

Our Juvenile Delinquents: Modern Huck Finns Speed Down Roads To Crime and Jail

Why? The Answers Are Many;
But Gasoline, Liquor Play Part

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on Salem's juvenile delinquency problem, a study which grew out of a rash of arrests to teen-agers, some charged with felonies that would assure an adult a long stretch in the penitentiary. Statesman Staffwriters Marguerite Wright, Thomas Wright and John White collaborated in preparation of the series.)

They look like latter-day Huck Finns in their skin-tight blue jeans and their wrinkled white T-shirts.

Only these Salem youngsters aren't shuffling barefooted down a country road, fishing pole in hand. They're padding barefooted in the grey cells of the dank Marion county courthouse basement, looking through the bars.

Cruising down a river on a Huck Finn raft would seem mighty dull to these teenage boys. They would much rather cruise down a highway in a souped-up jalopy fitted out with shiny hubcaps, fancy skirts, radio, foglights, spots and echo pipes — even if the car and equipment are stolen goods.

Swiping watermelons, as Huck Finn might have done, is kid stuff to these lads, too. They'd rather heist a case of beer or whisky and get stupid drunk on a sandbar in the Willamette.

They're our juvenile delinquents. Not punks, yet, most of them. Not tough criminals, yet, most of them. Not quite in the same class as the members of the teenage gangs in Chi or Harlem or Frisco — gangs that'll sap a guy for the thrill of it, steal for the excitement of the chase, pack knives and guns and brass knuckles and kill for the kicks they get out of it.

No. Not quite. Not yet. But give them time. Time on their idle hands. Time in jail or in reform school with more experienced fellows to teach them the finer points in car-stripping or lock-picking. And sooner or later, these boys, this raw material, may well develop into public enemies and potential inmates of the penitentiary.

These are the boys who help constitute Salem's growing juvenile crime problem. Somewhere along the line each one of the 22 youngsters with which this study deals, got headed in the wrong direction. Something will have to change that course, or they face a bleak future of repeated violations and eventual terms in Woodburn training school or in jail. Where the trouble began and what can be done for prevention and cure of further delinquency is the purpose of this series of articles.

Juvenile delinquency — crime by youth — has been a popular subject for the press, the lecture platform, bridge-table gossip and bull sessions. It is loaded with human interest. Sob-sisters, male and female, dismiss it with such maudlin sentiments as "There are no bad boys, only misdirected energy." It produced the inaccurate cliché that "There are no juvenile delinquents, only delinquent parents."

Probably the outstanding fact is anti-social behavior of boys and girls under 18 is that it is often oversimplified. If there is one thing this study brought out, it is that there is no one reason why kids go wrong and there are no pat answers to the juvenile delinquency problem.

What are some of the angles? What makes a juvenile delinquent? What drives a boy of 14 to 17 to lie and steal, sass his teachers, defy his parents and try to outwit the cops?

School officials interviewed felt that the child crime problem partly stems from the temper of the times: The prevailing materialistic philosophy of our society develops a false sense of values in its members. Material possessions — such as fast, chrome-covered cars — are a criterion of social standing. Parents often seek to establish their place in the neighborhood with the ostentatiousness of their homes or automobiles.

It doesn't take a teenager long to discover that standing with the fellows and admiration of the girls are, rightly or wrongly, often directly related to ownership of a car. And if a boy bent on impressing his schoolmates has no money to keep his jalopy in gas and accessories, he may get them from All-Night Auto Supply — i. e. any car (maybe yours).

Materialism is only one aspect of the spirit of today. A junior high school principal pointed out that young people are definitely overstimulated. They are affected by the general restlessness, the frantic search for excitement and the avoidance of thought for the morrow which characterizes much of the American urban population. Juke box jazz, lurid comic books, unrealistic "home" news, like this movie, radio programs that inspire criminal ideas — despite their pious declarations that "crime doesn't pay" — all contribute to the modern tempo that has the kids hopped up. No wonder the daily routine of chores at home, attendance at school and odd jobs seems unbearably dull.

Not only are many youngsters too high-keyed — they are also troubled with the familiar and perennial woes of adolescence: Over-sensitivity to criticism, extreme self-consciousness about such physical difficulties as uneven growth or pimples, desire for independence but need of guidance, growing awareness of the opposite sex, and so on. Thus, we have short boys who compensate for size by acting rough and tough, and we have girls who will take no suggestions or orders from parents but will slavishly follow "the gang."

Economic pressure is another and perhaps a key factor in the juvenile delinquency problem. Sometimes the parents cannot even provide adequate food, much less fancy clothes or allowances for recreation. Sometimes parents who could afford to hand out more spending money just refuse to do so. So there are cases of boys and girls who shoplift most of their school clothes, who break into homes or schools looking for money.

Even if these teenagers want to work to earn money — and most of them say they want jobs — society is not geared for them. Except on farms and when the father owns his own business, a boy can rarely go along on the job with his dad these days. Generally only unskilled labor is open to youngsters: Harvest work, pin-setting in bowling alleys, shoe-shining, delivering papers or merchandise, mowing lawns, and so on. There are not enough of these jobs to go around.

The lure of easy money tempts those with no affinity for work, and with few scruples, to try their luck at burglary, gambling, etc. But besides economic insecurity, probably most juvenile delinquents suffer from another kind of insecurity. They lack inner resources, they lack a sense of personal and social responsibility, they lack long-range goals.

These youngsters seem to have no objective in life, no ambitions for "when I grow up." They don't really know what they want — except for immediate demands. They live in the present and seldom contemplate the road ahead. That's one reason why it is hard for them to see themselves in prison some day.

Almost without exception, kids in trouble with the law have not the slightest respect for the law or for authority of any kind. They neither respect nor obey their parents, nor their teachers. They have only contempt for policemen. They seem intent on, they seem to get the biggest enjoyment from, giving their parents and teachers, neighbors and the police, a bad time.

How much these attitudes are due to aftermath of war would be difficult to determine. However, it is certain that the insecurity of children is part of the price we are still paying for World War II, one school principal said. Today's teenagers were in their formative years during the war and in many cases were left shift for themselves while both parents worked. And as the twig bent, the tree grew.

Then, too, during the war a 17-year old was considered a man. Today's 17-year-olds remember their older brothers or friends in service, able to get beer and cigarettes and women by virtue of their uniforms even though some were beardless teenagers. Now 17-year-olds are kept in school, expected to act their age, and denied the "privileges" provided for men.

Besides home and school there is another factor to consider. There are persons whose mental and personality make-up are simply deficient, not normal, perverted. They are the black sheep in otherwise fine families. They are the ones who may know right from wrong, but who are not bothered by wrongdoing, who seem to have no conscience. They do not respond to reason, and punishment likely worsens them. They are potentially the most dangerous of the juvenile delinquents, the most difficult to deal with, and the most to be pitied but not pampered. They are the bad boys, the really bad boys, who vastly complicate the juvenile problem and for whom society must make some provision.

(Next: Some Case Histories)

Koreans Claim Reds Repulsed at Seoul Gates

U.S. Fighter Downs Red Plane; AAF Forms Evacuation Airlift

Council Permits Sale, Shooting of Fireworks

Shooting of fireworks in Salem will be legal this Fourth of July, the city council ruled Monday night.

The aldermen at their city hall meeting amended a fireworks ban July 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the city and shooting of fireworks on July 4 only.

But the amendment is effective only this year. After this holiday, the recently passed ban will take effect, prohibiting both sale and use of firecrackers within Salem in the future.

The amendment retains a former ban against shooting of any fireworks in the downtown fire zone.

Aldermen agreed to amend the ban when they learned that local merchants had stocks of fireworks on hand at the time the prohibiting legislation was passed.

Wilson Trial Witnesses' Stories Clash

VANCOUVER, Wash., June 26 —(AP)—Surprise witnesses offered conflicting stories today on whether Utah and Turman Wilson were in a Portland theater the night 18-year-old Jo Ann Dewey was kidnapped and killed.

The brothers, Utah, 20, and Turman, 24, both asserted they saw a double-bill movie March 19 and did not get back to Vancouver until hours after the Dewey girl had been snatched from a dark street. They face double charges of kidnapping and murder.

Surprise Witness
The defense produced the first surprise witness, blonde Betty Lyon, 18, who testified she worked as an usher at the Portland theater on one night only—March 19—and remembered seeing the brothers.

The state promptly produced a rebuttal witness, Robert Butts, jr., manager of the theater, who said his wasn't so. His records showed she worked only on the night of March 22, he said.

Butts then produced his records, and they were placed in evidence.

The state also put two policemen on the stand, who said Mrs. Lyon had told them in earlier interviews that she had not worked March 19.

Mrs. Lyon in her earlier testimony had another version. Points Out Men
She pointed out in court Utah and Turman as two men she had seen in the theater on the night of March 19. She was positive about the date, saying it was the only night she worked on the theater job.

Mrs. Lyon said she heard them talking to the head usherette and looked at Utah two or three times because he seemed to resemble someone she knew. She identified Turman by his voice.

TO STAY INCORPORATED
DELAKE, June 26 (Special)—Residents voted 153 to 111 against a measure to disincorporate the city of Delake here today.

THE WEATHER
Salem: Max. 77, Min. 63, Precip. trace
Portland: 77, 63, trace
San Francisco: 73, 45, 0.0
Chicago: 89, 78, 0.0
New York: 94, 70, 0.0
Williamette river: 1.1 feet.

BAKERIES STILL STRUCK
PORTLAND, June 26 (AP)—A meeting today failed to settle Portland's bakery strike. AFL drivers settled their differences with bakeries, but a meeting on the bakers' differences deadlocked. No further sessions are scheduled.

SALEM PRECIPITATION
This Year Last Year Normal
43.66 41.53 35.84

Stock Market Hits Skids; Four Month's Gains Lost

NEW YORK, June 26 (AP)—Stock prices tumbled \$1 to \$7 a share today in one of the worst overall declines in twenty years.

Traders, jittery over the Korean threat to world peace, threw their holdings on the market in a series of savage selling drives.

Sales volume hit a ten-year high and the market was the broadest on record.

In five hours of plunging prices, the gains of the last four months were wiped out.

Roughly \$4,000,000,000 was whacked off the market value of all stocks listed on the New York stock exchange. The 1949-50 bull market, which finished last week with a lustrous snort, never looked sicker.

Fear that the Korean war might spread over the world was the major factor in the market's crack-up. Traders took the view that in the event of war industry would not be allowed to make the profits it did in World War No. 2.

Americans Taken Aboard Ships, Planes

TOKYO, Tuesday, June 27 (AP)—The United States today set up the biggest airlift since the Berlin blockade to evacuate Americans from flaming south Korea.

A U. S. fighter shot down a Russian-built plane that tried to "interfere," General MacArthur's headquarters said.

About 200 Americans arrived in Japan by planes this morning and headquarters said a total of 1,500 would be out of Korea this afternoon. More than 900 already were well on their way to Japan in two ships which sailed from Korea yesterday.

MacArthur warned that U. S. planes will provide "complete" cover until "all Americans" are out of the invaded country. Before the evacuation began, sources here said about 2,000 Americans were in south Korea, including 500 officers and men of the U. S. military advisory mission.

Whether the mission is being evacuated entirely was not announced but the mention of some U. S. officers aboard evacuation craft indicates at least some of them are coming out.

Among the 500 remaining after today's operations will be military men, businessmen, state department, Economic Cooperation administration and other officials and missionaries. Most of these are men.

South Koreans Win Air Fights

ITAZUKI AIRBASE, Kyushu Island, Japan, June 27 (AP)—Two of 10 American fighter planes given the South Koreans entered hostilities today and shot down two North Korean fighters.

The action occurred about 9 a.m. at Kimpo airfield near Seoul.

The South Korean F-51 Mustangs engaged the Russian-made Yak fighters in two separate dogfights. One North Korean pilot crashed with his ship and was killed.

Alderman Albert H. Gille, advocate of traffic improvements, introduced an amendment to existing city law to prohibit log trucks from operating over city streets from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. That law already empowers the city engineer to set routes.

The original measure would have fixed a route through Salem and prohibited log truck travel here from 7 to 8:30 and from 4:30 to 5:30.

These were principal arguments from the loggers and mill attorneys:

Salem is already one of the most restrictive cities in relation to log trucks; reduction of travel hours would eliminate one or more trips into Salem per day and might mean the difference between marginal and profitable operation for each logger; mills would find operating costs higher through hiring more trucks or putting on extra shifts for late receipt of logs; the proposed legislation discriminates against logging and mill industries; many loggers would take their logs to other cities instead of Salem.

Some truckers also complained about routings, "especially through Salem." Herbert E. Barker, Salem Trades and Labor council secretary, called the proposed restriction "idiotic" and said he opposed it on behalf of mill workers anxious to retain their jobs in Salem.

Present Pleas
Loggers who spoke included Cecil Clark, Floyd Brown and E. G. Neal. Attorneys represented Oregon Pulp and Paper, Capital Lumber & Fuel and West Salem Lumber, Minden Lumber, Capitol Lumber firms.

Alderman Walter Musgrave voiced his opposition to the restriction, saying: "Salem will have to become conscious of its need to give something to industry, not always rob it." Alderman Thomas Armstrong urged caution and asked that logging and mill interests designate committees to meet with city officials and local business spokesmen to go into the subject further.

The proposed amendment will come up at the July 10 council meeting for possible final disposition.

Truman Backs Efforts of U. N.

WASHINGTON, June 26 (AP)—President Truman threw the "vigorous" support of the United States government today behind the United Nations effort to end the sudden week-end war in Korea.

The overshadowing—and as yet wholly unanswered—question was whether this nation is prepared to dispatch its fighting men to the trouble zone if the U. N. should decide on a showdown test of strength to enforce its peace orders.

No—said the conference of republican senators in effect. Unanimously they declared that the assault of northern communists on the republic of south Korea must not be allowed to involve the United States in war. The republicans said, however, that this nation should provide military supplies and other assistance.

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Korea Envoy at U.N. Meeting



LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., June 26—Myun Chang, Korean ambassador to the U. S., is greeted by Trygve Lie (right), secretary general of the United Nations, at a special emergency meeting of the U. N. Security Council which ordered a cease fire in Korea and also demanded a rollback by invasion forces. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Reports Vary In Attempting To Locate Rhee

By Russell Brines
TOKYO, Tuesday, June 27 — (AP) — A Korean spokesman said today an armored communist spearhead had been hurled back from the gates of Seoul, and the U. S.-backed South Korean government still was there.

This conflicted with previous reports that President Syngman Rhee and his entire cabinet had fled south. Earlier General MacArthur's headquarters said that tank-led red troops had entered Seoul.

(Associated Press correspondent O. H. P. King in Seoul also reported that Rhee and other top officials left this morning.)

The spokesman asserted the southern defenders had counter-attacked successfully on the crucial central front.

A reliable American source said he had telephoned Seoul and had been informed the invaders now were 13 miles north of Seoul. Planes in Action

A Korean news agency reported received here said the South Koreans already had sent 10 fighter planes—sent from Japan as part of U. S. aid—into action with "fine results."

The agency also asserted the key point of Uijongbu, 12 miles north of Seoul, had been recaptured.

The tank-led red attackers had driven approximately 30 miles straight down the Uijongbu valley to the suburbs of Seoul, MacArthur's headquarters had reported.

But the spokesman maintained that the counterattack had driven the reds back to the city of Changtong, which is between Seoul and Uijongbu. The latter is 12 miles north of Seoul.

MacArthur's headquarters also announced that a U. S. fighter plane shot down a Russian-made Yak plane over Seoul's Kimpo airport.

The plane, presumably from the North Korean air force, ran afoul of an air umbrella plan afoul of the suburbs of Seoul, MacArthur had thrown over the airport to protect the evacuation of Americans.

U. S. Ambassador John J. Muccio was reported still in Seoul as was Col. W. H. S. Wright, head of the U. S. military advisory group.

Muccio had planned to join the South Korean government in its flight. A refuge capital at Suwon, 20 miles south of Seoul, was being broadcast, according to one Korean broadcast.

Earlier, MacArthur's headquarters said the situation in the South Korean capital still was uncertain. Near Airport

The invaders also were said at that time to be near Kimpo airport, 18 miles northwest of Seoul. North Korean planes intermittently strafed and bombed the airport and Seoul itself, the summary said.

Presumably, the aerial attacks on the air field came after Americans from the embassy had been safely evacuated to Southern Japan.

On the third day of the North's surprise invasion the center of the front was crumpled.

As the armored unit, which had cracked through the U.S.-trained South Korean army, halted at the outskirts, its commander demanded that the Southerners surrender.

The defense ministry in a subsequent broadcast called for a battle in Seoul's streets, with citizens aiding the military.

Second Incident
The fighter with a Russian-made plane—presumably from the North Korean air force—was the second aerial incident in as many days.

Headquarters said the Mustang was one of a number of planes sent to prevent any outside attempt to disrupt the evacuation of Americans.

It added that the U. S. fighter "was forced to shoot down a Yak fighter which interfered with the evacuation efforts."

"Several other Yak fighters were in the air in the area but did not make serious threats to interfere," the announcement added.

A Yak-3 fighter yesterday attacked a Mustang as it flew over Seoul. Observers said the Mustang escaped damage and drove off its attacker by turning and flying toward it.

Loggers Protest Plan to Limit Truck Operations

By Robert E. Gangware
City Editor, The Statesman

Sawmill and logging truck operators hopped on the Salem city council Monday night in protest against a proposal to keep log trucks off city streets at rush traffic hours.

Spokesmen for some 50 loggers and attorneys for several mills, meeting with the council at city hall, made it clear they wanted no part of the restriction on operating hours. They declared it would hurt Salem business all around.

The council for its part killed a resolution to establish a log truck route and restrict hours, introduced a substitute measure with less restrictive hours and talked about re-studying the matter with a committee of interested parties.

Backs Restrictions
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Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"South in the winter, north in the summer, south in the winter—Nuts! I'm gettin' out of this rut!"