

Judge Discusses Areas of Concern for Youth

(Ed. Note: Judge William Wells of Morrow county circuit court recently appeared at a district youth meeting in the Christian church here to address the group on current problems of young people. Those who heard the talk were impressed with it and asked that it be published for others to read. The following is the talk with the introduction and some illustrations removed in order to fit space requirements.)

By JUDGE WILLIAM W. WELLS

Those of us in the judicial field have a rather unique opportunity to see youth with all their emotions exposed. I speak not only of those who have by their own activities arrived in court for appropriate disposition, but also those who through no fault of their own, have had to be made wards of the court for protective reasons. In this latter category are those who as the result of disrupted family relations have need for the help from the State.

The philosophy of the juvenile court proceeding is that the State is placed on the side of the juvenile. The State has a vital concern for the welfare of its youth, for its future is in their hands and it behooves the State to provide for its own security and future well-being.

When the State assumes the role of parent, our laws wisely declare that it should secure for the child as nearly as possible the care equivalent to that which should have been given him by his parents. What a responsibility! A juvenile court judge takes this seriously, for to be a good parent, much is required. There must be discipline and good physical care; opportunity for educational, cultural and social growth, protection against injury and harmful influences, guidance, security, and an opportunity for wholesome new experiences.

There is no fine line of distinction between delinquency and neglect. The Court deals with the

child in whatever state of being he may be, if he needs the exercise of the State's authority in his behalf.

Let me give you some rather startling statistics which I had occasion to come across my desk the other day. According to the National Institute on Crime and Delinquency, out of 1,926,000 major crimes committed in the United States in 1961:

15% were committed by persons under the age of 15 years
43% were committed by persons under the age of 18 years
85% of all cars stolen were by persons under the age of 18 years

55% of all law enforcement contacts by officers of the law were with juveniles.

I do not wish to burden you with a lot of statistics, but it does point out the fact that juveniles do have and create problems. One of the biggest factors contributing to the violation of our laws is one of the greatest discoveries of our generation—the automobile. I see it every day in court. It is the car that is used to transport people to their destination to accomplish their illegal acts. It is the cause for thefts of gas, hubcaps, even whole engines, and other items which are sold to pay for their continued use. What is the solution? I'm sure that it is not the banishment of the automobile.

What it means is that more are going to have to exercise self control, practice good citizenship and let the better part of our character come forward.

What I mean is that it has to become vocal. We have to exercise our influence on others of our own age who may be less strong in resisting temptation than are you. Doing the right thing starts as a personal thing, but is comes effective when you in organizations like this join together to do your best to accomplish something you cannot do by yourselves. Teamwork consists of one person doing his best and the others doing their best.

It took more than one kind of

strength to build our nation. It required physical stamina, surely. But it took strength of mind and love of freedom and respect for law and order to produce a Declaration of Independence, to inspire men to fight for it and make it stick.

It took character to survive Plymouth Rock and that other winter at Valley Forge. It took character to place one's things into a rickety wagon and push off into a land of vague promise and specific terror. It will take even more character to stand up to the problems that will face you and the other youth of America in the days ahead.

More than at any time in history the world needs to be prepared with youth of character and vision who understand the things they believe in and are articulate about them.

Youth needs to understand our American system and the principles that make it successful. They need to know the privileges and the responsibilities of citizenship.

Times have changed, and they are going to keep changing. We have to be flexible in our thinking.

So things do change.

I am an optimist where youth is concerned, however. I have cited some of the statistics with reference to crime. What about the other side of the coin. I think we have some of the smartest youngsters today that we have ever had. Many of them tower head and shoulders in intelligence and learning above the old-timers. Take a look at industry. Some of the outstanding scientists, physicists and researchers today are persons not long out of college. The same thing is true in medicine, government and education. Any place you look, you can see that this is the day of opportunity for the right-thinking, hard working youth.

Fortunately, most of them have not been exposed to the so-called "experts" who know what can't be done. When a person doesn't know that things can't

be done, they just generally go ahead and do them.

Many of the problems of society are going to have to be met and solved by young people. But the question is whether you want something sincerely enough to work for it. The task of all of us is to do our best with the opportunities which we have.

We must have a climate for citizenship where order and individual discipline prevails. If you and I, and others in society, flout and reject law and order, we cannot expect others who are less fortunate than we are to be better. This means that the personal standards of us all must be in visible harmony with our vocal utterances. Or to put it in terms with which you are more familiar—Actions speak louder than words.

We must be sure that the climate of citizenship must be one in which it is not considered naive or stupid to give of oneself to others through service or to measure the values of life in non-materialistic terms.

Areas of Loyalties must be expanded and encouraged. These must grow from family and friends to neighborhood and community, to state and nation—and on, until it encompasses all mankind. They must not be stopped or stifled by ignorance or prejudice. This is the real test of this day and age, and its outcome will determine whether or not mankind survives.

People who do not believe in anything never accomplish anything worthwhile in the world. You can build a railroad across the desert if you believe that the job can be done, but not if you take the position that there are so many obstacles in the way of its being done that there is no use attempting it. You can make a better world if you believe that the conditions of the world can be improved, but not if you take the position that human nature being what it is, there is nothing that anyone can do about them. If you want to do something worthwhile with your life, you will have to believe that whatever needs to be done can be done. If only someone is brave enough to undertake it. And you will yourself have to be brave enough to undertake it, whether anyone else does so or not.

This, of course, is also to say that you must become devoted to something truly great and significant. You must find a great cause give to it the best you have as long as you live. Today there are many great causes that are bidding for your support: world peace, desperately; and the abolition of poverty of a kind that denies to human beings the necessities of life and of personal development; intellectual freedom, and the preservation of those civil liberties that are all-essential to the existence of a democracy. You will have no difficulty in finding a great cause, porting it. People who support porting it. People who support great causes are not always understood or approved by their contemporaries. It is only when a great cause has finally triumphed and the worth of it can no longer be doubted or denied that most people begin to understand and appreciate the faithful few, have valiantly supported it. But unless you have the courage to support great causes in the days of their unpopularity, you will not accomplish anything worthwhile in the world. Far from contributing to the solution of any human problem, you will yourself become a part of the problem that braver men and women have to solve.

Minister's Son Has Emergency Operation

Andrew MacKenzie, 11-month old son of the Rev. and Mrs. Rod MacKenzie, Ione, underwent emergency surgery at the Pendleton Community hospital Sunday. He became ill suddenly after church Sunday, was rushed to the Pendleton hospital where an appendectomy and hernia operation was performed. His parents brought him home Wednesday, and he is making a speedy recovery.

His sister, Kathryn, stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Martin while the family was in Pendleton.

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Ione Festival Draws Big Crowd

With around 350 tickets sold at the door for the door prizes given by 16 organizations, the second annual Ione Fall Festival was reported a great success at the Willows Grange hall on Sunday, according to Mrs. Hershel Townsend, general chairman.

Lots of activity was in evidence with many participating in games, booths, and drawings each hour of the afternoon. A large dinner was served at the turkey dinner between 12:30 and 2:30, for which the Willows Grange Home Economics club prepared the food under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ber Akers.

Participating organizations and winners of their prizes are as follows: Willows Grange, Ronald Bishop; Junior Class, Mrs. Jim Barnett; Topic Club, Marvin Padberg; Rebekah Lodge, Tass Morrison; Lions Club, Brock Linnell; Freshman class, Linn Benson; Altar Society, Donald Heilker; American Legion, Bonnie Hynds; Beta Omega Sorority, Mrs. Edmund Bristow; Rainbow Girls, Oscar Lundell; American Legion Auxiliary, Bonnie Akers; 120 Club, Kenney Jones; senior class, Mrs. Verner Troedson; Ione extension, Mrs. Hugh Salter and Lettermen's club, Mrs. Leo Crabtree. Winning the transistor radios, for which the Kindergarten Mother club were sponsors, were Mrs. Frances Mitchell and Bill Melena.

HEPPNER-LEXINGTON SCHOOL MENU

Week of December 10-14

MONDAY—Navy beans and Ham, spinach, hot rolls and butter, carrot sticks, milk, and fruit.

TUESDAY—mashed potatoes, meat loaf, cabbage and pineapple salad, fruit, milk, and bread and butter.

WEDNESDAY — hamburger gravy on rice, buttered carrots and peas, celery sticks, fruit, milk and bread and butter.

THURSDAY — macaroni and cheese, green beans, pickled beets with onions, cherry cobbler, milk and bread and butter.

FRIDAY—potato soup, salmon sandwiches, lettuce salad, upside down cake, and milk.

Forester Appointed To Heppner District

The appointment of James W. Hilderbrand to a forester position on the Heppner Ranger district of the Umatilla National Forest is announced by Wright T. Mallery, Forest supervisor.

Hilderbrand graduated from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in Ruston, La., with a B.S. degree in forestry and will work in timber management, engaged primarily in timber sale preparation.

Hilderbrand is married, and his wife is currently employed as a home economics instructor in Acorn High school, Mena, Ark. Mrs. Hilderbrand will join her husband in Heppner upon the termination of her teaching contract.

File folders on sale at the Gazette-Times.

Ron Jackson, stationed with the U. S. Navy in the state of Washington was here on leave visiting Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Wilson during the Thanksgiving holidays.

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