

Page 8
Story
by Don Whitehead

Problem of Juvenile Crime

The postwar crime problem confronted the FBI and local enforcement officers in the wake of World War II, Director J. Edgar Hoover had said in 1945:

"It is well to analyze the conditions that breed crime today, in order that we may prevent it tomorrow. One of the primary causes of the alarming increase in crime among our young people, for example, has been the disintegration of the home as a guiding influence.

"The tremendous number of parents who have entered the armed services and war industries no longer can exercise sufficient control over their sons and daughters.

Much of the crime increase could be accounted for by the increase in the nation's population. But that wasn't the whole answer by any means. From 1945 to 1955, population increased 24.3 per cent while crime increased 44.5 per cent.

Juvenile Rate High

A few statistics tell a part of the story. The major crimes committed in 335 cities in the prewar years 1937-1939 averaged 630,257 each year. These were crimes of murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and automobile theft. In these same cities, the major crimes in the post-war years 1946-1955 averaged almost 800,000 each year. In 1955, a serious crime was committed on an average of every 12.8 seconds.

The most shameful part of the postwar crime record was the number of teen-age children involved in major law violations. Boys and girls under 18 were involved in 42.3 per cent of the arrests made for major crimes; and almost half of these were under 15. The reports showed that 42.2 per cent of those arrested in 1955 for automobile thefts and 52.7 per cent of those arrested for burglary had not reached their 18th birthday.

The bare statistics standing by themselves gave the frightening impression that young people had no moral restraints and were running wild. Such an impression was false, of course, but the situation was disgraceful and there was confusion among the laity.

FBI Starts School

As early as 1946, Hoover considered the problem so pressing that he directed the organization of an FBI Juvenile Delinquency Instruction School in which special agents were assigned to a broad research project, supplemented by lectures from well-known authorities in the field of juvenile delinquency.

The information gathered in these studies is being made available through FBI training schools to police departments to help them in developing their own programs to combat juvenile delinquency.

One of the most misunderstood acts of law enforcement is the FBI's responsibilities and limitations in the field of civil rights.

Bill of Rights

The Constitutional amendments known as the Bill of Rights provide for freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition; freedom to keep and bear arms; from enforced quartering of troops; from unlawful search and seizure; freedom from being a witness against oneself; freedom from excessive bail or fines; from being deprived of due process; from cruel and unusual punishment; and the right to a speedy and public trial by jury. These are primarily guarantees against oppression of individuals by the federal government. The relationships between private persons are matters which are largely reserved to the states.

Thus a mob might lynch a victim in violation of every concept of decency and fair play, but this action does not necessarily mean that the mob has violated a federal law. And unless a federal law is violated, the FBI has no jurisdiction.

Basic Laws Cited

The two basic civil rights statutes which more or less form the framework of the FBI's responsi-



Artist's conception of the bloody scene on a lonely Carolina road as Willie Earle was beaten, stabbed and shot to death after his arrest as a suspect in the slaying of a taxi driver. Although investigation by FBI and local police led to 28 arrests and 26 confessions, jury acquitted all of accused.

been in custody of an officer and there was a possibility that his civil rights had been denied "under color of law" by his jailer's voluntarily giving help to the job or being derelict in his duty. The FBI's investigation exonerated the enforcement officers who, "under color of law," willfully deny a person the rights guaranteed by law and the Constitution.

Heavy pressure was put on the federal government in 1955 to have the FBI investigate the murder of Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old Negro youth from Chicago who was slain in Mississippi after he allegedly made indecent remarks to a white woman.

The Justice Department's criminal Division decided that the FBI should not enter the case.

Local Prejudice

The reasoning behind this decision was that while murder no doubt had been done, the federal government had no authority to investigate and prosecute murder unless a federal law had been violated. Unless and until Congress passed a law covering such cases, federal intervention would be an invasion of states' rights.

One of the greatest barriers encountered by the FBI in civil rights violations has been local prejudice. Just as he refused to convict even when defendants confessed.

In 1947 in South Carolina, a cab driver was fatally stabbed near the town of Liberty. A Negro suspect named Willie Earle was arrested and taken to the Pickens county jail for questioning. He protested his innocence.

Word of the arrest spread. Soon a mob armed with shotguns and knives was racing for the jail and pushed into an automobile. Near the Saluda Dam the caravan halted and the prisoner "confessed" in the crime.

The mob beat Willie Earle and stabbed him with knives. Finally shotgun blasts smothered out the last small flame of life.

Confessions from 26

The Justice Department authorized the FBI to conduct a full investigation because Earle had

Uranium Map Theft Admitted

DENVER (UP)—A former Atomic Energy Commission geologist pleaded guilty in Federal Court yesterday to a charge that he stole an AEC uranium exploration map—possibly worth \$10 million—and sold it to private prospectors.

John P. Kellogg, 39, of Grand Junction, Colo., where the AEC has an operations office, changed a plea of innocent to a second indictment of guilty.

AEC officials said uranium on the land covered by the stolen map might be worth \$10 million.

A DOG WAS NOT THE GOAT

DETROIT (UP)—A suburban Troy woman called police and told them a dog was chewing up her shrubbery. Skeptical officers went to her house and captured a goat which was cropping the foliage.

Flood Damage



BARBOURVILLE, Ky.—This aerial view shows downtown Barbourville in the grip of the rampaging Cumberland river today. An estimated 500 persons have been evacuated from the community. About three-quarters of the town, all of the business section, and much of the residential area were flooded. The river was still rising and stood 6 inches below the all-time record of 42 feet. (AP Wirephoto)

Hatch Claims Self-Defense In Death Case

THE DALLES (UP)—Gene Calvin Hatch, 21, of Yakima, testified at his second degree murder trial here Thursday that he killed Walter Freeborn, 75, in self-defense.

Hatch said that he became involved in a fight with Freeborn, his employer, on the night of Oct. 14, after he had drunk at a tavern where he had drunk two glasses of beer.

He said the fight occurred in a trailer where the two men were living. It began, Hatch said, when he went to a closet to get his clothing in preparation for leaving.

Hatch testified that Freeborn, who was partly paralyzed, slammed the closet door shut on his head with his cane. In the subsequent fight, Hatch said, he punched Freeborn, broke a jar over his head and stabbed him with a pen-knife.

Hatch said he left the body in the trailer which he towed to Yakima. Freeborn's body was found buried in an area 22 miles south of Toppenish, Wash., and the trailer later was burned at Yakima.

Hatch also testified that two statements given to police after his arrest were "not accurate." These statements, which the prosecution contends are confessions, were admitted as evidence Wednesday.

Navy 'Goofed,' Sailor Let Out For Pregnancy

PORTLAND, Me. (UP)—The Navy is studying a miscarriage of administrative justice which discharged a healthy male sailor by reason of "pregnancy."

The error turned up when the sailor, whom the Navy flatly refuses to name, attempted to reenlist. The records of his previous enlistment plainly show the reason for his "honorable" discharge as "pregnancy."

But the Navy doctor who examined the prospective enlistee said the reason has to be wrong. Lt. Clyde Catts of Ripley, Tenn., said he could find no evidence of pregnancy when he gave the sailor a thorough pre-enlistment checkup. Instead he described the sailor as a perfectly healthy male in every respect.

Ontario Man Dies of Cold

ONTARIO (UP)—Death of 71-year-old Arthur Morilon near here last night was attributed today to near-zero temperatures by Malheur County Coroner George C. Beechler.

Morilon's death was believed to be the first in the state due directly to the freezing cold. Beechler said the elderly man's body was found in a sitting position at the front door of his cabin with the feet in the snow outside. A wood burning heater indicated the fire had gone out many hours before the body was found.

Temperatures dropped to 5 degrees last night in the Ontario region but had been much colder earlier in the week.

Lafayette was born 200 years ago. His birthplace, the Chateau de Chavignac in the Auvergne section of France, still attracts many American tourists.

Ship Crews Idle in Tribute to Lundeborg

SAN FRANCISCO (UP)—West Coast seamen on ships in port stopped work for 24 hours starting Wednesday midnight in tribute to Harry Lundeborg, union leader who died Monday of a heart attack.

Services for Lundeborg, 55-year-old head of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific and the Seafarers International Union, were held Thursday at the C. A. Anderson Mortuary here. Burial was to follow in Olivet Memorial Park in nearby Colma.

Arrive From Europe



NEW YORK—Author Ernest Hemingway and where they spent the past five months. They will stand at the rail of the liner leave today for their home in Cuba. (AP Wirephoto)

Four Children Perish in Fire

EAST CANDIA, N. H. (UP)—Four sleeping children perished Friday in a flash fire that roared through their rural home in this small southern New Hampshire town.

Their parents and three other children leaped to safety through a window after trying unsuccessfully to rescue the others.

Death Penalty Abolition Bill Sent to House

A bill providing for life imprisonment instead of death for conviction of first degree murder or treason was introduced in the Oregon House today.

Signing the bill were Reps. Robert Duncan, Medford; George Layman, Newberg; Keith Skellon, Eugene; Don Willner, Portland; and Sens. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukie; and Dan Dimick, Roseburg.

A companion House joint resolution would amend the Oregon constitution to substitute life imprisonment for the death penalty. The bill would become effective if the constitutional change was approved by the people in the 1958 general election.

Gov. Robert D. Holmes asked for abolition of the death penalty as "uncivilized" in his inaugural address.

The bill would further provide for a 25-year sentence instead of life for second degree murder.

A person convicted of first degree murder would be ineligible for parole until he had served 15 years instead of the present seven years. He would also have to have the unanimous consent of the parole board after a public hearing on his case.

The death sentence could only be enforced for first degree murder committed while a person was under sentence of life imprisonment.

Three men—James Norman Jensen, George Sack, and Billy Junior Nunn—are currently under death sentences at the state penitentiary. Gov. Holmes has not yet announced if he has any plans in their cases.

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Groundhog Day Had Its Origin in Scotland Centuries Ago

By BEN DEFOREST

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (UP)—Centuries ago, when Roman legions invaded Scotland, they heard this couplet in the highlands:

If Candlemas Day is bright and clear,
There'll be two winters in the year.

Candlemas Day falls each Feb. 2 when a religious feast is held to commemorate the Purification of the Virgin Mary.

Carried back across the Channel by the Romans, the saying was absorbed in the German culture. Employing a bit of logic, the Germans came to the conclusion that if Candlemas Day is bright and clear animals would cast a shadow.

The myth persisted and was brought to Pennsylvania by early German settlers. There, the belief took on new facets with the Germans reasoning that if the sun shone on Feb. 2 a wise animal like the ground hog would see its shadow and hurry back into its burrow for another six weeks.

This six weeks was interpreted by the Germans to be the second winter prophesized in the myth.

Then, one brisk fall day back in 1838, seven men from Punxsutawney, a community of 10,000 about 100 miles northeast of Pittsburgh decided to trade up a nearby hill to drink beer and eat ground hog.

They stopped on the way and purchased a keg of beer at a brewery. They lugged the keg to the top of the hill where they routed a ground hog from its burrow, killed it, skinned it then fried and ate the meat.

The men enjoyed the outing so much they decided to continue on a year-by-year basis and the local newspaper began to refer to the group as the Ground Hog Club.

Eventually, the club began holding its celebrations on Feb. 2 at Clymer H. Freas, city editor of the Punxsutawney Spirit, bragged that the Punxsutawney ground hog—"The Seer of Gobbler's Knob"—could forecast whether there would be a second winter when he emerged from his burrow.

If the Seer spots his shadow he returns to his burrow and there'll be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't see a shadow, he'll not return to his burrow and there will be a mild spring.

The Ground Hog Club grew in numbers and prestige. Members now indignantly refer to other forecasting ground hogs and their followers as "impostors." The chief competitors are in Quarryville, Pa., Allentown, Pa., Arkansas and Wisconsin.

The Punxsutawney club grew to national prominence under the leadership of the late Dr. Frank A. Lorenz, a country doctor.

After his death, the club presidency passed to Samuel R. Light a Punxsutawney coal, operator and bird dog fancier.

Now each Feb. 2, Light leads pay homage to the great prognosticator and to announce his forecast from the Weather Capital of the World.

Club members and their guests (such as out-of-town newsmen and celebrities) then drink beer, eat and watch the entertainers. The affair is stag.

Oh, yes, there's ground hog on the menu. Club members say it's a delicacy if properly prepared. Want to try some Here's what you do:

1. Catch a ground hog.
2. Skin it and cut it up.
3. Parboil the meat in soda water.
4. Roll it in flour.
5. Fry it to a luscious brown in deep butter fat.
6. Eat it.

Mental Patient Rehabilitation Study Planned

PORTLAND (UP)—Four Oregon agencies announced plans today for a proposed four-year study of mental hospital patient rehabilitation, said to be the first attempt by a Western state to conduct a complete program of this type.

The study would cost an estimated \$800,000. Financing would come from a grant by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Some 1200 mental patients would be involved.

Oregon sponsors of the project include the State Board of Health, Public Welfare Commission, the State hospital and the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Application has been made for \$198,150 to finance the first year of the program. The agencies said federal officials are regarding the project favorably. A decision is expected sometime next month.

The agencies said such a study could save Oregon millions of dollars during the next few years by helping patients re-establish themselves in home and community life and by reducing the number of mental patients re-admitted because of incomplete rehabilitation.

Readmissions accounted for 3000 of the 7170 persons taken into the two state hospitals during the past two years, the announcement said.

Patients from only two counties would be involved since the project would be experimental. Some 400 to 600 patients from one county would be studied and an equal number from another similar county would serve as "controls" to test validity of the findings.

Free Sheep Shearing Classes Set at OSC

CORVALLIS (UP)—Oregon State College will hold free sheep shearing classes at The Dalles, Prineville and Corvallis this spring.


The two-day classes will be under the direction of John Landers, OSC animal husbandry specialist, and Paul Rutland, OSC shepherd. Youngsters may attend if they are large enough to hold and shear a sheep.

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