

## CRIME AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

By JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
Director Federal Bureau Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice

The criminal is the product of spiritual starvation. Someone failed miserably to bring him to know God, love Him, and serve Him. As a result, the criminal's mental attitudes and actions are guided by a selfish individualism. He has no respect for the law—he hates it. Moral traditions are subject to his scorn as he declares war on society.

Unfortunately, there are many in the United States today who flout the laws of both God and man. This is borne out by facts and figures in the possession of the FBI.

By the end of 1946, a total of 1,685,293 major crimes were recorded in the United States—the highest annual total recorded in the past decade. Crime in urban areas in 1946 increased 7.4 per cent over the previous year as sharp rises were noted in murders, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, manslaughters by negligence, and rapes.

The upward crime trend in the rural areas was more pronounced in 1946, with an increase of 14 per cent. In each crime classification the rural upswing exceeded that in the cities.

**A Shocking Record**  
The gravity of the crime situation in 1946 was reflected by the fact that during the average day 36 persons were slain, 33 were raped, and 185 others were feloniously assaulted. During each 24 hours, on the average, 172 persons were robbed, 981 burglaries were reported to the police, 630 cars were stolen, in addition to 2,580 miscellaneous larcenies of various types being committed. Although a comparatively small percentage of the total offenses were classed as violent crimes against persons, it is significant to observe that every 5.7 minutes in 1946 there was a criminal homicide, rape or assault with intent to kill.

The rise in crime during 1946 revealed that we are still faced with an abnormally high rate of juvenile misbehavior. Youngsters under 21 years of age were responsible for 51 per cent of the auto thefts, 41 per cent of the burglaries, 28 per cent of the robberies, 27 per cent of the thefts, 26 per cent of the rapes, and 18 per cent of the arsons. More than one-half of all crimes against property during 1946 were committed by persons under 25 years of age.

The upward sweep in postwar crime is characterized by criminal incidents reminiscent of gang events following World War I. Gangsters, hoodlums and trigger men are eagerly recruiting youngsters into the criminal army. Guns are finding their way into the hands of mere boys who are ready to laugh at the law and kill if necessary.

I recall one case where two police officers were dispatched to a cabin on the outskirts of a town to locate several boys who were wanted at that time for questioning. The officers located the boys and were at once confronted with a defiant group of youngsters rivaling the hostility of hardened gangsters. Four boys armed with machine guns held the officers at bay. As the two officers awaited reinforcements and sought to avoid bloodshed, the boys retreated to the swamps along a nearby river. The youngsters were surrounded and called upon to surrender. Their

answer was a volley of gunfire. In the pitched battle which followed, a 14-year-old boy was killed. The others surrendered.

These youngsters turned out to be the ringleaders of a youthful gang which had perpetrated a wave of thefts. On two successive nights prior to the gun battle, the gang of boys had burglarized a National Guard armory and had made away with an arsenal consisting of sub-machine guns, rifles, hand grenades, several thousand rounds of ammunition and other government property. Previously, the boys had stolen several cars, burglarized storehouses, an automobile agency, a bowling alley, and a private residence.

The leader of the gang was 18. He led a band who refused to practice the very necessary virtues of honor, decency, and love of God and country. Certainly, these boys had very little chance to learn and appreciate these virtues because they had been exposed to indifference, lack of parental guidance, and drunkenness.

After reviewing the thousands of case histories which have poured into the FBI, I am firmly convinced that there are two factors in our outlook which if not checked will plunge us headlong into national decadence. The first is the failure of the home itself as the first classroom and, second, our national indifference toward evil influences in our life which are beyond the immediate control of parents.

**The Initial Responsibility**  
Criminals are not born. They are the products of neglect, the victims of indifference, the results of an age which has tossed morality in the junk yard. Moral chaos and crime run hand in hand as they eagerly attempt to destroy peace, order and happiness. If we are to get down to fundamentals in approaching the problem of crime it is necessary to begin to build the spiritual structure of the child at the cradle. This responsibility rests initially with the parents. The home must be the first great arena of teaching. In the final analysis, the child who fails to learn honesty, discipline and respect for authority from his parents can quickly become exposed to the virus of crime.

Unhappily, there are many homes where parents are untrained in their obligations to their offspring; where unguarded talk is as regular as three meals a day; where disrespect for authority and criticism of officials are common occurrences; where childish independence is encouraged, and refractory conduct is condoned; where breaches of discipline and anti-social whims are overlooked; and where God and religion are considered too old-fashioned in an age dedicated to materialism.

The children of such homes need help and the Sunday schools can do much and are doing much to bring God and religion into the starved souls of these youngsters. Our Sunday schools are not sending forth children who easily succumb to life-wrecking temptations. Instead, the boys and girls who have gone to Sunday school have been well prepared for the entire span of life.

The Sunday school is a citadel of real spiritual influences. Religion to a boy or girl becomes a reality based on love and not on fear. Youngsters come to know that God asks more than mere lip service to His commandments; that He asks us to live under His guidance and love.

The Sunday school teacher—the power of prayer and the need to make God an intrinsic part of our daily lives. The Sunday school teaches the child to "rule his spirit" and to place a reliance upon God which will not be shaken in later years. It stands as a strong bulwark against the angry waves of evil presently sweeping across our nation. It is a powerful medium in materially reducing the army of youthful offenders and delinquents.

I would like to pay tribute to the thousands of loyal men and women who are serving unselfishly as teachers in our Sunday schools. We in law enforcement look upon them as companions-in-arms in the fight against crime.

As true Crusaders for Christ, the Sunday school teachers want the nation's children to be honest, truthful and unselfish. They are convincing youngsters that right habits, attitudes and appreciations are necessary attributes for decent living. They are in the front ranks of the great army of Americans who are courageously fighting to free our national scene from dishonesty, selfishness, greed and moral instability. In recruiting for God, they are building for America.

More often than not, a child is first introduced to the Bible by a Sunday school teacher. It is quite impossible to believe that progress along the road to righteous living may be accomplished without the guidance of the Bible. It is the source of spiritual food, the solution of life's problems, and the inspiration for Christian living.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" is a precept which must be followed by all if life is to have a meaning. Our forefathers believed in the inspired Word of God and their religious faith and simple devotion produced a strong national character.

If we are to make progress in the fight against crime, make certain that the children of the nation attend Sunday school. It is difficult to understand why many mothers and fathers refuse to afford to their children the wholesome, healthful, character-building environment of the Sunday school.

As a law enforcement officer, I am certain that unless children are given the opportunity of participating in activities which have God as their fundamental objective, we cannot hope to materially reduce crime in our country.—(Reprinted from The Sunday School Times).

### Research Proves That Grass Farming Pays

"Research and Farming," quarterly publication of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, carries in its current issue an article entitled "Grassland Farming Pays . . . In More Ways Than One." The magazine is being mailed free of charge to all citizens of the State who request it.

Dr. R. L. Lovvorn, professor of agronomy, and J. R. Piland, assistant professor of soil chemistry at the station, are authors of the article. In their introduction they point out that the soils of North Carolina are relatively low in organic matter. This plus the fact that "row cropping has hastened the burning of organic matter originally in the soil" means that farmers must find some way of increasing organic matter content.

The authors list these as some of the advantage of organic matter: (1) improves working condition of the soil; (2) increases the water-holding capacity; (3) serves as a fuel for bacterial fires which produce plant nutrients; and (4) provides nitrates directly. They go on to point out that livestock and sod crops build up organic matter content, as well as furnish a new enterprise to replace areas now being turned out of row crops.

In recent test, workers at the Experiment Station have tried out various combinations of grasses and legumes to see which ones increase organic matter in the soil most rapidly. Preliminary tests showed that a fertilized and limed Dallis grass-lespedeza sod produced 7,000 pounds of organic matter per acre more than did untreated sod.

The investigators found that carpet grass was the least effective of all grasses in building organic matter content. Bermuda was most effective. Lespedeza-grass sods with the exception of carpet grass-lespedeza contained more organic matter than grass alone. The authors conclude that the step which produces a good grazing sod, also furnishes the most organic matter.

North Carolina's rural housing problem, how to control blue mold, new varieties of muscadine grapes, and the value of breeding good laying hens are among the other subjects discussed in the latest "Research and Farming." For a free copy, write to the Agricultural Editor, State College Station, Raleigh, and ask for Research and Farming.

#### ONE MINUTE SPORTS QUIZ

1. What is the name of the sports writer who has gained the reputation of being the "Dean of sports writers?"
2. Rocky Harris is the manager of which big league team?
3. Name the first Negro player to reach the big league?
4. Name the new U. S. Open golf champion.
5. Name the horse that won the 1947 Kentucky Derby.

#### The Answers

1. Grantland Rice.
2. Yankees.
3. Jackie Robinson.
4. Lee Van Cleave.
5. Jet Pilot.

## Edenton Air Service Now In Operation At Naval Air Station

The Edenton Air Service has recently contracted with the Town of Edenton for the Aviation facilities and operation rights of the Edenton Naval Air Station.

Edenton Air Service will be engaged in many phases of Aviation. One of the most outstanding activities will be its Flight School. It will be a government approved C.A.A. Commercial Flight School offering courses leading to a Private or Commercial license with such ratings as Instructor and Instrument in single or multi-engine aircraft, both land and sea. Trainees will go through all phases of flight such as night flying, aerobatics and extensive cross-country flight. Veterans will be encouraged to take advantage of their eligibility under the G.I. Bill of Rights. The flying school will be approved by the Veterans Administration and the State Department of Education. There will be no expense to the G.I. and he will receive all flight and ground instruction as well as books and supplies absolutely free of charge. Another point of interest to the G.I. is the opportunity to train while receiving subsistence allowances at the same prescribed rates comparable to all other types of training under the G.I. Bill of Rights. A Veteran may receive training on a part time or spare time basis so that training will not interfere with his job, in the event he cannot fly on the full time program.

A maintenance base for the repair of aircraft will offer "on the job training" to G.I.'s who wish to prepare for their C.A.A. Aircraft and Engine licenses.

Other phases of the business will

be charter flights, sight seeing flights, crop dusting, aerial photography and sales and service.

All people in the community are cordially invited out to the base to visit or inspect the operations of Edenton Air Service. Ask for A. R. Bridgford, manager and operator.

### Dates Changed For Speaking Contests

It has become necessary to change the previously announced dates for the Soil Conservation Speaking Contest because bad weather has caused many of the schools to be closed, according to J. Frank Doggett, Extension Soil Conservationist at State College.

Mr. Doggett listed the new dates as follows: The school elimination contest, March 26; county elimination contests, April 12; district elimination, April 9; and the State final, April 16.

School contests may be held dur-

ing March 24-26, Mr. Doggett said, and county contests may be held any day between March 29-April 2. District contests should be held between April 5-8.

The State winner will receive \$400 in Savings Bonds and an all-expense trip for himself or herself, and the coach, to the Annual Convention of the North Carolina Bankers Association. The convention will be held in Plasmhurst on May 16-18, Mr. Doggett said. Second and third place winners in the State finals will receive \$100 and \$50, respectively, in Savings Bonds.

### Sentinels of Health

**Don't Neglect Them!**  
Nature designed the kidneys to do a marvelous job. Their task is to keep the flowing blood stream free of an excess of toxic impurities. The act of living—life itself—is constantly producing waste matter the kidneys must remove from the blood if good health is to endure. When the kidneys fail to function as Nature intended, there is retention of waste that may cause body-wide distress. One may suffer sagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up at night, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel tired, nervous, all worse out. Frequent, scanty or burning passages are sometimes further evidence of kidney or bladder disturbance. The recognized and proper treatment is a diuretic medicine to help the kidneys get rid of excess poisonous body waste. Use Doan's Pills. They have had more than forty years of public approval. Are endorsed by the majority of doctors. Insist on Doan's. Sold at all drug stores.

**DOAN'S PILLS**

EASY TO USE  
YOUR HAIR UP ON  
BUT THE WAVE STAYS  
FOR MONTHS



WITH  
PLASTIC CURLERS

**BAGLEY'S**  
PHONE 3446

**"SPEEDY"** TOWE-WEBB MOTOR CO.



**TOWE-WEBB MOTOR CO.**  
Sales CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH Service  
PHONE 2461 • HERTFORD, N.C.



## IF WINTER WEATHER PLAYED HAVOC WITH YOUR ROOF

Now is the time to repair it before it deteriorates even more. Come in and let us show you our complete stock of roofing materials.

**WE CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH**  
**5-W and Corrugated Roofing**  
Light, Medium and Heavy Roll Roofing  
**Composition Shingles**  
Roof Coating — Roof Cement and Nails

**Hertford Hardware & Supply Co.**  
"TRADE HERE AND BANK THE DIFFERENCE"  
Hertford, N. C.

# NOTICE!

## Meeting Of Board Of Equalization And Review

The Board of County Commissioners of Perquimans County will meet as the Board of Equalization and Review in the Court House on Monday, March 15, 1948, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of hearing complaints and the equalization of property values, and said Board will adjourn from day to day until this business is completed.

# J. W. WA

Register of Deeds, Perquimans County