

**ACID TEST AT EUGENE**

**Parents Will Face City's Law For Delinquency Of Children In Petty Cases**

EUGENE, Dec. 17.—(AP)—When a child turns into a budding burglar, whose fault is it? "The parents," decided Eugene's city councilmen this week. And they backed up their decision by passing an ordinance that the parents—not the child—should be punished.

It's a fairly stiff punishment, too: up to \$200 fine or 100 days in jail for a parent guilty of conditions which have led his child into delinquency.

Eugene is the largest Oregon city to base penalties on the growing sociological theory that a child takes the criminal path because his parents, unwittingly or not, have shoved him that way.

In a Gallup poll taken last spring the majority approved the Oregon (it started in Baker, Ore.) "parental delinquency" plan. Social workers, increasingly, blame parents, and in Chicago this week a judge bitterly condemned the parents of a much older criminal.

Judge Julius Miner, hearing the trial of a 21-year-old mother who had strangled her infant, called the mother's parents before him. "I have been shocked by the testimony about your treatment of your daughter," Judge Miner told Mrs. Chester Lamont of Astoria, Ore. "No one is more responsible than you for the fact that she is on trial for murder."

Murder—or other serious crimes—would not come under Eugene's new parental delinquency control. It applies only to the light offenses with which a child usually starts a delinquent career: petty theft, disorderly conduct, other misdemeanors.

Eugene thinks it will work. It has in the small city of Baker, Ore., where police Chief Guy V. Church dreamed up the idea two years ago.

Church was being plagued by a teen-age club known as the "Panther gang," whose purpose was stealing, and whose entrance requirement was theft and the kill-

**WINS SCHOLARSHIP**

TACOMA.—(AP)—Ingman Sablin, Klamath Falls high school senior, has won a \$300 scholarship at the College of Puget Sound with two water-colors.

The scholarship pays for a full year's tuition at the school. Three honorable mentions also were given to pupils of the same Oregon school where Robert Balmster is art instructor. These were Betty Scott, Mark Simons Jr., both with watercolors, and Paul Patterson with a block print.

The members used an abandoned movie house to hide loot from their thefts. The boy who committed the most crimes was rewarded by election as leader.

"After taking these boys into custody on numerous charges of burglary and house breaking, and turning them over to the juvenile courts, it seemed to us that little was gained by convictions," Church said.

It occurred to him to try punishing the boys' parents, instead. Backed by Mayor Menzie McKim, an ordinance was passed Aug. 11, 1947, providing up to \$200 fine and 100 days in jail for parents whose children commit misdemeanors.

The "Panther Gang" broke up, Baker's delinquency rate dropped sharply; some estimates were as much as 90 percent.

It worked so well that the ordinance has been invoked only six times in the two years since. No parents have ever been

**Husband Takes 5 Of Wife's Shoes, One Of Each Pair**

HAMILTON, O., —(AP)—Cecil Gwaltney, 47, will have to spend the next 60 days in jail if he doesn't return to his estranged wife the five shoes he has

taken from her—one shoe from each of five different pairs. Mrs. Gwaltney has had a divorce suit pending against her husband since last February. She also has a restraining order to prevent him from bothering her.

She had her husband hauled into common pleas court for violating the restraining order. She testified before Judge P. P. Boli that, among other things, her husband went to her home, scattered her clothes around; held parties and ate up all her food; and took the shoes.

Judge Boli sentenced Gwaltney to five days in jail for contempt. Then he issued an order to Gwaltney which said there would be an extra 60-day sentence if the shoes were not returned immediately on his release from the five-day term.



**CHORAL SOCIETY PIANIST** Martha Plimpton, above, is pictured at the concert grand during a recent rehearsal of the Roseburg Choral society. The choral group will present Handel's "Messiah" Tuesday at 8 p. m. at the junior high school auditorium. The 50-voice chorus and nine soloists will sing the Christmas oratorio under the direction of Charles A. Ricketts. Accompanying group are Mrs. Plimpton and Esther Geddes, organist. (Staff photo).

**Indian Prince Has Labor Troubles, Servants Strike**

BOMBAY, India, —(AP)—The lavish-spending Gaekwar of Baroda is having labor trouble in his palace. His 250 servants have organized a union and are striking for higher pay. The Gaekwar, whose state legislature once accused him of squandering \$10,000,000 in a six-week spree, returned from Europe last week to find his servants out on strike. About 100

his princely state and its 3,500,000 persons over to the dominion of India last May he became a private citizen. His servant troubles are outside the government's jurisdiction now.

Legislative charges that the Gaekwar misused \$10,000,000 in state funds were dropped as he bowed to the legislature's demand last May that he cede his state to the central Indian government.

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