his program with the people already employed in the system.

Committee

Arrangements for the meeting were made by the following committees:

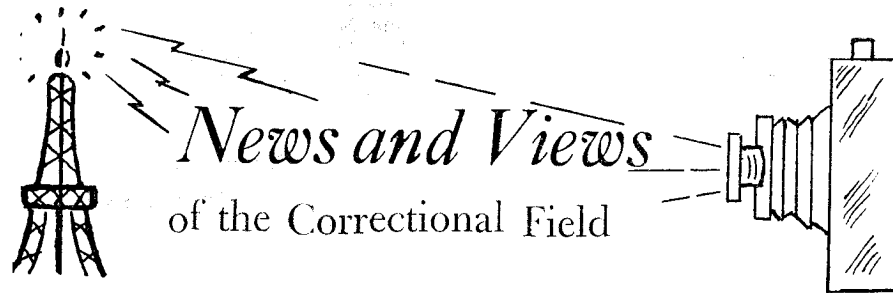
John Lawson, Chairman; Irvin Groninger, Probation Officer, Cumberland County; Rev. Victor B. Hann, Superintendent, The Methodist Home, Mechanicsburg; D. M. Anderson, Probation Officer, Adams County; Sister Mary James, Catholic Charities, Harrisburg, Edward Brubaker, Chief Probation Officer, Dauphin County; Rev. Joseph H. Woods, Jr., Executive Secretary, United Churches, Greater Harrisburg; Elmer G. Fraley, Probation Officer, Luzerne County; David H. Porter, Administrative Assistant, Harrisburg Public Schools; Elizabeth B. Vastine, Probation Officer, Montour County; Dr. I. D. App, Superintendent, Dauphin County Public Schools; John A. Shenk, Probation Officer, Lebanon County; John R. Bierstein, District Supervisor, Pennsylvania Board of Parole; Robert H. Rayner, Probation Officer, Wayne County; Rev. Francis A. Schmidt, St. Michaels School, Hoban Heights; Dr. J. Paul Burkhardt, Superintendent, Cumberland County Public Schools.

Notice To The Association

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A Poll On Youth Problems

by **John Otto Reinemann**
Director of Probation
Municipal Court, Phila.

The "National Midcentury Committee for Children and Youth" is the follow-up agency of the White House Conference on Children and Youth, which was held in December 1950. The "Progress Bulletin" of this Committee of January 1953 reports about a poll on youth problems which was undertaken by this Committee, in which 7,037 young people and adults participated.

The findings of this poll show that young people today are most worried about two problems: unhappy relationships between fathers and mothers, and the draft and the threat of war.

The following is an excerpt from

the more detailed results of this poll:

"Fifty-six percent of the young people gave the top rating of "Very important" to the draft and to unhappy parents. The adults agreed by still higher percentages.

The next eight problems selected by persons under 21 were, in order of importance: developing healthy attitude about sex; being misunderstood by parents; finding the right job; use of narcotics; responsible driving of automobile; use of alcohol; religious uncertainties.

Those eight items were included among the Big Ten Headaches by 49 to 35 percent of the young voters. Many others gave them the secondary rating of "Important." A minority thought that these problems were "Not so important."

The poll was devised by Miss Elma Phillipson, executive secretary of the National Midcentury Committee, and Alexander L. Crosby, a specialist in pamphlets on social issues.

"This was not a scientific sampling," Miss Phillipson explained. "Nor did we attempt to differentiate between the voter's selection of problems that were important to him and problems that he thought were important to others. Probably most of the young people, like the adults, voted objective opinions, rather than subjective ones. Certainly the use of narcotics is not a "Very important" problem to 46 percent of the young voters who so rated it, and it is doubtful whether 37 percent of the

young people is having trouble about alcohol.

"Despite the obvious limitations of the poll, the results merit attention because they are unique. So far as we know, there has been no similar attempt in recent years to find out which are the most serious problems of the young."

The overwhelming majority of replies came from persons under 21 — 6,181, as against 856 adults. Although the young voters and the older ones rated nearly all of the problems in the same order, there were some marked differences in emphasis. Seven problems were viewed more seriously by the adults than by the young, as these percentages of "Very important" votes show:

	Adults	Young
Unhappy relationship between mother and father	67	56
Draft and threat of war	64	56
Being misunderstood by parents	55	48
Lack of respect for property rights of others	43	34
Use of alcohol	42	37
Lack of good home suitable for friends	38	32
Lack of good opportunities for recreation	36	30

The young people gave significantly higher percentages of "Very important" votes to these eight problems:

	Young	Adults
Use of narcotics	46	39
Finding right girl or boy	45	40
Responsible driving of automobile	42	34
Religious uncertainties	35	27
Religious discrimination	33	23
Difficulties in school	31	26
General dissatisfaction with the community	20	13
No chance to handle personal expenditures	19	13

Economic problems got low ratings from both adults and young. A good home was voted 15th in the list of 23 problems. Good clothing and an automobile and television set were put at the very bottom.

"Since almost one-third of the nation's young people don't have living conditions that measure up to the American standard, the low

ratings were a surprise," Miss Phillipson said. "Several young people wrote us that television was the least of their worries."

In contrast to the concern of many adults about the question of more youth participation in community affairs, only 11 percent of the young people marked this as "Very important."

Pennsylvania Welfare Conference

PROGRAM MEETING

"Welfare in a Changing Era" is the theme chosen by the Pennsylvania Welfare Conference for its annual meeting to be held March 25 and 26, 1954 in Harrisburg.

The Annual Program Committee, headed by the Reverend William T. Swain, Jr., as chairman and Dr. Frederick G. Stevens, co-chairman, met on Friday, November 13, 1953 in Harrisburg and decided to present a coordinated program on "Combating the Evils of Crime and Delinquency".

This program would follow the life span of a hypothetical person or persons from childhood to adulthood through the various stages of delinquency and crime.

It is planned to feature the forum method in most of the programs with representatives from related agencies and institutions presenting a practical program in an imaginative manner in its study of the child and adult, showing what could or should have been done to avert or correct the problem.

Each forum will stress the following aspects of its particular services: 1. Accomplishments, with emphasis on positive developments and successes; 2. Trends; 3. Unmet needs.

Other organizations expected to participate in the annual program include the Board of Parole and Probation and Parole Association.

REGIONAL MEETING

"Our Responsibility to the Offender" was the topic of the Pennsylvania Welfare Conference Regional Meeting held at Altoona, October 26, 1953, under the sponsorship of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Quota Club, Soroptimist Club, and Women's Club, all of Altoona.

Approximately 150 persons heard talks on different phases of the topic by Judge F. Cortez Bell, Clearfield County; Dr. Kenneth Taylor, newly appointed Deputy Commissioner of Correction for Treatment; James Daly, District Supervisor, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, Williamsport; and Edmund G. Burbank, Executive Secretary, Pennsylvania Prison Society, Philadelphia.

Speaking at the afternoon session, Judge Bell paid tribute to the Board of Parole but questioned the necessity to continue supervision after a parolee has successfully demonstrated his ability and intent to settle down. The Judge advocated the same type of supervision for probationers as is now provided for state parolees.

Dr. Taylor, former psychologist at the Western State Penitentiary, told of the increased respect of inmates for psychological service in prison. He added, however, that further extension of psychotherapy facilities is necessary to make prisons more effective in helping inmates. The public, he said, must be educated to expect the greater expense this will entail.

Mr. Daly outlined the organization and procedure of the Board of Parole, with emphasis on the need for community participation in the process to help parolees return to community living.

Mr. Burbank warned about the bad effects of idleness in prison, which may cause prisoners to deteriorate rather than improve. He advocated the use of minimum security prison farms and camps, whose value has been demonstrated in other states.

At the dinner meeting, the group was addressed by Robert Soder, Erie, Pennsylvania, who talked about the rehabilitation work with

former prisoners done by Alcoholics Anonymous in the prisons, prior to release.

The Reverend Richard J. Walsh,

Parole Board Member

Mr. E. Washington Rhodes, Philadelphia attorney and newspaper publisher, was appointed as a Member of the Pennsylvania Board of Parole, October 8, 1953, by Governor Fine, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Miss S. M. R. O'Hara.

Well known in Philadelphia as publisher of the Philadelphia Tribune and for his service as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District for a period of eight years, Mr. Rhodes has been active in civic and welfare groups and is the founder of the Philadelphia Tribune Charities, an agency established to promote the well-being of needy youngsters.

He is a member of the Philadelphia Board of County Law Examiners and of the Board of Trus-

Deputy Commissioner

Dr. Kenneth E. Taylor, former Senior Psychologist and clinical head at Western State Penitentiary, was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Correction, October 16, 1953, by Commissioner Arthur T. Prasse.

Dr. Taylor, whose title is Deputy Commissioner for Treatment, will be in charge of the classification, assignment and transfer of prisoners in the state penal institutions. He will also direct the training program for the correctional system.

A graduate of Gettysburg College, Dr. Taylor has degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, with psychology as his major field. He has been employed at the Western State

Chaplain at Rockview, served as moderator in the afternoon and reviewed the highlights of the discussion prior to Mr. Soder's talk.

tees for Philadelphia State Hospital. In addition, he has served as Solicitor and Chairman of the Board of Downingtown Agricultural and Industrial School, and as a member of the Board of the Armstrong Association. He is a past president of the National Bar Association.

In addressing a meeting of Parole Agents and Supervisors recently, Mr. Rhodes expressed his pleasure in being associated with the Board of Parole and its staff, and in having an opportunity to participate in the parole service.

The Quarterly extends a warm welcome to Mr. Rhodes, on behalf of the Association, and wishes for him a rewarding experience on his new job.

Penitentiary since 1937, except for a period of five years he served in the Army, from which he was discharged as a lieutenant colonel.

Now working on program plans, Dr. Taylor's first objective is to reduce idleness in state institutions. A second project is the expansion of the operation of the clinics, with more effective treatment for prisoners as a goal. One concrete result of the Commissioners' work is that life prisoners, who have always been regarded as maximum security prisoners, are now being studied individually with a view to transferring some to medium or minimum security institutions.

The Quarterly extends its best wishes to Dr. Taylor in his new job.

Foreign Visitors

The Municipal Court of Philadelphia was visited in recent months by a number of visitors from foreign countries. They were Mohammad Ali, Exchange Student, Karachi, Pakistan; Mr. Ulrich Gorch, Deputy Police Chief, Hammerfest, Norway; Dr. O. H. Greve, Member of the Parliament of West

Germany; Dr. Maria Hoerkens, of the Federal Department of the Interior, West Germany; Dr. Herman Mannheim, Professor of Criminology, London School of Economics, London, England; Mr. P. N. Saxena, Chief Probation Officer, Lucknow, India.

People:

CHARLES LIONEL CHUTE

All workers in the Correctional field were greatly saddened by the news of the unexpected death of Charles Lionel Chute on September 25, 1953, at the age of 71. He was a founder and executive director of the National Probation and Parole Association from 1921 to 1948, and its vice president since 1948.

He was graduated from Oberlin College in 1904 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, received a Master's degree from Columbia University in 1910 and also was graduated that year from the New York School of Social Work.

He began his social work career as an investigator for the National Child Labor Committee in 1910. Two years later he was made secretary of the Pennsylvania Child Labor Association and in 1913 became the first secretary of the New York State Probation Commission, a post he held for seven years. In that capacity he organized and developed probation services in the state and contributed to the establishment of professional standards in the field.

In 1915, Mr. Chute was chosen secretary-treasurer of the National Probation Association, and in 1921 organized the association as an incorporated service agency. As director, he developed the agency's scope of activities and promoted the establishment of probation systems.

He was a leader in the movement for probation in the Federal courts, a ten-year effort that was culminated in the passage of the Federal Probation Act of 1925. In 1947, the American Parole Association was absorbed by the National Probation Association, and the organization became the National Probation and Parole Association.

Through the association, Mr. Chute collaborated with the United States Children's Bureau in the promulgation of juvenile court standards and the drafting of juvenile court laws. After giving up his post of executive director of the association in 1948, he devoted much of his time to the Interprofessional Commission on Marriage and Divorce Laws.

Mr. Chute wrote and lectured widely on all phases of juvenile delinquency and adult crime control.

During the past few years, Mr. Chute was busily engaged in writing a book on the history of probation and was in the office of the National Probation and Parole Association on the day of his death, working in the library on material for his book.

Will C. Turnbladh, the Executive Director of the National Probation and Parole Association, said of Mr. Chute: "To have lived abundantly in serving his fellow man, to have pioneered in a vast human endeavor, to have founded a great national organization, and

to have helped provide a channel through which countless human beings could again find for themselves a place in society, are achievements beyond measure, and these are among the achievements of Mr. Chute. All of us who had the pleasure and privilege of working with him throughout the country will miss him in a very real personal sense."

These feelings are shared to the fullest by the Pennsylvania Association on Probation and Parole.

Baby Sitting

Juvenile Court workers and others are expressing concern about the tendency, which seems to be growing, for parents to hire youthful "baby sitters" rather than those of greater maturity and dependability.

Stories are told of serious misconduct resulting from this practice, and some Probation Officers have voiced strong objections in

JOHN J. HUMANICK

Since June 1, 1953, John J. Humanick, West Chester, has been Assistant Probation Officer of Chester County, filling the vacancy created by the advancement of Mrs. Lena B. Watson to Chief Probation Officer.

Mr. Humanick, a former Gettysburg College student, has been employed by the Department of Public Assistance and has been located in Gettysburg for the past two years.

their communities. Several of them report being asked to send probationers to homes for such work, with the Probation Officer's judgment to be the only standard as to the girl's dependability. All such requests were rejected.

The Quarterly will be interested in learning the views of Juvenile workers about this.



Editorial

Are We Doing Right By Juvenile Offenders?

By Andrew Bernhard

Editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
(Editor's Note: The following editorial appeared on the day of the Beaver Falls Regional Meeting and was the subject of comment and discussion. Because of its provocative approach, we reprint it, with Mr. Bernhard's permission.)

Just as there always has been and always will be crime, so I suppose there always has and doubtless always will be a certain

amount of the wanton destructiveness and criminality that we lump under the heading of juvenile vandalism.

Nevertheless, there does seem to be more of that behavior now than usual, enough more to arouse uneasiness in responsible quarters.

I doubt there is any quick and easy remedy, just as I doubt there is any easy answer to the question of the cause. I am not much impressed by the argument that our kids go wrong because they don't

have enough playgrounds, or lack supervised recreation, or live in bad houses or because their parents are poor. On the other hand, I can't shrug off all these alleged causes and lay the whole blame to congenital human cussedness.

Saints, Sinners Produced

The reasons for bad behavior are as various as human beings, and as hard to get at as human motivations. Bad housing, bad environments, produce a worthless lout in one instance, but won't prevent the growth of a saint in another.

Time was of course when we blamed all bad conduct on the wilful wickedness of the culprit, and he was punished accordingly. For centuries, as the psychologists are fond of pointing out to us, we flogged, imprisoned, hanged, pilloried and otherwise punished evildoers without thereby ending crime.

Unfortunately, when we got around to the knowledge that mere punishment was not the answer, we went too far in the other direction. If little Johnny set fire to the cat we tried to understand what motivated him and tried to reason with him instead of administering the old treatment across the parental knee.

We were assured that criminals, no matter how vicious, were driven to their anti-social conduct because they hadn't been integrated into the community in their youth.

Finally, we have been assured that when kids go wrong it is ever and always the parents' fault but that you can't blame the parents because they, in turn, were badly brought up. This seems to push the motivation for evil a long way back and if the psychologists aren't careful they may find themselves in the unexpected position of supporting the doctrine of Original Sin.

Leaning Over Backward

However that may be, we all have been leaning over backward

to give the young culprit the benefit of the doubt. We have sympathized with him and we have separated him from the ordinary, or adult, criminal. We have separate judicial systems to handle his case, and in general we have come a long-way from the days when he was considered vicious and hopeless.

Newspapers nowadays take care not to print the names of young first offenders. Here on the Post-Gazette, as in most newspapers, we have not generally printed the names of kids in trouble unless they are over 16—except in the most flagrant cases.

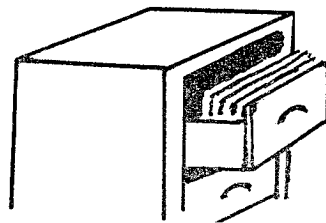
Nor have we used the names of their parents, either; all this on the theory that to do so was to give a dog a bad name and deprive him of a chance to mend his ways.

Pertinent Question Asked

I begin to wonder whether our course really has been right for the lad in trouble. I am not against the exercise of understanding toward the young offender. If he lacks an understanding parent, I hope he finds understanding elsewhere. But I think that true understanding knows the value of discipline, and knows that there are times when stern punishment is the most effective psychiatric treatment on earth.

By the same token, I begin to wonder whether we really have been doing the young offender any real good by keeping his misdemeanors from becoming known. And I wonder whether our silence has not also helped the irresponsible parent to evade his duty.

I wonder what Post-Gazette readers feel about this. Should we publish the names of juvenile offenders in cases of vandalism and other apparently wanton misbehavior? I would welcome expressions of opinion.



From the Files

Juvenile "Shot-Rod" Runs Into Responsibility

(Ed. note: This extract is submitted by a Juvenile Court Probation Officer.)

Our Juvenile Court had known Russell, now 17, as a neglected boy of 8, the offspring of alcoholic parents, but for the past nineteen months he had adjusted satisfactorily. When recently he was called again to our attention by the police, we were informed he was being charged with hit and run driving, but had an attorney who claimed alderman would have to discharge him as a juvenile. Our advice was the same, with the additional suggestion that Russell be brought to our detention home at once for custody and planning. Russell apparently had prepared for this emergency following his accident from which he quickly left the scene. He had been driving his car that evening too fast to negotiate a turn, had run over a curb and had crashed into an iron fence doing \$42.00 in damage to the fence, very little to his own car. When he read in the local paper the following day that a neighbor had secured his license number, he retained an attorney for his peace of mind and continued to work until the police caught up with him.

The attorney telephoned before Russell arrived at our detention home wondering what our procedure would be, and inquiring about bail. We explained there was no bail for a juvenile in the technical sense, but a prompt official hearing would be held after

an investigation had been completed of Russell and his new trouble. He was not sure Russell wanted to plead guilty since the witness had not been produced and the evidence did not appear too clear. We pointed out that it would be Russell's responsibility to decide this relationship with us, but his refusal to cooperate would place him before the court for an extended investigation and perhaps commitment if the facts so warranted.

When Russell arrived he made it plain he intended to plead guilty but saw little of a serious nature about his offense. He just had a "simple" accident when he failed to make a turn, got frightened after he hit the fence, so left the scene without making an effort to report the affair. We in turn stressed the claims our court had on him for his irresponsible behavior, held him to a frank accounting, giving him the alternative of facing the rules or meeting the Judge for a full review of the complaint. It took him a considerable length of time in this interview to struggle with his feelings, for at moments he felt "he could beat the rap", and that we were expecting too much of him by asking him to forfeit his driving privileges for a year or more. He had just passed his driving test two months previously, had managed to purchase four old cars in that period, doing this with steady employment and with the help of a married sister who exercised

little control over his earnings or behavior. The payment of the damages was another subject he had to struggle with. He felt the \$42.00 requested was excessive, that the man who owned the property did not need the money as much as he did. This took him back to more legal quibbling and threatening with the attorney he had retained for his protection, but we had to again remind him of his court obligations because of his irregular behavior, the detention he was facing, and the court review he would have to go through with results that might handicap him for many community privileges that still remained with him. Russell knew, and we had to impress it upon him, that his past behavior with previous probation trials was not encouraging, for his reporting had been spasmodic, the cooperation of relatives indifferent. In his favor was a steady work record of more than a year. He had been gullibly led and implicated by an older offender in some stealing in March, 1952, that had taken him before the Juvenile Court for an official hearing, at which time the Judge reminded him he might have to face commitment if he had more trouble in adjusting. Probation was granted and Russell in a few months reverted to his former pattern of intermittent reporting, showing little initiative in taking responsibility in this relationship. The damages, driving revocation, a stay in detention, the loss of his job, further probation supervision — all these had to be faced frankly, along with his freedom to take a chance with a court hearing based on a blunt denial of the entire affair.

As Russell put it, he knew he was "caught" and he wanted to get out of it as quickly and as easily as possible. In the beginning he was inclined to dismiss it all with a shrug and a plea for leniency and we took him back

to the limits of the authority outlined for him, and then he started to work within these regulations. He got in touch with his sister who promised to produce the restitution. Most reluctantly he agreed to surrender voluntarily his driver's license with the understanding it would be sent to the Department of Highway Safety, Harrisburg, with the recommendation for indefinite suspension. He supposed the Judge would insist on this regardless of which way the case was handled, informally or officially, so he might as well work it out with us. The car he had would have to be sold, a change in his habits that made him think of trying to enlist in the army for he felt life would not be very exciting without a jalopy to drive. The main step right now was to get out of detention, and he hoped his sister would not only loan the money for the damages but take part in a plan for his supervision. He thought of returning to his factory job and then, later on, trying to enlist in the army. This plan for military service was qualified considerably by an eye defect which could eliminate Russell from consideration. Medical information received about him showed a developing cataract in one eye. This was another condition he found it hard to accept, wearing his glasses seldom and even trying to conceal the defect when he took his driving test.

The sister responded loyally, paying the damages and promising cooperation with the required probation reporting. She concurred readily, and seemingly with relief, in the plan to surrender Russell's operator's license to Harrisburg, and in the prompt disposal of the car. The parents were not asked to take any responsibility, for both are barely able to maintain themselves, living separately, working irregularly, and wavering, because of their drinking habits,

between the County Jail and the County Home. Russell was placed on unofficial probation, in the custody of his sister, for monthly reporting, with the understanding that he would not be recommended for the restoration of his driving privileges until he produced a year of responsible behavior in a relationship with us. Sponsorship was left with the sister, for to force Russell to a church pastor for this purpose would have given him another chance to dodge a relationship that never has had any meaning for him.

That some progress was made with Russell through his day and a half in detention was evident from the way he returned to the

office several days later with a form for enlistment in the army. He had agreed to help his sister at home with the children while he made these enlistment plans. Again he may be trying to dodge a closer relationship with us, but the revocation of the license has moved him into some planning for himself, a reality that must be faced and worked with if he is to regain his lost privileges. It will be our task to consistently use every interview opportunity to hold Russell to the discharge of his responsibilities in this court relationship, and to insistently refuse to let him evade or dodge any of his obligations to meet the rules of work and decent steady behavior.

Reviews



Manual For Parole Officers

Executive Department
Division of Parole
Albany, New York
1953, 410 pp.

Here is a manual on parole that makes one wish every state would write one like it. It is more than a manual on parole. It contains a description practically of the entire correctional system of the State of New York. If the same sort of information were available on every state, the National Probation and Parole Association and the American Prison Association would have most of the necessary basic material for setting up standards for parole and prison systems, and for promoting uniformity in correctional legislation.

Consisting of 18 chapters, the Manual contains the most exhaustive treatise on the origins of parole that has yet appeared in print,

and outlines clearly the development of parole in New York State and the present laws on which the system is based. Further, the Manual defines the objectives of case work practice in parole and discusses interviewing techniques. Institution, release, and supervision procedures are analyzed, with separate chapters for violations and return practices. Interstate Compact is a topic for one chapter, and a final chapter is devoted to administrative details.

Every state correctional system has some unique features that are of interest to other states. Some of the features of the New York system that seemed significant to this reviewer are:

In considering the criminal record of the prisoner, the Board of Parole must, by law, include "any children's court record that may

exist," (p. 33). Release may take place solely upon the initiative of the Board (p. 34). Neither counsel nor any other person is permitted to appear before the Board in behalf of or against a candidate for parole (p. 45).

A cooperative arrangement has been worked out between the Department of Correction and the Division of Parole. Recognizing that the success of a parole system is dependent upon a constructive interlocking of the prison and parole programs (p. 58), the Parole Board has a representative in each institution from which it paroles (p. 138). In some institutions there is a Service Unit composed of the guidance supervisor, the guidance counselor, and stenographers provided by the Department of Correction, and a senior parole officer and one or more parole officers and stenographers provided by the Board of Parole (p. 145). Thus, parole service is made an integral part of the institutional program, and yet is not controlled by the institution. Under such an arrangement there can be little chance of failure to orient the prisoner toward parole.

The New York parole law requires that no prisoner be paroled unless he will be suitably employed (p. 245). Inmates are required to obtain their own jobs and to continue their efforts until released (p. 249). When an inmate has no friends or relatives to help him, the parole officer tries to get employment for him (p. 251). The district offices keep an employers' index of approved and disapproved employers. Employers must be informed of the status of parolees. We refer to these matters on employment because of the contention from some quarters that employment should not be a requirement for parole.

An uncommon feature of the New York parole system is the

issuance of a Certificate of Good Conduct (p. 203). Conviction for felony carries with it the loss of certain rights and privileges including the right to vote. Before such a certificate can be granted, the applicant must have had five years of good conduct on the street and must have been discharged from parole. Certificates may also be granted as evidence of rehabilitation, or for the performance of outstanding public service, such as distinguished military service, provided that the person's conviction did not result in the loss of right to vote (p. 205). On the other hand, not even a pardon will restore the right to carry a pistol if one has been convicted of a felony (p. 206).

Arrangements are sometimes made with banks to have the parolee open a savings account with the understanding that the bankbook will be held at the parole office, and that withdrawals will be made only with the written permission of the parole officer (p. 273).

Under an opinion of the New York Supreme Court, absconders must be continuously sought until apprehended or the Division of Parole will lose jurisdiction over them (p. 313, 363 ff). The parole officer retains an absconder in his case load for three months, during which period he is expected to make an intensive search for him. After that period the case is transferred to a parole officer whose case load is made up entirely of absconders, and whose main duty is apparently to keep looking for them through local police bureaus and parole and law enforcement agencies in other states (p. 367).

Parolees held in custody on parole violation warrants cannot be released on bail (p. 319). Parole officers cannot arrest parolees without a warrant issued by one of the parole commissioners (p. 323). Parole officers are trained

to "tail", detective fashion, parolees suspected of violations, sometimes in cooperation with other parole officers and sometimes with local detectives (p. 325). The Manual further states that parole officers are trained in the use of firearms (p. 326) and are required to handcuff and search parolees in every instance of arrest (pp. 323, 359). Handcuffs may be dispensed with in transporting prisoners only with the permission of the District Director (p. 359).

The training, guidance and supervision of parole officers are achieved by means of weekly conferences and emergency conferences between each officer and his immediate supervisor. Group conferences are held at least once a month by each senior parole officer who has a number of officers under him. Staff conferences for the entire district office are held monthly by the District Director (p. 399f). Parole officers are permitted to take courses in social case work and allied subjects in institutions of higher learning to the extent of four semester hours a week during working hours. Staff libraries in district offices are also provided for the use of the professional staff (p. 409).

Of especial interest is the chapter on social case work theory. Social case work apparently developed from sociology and was therefore concerned, at first, with the manipulation of the social environment and the more or less personal services that the worker could render to the client. Later the emphasis shifted to the client's personality as the root and solution of social problems. This psychological trend was advanced by the development of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and the mental hygiene movement. Out of these beginnings grew two principal schools of social work: the diagnostic, which followed Freud, and the functional school, which followed Rank. The former school seeks

an explanation of present conduct in the past history of the client, and therefore places great emphasis upon the life history as basis for diagnosis. The latter school prefers to take the client where he is and study his feelings about his present situation. Although the Manual states that in parole work the diagnostic approach is to be preferred, in the discussion of supervision techniques it is obvious that the approach actually practiced is eclectic, which is all to the good.

In a discussion of social case work and parole it seems inevitable to bring up the controversy of authority versus case work. Credit for pointing the way out of this impasse is given to Kenneth L. M. Pray, who, perhaps more than any other leader in the field of social work, kept his feet on the ground.

In conclusion, this reviewer comes away with the feeling that the New York parole system over-emphasizes the police function of the parole officer and places an unnecessary burden of police chores upon him. A discussion of the merit rating system and the inclusion of the Rules and Regulations of the Division of Parole, frequently referred to, might have been worthwhile additions. Nevertheless, we have here a solid piece of work that can well serve as a model to other states. To our way of thinking, the crowning glory of the system is the interlocking, cooperative arrangement between the Parole Division and the penal institutions. This arrangement may pave the way for the reduction of prison riots which have been so rampant during the last three years, and which are unquestionably due in part to the misunderstanding of the functions of parole by the prisoners.

G. I. Giardini

Pennsylvania Board of Parole
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Criminology — A Book of Readings

Clyde B. Vedder, Samuel Koenig, Robert E. Clark, (ed.), Dryden Press, New York, 1953, 714 pp.

Professors Vedder (University of Florida), Koenig (Brooklyn College), and Clark (Pennsylvania State College), have compiled a book of readings on Criminology, consisting of 86 different articles on all aspects of the crime problem. As indicated in the Preface, "the chief aim of the present volume is to provide students in criminology courses with a book of readings which give them at first hand the original research contributions of criminologists responsible for creating or expanding the knowledge in the field." The book is divided into 21 subsections, such as "What is Criminology?" "Crime and the Law;" "Criminal Statistics;" "Psychological Factors in Crime;" "Social and Cultural Factors in Crime;" "Sex Delinquency;" "Al-

coholism and Drug Addiction;" "White-Collar Crime;" "Juvenile Delinquency;" "The Police;" "Legal Procedure and the Courts;" "The Prison and Its Inmates;" "Probation;" "Parole;" "Crime Prevention." In addition to papers by persons in the academic field and practitioners in correctional administration, there are also included such articles as "The Menace of Organized Crime," by Adlai E. Stevenson; "Organized Crime in America," excerpted from "The Kefauver Committee Report on Organized Crime;" "Society Is Wonderful People," a report on "an actual case of miscarriage of justice," as published in *Time* Magazine. Among contributors from Pennsylvania are the following: Harry Elmer Barnes, Mabel A. Elliott, G. I. Giardini, Otto Polak, John Otto Reinemann, Thorsten Sellin, J. P. Shaloo, Negley K. Teeters.

What We Can Do About The Drug Menace

Albert Deutsch

Public Affairs Pamphlet,

New York, No. 186, 1952, 32 p.

This pamphlet deals with a topic that in recent months has been widely publicized and often greatly exaggerated. It is, therefore, most commendable that the author gives the facts and puts the whole problem into its proper focus. The booklet deals with such items as "What are Narcotics?" "Sleeping Pills and Alcohol," "Who are the Drug Addicts — And Why?" "How the Narcotics Traf-

fic Works," One of the most important chapters is devoted to "The Teen-Age Addicts." There is also reference to the various medical, legal and social attempts to control the drug menace and to provide treatment for those who have succumbed. Mention is made of an organization called "Addicts Anonymous," which is patterned after "Alcoholics Anonymous," and which was founded by patients at the Federal Hospital in Lexington. A bibliography is included.

Four Pamphlets on Juvenile Delinquency

U.S. Children's Bureau,

Published in 1953.

The Special Juvenile Delinquency Project of the Children's Bureau

of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, has prepared a number of very valuable pamphlets on the topic of "Juv-

venile Delinquency." "What's Happening to Delinquent Children in Your Town?" is a guide made up of a series of questions that will help citizen groups secure the facts about existing services for delinquents in their own communities and states, namely, the Police, Detention, Juvenile Court, Probation, Institutions, and state and local co-ordination of these agencies. "Helping Delinquent Children" provides an explanation and description of what services for delinquent juveniles should be like if they are to be effective in helping these children toward rehabili-

itation. "Some Facts about Juvenile Delinquency" is a brief statement about the increase of juvenile delinquency in the nation and a graphic appraisal of the available services for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency. "Books and Films on Juvenile Delinquency" informs citizens who want to know more about what lies behind juvenile delinquency and about present-day theories of treatment and prevention, of available books, pamphlets, periodicals and films.

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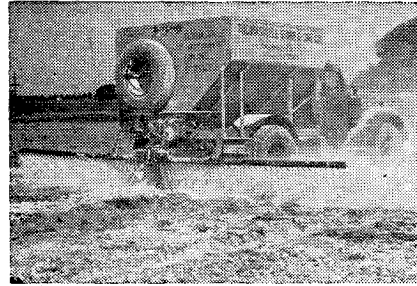
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