

Juvenile Delinquency - Transgression Of The Law By Children Under Age

BY—F. C. GANTT
 Pastor Mt. Tabor Baptist Church

Juvenile delinquency is a comparatively new term to describe an age-old problem—the problem of transgression of the law by children under age. This problem is indeed an old one and has existed to some extent in every generation since the dawn of history. However, in recent years this problem seems to have become more acute. I say "seems to be," because it is just a little difficult to determine whether it has become more acute or not. It is difficult because the older generation

nearly always feels that the younger generation is much worse than their own. At the same time standards of conduct differ from generation to generation, as do methods of detection and reporting. Yet, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that according to statistics there has been an alarming increase every year for the past several years in the number of juvenile delinquency cases. Also according to statistics juvenile delinquency is increasing faster than the population is growing in size. Therefore, it seems safe to conclude on the basis of these facts that there is a very definite increase in youth crimes today.

What is juvenile delinquency? A child who breaks the law is not considered a criminal, but a

juvenile delinquent. In our country he is tried in special courts set up for that purpose. These courts are set up with the idea that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Consequently every effort is made by these courts to keep the young law breaker from breaking more laws rather than to punish him for the crime he has already committed. We hasten to say that not all those who are classified as juvenile delinquents are young criminals. This is the case because almost any kind of action or behavior on the part of the child which endangers his own well-being may be considered juvenile delinquency. In some states the law says, "A child who begs for money in public, associates with

immoral persons, or visits illegal places is a juvenile delinquent." This, of course, does not make him a young criminal. At the same time it needs to be said that the majority of our young people are not delinquents. Here in our own community the majority of our youth are respectable, law-abiding young people.

The exact cause of delinquency is somewhat difficult to determine. It is not easy to say just why certain children become delinquents while others grow up to become sane and normal individuals. However, the fact that there has been a sharp increase in youth crimes in recent years indicates that the general causes may be found in the conditions of our time. The development of the atomic

and hydrogen bombs and the constant threat of war have created tensions and brought a feeling of insecurity to our young people. These tensions and feelings of insecurity propel many of our youth toward delinquency.

At the same time it is the conviction of authorities on juvenile delinquency that in a majority of cases the child's home is the source of his trouble. That is to say, the crimes of juveniles are in most cases the result, not of their own wilful wrongdoing or deliberate choice, but of poverty, drink, and disease in the home; a defective religious and secular education; and the lack of parental supervision and authority. It has been observed that where moral values are not

taught in the home and the children led to practice these values in their lives, delinquency is the result. Of course, I am not saying that no delinquents come from homes where moral values are taught. They do. Some of them come from the finest of Christian homes. The Prodigal Son had been taught better and knew better, but that did not keep him from becoming a prodigal and going into a far country. But for every delinquent that comes from a Christian home, a score will come from homes where no moral values are taught.

The remedy, of course, is the sixty-four dollar question. But it seems to me that the prevention would be much more desirable and much more effective

than the cure. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The best way to combat delinquency is to stop it before it starts. The responsibility of prevention rests with the community. The community must provide the children with churches where effective religious ideals are taught, with schools where a good secular education may be obtained, and with adequate recreational facilities where their activity is directed into useful channels. This, of course, does not take away from the home any of its responsibility for the teaching of good morals and the careful supervision of the children in the home. It is especially important that the home guard against certain types of literature, radio and

television programs, and motion pictures. Certain types of motion picture, radio, and comic strips stress the romantic thrills of excitement and crime. In 1952 a Congressional committee made a survey of obscene literature (which includes certain comic strips) and it found that such literature was responsible, in part, for the increase of delinquency. Parents should provide good literature for their children.

The prevention of delinquency is a big job and a costly one. But it is a job that we can do together. With the home, the church, the school, and community cooperating together we can do a good job. And the result is certainly worth while—happy, normal, law-abiding children.

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Millpond Lawsuit Does Not Affect Project Planning

The lawsuit instituted against J. I. Dodd by Miss Marie Williamson and continued in Superior court last week regarding the boundary on the East side of the millpond here is not something new and is not to be construed as a dispute between the recreation corporation and the Williamson interests.

The suit was instigated months before Tabor City Recreation Commission was formed because of the belief of Barcie Williamson and his sister Marie Williamson that Dodd had cut some timber from the land owned by the Williamsons. The suit is to determine whether or not the timber belonged to Dodd or Williamson.

Of course, the suit will determine a boundary on the East side of the pond. But before the recreation commission purchased the pond, the boundary line in that area was pointed out by both Mr. Williamson and Mr. Dodd. There was a difference in the minds of both parties. However, an understanding was reached with Mr. Williamson at the time the effect that he would raise no objection to the corporation backing water over his line as long as it did not get out in his fields. No water is expected to reach his fields.

And at the same time, the corporation agreed to waive any rights to the timber bordering the pond and the Williamson property. There has been no movement on the part of either party to break the agreement. Regardless of how the lawsuit may end, the East boundary agreement is expected to remain the same.

Mr. Williamson has pointed out to the corporation that he has no complaint against the project. Indeed he has expressed satisfaction with the success of the project and has pledged his support to its continued success.

The understanding we had originally will be accepted by me permanently. I have moved no boundary stakes of any kind and I don't intend to. I have a plot showing where my land is and I have told the millpond corporation that the water can

Broken Homes Major Cause Of Delinquency

BY J. R. PRIDGEN
 Sheriff of Columbus County

Much has been said and much has been written about juvenile delinquency, but the problem is far from being solved.

A juvenile delinquent is a maladjusted child, an unhappy child, and child seriously in need of help.

We find that in our juvenile courts a majority of the boys and girls that come before the judges are emotionally disturbed. We further find that most of them have no church affiliation whatsoever.

I cannot overestimate the value of religious training in and out of the home for our children. With such a foundation, the child is generally able to solve his problems in a healthy manner.

Problems in children do not occur by accident. A child, when he becomes 12, 13 or 14 years of age, does not all of a sudden become a delinquent. The seeds of his delinquency were sown immediately upon his birth. If our children receive the proper care, cuddling, security, affection and love in their formative years, their behavior in most every instance will be acceptable to society.

Many of our children today are brought up in physically broken homes. They have tremendous emotional problems. They cannot understand why their own father and mother cannot live together under the same roof with them as their associates are living. In addition to this, many of our boys and girls are coming from psychologically broken homes where they are being subjected consistently to destructive emotional experiences and influences. I believe this type of child will become even more delinquent than the child from the physically

Parents Should Conduct Lives In Proper Way

BY MRS. WILLARD WRIGHT
 County Welfare Superintendent

The familiar adage "The youth of today are the citizens of tomorrow" is one the parents who have the responsibility of rearing a family too often lose sight of in their daily contact with their children.

They fail to realize the things boys and girls are allowed to do sometimes affect their entire lives. If the parents would come to a full realization of this fact and conduct themselves accordingly there would be but little juvenile delinquency.

Parents should see that their children are enrolled in some good club such as the 4-H clubs, FFA or the FHA for girls and the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts. They can thus obtain various types of recreation under adult supervision. These clubs can be made just as attractive as the corner store. The parents in addition should give their children some duty of responsibility about the home to make them feel like they belong there. They should work and play with their children.

There are always some adults or parents who are willing to give their time toward helping the young people develop into good citizens; but too many allow the children to pick their companions and lose sight of their place in the home and church.

Our Apologies;

In contacting advertisers in connection with the juvenile delinquency program, businessmen were told that articles would appear from Judge Sanky Robinson and Rev. K. C. Foster, both of Whiteville.

Our representatives were sincere and made the statement in good faith. Both men had promised to write such articles. However, because of an unfortunate misunderstanding, neither submitted the copy.

It is the hope of The Tribune, that these men will see fit to contribute to one of the forthcoming issues on the same subject.

The Tribune also wishes to express its appreciation to the ministers and public officials who have contributed to the campaign in this week's issue. It also extends an invitation to all other ministers, laymen and public officials to submit their thoughts and ideas on juvenile delinquency.

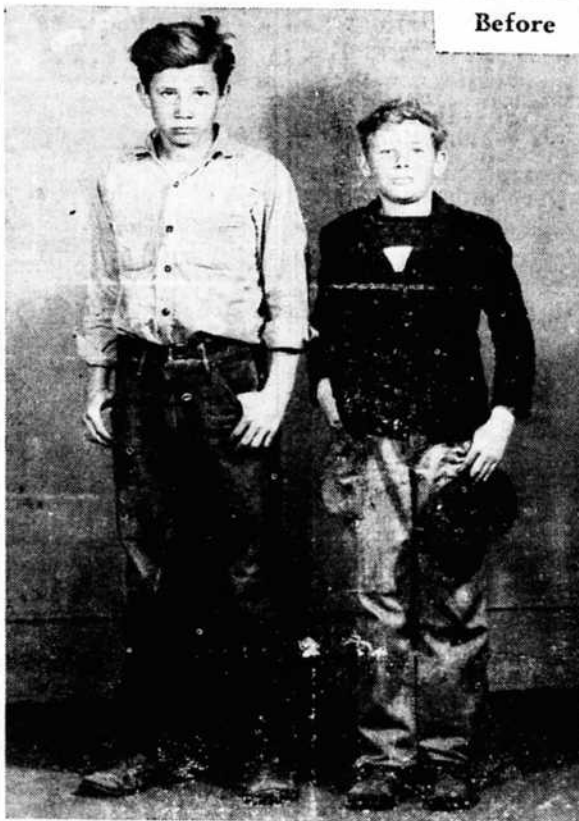
Free Milk Fund Sinks At School

The possibility of additional contributions toward the "free milk" program at the local school was evident today as C. H. Pinner, principal of the school, reported that approximately 150 children receive benefit from this program each day. With the program beginning on January 14, the school has served a total of 4,440 students with half-pints of milk.

"The milk costs us four cents per half-pint which means that we have spent \$177.60 during these past two months," said Mr. Pinner.

A total of \$150 was contributed to the school for the free milk program. Tabor City Jaycees donated \$100 at Christmas time and the local P. T. A. donated \$50 at its January meeting.

Aid is secured from the federal government on the milk program to the extent that the



A BIG CHANGE . . . The young boys from a community near Loris were running away from home last week when they were placed in the custody of Mr. A. D. Peacock of Whiteville. The top photo shows the two boys the day they were placed in the custody of Mr. Peacock. The "after" photo was taken one day later after the youngsters had been treated to a bath, haircut, new clothes and several good meals.

Runaway Brothers Enjoying Escapade

Editor's Note: The following story is one that gives a perfect example of home conditions that often lead to juvenile delinquency . . . Fortunately, neither boy has ever run afoul of the law, however, when such conditions persist, the risk of juveniles becoming delinquent is extremely great.

A cigarette dangled from the mouths of the two brothers as they told the kind businessman that they were running away from home and were on their way to Virginia because it was "long ways from home."

County Voters To Cast Ballots Saturday On School Bond Issue

Governor Hodges Comments About Juvenile Problem

W. Horace Carter
 Tabor City Tribune
 Tabor City, N. C.

I am glad to know that a special issue of the Tabor City TRIBUNE will be devoted to a discussion of the juvenile delinquency issue and that copies of this special issue will be sent to every teacher, public official and law enforcement officer in your county.

The problem of juvenile delinquency involves the children, parents, schools, churches, cultural facilities and many other parts of our community life. We have been fortunate in North Carolina in preventing widespread juvenile delinquency due to the coordinated efforts of our people.

However, we must continue to develop sound family life, wholesome recreational facilities, spiritual development and a general awareness of the need to understand and help our young people in their daily problems.

Signed,
 Luther H. Hodges
 Governor of North Carolina

P.-T.A. Officers Art Exhibit

The school art exhibit will be on display at the meeting of the Tabor City Parent Teachers Association to be held Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p. m. Mrs. Earl Cartrette, program chairman announced.

Winners in three divisions will be selected from each grade and ribbons will be awarded.

Stockholders Will Work At Mill Pond

A "work call" has gone out today to all stockholders in the Mill Pond project and each is urged to help with the work at the pond on Saturday and Wednesday at 9 a. m.

"We need to do some work at the pond and our finances prohibit having someone else do the work for us so it is imperative that all stockholders help carry the load," said one of the directors today in announcing plans for the "work day."

Mail Boxes Available Through Jaycee Club

Richard Gordon, president of the Tabor City Jaycees, announced today that residents desiring to purchase mail boxes for the city mail delivery could obtain them at Harrellson's Pharmacy, NeSmith Insurance Agency, Piggly Wiggly or Tabor City Funeral Home.

"Everyone is urged to get their mail boxes as early as possible in order to expedite the city mail delivery," said Gordon.

Three types of mail boxes are available through the Jaycees with prices of 75 cents, \$1.25 and \$2.

House numerals are being sold and erected by members of the Civitan Club. When the numerals and mail boxes are erected throughout the town, the go ahead signal will be given by postal authorities for the mail delivery.

Voters of Columbus County will go to the polls Saturday and cast their ballots on the question as to whether Columbus will float a \$740,000 school bond issue or not.

Spokesmen for the bond issue have been busy in recent weeks endeavoring to enlighten the citizenry on the desperate need for voting for the issuance of bonds. They have pointed out the plight of the schools in Columbus County and emphasized the need for improving the situation.

School officials have said that the annual school enrollment is increasing by three percent every year and that the crowded condition can expect to get progressively worse unless the people approve the bond issue so that new construction can get underway.

North Carolina is next to the bottom State in the nation in per-student-day school cost and the sub normal school system is playing a huge part in the character of the people, they have said.

Authoritative sources close to the school needs and the tax structure in the county have said:

P.-T.A. Officers

Election of new officers will be the major business conducted at the Tabor City P. T. A. meeting to be held Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p. m.

With health as the topic for the program those attending the meeting will also have the opportunity to view some of the art work done by students in the various grades.

that the chances are very good that no increase tax rate would be necessary to meet the bond payments. They have observed that today 48.5 cents out of the \$1.08 cent tax money used for schools in the counties, is for capital outlay.

This capital outlay that is spent every year is for repairs and improvements. Tax authorities believe that this amount could be cut to about 36 cents with sufficient new construction. Should this be the case, no new taxes would be necessary.

Experts who have studied the school and tax system in the county say that a levy of about 12.5 cents of the evaluation is necessary for the first, second and third year of the bonded indebtedness to meet the payments. If the capital outlay could be cut by this amount, no increase in the \$1.30 tax structure would be necessary.

It is also of importance to the people to note that in eight years, some of the present bonded indebtedness will be paid off and the bond payments at that time would be less than they are today even with the approval of this school bond issue.

R. B. Mallard, of Tabor City, has been one of the speakers for the school bond issue. He spoke again at Old Dock Monday night and at Williams Township Tuesday night. The Williams meeting was sponsored by the Ruritan Club in that community.

T. Ward Guy, superintendent of education for Columbus County, has also been speaking with Mr. Mallard in the various communities.

AN EDITORIAL . . .

A Program With Merit

Today The Tribune launches a series of articles and messages in an effort to combat juvenile delinquency—a curse that has spread into every nook and corner of America in recent years. Indeed, it has always been present but with the modern fast living, it is increasing in alarming fashion.

The Tribune does not expect to cure our area of all the evils of juvenile crimes with this issue nor with the half dozen on the same theme that will follow. But we do hope to put before the children and the parents some of the problems that exist and with that program in progress, perhaps just one youngster might profit. If that holds true, then this effort will not have been made in vain.

All of us have to live and in the newspaper business we sell advertising to pay the bills. Business men and business firms from throughout the county have realized this and a large number have expressed their endorsement of the program and our campaign with paid signature advertisements in this issue. We are grateful for their support.

In one community the Merchants Association saw fit to advise its membership not to take part in the signature endorsements. We regret this misfortune but still have a representative group of firms from that area to which we are indebted.

This campaign is not a make-a-lot-of-money effort. The Tribune will certainly spend more money during this campaign than it will derive from its endorsers but in the long run, the educational program should and will be carried through to the end. It is being done simply and purely because the public needs to be more aware of the need to combat delinquency among the minors.

This issue and subsequent ones will be mailed to teachers, preachers and businessmen throughout the county. We leave the decision to them as to whether the campaign is a worthy one or not.

Barbers Will Give One Day's Revenue For Crippled Kids

Haircuts obtained in local barbershops on Tuesday, March 8, will serve a two-fold purpose as the proceeds from that day's work will be donated to help crippled children.

Barbers throughout Columbus County are pledging their day's receipts on March 8 to the crippled children's program.

The project is part of a statewide program of the Associated Master Barbers of North Carolina in presenting a "Barber's Kickoff Campaign for Crippled Children" and local barbers will be among 2000 other barbers engaged in the project.

Burrage Cox, president of the Columbus Barbers Association, said today, "Everyone is urged to get their haircuts on March 8

in order to make this project an overwhelming success."

Through contributions to the Easter Seal Society, a program of care and treatment for over 250 types of physical handicaps is conducted through the 100 county societies in the State.

This is the first time the local barbers have participated in the drive and the participation this year is 100 percent.

Shops in Tabor City participating in the project are City Barber Shop, Lux Barber Shop, Fowler's Barber Shop and Stephens Barber Shop.

Appreciation was expressed to the barbers for their gesture by Mrs. Alice Wright, president of the Columbus County chapter of the North Carolina Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

(Continued on Page 8)