



AT PAGEANT BARBECUE — George E. Warner, former Bend youth counselor, astride his quarter horse during pageant.

Youth Problem Is Easy to Solve For Toothpaste Tube Reloaders

By DON H. HIGGINS
Bulletin Staff Writer

Any one clever enough to stuff toothpaste back through the slot of its tube could solve the youth problem of today, maybe. At least he would have a chance.

There are many others who could solve it. Among them are the ones who put their foot down. It's time to put your foot down, said Mrs. O. B. Fuscate, after reading about the antics of some of the so-called hellbound younger generation.

Mrs. O. B. Fuscate put her foot down—hard—on a little puddle of water. It splashed in all directions. She wound up with mud in her eye.

The Laissez (pronounced like "Lazy") Faire family next door had observed what Papa Faire called "another Obfuscation." Papa said Mrs. Fuscate's maiden name was Bea Wilder.

"She'll have to get the mud out of her eye before she can do anything else," said Faire.

"Pull up your suspenders, Pops," his daughter Dazzlepus, advised Faire, "or your pants will fall down."

The Faired believed in solving the youth problem by letting it solve itself. That's the line the Bend City Commission took last May when it decided to get along without a youth counselor after George E. Warner resigned. A sort of "let Nature take its course" — or "give it its curse" — idea.

George is better known as "Duke" Warner. It seemed reasonable to ask if he had found any certain method to pull juveniles and minors out of their pitfalls after two years and three weeks of counseling them. No one else had asked him up to this writing. Duke had some ideas. But first, a bit of record:

One Too Many Bosses
Duke Warner took the job of youth counselor on May 8, 1955. He was chosen from among a number of applicants. He quit voluntarily on May 31, 1957. The record showed that the local police and court liked him and officials approved of what he had done. The majority of Bend citizens didn't know much about it. A scattering of individuals and groups thought he had been shoveling smoke.

About the same small percentage — the individuals not being identical in all cases — frowns upon nearly every public official with a good record.

Duke explained last May why he quit. He was trying to work under divided county and city authority in a dual capacity of friendly advisor to teenagers with problems, and as juvenile court officer. The two didn't mix. Months before he resigned, he asked for a different arrangement.

No serious attention was paid to him. At least nothing was done. A little stir was made by a citizen who suggested that the job be virtually abandoned.

The city commission turned down the citizen but Warner decided he had no chance of getting what he wanted, and resigned.

I found Duke in his new job as case worker for the Deschutes County Welfare department. He is specializing in aid to dependent children and says he feels he is doing a lot more good than he was able to do as youth counselor.

Youth Chary of Law Man
"The children I visit now know I am their friend," said Duke. "That is what I was in the other job, but a lot of the juveniles found it hard to believe. I was too closely associated with the law."

Also, as youth counselor I aver-

aged 30 referrals a month from the police and other law enforcement officers. It was impossible to work continuously with each juvenile. There wasn't time enough. Now I have a case load of younger children and I feel I can do much more in prevention of conditions leading to juvenile delinquency

than I could in the other job, as well as carrying out my duties in law work."

Also, although Duke didn't bring it up, the new job pays more. I brought it up.

I reminded Duke that he was the only adult horseback rider who had devoted his entire time officially

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to juvenile behavior problems. I asked him, therefore, if he thought the office of youth counselor could be effective in helping the young people of Bend who had been licked by their troubles.

"It could be effective," said Duke, "under a different setup. By state law it is mandatory that each county shall have a juvenile department. It should be a county department as the law requires, separate from law enforcement and recreation departments.

New Setup Suggested
"The juvenile counselor should act as a friend and helper of boys and girls who need it. Many will seek his assistance, some will be sent to him. His power as peace officer should be used only for young people who have been put under probation; and used wisely with a sincere purpose to help. It is a social work, not a law enforcement job."

In his two years as a mixture of friend and policeman for the youth of Bend, Warner came to some definite conclusions. One of these is that juries in Deschutes county will rarely convict, regardless of the evidence, a minor. Nor will they convict an adult charged with contributing to a minor's delinquency.

Some cases were cited by Warner in which primary witnesses had testified to the guilt of minor and adult defendants in which they escaped punishment of any kind. But juveniles "are racked into court."

In cases involving the possession of beer, Warner pointed out that quite often a policeman stops a car and charges every occupant with the crime if he finds so much as a full bottle or two of the illegal beverage.

"The juveniles are brought into court," said Warner, "and often are sentenced by the judge. Some serve time in jail and in other cases the sentences are suspended. We often know the identity of the adult who illegally furnished the beer to them. If he is brought to trial, he gets off."

"It is not the court's fault. Juries seem to feel they can't do anything when minors or juveniles are involved in law violations. It has got to the point where the district attorney will not often even issue a complaint against minors or adults charged with juveniles because he knows he cannot get a conviction."

Juveniles Punished, Minors Escape
A young girl was raped by two



AT NEW DESK — Counselor Warner at his job with children in the Deschutes County Welfare department. He likes it better.

juveniles and two minors. Juveniles are under 18. Minors are between 18 and 21. Warner said all four confessed. The juveniles were given sentences in jail by the juvenile court judge. The minors were referred to the Circuit court. They were not even charged because the district attorney knew the jury would acquit them in a rape case.

Warner said he found very few "real delinquents" in Bend and in nearly all such cases there was a complete correlation of delinquency and poor home situation.

"The best kids will get into trouble once in a while," he observed. "They are nearly always involved in things that are legal for adults but not for juveniles or minors—such things as being out after hours and drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages. They seldom

are accused of burglaries or other felonies."

Warner explained that his meaning of "poor home situation" did not imply lack of money. He classified the child neglected by golf club and social whirl parents in the same category as the one whose mother and father spent their time in taverns.

Counselor Should Advise Only
"Some of the best parents are in the lowest income class," said Warner. "Housing is no criterion. It is whether parents devote time to their children, work and play with them, really train them for responsible maturity. Most delinquency starts with some sort of neglect. Children learn primarily by example."

Warner recalled asking a good fellow to join the Rotary club. The

man told him:
"I would like to join, but I have five kids at home and my spare time is for them."
Warner smiled. "It was sort of refreshing to me," he commented.
Warner said he had no complete solution to offer, but he did suggest that a juvenile counselor could be selected by the county and put to work separately from the city or state police, the sheriff and his deputies, or the court judges. Such a counselor would be notified when an allegation was filed against a juvenile. He would study the case and advise the arresting officer of the court of his findings, but he would never be required to appear in the role of prosecutor against the youth.

A friend does not put you in jail.
Wickiup reservoir's brown trout have a high growth rate. A 1954 game commission study shows two-inch long fingerlings attaining 15 inches within 15 months.

TO RECEIVE AWARD
WASHINGTON (UP)— Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) will receive the 1957 "Gen. Hap Arnold Award" from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Symington, who was Air Force secretary under President Truman, will be presented with the award at the VFW's annual encampment at Miami Beach, Fla., next week.

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- Fry Pan

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