Students Train For Social Work In Northwest Summer Intern Program

Eugene – An inmate's-eye view of state penal and mental institutions was given to a group of University of Oregon summer students recently during the final week of a work-study program in mental health and rehabilitation.

Mary, a housewife and the mother of four children, who spent seven weeks in the Oregon State hospital in Salem, and Chuck, who spent 11 of his 45 years in the Oregon State penitentiary, outlined for the students the events leading up to their confinement, the conditions "inside," and the way in which they had readjusted to life on the "outside."

More than 50 students from 26 colleges and universities in nine Western states are completing the 10-week course which included eight weeks working as "interns" in state institutions in Oregon and Washington. The program is designed to introduce undergraduate students to mental health and rehabilitation work.

Sponsor Course

The course is sponsored by the Western Interstate commission for higher education, the University of Oregon summer sessions, the Oregon State board of control, and the Washington State department of institutions.

Although Mary praised the doctor at the hospital and the later care she received, she considered her first two weeks in the hospital "a very degrading experience."

Her chief complaint involved the fact that "I was not respected as an adult. I was treated as a raving maniac for the first two weeks."

On being admitted, Mary said, "I was absolutely furious because there wasn't anything wrong with me. They put me in with crazy people. I can laugh about this reaction now, but it wasn't funny at the time."

Later, through regular interviews with the psychiatrist, occupational therapy, and group therapy, she was ready to leave the hospital in seven weeks. She was returned to the care of the University of Oregon's child guidance clinic, which treats both children and adults.

Attitudes Change

Although her family and close friends treated her "with kid gloves" hen she first came home, this attitude has disappeared during the four years since she has been out of the hospital.

However, she told the students, "it has taken me most of the four years to convince people in the community that I'm not a raving maniac. It's hard to convince them I wasn't, I'm not, and I'm not going to be."

She is still bothered by depression and uncontrollable crying when small crises build up in her life, but the university clinic care has helped her over these mild relapses.

"Without the university's help, I would be back in Salem," she said.

Chuck served his last term in prison–nine years of a 15-year sentence for armed robbery–in the 1940's and early 1950's. When he was first returned to prison, he admitted that he thought of escape, "but then maybe an angel came down and touched me on the head, and I decided I'd settle down, work, and get out the right way."

Privileges Restored

Now his voting privileges have been restored, he has his own business, he is married and owns a home and car, "which is a lot more than I ever had before," he said.

He is a firm believer in the indeterminate sentence. "If I had been given a heavy sentence to begin with, it might have been different. It was the heavy sentence (15 years) that really started me thinking," he said.

"If you are an adult, you should get the whole sentence to begin with and talk about parole later. If you get only three years, because you pleaded guilty, when you should be getting 20 years, it gives you the wrong attitude."

Most of his sentence was served during the "tough" period at the prison. He feels that the introduction of privileges, the work of sociologists and psychologists, and other relatively recent practices have improved the attitude of many prisoners.

The lack of work and the fact that not enough money is available to hire well-educated, trained personnel were among the worst problems he faced in prison, although he believes some situations have improved since his release 10 years ago.

Explains Motive

"I was just sort of lazy and wanted something for nothing," is the way he explained his fall into crime, although he said that other factors might have been the divorce of his parents and the fact that he "was allowed to get away with things as a kid."

He believes lax parental discipline and "seeing others get away with something" are among the factors contributing to the development of a criminal.

As for a solution, he said "when one man gets out and stays out, if he could help one more person stay out, maybe someday we could eliminate this problem."

He has met little prejudice since his release, although he did quit one job and move from the community "to save my wife embarrassment," when it became known that he was an ex-convict. "People are getting educated now," he remarked, "so prejudices against ex-convicts is not a real problem anymore."

Four Oregon FFA Youths Nominated

Salem – Leonard E. Kunzman, director of agricultural education for the state department of education has announced that four members Future Farmers of America from Oregon will be recommended to receive the organization's highest degree, that of American Farmer, at the 35th annual National Convention of FFA in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 10-12.

Kunzman said he has received information from FFA headquarters in Washington, D. C., stating that the boards of student officers and directors of the national organization have reviewed the Oregon applications and will recommend to the delegates at the convention that the four boys receive the coveted degree. Approval by the boards usually is tantamount to election by the delegates.

The four Oregonians named are Ellis Hester, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adin Hester, Canby, member of the Canby FFA chapter; Franklin Allen Hoeft, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoeft, Pendleton, member of the Pendleton FFA chapter; Roger Kooch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kooch, Enterprise, member of the Enterprise FFA chapter; Rudolph Leppin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Leppin, Dundee, member of the Dayton FFA chapter.

Local Man Commended For Drive Participation

The Rev. George G. Roseberry, 3310 Hollywood ave., Medford, has been commended by Earl C. Wyatt, chairman of the national alumni fund campaign at Kansas Wesleyan university.

Roseberry headed the campaign in this are. He reported 100 per cent participation among alumni of the university here.

ROYAL COUPLE ARRIVES

Los Angeles – (UPI) – Prince Juan Carlos of Spain and his bride, Princess Sophie of Greece, arrived here by airliner from San Francisco Saturday on a royal honeymoon trip around the world.

Webb Returns from Idaho Scout Event

Martin Webb, Boy Scout leader from Yreka, Calif., has returned from Couer d' Alene, Ida., where he represented the Crater Lake council at the International Wood Badge Training course.

Webb, who holds the Silver Beaver award and has served on the council's executive board for several years, was selected to attend the week-long course this spring.

Outstanding Scouters from throughout the northwest participated in the training. The course was designed to train Scouters to help train volunteer leaders who direct Scouting units.

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