

### Community Involvement in Juvenile Delinquency

By GRACE DRAKE

#### Institution or Not?

When an offender is sent away from the locality of his offense the community can feel comfortable, relax with the feeling that something has been done for the good of everyone. The offender is getting his punishment out of sight—the obvious source of irritation is gone. Is this the true situation?

No child is born into isolation. Community exists from the very first, beginning with mother, expanding to father, family, and community as his needs increase and development takes its course. At every point environmental pressures are exerted on the child which help or hinder him in the process of growing with his needs fulfilled. The people who touch his life do influence him in a supportive way or in a way which causes him to seek fulfillment by alternative methods which might damage him or the community.

#### Mutual Responsibility

Members of communities who understand their mutual responsibility to provide an environment for the very young, which has a full range of opportunities for learning and experiencing success and failure will not be comfortable when an offender is sent to a training school. They will ask themselves how they failed, and if they can motivate others to help change attitudes and conditions which create problems. Successful living and development of mature relationships take place most healthfully in a community where love and appreciation for dignity of persons exists; where young people can be assisted not condemned; and where there are adult models of disciplined but spontaneous living.

#### Person to Person Communication Important

The root of the cause for behavior of most offenders lies in the area of relationship within the family and the family's relationship with the community. When he is sent to an institution he is placed in an artificial environment where he is completely controlled and dependent; in other words, an unreal world. Frequently the young people learn to function very well in the controlled frame-work; but when they return to the original situation with original conditions and pressures, the original behavior will return and a recidivist is born.

Field workers from state institutions have responsibility of counseling families, assisting the members to understand conflicts and to change the self-defeating patterns of verbal communication. Their work has been found to be more effective if it is supplemented by the use of selected volunteers of community workers who could

perform several functions such as group discussion leader for problems of living; a friend to provide an adult model who shows concern but does not foster over-dependence; community leader of self help and educational programs in the fields of mental health.

#### Success or Failure Attitude is Conditioned

When punitive measures are the only measures taken to correct the behavior of offenders, the community members seem to have more stake in the failure of the offender than his success. "I've done my bit to shape him up—it's his own fault if he doesn't learn", is part of a self fulfilling prophecy—bringing a response from people which looks for failure rather than success. Such an attitude is psychologically oppressive to a young person already dwarfed by wrong expectations.

But when the majority of individuals can come to feel that the behavior change of a young person in trouble is part of their reward for being responsible citizens and fellow human beings, the temper of the problem changes. Hope can predominate and small improvements are welcomed and appraised in a positive manner. Successful rehabilitation of the offender is the compliment to the supportive community. Critical judgment is recognized as self defeating.

#### Volunteers Have a Place

Many people question the usefulness of so called untrained personnel. Actual experience has borne out several facts.

"Whatever his job, the volunteer's style of doing it is different. There may be many reasons for this, including his frequent lack of conventional training, and his feeling of 'working free', less controlled by the agency structure. These influences seem to make the volunteer more of an innovator, more unorthodox than regular professional staff—though this does not mean his innovations will always be practicable. A major influence on volunteers is the way probationers tend to perceive them. The probationer almost always knows that the volunteer is working without pay. From this the probationer concludes that the volunteer must be doing it out of real interest in him; also that he is not so much an official court person." (Dr. Ivan Scheier, Project Director, Boulder County Juvenile Delinquency Project, Boulder, Colorado.)

#### Voluntary Efforts Needed

The result of a survey made

by Louis Harris and Associates for the Joint Commission on Correctional Manpower and Training indicated that corrections as a profession has not been clearly delineated either in society or in university programs. One effect of this fact is that personnel is short, is frequently someone who has come up through the ranks with no new innovations. Although they claim loyalty to the profession, they would not recommend it to young people as a life work. The expansion of voluntary efforts would bring to an end the isolation of corrections from the mainstream of community activity. The intimate personal experience with the offender has the capacity to make the volunteer an important participant in correctional work and supporter of correctional effort.

The volunteer effort is one method of increasing manpower in a profession increasingly overworked and short handed. In addition, the gain of public understanding of the profession should make it more attractive to a young person deciding on public service.

Whenever whole hearted community support is given, the prevailing attitude is that professional and lay community together can do more than either alone. The statistical data shows that repetition of offenses is less frequent when the exposure to the corrections system is shorter. The solid backing of a helping community can change the direction of all but the most extreme cases of juvenile delinquency. The question "Do we really like our kids?" can become the statement: "We do like our kids!"

### Gooseberry Livestock Club Meets

Gooseberry Livestock Club met Feb. 25. We had a test over the parts of the beef and were given a review sheet with the different breeds of sheep. Then we had a talk given on feeding swine by Junior Leader Christi Haguewood.

Our leader, Bob Peterson said there was going to be a showing and fitting day at the fairgrounds on March 13. John Landers, from Oregon State was going to give the program.

John Sumner, reporter

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### Proof Coins Available

Mrs. Mary Brooks, Director of the Mint, announced today that order blanks for proof and uncirculated silver Eisenhower dollars will be made available on June 18, 1971.

In order to insure wide distribution of ordering information, the Mint has made arrangements to supply the order forms and order procedures to commercial banks as well as to Post Offices and Congressional offices where they will be readily obtainable by the public.

The Mint will begin accepting orders for the special dollars on July 1, 1971 and not before. Orders will be limited to five proof and five uncirculated coins and separate orders must be submitted for each type.

The price of the proof coins will be \$10.00 each and the uncirculated will be \$3.00. The cupro-nickel dollars for general circulation through commercial banks will not be available until late fall.

### Civic League Dates Rummage Sale

The Heppner Civic League's Annual Spring Rummage Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, April 2 and 3 this year from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the old REA building.

Along with the rummage sale, a baked food sale and a special arts and craft exhibit will be featured. The Heppner Civic League holds rummage sales for the support of the kindergarten as tuition does not adequately cover the costs of the operation. This year, more than ever, the League will depend on the proceeds from the sale as the enrollment in the kindergarten is lower than past years.

In order to assure the success of the sale, the League members began work early. Free pickup service has been offered for the last two months in order that the members may begin sorting and planning merchandise features. One such fea-

ture will be a "like new" TV set.

Ginger Keithley as chairman is organizing the member's efforts assisted by Pat Jensen as co-chairman, Charlene Papineau as visual publicity chairman and Judy Laughlin in charge of arts and crafts.

Community participation is the key to the success of the Civic League's sale. Anyone wishing to donate articles should contact Ginger Keithley, 676-5576; Pat Jensen, 676-9613; Shirley Connor, 676-9977, or Charlene Papineau, 989-8482.

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Air Conditioner (Window)	1,300	4	1,265	\$25	Hot Plate	1,250	4	100	\$ 2
Bed Covering	170	30	140	3	Humidifier	70	70	140	3
Broiler	1,375	4	95	2	Incinerator	605	8	665	13
Clock	2	2,500	17.5	0.35	Iron (hand)	1,050	5	135	3
Clothes Dryer	4,800	1	960	19	Ironer (mangle)	1,525	3	160	3
Coffee Maker	850	6	95	2	Radio	80	62	80	2
Cooker (egg)	500	10	14	0.28	Radio-phonograph	105	48	105	2
Deep Fat Fryer	1,380	4	75	1.50	Range	11,720	1/2	1,225	25
Dehumidifier	240	20	380	8	Refrigerator	235	21	460	9
Dishwasher	1,190	4	340	7	Refrigerator-freezer	330	15	845	17
Electrostatic Cleaner	60	83	265	5	Refrigerator-freezer (frostless)	425	12	1,625	32
Fan (attic)	375	13	310	6	Roaster	1,345	4	205	4
Fan (Circulating)	85	25	110	2	Sewing Machine	75	67	10	0.20
Fan (roll-about)	205	60	40	1	Shaver	15	330	2	0.04
Fan (window)	190	26	145	3	Sun Lamp	290	17	15	0.30
Floor Polisher	315	16	15	0.30	Television	265	20	345	7
Food Blender	290	17	15	0.30	Television (color)	300	17	450	9
Food Freezer	300	17	915	18	Toaster	1,110	5	35	1
Food Mixer	125	40	10	0.20	Vacuum Cleaner	540	9	40	1
Food Waste Disposer	420	12	20	0.40	Vibrator	40	125	2	0.04
Fruit Juicer	100	50	5	0.10	Waffle Iron	1,080	5	20	0.40
Frying Pan	1,170	4	190	4	Washing Machine (automatic)	375	13	65	1
Germicidal Lamp	20	250	135	3	Washing Machine (non-automatic)	280	18	50	1
Grill (sandwich)	1,050	5	30	0.60	Water Heater (standard)	3,000	2	4,070	81
Hair Dryer	300	17	7	0.14	Water Heater (quick recovery)	4,500	1	4,475	98
Heat Lamp (infrared)	250	20	12	0.24	Water Pump	335	15	205	4
Heat Pump	9,600	1/2	155	3					
Heater (radiant)	1,300	4	9	0.18					
Heating Pad	60	80	9	0.18					

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## Here are some little things you can do to keep Oregon livable

- Kick your car's smoking habit.** All cars contribute to air pollution. But if your car smokes, it compounds the problem. Get it fixed.
- Drive less.** Contrary to what you may think, 60% of the air pollution in Oregon cities is caused by people driving cars. You can help clear the air by driving less. Share rides more. Use public transportation more.
- Spend a few bucks for the environment you enjoy.** Support tax and bond measures designed to improve Oregon's environment.
- Let litter bug you.** Don't let litter lie around. If it's yours, take it with you. If it's somebody else's, make the big sacrifice and pick it up.
- Worry a little.** Don't put this problem out of your mind. It's *your* problem. So anytime you see an abuse of Oregon's environment, report it. Let your local or state government people know about it.

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