



BRAKES FAILED—This interurban train failed to negotiate a turn in downtown Los Angeles after its brakes failed, left the tracks and crashed into three parked furniture vans. Eight of the 16 passengers were slightly injured.

School-Age Youths Make Best Strides In Mental Hygiene

Burlington, Vt.—(UPI)—One question bothering psychologists is when is the best time to combat mental illness. James T. Mehorter, a professor of educational psychology at the University of Vermont's College of Education and Nursing, says "it should start in a state's public schools."

Mehorter said "strong mental health emphasis in our schools would do a great deal to prevent serious mental disturbances" later on.

Successful Adjustment

He said "research studies in mental hygiene clearly show that school-age youths tend to make a successful personal adjustment when provided with curriculum experiences in the principles of human behavior."

Mehorter believes "the essential ingredient for such a program is an adequately prepared teacher with good personality traits who is sensitive to the findings of the psychological sciences as they apply to the student. This special kind of person is already in our schools today

and needs only to be properly utilized."

Mehorter says this mental health program, which could be started at practically no cost, does require adequate preparation. He said teachers should take courses in general and educational psychology, tests and measurements, counseling techniques, mental hygiene and child and adolescent development.

"Abnormal behavior," he said, "can be averted if its symptoms are perceived in time and the person showing them is referred to a trained psychotherapist. A teacher seeing a pupil display symptoms of abnormal behavior should guide him to a qualified clinician or mental health clinic. She may help him to come to grips with his problem before he becomes seriously disturbed."

Certain Experiences

Mehorter said "the teacher should not engage in the type of therapy employed by a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst or clinical psychologist. But she can provide certain therapeutic experiences for the pupil

Engineering Grads Continue Schooling

New York (Science Service)—More of this year's crop of graduating engineers will go back to school for advanced work than did last year, the Engineers Joint Council here reports.

Graduating engineers planning to pursue graduate work represented 10.9 per cent of this year's class, compared with 9.8 per cent last year.

But the increase apparently is not because of a poor employment market for engineering grads. An EJC survey of 100 colleges shows that 63.3 per cent have already accepted employment this year, as opposed to 59 per cent last year. About eight per cent of this year's class is scheduled to go into the armed services, proportionately lower than last year.

In the course she teaches whether in elementary or secondary school."

He said "the child who is provided with a knowledge and understanding of the multiple causes and motivations of behavior, of why he thinks, feels and behaves the way he does, tends to make a better adjustment than the youth deprived of this experience."

Fairview Home Probably One of Least Known of Institutions

By **DICK HUMPHREY**
UPI Correspondent
Salem—(UPI)—One of the rewarding things about "covering" this capital city understanding how its numerous institutions work.

Probably the least known and one of the largest of these institutions is Fairview Home for the mentally retarded where 2,100 "children" of varying ages, mental and physical, live. There are almost 500 on the waiting list.

It would be inaccurate to say there aren't some gloomy aspects to Fairview—children who must be fed, bathed, clothed, nursed and watched constantly in their cribs. **Atmosphere Hopeful**

But the atmosphere produced by Superintendent Dr. Irwin Hill and his well-trained staff is hopeful.

The fact that 8 out of every 1,000 children born in Oregon this year may be in Fairview some time during their lives is shocking. But half of them will leave the school. Of those who leave, about half will be able to hold a job that will make them self-sufficient.

Fairview is one of the best planned Oregon institutions under direction of the Board of Control and building planning by Wilmsen and Endicott of Eugene. Buildings are being constructed, but even more will be needed to take care of retarded children who could benefit from Fairview's many services.

Major Aim

The major aims of Fairview are to train a mentally retarded child to make his way in his home community, or, if this is not possible, to teach him to care for himself and

attain his highest potentiality. There are more than 70 medically recognized causes of mental deficiency, most of them occurring before birth, at birth or in early childhood. But with the special and vocational training available at Fairview much progress can be made.

The retarded child has impaired mental development and what he learns he learns slowly. He sometimes uses poor judgement and adjusts slowly to new situations. He needs medical, emotional and physical care—the services of psychologists, social workers, doctors and teachers.

Some Taught Skills

Education and training takes many forms at Fairview. Some patients can only learn to feed and dress themselves. But others can be taught skills after they have completed as much formal education as they can profit from.

Fairview schools are not graded like public schools and the child is allowed to progress at his own rate. Standard school tests would show the

highest grade as the seventh but the average child never gets beyond the third grade.

The child is also segregated in cottages so that he is with people with whom he feels comfortable.

Many activities supplement the education program—music, physical education, home economics and manual training.

There is a farm that produces about half the food needed for the institution and a laundry that handles 68,000 pounds of wash a week for Fairview and other institutions.

It is interesting that although some children can't understand fractions in a schoolroom, they can measure them on a ruler or with a spoon in the kitchen when working out a recipe.

Work Therapy

Outside of school hours patients may be assigned to work details as a form of therapy. These jobs are changed as ability increases.

Recreation clubs of up to 20 patients are formed according to age and ability. They

may work on hobbies in the evening, read or just relax. There are also variety shows and athletics for more diversion.

At the variety show, the 40-piece Fairview band usually plays. It doesn't sound like the Boston Symphony, but it's a heart-warming experience to hear them play. The children also have a rock-and-roll trio that is really good.

Mentally retarded children

resemble normal children more than they differ from them. Fairview is giving them the things all children need—affection, education, training and care, plus the chance to leave and lead a near-normal life.

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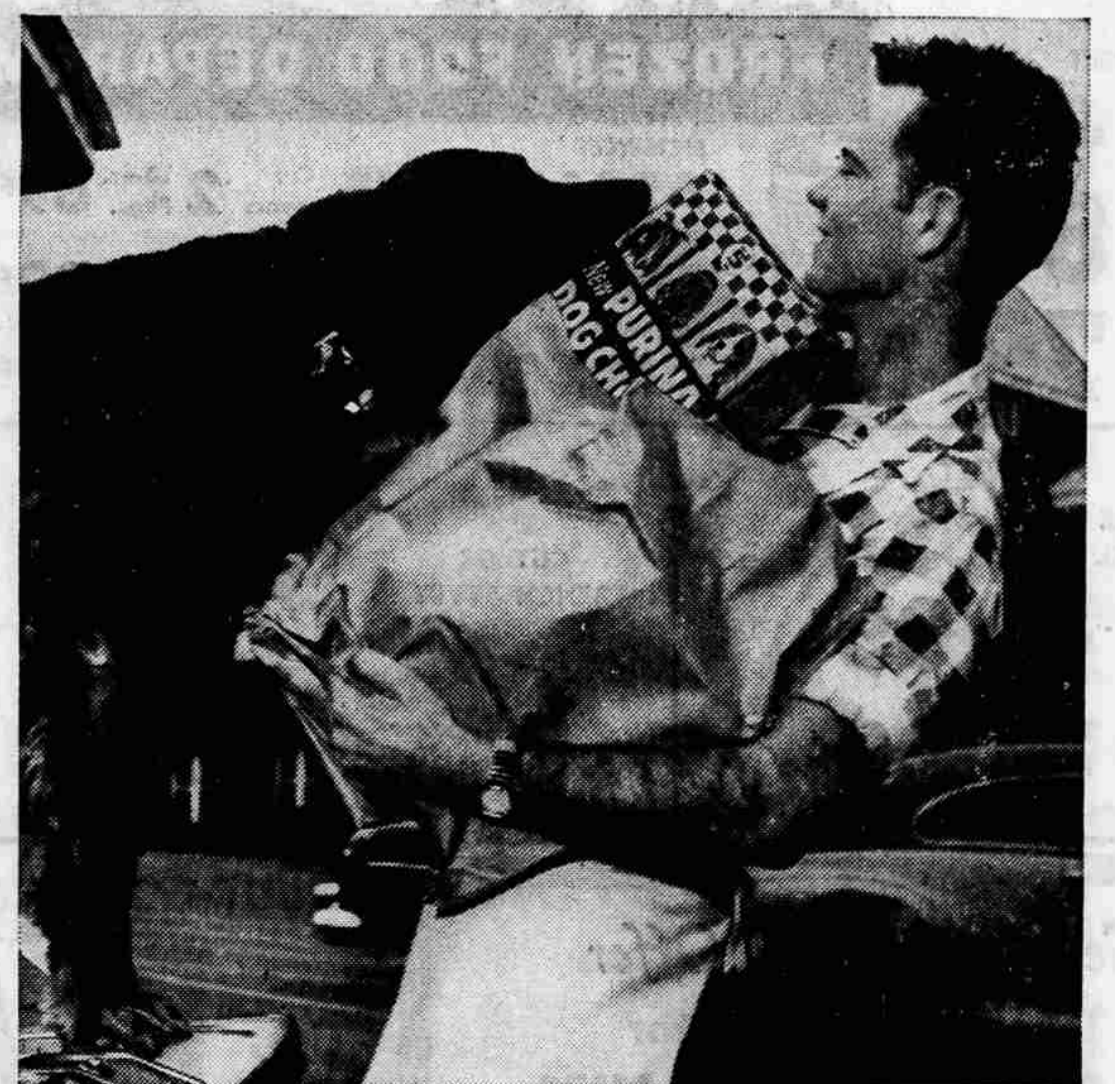
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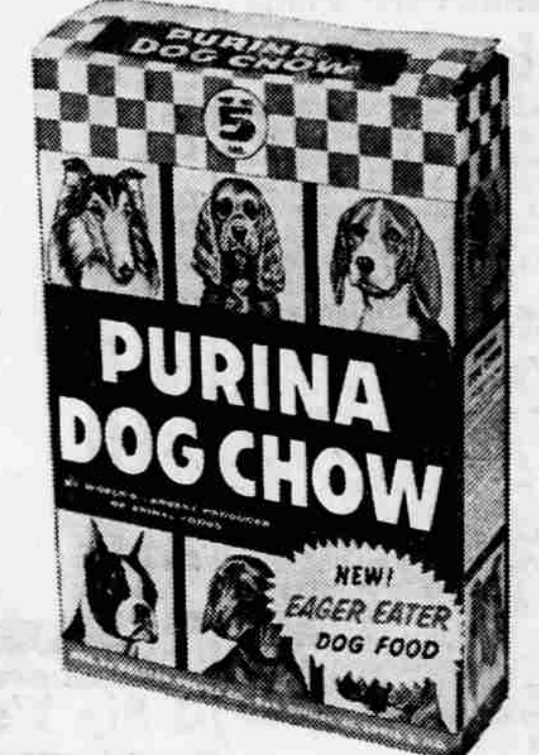
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