

Right Now Declared Proper Time to Get At Root of Problem

(Editor's note: This is the sixth and concluding article in a series on juvenile delinquency in Salem, prepared by Statesman Staffwriters Margaret Wright, Thomas Wright and John White.)

Your home may be ransacked by teenage burglars tonight. Your car tomorrow morning may be minus its spare tire or hub-caps. . . or you may be minus your car.

Your boy may be arrested for having associated with a bunch of neighborhood kids who careened around town in a hotrod, drunk on stolen beer.

Salem as a community can not afford to ignore the growing rate of juvenile delinquency here.

To try to pass off crime by youth as "just a phase" either in the growth of a child or in the growth of a city, to believe that it will be outgrown by both the children and the community, to hope that it will simply go away if only we stop talking about it—these reactions to an unpleasant and serious situation will only worsen it.

False Economy Cited

To try to ride the postwar wave of juvenile delinquency with whatever insufficient facilities we now have is false economy. We'll have to pay the price with interest when the punk kids develop into adult criminals. That is the consensus of persons most concerned.

Certainly, juvenile delinquency is part of Salem's growing pains. It's part of the aftermath of World War II and part of the temper of our times. But crime by young boys and girls is a long-range problem, something that has been creeping up on us and something we will have with us for years to come.

But these facts are regarded as no excuse for complacency. There is really no excuse for the fact that juvenile delinquency in this area seems to be unusually rank for a community of this size. One police officer reported that in larger cities than Salem, where measures against youthful lawbreakers are stringent, delinquency is a minor problem. In Salem it is fast becoming a major problem.

Need for Discipline

There have been many suggestions. The one most often reiterated is the need for discipline, and discipline begins in the home. Officials insist parents ought to mean "no" when they say "no." Proper training from infancy is the best preventative for crime and the parents bear primary responsibility for the way their children turn out. The home, the church, the school have to work together to instill respect for authority and a sense of responsibility in children. They should cooperate in preparing youth for citizenship in our society.

While school authorities do not hesitate to point out instances where parents have failed in their job, the schools themselves are not regarded as blameless. The parents seem to have a case when they say schools are too academic for children not capable of academic work. Perhaps there should be more vocational training courses available for these boys. High school officials explain they were forced to close the auto mechanics shop because the boys stole the tools for their own cars and used facilities to equip their hotrods with stolen accessories. Nevertheless, it seems to many that our educational system needs some overhauling to provide for the minority it now offers little.

Are They 'Too Easy'?

When the home, church and school have failed to keep a child in line, the community—through its police, juvenile officers and courts—gets the job by default. Critics of the way juvenile delinquents are now handled by these institutions point out that the present line of stricter discipline applies here.

There are comments that the juvenile department and the courts are "too easy on those rough-necks." Some school authorities feel there are too many broken probationers and too many repeat offenders. They suggest juvenile officers ought not to be misled by the boys' quick promises to be good, and ought to be firmer in their first approach rather than being firm only as the case gets hopeless. They feel that the prospect of sentences in Woodburn training school would be a major deterrent to crime. Boys who expect to "get off" with probation are likely to try to get away with murder, so to speak.

But responsible judges and soft-hearted juvenile officers, alike, believe that granting probation to first and possibly also second offenders means giving delinquents another chance, a needed chance, to go straight. That chance is forfeited when a teenager is sent to Woodburn, they feel, and many a youth who enters the state penitentiary might as well almost abandon hope of rehabilitation, in the opinion of many.

Ten on Probation

So here is what happened to the 22 youthful offenders recently arrested by city and county law officers:

Three cases are still pending; one 15-year-old who falsified his age to get into the army was released to return to his outfit; one 14-year-old was sent to the child guidance clinic; one with a record of five arrests was returned to Woodburn; one was bound over to the grand jury; three were released when no complaint against them was signed; one was sent to the state hospital for 30 days observation; one received a \$50 fine and 30 days suspended jail sentence, and the rest—ten of them—were placed on probation with their parents.

Police officers and sheriff's deputies who had to track down the wrongdoers bring them in for questioning and keep them in jail

were hardly pleased with the disposition of those cases. They are "Why?" they ask, "should we go out and bring them into court only to have them turned loose again?" They feel that a good talking-to and the two weeks spent in jail awaiting trial fails to impress the tough youngsters with the seriousness of their crimes.

'Farm' Suggested

If the penitentiary, Woodburn, the local jails and probation are not the answers, then what is?

Foster homes, a detention home, and a training school or farm that would be a cross between a public high school and Woodburn have been suggested. The training school or farm was pictured as an institution where boys would be under strict, 24-hour-a-day supervision with the emphasis on rehabilitation, not punishment. Woodburn would be the final resort, still. This in-between school would not have the stigma of Woodburn.

Another answer to the juvenile delinquency problem seems to be forthcoming: It is a reorganization of Marion county courts to provide for an additional circuit judge with exclusive jurisdiction over a domestic relations court.

Immediate steps toward decreasing delinquency would be opening more summer jobs to juveniles, encouraging teenagers to take harvest work, and providing group activities and recreation facilities open to all kids regardless of their financial or social status.

All of the above-mentioned measures are possible within the foreseeable future. They are all comparatively short-term measures.

Time to Start is Now

But over the long haul, the problem of juvenile delinquency in our county appears to be one of the problems our society has brought upon itself. It apparently grows out of faults in our attitudes and behavior as human beings. Imperfect, we have created imperfect institutions and bred imperfect children, it is pointed out. In that, we have much in common with our ancestors through the centuries; there have always been black sheep, there have always been criminals since Cain killed Abel. Moreover, there probably always will be.

We cannot hope to change society overnight; we cannot hope to wipe out juvenile delinquency overnight, either. Solving Salem's problem may be a harder job than anyone imagines, but the time to begin is regarded as now and the way to begin is with the short-term, the possible steps.

Meanwhile, it's not too much to look forward to a time when, our modern Huck Finns, in their skin-tight blue jeans and white T-shirts, will do nothing worse than swipe a watermelon, like their fathers before them.

Friesen Clans Holds Reunion At Rickerall

RICKREALL—The Friesen clan held their annual reunion at the Rickerall Grange hall.

H. B. Friesen was elected president; B. B. Friesen, vice president, and Mrs. John Neufeld, secretary. A no-host dinner was served.

Among those present were B. B. Friesen, Monmouth; Mrs. McKnight, Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. Yung, Keizer; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wilson and sons, Eugene; Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Friesen, Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Friesen, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Friesen, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Friesen, Beaverton; Mr. and Mrs. Chet Bloisich and son, Portland; Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Rempel, Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Backman, Sacramento; Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Hall, Sacramento; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Rempel, Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rempel, Perrydale; Mr. and Mrs. John Morris, Dallas; Bill Domes, McCoy; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Toews and daughter, Salem, and Mr. and Mrs. John Neufeld, Rickreall.

Hubbard Couple Visiting Daughter in Washington

HUBBARD—Mrs. and Mr. L. M. Scholl left Thursday this week for Asotin, Wash., to take their daughter, Mrs. Douglas Hole, home and spend a week visiting there. During their absence Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Calvert of Chicago, Illinois, who have been guests of the Scholls several times the past winter, will stay in the Scholl home.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knight and son of Portland were weekend guests of his mother, Mrs. Minnie Knight.

MRS. WRIGHT IN HOSPITAL—TURNER—Mrs. Charlie Wright is in Emmanuel hospital for surgery and expected to return home Sunday. Lee Higberger, owner of the Aumsville Flour mill, is in Salem General hospital for observation and possibly surgery.

Plane Watcher



H. B. Heberling, assistant general sales manager of Plymouth Motor corporation, who will be in Salem next Sunday, July 9, for the state model plane contest at Waters park, sponsored by Plymouth dealers.

Model Airplane Contest Today At Woodburn

Planes by the dozens will take off from Woodburn airport today, but their pilots will have to stay on the ground. The craft will be model airplanes from over Oregon, in the state free flight contest sponsored by Plymouth dealers.

A similar contest for control line events is slated for next Sunday at Waters park in Salem. The contests will begin at 9 a. m. both days and continue well into the afternoon. The programs are open to the public without charge.

Elmer Roth, Salem, Academy of Model Aeronautics contest director, said contestants will be after 75 trophies and medals, two expense-paid trips to the international contest in Detroit, Mich., and a \$300 university scholarship.

Classes will be junior, up to 16 years; senior, 16-20, and open. Scholarship will go to the high point winner under 18 years of age.

Four Firemen Join City Fire Department

Four new Salem firemen, out of five additional authorized by the 1950-51 city budget, began duties and training Saturday, in charge of Battalion Chief Ellwood Smith.

The men are Frank Hills, back on the force after a year at other work, Royce Linhart, Herbert Fry and Dale Woodruff. Smith said the fifth man would be added later. Wilford, LaFountaine was required as a police patrolman Saturday after an absence of about a month. He replaces James Hunter, who had been on the force approximately a year before resigning. LaFountaine was appointed on temporary status because there is at present no waiting list of men who have passed the civil service examination.

Assistant Police Chief E. C. Charlton said none of the six new patrolmen authorized by the budget would be employed until after final approval of the appropriation later this month.

Silverton Stores to Be Open Monday

SILVERTON—While a number of Silverton folk will take advantage of the three-day holiday on their own, officially, Silverton will be open on Monday, Kenneth Brown, secretary of the Silverton Chamber of Commerce stated Friday.

The decision was reached during the week by the retail trade committee of the chamber. After hearing that a number of the smaller towns planned to close Monday, the committee played with the idea of making it a three-day holiday for Silverton also, but voted against it.

Mayor Errol Ross said that the council will meet Monday night if a quorum is left in town.

Wiel Family Holds Reunion at Hubbard

HUBBARD—The descendants of John and Wolfgang Wiel met for a re-union Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Will, north of Hubbard, with more than 50 present.

There from Hubbard were Mr. and Mrs. L. M. School, Mrs. Winnie Mulloy, Leland and Vera Kocher, Mrs. Anna School, Lenore and John; and Ed Wolfer. Included in the out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beer and son of Corvallis, Miss Velma School of Portland, Mrs. Douglas Hole of

Tax Program Outlined by Interim Board

PORTLAND, July 1 (AP)—A five-point tax program was outlined here Friday by the interim tax committee of the state legislature as a possible solution to Oregon's financial problems.

Sen. Howard C. Belton, chairman, said the program might contain the principal proposals to be made in the committee's report to the 1951 legislature.

They were:

1. Amendment of the six per cent limitation to give local government subdivisions the right to set up new tax bases.
2. Amend the excise law to eliminate many present exemptions.
3. Eliminate state property taxes.
4. Improve assessment and collection procedures.
5. A two per cent business tax on net profits.

Belton said Oregon would have a deficit of \$7,500,000 at the end of the next biennium, provided expenditures and income continue at the present level.

Would Push Up
If higher pension, state school support funds and a veterans' bonus are approved by the voters this would go to \$42,000,000 annually, he said.

It is up to the people to decide—and soon—how much government they want and how much they will pay for it. He told the Portland City club today. The over-all tax load in the state, he said, is \$613,000,000 annually. The tax bill for the head of a family of four in the state was \$1600.

No Emergency Clause
Oregon's tax problems are unlike those of other states, Belton said, in that no emergency clauses are permitted in tax bills. As a result, voters have approved measures many times, then failed to provide a means of financing them, the committee chairman added.

Belton said that the state's "so-called surplus" is shrinking rapidly, dropping \$12,000,000 last year, while tax delinquencies are climbing. He cited, as an example, a 300 per cent increase in delinquencies in Douglas county in the past three years.

Rep. Giles French, Moro, said a two per cent tax on net business would raise an amount equal to the property tax and would be distributed back to the counties. A business tax is more equitable than property tax, he said.

4 Districts in Brooks Area Reject Merger

BROOKS—Voters rejected consolidation of six rural schools in this area at a recent election, a vote canvass revealed Friday. The count was 196 opposed and 97 for.

Brooks favored the proposal 59 to 36 and Lake Labish 26 to 17. Rejecting the measure were Pioneer, 29 to 1; Buena Vista, 42 to 0 and Labish, 45 to 4. A vote in one of the two favoring districts will be taken to determine whether the schools will merge. The election will be held July 21.

Corn Show To Be Held In Silverton

SILVERTON—Oregon's state corn show will be held December 7, 8 and 9 at Silverton. Definite dates were set here Wednesday at a breakfast meeting of the directors of the Silverton chamber of commerce.

The state corn show committee had agreed earlier in the week to accept Silverton's invitation to hold the show here in late autumn. Definite arrangements as to place and committees will be made later. The 1949 show was held at Ontario, prior to that at Canby and Pacific International.

Invitations had also been received to hold this year's show at Albany and at Canby, but as Silverton had asked for it a year ago, it was given preference.

RADCLIFFES MOVE

SILVERTON—Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Radcliffe have moved to Eugene where he will have a bus run from Eugene to Portland for the Greyhound line. Radcliffe, who has been on the Silverton-Woodburn run for some time, has been transferred owing to the sale of the Greyhound interests in this locality.

Asotin, Washington, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Archer and son and Miss Elvira Scholl of Portland.

Bank Boosts Interest Rate

Interest rate on savings deposits was increased Saturday from 1 to 1½ per cent by U. S. National Bank of Portland, David W. Eyre, vice president, announced. Similar rates had been announced earlier by First National Bank of Portland, and Willamette Valley bank has paid the 1½ per cent for some time.

The U. S. National rate above \$10,000 is 1 per cent.

Certain types of sulfa medicines now are being widely used to cut down disease fatalities among poultry.

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Amity Voters Reject Rural School Levy

Statesman News Service

AMITY—Voters here this week rejected, 122 to 70, the Yamhill county rural school tax levy. The Amity high school district

elected John Jeffley a director for five years. The tax for financing lighting at the athletic field was rejected 96 to 88.

GROUP ELECTS

SILVERTON—Newly elected officers of the Hills, Minn., picnic association, which meets annually at Silverton, are Clifford Almquist, president; Mrs. C. Ray, vice for some time.

ROBERTS ON VISIT

IDANHA—Mr. and Mrs. Dave Roberts and sons left Wednesday for Hatton, Ark., to visit for three weeks with his parents Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Roberts. The elder Roberts has been in ill health

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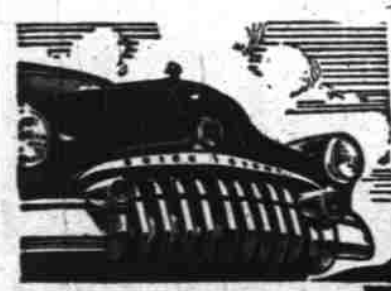
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