

Erring Boys Come From Good Homes, Too, Study Shows

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles on Salem's juvenile delinquency problem, prepared by Statesman Staff Writers Marguerite Wright, Thomas Wright and John White.

No one could put a finger on exactly why Tony went wrong to the extent of breaking into a service station, to steal cigars and cigarettes, and of stealing a spotlight and bumper jack.

Tony has the kind of background not usually associated with criminal activities. His father is a farmer, well-known and respected in his community. The family has lived in that community all of Tony's life. He has two sisters, one younger and one in college and recently married. His home is a well-kept white frame house on a quiet, shaded side street.

His mother says he was never a problem child, was given certain duties at home, such as caring for the lawn, garden and chickens, and that he did them satisfactorily. A June graduate of Salem high school, Tony received average grades in school and did not seem to cause the school authorities any trouble.

Scout Troop Broke Up

Tony's father was chairman of the committee which organized a Boy Scout troop sponsored by the community school board and Tony was a scout for three years, attaining first class rank. Then the scoutmaster moved out of the area; support for the troop failed and it broke up. Later, Tony joined the marine reserves and is now a corporal. He attended the community church with his parents.

The boy owned a car and worked on farms in the summer to help pay for its upkeep. The parents cannot understand why he stole car accessories or the other items. They think that it must have been that his companions put him up to it and he didn't want to "chicken out." Meanwhile, Tony was the only one of the boys recently arrested whose parents bailed him out and his case has not come up before court at this time.

Had Good Background

Ted, 15, is another lad whose background seemed to preclude delinquency. Though his mother has remarked he seemed to get along well with his stepfather and the parent seems to be a good provider. The family has just bought an attractive new house and there are only two children, Ted and his older brother.

Of the boys studied for this series, Ted was the only one who showed much interest in athletics. In junior high school—he is entering the 10th grade—he went out for baseball and basketball. He was a Hi-Y member and a member of the YMCA. Ted was a Boy Scout for over three years and achieved the rank of star scout. He likes fishing. Both boys went to church—but not recently. Both are looking for summer jobs, such as bean picking, and both have plans for going to college to major in forestry.

Ted, with another boy from his scout troop, and several other schoolmates was picked up by police as a member of a beer-stealing gang which financed drinking sprees by burglaries and beer thefts. They had taken on at

do without his toothbrush and clean socks for a while. But she is opposing efforts to take him away from her and put him into another home. Archie wants to join the navy.

Problem Personality

A 15-year-old who operated alone and was not a member of either the car-strippers or the beer-thieves is Larry, and his case bears study because he is one boy who will probably never be a law-abiding citizen. The authorities say he has a psychopathic personality.

Larry is in Woodburn training school now. It's his second or third time there. He has a record of five arrests. His main trouble is stealing cars; his mother says when he was a baby he used to steal scooters and tricycles. He's been in trouble for probably as long as he can remember.

The parents were divorced when he was five. Her present marriage is her third or fourth. In between marriages the mother had to work and boarded Larry out with families in the country. The boy loves farms and says he would stay out of trouble if the mother would move to a farm. She says she and her husband have considered it but decided Larry's interest in farms would be short-lived once he learned what hard work farm work is.

Doesn't See Much Hope

The mother says she never had Larry with her long enough to train him right until it was too late to start. She doesn't think there is much that can be done for him now. Woodburn didn't seem to help him; she thinks the discipline there is not strict enough.

Larry's passion is owning a car but, since he is too young to have a license, the parents have not encouraged his driving their car or buying one of his own yet. They tried to get him to work, save his money and then buy a car when he was old enough. But Larry couldn't wait; he just stole one. And another.

He likes fishing and hunting but fishing requires a license and his mother wouldn't buy him a gun. Larry had no use for school or for such organizations as Boy Scouts. He'd say he was going to school or a scout meeting and take off for the swimming hole instead. The mother never felt she could trust him or believe what he told her. She now has a new baby son to care for but she worries constantly about Larry and what the future holds for him. Evidently, it just holds more jail terms.

(Next: Home and School)

Valley Briefs

Statesman News Service

Aumsville — Mrs. J. M. Willis, former African missionary spoke before the missionary meeting recently at the Wesleyan Methodist parsonage. Present were Mesdames Glenn Hoerner, Walter Ross, Eric Pederson, J. B. Gjesdal, Miller, Kellogg, T. C. Mountain, Byron Wells, Clark Hall, Roy Hall, Harvey Carlson, Viola Gjesdal and Marjory Gjesdal.

Aumsville — Daily vacation Bible school started Monday at the Aumsville Wesleyan Methodist church.

Maclean — The young people of Maclean Grange will hold a barn dance Saturday night, July 1, at the Grange hall. All Grange members and their friends are invited.

Silverton — F. O. Repine of

Valley Births

Statesman News Service

DALLAS — To Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Hoffman of Portland, a son, Thomas Louis, June 17. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wall of Dallas and Louis Hoffman of Munich, N.D.

To Mr. and Mrs. George L. Cantrell, Jr., a daughter, Martha Anne, June 20. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Cantrell of Selah, Wash., and Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Puck of Yakima.

To Mr. and Mrs. John A. Friesen of Dallas, a son, Dennis, June 17. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John J. Friesen of Meade, Kan., and Mrs. Margaret Classen of Dallas.

Portland was awarded the \$2,000 contract for redecorating the classrooms only in the high school building at a special school board meeting held Monday night.

Valley Obituaries

Statesman News Service

Mrs. Emma Davis

ALBANY—Funeral services for Mrs. Emma Davis, 75, who died following a short illness at her home in Brownsville on June 25,

were held from the Baptist church in Brownsville Wednesday, the Rev. Menno Remple officiating. Burial was in the Union cemetery at Crawfordville.

Mrs. Davis was born in Feb., 1875. She had lived in Brownsville the past nine years, moving there from Crawfordville. Her husband, Reuben R. Davis, died in 1945. There are no known relatives, but Kenneth Dawson, whom

she had reared, has come from his home in Seattle, Wash., to make funeral arrangements. The Fisher Funeral Home was in charge of the services.

Trail Ridge road in Rocky Mountain National park, Colorado, is the highest continuous highway in the nation. Four miles are above 12,000 feet (timberline).

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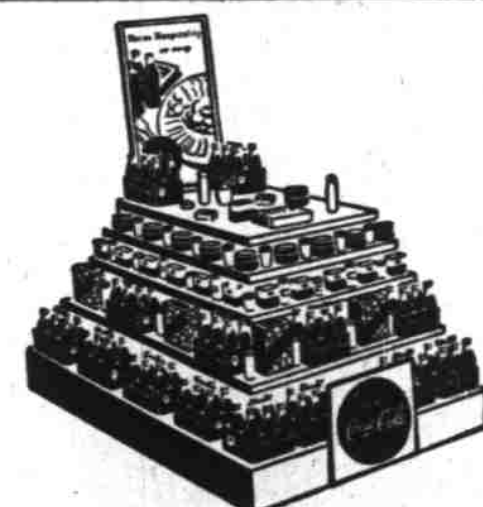


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