

The Herald and News

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Juvenile Solution

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

I recently received a letter from Circuit Judge Charles Foster of Lakeview that merits serious consideration by not only every mature parent, but also by every youngster as well in the 15 to 18 age category.

I have prevailed on Judge Foster to let me publish his letter for all to read. I find myself in complete agreement with his viewpoint.

His letter follows:

As you may know for the past year I have been the acting juvenile judge in Klamath County because Judge Vandenberg has been swamped with criminal work. I am also juvenile judge of Lake County.

One thing I have noticed both in my own county and in Klamath is the rather amazing correlation between juveniles in trouble and their use of the automobile.

I have come to the conclusion (that may be rather startling at first glance) that if suddenly we had no more automobiles in the hands of teenagers from 15 to 18 our juvenile delinquency problem would decrease in a very short time almost 75 per cent. You can check with Francis Mathews but I am practically sure that in almost 75 per cent of our juvenile delinquency cases among teenagers over 14 years of age the automobile became a very vital factor in their being in trouble.

I do think the parents generally realize how serious this matter is and if you happen to conclude that I am right I feel an article from you might do some good.

I do not think that juvenile teenagers on the average are actually any worse than they were 20 years ago. Nevertheless all statistics show that there has been a tremendous increase in juvenile crime among this age group over 14 years of age.

I feel very strongly that it is the advent of widespread use of the automobile by this group that has made the difference. Among these teenagers there is quite naturally a group that has delinquent tendencies and are weaker than others to resist temptation when it confronts them. I feel that the opportunities and temptations offered by the automobile for delinquent behavior just become too much for these juveniles of immature judgment. As a result we have tremendously increased juvenile delinquency.

In handling these juvenile cases these things become clear:

1. The great majority of theft cases among juveniles over 14 years of age is for the theft of gasoline, auto parts, hubcaps, or cars.

2. In many cases of juveniles committing other larcenies they readily admit they needed money to maintain their cars.

3. In any event a great majority of the stealing has been made possible only by the use of an automobile going, or coming from the scene of the larceny or being used in the transportation and hiding of the things stolen.

4. I find that the rather widespread drinking among some juveniles (the one's getting into trouble) is made possible only because of the automobile and the privacy it offers. Without the automobile it would be almost impossible for them to escape detection by parents or other authorities.

5. I feel we would have greatly reduced sexual delinquencies if these teenagers did not have the unchaperoned privacy of the automobile to encourage it.

6. I find that increasing truancy from the high school actually is made desirable to those doing it principally because of the automobile and what they can do and where they can go with it when not in school.

7. Statistics taken by some high schools and I'm sure it would prove true in KUHSS show an amazing correlation between low grades, lower grades, or failures and the great use of the automobile.

8. I have found a great number of parents telling me that they never had any trouble with their child until he or she started running around in automobiles a great deal (either their own, their parents or a friend's car). It was then that the trouble started.

Despite these facts, there are a great number of parents that give their teenagers almost unrestricted use at night of an automobile. Either letting them have their own or using the parents. During these evening hours they never know where they are, who they are with or what they are doing. Despite these tremendous dangers created by the extreme opportunity and temptation offered I have heard many parents exclaim very proudly how John has now learned to drive and is getting his own

car. Perhaps John is old enough and mature enough to resist the temptations offered but on the other hand if he is not he most certainly will succeed in getting into trouble.

When today's juveniles have so little opportunity for work to keep them occupied outside of school hours and therefore have trouble-generating time on their hands I see little reason for compounding the potential trouble by giving them the extreme opportunity and temptation to get into trouble offered by the unrestricted and uncontrolled use of an automobile.

I don't feel the parents generally really appreciate this danger to their children, and sincerely feel that some way they should be educated in the matter. The pressure on them from their own kids is terrific. To some juveniles a car of their own or the unrestricted use of one becomes at their age the primary interest in their young lives to the exclusion of everything else. At least this is true with many coming into the Juvenile Court. So many other kids their same age have a car or the use of a car constantly that they just aren't in the social swim unless they do it. The almost irresistible argument to their parents is that if the other kids can have a car or the unrestricted use of one why can't they. I have even had one juvenile in this age group go to the extent of threatening his parents with a gun just because they would not give him the use of the car on a particular night. This is how strong the pressure from their own juvenile group is on them to obtain the use of a car.

Again when the parents do give in and the juvenile obtains his own car the upkeep is today so expensive (particularly for gas to do the continually short driving that they do as a matter of habit), that it many times becomes necessary for them to resort to stealing to keep up and maintain their cars particularly when their parents are not well to do.

This I feel is a great tragedy, because the money spent by a juvenile or his parents in maintaining a car in high school for just a couple of years after they reach 16 would in many cases pay their way with a little extra effort through two years of college. But when the time comes to go to college they just haven't the money.

I sincerely feel that about 75 per cent of the juveniles I have appearing before me for delinquencies of one type or another would actually have been able to resist the temptations offered (although perhaps having the same inclination) if it had not been for the extreme social pressure on them and the temptations and opportunities for delinquent acts offered by the automobile. They then may have had the opportunity to mature in their judgement so that (as lives would not have been wrecked in their teen-age years. If some way the parents as a whole could be made to realize this great danger and as a group clamp down on this increasing unrestricted use of automobiles by so many juveniles, then the pressure generally on the juvenile to have or own a car would be taken off.

Charles H. Foster, Circuit Judge

College

By FLORENCE JENKINS

The cost of education continues to increase along with everything else we consider good in this life. The University of Oregon is waging a "conversation campaign" to double the number of paid up alumni and encourage gifts from all friends to help build a larger and more distinguished college.

By NELSON REED

CHARLOTTE AMELIE, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, February 20—Thirty minutes out of San Juan, Puerto Rico, by plane and the Virgin Islands begin to show up on the horizon, rugged little mountain chunks covered with a

green scrub sticking up out of the blue water. The old reliable DC3, which is the largest plane that can land here, sneaks in between the high hills and bumps down on the Harry S. Truman Airport. Some people think it is well named for it is small and a bit crude.

Old Chris Columbus discovered the Virgin Islands on his second voyage to the New World and named them for the 11,000 virgins of St. Ursula. The Danes took possession of the island in 1666 and except for two brief occupations by other nations held it until we purchased it from the Danes in 1917 to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Germans.

We thought it was worth 25 million dollars to get possession of the wonderful little land locked harbor of Charlotte Amalie for it is too close to the Panama Canal to let it be occupied by a hostile country.

Our American school histories never had much to say about St. Thomas but in colonial times it was a more important port than any in the American Colonies. New York and Philadelphia included. All the nations in the world traded here. Those famous old New England sea captains knew it well, for many of them made a fortune swapping New England "trade goods and trinkets" to African slave raiders, bringing the slaves to St. Thomas and selling them to the Danes for rum, and trading the rum back in New England for more "trinkets and trade goods."

It is a bit ironic that their descendants should become the rabid abolitionists of Civil War times.

St. Thomas in its day was a famous pirate port. Such worthies as Captain Kidd, Tempest Rogers, Sir Henry Morgan, Black Beard and Blue Beard swaggered through its streets, built their turreted castles on its hills, which they filled with plundered gold and beautiful women from the Spanish galleons. Men still look for that buried gold and for the sunken treasure ships that have never been found.

Sir Francis Drake, who is a hero to us English speaking people and a double dyed murdering pirate to all Spanish peoples, used St. Thomas as his base of operations for preying on the fat Spanish galleons coming up from Central and South America on their way to Spain. The tour guides will still show you a stone bench on top of the highest point overlooking Megan's Bay, known as Drakes Seat.

Here the great Admiral sat and watched for the Spanish galleons which had to beat up through a narrow channel from the south-east. He would signal his own ships which lay in hiding around a point and they would drive down on the helpless Spaniards and take them.

Some colleges publish lists of available scholarships provided by individuals and organizations. High school administrators are notified of a great many which are open each year. Some are restricted to profession, but there are numerous ones available to Klamath County graduating seniors for use at the schools of their choice.

Paul Deller right now is working on the Elks' scholarships. Another example: six scholarships are offered by the Oregon AFL-CIO this year. There are three in the amount of \$600 and three \$150 each. Principals of high schools in Oregon have until March 23 to notify the AFL-CIO headquarters in Oregon of the number of students who wish to take examinations on April 8 for that competition.

Travel Notes

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They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

PIPE THE LAMPWORK! HE'S WEARING! THAT'S WHAT I CALL NERVE!

WHO IS IT—SHERLOCK HOLMES? IF THAT TEA COZY HAD HOLES IN IT, HE'D LOOK LIKE RED, KING OF WILD HORSES!

HE MUST'VE SEEN THAT ENGLISH PLAY—IT'S BEEN RUNNING SO LONG THE LEADING MANS WORN OUT SIX OF THEM DOME BBS!

THE GUYS MAKING FUN OF HIM JUST WISH THEY HAD THE MOVIE TO WEAR ONE!

I GOT ONE MY WIFE MADE ME OUT OF AN OLD HUNK OF CARPET WHEN I TOLD HER BROWN DERBIES WERE COMIN' BACK!

HORSEMASTER

PASSING SENTENCE ON THE COMMUTER WITH THE TRICK LID

TRUNK AND A HAT TO DO ANOTHER POWER, DEL.

2-24

Aid, Or Threat From Electronic Teacher

By RALPH DIGHTON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hey, kids—meet your new teacher.

She's streamlined and slick as a chrome-plated hotrod. She never scolds or tells you to wash your hands.

She won't make you pay attention—she traps you into it. You can even punch her and she won't get sore.

Your new schoolmarm, destined to pop into your schoolroom any year now, resembles nothing human—because she isn't.

She looks more like a pinball gadget with flashing lights and rows of buttons.

Tomorrow's teacher, as constructed by Dr. Evan R. Keislar of University of California at Los Angeles, is an electronic viewbox with built-in patience. If you goof, she waits quietly until you correct yourself before going on with the rest of the lesson.

Dr. Keislar, an educational psychologist, invented the teaching machine primarily to help teachers do a better job.

But he admits, a little sadly, that "it may be used to relieve the teacher shortage in some hard-pressed school districts."

"At the college level," he said in an interview Friday, "it could replace the teacher completely. I hope, however, that there will always be human warmth and understanding available for the tots in the lower grades."

Keislar's mechanical mentor works this way: Little Johnny sits down in front of the machine and punches the "start" button. Films, slides—or even television programs—appear on the viewing screen, telling Johnny exactly what additional buttons he must punch to operate the machine.

After the briefing, a multiple choice question is flashed on the screen. The choices are lettered, as are the five answer buttons. If Johnny punches the right button, a green light flashes and the next question appears. If Johnny punches a wrong button, a red light comes on. The lesson does not continue until the correct button is pushed. A timing device can be installed for time-limit quizzes.

Johnny's progress, is automatically charted on a graph for his human supervisor to study later. Grading could be done, however, by electronic computers.

How effective is the machine? "Well, it's teaching algebra to sixth-grade students here at the university elementary school," said Dr. Keislar. "By adding audio circuits to the machine, we can teach children of any age any subject they are capable of learning—from nursery rhymes to astronomy."

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Justice Group Awaiting Word

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—The U.S. Justice Department is awaiting word on whether it may proceed with its suit against alleged denial of Negro voting rights in Macon County.

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New Delhi Hopes For More Power

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — If everyone in this city flipped their light switches at the same time, the chairman of the Electricity Supply Committee says, it might take months to get all the lights working again.

Chairman Bhiku Ram Jain said the full load on the capital's electrical system is 200,000 kilowatts. But fortunately no more than 74,000 kilowatts is used at any one time.

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"Carol"
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ITS THE LARK

BY STUDEBAKER

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