

Kindly Consideration, Guidance for Erring Youth Aim of County's New Court of Domestic Relations



Informal hearings in his chambers is the way Judge Joseph B. Felton (behind desk) of Marion County Juvenile Court gets acquainted with youngsters afoul of the law and tries to learn their problem to help guide them. The most formal part of the meeting is the record taken by Court Reporter A. A. Richards (right). As they talk to Judge Felton, the boys and girls can hardly miss seeing the inspirational picture given by the Eagles Lodge and the U.S. flag given by East Salem Lions Club.

Children Paramount In Divorces

(Editor's note: Following is the first of a three-part story on the activities of Marion County's new court of domestic relations, established last August.)

By WINSTON H. TAYLOR
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Giving more time — sooner — to youngsters in trouble and needing help is one of the principal accomplishments of Marion County's new court of domestic relations. The department of the Circuit Court was established last Aug. 2, with Judge Joseph B. Felton presiding. Until this third department was set up, the two circuit judges had their hands full of scheduled cases, and juvenile matters had to be slipped in when there were a few free minutes.

Juveniles are not by any means the only assignment for the court. Divorce cases constitute a large portion of the activity, but even here "the important thing is the disposition of children" who were involved in 89 of the 184 divorces granted during the court's first half year.

Experience Valuable
Felton, moved up from Marion County District Court and earlier from the old Salem justice court, employed that experience as a guide in the new job dealing with erring juveniles. He plans a preliminary hearing as soon as possible after the child is referred to the court, preferably the first day. This is aimed at getting acquainted with the juvenile and parents, to see if there is a need for detention or further consideration, to set a later hearing and to demonstrate that juvenile hearings are not fearful, formal "trials."

With this view of the situation, the juvenile department can look farther into the background and current problems, then work out a plan for disposition. This comes from interviews with child, parents, police, school authorities, plus intelligence tests if indicated.

Larceny Leads List
The time element enters in also with the youngsters after court disposition, when temptations are great for more trouble.

Cases during the first year show a prevalence of larceny, including auto thefts, along with burglaries and check-writing. Sex offenses were reported to be few.

Involved have been 315 Salem area juveniles, 73 from the county's north portion, 49 from the southeast (from Turner eastward) and 12 from the southwest, along with 10 from Polk County and two from Benton County.

Caring for the task involving many hundreds of youngsters and adults is a staff of three, headed by Mrs. Nona White as probation officer, her job for 29 years. Her assistants are Dalbert Jepson and Mrs. Jo-Allen Bradley. Another is to be added soon, to help provide a closer follow-up of youths who have been in court.

Had Special Training
Jepson took special training in the juvenile field after college and has been with the department for six years. Mrs. Bradley came here 1½ years ago after several years in Portland with the police department and Louise Home for Girls.

Mrs. White, who said "things are no worse" than in her early years with Juvenile Court, blames drinking as the worst cause of delinquency, since beer is easily obtainable. While bicycle and auto-stealing are among common offenses and there is more forgery than formerly, Marion County is "comparatively clean," she contends.

The new domestic relations court is valuable in preventing a bottleneck in handling juvenile cases, says Mrs. White.

Sheriff Denver Young declared the court has a "chance to do a lot of good because it provides time to work with and talk to juveniles and help work out their problems."

"Finest of Any Bills"
Further support came from State Rep. John Steelhammer, who was speaker of the 1951 House of Representatives and helped to push legislation for the domestic relations department for this county. He said, "From the standpoint of society, this will develop into the finest thing of any of the bills I have handled."

Here are some of the things the court can do with children:
Refer to the State Hospital for psychiatric observation.
Refer to county child guidance

Sad Trip



TOKYO — Marine PFC. Ronald Leo, whose sweetheart, Eileen Fahey, Columbia University coed was slain by a complete stranger, prepares to board a plane at Haneda airport, Tokyo, in hopes of attending her funeral in New York. Bayard P. Peakes, 29, a frustrated electronics student, is held in connection with the girl's death. (AP Wirephoto via radio from Tokyo to the Statesman.)

POTATOES BUT NO TOPS
CENTRALIA, Ill. (AP)—The potato shortage made Ben Buchholz worry about the many vacant spaces in his potato patch. He dug down to see why his seed had not sent up plants. He found many potatoes as large as hen eggs. Now he's wondering if a new topless potato has been developed by a quirk of nature.

Los Angeles and San Francisco are served by dairying areas in the irrigated valleys of the Pacific Coast.

clinic, for psychological and psychiatric counseling, which Fenton says has been "very helpful." He has sent about 10 here.

Since all juveniles, except on cases such as traffic offenses, must be certified to the Juvenile Court upon first appearance before a court, Juvenile Court can refer them back to regular channels if the crime or the individual is considered beyond the scope of juvenile authorities. This has been done only once by Felton, in a recent shooting and burglary case.

Several Possibilities
Eventual disposition of the problem also has several possibilities, including:

Commitment to an institution—the state's MacLaren School for Boys, and Hillcrest School for Girls or private girls' schools such as St. Rose at Portland. This is for an indefinite term, depending upon the youngster's reaction and progress.

Commitment to an institution and immediate probation, in the nature of a suspended sentence.

Placement in foster homes for custody because of the nature of the natural home, which might contribute to the delinquency.

Release to parents as a ward of the court, which will provide supervision.

Release to parents with a reprimand, for minor cases.

During 1951 the juvenile department dealt with 293 boys and 156 girls in the delinquent category, 81 boys and 96 girls as dependents. Commitments were four to MacLaren, three to Hillcrest and three to St. Rose. Sixteen were referred to the guidance clinic, eight to the State Hospital and seven to private psychiatrists. The court placed 181 youngsters on probation.

TEXTBOOKS WORRY CHINESE

SINGAPORE (AP)—Chinese educators have expressed fears that the Singapore government's plan to "Malayanise" Chinese school textbooks is going to kill Chinese culture. The Federation of Chinese Schools is to appeal to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce to convene a meeting of leading Chinese associations, guilds, and cultural organizations to discuss the matter.

Garden Tour Plans Being Completed, Committees Named

Arrangements for the annual tour of gardens, sponsored by the Salem Garden club are being completed this week. The tour is open to the public, there is no charge, but a silver offering may be given by those who wish.

The tour, set for July 31, is to include a large number of interesting Salem gardens.

Listed to be visited are the gardens of Dr. and Mrs. Wolcott E. Buren, where tea will be served between the hours of 3 and 8, Russell E. Pratt, Evert Givens, William J. Braun, Charles Cole, John Wiles, Virgil Hiatt, Richard Meyer, Lawrence Ballmer, Carl G. Collins, Ralph H. Cooley, William J. Busick, Robert E. Shinn, and Homer H. Smith Sr.

Assisting Hostesses

Assisting in the gardens will be Mrs. Howard Hunsaker, Mrs. Robert Hutcheon, Mrs. Harry Wenderoth, Mrs. C. S. McCollam, Mrs. Lester Newman, Mrs. Harris Lietz, Mrs. Cora Lippold, Mrs. William Sanders, Miss Hazel Price, Mrs. Lloyd Reinhold, Mrs. L. S. Cross, Mrs. W. C. Rambo, Mrs. J. Roy McEvoy, Mrs. Fred Zimmerman, Mrs. Herbert Ostlind, Mrs. O. E. Palmateer, Mrs. Oscar Cutler, Mrs. W. C. Gabriel, Mrs. C. Ward Davis, Mrs. Herman Larky, Mrs. Ellen Fisher, Miss

Ada Ross, Mrs. John Carr, Mrs. Roy Smith, Mrs. H. J. Clements, Mrs. Walter Sieber, Mrs. O. S. Nelson and Mrs. Ed Harrison.

Mrs. Ben Maxwell, Mrs. Jack Henningsen and Mrs. W. E. Martin will decorate the tea table.

To Serve Tea

Mrs. Elmore Hill is tea chairman and will be assisted by Mrs. Henry Hansen, Mrs. O. E. Snider, Mrs. Alvin Luhr, Mrs. Merle Travis, Mrs. Norman Merrill, Mrs. Edward Majek, Mrs. Carl Chambers, Mrs. Charles Fowler, Mrs. Grant Rogers, Mrs. Ken Pearce, Mrs. A. R. Tartar, Mrs. Hubbell Young, Mrs. Virgil Sexton, Mrs. Seward Kellicut, Silverton, Miss May Service, Silverton and Mrs. Ethel Brown.

Pouring will be Miss Elizabeth Lord, Miss Edith Schryber, Mrs. Ben Maxwell, Mrs. Jack Henningsen, Mrs. Walter Martin, Mrs. Clifford Taylor, Mrs. Morrell Crary, Mrs. Walter Smith, Mrs. R. B. Winslow, Silverton and Mrs. Arthur Martin.

Mrs. E. T. Borkman, Mrs. Bryan Goodenough, Mrs. Floyd Kibbe, Mrs. Fred Gibson, Mrs. W. E. Martin and Mrs. Morrell Crary are in charge of finances. Mrs. Howard Hunsaker is president of the Garden club and in general charge.

BEAR VISITS NEW CITY

FONTANA, Calif. (AP)—Residents of Fontana were proud when their city was incorporated recently, but something happened to dampen their ego. It seems a 500-

pound bear hadn't heard about the incorporation order and wandered into town from the mountains nearby. Sheriff's deputies shot it six blocks from the center of the city.

Building Topples on Automobiles



FRESNO—Thirty automobiles and trucks were covered when the building of a Fresno, Calif., garage collapsed. Fire department officials called to the scene attributed the destruction to heat expansion. The building had just been reroofed. No one was injured or killed, though only seconds before the crash, a man had parked a car next to the building. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman.)

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