

Judge Says If Parents Don't Spank, Authorities Must

By BARNEY SEIBERT
United Press International
Jailing lawbreakers only "frees criminals," the whipping judge of Wilmington, Del., believes.

"All I know is, physical punishment seems to work," the spanking judge of Whiting, Ind., maintains.

"It's a better lesson than just being fined," insists the justice of the peace at Woodstock, Ill., who ordered five teen-agers to remove the trash from along 150 miles of highways.

They are among a small but growing minority of jurists who are outflanking the constitutional prohibition against "unusual" punishments.

Municipal judge William Obermiller of Whiting believes there is nothing unlawful about unusual punishment so long as the recipient accepts it willingly.

The recipient's other choice is generally a heavy fine or a long jail term.

Scrub City Hall

This summer Obermiller ordered a group of underage drinkers to work off their excess energy scrubbing floors at the Whiting city hall. Teen-agers caught stealing hubcaps were put to work manuring the public library's lawn.

"Last year we had 50 arrests over the 4th of July weekend," Obermiller says. "This year we had one."

"Apparently, the word got around."

In 1962 following a series of arrests at Whiting's Lake Michigan Beach, Obermiller ordered public spankings, beach clean-up details, shaving of duck-tail locks, essays on the constitution and Declaration of Independence, and book reports on the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

"Every home needs a woodshed," Obermiller says.

He adds that if parents won't spank their children, authorities must.

Superior court judge Stewart Lynch of Wilmington, Del., probably would agree with Obermiller.

Student Lashed

Lynch resurrected a 268-year-old law and sentenced a man to 20 lashes with a Cat-O-Nine-Tails and 25 years in prison for a mugging.



CLEAN UP PARK—The group of youths arrested for disturbances in Whiting, Ind., reported to jail to work out sentences of cleaning up beach park imposed on them by Judge William Obermiller, who stands at left in this photo. He supervised the clean-up detail. The photo was taken July 7, 1962. (UPI)

A youth was sentenced to 20 lashes for violating probation for auto theft. Execution of that sentence awaits an appeal to the U. S. Supreme court.

Lynch says "institutionalism is only to keep bad dogs off the street. It doesn't do any good. I want to punish."

"Somebody should think of the victim, not the criminal."

A like thinker is justice of the peace Joe Ritter of Woodstock, Ill., who contends, "levying fines on teen-agers only penalizes parents."

Last Christmas, five teen-age boys were hauled before Ritter on charges of beer drinking. He sent them out to collect empty beer cans discarded along highways in McHenry county northwest of Chicago.

Two weeks later, the five returned and presented Ritter with 1,280 empty beer cans.

But their penance was not complete.

Ritter made them sort the beer cans by brand and write essays on "why teen-agers drink."

Protein Consumption Mainly Animal Foods

FARGO, N. D. (UPI) — The average human consumption of protein is no different today than it was 50 years ago—about 100 grams a day says the North Dakota State university agricultural extension service.

The only difference is that right after the turn of the century only half the protein came from animal foods. Today, the percentage is two-thirds.

Realtor Combines Art With Business

NEW YORK (UPI) — A realtor who also is a patron of the arts made his hobby pay off. After leasing a Fifth Avenue store, H. K. Negbar got permission to use the store's window to announce he had leased it.

He then went to an art gallery and obtained the loan of an eye-catching copper sculpture of a woman's torso, called "Nocturne." He placed the art in the store window with a sign identifying it and adding: "This store will soon house an outstanding national concern. It was leased through H. K. Negbar and Company." Thousands of Fifth Avenue strollers are now aware of the realtor.

Juvenile drinking dwindled in McHenry county, Ritter said.

Prefers Razor Strap

In the same rank is judge Walter G. Tanner of Muncie, Ind., another advocate of razor strap persuasion.

Last spring a 19-year-old youth was brought before Tanner on charges of beating his mother, chasing his sister out of the house, and assaulting a policeman.

Tanner handed the youth's father a leather belt and told

him to take his son to another room.

"Pants down, and I want to be able to hear it out here," the judge ordered.

He heard it.

Judges J. Sidney Hoffman of Philadelphia and Anthony Champa, of Shelbyville, Ind., believe there is nothing like good, honest labor to deter wrong doing.

Superior court Judge Champa ordered a 16-year-old ambulance thief to give the ambulance two waxings.

City court judge Hoffman gave Arthur J. Brookes, 16, the option of reform school or taking a \$2 an hour job as a hod car-

rier. Hoffman specified that Brookes pay half his wages for the next five years to the family of a printer who lost a foot when he was struck by Brookes' car. Brookes took the job.

A week later, when Brookes proved physically unable to carry heavy bricks, Hoffman agreed to let him take a lower paying job as a car washer—providing he turned over three-fourths of his earnings to the printer.

Hoffman's Aim

Hoffman's aim in handling juvenile cases, he said is to "rehabilitate the children and provide some security, some safety

and some benefit for the public too."

County Judge Sid Caillavet of Orange, Tex., considers ridicule an even more effective weapon against juvenile offenses.

Teen-age boys brought before Caillavet are ordered to wear girls' dresses for 30 days. Parents are warned they will be jailed if they allow the youths to take off the dresses.

Caillavet said he learned the punishment from his mother.

"It sure worked on us," he said.

Ritter considers the crowning accomplishment of his unusual punishments came in summer.

Three boys and a girl were

brought before him for possessing beer. Ritter fined them \$100, but agreed to suspend the fine if they would work two weeks at a clinic for crippled children.

The four labored at the clinic, painting and making minor repairs, until their sentences were completed. But they continued to report to the clinic afterward.

Three of them staged a picnic for 35 of the handicapped children from the clinic. They also launched a fund raising drive.

"It's a better lesson than just being fined," one of them told Ritter.

More Homes Have Air Conditioning

SYRACUSE, N. Y. (UPI) —

Investment of \$9.7 billion for central air conditioning in the seven largest markets for the industry's products during the five-year period of 1964-68 was predicted here recently by Russell Gray, president of Carrier Air Conditioning company.

The equipment will go into homes, office buildings, apartments, hotels and motels, factories, hospitals and schools and colleges.

By 1968, Gray said, one new one-family home out of every four will be centrally air conditioned, in contrast with the one-out-of-six ratio in 1963.

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