

Keeping Youth Busy Cure for Delinquency, Ex-Police Chief Says

Editor's note: Ernest L. Downing, 66, has just retired after serving 12 years as police chief of the railroad junction town of Ayer, Mass. During that period he eliminated juvenile delinquency from Ayer. And he became known throughout the nation for his work with youth. Here he tells some of the secrets of his success in this field.

By ERNEST L. DOWNING
Written for United Press
Ayer, Mass.—(U.P.)—When I took over as police chief, we were averaging 30 complaints of juvenile misbehavior per month. For nearly 12 years, now, not one Ayer youth has been sent to a penal institution. And for the past six years we haven't had a single juvenile court case. What's my idea? Keep them busy, and they'll be happy and keep out of mischief. I do not like the idea of mistreating a youngster until he proves true. I prefer to believe him true in the first place. Youngsters respond and take pride in doing their best when they know that someone believes in them.

Some people think placing a child behind four walls for a length of time is a cure for delinquency. This is just not so. Too often exactly the opposite happens—the child becomes a hardened criminal.

I also recommend that our federal and state government consider seriously the establishment within national and state forests of forestry camps for the rehabilitation of our youth in wholesome outdoor activities. I also recommend a study of what constitutes the most effective court system for the handling of juvenile offenders. Out of such a study can come some idea of how a juvenile court can be run effectively, how much time the court should spend in social study of the youthful offender before trial, and adequacy of probation supervision, and the professional and human qualities needed by the court.

Such a study is most important because many times children are deprived of their constitutional rights through the arbitrary proceedings of some of our courts.

Institutions Praised for Job

Portland—(U.P.)—Oregon institutions for the handicapped and unfortunate are doing an excellent job, but are faced with a number of serious problems, Gov. Elmo Smith told members of the Oregon Chest at their 13th annual session in Portland yesterday.

He pointed out that population of institutions has increased by more than 1,200 persons or 13 per cent in the past four years. Total population on April 1 was 9,287, he said.

"Problems facing these institutions, consist not only of need for more space because of expanding population, but more staff members and facilities for training of psychiatrists and other staff members," the governor explained. Difficulties of attracting and keeping a professional staff because of available salaries and desirability of a long-range research program also were mentioned.

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Second Section

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WEARING CHEF'S HAT, Primo Carnera, onetime heavyweight champion, is busy these days in kitchen of new restaurant he is opening near Hollywood studios. Recently he has been a wrestler. (International Soundphoto)

Science Better Nature's Shell Provided for Eggs

Atlantic City, N.J.—(U.P.)—The American housewife faces a future of unbreakable eggs.

The egg is among 370 exhibits at the 25th annual packaging exposition of the American Management Association which opened a four-day session here yesterday.

The new egg comes in a transparent, unbreakable polyethylene container which is even more germproof than the shell provided by nature.

In a process developed by Cornell University, the eggs are shelled, dropped into recesses in a polyethylene sheet and then covered with heat-sealed polyethylene. The sterilized container is filled with inert gas as a final step to keep out air.

Eggs packages in the new manner may be shipped in flat

sheets of any size. Perforations in the sheet facilitate easy separation and the individual containers have the openings.

The eggs may be boiled and eaten right out of the container, said a spokesman. He predicted the new method will allow chickens yet another outlet for their product-vending machines.

The process and equipment are expected to be commercially available within a year.

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MAGNETIC SNATCHER
Edmonton, Alta.—(U.P.)—A department store complained to police that some one was attempting to remove nickels from a shopping bag dispenser. Police charged with theft a boy found standing near the dispenser with a "magnetic device."

THE LITTLE CAMPAIGNER
Lexington, N. C.—(U.P.)—The "world's smallest law officer" opened his campaign for reelection as constable today. Shirley Fritts—four feet, 10 inches—began his career at 72 pounds in 1936. He now weighs 104.

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