

Juvenile Detention Home Life Is Near Normal



PHYSICAL EXAMINATION—Children undergo a general physical examination upon entering the detention home. If the child has an illness or disease, prompt medical care is provided. Robert Swan, superintendent, is shown weighing a youngster. Swan says many children gain as much as 10 pounds under the home's care.



RECREATION—Life at the detention home isn't all work and no play. Recreation facilities include an outdoor basketball court, a variety of games, handicraft materials and plant sets. The young lady pictured is working on a paint-by-number picture.



RED CROSS WORK—Contrary to beliefs some people hold, children at the detention home aren't locked up while they are there. They lead useful lives in a wholesome atmosphere. Mrs. Robert Swan is shown supervising the work of three girls making bandages for the Red Cross.

WITH BATTALION

Dan R. Mackay, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Mackay, 507 Palm ave., Ashland, is serving with Naval mobile construction battalion 5 at Port Hueneme, Calif. He is a construction electrician's mate, second class, USN.

Measles Heads List Of Diseases in Area

Measles headed the list of 49 communicable diseases reported to the Jackson county health department for the week ending April 14.

Medford and Ashland each

had 4 cases of measles; Jacksonville, 6, and Central Point, 1.

Other diseases reported included mumps, Medford 1, Jacksonville 5, Ashland 4, and Central Point 2; influenza, Medford 5, Phoenix and Ashland each 3; chicken pox, Medford 5, Trail 2, and Ashland 1; whooping cough, Medford 1, and Ashland 2.

ABOARD CRUISER

Gary D. Ike, fireman apprentice, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester L. Ike, Grants Pass, is serving aboard the heavy cruiser, USS Helena, operating out of San Diego. The ship is taking part in a Pacific Fleet exercise this spring.

Treatment Value For Those Kept Is One of Needs

(Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series of feature stories on the Jackson county juvenile detention home, its history, its purpose, and the life juveniles lead at the home.)

By JOHN STAFFORD
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Not too many years ago children under 18 who had violated the law were placed in the county jail for detention. While in jail, a child had an excellent opportunity to further his or her career in crime if desired.

The jail is established to care for adult law violators, and is also used as a place where they are punished for criminal acts. Many of the adults are hardened criminals. When a child was detained in jail, it was difficult to effectively separate him from the adult criminals.

It was obviously an undesirable situation. And in 1954 the juvenile department and private organizations joined forces to do something about it. They noted that in 1937, 117 boys and girls spent some time in the county jail.

Constructive Measure

The county juvenile court advisory committee, after several years of study, concluded that a most constructive measure for the county would be establishment of a small family-type detention home.

The committee enlisted the aid of the National Probation and Parole association in studying the proposed plan. They recommended the facility be a separate family type detention home, providing maximum security to care for six boys and two girls.

The association recommended that the home provide a part-time education program, skilled counseling, recreation activities and religious observances.

Proposal Approved

After an extensive public education campaign, the proposal was approved by county voters in the 1954 fall election. And the juvenile detention home became a physical reality in December, 1957. Cost of the facility was \$90,000. Another \$16,000 covered furnishings, fences and miscellaneous items.

Kay Crowell, director of the Jackson county juvenile department, said, "More important than the building, its plans, equipment, or staff, must be the conviction deep within the hearts of the citizens of the community that jail is an unfit place for children."

The detention home is the same now as it was in 1957. It includes an administrative unit, housing a reception room, juvenile court room, judge's chamber and four counselor's offices. A connecting wing contains a superintendent's office and resident staff quarters.

Twelve Rooms

The detention area has eight rooms for boys and four for girls. A recreation area contains a living room, a kitchen, utility room and storage room.

The detention home is a far cry from life in a jail. Colors are bright and furnishings are attractive. Over 900 youngsters have used its facilities since 1957. Average daily attendance in 1960 was 10.1 children. In 1959 it was 8.8.

Detaining children is a delicate matter. The majority of children selected for detention are in rebellion against authority. The conflict with authority is initially heightened by the necessity of detention.

Mrs. Crowell says, "The detention home's first necessity is to bring the child under the control of orderly living. The child's conflict with authority in this crisis period must be dealt with immediately. Active and positive effort to resolve the conflict is the treatment role of the detention home."

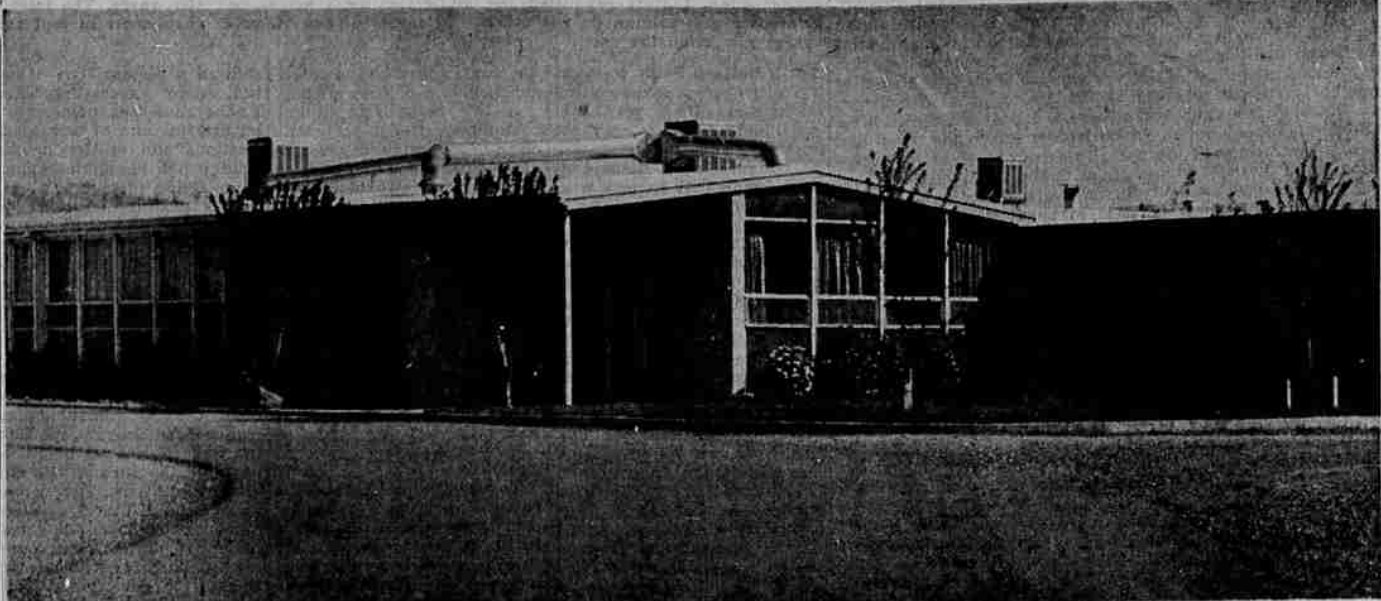
Normal Home Life

Mrs. Crowell explains that many youngsters find a near normal home life while at the detention home. For many of them it is for the first time.

Last year the juvenile court disposed of 1,086 cases. Naturally, not all of the juveniles involved were detained at the detention home. Only 336 used its facilities.

The largest majority of children are sent home on probation. The next largest group are committed to the welfare commission for placement in foster homes.

Detention of a child is a legal procedure based upon filing of a petition in behalf of a minor alleging violation of a federal, state or local law, or violation of the Oregon Ju-



DETENTION HOME—The Jackson county juvenile detention home was completed in 1957 at a cost of \$90,000. Over 900 children have used its facilities since then. The modern building features modern styling and

a bright interior, a far cry from a jail. The home is one of four such facilities in Oregon.



MAINTAIN GARDENS—Detained juvenile boys are put to work in the spring and summer planting and maintaining the many gardens surrounding the detention home. This boy is shown weeding a flower garden. Robert Swan, superintendent, is making plans for an extensive vegetable garden this year.

venile code. Detentions authorized are ordered by the judge of the juvenile court, and admissions are authorized only by Mrs. Crowell.

In Need of Detention

Children in need of detention home care include delinquents so disturbed that they would likely run away or commit further offenses if they were left in their own homes, even under intensive court supervision; runaway children who need to be returned to authorities or their parents in another community or state and who would disappear unless held in custody.

Mrs. Crowell adds that sometimes children need to be protected either from themselves or an undesirable home situation. Also, some children are detained to protect the community.

The National Probation and Parole association says, "Detention must not be construed as mere human storage for the convenience of officials and others. It should have a positive treatment value for a boy or girl involved in delinquency at a most crucial time."

In Custody of Parents

The association advocates that every effort should be made to allow children to remain in the custody of their parents pending court disposition. It points out that few children actually need to be detained. However, for children detained, the association says, they must have expert care if the experience is not to be damaging.

When a child enters the home it is required to relinquish all personal property. He is given a shower and shampoo. Blue jeans and T-shirts are given boys, while girls wear jeans and blouses. No shoes are allowed and all children wear stockings. Radiant heating coming from the floor is a special feature.

Mrs. Crowell explains the "no shoes" policy as a precaution against using them as weapons. "Children can also run away faster with shoes on

3 p.m. On Tuesday and Thursday visiting hours are from 2 to 3:30. "The children usually have quite a few visitors," Mrs. Crowell indicates. "It is a rare youngster whose parents don't come to see him," she says.

The only people allowed to visit a child are legally responsible relatives. Gifts of food aren't allowed. Mrs. Crowell can recall some unique attempts at smuggling in what she terms "contraband."

Concealed Cigarettes

Cigarettes concealed between doughnuts and matches stuck in apples are often used schemes. After 3 p.m. on most days the children are allowed to use detention home recreation facilities. These include an outdoor basketball court, painting facilities, checkers, chess, pool and many other games.

Dinner is served at 6. Then children are allowed to watch television. Children must be in their rooms at 7:30 and lights are turned out at 9 p.m.

Meals are planned so each child receives a quart of milk a day. If children want dessert, they must eat everything on their plates. Mrs. Crowell says children often have to be taught rudimentary table manners.

Every holiday is observed with something special. Many times local organizations plan parties for the youngsters. This is good because it makes the child feel a part of the community, instead of being rejected, according to Mrs. Crowell.

Combination Atmosphere

The detention home combines an atmosphere of rigid authority with personal warmth. Kay Crowell, Robert Swan, Mrs. Swan and all the other detention home staff members are there to help misguiding children. Their attitude is probably best summarized by Judge Edward C. Kelly, who started serving as juvenile judge for Jackson county in 1957. Kelly is circuit judge and deals with adult criminal cases frequently.

He says, "The juvenile department is attempting to put

Two Injured in Highway Accident

Two persons were injured in one of two automobile accidents Friday night, according to state police.

Gerald Leroy Israel, 20, of 719 South Central ave., Medford, the driver, and his passenger, Jo Ann Unger, 15, of 403 Clark st., were reported in good condition by Sacred Heart hospital attendants Saturday. Both are being treated for bumps and scratches, police said.

The accident occurred about 11:45 p.m. on the Phoenix-Hillcrest rd., about a half mile west of Cherry lane when the Israel car failed to make a left curve, went out of control, hit a bank, and rolled over, state police said.

Another accident occurred about 5:20 p.m. on Highway 99, south of Medford.

A car driven by John Hurl-

shel Bean, 308 South Oregon

st., Jacksonville, struck a car driven by Lawrence Barrett Patterson, 41, of 122 North First st., Talent, state police said. Patterson had stopped for a vehicle making a left turn when his car was struck in the rear by the Bean car. No injuries were reported.

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