

A STUDY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN ERATH COUNTY, TEXAS,
JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1958

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A STUDY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN ERATH COUNTY, TEXAS,
JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1958

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Preface

One of the most widely discussed problems in our nation at the present time is the problem of juvenile delinquency. Much has been done toward determining the extent of juvenile delinquency in urban areas, but comparatively little has been done to determine the extent to which it occurs in small towns and rural areas. From an interest in the problems arising in the two latter areas this study developed.

The object of the study was to find out what pattern juvenile delinquency follows in small towns and rural areas. Does the pattern follow that of urban areas? Are the socio-economic factors comparable? These were questions of particular interest.

To understand juvenile behavior, it is necessary to know the social setting in which the delinquency occurs; it is important to understand how juveniles live and spend their time; it is important to discover what part delinquent behavior plays in the satisfaction of their basic needs. Therefore, in order to make the data concrete, the case study method was used with focus on rural and small town areas.

This paper does not presume to determine all delinquencies of Erath County; court records do not cover the innumerable cases of similar conduct that are dealt with at the level of city police. Also, court data in many instances tell nothing of the total volume of offenses committed by each delinquent.

Chapter IV of this paper includes only those who were declared delinquent by the Erath County Juvenile Court and are recorded in the Office of the Erath County Clerk; Chapter V includes sixteen school delinquencies that were recorded on the Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study was to determine the number of juvenile delinquents that were recorded in the Erath County Juvenile Records during the period beginning January 1, 1938, and ending December 31, 1958; to analyze the causes; to determine the offenses and disposition of the charges; to determine as nearly as possible the present behavior status of the delinquents.

Sources of Data

The primary sources of data used in developing the problem included the Erath County Judge, the Erath County Clerk and court records in the clerk's office, the Chief of Police of Stephenville, the superintendents and principals of Stephenville, Dublin, and other schools of the county, some citizens of Erath County communities, a number of the delinquents themselves, Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, Texas, Buckner Boys' Ranch, Burnet, Texas, Buckner Orphan's Home, Dallas, Texas, "friends, relatives, and neighbors of the delinquents."*

*The investigator has lived in Erath County for thirty years; consequently contacts could be made and the necessary information obtained.

Methods of Procedure

Extensive reading provided a background of factual knowledge concerning the magnitude of juvenile delinquency in the United States. Secondary sources of data furnished an understanding of the philosophical concepts regarding the causes, prevention, and control of delinquency among teenage boys and girls.

The second step in the development of the problem was a series of interviews with the Erath County Judge, the Erath County Attorney, and the Chief of Police of Stephenville, Texas. From these men permission was obtained to examine records from Erath County Juvenile Court and the police records. From these records data needed to make this study were used.

The third step in the investigation consisted of interviews with families, neighbors, friends, relatives, city hospital officials, welfare agencies, doctors, school superintendents and principals of schools, and ministers. These contacts were designed to furnish information concerning the background, personal reactions, school life and activities, home and family life, church attendance, other community experiences, and as nearly as possible, present status.

Finally, questionnaires were sent to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, Texas, Buckner Boys' Ranch, Burnet, Texas, and Buckner Orphans' Home, Dallas, Texas. The purpose of this

questionnaire was to determine the attitude, behavior, progress, and dismissal status of delinquents committed to these institutions.

However, the only questionnaires answered were those from Buckner Boys' Ranch and Buckner Orphans' Home. Therefore a trip was made to Gatesville for a personal interview with the superintendent; only general information was granted.

A former staff member of Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, gave information concerning the girls who were committed to that institution.

CHAPTER II

THE SITUATION

Erath County is a stable, moderately progressive county. The sale of beer or intoxicating liquor is illegal in the county. In its county seat, Stephenville, is located Tarleton State College, which attracts many families looking toward retirement or college for their children. Since there is no major industry in the county, other than agriculture, a number of residents work at aircraft plants in Fort Worth and Grand Prairie and other out-of-town jobs.

The county is a religion-conscious county and there apparently is no friction among the churches. There are forty-eight churches located in the county. Included in the religious preferences found are: Assembly of God, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Episcopal, Nazarene, United Pentecostal, and Presbyterian.

Erath County has a population of approximately 25,000. The scholastic population is about 3,000. The Census Bureau in 1950 gave the following breakdown in the county's population: 8.8 per cent non-farm rural; 37.4 per cent farm rural; 53.8 per cent urban; 99.0 per cent Anglo-American; 0.2 per cent Latin-American; 0.8 per cent Negro.

There are two principal towns in the county, these being Stephenville, the county seat, and Dublin. Lingleville, Huckaby, Morgan Mill, and Bluff Dale are the most thickly populated villages. The economy depends principally upon trade, farming, livestock, dairying, poultry, and nursery operations.

Stephenville and Dublin are very sports-minded towns and the residents of the entire county heartily support the activities. Entertainment is average for these towns of 10,000 and 3,500. In the summer, baseball, swimming, and bowling are offered for the youth of the county, but during the winter months, no functional recreational entertainment is provided other than movies, bowling, and scheduled sports events. Youth centers in the two towns are in the process of being organized.

CHAPTER III

A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The Scope of the Problem

The problem of juvenile delinquency has increased for nine straight years in the United States beginning with 1949 and concluding with 1958. In 1959, in the 1,160 cities reporting, with a combined population of 34,626,004, juvenile arrests increased 17.3 per cent.¹ It is predicted that by 1960 over a million and a half youngsters will be in trouble with the law each year unless the trend is reversed.²

One may well question where these delinquencies are centered. Rousek states:

Delinquency is more widespread in industrial countries than in those where agricultural pursuits are widely followed. In countries that have been industrialized for decades delinquency is primarily a problem in the larger urban areas. Rural areas, small towns, and villages are usually not confronted with problems of the same magnitude.³

Rousek relates that "the rural problem is less extensive than that of cities."⁴ In explaining this estimate, he says,

¹The Americana Annual (New York, 1958), p. 203.

²Grant S. McClellan, Juvenile Delinquency, cited in Richard Clendenen, U.S. News and World Report, XXXVI (September 17, 1954), p. 80.

³Joseph Rousek, Juvenile Delinquency (New York, 1958), p. 190.

⁴Ibid., p. 192.

"Rural life is characterized as traditional and family-centered, with social interaction on an intimate and personal basis. In contrast, urban life offers contacts which are superficial, impersonal, and segmental."⁵ Again Roucek explains,

In small towns, villages, and open country, informal means of social control prevail while in the city the formal means are found. The value of one's reputation, which is common knowledge in the neighborhood, is highly prized in rural areas. Gossip and ridicule have their effect. Deviant behavior has high social visibility and the limits of group tolerance are common knowledge to everyone.⁶

One might conclude that "the field of juvenile delinquency is as broad as the scope of the child's activities. He may be a delinquent in relation to his parents and his home, to his teachers and his school, to his fellows and their rights, and to the public and public welfare."⁷

Statement of the Juvenile Delinquent Law

To formulate a foundation for the development of the juvenile problem, it will be fitting to consider the principles embodied in "The Juvenile Act" of the Forty-eighth Legislature. The introductory part and the first three sections of Article 2338-I are as follows:

Article 2338-I. Delinquent children; juvenile court established in each county; jurisdiction; transfer of cases; custody - purpose and basic principle:

Section 1. The purpose of this Act is to secure for each child under its jurisdiction such care, guidance and control, preferably in his own home, as will serve the

⁵Ibid., p. 192.

⁶Ibid., p. 193.

⁷Lester D. Crow and Alice Crow, Our Teenage Boys and Girls (New York, 1945), p. 32.

child's welfare and the best interest of the state; and when such child is removed from his own family, to secure for him custody, care and discipline as nearly as possible equivalent to that which should have been given him by his parents.

The principle is hereby recognized that children under the jurisdiction of the court are wards of the state, subject to the discipline and entitled to the protection of the state, which may intervene to safeguard them from neglect or injury and to enforce the legal obligations due to them and from them.

Construction of the Act

Section 2. This Act shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purpose herein sought.

Definitions

Section 3. The word "court" means the Juvenile Court. The word "Judge" means the Judge of the Juvenile Court. The term "Delinquent Child" means any female person over the age of ten (10) years and under the age of eighteen (18) years and any male person over the age of ten (10) years and under the age of seventeen (17) years;

(a) who violates any penal law of this state of the grade of felony;

(b) or who violates any penal law of this state of the grade of misdemeanor where the punishment prescribed for such offense may be confinement in jail;

(c) or who habitually violates any penal law of this state of the grade of misdemeanor where the punishment prescribed for such offense is by pecuniary fine only;

(d) or who habitually violates any penal ordinance of a political subdivision of this state;

(e) or who habitually violates a compulsory school attendance law of this state;

(f) or who habitually so deports himself as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others;

(g) or who habitually associates with vicious and immoral persons.⁸

⁸Vernon's Texas Statutes, Centennial edition, Supplement General Laws, Forty-eighth Regular Session (1943), p. 154.

Definitions of Delinquency as Given
by Professional People

The question arises, "What is a delinquent?" There are numerous concepts concerning the term "delinquent." Crow and Crow describe him as "a teen-age person who has been brought to court, not as a criminal who is mature enough to recognize the seriousness of his offense, but as a maturing person who needs to be taught the responsibilities of adjusted citizenship."⁹

Kvaraceus says, "He is a youngster who habitually resolves his personal-social problems through overt, aggressive behavior, which dominant society finds bothersome and contrary to its value-identification."¹⁰ Also, he states, "The delinquent child is one who is habituated to following unacceptable patterns of conduct; a single act does not make a delinquent unless the act is a grave offense."¹¹ Rousek gives this version of a delinquent: "A juvenile can be classified as delinquent if he is incorrigible, if he associates with vicious or immoral persons, if he is absent from home without just cause or consent, or if he is growing up in idleness."¹²

⁹Crow and Crow, op. cit., p. 315.

¹⁰William C. Kvaraceus, The Community and the Delinquent (New York, 1954), p. 57.

¹¹Ibid., p. 53.

¹²Rousek, op. cit., p. 5.

Since these definitions are not all inclusive, and because of the findings in the survey of juvenile delinquency in Erath County over a twenty-year period, it will be well to quote parts of the blanket definition given by Sutherland and Cressey as applied to the State of Illinois:

A delinquent child is any male under the age of seventeen (17) years, or any female under the age of eighteen (18) years who violates any law of this state; or who is incorrigible, or knowingly associates with thieves or immoral persons; or without just cause and without the consent of its parents, guardian or custodian absents itself from its home or place of abode or is growing up in idleness or crime; or knowingly frequents a house of ill repute; or knowingly frequents any gambling house or frequents any saloon where intoxicating liquors are sold; or wanders about the streets in the night time without being on any lawful business or lawful occupation; or habitually wanders about any railroad tracks or yards; or uses vile, obscene, vulgar, or indecent language in any public place or about any public house; or is guilty of indecent or lascivious conduct.¹³

From the psychologist's point of view, "he is a youngster who habitually meets his personal-social problems through open and aggressive behavior not approved by society generally."¹⁴

Delinquency itself is "behavior disappointing beyond reasonable expectation."¹⁵ In general, "delinquency is nothing more than the fruit which has grown from the seeds of parental delinquency and municipal delinquency."¹⁶

¹³ Edwin H. Sutherland and Donald R. Cressey, Principles of Criminology, cited in Illinois Revised Statutes (Chicago, 1949), pp. 1315-1316.

¹⁴ Paul H. Landis, Social Living (Dallas, 1958), p. 185.

¹⁵ William H. Sheldon, Varieties of Delinquent Youth (New York, 1949), p. 822.

¹⁶ Vincent P. Mazzola, Brooklyn Eagle, cited in Crow and Crow, Our Teenage Boys and Girls (New York, 1945), p. 325.

Ascribed Causes

In introducing this short discussion of ascribed causes of juvenile delinquency, it must be accepted that the field is broad and that there are many, many influences and factors that enter into the problem of delinquency. There is no single factor which is primarily responsible for delinquency. It may be said that each individual delinquent is a product of some or all of these influences. Generally, the following factors may be said to be conducive to juvenile delinquency: economic instability, parental discord, inadequacy of school offerings, lack of understanding of adolescent psychology on the part of parents and school faculties, unwholesome neighborhood or community conditions, the individual's unpreparedness for vocational activities, or unintelligent job placement.¹⁷

It is Vedder's contention that:

A child's family is the most important influence in shaping his personality and character. In this primary group the child acquires his basic ideals and a sense of right and wrong. Here he experiences social interaction and becomes conscious of standards, goals, values, and the formulation of judgments.¹⁸

Family disorganization stands well toward the top as a causal factor in delinquency. Disorganization may be a result of "dissolution by death, illness, imprisonment, desertion, separation, divorce, war, economic conditions, environmental pressures, occupational requirements, incompatibilities,

¹⁷Crow and Crow, op. cit., pp. 6-7.

¹⁸Clyde B. Vedder, The Juvenile Offender (New York, 1955), p. 53.

irritations, tensions, frustrations, drunkenness, vices."¹⁹
All of these constitute prime factors of delinquency causation.

According to Neumeyer, "A family that is broken by divorce, desertion, separation or death, or that functions inadequately as a social unit, is handicapped in carrying on its responsibilities toward the children."²⁰ Also, quoting Glueck, "The delinquents are largely deprived of affection by their fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters; not many respond warmly to their fathers and mothers or develop an emotional tie leading to wholesome identification of boy with parents."²¹ Again Glueck relates that "often delinquents were victims of the indifferences or actual hostility of their fathers or mothers; there was lack of warmth from their brothers and sisters."²² In his study of 500 delinquents Glueck found that:

Inconsistency between the parents in disciplining a child, excessive anger, and unfairness may be a source of emotional distortion and ultimately may result in ambivalence toward or defiance of the authority of parents and later of school and society.²³

Economically, of the 1,000 delinquents studied in his

¹⁹Ibid., pp. 13-17.

²⁰Martin N. Neumeyer, Juvenile Delinquency in Modern Society (New York, 1955), p. 28.

²¹Sheldon Glueck and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency (New York, 1950), p. 133.

²²Glueck and Glueck, Delinquents in the Making (New York, 1952), p. 63.

²³Ibid., p. 65.

Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, Glueck found that:

None could maintain its standard of living beyond six months in the event of loss of income; 66.4 per cent accumulated little or nothing, living from day to day. The average weekly income per person was \$7.60; 19.1 per cent had no income earnings at all.²⁴

In general the delinquents grew up in a family atmosphere not conducive to the development of emotionally well integrated, happy youngsters.

Vedder states that:

It is generally recognized that delinquent behavior is influenced by the physical condition of the dwelling, the slum type of neighborhood. Mental attitudes are affected by physical surroundings, and the care and love of the parent for the child may be subjected to a severe strain due to conditions of bad housing.²⁵

Hollingshead makes this statement concerning the influences of the child's environment upon his behavior:

Behavior patterns are established primarily by their early experiences in the family and secondarily in the neighborhood; similar experiences in family and neighborhood mold children into similar social types because their learning in both areas tends to be strongly associated with class. The great majority of the children have had most of their childhood experiences in the intimate, limited area of family and neighborhood.²⁶

Hollingshead set up a social class scale in which he groups society according to education, residence, and occupation. By roughly classifying, according to occupation, the parents of the Erath County juvenile delinquents, a similarity

²⁴Glueck and Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, op. cit., p. 154.

²⁵Vedder, op. cit., p. 54.

²⁶A. E. Hollingshead, Elmstown's Youth (New York, 1949), pp. 444-445.

was found which indicates that the environment influences the behavior of the child.

According to this rough classification, two fell into Class I, executives and proprietors and major professions; one into Class II, managers, proprietors of medium businesses; one into Class III, administrative personnel, owners of small businesses, semi-professional; thirty into Class IV, owners of little businesses, clerical and sales workers, technicians; four into Class V, skilled workers; twenty-five into Class VI, semi-skilled; forty-five into Class VII, unskilled workers.

There is abundant evidence to the effect that schools are a factor in delinquency causation by reason of "their failure to make adequate provision for children who deviate from the norm, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or socially."²⁷ Rousek goes on to say that "the school contributes to delinquency not only because it provides an environment where large groups of children are thrown together without supervision but because it creates frustrating situations with which some individuals cannot cope."²⁸ For many maladjusted and potentially delinquent children, going to school is just another frustrating and unhappy experience.

The origin of a major percentage of juvenile delinquency can be traced to the community. Within the community may be found what are sometimes called "agencies of moral risk."

²⁷Rousek, op. cit., p. 153.

²⁸Ibid., p. 158.

These may include poolrooms, bars, cheap dance halls, juke joints and other commercial hangouts. Though there is no bar located in Erath County, there is a little village of cheap taverns only thirty miles distant. Many Erath County citizens have seen a number of the youths of the county go into these taverns.

Kvaraceus concludes that "the basic cause for most youthful violence is a misdirected quest for security and conformity."²⁹

²⁹Kvaraceus, op. cit., p. 65.

CHAPTER IV

CASE STUDIES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

IN ERATH COUNTY FOR THE

PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1938,

TO DECEMBER 31, 1958

Case histories of the one hundred nine delinquents appearing before the County juvenile Court during the twenty-year period were made in order to determine the offenses and disposition of the cases; to analyze if possible the causes; and to determine as nearly as possible the present status of the delinquents. In some instances the county judge had compiled brief histories; these were taken from the county court records. In some other cases information was taken from records in training institutions. In others, personal interviews were held with friends, neighbors, relatives, ministers, school principals and other school personnel.

In presenting the case histories, each child will be referred to by case number. This is done because of the illegality of identifying a delinquent by name. The number appearing after the case number indicates the year in which the child was declared delinquent.

Case 1-38 was a ten-year-old boy who was brought before the court the first time because of petty thefts, roaming the streets at night, and drinking intoxicating liquors. He

was committed to his parents under the conditions that he remain at home at night, stay off the streets and violate no provisions of the Delinquent Child Laws.¹

In 1943 he was arrested for drunken driving, reprimanded by the county judge and again committed to his parents. In 1946 Case 1-38 was in trouble again, this time charged with theft of an automobile. His previous commitments were revoked and he was committed to the State Training School for Boys at Gatesville, Texas, June 5, 1946, for a period of one year.²

Investigation revealed that Case 1 was living with his mother and step-father, his mother having divorced his own father when the child was seven. He had one younger brother, a step-brother, and a step-sister, both older than he. The children lived in an atmosphere of cursing, coarse language and drinking by the step-father, who was a farmer-stockman. Case 1 and his younger brother took much "cuffing" and verbal abuse from the step-parent.

Though the mother was considered by her neighbors to be good, a member of the Church of Christ, she followed the path of least resistance and did not bother with religious training for the children. She often remonstrated with her husband over the abuse to the children, but this only led to more abuse and she gave up.

¹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, No. 12 (1938-1946), p. 16.

²Ibid., p. 17.

Case 1 later joined the Air Corps and was killed in service during World War II.³

Case 2-38 was first brought to court for the offense of theft under \$50.00 and was committed to his parents. July 31, 1940, he was arrested for burglary and breaking into a store for the purpose of theft. This time he was committed to the State Training School for Boys at Gatesville.⁴ He escaped from the school October 13, 1940, and was arrested again in Erath County for theft under \$50.00. Case 2 was re-committed to the State Training School.⁵ The child was released from the school March 1, 1941, only to be in trouble with officers four days later. His offense again was theft under \$50.00. He spent three days in jail; the parents paid for the stolen property.

One week after his fourth offense, Case 2 was arrested for drunk driving, driving without a license, and carrying an unlawful weapon. He was recommitted to the State Training School March 16, 1941.⁶

During the three-year period that Case 2 was in the correction school, he was frequently in trouble with the personnel at the training school. Often he started fights

³Interview with a neighbor of Case 1, Stephenville, Texas, March 2, 1959.

⁴Erath County Juvenile Court Records, op. cit., p. 18.

⁵Ibid., p. 19.

⁶Ibid.

with other inmates and used abusive language in speaking to his group leader. He refused to do academic work and his work in vocational fields was done haphazardly.⁷

Since 1944, Case 2 has served a two-year sentence in the State Prison for robbery with fire arms.⁸

Case 2-38 had an unsettled home life; both parents had been married twice. Case 2 was their only child. The home was completely lacking in religious influence, neither parent having any church affiliation nor having made any profession of faith. As far as could be determined, the father had no real occupation. He obviously made his living by questionable means. He was known to transport whiskey into dry territory. Often the father was away from the home for several days at a time, his whereabouts unknown to the wife and son. Neither parent seemed to have much interest in the son's schooling; his attendance was erratic and his grades far below average. He did not complete the eighth grade.

The family has moved to another state and it has been rumored that Case 2 has run afoul of the law a number of times.⁹

Case 3-39 was an impudent, thirteen-year-old boy who bragged of cursing and swearing before he was ten. He liked to think of himself as a leader and carefully chose his

⁷Interview with Superintendent of Boys' Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

⁸Interview with a former Erath County judge, March 5, 1959.

⁹Interview with a friend of Case 2, Stephenville, Texas, March 5, 1959.

associates from the roughest groups. He and his gang pitted their strength and wits against other groups and were often involved in gang fights. Their delight was in throwing over-ripe tomatoes and rotten eggs at houses.¹⁰

On September 8, 1939, Case 3 was arrested for breaking into a service station and taking a new tire and a battery.¹¹ Because of his environment the county judge believed it the best interest of the child to commit him to the State Training School for Boys in the hope that this type of correction would straighten him out.¹²

It seems that there were five children in the family, Case 3 being the oldest. The father eked out an existence as a day laborer and frequently was without work. The children who were old enough chopped cotton and did yard work to help supply the unbalanced food that they shared. The entire family lived in a two-room house with a "lean-to." The children were poorly clad. The mother was seen in the fields in the company of other men.¹³

It can be seen from this environment that the children would receive no encouragement to go to school. Case 3 was

¹⁰Interview with a friend of Case 3, Stephenville, Texas, March 8, 1959.

¹¹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 20.

¹²Interview with a former Erath County judge, Stephenville, Texas, March 5, 1959.

¹³Interview with a neighbor of Case 3, Stephenville, Texas, March 9, 1959.

at that time in the seventh grade, but he was truant most of the time. All grades except two were failing grades.¹⁴

Case 3 was unco-operative and sulky when he first entered the training school. He refused to talk and threatened other boys. Unless he could be "it" in games, he refused to co-operate. At meals he gulped his food and scoffed at manners; he "wasn't going to be a panty waist."¹⁵

After two months his attitude changed and he became more co-operative. His ability as a leader was recognized and through proper channeling, his new-found good influence among other inmates was felt. He was allowed to handle small duties about the school. He became keenly interested in leather tooling and crafts and made many beautiful objects.¹⁶

Case 3 re-entered the public schools of Stephenville after his release from the correction school and became an ambitious student. His progress was rapid and he made good grades. In his sophomore year, his family left Erath County, but Case 3 refused to accompany them. He was taken into the home of a childless couple who gave him the advantages he otherwise would not have had.

After his graduation from high school, he entered Tarleton State College and from there he went to Hardin-Simmons University. Through the religious atmosphere of the

¹⁴Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

¹⁵Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

¹⁶Ibid.

college and the guidance of his foster parents, he became a Christian. Case 3 is now one of the youngest superintendents of a large high school in Texas.¹⁷

The home life of Case 4-39 was certainly not conducive to happy living. The father and mother bickered and quarreled constantly. Both consorted with partners other than each other. The mother admitted she never knew who was the father of her six children. Case 4 related that the most outstanding thing he could remember in his boyhood was that he was always hungry and that many times he ate from garbage cans. The family never had much money as the father did not have regular employment; he did miscellaneous hauling with his small truck.

Stealing appealed to Case 4 because it meant he could eat. He started taking little things and then articles of more value. He admitted that he let meanness take him over and he did not try to do anything good. School meant nothing to him; he did not try to learn nor to get along with teachers; he quit while he was in junior high.¹⁸

The first court offense of Case 4 occurred when he was fourteen; at this time he was cited for petty theft and roaming the public streets at night. For this offense he was committed to his parents. A year later he was guilty of theft over \$50.00, using obscene language in public places

¹⁷ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, Stephenville, Texas, March 11, 1959.

¹⁸ Interview with a relative of Case 4, Stephenville, Texas, March 11, 1959.

and staying out at night. This time he was committed to one year in the State Training School for Boys.¹⁹

The behavior of Case 4 during his stay in the State School was good. He told the superintendent that he was glad to be there because he had plenty to eat and could play ball since his physical condition improved. While in the school, he learned mechanic and shop work and upon his return to Stephenville a year later he obtained a job in a garage.²⁰

At the age of seventeen he was married to a girl who was considered to be a nice person and who came from what appeared to be a good, Christian family. Soon his mean ways took over. He abused his wife in every way possible; he did not try to earn a living, and the wife and two sons practically starved. He was gone days at a time without her knowing where he was. The wife finally divorced him and returned to her parents; he entered the army.

After his return from the army, Case 4 married again; this marriage lasted only a short time. He then went to California and has married for the third time. Whether or not he is going straight is not known.²¹

Case 5-39 lived on a turkey farm with his father and step-mother; others in the family were an older brother and a

¹⁹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 21.

²⁰Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

²¹Interview with a relative of Case 4, Stephenville, Texas, March 11, 1959.

younger half-sister. Case 5 and the other children had worked hard on this farm since their early childhood. Some years were prosperous; others were lean, the father going heavily into debt to carry on operations of the farm.

When Case 5 was thirteen, his father became ill of throat cancer and the farm finally had to be sold in order to meet the mounting hospital bills. The family moved to town and the mother found employment in a cafe. The older boy worked in a grocery store; Case 5 did yard work. After the father's death, Case 5 started hanging around the city square after night, and he soon became associated with rough and more experienced boys. He and Case 4-39 became closely associated in petty thefts and soon became more deeply involved in stealing.²²

Case 5 was finally charged "with theft over \$50.00; committed to the Boys' State Training School at Gatesville, Texas, for a period of one year."²³

At the end of three months he was found trying to escape from the school. For this he was confined to a locked room for one week. His behavior for the next four months was exemplary. At that time he and another boy succeeded in escaping.

The second night after their escape the two boys held an elderly farm couple at bay with a length of iron pipe. They

²²Interview with a close friend of Case 5, Stephenville, Texas, March 8, 1959.

²³Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 22.

took over twenty-five dollars from a purse found in a dresser drawer, and they got away in the couple's pick-up truck. The pick-up was found abandoned in San Antonio three days later. Case 5 and his companion were caught in the M. K. T. freight yards as they were attempting to board a freight train. The two were returned to the training school and placed under guard for one month. Case 5 was released from the State Training School in 1941 at the age of seventeen.²⁴

Case 5 returned to Stephenville and as far as could be determined, he remained there for one month. Nothing further is known of him.²⁵

Case 6-39 entered Stephenville High School on September 5, 1938; the first part of this year his grades were good; he had a B average. Also his conduct was good. However, in his sophomore year his grades became fair, then poor. His teachers noted that his conduct changed. He was constantly in trouble with the principal and his teachers. It was learned that he had started a line of offenses beginning October 31, 1938.²⁶

On March 21, 1938, Case 6 was charged with petty theft and the breaking of street lights. He was committed to his parents.²⁷ On March 31, 1939, Case 6 was again before the

²⁴Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

²⁵Interview with a neighbor of Case 5, Stephenville, Texas, March 8, 1959.

²⁶Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 10, 1959.

²⁷Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 23.

courts for theft under \$50.00. He was made to pay for stolen property and released to the parents.²⁸

On April 7, 1939, Case 6 broke into a filling station, taking four tires, a battery, and a radio. For this offense he was committed to the State Training School at Gatesville.²⁹

The father of Case 6 was descended from a much respected Erath County pioneer family which held large properties in the county. However, neighbors believed that the father had a "wild streak" in him and neighbors said that he ran around with several different women. Though he provided well, materially, for his wife and four sons, he was seldom with them. Friends thought that the mother was kind, sweet, and generous, but she was unable to cope with her problems.³⁰

After his release from the State Training School in 1941, Case 6 continued his road to crime. He was constantly involved with the law enforcement officials. He was finally killed in 1945 by an irate husband after Case 6 had criminally assaulted his wife.³¹ At his funeral the officiating minister said, "Live ye in the way of the righteous; we know where he is."³²

²⁸Ibid., p. 24.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Interview with a neighbor of Case 6, Stephenville, Texas, March 12, 1959.

³¹Interview with a former Erath County deputy sheriff, Stephenville, Texas, March 16, 1959.

³²Interview with a relative of Case 6, Stephenville, Texas, March 18, 1959.

Case 7-39 was two years younger than his brother, Case 6. He began some of his minor offenses in the company of his brother. He was declared delinquent December 6, 1939, after "breaking into a cafe past midnight, taking ten cartons of cigarettes, and attempting to take money from a juke box."³³ He was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, for one year.³⁴

Because of good behavior and his good attitude, Case 7 was released from the correction school at the end of six months.³⁵

Friends believed the progress of Case 7 in society after his release was good. He returned to school September, 1940, and made good grades. When he entered high school, he began playing football and became a star player. He was captain of his team in his senior year. After his graduation from high school, Case 7 went on to Tarleton State College for one year before he entered the army.

At the present time he is married, has a son and a daughter, and works for an insurance firm in Dallas.³⁶

Associated with Case 7 was Case 8-39. As this was his first offense, Case 8 was committed to his father.³⁷ The

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

³⁶Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 13, 1959.

³⁷Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 26.

parents of this boy owned a farm six miles from Stephenville. There were two older brothers and an older sister in the family group. Neighbors respected the family and believed them to be prosperous. None of the other children had ever been in trouble.³⁸

Case 8 continued in school, behaving in a normal pattern and making passing grades. After graduating from high school, he became associated with his father in farming and raising Hereford cattle. He has a family consisting of his wife and three children. He owns a ranch adjoining his father's property.³⁹

Case 9-39 first came to the juvenile court on June 22, 1939. He had quit school the previous year before completing junior high school. He frequented a house where gambling and drinking were known by neighbors to take place. On June 18, he was caught as he ran from a hardware store where he had rifled the cash register, taking fifteen dollars in change. Under his arm he carried a radio which he had taken from the same store.⁴⁰

The parents of Case 9 were deceased; he lived with a spinster aunt who was a typist for a lawyer.⁴¹

³⁸ Interview with a neighbor of Case 8, Morgan Mill, Texas, March 10, 1959.

³⁹ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 9, 1959.

⁴⁰ Interview with a former Erath County judge, Stephenville, Texas, March 5, 1959.

⁴¹ Interview with a relative of Case 9, Stephenville, Texas, March 16, 1959.

On June 22, 1939, Case 9 was declared delinquent for the offense of breaking into a hardware store and theft of over \$50.00. He was committed to the custody of an attorney.⁴² In September of the same year Case 9 was found guilty of burglary and was committed to the Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas.⁴³

During the year that Case 9 was in the State School, he was unco-operative and sulky. He was overgrown for his fifteen years and liked "to throw his weight around." The boys didn't like him and were unfriendly toward him.⁴⁴

After his release from the correction school, Case 9 returned to his aunt, but he ran away shortly thereafter; his present whereabouts is unknown.⁴⁵

Cases 10-39 and 11-39 are step-brothers involved in the same trouble. Both were fifteen at the time they were declared delinquent. The parents are believed by neighbors to be outstanding citizens of their community, twelve miles north of Stephenville. They are leaders in their church.

The mother of Case 10 died when he was five. The grandparents came to live in the home until the father's second marriage.

⁴²Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 27.

⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

⁴⁵Interview with a relative of Case 9, Stephenville, Texas, March 16, 1959.

The father of Case 11 died when the boy was seven, leaving him and his four-year old sister to the care of the mother. She had no close relatives to turn to and she earned their living by keeping house for others. It was when in the employ of the grandparents of Case 10 and his father that she met and married the father. Both boys attended Huckaby High School and played on the basketball team.⁴⁶

They related to the county judge:

We began taking candy and chewing gum from a combination grocery store and gas station when we were thirteen. After finding this easy to do, we started taking change from a drawer while the owner was waiting on gas customers.⁴⁷

Case 10 and Case 11 were declared delinquent on November 2, 1939, for theft under \$50.00 when they stole some auto accessories from a grocery store-gas station in Huckaby, Texas. Both boys were committed to their parents.⁴⁸

Case 12-39 was a member of a family group consisting of the mother, her husband and eight other children. The true relationship of each other leaves room for doubt, as the mother admitted to neighbors affairs with many men. The husband was no better in the opinion of neighbors; his affairs with women were widely known by the people in the community. Their living conditions were rather haphazard and oftentimes meager,

⁴⁶Interview with Principal of Huckaby Public School, Huckaby, Texas, March 18, 1959.

⁴⁷Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 28.

⁴⁸Ibid.

as he tried to earn a living as a used car salesman; the mother, between pregnancies, worked in a "helpy-selfy laundry." The children, left alone, roamed the streets.

The oldest sister and brother were converted and joined the First Baptist Church and were never involved in any trouble. They became respected citizens and teachers in Sunday School. The other children were involved in various troubles. Three of the girls are thought to have had more than one illegitimate child.⁴⁹

Case 12 began his delinquent career with petty thefts. He says, "There was never enough money to go around. I had trouble earning enough money for school supplies. I started stealing from my classmates during recess. I had a bad habit of not being honest."⁵⁰

On December 1, 1939, at sixteen, Case 12 broke into an appliance store, taking two portable radios, a portable record player, an electric toaster, and an electric percolator. On December 7, 1939, he was committed to the Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, for a period of three years. After one year he was paroled to his parents on probation for two years.⁵¹

Case 12 never returned to school for his junior year. When he was nineteen, he was in a car wreck. His back was

⁴⁹ Interview with a neighbor of Case 12, Stephenville, Texas, March 18, 1959.

⁵⁰ Interview with Case 12, Stephenville, Texas, March 19, 1959.

⁵¹ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 29.

broken and his skull was fractured. As a result, he was left in a semi-invalid condition. While he was in the hospital, his parents were divorced. Both have since remarried. Case 12 lives with his father and step-mother, unable to do much for himself.⁵²

Coming from a long line of relatives having bad reputations, Case 13-39 scarcely had a chance, in the opinion of neighbors. His father before him had been a delinquent involved in many episodes before he was eighteen. The mother's reputation, too, was bad; the relatives on both sides were bad. The parents were married shortly after the oldest brother was born. This boy is a cousin to Cases 6 and 7.⁵³

Young in life, Case 13 learned to drink beer given to him by his parents who made the same and bootlegged it. During the day the father did carpenter work; at night both parents peddled the beer. The three brothers were left alone or were carried along on the peddling jaunts.⁵⁴

Understandably the school work of Case 13 was of the poorest type; without the incentive or the encouragement, he cared nothing for learning nor associating with good boys and girls.⁵⁵

⁵²Interview with Case 12, Stephenville, Texas, March 19, 1959.

⁵³Interview with a friend of Case 13, Johnsville, Texas, March 6, 1959.

⁵⁴Interview with a relative of Case 13, Johnsville, Texas, March 6, 1959.

⁵⁵Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 8, 1959.

On December 6, 1939, Case 13 was involved with Cases 6 and 7 in breaking into a cafe. He was committed to his parents.⁵⁶ Four days later he was charged with drinking and being drunk on public streets and using foul language in a public place. Again he was committed to his parents.⁵⁷ On December 18, 1939, he was brought to court for burglary and theft. This time he was sentenced to three years in the Boys' State Training School, Gatesville.⁵⁸

During his stay at the State School, Case 13 gave no trouble; he co-operated in all he was asked to do and was paroled after one year to his parents, to be on probation for the remaining four years.⁵⁹

He was never returned to court, though he was questioned several times on suspicion. Friends believe he is living in Houston, but they know nothing of his family status nor of his occupation.

Case 14-39 is the son of a brick mason; the mother is a housewife. There are three older brothers and two younger sisters in the family. The oldest brother was, in 1939, under a two-year suspended sentence for cattle theft and sale of the same. The father was a hard worker, but during that period he was not regularly employed, as building was slow.

⁵⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 30.

⁵⁷Ibid., p. 31.

⁵⁸Ibid., p. 32.

⁵⁹Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

The children did what they could to supplement the family income.⁶⁰

The first offense of Case 14, on December 6, 1939, came by way of the passing of a bad check in the amount of \$20.00. He was released to his parents after they had paid the damaged person.⁶¹ Then on February 2, 1939, he was apprehended for burglary. He was made to pay for the property taken, severely reprimanded and again released to his parents.⁶²

From that time until March 10, 1940, Case 14 was picked up and questioned several times on suspicion, but nothing was definitely pinned on him until he committed theft over \$50.00, March 13, 1940. He was committed to the Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, for this offense.⁶³

After six months, Case 14 was released from the State School. The family moved from Erath County shortly after and his present status is not known.

The father of Case 15-39 was a carpenter, unemployed from time to time. During periods of unemployment he was known to drink excessively. A relative said that the father gave Case 15 his first drink of whiskey. The mother supplemented the income of the family by working part time in a beauty parlor. An older brother and one younger sister

⁶⁰ Interview with a neighbor of Case 14, Selden, Texas, March 19, 1959.

⁶¹ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 31.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid., p. 32.

completed the family. The older brother had been questioned by police on several occasions for drinking and reckless driving.⁶⁴

On April 11, 1939, Case 15 was brought before the court and charged with "being drunk on public streets, cursing an officer, and making improper advances to an eleven-year-old girl."⁶⁵ He was committed to his parents and ordered to stay off the streets after dark.⁶⁶

The school attendance of Case 15 was erratic after he completed the sixth grade. Until that time his grades were fair and his conduct good. In junior high school he became a trouble-maker and was abusive to other children. It was noted frequently that he came to school with his eyes red from lack of sleep and from drinking. He was expelled from school when he was in the eighth grade after cursing and striking a teacher.⁶⁷

From 1940 to 1941 Case 15 worked as a gas station attendant. After that year he joined the army. He was killed in action during World War II.⁶⁸

⁶⁴Interview with a relative of Case 15, Dublin, Texas, March 21, 1959.

⁶⁵Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 33.

⁶⁶Ibid., p. 33.

⁶⁷Interview with Principal of Stephenville Junior High School, April 2, 1959.

⁶⁸Interview with Erath County Clerk, Stephenville, Texas, March 29, 1959.

At this point it is well to mention that there is a gap in available information concerning the family and social history of the following cases: Case 16-40, Case 18-40, Case 19-40, Case 20-40, Case 21-40, Case 22-40, Case 24-40, Case 25-40, Case 33-40, Case 35-46, Case 38-46, and Case 39-46. However, information relative to ages, types of offenses, disposition of cases, occupation of parents, and religious affiliation was available. This is given in the tabular forms.

Case 17-40 was a fifteen-year-old boy living in Dublin, Texas, with his parents and one younger sister. There was sufficient money in the family and they lived comfortably and apparently happily. The father was manager of an implement company; the mother was a church and civic leader of her community. Neighbors relate that Case 17 began running with a rough crowd when he was thirteen years old and until his adulthood, lived a rough life. The neighbors and friends thought that he was spoiled and wanted his way in everything.

Case 17 was given a liberal allowance; however, he began writing "hot" checks to get more money to spend recklessly.⁶⁹

On January 12, 1940, Case 17 was brought before the juvenile court and charged with writing several checks for which he had no money.⁷⁰ After his father had paid for all

⁶⁹Interview with Assistant Postmaster, Dublin, Texas, April 5, 1959.

⁷⁰Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 34.

damages, Case 17 was released to his parents.⁷¹

Case 17 is now a married man who has two children; he is a farmer-rancher in the Edna Hill Community. His neighbors and business associates consider him to be a successful man, and his children enjoy much popularity in Dublin High School.⁷²

Case 23-41 said of himself, "I would say that I have failed myself and my parents. I know there are a lot of things I should do, but I can't bring myself around to do them. Also, there are some things I should stop doing."⁷³ Thus spoke the only son of a noted physician and his wife, a prominent woman in church and social circles.

Case 23, at the age of sixteen, was ordered to appear in court, along with his father, for repeated offenses of loitering about town, and reckless and drunken driving. He was committed to his parents.⁷⁴

This boy was born late in the life of his parents and was much pampered and given too many privileges and too much money to spend.⁷⁵ Though he possessed a good mind, he did not try very hard in his school work after he reached the junior high school level and his grades dropped.

⁷¹Ibid.

⁷²Interview with a Dublin High School faculty member, Dublin, Texas, April 5, 1959.

⁷³Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 35, notation by Erath County Judge.

⁷⁴Ibid.

⁷⁵Interview with a close friend of Case 23, Stephenville, Texas, April 6, 1959.

Case 23 had a winning personality and possessed a host of friends; he was well liked by teachers, and his manners were considered good both to old and young. Always, he was included in social functions of the school and community. He was voted best all-round boy of Stephenville High School in his senior year. He was a star football player throughout his high school years and received a football scholarship to Texas Christian University upon his graduation. However, during his first season he would not study and did not make passing grades; he was dropped from Texas Christian at the end of the first semester.⁷⁶

Case 23 returned to his home town and was idle most of the time. Before spring he was involved in a wreck in which one foot was completely severed. Upon his recovery, he entered Tarleton State College where he registered in Business Administration. There he made a good record, quit drinking, and later married.

Now Case 23 is a successful public official in Erath County, a position he has held for three consecutive terms. He has a daughter and a son and appears to be well-contented and happy.

The parents of Case 26-42 were living together on a farm of 165 acres, which they owned. The mother, a bed-ridden invalid for several years, was completely helpless; she had to

⁷⁶Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 28, 1959.

be lifted and fed by another. At times her mind drifted; her lower jaw was partially paralyzed and her talk was almost unintelligible.

The father was cook, housekeeper, nursemaid, farmer and stock-farmer all in one. An older sister worked as a nurse away from home; a younger brother, along with Case 26, assisted his father with the farm work.⁷⁷

The two brothers, Case 26 and Case 48-50, were poor students in school, barely passing some subjects, failing others. Case 26 quit school in his junior year.⁷⁸

After several minor offenses and warnings from police, Case 26 was charged with theft on March 14, 1942. He was committed to his father with stipulations that he remain at home under the custody and control of his father and obey him.⁷⁹ Two months later he was guilty of burglary. Again, because of conditions at home, Case 26 was committed to his father.⁸⁰

No further record was found of delinquency before he entered the army at the age of nineteen. He was later killed in action in World War II.

Case 28-43 and Case 29-43 are brothers, ages sixteen and

⁷⁷Interview with a neighbor of Case 26, Huckaby, Texas, March 18, 1959.

⁷⁸Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 17, 1959.

⁷⁹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 36.

⁸⁰Ibid.

fourteen. No record was found of a father, whether deceased or whether divorced from the mother. The mother of these two boys and their three younger sisters were living in a three-room house with a man who claimed her as his common law wife. This man tried to eke out an existence as a typewriter repairman, but because of the mode of living of this family, his customers were few. Neighbors declared that the mother "hired" herself out to other men.⁸¹

None of the children were made to attend school; they went when they wanted to go. Case 28 and Case 29 reached the ninth and eighth grades respectively. Their grades were very poor.⁸²

As early as the elementary years these boys were in trouble a number of times for roaming the streets, sneaking into alleys and wandering in the yards of townspeople.⁸³

In April of 1943, the two boys were brought before the court for theft of a bicycle and the sale of the same. They were made to pay the owner and were committed to their mother and an attorney.⁸⁴ The following month they entered a wholesale grocery warehouse and took an unnamed number of cartons of cigarettes, chewing gum, candy, one case of coffee, one case of cookies, and one box of men's work gloves. For this

⁸¹Interview with Chairman of the Red Cross, Stephenville, Texas, April 8, 1959.

⁸²Permanent School Records, Stephenville High School, Stephenville, Texas.

⁸³Interview with a former city policeman, Stephenville, Texas, April 8, 1959.

⁸⁴Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 37.

offense they were committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, May 29, 1943.⁸⁵

Six weeks after their commitment they escaped from State Training School, but they were found early the next morning huddled in a culvert. They were returned to the school where they remained one year. At that time they were released to the custody of a middle-aged, childless farm couple.⁸⁶ Nothing is known of them at the present time.

Case 30-44 once said, "I wish I were better liked by girls and I wish I had enough money for some things some times."⁸⁷ This boy's father, according to a relative, denied him the opportunity to earn enough money to take a girl for sodas or ice cream. The boy had to hurry home to work for his father in his filling station; he was not given an allowance for his work. The boy wanted to do the things his friends did. As he was denied the money, Case 30 did his first stealing from his mother's cookie jar where she kept change.⁸⁸

Case 30 took his next step on the road to delinquency by stealing a .22 rifle. He took the gun, which was strapped to a bicycle, while the owner was in a store buying shells for a rabbit hunt.

⁸⁵Ibid., p. 38.

⁸⁶ Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 16, 1959.

⁸⁷ Interview with a relative of Case 30, Morgan Mill, Texas, April 5, 1959.

⁸⁸Ibid.

On November 5, 1944, Case 30 was charged with theft under \$50.00, a rifle. He was made to pay for the rifle, which he had sold, and was committed to his father, on promise that he would keep his son out of trouble.⁸⁹

Case 31-44 was a twelve year old boy found to be living in deplorable circumstances. The father was gone, his whereabouts unknown. There were two younger brothers and two older sisters, all of whom were living in an unpainted, three room house in the edge of Stephenville. The mother and daughters did washing and ironing for the public in order to support the family. The boys did yardwork when available. There were times when food was meager, and the boys became easy prey to influences of questionable calibre. They started running around with a person who was arrested a number of times for drunkenness and twice on suspicion of burglary.

The three boys started hanging around the local golf links hunting lost balls, which they sold to golfers. They were found pilfering the automobiles parked near the club house and were chased away by the caretaker.⁹⁰

Case 31 was brought before the juvenile court on November 21, 1944, charged with theft of a wallet containing

⁸⁹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 39.

⁹⁰Interview with a former County Attorney, Stephenville, Texas, April 10, 1959.

twenty dollars, taken from the men's locker room at the Golf Club House. He was committed to his mother after return of the money and wallet.⁹¹

On December 12, 1944, he was arrested again for stealing turkeys from a local hatchery. He was paroled to the county attorney.⁹² December 19, 1944, he was again in court "charged with burglary; breaking into a garage, stealing a valuable jack, a number of wrenches and other tools."⁹³ His parole was revoked and he was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, for two years.⁹⁴

The mother of Case 31 and the other children moved to Uvalde while Case 31 was in the correction school. Her brother owned a ranch there and as his wife had died, he asked his sister to keep house for him and his ten-year-old son. Under the happier circumstances to which Case 31 returned, he soon gained confidence in himself and became a willing ranch hand for his uncle.⁹⁵

The father of fourteen-year-old Case 32-45 was by reputation a "no-good scoundrel." Neighbors and acquaintances believed him to be a liar, a drunkard, and a chaser of women. He was a house painter by trade and ordinarily made a good

⁹¹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 40.

⁹²Ibid., p. 41.

⁹³Ibid., p. 42.

⁹⁴Ibid.

⁹⁵Interview with a relative of Case 31, Stephenville, Texas, April 10, 1959.

living, but his occupation took him from home more frequently than he was present.⁹⁶

The mother divorced her husband when he deserted his family, presumably for another woman. The mother, an easy going, uneducated person with a weakness for "going," soon married again. The younger daughter and a twelve-year-old son went with the mother to live. Case 32 and his sixteen-year-old brother were taken by their grandfather, an elderly farmer who lived alone.⁹⁷

The older brother was thought to be a steady, likable boy and got along well in school and was helpful to his grandfather. Case 32 was belligerent and contentious, never being able to get along with his classmates. He made poor grades and claimed his failures did not bother him. He was quarrelsome and said, "The arguments I get into have nothing to do with me, but I just seem to drift into them."⁹⁸

Case 32 was more frequently away from home at night and when questioned by his grandfather, he became abusive and called him bad names.⁹⁹

Soon reports of petty thievery were sent to the

⁹⁶ Interview with Pastor of Assembly of God Church, Stephenville, Texas, April 2, 1959.

⁹⁷ Interview with a neighbor of Case 32, Stephenville, Texas, March 29, 1959.

⁹⁸ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 11, 1959.

⁹⁹ Interview with a relative of Case 32, Stephenville, Texas, April 11, 1959.

grandfather. He was counseled by the county attorney and he struggled to keep the boy straight.¹⁰⁰

On November 26, 1945, Case 32 was brought before the juvenile court charged with passing worthless checks. The grandfather paid the value of the checks and the boy was paroled to him.¹⁰¹

On December 7, 1945, he was arrested and charged with being drunk and carrying a pistol. He was paroled to an attorney-at-law.¹⁰²

Shortly thereafter Case 32 quit school after an argument with one of his teachers and he again turned to delinquency.

On December 15, 1945, Case 32 was charged with "stealing a billfold containing \$42.50 from his grandfather while he slept; theft of an automobile on the same night."¹⁰³ He was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, for a period of three years.¹⁰⁴

Case 32 was released on good behavior from the correction school at the end of the eighteen months. After the first six months his attitude was good and he became interested in radio and electricity. The final six months of his stay he was made a group leader.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁰Interview with a former Erath County attorney, Stephenville, Texas, April 10, 1959.

¹⁰¹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 43.

¹⁰²Ibid., p. 44.

¹⁰³Ibid., p. 45.

¹⁰⁴Ibid.

¹⁰⁵Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

Case 34-46 was the son of a retired peace officer, though he did not serve in Erath County. Little is known of his background as the family came from another section of the state.

At the age of sixteen Case 34 was charged with burglary, theft, and roaming public streets.¹⁰⁶ He was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, April 10, 1946.¹⁰⁷ The records of Case 34 are incomplete at the correction school. Only the parents' names, the offense, date of admittance, and date of release, May 1, 1947, are given.¹⁰⁸

Case 36-46 and Case 37-46 are twin brothers, age fifteen. Their mother died when they were twelve. There is an older sister and a younger brother in the family. The family moved to Stephenville in 1945 from Abilene. The father became a salesman at Wolfe Nursery after farming one year. The twin boys were fair students in school, but they were truant often.¹⁰⁹

Both boys were brought before the juvenile court charged with writing worthless checks; they were declared delinquent April 5, 1946, and were committed to their father.¹¹⁰ A short time later the family left Stephenville.

¹⁰⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 46.

¹⁰⁷Ibid.

¹⁰⁸Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

¹⁰⁹Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, Stephenville, Texas, April 16, 1959.

¹¹⁰Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 47.

The Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School show that Case 36 entered the United States Air Force and served for four years after which he had a good job with Saudia Oil Company. On January 2, 1955, he wrote to the high school principal asking that a transcript of credits be sent to the University of New Mexico where he planned to obtain a degree in Electrical Engineering.

The same record revealed that Case 37 is at the present time serving in the United States Air Force and is stationed at Westover, Massachusetts.¹¹¹

Case 40-49 was reared in a home in which neighbors and friends say strict discipline was maintained. The father worked for the Santa Fe Railway and kept his family of three boys and his wife in comfortable circumstances. All members of the family attended First Baptist Church at Bluff Dale regularly. The oldest brother was at that time teaching and studying for the ministry. Until the offense about to be described, Case 40 and his brother, Case 41-49, one year older, had given no cause for alarm, either at school or in the community. Both had been considered by their friends to be model boys. Though not showing any marked interest in school, both made passing grades; Case 41 showed particular interest in English literature.¹¹²

¹¹¹Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

¹¹²Interview with a teacher and close friend of Cases 41 and 42, Bluff Dale, Texas, April 17, 1959.

On April 19, 1949, Cases 41 and 42 were charged with burglary, breaking into two filling stations and a drug store in Bluff Dale, Texas.¹¹³ Because of their previous records of good behavior, they were committed to their parents after paying for stolen property.¹¹⁴

As far as is known, neither has been in any more trouble. Case 40 is now married and makes his home in Fort Worth where he is employed. Case 41 went on to obtain a B.S. Degree, is married and is the father of two children. He is teaching in Arkansas.¹¹⁵

Little is known of Case 42-49 and Case 43-49 as they were children of transient workers from Dawson County. The two are not related in any way, only companions of like circumstances.

Cases 42 and 43 were charged with habitual burglary on November 18, 1949, and were committed to their parents; each was to report to the sheriff of Dawson County every two weeks and to attend school regularly.¹¹⁶

Sixteen-year-old Case 44-50 was declared delinquent June 17, 1950, "for theft of gasoline from a Gulf storage tank in the value of \$50.00; committed to his parents with

¹¹³Erath County Court Juvenile Records, No. 3 (1947-1958), p. 14.

¹¹⁴Ibid.

¹¹⁵Interview with a teacher and close friend of Cases 41 and 42, Bluff Dale, Texas, April 17, 1959.

¹¹⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., pp. 15-16.

the understanding that he be kept off the public streets at night."¹¹⁷

In the family there were an older brother, a younger brother and two younger sisters. The father had no regular occupation; he worked as a day laborer. He has been declared an alcoholic by doctors. The environment of Case 44 was not conducive to good living. All members lived in an old four-room house outside the city limits of Stephenville. The father beat the children and wife when he was drunk; and the mother, accustomed to the beatings, ceased to care. Though the family attended Green's Creek Baptist Church, the neighbors felt that they "just went." They added that Case 44 was always a problem at church and Sunday School.

The family finally drifted from Stephenville. Case 44 continued with thefts, each being a little bigger than the last. He is now serving a five-year sentence at Huntsville for automobile theft on two counts.¹¹⁸

"Pathetic" can well describe the fifteen-year-old twin boys known as Case 45-50 and Case 46-50. The father was a day laborer and odd-jobber when working at all. Definitely, he was recognized as an alcoholic by police and doctors. The children worked on farms for various people, chopping cotton, hoeing corn, peanuts or doing any type work in season. The

¹¹⁷Ibid., p. 17.

¹¹⁸Interview with two former neighbors of Case 44, Stephenville, Texas, April 20, 1959.

mother worked in cafes whenever she could. The father took every dime he could take away from the wife and children to buy whiskey and beer.¹¹⁹

The twins started stealing food in stores because they were hungry; when caught, the owner was sympathetic and asked police to release them.¹²⁰

On January 18, 1950, the twin boys were brought before the juvenile court for theft, burglary, and robbery. Because of conditions and feelings for the mother, they were paroled to her.¹²¹ However, January 21, 1951, Case 46 was found still delinquent for robbery and was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville.¹²²

On August 22, 1950, Case 45 stole a car and also money under \$50.00. He was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville.¹²³

The mother and father were divorced while the boys were in the correction school and the mother moved to Corpus Christi. After their release from the school in October, 1952, the twins joined her there.

Case 45 succeeded in joining the United States Air Force and was stationed at Laredo, Texas. Through the Air Force

¹¹⁹Interview with Chief of Police, Stephenville, Texas, April 25, 1959.

¹²⁰Interview with a grocer, Stephenville, Texas, April 25, 1959.

¹²¹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 18.

¹²²Ibid., p. 31.

¹²³Ibid., p. 25.

training program, he completed the required courses for graduation and was granted a diploma from Stephenville High School in 1955.¹²⁴ The status of Case 46 is not available.

Case 47-50 is the son of a construction worker who was away from home most of the time. The mother, who acquaintances believed to be a good woman, seemed not to have control over the children, one older boy and one younger girl, and Case 47. This boy started staying out late at night and running with a tough crowd.¹²⁵

Case 47 was involved in several minor disturbances before being apprehended for theft under \$50.00. He was committed to the custody of his mother September 5, 1950.¹²⁶

Case 47 had no interest in school; he was retained for two years in the sixth grade; he was finally promoted because of his size. He was a freshman in high school in the second term when he quit school; he earned no credits.¹²⁷

Case 48-50 was declared delinquent April 29, 1950, on charges of burglary, theft, and carrying a pistol. At the age of fifteen, he was committed to his father provided that the father would keep him on the farm except when in school.¹²⁸

¹²⁴ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 12, 1959.

¹²⁵ Interview with a relative of Case 47, Stephenville, Texas, April 2, 1959.

¹²⁶ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 19.

¹²⁷ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 10, 1959.

¹²⁸ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 20.

Case 48 quit school when he was seventeen and entered the army where he served for three years. After his discharge from the army he was charged with cattle theft and served two years of a five-year sentence in the State Prison.¹²⁹

Case 49-50 involved a fifteen-year-old boy charged with entering into and burglarizing Poston Feed Store in Stephenville. As this was the climax of a trail of petty thefts, he was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, on February 3, 1950.¹³⁰

Investigation revealed an unsettled home life. Acquaintances believed that the father frequented beer taverns and squandered the money he earned by trucking. The mother worked in a laundry. They had recently divorced each other and the father was planning his second marriage. An older sister supplemented the family income by clerking in a variety store.¹³¹

Case 49 was ill-tempered and was frequently involved in disturbances at school. He did not participate in any extra-curricular activities and rebuffed any friendly approaches from classmates. His one class associate was a sulky, impudent, sixteen-year-old boy.¹³²

¹²⁹Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 19, 1959.

¹³⁰Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 21.

¹³¹Interview with Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Stephenville, Texas, April 28, 1959.

¹³²Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 28, 1959.

Case 49 was released from Gatesville in 1952; he was termed a trouble maker. He seldom associated with other boys and was rude to personnel of the school. On several occasions he was involved in fights. He had to be reprimanded on one occasion for tripping in "chow" line.¹³³

Case 50-50 may be termed another example of unhappiness because of conditions in the home. Neighbors knew that the father drank heavily; they thought the mother to be "no good;" she was seen by neighbors with other men. Fifteen-year-old Case 50, an older brother, and two younger brothers were frequently left alone.¹³⁴

At the age of eleven Case 50 was often carried home by the police who found him roaming the streets at night. He was declared delinquent September 25, 1950, for burglary over \$50.00, at Bluff Dale, Texas; drinking intoxicants; reckless driving. He was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, but was paroled to his parents when it was learned that he was ill.¹³⁵

Case 50 was treated in a local hospital. After a few weeks at the age of sixteen, he married. Shortly thereafter he was involved in a robbery, but charges were dropped. Again he was in trouble when he tore open a window at the

¹³³ Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

¹³⁴ Interview with a close friend of Case 50, Stephenville, Texas, April 16, 1959.

¹³⁵ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 22.

Stephenville Hospital Nurses' Home and attempted to drag out a nurse. The police were called and he was arrested. Charges again were dropped when he became desperately ill. It was discovered that he had lung cancer and leukemia. Case 50 died at the age of nineteen.¹³⁶

The parents of 51-50 are what neighbors and friends consider extremely religious people. The father, a house contractor, teaches a class of teenage boys in First Baptist Church; the mother is superintendent of intermediate girls in the same church. Both are of the extreme emotional type. There are two older girls and a younger brother, a delinquent also, in the family; the younger brother is Case 64-52. The mother attended every church and Sunday School service and frequently was away from home every day of the week. As the sisters were married and living in another state, the teenage boys were left without prepared meals and went to the neighborhood grocery store to buy bread and sandwich meats for their meals. The younger, Case 64 suffered from malnutrition before he was ten.¹³⁷

The family never lacked for money as the father provided well for them. He has been responsible for several housing developments and owns many pieces of rental property.

Both boys barely passed much of their school work and

¹³⁶ Interview with Stephenville Hospital admitting clerk, Stephenville, Texas, April 28, 1959.

¹³⁷ Interview with a former pastor of First Baptist Church in Stephenville, Kerrville, Texas, March 17, 1959.

failed in others. Case 51 withdrew from school in his junior year.¹³⁸

"On November 23, 1950, Case 51 was before the County Juvenile Court charged with theft of property. He was committed to his parents and the Chief of Police; he was made to pay for the stolen property."¹³⁹

Through the United States Army Training Program, Case 51 was granted a diploma from Stephenville High School in 1952. He is now married, lives in Los Angeles, California, and he is studying for the ministry.¹⁴⁰

Case 52-50 involves a fourteen-year-old boy who was charged in his first offense "with drunkenness; disorderly conduct in a public place; abusive language and drunken driving."¹⁴¹ On this occasion he was committed to his parents and the Chief of Police.¹⁴²

Two years later he was expelled from school following several disturbances among which were: "being truant; insubordination of school officials; repeated misconduct in class; slapping a teacher in a fit of temper over grades; setting dangerous fireworks in the school building."¹⁴³

¹³⁸Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 20, 1959.

¹³⁹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 23.

¹⁴⁰Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 20, 1959.

¹⁴¹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 24.

¹⁴²Ibid.

¹⁴³Permanent School Record Files of Stephenville High School.

Case 52 was a tall, over-grown type of boy who was always into some kind of trouble. He was the only child of an automobile mechanic and his wife; they seemed to be a good, conscientious couple, doing their best to keep their son straight. At the same time they admit spoiling and pampering their son because, as they claim, he was ill frequently and was hard to manage. At junior high age he started running with a rough crowd and started drinking beer, staying out late at night, and dating girls. He told friends that he was the father of an illegitimate child when he was in his freshman year in high school. Acquaintances knew him as a rough, mean-tempered boy.¹⁴⁴

After being expelled from high school, Case 52 married a sixteen-year-old girl from another town; she gave birth to a child four months after the marriage. After a short time they were separated and Case 52 enlisted in the army. Only a few months later he received a dishonorable discharge. He returned to his wife. Shortly, she was pregnant for the second time. Case 52 left his wife; he soon became a psychopathic patient in a local hospital. Later, he was transferred to a private hospital.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁴Interview with a friend and employer of the father of Case 52, Stephenville, Texas, April 2, 1959.

¹⁴⁵Interview with the parents of Case 52, Stephenville, Texas, April 4, 1959.

"On May 10, 1950, Case 53-50 appeared before the juvenile court his charge being: shooting his father to death with a double barrel shotgun on the morning of May 7, 1950."¹⁴⁶ He was committed to the State Training School at Gatesville. This commitment was revoked May 31, 1950, and Case 53 was committed to Wichita Falls State Hospital.¹⁴⁷

Investigation revealed that the forty-five-year-old father, a big, handsome brunet, who worked at Convair in Fort Worth, was having affairs with two women in Fort Worth. Case 53 had been brooding for several days and following a correction for insubordination by the father, Case 53 took the shotgun from his room and shot his father as he approached the house. Further investigation revealed that the mother's name had been linked with that of another man.¹⁴⁸

While waiting for admittance on the first commitment, Case 53 became ill and was carried to a local hospital. Doctors declared a complete emotional, mental breakdown; therefore the commitment was changed to Wichita State Hospital.¹⁴⁹

School records reveal the story of a trouble maker, hot-headed and constantly having trouble with his teachers and

¹⁴⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 25.

¹⁴⁷Ibid.

¹⁴⁸Interview with Erath County Sheriff, Stephenville, Texas, April 12, 1959.

¹⁴⁹Interview with Admitting Clerk, Stephenville Hospital, Stephenville, Texas, April 10, 1959.

classmates. He quit Stephenville High School in February of 1950, and entered school at Alexander.¹⁵⁰

Sixteen-year-old Case 54-50 lived in the town of Dublin with his mother and step-father, a day laborer. Neighbors called the step-parent the "town loafer." In 1949, Case 54 quit school because he said he could not get along with the teachers and most of his schoolmates avoided him.¹⁵¹ He said of himself, "I lose my temper too many times; I get nervous and excited easily; I chew my fingernails; I think too much about sex in many ways."¹⁵²

After he quit school, Case 54 could be found any hour of the day or night loafing on a drug store corner or in the pool hall. He was involved in a number of minor offenses and had been warned by the police. Twice he was held for drunkenness.¹⁵³

"On April 16, 1950, (Case 54) was charged with being obnoxious to three girls; committed to his mother and a deputy sheriff."¹⁵⁴ "On June 24, 1950, (Case 54) was charged with sodomy; committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville."¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁰Permanent School Records of Stephenville High School.

¹⁵¹Interview with Superintendent of Schools, Dublin, Texas, April 16, 1959.

¹⁵²Permanent School Records of Dublin High Schools, Dublin, Texas.

¹⁵³Interview with a city policeman, Dublin, Texas, April 16, 1959.

¹⁵⁴Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 26.

¹⁵⁵Ibid., p. 27.

Case 54 was released from the State Correction School on November 15, 1950. His behavior was normal and he was obedient to his group leaders and officials.¹⁵⁶

As the son of a share-cropper, Case 55-50 found the lack of money a source of worry. He was restless to get out of school and get a job. He had a hard time with some of his teachers and found classes dull. His freshman and sophomore years were mostly failures; he was absent frequently and often was involved in fights at school. Once he was suspended for three days for fighting in the school cafeteria. Case 55 finally quit school in 1950.¹⁵⁷

Case 55 was brought before the juvenile court June 20, 1950, charged "with petty theft; shoplifting; drunkenness; committed to the custody of his parents and an officer."¹⁵⁸

As far as is known, he has not been in any more trouble. The last that was heard of him he was in the United States Air Force, stationed at Corpus Christi.

Case 56-50, the fifteen-year-old son of a poultry farmer, was caught April 19, 1950, setting fire to a cotton gin "for the kicks." The father paid damages and Case 56 was committed to the parents.¹⁵⁹ However, the parents were not able to

¹⁵⁶ Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

¹⁵⁷ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, Stephenville, Texas, April 22, 1959.

¹⁵⁸ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 28.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 29.

control their son and on July 5, 1950, he was charged with stealing an automobile and attempting to leave the state. The case was re-opened and Case 56 was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville.¹⁶⁰

Case 56 did not give trouble while at the State Correction School. He was very co-operative and was assigned duties as a play group leader. He was released April 15, 1951.¹⁶¹

Upon his return to his home town, Case 56 entered high school and did commendable work. He started playing basketball and entered into other extra-curricular activities. He was graduated from high school in May, 1955.¹⁶²

This fourteen-year-old girl, Case 57-51, after many warnings from police officers, was brought before the juvenile court on September 12, October 15, November 6, 1950, on immoral charges.¹⁶³

On January 2, 1951, Case 57 appeared before the juvenile court charged with immoral conduct; staying out at night with men and boys; driving her car to Mineral Wells for purpose of immoral conduct with soldiers stationed at Camp Walters; taken by force by officers from boys' dormitories at Tarleton State College; found in boys' shower room at high school; picked up in the city park in company with four boys. Committed to her parents under court restraints.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶⁰Ibid., p. 30.

¹⁶¹Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

¹⁶²Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 22, 1959.

¹⁶³Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 31.

¹⁶⁴Ibid., p. 32.

The father of Case 57 made a comfortable living, owning and operating a fleet of trailer trucks. Other family members were her older sister, who was married at this time, and her mother. The father pampered and spoiled Case 57, lavishing her with expensive gifts and a late model car of her own. The father drank heavily and his "stag" garage apartment was raided more than once for gaming. The mother spent much of her time in playing bridge and attending parties. Friends considered her to be a border-line alcoholic.¹⁶⁵

On the night of January 31, 1952, the mother was shot to death in the bedroom of her home and Case 57 was shot in the right arm and right thigh. According to witnesses who were gambling in the garage apartment, the father was playing cards with them. The popular belief was that Case 57 killed her mother and attempted to take her own life. However, the father confessed to the murder, insisting that it was he. For the crime, he received a twenty-year sentence in the State Prison.¹⁶⁶

Case 57 was released from a local hospital on February 15, 1952, to the custody of her married sister and went to San Antonio to live. She became "ungovernable and incorrigible; committed to Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, August 1, 1951."¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁵ Interview with an attorney and neighbor of Case 57, Stephenville, Texas, April 6, 1959.

¹⁶⁶ Interview with an Erath County deputy sheriff, Stephenville, Texas, April 1, 1959.

¹⁶⁷ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 33.

Case 57 was released from the State Correction School, May 30, 1953, at the age of seventeen. When she was admitted to the correction school, Case 57 was sulky and refused to eat, saying that the food was not comparable to what she was accustomed to eating. She lost weight considerably. Later she became a model girl. Because of her ability and her former brilliant school record, she was given a place to work in the office of the superintendent and was very efficient in her work.¹⁶⁸

The offense brought against Case 58-51 was "intoxicated by the immoderate use of liquor and assaulting an officer with a dirk knife, a dangerous weapon."¹⁶⁹ Case 58, a sixteen-year-old boy, was committed to the custody of his mother on March 5, 1951.¹⁷⁰

The location of the father of this boy was unknown; Case 58 lived with his mother and step-father on a modest farm in the southern portion of Erath County; he had no siblings. As far as neighbors knew, Case 58 had never been involved in delinquency before this time. He has gone straight since that time, is married, has one daughter and works at Convair, Fort Worth.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁸ Interview with a former staff member of Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, Texas, April 30, 1959.

¹⁶⁹ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 34.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

¹⁷¹ Interview with a relative of Case 58, Alexander, Texas, April 26, 1959.

There are eight children in the family of Case 59-51. The father is a truck farmer; his chief crop is blackeyed peas which he sells wholesale. Friends believe that the mother is a lackadaisical woman who shrugs away the burdens of the world. Neighbors confirm the fact that the father is cruel to his children, being unreasonable in the demands he makes of them in working on the farm.

Bad environment is the background of these children. One instance of this is found in an uncle of Case 59. The uncle was convicted of killing a man and was given a ninety-nine year sentence to the State Prison. He was paroled after five years; then he killed a policeman in Houston, Texas, for which he is now serving a life sentence.¹⁷²

With this background, Case 59, age fourteen, "was brought before the juvenile court on October 9, 1951, charged with immoral acts on several counts; commitment to her parents."¹⁷³

"On September 25, 1952, Case 60-52, age fourteen, stole a motor bike and attempted to take same out of Erath County with intent to deprive the owner thereof."¹⁷⁴ For this act he was committed to the custody of his parents for an indeterminate period.¹⁷⁵

The father of Case 60 is a garage mechanic, the mother a housewife. Both parents are active members of First Baptist

¹⁷² Interview with a grocer and neighbor of Case 59, Tolar, Texas, April 3, 1959.

¹⁷³ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 35.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 36.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

Church. Also in the family are two younger sisters and a twin brother who was frequently involved in episodes with Case 60 but not seriously enough to be declared delinquent.¹⁷⁶

Case 60 was often in trouble at school and on an occasion was made to appear before the school board because of taking money from classmates under false pretenses, smoking cigars on a school bus and committing acts unbecoming the pattern of conduct set for boys and girls.

On another occasion he took flaps from bicycles parked at the school building; was truant for several days in succession and was finally expelled from school for insubordination.¹⁷⁷

The offense of burglary in Bluff Dale, Texas, April 15, 1952, was the charge against Case 61-52 and Case 62-52, ages fifteen and twelve respectively. They were given into the custody of their parents.¹⁷⁸

These brothers lived in Tolar, Texas; the father is operator of a small gas station. Neither boy liked to go to school and they were truant often; their grades were poor.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁶ Interview with a close friend of the parents of Case 60, Stephenville, Texas, April 4, 1959.

¹⁷⁷ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 29, 1959.

¹⁷⁸ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., pp. 37 and 38.

¹⁷⁹ Interview with a faculty member of Tolar Schools, Tolar, Texas, April 3, 1959.

Acquaintances think their delinquency began with stealing candy and cigarettes from their father's station. Only a few weeks after their appearance in court, the two boys ran away from home and were gone two weeks before being found in Oklahoma as they attempted to break into a small cafe. An uncle and an aunt brought them back to Texas and took over their care.¹⁸⁰

Fourteen-year-old Case 63-52 was charged with theft of a motor bike and money on September 25, 1952. He was committed to his parents.¹⁸¹

Case 63 lived with his parents, a smaller brother and a sister one year older than he. Neighbors said the parents quarreled violently at times and they thought that the two were on the verge of separation. However, after the trouble of Case 63, the parents remained together after counsel of the county judge.¹⁸²

The school record of Case 63 was not good; only failing grades were recorded in high school. His attendance was erratic. On numerous occasions he was reported for stealing money and articles. He quit school the second term of his freshman year and the family moved to Lubbock.¹⁸³

¹⁸⁰ Interview with a grocer and neighbor of the parents of Cases 61 and 62, Tolar, Texas, April 3, 1959.

¹⁸¹ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 39.

¹⁸² Interview with a neighbor of Case 63, Stephenville, Texas, April 10, 1959.

¹⁸³ Permanent Record Files, Stephenville High School.

Case 64-52 is the fifteen-year-old brother of Case 51-50. His charge was "theft of property over \$50.00, that of a rifle valued at \$92.50, and selling same."¹⁸⁴ He was committed to his parents and the Stephenville Chief of Police after the parents paid for the stolen property.¹⁸⁵

Case 64 was frequently in trouble for misconduct in school; at one time he was officially reprimanded for hazing; again he was on probation for leaving school without permission. He quit school in his senior year.¹⁸⁶

At the age of fifteen, Case 65-52 was brought before the juvenile court for "molesting girls under five years of age, undressing and examining them."¹⁸⁷ He was committed to his parents and the county attorney.¹⁸⁸

The father of Case 65 works on a dairy farm for a local physician and lives there with his wife, the son, and two younger daughters. Case 65 attended church regularly while in high school; when he was a sophomore, he was licensed to preach in the Methodist faith. He preached for several rural churches during his junior and senior years. He became a fanatic on the subject of religion and at length came to be regarded as peculiar.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁴Brath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 40.

¹⁸⁵Ibid.

¹⁸⁶Permanent Record Files, Stephenville High School.

¹⁸⁷Brath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 41.

¹⁸⁸Ibid.

¹⁸⁹Interview with a local physician, Stephenville, Texas, April 11, 1959.

This boy was and still is extremely fat and has a lisp in his speech. Because of his evident peculiarities he has had few friends. However, he made good grades in school.

In 1955, Case 65 went into the army; after a few months he was discharged as a split personality.¹⁹⁰

In 1957, Case 65 overturned his car and was hospitalized for two weeks. It was determined that he had been drinking at the time.¹⁹¹

Case 65 now drives an old car about town, does not have steady employment and again is attempting to preach.

Case 66-52 is a brother of Case 59-51. At juvenile court he was charged with burglary in Bluff Dale, Texas, on April 16, 1952. He was committed to his mother.¹⁹² He was sixteen at the time of his commitment.

Case 66 lived under like conditions of his sister. Neighbors say that he started being out at night and roaming the countryside at the age of nine. He began running around with Cases 61 and 62; they began taking small items, then articles of more value before the recorded case of burglary. Case 66 ran away from home shortly after his trouble. As far as neighbors can determine, his location is not known.¹⁹³

¹⁹⁰Interview with Chairman of the Red Cross, Stephenville, Texas, April 4, 1959.

¹⁹¹Interview with a local physician, op. cit.

¹⁹²Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 42.

¹⁹³Interview with a grocer and neighbor of Case 66, Tolar, Texas, April 3, 1959.

Case 67-52 lived in the Dublin Community. He may be termed the product of a broken home. Neighbors called the father an alcoholic and a "woman chaser" who deserted the wife and only child four years after his birth. The mother worked at a soda fountain in one of the city drug stores. Case 67 was left in the care of a neighbor during the mother's working hours. When Case 67 was ten, the mother married again, this time to a truck driver who was away from home much of the time.

Without much parental control, Case 67 began staying late at night on the streets and loitering in the pool hall. When he was fourteen, he began dating a girl; they started going steady. The parents of the girl objected to this courtship and forbade the girl to go with him.¹⁹⁴

On December 11, 1952, Case 67 appeared before the juvenile court charged with the offense of "kidnapping and concealing from the control and custody of her lawful parents, a girl under fifteen."¹⁹⁵ For this act he was committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville.¹⁹⁶

At the end of three months in the correction school, Case 67 stole away in the night. Officers believed that he would try to contact the girl and had her home under observation.

¹⁹⁴Interview with a druggist and employer of the mother of Case 67, Dublin, Texas, April 16, 1959.

¹⁹⁵Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 43.

¹⁹⁶Ibid.

He was caught as he tried to break into the window of her bedroom.

Case 67 was returned to the correction school where he remained for six months without any further trouble. He was released to his mother, who had moved to San Angelo, Texas.¹⁹⁷

Case 68-52, age fifteen, was brought before the juvenile court charged with burglary in Bluff Dale, Texas. He was committed to his father for two years.¹⁹⁸

The parents of Case 68 were poor but hardworking farmers. There was little money to spend aside from the bare necessities. Neighbors were surprised when the boy got into trouble because they had considered him to be a considerate, polite boy both to his parents and friends. His conduct at school was above reproach and his grades were average. As far as is known, he has not been implicated in any more trouble.¹⁹⁹

Case 69-52 is unique in that the two charges brought against him are so vastly different. "On the same night, April 16, 1952, he entered into and burglarized the community drug store at Bluff Dale and a few hours later shot into the caboose of a Santa Fe freight train, wounding the conductor.²⁰⁰ Case 69 claimed that he and two others were hunting rabbits in

¹⁹⁷ Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

¹⁹⁸ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 44.

¹⁹⁹ Interview with Principal of Tolar High School, Tolar, Texas, April 3, 1959.

²⁰⁰ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 45.

a pasture when the train passed by; he fired to see if he could hit a window in the caboose."²⁰¹

Case 69 was ordinarily an unusually quiet boy, never causing any trouble during his elementary years at Bluff Dale. Though his grades were never high, he did passing work until his sophomore year at Stephenville. After this episode his grades declined and he was absent frequently.²⁰²

The parents of Case 69 were thought to be good, Christian people, living on a combination goat ranch and farm; the father also worked at Convair. There was a brother five years older than Case 69. The brother had never been in any trouble and was a steady worker.²⁰³

Case 70-52 appeared before the juvenile court April 16, 1952, charged with burglary at Bluff Dale, Texas. He was committed to his father.²⁰⁴ "He was involved with Case 69 in the burglary of the drug store; though he was with Case 69 at the time of the shooting at the train, he was not involved in that."²⁰⁵

The parents of Case 70 lived on a poultry farm and supplied their son and two younger daughters with sufficient

²⁰¹ Ibid., notation by Erath County Judge.

²⁰² Interview with a former teacher in the Bluff Dale Schools, Stephenville, Texas, April 20, 1959.

²⁰³ Interview with a neighbor of Case 69, Bluff Dale, Texas, April 6, 1959.

²⁰⁴ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 46.

²⁰⁵ Ibid., notation by Erath County Judge.

money for their adolescent pleasures. There was no reason for his offense from a money angle nor apparently for any home condition. Friends believed the family to be compatible and happily situated. They took part in their community affairs and shared responsibilities in their church.²⁰⁶

There are five children in the family of Case 71-52, he being the third child. There was little money in the family, for the father was a disabled veteran living chiefly from a government pension. However, they did some farming on a rented place. Little encouragement was given for schooling; neither father nor mother passed the seventh grade. These children attended school when they wanted to do so. Naturally, their grades reflected the neglect.²⁰⁷

On April 16, 1952, Case 71 was brought before the juvenile court charged with "theft of automobile accessories in the amount over \$50.00; commitment to the father."²⁰⁸

Associated with Case 71 was Case 72-52. It is possible that he was a product of his environment. The father was a big, burly, rough, cursing man who neighbors thought drank quite heavily. He operated a bull-dozer, engaged in clearing cedar from ranch properties. The mother was of Latin-American descent and her character was questionable. There were two

²⁰⁶ Interview with a friend of the family of Case 70, Bluff Dale, Texas, April 6, 1959.

²⁰⁷ Interview with a teacher of Bluff Dale Schools, Bluff Dale, Texas, April 6, 1959.

²⁰⁸ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 47.

older brothers and two younger sisters in the family. Schooling was unimportant to the lot of them. Though the father made enough money for comforts, there is room for doubt that he gave allowances to the children.²⁰⁹

Case 72 appeared before the juvenile court for the following offense: "April 16, 1952, the offense of theft of automobile accessories in the amount of over \$50.00; commitment to the father."²¹⁰

The mother of Case 73-53 is dead; the father, a mechanic, lives in Fort Worth. Sixteen-year-old Case 73 lived with his elderly grandfather. There were five younger brothers, two of whom lived with the grandfather; the other three lived with uncles and aunts. Following the death of their mother, the brothers were kicked around from one family to another. The father moved to Fort Worth when Case 73 was in the sixth grade. The father later married again and took the younger brothers to live with him, leaving Case 73 to live with his aged grandfather.

The grandfather told friends that he was too old to keep up with his charge and that the child roamed the streets at night and began smoking at age eleven. He also told friends that the boy admitted drinking beer at age thirteen.²¹¹

²⁰⁹Interview with a neighbor of Case 72, Morgan Mill, Texas, April 7, 1959.

²¹⁰Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 48.

²¹¹Interview with a close friend of the grandfather of Case 73, Selden, Texas, April 12, 1958.

On January 11, 1953, Case 73 was brought before the juvenile court charged with:

Burglarizing the Stephenville Auction Barn Cafe in the daytime; commitment to the grandfather. Upon request from the grandfather, disposition was made to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas. Upon plea from an uncle, Sweetwater, Texas, former commitment revoked; committed to the uncle.²¹²

On May 29, 1953, Case 74-53 appeared before the juvenile court for the following offenses:

A repeated incorrigible; immoral acts with men; staying out all night with men; drinking intoxicating liquor; having a venereal disease; frequenting a place where intoxicating liquors are sold; commitment made to Girls' State Training School at Gainesville, Texas, May 29, 1953.²¹³

Neighbors and acquaintances think that the background of this delinquent is bad. Her home life was not conducive to happy living. This child was born four months after her parents were married. There are three sisters and one brother, all younger than she. The father had no profession nor regular occupation; he worked at odd jobs. The mother worked as a waitress in cafes between pregnancies. Friends termed the father as alcoholic and abusive to the family. He ran with "bad women" and became a syphilitic which eventually caused partial paralysis, and his mind was affected.

Case 74 started roaming the streets and staying out at night while her mother worked on night shifts. When questioned

²¹²Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 49.

²¹³Ibid., p. 50.

about her late hours by her father, when he cared, she would tell him "to shut up," that it was not any of his business.

By the time she reached junior high school age, Case 74 was unmanageable and was consorting with men and drinking liquor. Her mother felt that the girl needed to be away from the family and asked the maternal grandmother to take her. The situation was not any better because the grandmother was very immoral, also. The history of the grandmother was just as bad as that of the granddaughter. Neighbors said she helped cover up for Dan White in the Crockett Ross Murder Case, and that she kept and hid "the loot" of the thefts Dan White and his nephew made.²¹⁴

The behavior of Case 74 while in the State Correctional School was bad. She was sulky and cursed attendants and teachers, using foul language with other inmates. After six months, when she learned she was there to stay until she could govern herself, her behavior was better and she learned fast in school. She was released from the training school in June, 1955.²¹⁵

Case 75-53 was a companion of Case 73 and involved in the same offense: "January 11, 1953, charged with burglarizing the Stephenville Auction Barn Cafe in the daytime; commitment to his mother."²¹⁶

²¹⁴ Interview with a neighbor of Case 74 and a jury member, Morgan Mill, Texas, April 7, 1959.

²¹⁵ Interview with a former staff member of Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, Texas, April 30, 1959.

²¹⁶ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 51.

The father of this fifteen-year-old boy was a construction worker and the family moved from one town to another frequently. Case 75 and his three younger sisters and one younger brother had attended several schools before coming to Stephenville in 1952. Case 75 evidenced no interest in school and made poor grades the two years he was in Stephenville High School. He seemed to prefer to associate with the rougher boys. As a gang they were involved in fights, throwing at cars, putting soap on windows and doing other unacceptable things. The father died in the spring of 1953 and the mother moved with her children to Mullin, Texas.²¹⁷

An orphan boy, Case 76-53 lived with his grandmother. His parents had died before he was ten and his lot in life had been sad. The grandmother provided the best she could for the boy, but her income was very small. Also, she was ill much of the time.

Case 76 began running around with the "toughies" of the town, getting his spending money by questionable means. He began smoking at about twelve years of age and told of taking drinks when they were offered to him by older boys. He began taking things when they were loose and convenient. These articles he sold for whatever he could get for them.²¹⁸

²¹⁷ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, May 1, 1959.

²¹⁸ Interview with a neighbor and close friend of the grandmother of Case 76, Stephenville, Texas, May 3, 1959.

Case 76 was finally brought before the juvenile court April 23, 1953, for the offense of "theft on three counts. To the best interests of the child commitment made to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas."²¹⁹

Fifteen-year-old Case 77 was brought before the juvenile court on February 9, 1954, charged with "habitually roaming the public streets of Stephenville at all hours of the night and by reason of having stolen a 1946 Ford Convertible from the owner with intent to defraud her of the value thereof. Commitment made to the parents."²²⁰

Friends thought that the family members of Case 77 were good. The two younger brothers and one younger sister had never been in trouble. They were considered to be normal children who did well in school and attended regularly.²²¹

Case 77 was truant frequently and after entering the freshman class in high school, he had failed consistently. He was made to stay in the detention hall on several occasions, because of misconduct in classes. Also, on two occasions he had taken cash from the concession stand operated by the student council.²²²

²¹⁹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 52.

²²⁰Ibid., p. 53.

²²¹Interview with a neighbor of Case 77, Stephenville, Texas, May 5, 1959.

²²²Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, May 5, 1959.

After his appearance before and charge by the juvenile court, Case 77 withdrew from school and obtained a job milking cows for a dairyman. He was fired from this job for failure to carry out his duties.²²³

Later, Case 77 got a job in a gas station; this job he held only a few days, for he was caught putting gas into his own car without intent to make a ticket. He left Stephenville to live with an uncle in Galveston.²²⁴

Fifteen-year-old Case 78-54 is the only son in a family consisting of the mother, father, and two older sisters. Long time friends of the family consider the parents to be good and also to be staunch Christians, doing everything they could to guide their children in the way of good living. They seemed to be successful in this attempt with the two sisters but a miserable failure with their son. On several occasions Case 78 did bodily harm to his father.

Case 78 was a pleasant mannered and mild looking youth; he was considered good-looking and treated neighbors and acquaintances pleasantly, but he appeared to have a hatred for his parents, particularly his father.²²⁵

On April 12, 1954, Case 78 appeared before the juvenile court guided by a deputy sheriff and in company of his parents.

²²³ Interview with an employer of Case 77, Stephenville, Texas, May 3, 1959.

²²⁴ Interview with an employer of Case 77, Stephenville, Texas, May 7, 1959.

²²⁵ Interview with a teacher and neighbor of Case 78, Stephenville, Texas, May 9, 1959.

The following accumulated offenses were charged against him:

Often assaulted his father and mother; habitually loafed upon the public streets at all hours of the night; violated the speed laws; had his driver's license cancelled but continued to drive and to operate an automobile; On April 10, 1954, assaulted two deputy sheriffs with an automobile and attempted to run down said officers in a wild, reckless race at high speeds above 80 miles per hour. Upon the plea of the parents, commitment made to them.²²⁶

Case 78 was termed "a spoiled brat" by some neighbors. His sisters were devoted to him and gave in to his every whim. The parents own and operate a large Jersey dairy farm and did their best in giving their children material things.

After Case 78 was declared delinquent, his parents worked out a plan whereby he was made a partner in the operation of the dairy and received a share of the profits rather than an allowance. Responsibility seemed to have its effect. He began "going steady" with a ranch girl and he worked harder in school.²²⁷

This youth was not adjusted in school and was frequently "on the mat" for discourtesy to teachers and for class disturbances. On numerous occasions he was caught cheating on tests and a few things were taken that did not belong to him.

Case 78 graduated from high school in 1956 and went on to Tarleton State College. He is at present working for an oil company in Houston, Texas.²²⁸

²²⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 54.

²²⁷Interview with two neighbors of Case 78, Stephenville, Texas, May 11, 1959.

²²⁸Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, May 8, 1959.

The parents of Case 79-55 had a moderate income; they owned and operated a neighborhood grocery store. The son and a younger daughter were their only children. Neither the father nor the mother had ever been known to drink nor to take what was not their own; they were considered to be honest business people.²²⁹

Case 79 was declared delinquent on May 2, 1955, because of "theft under \$50.00; roaming the streets at night; speeding; drinking intoxicants. Commitment made to the father."²³⁰

In school Case 79 had a list of offenses attached to his name, among them; refusing to meet classes, study halls or detention; use of foul language; forged father's name to excuses; fighting in the school gym.²³¹ Case 79 failed most of his courses his freshman year and was repeating the same courses the following year. After three weeks of the sophomore year he was asked to withdraw for fighting on the campus and for taking materials and tools from the school agriculture shop.²³²

Case 79 does nothing constructive; he is seen driving recklessly about town and is often intoxicated. As long as he has a car and money, he seems not to care for society.

²²⁹Interview with a business associate of the father of Case 79, Stephenville, Texas, May 13, 1959.

²³⁰Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 55.

²³¹Permanent School Record Files of Stephenville High School.

²³²Ibid.

Case 80-55 was often in the company of Case 79. On July 12, 1955, he was charged with "petty thieving, being intoxicated in a public place. Commitment made to the parents."²³³

Though the father once served on the police force, his ways could not be considered as being those which a son should follow. He had been known to be drunk on numerous occasions and to be boisterous and loud. The mother was uneducated, dull and coarse. Uncles and aunts on either side were considered to be "drinkers and defiers of the law."²³⁴

A curious thing to be noted about this case is that the father had a few years before been converted into the Baptist faith; yet the Minister of Church of Christ took a great deal of interest in this boy and through conferences with the county judge and the high school principal, he worked out a plan for attempted correction of the youth.²³⁵

Though approximately twelve conditions of his release are on record, only three will be mentioned because of their unusual stipulations, namely: "Any infraction or disobedience of regulations subject to: first offense, fifteen days in jail; second offense, ninety days in jail; third offense, commitment to reform school."²³⁶

²³³Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 56.

²³⁴Interview with a policeman, Stephenville, Texas, May 14, 1959.

²³⁵Interview with Minister of Church of Christ, Stephenville, Texas, May 12, 1959.

²³⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 56.

Case 81-56 came before the juvenile court charged with "breaking into Western Auto Store and taking automobile accessories and a radio; was made to pay for stolen property and committed to the parents."²³⁷

Case 81 is the son of a carpenter-mechanic. The father and mother are members of United Pentecostal Church; Case 81 is a Baptist; the three younger brothers are not members of a church. Case 81 complained to neighbors that his father was too busy to be bothered with him, would not take him fishing nor go to ball games with him. The father claimed he did not realize that his son wanted to include him in his daily routine; he admitted his mistake and promised to begin "living" with his children.²³⁸

Case 81 did not seem to care for school; most of the time he was barely passing and had been retained in the seventh grade. His associates from the time of the fifth grade were the "toughies" of the town, thinking it smart to smoke and curse. In ward and junior high school he was involved in unruly conduct and mischievous pranks; often he had to stay after school for smoking in the boys' restroom.²³⁹

Case 82-56 involved an eleven-year-old boy who lived in Dublin, Texas. He was a companion of Case 89-56, both

²³⁷Ibid., p. 57.

²³⁸Interview with a neighbor of Case 81, Stephenville, Texas, May 3, 1959.

²³⁹Interview with Principal of Stephenville Junior High School, May 4, 1959.

involved in the same offense. On September 18, 1956, Case 82 was charged with "being incorrigible; being truant; roaming the public streets; breaking into a feed store and a department store in Dublin, Texas. Committed to Buckner Boys' Ranch, Burnet, Texas."²⁴⁰

Neighbors say that the child has both parents living, though neither has done much toward making their children good citizens. They also say that the father is a bootlegger, making whiskey and selling it; that he is an alcoholic and spends much time in jail. It has been rumored that he has burned some houses.

There is an older brother and a younger brother and sister in the family. The older brother graduated from Dublin High School, and it is said that the neighbors furnished him his suit for the graduation exercises.

The mother took the two younger children and ran away with another man. She returned later and left the younger brother with the other members.²⁴¹

The superintendent of Buckner Boys' Ranch writes of Case 82:

The mother has been out of the home since 1953. Father a ner-do-well alcoholic. When I interviewed Case 82, he and his little sister were having to do all their cooking and laundry; living in a shack outside Dublin. Nothing conducive to normal life whatsoever.

²⁴⁰Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 58.

²⁴¹Interview with two neighbors of Case 82, Dublin, Texas, April 26, 1959.

Case 82 has made a wonderful adjustment and to prove his success, the Junior High School of Burnet, Texas, voted him Mr. Junior High School of 1959. He has been outstanding in athletics and is a definite proof that most boys will succeed if given the opportunity in time. Is still here - will be here through high school if he so desires.³⁴²

On March 26, 1956, Case 83-56 was charged with "roaming public streets at night; being intoxicated and committing theft under \$50.00. Commitment made to the mother."²⁴³

Case 83 is probably the product of a broken home. The father was a truck driver who had married again after his divorce from the mother. She also had remarried, and Case 83 and his younger sister and younger step-sister lived with his mother and the step-father. The family originally came from Tooele, Utah, in January of 1956. These children had a history of frequent moving. Case 83 told neighbors that he was discontented with his home life; he did not like his step-father; he was jealous of his step-sister whom he claimed got all the attention. He started staying away from home late at night so that his step-father would be in bed when he got home.²⁴⁴

The grades of Case 83 were good in elementary and junior high school. In the freshman and sophomore years they were poor;

²⁴²A letter from the Superintendent of Buckner Boys' Ranch, Burnet, Texas, April 24, 1959.

²⁴³Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 59.

²⁴⁴Interview with a neighbor of Case 83, Stephenville, Texas, April 29, 1959.

his attendance became erratic. Case 83 quit school in his sophomore year and moved to Fort Worth.²⁴⁵

Case 84-56 was charged on October 6, 1956, with "breaking into Western Auto Store; taking automobile accessories and a radio. Committed to the parents."²⁴⁶

Nothing of his history is available other than the fact that his parents were living together; the father was a carpenter; he had three brothers and two sisters.

Case 85-56 was charged on April 27, 1956, with "D.W.I.; damage of property of another. Committed to the parents."²⁴⁷

Seventeen-year-old Case 85 was a good looking youth of high intelligence. His grades in school were in the upper quartile and he was a participant in several extra-curricular activities; he was particularly active in band. He was outstanding in mathematics courses. His associates were of the best students in high school and his bosom friend was a leader of youth in First Christian Church.²⁴⁸

The father of Case 85 was a jeweler, past middle age, who suffered from heart disease. His mother, though small and hunch-backed as a result of an injury in childhood, holds a responsible position with Gulf States Telephone Company in

²⁴⁵Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

²⁴⁶Grath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 60.

²⁴⁷Ibid., p. 61.

²⁴⁸Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, May 16, 1959.

Stephenville. They are in comfortable circumstances. The mother is closely related to a well-known uranium magnate in Utah and she holds shares in his mine. Both parents are active in church work and attend regularly.

Case 85 is attending Texas Western College and is an engineer major in his junior year. He was on the Dean's Distinguished Student List the fall of 1958.²⁴⁹

Case 86-56 was charged with "theft under \$50.00; roaming public streets at night; being intoxicated. Commitment made to the parents."²⁵⁰ This youth was in the company of Case 83-56.

The family consisting of husband, wife, and five sons, ages sixteen, fifteen, ten, seven, and three, lived on a farm in the Johnsville community, approximately ten miles southeast of Stephenville. The father at that time drove a truck and was away from home much of the time. Neighbors say he drank quite heavily. The mother told her friends that it was hard to keep check on the activities of all her children.

Case 86 started running with "toughies" in junior high school and was involved in taking things belonging to other students. He liked to "hot-rod" and "drag-race."²⁵¹

Though Case 86 was mentally alert and capable of doing good work in school, he lacked interest. In February of 1957,

²⁴⁹ Interview with an uncle of Case 85, Stephenville, Texas, May 5, 1959.

²⁵⁰ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 62.

²⁵¹ Interview with a neighbor of Case 86, Johnsville, Texas, April 23, 1959.

he was asked to withdraw because of fighting, cutting classes, and using abusive language to a teacher.²⁵²

"On June 3, 1959, the mother of (Case 86) murdered her husband because he came home drunk from a trip to Bryan, Texas."²⁵³

Case 87-56 involves a fifteen-year-old boy charged with "forging three checks in excess of twenty dollars; taking two tires from an automobile, and robbing a coke machine. Committed to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas."²⁵⁴

The father of Case 87 has lived away from his family for a number of years; his present address is not known. The mother supported herself and her son by clerking in a store. Little is known of the social or family history of Case 87 as they are newcomers to Erath County.²⁵⁵

On October 24, 1956, Case 88-56 faced the following charges:

Habitually roaming the public streets at all hours of the night; associates with immoral persons; indulges in promiscuous sexual intercourse with various men and boys and is incorrigible. Committed to Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, Texas.²⁵⁶

In the family of Case 88 there are an older brother, an older sister, and two younger sisters. The father is retired

²⁵² Interview with a neighbor of Case 86, Johnsville, Texas, April 23, 1959.

²⁵³ Stephenville Daily Empire, June 4, 1959, Sec. 1, p. 1.

²⁵⁴ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 63.

²⁵⁵ Interview with employer of mother of Case 87, May 15, 1959.

²⁵⁶ Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 64.

on Social Security. Associates say that the father and mother spend most of this money in Mingus taverns. They depend on Public Welfare to pay their hospital bills. The county paid the bill of Case 88 for treatment of a social disease. The girl had an illegitimate child before going to the correction school.²⁵⁷

In school, Case 88 was constantly in trouble; she would not do anything the junior high school principal asked her to do. When the parents were called in for consultation, she would tell them "to shut up." At one time she was involved in a gang fight and carried a knife concealed in her brassiere.²⁵⁸

Case 88 was admitted to Girls' State Training School on November 1, 1956. When first admitted, she caused trouble in the cottage in which she was placed. She tried to cause a rebellion against the school and attempted to slap the home-making teacher. Then she went into a period of silence, refusing food in order to gain attention.

The second month in the school, Case 88 became calm and took corrections and instructions, though she had to be reprimanded frequently for the use of vile language. Case 88 was released from the correction school March 1, 1958.²⁵⁹

²⁵⁷Interview with Admitting Clerk of a Stephenville Hospital, Stephenville, Texas, April 24, 1959.

²⁵⁸Interview with Principal of Junior High School, Stephenville, Texas, April 13, 1959.

²⁵⁹Interview with a former staff member of Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, Texas, April 30, 1959.

Approximately one year after her release from the Gainesville school, Case 88 gave birth to her second illegitimate child. Her brother paid the hospital bill. On May 1, 1959, she married a young man who has been pronounced a positive tuberculosis patient.²⁶⁰

Eleven year old Case 89-56 was in company of Case 82-56. On September 18, 1956, he confronted the charge of:

Breaking into and entering a grocery store, a feed store, and a department store; habitually roaming the streets late at night; being incorrigible. Committed to Buckner Boys' Ranch, Burnet, Texas. Changed to Buckner Orphans' Home, Dallas, Texas. Is a diabetic.²⁶¹

This young boy came from a home broken by divorce; the father had been away from home since Case 89 was five years old. A neighbor says that the mother, a vocational nurse, went with every man who came along. In her opinion the boy needed to be away from his mother. The mother and child lived with her parents and her brother. Before training as a vocational nurse, the mother worked at several jobs. There was one younger sister who died of nephritis when she was two years old.²⁶²

Case 89 was dismissed from Buckner Orphans' Home in August, 1958 and returned to school at Dublin in September of

²⁶⁰Interview with Admitting Clerk of a Stephenville Hospital, April 24, 1959.

²⁶¹Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 65.

²⁶²Interview with a neighbor of Case 89, Dublin, Texas, April 19, 1959.

that year. His progress has been normal and he has not given any trouble since his return.²⁶³

Case 90-56, on November 24, 1956, was charged with "the writing of "hot" checks; petty theft. Committed to the mother."²⁶⁴

Little information is available concerning Case 90 other than the fact that his father and mother were divorced; she had remarried. There were two older sisters and a younger step-sister in the family unit with whom Case 90 lived. They had been in their present neighborhood for a brief time.²⁶⁵

Case 91-56, a thirteen-year-old girl, is another example of a broken home. The offense of Case 91 on November 24, 1956, was:

Repeated offenses of immoral acts with men and boys; staying out all night; having a venereal disease; associating with immoral and vicious persons; drinking intoxicating liquor. Commitment made to the mother.²⁶⁶

Neighbors say that the mother started her daughter on the road to delinquency; they claim that she is an immoral person. The girl told neighbors that her mother made appointments with men for her. However, they qualify their statement by saying that there is room for question as the girl lies to them about other things.²⁶⁷

²⁶³Interview with Superintendent of Dublin Schools, Dublin, Texas, April 19, 1959.

²⁶⁴Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 66.

²⁶⁵Interview with a neighbor of Case 90, Stephenville, Texas, May 16, 1959.

²⁶⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 67.

²⁶⁷Interview with a neighbor of Case 91, Stephenville, Texas, April 17, 1959.

Case 92-56 involved a sixteen-year-old boy who on November 24, 1956, was charged with "writing hot checks; petty theft. Commitment made to the mother."²⁶⁸ He was implicated with Case 90. As he was a transient, nothing is known of him except that his father was dead; he lived with his widowed mother and one younger sister.²⁶⁹

Case 93-57, on January 15, 1957, faced the charge of "passing worthless checks on four counts; forging name on check, two counts; shop-lifting. Committed to the father."²⁷⁰

Case 93 lived with his father, step-mother, one younger sister and a younger half-sister in a small community north of Stephenville. His mother had remarried and lived in Fort Worth. The father, a farmer, also had remarried. Neighbors say that the youth lives in an atmosphere of beer drinking and cursing. On weekends he visits his mother, step-father and older sister.

His mother works in a cafe where beer is sold; for supper on Saturday nights she takes home hamburgers and beer of which they all partake.²⁷¹

In school Case 93 was frequently under suspicion of stealing money and other articles. On one occasion the father paid back \$23.85 that his son had taken from the school cafeteria. The father told the school principal that his son

²⁶⁸Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 68.

²⁶⁹Ibid.

²⁷⁰Ibid., p. 69.

²⁷¹Interview with a neighbor of Case 93, Morgan Mill, Texas, April 20, 1959.

could not even be trusted to bring his own lunch money to school; if given to him, he spent the money and charged his lunches; therefore the father mailed his lunch money monthly.

Case 93 cut a section from a valuable library volume for which the father had to pay before the boy could graduate.²⁷²

Case 94-57 is a fifteen-year-old boy charged on February 8, 1957, with "burglary; theft under \$50.00; drinking intoxicants. Commitment made to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas."²⁷³

Case 94 lived in a small community east of Stephenville. The family members consisted of the father, the mother, one older brother, two younger sisters, and Case 94.

The father, a day laborer, was said by neighbors and associates to be an alcoholic. They thought that the mother was not a stable person. The father was often times unemployed and the neighbors believed that he spent most of what he earned on whisky and beer. They had seen the mother in company of other men. The children did about as they pleased.²⁷⁴

Case 94 was a poor student in school; he withdrew in his freshman year. Often he was truant and frequently was a

²⁷²Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 22, 1959.

²⁷³Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 70.

²⁷⁴Interview with a neighbor of Case 94, Bluff Dale, Texas, April 21, 1959.

discipline problem. On three separate occasions he was suspended for three days for disrespect to a teacher.²⁷⁵

At the State Correction School Case 94 had no difficulties in discipline. His group leaders gave reports of co-operation and willingness. He was released from the school January 1, 1958.²⁷⁶

The problem of Case 95-57 is rather unique in that she was declared delinquent approximately a year after she married. Her charge on October 8, 1957, was "theft of clothes and entering private homes. Commitment was made to her husband until she reaches her twenty-first birthday."²⁷⁷

Before her marriage in 1956, Case 95 lived with her mother, one older sister and one younger sister. The mother and father were divorced; he had remarried and lived in another town where he operated a dry cleaning plant. The mother works in a beauty shop.²⁷⁸

Case 95 had a school history of cutting classes, lying, forging passes at school and necking in public places. On one occasion she called a teacher an obscene name for which she received a three-day suspension. During her junior high school days she was often on the honor roll, but at the

²⁷⁵Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

²⁷⁶Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

²⁷⁷Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 71.

²⁷⁸Interview with an employer of the mother of Case 95, Stephenville, Texas, April 23, 1959.

beginning of her freshman year she started failing subjects. She quit school in her junior year to marry a boy who had just returned from the army and who had recently divorced his first wife.²⁷⁹

Case 96-58 appeared before the juvenile court faced with the following charges:

December 10, 1958, the offense of burglarizing at night time the Perry Hardware Store in Stephenville, Texas; on the same night burglarizing the Summer's Army Store. Committed to the father.²⁸⁰

December 15, 1958, the offense of burglary - Elliot's Variety Store; Belcher's Service Station. Commitment made to Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas.²⁸¹

The parents of Case 96 are divorced; the mother "lives" with another man in Dallas, Texas. The father, a cattle trader, is away much of the time. The father and son live with the grandmother who recommended that the boy be committed to Gatesville.²⁸²

Case 96 finished only the sixth grade in school and has not had any public schooling since then. He has had no home life to speak of and no attention, particularly parental; he has been kicked around most of his life.²⁸³

²⁷⁹Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 21, 1959.

²⁸⁰Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 72.

²⁸¹Ibid., p. 73.

²⁸²Interview with Erath County Judge, Stephenville, Texas, April 22, 1959.

²⁸³Interview with Principal of Central Ward School, Stephenville, Texas, April 19, 1959.

When Case 96 first entered the correction school, he had no respect for discipline. He had to be reprimanded three times for insubordination. In group games he did not want to co-operate. On the night of February 3, 1959, he attempted to escape the grounds, but was caught as he hid behind the stone fence. Since that time he has co-operated. He is still in the school.²⁸⁴

With the exception of Case 104-59, all of those 97-58 through 109-58 were delinquent on the same charges; therefore the charges will be given only one time. Sometime during the year of 1958, a group of boys numbering approximately forty, organized a club which they called "The Auto Club." At the head of this club was a chiropractor's son who maintained a private garage adjoining the brick house in which his family lived. In order to be a member of this club one must swear to lift or steal an article or articles from automobiles each day.

The group had members from all the surrounding communities as well as Stephenville, and a captain was appointed for each community. It was his duty to see that the members in his particular community operated continuously. It is not known exactly how long this group operated before they were caught. The majority of the members were Stephenville High School students. Only twelve of the forty boys were declared

²⁸⁴ Interview with Superintendent of Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas, April 15, 1959.

delinquent. The remainder were involved only in a minor way, or it is possible that the twelve took the "rap" for the offenses.²⁸⁵

Each youth appeared on December 18, 1958, before the juvenile court charged in the following manner:

Theft of automobile accessories, including tires, hub caps, batteries, radios, rear-view mirrors, and other articles. Commitments made to the parents under these conditions: must pay for stolen property; must have his drivers' license suspended for six months; must not be away from home after dark unless accompanied by one or both parents; must pass all school work; must not be absent from school unless ill and parent contacts school authorities.²⁸⁶

Case 97-58 lived in what friends thought to be an agreeable and happy home situation. He had a brother three years older than he; the brother was married. The parents own and operate a filling station and a helpy-selfy laundry. In addition they have a small dairy farm. Though not wealthy, they have a comfortable living and the two boys have never lacked for anything the average boy wishes for. Both boys were furnished a car of their own.²⁸⁷

Case 97 was a sophomore at this time and, though he was boisterous at times, had not caused any trouble at school.

²⁸⁵Interview with Chief of Police, Stephenville, Texas, April 17, 1959.

²⁸⁶Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., pp. 74-79 and 80-85.

²⁸⁷Interview with a close friend of the family of Case 97, Stephenville, Texas, April 10, 1959.

His grades were average. Since the charge against him, he has been well-behaved and co-operative; he has passed all of his work.²⁸⁸

The family of Case 98-58 lives in a rural area a few miles from Stephenville. The father is an electrician and also operates a small farm. The youth has no brothers nor sisters. The family attends Church of Christ in Stephenville regularly. The boy was given a liberal allowance.²⁸⁹

Case 98 is a sophomore; he has indicated a desire to go to college. His grades are good and he attends school regularly. There is no indication of discipline problems.²⁹⁰

The I.Q. of Case 99-58 is very low and he is easily influenced by others. At the age of seventeen he still is in the freshman class. The only way he is ever promoted is by age. He cannot hope to receive a high school diploma. However, he has skill in mechanics, works on cars and has built a small car from odd parts. He is well-behaved in school and never causes any disturbances.²⁹¹

Neighbors think that the parents of Case 99 are well-adjusted and religious minded; they attend almost all church

²⁸⁸ Interview with a close friend of the family of Case 97. Stephenville, Texas, April 10, 1959.

²⁸⁹ Interview with a teacher in the Huckaby Public Schools, Huckaby, Texas, April 14, 1959.

²⁹⁰ Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

²⁹¹ Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 11, 1959.

services. They have many friends and are active in civic affairs. Financially they are above the average of a small town; they live in a very modern house in the edge of Stephenville. The father owns and operates a vast amount of heavy equipment used in road building. He is a construction engineer by profession. Case 99 is their only child.²⁹²

At the head of this "Auto Club" was seventeen-year-old Case 100-58. The father of this youth is a well-to-do chiropractor; the parents have a large and modern brick house. There is a younger daughter in the family.

The father had built and equipped a garage-mechanic shop for the son to pursue his hobby of working on cars. The boy had a knowledge of mechanics and worked in his shop after school, making his own spending money. He had one other high school boy in his employ.²⁹³

When Case 100 was arrested, he had over \$400.00 worth of stolen property in his garage. This was the receiving station for all the accessories taken by the other members. Case 100 in turn gave each boy a fee for all property brought in.²⁹⁴

In addition to his participation in the stolen goods, Case 100 was charged with forging names on two courtesy cards.²⁹⁵

²⁹²Interview with a neighbor of Case 99, Stephenville, Texas, April 27, 1959.

²⁹³Interview with an aunt of Case 100, Stephenville, Texas, May 2, 1959.

²⁹⁴Interview with Chief of Police, Stephenville, Texas, April 17, 1959.

²⁹⁵Ibid.

The grades of Case 100 were good in some subjects, average in others; he had no failing grades. He was reported several times as cheating. Case 100 attended the majority of the school activities and appeared to be a normally adjusted boy.²⁹⁶

Case 101-58 is a sophomore in school. He lives on a large dairy farm which his parents own and operate. He has an older brother, a senior in high school, and a younger brother and sister in grade school. The dairy farm is free of debt; the family lives in a modern, seven-room and den house. The dairy is equipped with every modern device. Case 101 and his older brother have been given an interest in the dairy cows and they also have some stocker cows. The boys bank most of their earnings for their future education. All members of the family seem to make friends easily and the children are popular with their friends.²⁹⁷

Though Case 101 has a brilliant mind, he made no effort to do his school work during the fall term. Since his trouble, there is a marked improvement; he has an avid interest in his school work and brought his grades to slightly below an A average. He never causes trouble in his classes.²⁹⁸

The mother of Case 102-58 died when this boy was eleven. He has no brothers or sisters. Friends believe the father

²⁹⁶Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, May 3, 1959.

²⁹⁷Interview with a close friend of Case 101, Huckaby, Texas, May 5, 1959.

²⁹⁸Interview with Stephenville High School Principal, May 4, 1959.

to be very patient with and good to Case 102. The two go to church together every Sunday.²⁹⁹

Case 102 makes passing grades in school; he is a sophomore. His attendance is good. There is no record of any trouble in school; he has been co-operative with his teachers and school officials.³⁰⁰

Neighbors say that the parents of Case 103 bicker and quarrel most of the time when together. Though they are not legally separated, the father lives out of the home most of the time. His acquaintances believe he drinks too much. The youth's mother is also away from home frequently at night. There is little money for this family of four boys and one girl, as the father is a day laborer when he does work. It is necessary for them to live in the house with their grandfather. Case 103 quit school shortly after his trouble.³⁰¹

Case 104-58 was charged on December 19, 1958 for "making improper advances to girls on five counts. Committed to his parents."³⁰² A note on the court record quotes, "I couldn't keep my mind off sex; I wanted to fondle girls."³⁰³

²⁹⁹Interview with a friend of the father of Case 102, Stephenville, Texas, May 8, 1959.

³⁰⁰Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, Stephenville, Texas, May 4, 1959.

³⁰¹Interview with a neighbor of Case 103, Stephenville, Texas, May 11, 1959.

³⁰²Erath County Court Juvenile Records, op. cit., p. 86.

³⁰³Ibid., notation by the Erath County Judge.

Relatives say that the parents are good, hard-working people who own the peanut and stock farm they live on. The father has a kidney ailment and is ill much of the time. Case 104 assists in the operation of the farm. For several years Case 104 has been overweight and he feels self-conscious around others. He has an interest in and has dated many girls, but he says girls will not go with him more than one time. He has written emotional letters to girls that took his fancy.³⁰⁴

Case 104 has never done well in school. The first term of 1958 he made "F" in every subject. He says he cannot concentrate. The high school counselor has recommended that Case 104 consult a psychiatrist.³⁰⁵

As previously mentioned, Case 105-58 is one of the twelve boys implicated in the theft of automobile accessories. He is a brother of Case 18-58 in Chapter V, School Delinquencies. The family study is given in that connection; therefore all that will be said here is that Case 105 made only passing grades in school and was often corrected by the vice-principal for misconduct.³⁰⁶

Case 106-58 is a boy from Dublin, Texas, who was a member of the "Auto Club." The only information that the

³⁰⁴ Interview with two relatives of Case 104, Stephenville, Texas, May 15, 1959.

³⁰⁵ Interview with counselor of Stephenville High School, May 18, 1959.

³⁰⁶ Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

Superintendent of Dublin Schools could give was that he lived with his parents and one younger brother. No family history was found on the permanent record card.³⁰⁷

The father of Case 107-58 works at Convair, Fort Worth, a job he has held for a number of years. He commutes and is usually at home at night. Friends think that the mother is a kind and good woman. There are two older brothers in the family, one of whom is married. The family, with the exception of the mother, has a reputation of living recklessly. The father and the older brothers drink intoxicants though neighbors think not to an excess. All members of the family are musically inclined and each plays an instrument.³⁰⁸

Case 107 is a sophomore in school; he makes barely passing grades though he is capable of doing better. He has not given any serious trouble since entering high school.³⁰⁹

The parents of Case 108-58 own and operate a small grocery store and filling station in the edge of town. People in the neighborhood believe them to be good, honest people. They attend church regularly and tithe their earnings. The younger brother attends Sunday School regularly.³¹⁰

³⁰⁷Interview with Superintendent of Schools, Dublin, Texas, April 16, 1959.

³⁰⁸Interview with a friend of the family of Case 106, Morgan Mill, Texas, May 14, 1959.

³⁰⁹Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

³¹⁰Interview with a neighbor of Case 108, Stephenville, Texas, May 12, 1959.

Superintendent of Dublin Schools could give was that he lived with his parents and one younger brother. ³⁰⁷

The father of Case 107-58 works at Convair in Fort Worth. He commutes and is usually at home at night. There are two older brothers in the family. With the exception of the mother, the family has a reputation of living recklessly. The father and the older brothers drink though neighbors think not to an excess.³⁰⁸ Case 107 is a sophomore; he makes passing grades and has not given any serious trouble since entering high school.³⁰⁹

The parents of Case 108-58 own and operate a small grocery store in the edge of town. Neighbors believe them to be good, honest people; they attend church regularly.³¹⁰ The father told a policeman that his son started staying out late during the summer of 1958. The son became abusive in his language when corrected by either parent.³¹¹ With the beginning of the fall term, Case 108 out classes; his grades and his attitude were poor.³¹²

³⁰⁷ Interview with Superintendent of Schools, Dublin, Texas, April 16, 1959.

³⁰⁸ Interview with a friend of the family of Case 106, Morgan Mill, Texas, May 14, 1959.

³⁰⁹ Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

³¹⁰ Interview with a neighbor of Case 108, Stephenville, Texas, May 12, 1959.

³¹¹ Interview with a city policeman, Stephenville, Texas, May 9, 1959.

³¹² Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, May 18, 1959.

The last of the delinquent group is Case 109-58, the son of a farmer living in a small village. Friends say that the parents work hard and are active in church work. There are no siblings. Case 109 told friends, "I got a thrill when I stole something and got by with it."³¹³

At school Case 109 was rude and disrespectful to teachers; he took no interest in his subjects. Since his trouble he has improved in his attitude and his grades have improved.³¹⁴

This chapter has attempted to point out some of the factors in the cause of juvenile delinquency in this particular community and to describe the home situations and social backgrounds of the delinquents. Statistical data which summarize the major factors in these cases are included in the appendix. The tables indicate that factors such as broken homes, poverty, lack of religious training and lack of interest in school are closely related to most of the delinquency cases of this community.

³¹³Interview with two friends of the family of Case 109, Morgan Mill, Texas, May 9, 1959.

³¹⁴Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, May 20, 1959.

CHAPTER V

SIXTEEN DELINQUENT CASES IN STEPHENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Only sixteen examples of delinquents in Stephenville High School have been chosen for this study; obviously there would be too many cases to treat all in this brief paper. Those beginning with the year 1950 and concluding with the year 1958 have been selected.

Sixty cases occurring over a fifteen-year period were reviewed. Information was lacking in many of those cases. In some instances only brief mention was made of the delinquency. Because these sixteen cases are interesting and because their offenses were described in detail, these sixteen were selected from the group. The school delinquents are referred to by consecutive numbers one through sixteen, followed by the letter "S."

Case 1-S was what could be termed a "spoiled brat." His father, a court reporter, was middle-aged when Case 1 was born; his mother was in her late thirties. One older sister completed the family. They were considered to be in comfortable circumstances, and they owned several pieces of property.

Throughout his boyhood, Case 1 was lavished with everything he wished for. As he grew, he spent money, recklessly and wastefully.¹

Case 1 started his misbehavior problems in the early years of elementary school and they became more pronounced as he advanced. His associates were rough, and they were out late at night. He delighted in lying and taking things that did not belong to him.²

In high school, Case 1 became abusive to teachers and students. When corrected by teachers, he used foul language and tried to strike one teacher. In his sophomore year at the age of sixteen, Case 1 was suspended for three days on three separate occasions because of insolence to teachers, abusive language and conduct unbecoming a high school student.

Case 1 passed very few subjects in high school and finally quit school the latter part of his sophomore year. His only interests were science and radio.³

Case 2-S was a big, handsome boy of sixteen years imbued with average intelligence but lacking in ambition. The family consisted of the mother, the father, Case 2, and two younger brothers. The group lived on a combination farm and

¹Interview with a great-aunt of Case 1, Stephenville, Texas, March 24, 1959.

²Interview with Principal of Central Ward School, Stephenville, Texas, March 25, 1959.

³Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 21, 1959.

ranch six miles from Stephenville. They lived comfortably and happily, according to neighbors. They gave advantages to their three sons.⁴

Case 2 played football and was on the "A" team; he took part in other school activities. But Case 2 was conceited. He depended on his good looks to win his way. He was given a three-day suspension in his sophomore year because of misconduct with girls. In his junior year he was given two weeks' detention for misconduct in classes. Also, during this year he received a three-day suspension for fighting.

Case 2 was again in trouble in his senior year. This time he had cut some furniture in the school library. He was made to pay for damages to the furniture and suspended indefinitely. After a conference between the parents and school officials, Case 2 was allowed to return to school after three days.

The school attendance of Case 2 was good, other than the suspensions. He graduated from high school, later married, and now holds a position with American Airlines at Carter Field, Fort Worth.⁵

Case 3-S did not give much trouble in school until his senior year. At that time he admitted to setting off dangerous fireworks in the study hall of the high school building,

⁴Interview with a neighbor of Case 2, Alexander, Texas, March 16, 1959.

⁵Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 16, 1959.

causing extensive damage to the ceiling. For this he was made to pay for the damage, was given a three-day suspension and was forced to make a public apology to the student body in a special assembly.

Also during his senior year, Case 3 was in constant trouble with teachers; he took part in fights and on several occasions used abusive language. After his last outbreak in conduct, he was given one hour daily detention for three weeks; then he agreed to adhere to the discipline rules set forth by the school principal.⁶

The family members of Case 3 were the father, mother, and one older brother who was married. The father is an insurance broker and owns extensive ranch properties in Erath County and West Texas. Neighbors and friends respect him and his wife very much. He takes an active part in the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club; he gives freely of his money and his time to public charities and other worthwhile community projects.

The mother was, until her recent death, active in her church, the Twentieth Century Club, and other civic and social clubs.⁷

Case 3 was intelligent enough but made only passing grades. The parents had frequent conferences with the teachers.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Interview with a business associate of the father of Case 3, Stephenville, Texas, March 28, 1959.

However, the father was believed by his friends to be over-indulgent with his son and furnished him too much money.⁸

After his graduation from high school, Case 3 was frequently involved in drinking and fighting episodes. He once was arrested for breaking into one of the bedrooms at the City Hospital Cottage for Nurses and attempting to assault one of the nurses. He was placed in jail over-night and later paid a \$100.00 fine.⁹

Case 3 attended Tarleton State College two semesters, going from there to North Texas State College where he will receive his B. S. Degree in physical education in August, 1959. He did his practice teaching in the spring of 1959 at Stephenville High School.¹⁰

Case 4-S was a maladjusted personality. He said of himself, "I have an inferiority complex; I don't know how to mix with people; I lose my temper too easy; I feel I must do something to torment others to attract attention."¹¹

Case 4 was an intelligent boy, capable of doing anything he set his mind to do. However, he did not take his school work seriously and made only passing grades in most of his

⁸Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 16, 1959.

⁹Interview with Chief of Police, Stephenville, Texas, March 29, 1959.

¹⁰Interview with Case 3, Stephenville, Texas, April 2, 1959.

¹¹Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

subjects. He had a smirking, sneering look and had a bad attitude toward teachers and students. He never had a kind word for his classmates.¹²

The following offenses were filed against Case 4:

February 18, 1953: Fighting at a basketball game; suspended for three days.

March 1, 1953: Misbehaving in public assembly; ten day detention.

March 12, 1953: Extreme misconduct; ten day detention.

May 3, 1953: Fighting on the school campus; asked not to return to school until meeting with school board, superintendent, principal, and both parents.

Allowed to return to school after four days and the promise not to misbehave for any reason until the end of the 1953 school term.¹³

Case 4 kept his promise and was graduated from Stephenville High School in the spring of 1953. Upon his graduation he entered the army where he served for two years. He is now married and lives in Houston where he is employed by an oil company.¹⁴

Case 5-8 was a transfer from Odessa High School. His father had died that year of 1955 and the youth came to Stephenville to live with his grandparents. His mother and younger sister moved to Abilene where the mother worked in a cafe operated by the man she later married in 1956. Case 5

¹²Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 16, 1959.

¹³Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

¹⁴Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 16, 1959.

associated with a rough "gang" in Odessa and the grandparents hoped the change to a different school would break the ties and that his behavior would improve.¹⁵

Case 5 became a member of a secret club which was active among some of the school boys. His attitude became bad and he was frequently asked to leave classes because of disturbance in class and insolence to teachers. On several occasions he was corrected for "necking" with a girl friend in the hall ways and in his car parked on the campus.

The mother was asked to come from Abilene for a conference with school officials after an accumulated number of offenses were charted against Case 5; among these charges were:

1. Belonging to and being a leader in a secret club.
2. Breaking into and destroying materials belonging to the Homemaking Cottage.
3. Fighting on the school campus.
4. Cheating on tests.
5. Being a trouble maker in classes.
6. Discourtesy to teachers.¹⁶

Action was taken collectively on the offenses and the following disposition was made:

1. Must pay for damages done to Homemaking Cottage.

¹⁵Interview with the grandmother of Case 5, March 20, 1959.

¹⁶Permanent Records of Stephenville High School.

2. Must sign a pledge to cease connections with a secret club.
3. Must not enter into nor be connected with fights.
4. Must improve conduct in classes.
5. Must take zero on tests on which cheating was done and must cease such activity.
6. Must take a three-day suspension.¹⁷

Thereafter, the general bearing of Case 5 improved; improvement in his grades was noted. He was graduated with his class in May, 1956. He married immediately and is steadily employed in Abilene, Texas.

Cases 6, 7, and 8-S are quite similar to Case 5-S in the offenses committed and in the disposition of those offenses. However, the mode of living and the family situations are vastly different.

Case 6 was a big, well-muscled, and very handsome sixteen-year-old boy. He limped slightly as a result of polio when quite small. This bodily defect did not deter the boy in any way; he was active in all sports and was outstanding in football and tennis. His I. Q. was 108 and he made average grades.¹⁸

Case 6 was the only child of a welder; his mother was a clerk in a ladies' store. He became involved in a secret club in his sophomore year. He admitted to the principal that he had an illicit affair with a senior girl and that she

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 22, 1959.

was forced to withdraw from school because of pregnancy. Also, on occasions he tried unsuccessfully to disband some classes. The parents were called in for a conference relative to his being permitted to remain in school. An agreement satisfactory to all parties was reached and he was allowed to remain in school.

Case 6 graduated from Stephenville in May, 1956. The following year he married an honor graduate. He is employed in the bookkeeping department of Armour and Company, Fort Worth.¹⁹

Case 7-8 was living in what their friends believed to be a happy home situation. They thought the father and mother were compatible and that they were faithful to their church. Case 7 and his younger sister attended Church of Christ regularly along with the parents. The father is chief butcher in a chain store; the mother is a clerk in a ladies' store.²⁰

The boy was spoiled and wanted everything his way. The parents allowed him to have the family car anytime he asked. He probably got the car numerous times under false pretenses. As he played football, he told them frequently that he was going to school for skull practice.²¹

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Interview with Minister of Church of Christ, Stephenville, Texas, March 24, 1959.

²¹Interview with an aunt of Case 7, March 22, 1959.

The grades of Case 7 were barely passing marks; on numerous occasions he was caught cheating on tests. He was often in the detention hall because of misconduct in classes.

Case 7 graduated from high school in 1956 after being given final examinations twice. He started to Tarleton State College that fall, but he was asked to withdraw at the end of nine weeks because of failing grades. He began working at Convair in Fort Worth; he was fired at the end of three months. Case 7 re-entered Tarleton in the fall of 1958; again he failed and had to withdraw. Now he works as a gas station attendant.²²

The father of Case 8-S died when the boy was thirteen. His mother began working for a local studio to support herself, Case 8, and a younger son. The older boy began delivering newspapers to buy his clothing and school supplies. At that time he was well-liked by his classmates and teachers. When he was in junior high, he started going with the daughter of the Stephenville School Superintendent. As he grew older, he began associating with some rough boys.

Upon entering high school, Case 8 took an active part in sports and was a star football player. As a freshman he became identified with a secret club. His grades became poor and he barely passed his work.²³

²²Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 23, 1959.

²³Interview with a former Superintendent of Stephenville Schools, Brownwood, Texas, March 12, 1959.

In his sophomore year, Case 8 got a job as a sack boy for a chain store. He bought an old car and was gone from home much of the time at night. He began drinking beer and at times was questioned by police. He spent one night in jail.²⁴

Case 8 was frequently sent to the principal's office because of disorderly conduct in class. He was given a three-day suspension for his connection with a secret club. He also was officially reprimanded for demonstrations with his girl friend on the school campus.

Upon entering his senior year, Case 8 became more settled and he became engaged to the superintendent's daughter. They married as soon as they graduated. They live in Cleburne where he is assistant manager of a chain store.²⁵

Case 9-S lived with his father and stepmother on a ranch about six miles from Stephenville. Two younger sisters and a step-sister his own age are in the family. Case 9 and the step-sister were jealous of each other and the boy became belligerent. In school he tried "to bully" his way. He was lazy and did not try to make his grades. He slept in class and got angry and abusive when awakened. He failed nearly every subject each year and had to repeat several courses.

²⁴Interview with the employer of the mother of Case 8, March 26, 1959.

²⁵Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, March 24, 1959.

Case 9 spent many hours in detention and was suspended several times for frequent fights at school, for being disrespectful to teachers, for disturbing classes, and for using obscene language. After several repetitions and attending summer school, he graduated from high school at the age of twenty.²⁶

Case 10-S was the victim of a broken home, the mother and father having been divorced when Case 10 was two years old. The father was considered to be "a no-good alcoholic." A brother three years older than Case 10 developed nephritis at the age of five and was in a local hospital for one year before his death. Two sisters tended the youngest brother while the mother remained at the hospital in constant attendance upon the sick child. The father did not contribute to the support of the family; they were supported by the grandmother.

After the death of the brother, the mother began vocational nurse's training with a salary of \$50.00 per month. The children were left at home alone while the mother worked, the hours depending upon the shift she was placed on.²⁷

The school work of Case 10 was not satisfactory from the beginning; his grades were low and his attitude poor. As he grew older, he stayed out of school more often and repeatedly

²⁶Ibid., March 16, 1959.

²⁷Interview with Admitting Clerk of a Stephenville Hospital, April 4, 1959.

when the mother was called, she did not know where the boy was. He became a problem in classes. He received detention periods frequently and was suspended on one occasion for bringing beer onto the campus.

In the spring of his freshman year, Case 10 quit school, saying that he wanted to work. In the fall of 1958, he re-entered school; the same routine began. He withdrew in October to move to Rotan.²⁸

Case 11-S has one sister thirteen years older than he. His father is manager of the City Ice Company; he was near fifty years old when the son was born. The mother did not work outside the home. Close associates thought Case 11 was a "spoiled brat" from the beginning and that he was lazy and conceited.²⁹

The truancy of Case 11 began early in junior high; he had to repeat the eighth grade three times. His study habits were poor throughout his schooling.

Case 11 was frequently on "the carpet" for cutting classes, for insubordination, and for cheating. When corrected in class on some occasions, he walked out. At the age of twenty-one, Case 11 was still in school, but he failed constantly. He finally quit school to enter the army.³⁰

²⁸Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 8, 1959.

²⁹Interview with a close friend of the family of Case 11, April 11, 1959.

³⁰Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 7, 1959.

The son of a plumber, Case 12-S has an I.Q. of 84. His grades were poor. He does not seem to care whether or not he passes his work. He is sulky in attitude and slouchy in appearance. He wears his blond, curly hair in an extremely long duck tail; he stomps around heavily in boots. The friends of Case 12 are few and those that he claims are of the same personality as he. While he was in school, he cut classes and usually attended school one or two days each week. The mother signed excuses for his absences.³¹

The mother of Case 12 is a rough-looking, cigarette smoking woman and seldom dresses in anything in public other than jeans. She depends upon Case 12 to do all the grocery shopping for the family while she sits in her car. He makes his own choices of the food that he buys. Beyond supplying money for the family, the father seems not to care what occurs.³²

Case 12 has been suspended a number of times for his actions in school; such as, insolence, insubordination, disturbance in classes; attempting to disband classes. He quit school April 14, 1959, to go to work and to get married.³³

Case 13-S was termed a constant trouble maker for teachers, the school principal, and the counselor. His grades

³¹Ibid.

³²Interview with a neighbor of Case 12, April 11, 1959.

³³Permanent Record Files of Stephenville High School.

were average until the eighth grade; here he was retained and was finally passed on to high school because of his size and physical maturity.³⁴

Since entering high school, Case 13 has never shown any interest in school, either in subjects or school activities. He was recognized as a liar and as a person not to be depended upon. After receiving punishment for fighting on the school campus on March 16, Case 13 quit school. He presented a written excuse from his mother. Three days later he got married.³⁵

The parents of Case 13 are in moderate circumstances; they own a grocery store. They have never insisted that Case 13 nor his four older brothers remain in school, though two of the brothers graduated from high school. Case 13 has a job as a mechanic's helper in a garage; he refused his father's offer to work in the grocery store.³⁶

The father of Case 14-S is a peanut farmer at Gorman, Texas. The parents are middleaged; their demeanor indicates a life of hard work with not many compensations. There is a younger sister in the group.

Case 14 was sent to Stephenville in his senior year of 1958 in order to break up a romance of which his parents did

³⁴Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 12, 1959.

³⁵Interview with Principal of Stephenville High School, April 11, 1959.

³⁶Interview with an uncle of Case 13, Stephenville, Texas, April 13, 1959.

not approve. They hoped that he would settle down, pass his work, and graduate from high school. He boarded in a private home, and without anyone to push him, he soon started cutting classes; he was sometimes absent two weeks without any legal excuse or permission from anyone.

When reprimanded about his absence or school work, Case 14 was abusive to teachers and told falsehoods to his parents about his work and absences. Letters to the parents asked for their co-operation; instead they wanted to blame the school.

Case 14 was given another chance by the principal and counselor, but his attitude became even worse and his quarrels with teachers became frequent. Following a fight with another student, Case 14 was asked to withdraw. He returned to his home in Gorman, Texas.³⁷

Case 15-S came to Stephenville High School in his freshman year from Santo. The father is a farmer, stockman, and egg wholesaler. The family is in good circumstances financially. Both parents and the younger sister are leaders in their community and church. Friends think Case 15 has too much money to spend and has too much freedom with his Ford Convertible.³⁸

³⁷Interview with Counselor of Stephenville High School, April 17, 1959.

³⁸Interview with a family friend of Case 15, Lipan, Texas, April 20, 1959.

From the beginning of Stephenville's acquaintance with him, Case 15 was an overbearing braggart. He drove his car to and from school and he believed this, along with his free-spending, to be his ticket to popularity. He was extremely overweight, weighing around 230 pounds. In his first year he came out for football and made the "A" string the following year. Few of the students ever accepted him because of his crude ways.³⁹

The offenses of Case 15 began in his sophomore year with general class disturbances and the use of abusive language. He barely passed in his subjects. In his junior year he was suspended from the football team for cursing the coaches and fighting an opposing player during a game. In addition he had to make a public apology.

Early in his senior year it was discovered that he had been drinking just before he "suited up" for a district football game. Immediately he was asked to turn in his uniform, whereupon he cursed the coaches and attempted to strike one of them.

Following a conference with the superintendent, the principal, and the counselor, coaches and parents, Case 15 was given another chance. Three weeks later he was drunk on the school campus and had two fights. He was expelled and asked not to return.⁴⁰

³⁹Interview with Stephenville High School coach, April 18, 1959.

⁴⁰Interview with Counselor of Stephenville High School, April 17, 1959.

There are two younger brothers of seventeen-year-old Case 16-S. The sixteen-year-old brother is Case 105-58 described in Chapter IV. The father is a feed store owner in Stephenville, but the family lives in the community of Morgan Mill. Their neighbors consider them to be self-respecting, church-going people.⁴¹

Case 16 was considered to be an average student, able to maintain a "B" average most of the time. He was a rather quiet, pleasant-mannered youth. His first offense came to the attention of school officials when he was a junior. He was accused of being involved in putting sand in the gas tank of the Morgan Mill School bus. He was questioned by an Erath County Grand Jury and was made to share in the damage expenses.

The next offense of Case 16 came in his senior year when he was found to be drinking on the school campus along with Case 15. For this act he was suspended for three days. Following his return to school, Case 16 continued to make good grades; his behavior was good the remainder of the year.⁴²

This chapter has attempted to point out some of the factors in juvenile delinquency of Stephenville High School and to describe the social backgrounds of the delinquents. A statistical summary is included in the appendix.

⁴¹Interview with a grocer of Morgan Mill, Texas, May 1, 1959.

⁴²Interview with Counselor of Stephenville High School, May 5, 1959.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

As stated in Chapter I, the problem of this study was to determine the extent of juvenile delinquency in Erath County, a county which is small, population wise, in comparison with such counties as Tarrant, Dallas, Bexar, McLennan, Harris, and others; to determine behavioristic patterns in a small community; to determine some of the factors in juvenile delinquency in a small community.

In view of the fact that over the twenty-year period studied there were one-hundred and nine delinquents on record, and that over the fifteen-year period studied in the delinquencies of Stephenville High School there were sixty cases, there is basis for concern over the amount of juvenile delinquency in this small community as there is in the larger communities.

Also, it can be said that there appears to be some foundation for support of Sutherland and Cressey's theory of differential association based on the postulate that "crime is rooted in the social organization and is an expression of that social organization."¹ Particularly, there is reason for assuming the following principles to be true:

¹Edwin H. Sutherland and Donald R. Cressey, Principles of Criminology, New York, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1955, p. 80.

1. Criminal behavior is learned.
2. Criminal behavior is learned in interaction with other persons.
3. The principal part of the learning of criminal behavior occurs within intimate, personal groups.
4. Conflicts within the home are highly significant in emotional disturbances of children and that the emotional disturbances are conducive to delinquency.²

In support of the preceding principles, the following juvenile cases of this study are offered: Cases 13-39, 14-39, 15-39, 59-51, 74-53, 80-55, 88-56, 91-56, 97-58, 98-58, 99-58, 101-58, 102-58, 104-58, 105-58, 106-58, 107-58, 108-58, 109-58.

The cases cited above are ones in which learned behavior was evident. There are many cases in which the principles mentioned do not apply; several causal factors are evident in those which do not apply.

In addition to noting the similarity of the Erath County juvenile cases to Sutherland and Cressey's principles of differential association, it is interesting to note that this study relates to their study of sex ratios. As stated in Principles of Criminology, "Statistical studies indicate that delinquency and crime are closely associated with sex status. The male sex has a great excess of crimes in all nations. Approximately eighty-five per cent of delinquency cases in juvenile courts are boys."³ It will be remembered that of the one-hundred and nine cases on the Erath County records only six were females.

²Ibid., pp. 77-78.

³Ibid., p. 111.

In spite of the fact that the number of delinquencies in Stephenville High School is high, it may be pointed out that Sutherland and Cressey state, "The behavior of school children in modern schools in which corporal punishment is seldom inflicted is unquestionably much better than in the schools of a century ago when corporal punishment was extremely frequent."⁴

The manner in which delinquencies in Stephenville High School are handled appears to be commendable. In the majority of cases the delinquents improved in their behavior and generally improved in their school work.

In this school the delinquency problems are handled as far as possible by detention and counseling. For those who ride a school bus the detention time is designated during lunch hour periods; for those who live in town the detention time is designated after three-forty in the afternoon. In the event of failure of detention punishment, a three-day suspension of the case is given. Only in extreme cases, those in which the students have been given repeated chances, are they expelled.

The communities of Erath County recognize the problem of the increase of juvenile delinquency. There is a county-wide plan for providing experiences to guard against temptations of youth. Six of the communities have already established Community Family-Youth Centers designed for year-around activities. In four other communities of the county similar

⁴Ibid., p. 291.

plans are in the formative stage. Supervised recreation, including swimming, dancing, indoor and outdoor games, free movies, skating and family socials, is being provided. All-family groups are urged to participate in the activities of the centers.

While citizens of the communities recognize that recreation is not a cure-all for delinquency, they believe that in this manner families are finding common interests and, increasingly, are learning to live together by sharing experiences and activities.

Officials of the county recognize that the problem of juvenile delinquency exists in this small community. This county is fortunate in having a county judge and a county attorney who are deeply concerned about the problem and who are deeply interested in youth. They have been instrumental in securing funds, through the County Commissioners Court and from interested citizens of the county, to pay the expenses of maintaining two full-time juvenile officers for the county. These officers are under the supervision of the Chief of Police. In addition to these two special officers, all county and city officers are alerted to the situation.

Civic clubs such as Twentieth Century, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, and Junior Chamber of Commerce of the two larger communities, Stephenville and Dublin, are at the present time collaborating in a study of juvenile delinquency of the county. All schools of the county have been invited to participate in

the study. The findings of this study will guide future plans for prevention and control of delinquency in Erath County.

The most recent aid in handling the problem has come from a young, leading physician of Stephenville. Two evenings of each week he is devoting his time to counseling disturbed parents and children. He is encouraging those who need help to come to him and talk about their tensions, their conflicts, and their emotional problems.

Finally, it can be said that the problem of juvenile delinquency does apply to a small community such as Erath County; the behavioristic patterns are similar to those of larger communities; the citizens and officials of Erath County do recognize the problem and are attempting to provide facilities to alleviate the situation.

APPENDIX

TABLE I

AGES OF BOYS AND GIRLS WHEN REFERRED TO COURT IN
 DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED OF BY THE
 ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
 JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
 DECEMBER 31, 1958

Age of Child When Referred to Court	Delinquency Cases		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 10 years	1	0	1
10 years, under 12	4	0	4
12 years, under 14	6	3	9
14 years, under 16	55	0	55
16 years, under 17	37	3	40
Total	103	6	109

TABLE II

REASON FOR REFERENCE TO COURT IN BOYS' AND GIRLS'
DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED OF BY THE
ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 1958

Reason for Reference to Court	Number of Delinquency Cases		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Petty Theft	30	0	30
Theft over \$50.00	12	1	13
Burglary	30	0	30
Carrying Unlawful Weapon	2	0	2
Bodily Assault	3	0	3
Auto Theft	2	0	2
Passing Worthless Checks	11	0	11
Forgery	2	0	2
Sex Offenses and Immoral Acts	3	5	8
Drunkenness	3	0	3
Robbery	1	0	1
Murder	1	0	1
Sodomy	1	0	1
Arson	1	0	1
Kidnapping	1	0	1
Total	103	6	109

TABLE III

DISPOSITION OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' DELINQUENCY CASES
 DISPOSED OF BY THE ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
 JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1958

Disposition of Cases	Delinquency Cases		
	Boys	Girls	Total
To Boys' State Training School, Gatesville, Texas	19	..	19
To Girls' State Training School, Gainesville, Texas	..	3	3
To Both Parents	50	1	51
To an Individual	3	0	3
To Grandfather	3	0	3
To Wichita Falls State Hospital	1	0	1
To Step-Father	1	0	1
To Buckner Boys' Ranch Burnet, Texas	1	0	1
To Buckner Orphan's Home Dallas, Texas	1	0	1
To Father	15	0	15
To Mother	9	1	10
To Husband	0	1	1
Total	103	6	109

TABLE IV

OCCUPATION OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF BOYS' AND GIRLS'
 DELINQUENCY CASES BROUGHT BEFORE THE ERATH COUNTY
 JUVENILE COURT, JANUARY 1, 1938,
 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1958

Sex of Offenders	Mother's Occupation					Father's									
	Seamstress	Laundry Worker	Waitress	Beauty Operator	Nurse	Farmer-Rancher	Day Laborer	Farmer	Trucker	Poultry Raiser	Salesman	Carpenter	Gas Station Attendant	Implement Co., Mgr.	Doctor
Male Offenders	1	1	1	1	1	4	9	23	6	3	6	5	5	1	2
Female Offenders	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	1	2	2	1	1	4	9	24	7	3	6	5	5	1	2

TABLE IV--Continued

Occupation													Husband's Occupation	Total
Mechanic	Real Estate	Retired	Railroad Section Foreman	Construction	Convair worker	No Occupation	Dairy Man	Grocer	Bootlegger	Jeweler	Feed Store Owner	Not Known	Construction	
4	2	1	2	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	11	..	103
.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	6
4	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	11	1	109

TABLE V

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF BOYS' AND GIRLS'
 DELINQUENCY CASES BROUGHT BEFORE
 THE ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
 JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
 DECEMBER 31, 1958

Religious Affiliations	Delinquency Cases		
	Boys	Girls	Total
No Affiliation	45	5	50
Methodist	14	1	15
Baptist	24	0	24
Church of Christ	9	0	9
First Christian	1	0	1
Assembly of God	2	0	2
Episcopal	1	0	1
Calvary Baptist	1	0	1
Not Known	6	0	6
Total	103	6	109

TABLE VI

FACTORS IN THE DELINQUENCY OF BOYS
AND GIRLS BROUGHT BEFORE THE
ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 1958

Factors	Delinquency Cases
Broken Homes	
Divorce . . . . .	.10
Death . . . . .	.10
Separation.	2
Alcoholism	7
Immoral and Vicious Parents.	7
Disorganization of Home Life	4
Lack of Emotional Satisfaction . . . . .	.13
Lack of Consistent Guidance.	8
Difficulties, Conflicts.	6
Poverty. . . . .	.11
Lack of Amusement.	7
Lack of Religious Training . . . . .	.10
Mental Defects	2
Split Personality.	2
Lack of Interest in School . . . . .	.10
Total.	109

TABLE VII

RURAL-URBAN DISTRIBUTION OF BOYS
AND GIRLS APPEARING BEFORE THE
ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT,
JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 1958

Sex of the Offenders	Rural Community	Urban Community	Total
Number of Male Offenders	43	60	103
Number of Female Offenders	1	5	6
Total	44	65	109

TABLE VIII

NUMBER OF SIBLINGS OF BOYS' AND GIRLS'
 DELINQUENCY CASES BROUGHT BEFORE
 THE BRATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT,
 JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
 DECEMBER 31, 1958

Sex of Offenders	Number of Siblings in Family										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	None	Not Known	
Number of Male Offenders	19	25	17	10	7	1	0	1	18	5	103
Number of Female Offenders	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total											109

TABLE IX

DELINQUENT CASES HAVING TWO OR MORE CHARGES
MADE BY THE ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT,
JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 1958

Delinquency Cases	Number of Charges	Delinquency Cases	Number of Charges	Delinquency Cases	Number of Charges
Case 1-38	2	Case 45-50	3	Case 79-55	4
Case 2-38	4	Case 46-50	3	Case 80-55	3
Case 4-39	2	Case 48-50	3	Case 82-56	7
Case 5-39	2	Case 49-50	2	Case 83-56	3
Case 6-39	5	Case 50-50	4	Case 86-56	3
Case 7-39	3	Case 52-50	5	Case 87-56	2
Case 12-39	2	Case 55-50	3	Case 88-56	3
Case 13-39	4	Case 57-51	5	Case 89-56	5
Case 14-39	6	Case 58-51	2	Case 90-56	2
Case 15-39	3	Case 63-52	2	Case 91-56	4
Case 16-40	4	Case 64-52	2	Case 92-56	2
Case 24-41	2	Case 65-52	3	Case 93-57	3
Case 26-42	2	Case 69-52	2	Case 94-57	3
Case 28-43	2	Case 74-53	4	Case 95-57	2
Case 34-46	3	Case 76-53	3	Case 96-58	2
Case 40-49	2	Case 77-54	2	Case 100-58	3
Case 41-49	2	Case 78-54	4		
Total 17	50	17	52	16	51
Grand Total				50	153

TABLE X

DELINQUENCY CASES BROUGHT BEFORE
 ERATH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
 JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
 DECEMBER 31, 1958, WHO
 WERE RECIDIVISTS

Delinquency Cases	Delinquency Cases
Case 2-38	Case 50-50
Case 5-39	Case 52-50
Case 6-39	Case 57-51
Case 12-39	Case 64-52
Case 13-39	Case 65-52
Case 14-39	Case 80-55
Case 16-40	Case 82-56
Case 28-43	Case 89-56
Case 34-46	Case 93-57
Case 48-50	
Total	19

TABLE XI
 OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL CLASS SCALE OF BOYS' AND GIRLS'
 DELINQUENCY CASES IN ERATH COUNTY
 JANUARY 1, 1938, THROUGH
 DECEMBER 31, 1958

Class Number	Classification	Delinquency Cases
I	Executives, Proprietors, Major Professions	2
II	Managers, Proprietors of Medium Business	2
III	Administrative Personnel, Owners of Small Business	1
IV	Owners of Little Businesses, Clerical, Sales Workers, Technicians	25
V	Skilled Workers	4
VI	Semi-Skilled Workers	30
VII	Unskilled Workers	45
Total		109

TABLE XII

OCCUPATION OF PARENTS OF SIXTEEN
 JUVENILE CASES IN THE
 STEPHENVILLE HIGH
 SCHOOL, 1950-1958

Occupation of Father	Delinquency Cases
Court Reporter	1
Farmer-Rancher	3
Insurance Broker	1
Oil Company Employee	1
Welder	1
Ice Company Manager	1
Butcher.	1
Plumber.	1
Grocer	1
Farmer	1
Feed Store Owner	1
Occupation of Mother	
Cafe Operator.	1
Studio Employee.	1
Nurse.	1
Total.	16

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