A STUDY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN MONTAGUE COUNTY, TEXAS, DURING 1947-1948

THESIS

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By

Virginia Lauderdale, B. S.

Saint Jo, Texas

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study was to analyze the following five factors related to juvenile delinquency in Montague County, Texas, during 1947 and 1948: first, causes and control of juvenile delinquency; second, personal data about thirty-three juvenile offenders; third, their offenses; fourth, disposition made of the charges by the judge of the juvenile court; and fifth, the present behavior status of the offenders.

Interest in the study was created by the following headlines in the Bowie News, March 17, 1947: "TEN KIDS IN SERIES OF BOWIE BURGLARIES; CITIZENS ARE AROUSED." The editorial described how ten boys, ranging in age from nine to fourteen years, were called before the judge of the County Juvenile Court, because they were implicated in one or more of a dozen burglaries and thefts of business establishments in Bowie, a North Texas town of 5,000 inhabitants.

An investigation was made relative to what types of law violation were engaged in by youths in other parts of the land.

It was found that the following types of juvenile delinquency, listed in order of frequency, have been reported in the United States: (1) truancy, (2) petty larceny, (3) sex offenses for girls, (4) general incorrigibility, (5) breaking and entering, (6) running away from home, (7) vagrancy, (8) disorderly conduct, (9) drinking, (10) destructive acts, and (11) injury to persons.  

Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary sources of information were used in developing the problem of this study. Primary sources included the juvenile judge of Montague County, several of the delinquents under consideration, families and neighbors of the delinquents, sheriff of Montague County, superintendents of schools of Bowie, Nocona, and Saint Jo, superintendent of the State Training School for Girls in Gainesville, Texas, Scout Leaders, ministers, and other citizens who were interested in the problems of youth. The questionnaire used for recording interviews is included as the Appendix of this study.

Secondary sources included books, periodicals, publications of the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, Reports of the National Conference on Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency, and newspaper editorials.

\(^2\)Lester D. Crow and Alice Crow, Our Teen Age Boys and Girls, p. 315.
Definition of Terms

The following interpretation of terms was used in the development of the present problem:

1. "The court" means the juvenile court, which serves Montague County.
2. "The judge" refers to the judge of the county's juvenile court.
3. A "juvenile delinquent" is a child under eighteen years of age who is apprehended and charged with some offense. He may be described 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."³

Method of Procedure

In the initial stage of the present investigation, extensive reading provided a background of factual knowledge concerning the magnitude of juvenile delinquency in the United States. Secondary sources of data also furnished an understanding of the philosophical concepts regarding the causes, prevention, and control of delinquency among teen-age boys and girls.

³Ibid.
The second step in the development of the problem was a series of interviews with the judge of the juvenile court in Montague County. From these interviews, information was obtained on the names of all juvenile delinquents who appeared in the court during 1947 and 1948, their offenses, disposition made of the charges against them, and their present status, if it were known.

The third step in the investigation consisted of interviews with some of the delinquents who were still in the county, or visits with their families, neighbors, or school superintendents. These contacts were designed to furnish first-hand information on the delinquents' present status, personal reactions, school life, church attendance, school activities, home and family life, and other community experiences.
CHAPTER II

A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

No effort has been made to include in this study a detailed analysis of the problems resident in the term "juvenile delinquency". However, a brief resume of representative concepts related to ascribed causes, suggested approaches to prevention and control, and some experimental preventive measures appeared to be desirable. As a result, the succeeding discussions were designed to present a panoramic view of some of the things that are being thought about and attempted today in an effort to curb the rising tide of delinquency in America, in general, and in Montague County, in particular.

Ascribed Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

A member of the Board of Visitors at the Elmira Reformatory defined juvenile delinquency as "nothing more than the fruit which has grown from the seeds of parental delinquency, and municipal delinquency."¹ If "children are not delinquent because they want to be, but because they have not been

¹Vincent P. Mazzola, Brooklyn Eagle, quoted by Crow and Crow in Our Teen Age Boys and Girls, p. 325.
taught to conduct themselves properly,\(^2\) then a challenge is flung to the home, church, school, character-building organizations, and law-enforcement personnel to do a more effective job of discharging responsibilities resident in educating, developing, and protecting youth.

An intelligent analysis of all the factors that are inherent in youth maladjustment is necessary for an understanding of the problem. Time and space do not permit such an analysis, but the following factors which are generally conceded to be conducive to adolescent delinquency are cited: 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.\(^3\) It is to be noted, however, that no one of these factors can be said to be a sure cause of delinquency. Often a subtle blending of several causes is in evidence.

Suggested Approaches to Control

A cure for juvenile delinquency has been aptly named "prevention".\(^4\) This approach calls for "adequate homes, schools, playgrounds, and churches, where love and affection

\(^2\)Lester D. Crow and Alice Crow, *Our Teen Age Boys and Girls*, p. 319.

\(^3\)Ibid., pp. 6-7.

\(^4\)Ibid., p. 316.
abound and where boys and girls can develop desirable attitudes for social living."

The following fifteen recommendations for attacking the problem of juvenile delinquency represent a summarized consensus of opinions found in a review of literature:

1. An extension of parent education
2. A renewed emphasis upon parental responsibility for the behavior of children
3. Greater diligence by the police for discovery of delinquent behavior
4. Wider utilization and extension of juvenile courts
5. Closer cooperation among home, school, church, courts, and other social agencies
6. As rapid elimination of slum areas as is possible
7. An extension of health service
8. An increase in recreational opportunities for all young people
9. A greater use of school facilities for community projects
10. A reduction of class size in schools
11. An increase in school personnel and guidance service
12. An increase in trained personnel for social work
13. An extension and enforcement of regulations governing the employment of minors
14. The establishment in every community of a youth commission consisting of parents, adolescents, and leaders of all community, social, and civic organizations
15. The establishment of youth centers.

Experimental Preventive Measures

Action is taking the place of talk at many points on the delinquency front. For instance, in Mattoon, Illinois, little cops are swinging big sticks. The junior policemen

5Ibid., p. 317. 6Ibid., p. 347.
and junior deputy sheriffs, ranging in age from ten to eighteen years, have organized for the purpose of assisting in the battle against juvenile delinquency. They serve as traffic guards near schools, patrol playgrounds, help guide crowds at parades and scenes of accidents, hunt lost children, keep "hoodlums" within bounds on Hallowe'en, and take part in all kinds of sports. The main aim is crime prevention. The young officers learn to keep out of trouble themselves and seek to keep others out of trouble, too. The plan of operation is described in the following editorial excerpt:

The National Sheriffs Association tells how the plan works in junior deputy sheriffs leagues. It goes like this:

A sheriff calls in the kids. He tells them his job is to crack down on crime. He wants the youngsters to help him. He puts across the idea that he is their friend, not a bogeyman.

THEY'RE IMPRESSED

The youths look around the office. They see the rogues gallery. They read case histories. Some make it clear that the criminal is shoveling coal in prison now because he took a wrong turn as a boy. The sprouts inspect the jail--a dreary place, at best. They hear a court trial.

When the lads sign up for the league, they pledge to uphold the law and set a good example. They get identification cards and badges; receive instruction in traffic safety and first aid.

Charles J. Hahn, executive secretary of the association, estimates 400 leagues with a total of 250,000 members functioning.

"Every report a sheriff has made to us on counties in which leagues have been organized indicates a marked decrease in delinquency," he says.

8Ibid.
The idea of putting a large part of the problem in the hands of juveniles has spread rapidly in the last two years. Officials estimate more than 250,000 have joined the groups of cub lawmen so far. The number is growing.

In Amarillo, Texas, the Kiwanis Club recently completed a new gymnasium at their youth center and also installed a snack bar. The cost of both reached more than $1,200. Thirty men worked a total of five-hundred hours during one month alone in clean-up work around this center.

The Kiwanis club at Port Angeles, Washington, owns and maintains five buses (that belong to the club) which are sent throughout the surrounding country districts each Sunday to bring children and adults to Sunday school and church. This service, provided at an annual expense to the club of $9,000, has been carried out for a number of years.

County probation officials in Fort Worth, Texas, recently enlisted a new weapon, mental science for combatting juvenile delinquency. This new approach is designed to help authorities find out why a boy or girl "goes wrong", and indicate the channels in which the youths should be directed to convert them to useful citizens.

The basis of the program is a series of written and oral tests, which take more than an hour to complete. One test


10 Ibid.
reveals the youngster's intelligence. Another reveals the youth offender's personality. Others, to be added soon, will indicate the vocational fields in which the boy or girl would be happiest and most successful. The object is to obtain as much information as possible for the district judges who dispose of juvenile delinquency cases.\textsuperscript{11}

In an article entitled "Pigs and Cabbages Reform Bad Boys," Detzer described how a jail warden in Chicago carried on a successful anti-delinquency program among young boys.\textsuperscript{12} The approach was illustrated with the case of seventeen-year-old "Little Joe" who was sentenced to one year in Cook County jail for habitual drunkeness. After serving his sentence, he walked out of confinement, a self-respecting, ambitious youth.

The warden's method of rehabilitation of youth is described in the following excerpt:

It is with the boys in the jail that Sam is most concerned. There is less hope for the older prisoners, but the youngsters are a challenge. He believes that if he is ingenious enough, and patient enough, he can salvage a large percentage. His tools are unorthodox; he uses not only classrooms and books, and paint and carpenter and printing shops, but the raising of vegetables and livestock. "The best cure I know for what ails these lads," he says, "is sunshine, fresh air and responsibility." Here they get all three.

Having cleaned up the interior of the jail, Sam in 1938 turned his attention to its four-acre yard, surrounded by stone walls and used as a rubbish dump. One summer morning he marched his boys into this enclosure,

\textsuperscript{11}Tarrant Uses New Weapon--Mental Science--in its War on Delinquency," \textit{Fort Worth Star Telegram}, August 5, 1948, P. 18.

\textsuperscript{12}Karl Detzer, "Pigs and Cabbages Reform Bad Boys," \textit{Reader's Digest}, XLI (December, 1947), 125-128.
told them it was to be a recreation yard, gave them shovels, rakes, and hoes.

The project took months. The boys worked stripped to the waist and proudly watched their muscles harden and their chests expand. Part of the yard became a lawn for drills and athletics, part flower and vegetable gardens. On half of it the boys built shelters for rabbits, ducks, chickens, pigs and goats.

In this barnyard atmosphere Sam experimented with his plan to make sunlight and fresh air and responsibility turn bad boys into good citizens.

Besides caring for the animals, each youngster has his own particular responsibility in the vegetable gardens, and those who wish may work in the flower beds, too.

"You've got to remember," the warden says, "that lots of boys never saw a cabbage grow or a flower open. It's a new adventure, and they find it more exciting than tough talk on the street corner. Their minds and their hands are creating something that's alive. Life takes on new meaning for them."13

Montague County, Texas, joined the ranks with other sections of the state and nation and is carrying on an apparently effective program for youth development. Citizens in three towns of the county, Bowie, Nocona, and Saint Jo, have shown much interest in combatting juvenile delinquency since ten boys from prominent families were brought before the judge of the juvenile court for stealing.

The Bowie Club sponsors a concerted recreation program for boys and girls between the ages of eight and seventeen inclusive for the purpose of giving supervised, wholesome recreation and skill. The eight-week summer program is held in the high school gymnasium, in the Future Homemakers of America workshop, and in Pelham Park, under the direction of

13Ibid., pp. 126-127.
the football coach, assisted by a woman teacher in the girls' activities.

An average of forty boys and eighteen girls assemble daily at nine o'clock to participate in games such as baseball, football, archery, croquet, and basketball. They are organized into several teams, playing in rounds. Each Monday night is play-night in which they participate in competitive games with teams from adjoining towns. Sack races, barrel roll, boxing, bicycling, football, tag, touch baseball, and other games are scheduled.

Each Thursday afternoon, the groups are transported to another county by trucks and by private cars to enjoy the swimming sport. The boys and girls are taken in separate groups, in most cases. Every two weeks, the parents provide conveyance for a camping trip.

At the close of the summer program, the girls display their crafts and handiwork. Although this exhibition is interesting to them, the highlights of the youth program are the Fourth of July picnic and the Lions Club Rodeo.

In addition to the Youth Recreation Program, the Lions Club sponsors an annual Santa Claus project. Toys are re-conditioned and distributed to unfortunate children, and baskets of food are taken to needy families.

Sight observation is one of the objectives of the Bowie Lions Club, and many children with defective eyesight are fitted with glasses at the club's expense. In addition, the
club's hall is open, under supervision, two nights each week for the young people.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars in Bowie sponsor a Softball League which is quite popular. It is made up of eight teams, including approximately a hundred boys and men.

The Bowie Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce sponsor a Rural Youth Dairy Program, in which a 4-H Club or a Future Farmers of America boy is given a registered dairy heifer. The boy, in turn, gives the first heifer calf back to the sponsor, who places the calf with another boy. This project has been in operation for more than two years, and thirty-five boys have received calves. Cash prizes are given twice each year, spring and fall, at a dairy show. The program reaches out into the trade territory surrounding Bowie. A culminating event is the barbecue given for the business men and the boys who own registered calves.

The National Guard, composed of boys seventeen years of age, takes care of the leisure hours of many boys as well as providing an income twice each week. To some members it is a vacation when they are sent to a summer encampment for a period of two weeks.

In addition to the projects sponsored by service clubs, the churches in Bowie engage in a Vacation Bible School, which is open to children of all denominations. The Baptist Church, through the leadership of a paid youth director, has
an organized youth program: Thursday, Music (Youth Choir Night); Saturday night, Fellowship; and Sunday night, Singspiration following the sermon. The Presbyterians cooperate in sponsoring youth-development activities, and the Methodist people have a similar program under the direction of talented volunteer workers. In addition, they maintain a recreation room and a playground.

The Scout Troups, sponsored by the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the American Legion, and the Lions Club, hold regular weekly meetings on Monday. The Cub Scouts also meet regularly each week and go to Camp Perkins in Wichita Falls each summer.

The school has a well-rounded, full curriculum, including such extra-curricular activities as a high school band, which functions throughout the summer, a school annual, a school paper, and an attractive athletic program. A pre-school camp is held for the football squad each year which lasts ten days or two weeks.

All of the preceding activities have been undertaken as a youth-development program. Bowie citizens believe that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Saint Jo supports an attractive athletic program, a school band, a pre-school camp for the football club and prospective members, a Parent-Teacher Association "Summer Round-up" of children who will start to school in September, Vacation Bible Schools, softball, and Youth Week. Nocona
citizens support the same organizations and activities as Saint Jo. In addition, daily vocational guidance is offered to all high school pupils. A Camp Fire Girls' organization has been set up, and two men's service clubs, Rotary and Lions, sponsor youth activities.

Professional Approaches

Many professional groups have been organized for the purpose of solving the great national problem of adolescents' adjustment in a maladjusted society. Among these groups was an Advisory Panel on Juvenile Delinquency problems which met in Washington, D. C., February 11, 1946. This meeting was the culmination of coordinated efforts by federal, state, municipal and private organizations, supplemented by the interest and support of President Harry S. Truman. The group was comprised of twenty-eight representatives of forty organizations. This Advisory Panel recommended that a larger and more representative conference be called by the Attorney General of the United States for the purpose of recommending a program of action to prevent and control juvenile delinquency in the nation. The recommendation was accepted and the conference was held in Washington, D. C., on November 20, 21, and 22, 1946. Representatives included over eight hundred men and women who heard reports on juvenile problems from expert panel leaders.
Final reports of each panel, as presented to the conference and approved by the representatives included the following discussions: (1) community coordination; (2) juvenile court law, juvenile court administration, and detention; (3) institutional treatment of juvenile delinquents; (4) role of the police in juvenile delinquency; (5) housing, community development, and juvenile delinquency; (6) recreation for youth; (7) mental health and child guidance clinics; (8) youth participation; (9) citizen participation; (10) case work--group work services; (11) the church; (12) the school as a preventive agency; (13) home responsibility; (14) rural aspects of juvenile delinquency; and (15) statistics.14

The preceding descriptions of what is being done about juvenile delinquency in certain communities indicate a widespread concern over the problems of youth. Justice Garvin of the United States Supreme Court summed up the philosophy behind the rehabilitation program when he agreed with the judge who said that "it is easier, better and cheaper to build boys than to mend men."15


15Justice Edwin L. Garvin, Supreme Court, quoted by Lester D. Crow and Alice Crow, Our Teen Age Boys and Girls, p. 323.
In the following chapter thirty-three cases of juvenile delinquents which appeared before the judge in Montague County, Texas, are briefly presented.
CHAPTER III

INDIVIDUAL CASE STUDIES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

An understanding of juvenile delinquency cannot be gained from a study of certain generalities common to youth's maladjustments. Real understanding must be preceded by an analysis of each individual's personal problems. True facts must be gained relative to their mental ability, their health, their emotional stability, their interests, and their habitual attitudes. In addition, an investigation should be made of their home life, their school life, and their community environment and activities. A study of juvenile delinquency should begin with a consideration of all factors within and without which could cause maladjustment.

The following case studies were intended to present a picture of each of the thirty-three cases which were brought before the judge in Montague County, Texas, during 1947 and 1948. They were compiled by the judge in many instances. In some cases, a personal interview was held with some member of the delinquent's family or with a friend or neighbor who was acquainted with the case. The data presented in the succeeding paragraphs were designed to see beneath the overt behavior of the individuals and gain a knowledge of
the apparent underlying causes of thirty-three cases of juvenile delinquency.

Case 1, dated March 4, 1947, involved a thirteen-year-old boy who had been arrested and charged with burglarizing the Ferndale Creamery and the Stephen Peanut Warehouse. This boy was a member of a secret organization known as the Cellar Gang, since their meetings were held in an old abandoned cellar. Each boy desiring membership in this organization qualified by committing a crime and submitting something that would promote and abet the gangsters' secret organization. Case 1 had met the requirements with the burglary and theft mentioned.

Investigation showed unsettled home life and family relations, as both parents had been married several times and were not living together at the time the boy was arrested and charged with theft. Previously, the mother had been convicted of bootlegging, and the boy had been paroled to his grandfather. The father made marginal income in the oil fields and owned a four-room house in the suburbs of the city. The boy and his brother and sister spent some time with each parent. The school records of Case 1 revealed several instances of misbehavior in school prior to his commitment to court.

At the present time, the mother and father are living together, and Case 1 is attending school regularly, frequently appearing on the honor roll. He is now in the ninth
grade and participates in school athletics, but he does not participate in community affairs, church activities, Boy Scouts, or Future Farmers of America. His primary interest is in an education.

Case 2, a brother of cases 1, 3, and 4, was in the sixth grade, made fair grades, and attended school regularly, although he did not participate in any school activities or in any community experiences, except for limited church activities. His citizenship in school was very unsatisfactory most of the time, but at present he is doing much better work in school. For a number of years he was the youngest child and was spoiled and pampered until twins were born, one of which died a few months later. The seven members of the family lived in a five-room house in the urban area. Both the father and the mother were employed; the children were left to roam the streets day and night, and the three boys immediately affiliated themselves with the local gangster crowd. The father was employed on the railroad section crew, and the mother was employed in a cafe.

Case 3 was in the ninth grade and attended school regularly, and made fair grades. He did not participate in the extra-curricular activities and attended church infrequently. Records show that he has improved in school and is better in attendance at the present time.

Case 4 was in the tenth grade, attended school regularly, made fair grades, participated in athletics, and
attended church occasionally. He has improved immensely and probably will be graduated from high school, according to the report of the superintendent of schools.

The mother stated that she realized it was a mistake to try to work, but there had been sickness in the family, in addition to one death, and she felt that it was necessary for her to assist in paying the debts. At the present time, she is staying at home and is trying to keep her boys straight. She was neatly dressed when interviewed, and appeared to be very reasonable regarding the discipline of the boys, and said that she wanted to help them. At the same time, she was shielding them in many ways by making excuses for them.

Case 5 was a sulky, impudent, fifteen-year-old boy who acted as the chief and leader of the Cellar Gang. On numerous occasions, complaints had been made against him, principally because of his past record; but after investigation he was found not guilty. He had several guns in the old cellar and had secured a radio for short wave purposes. On March 4, 1947, he was charged with theft, after breaking into a drink box in a Sinclair Filling Station. With very little encouragement, he would have developed into a "genuine thug" or small-time gangster, and for that reason he has been given special attention. The judge felt that if he were to commit him to the Training School, he would, in all probability, become a hardened criminal.
Considering his own attitude and his home environment, he had, until this specific date, done remarkably well. His family, composed of seven members, lived in a four-room cottage in the slum area of the city. The illiterate father was employed in a service station. The mother was well-dressed and made a very nice appearance. She was extremely brusque and uncultured in her actions, and her speech was profusely punctuated with profanity. She had married when she was fifteen years old, and her previous environment was not of the best type. She had, with the consent of her husband, been associated with the county's chief bootlegger, stating that she was forced to obtain money since she could not depend upon her husband for support and a decent livelihood. This bootlegger lived with the family most of the time, and the children referred to him as "uncle". He spent money on the family for recreation, principally at carnivals and similar forms of entertainment.

Case 5 was the oldest boy in the family. He had been humored and pampered until he had become a problem child at a very early age. From infancy he had displayed temper with tantrums. His mother always shielded him in any misbehavior or illegal action.

He was in the ninth grade in school, made poor grades, attended irregularly, and was considered a truant. He did not participate in either school or community activities and never attended church. At one time, he was a member of
a Boy Scout Troop, but his mother stated that he did not like the troop and withdrew. He liked to hunt, swim, and read. However, his literature consisted of detective and crime magazines, and he frequented the moving picture houses. When he was fifteen years old, he tried to obtain a marriage license for himself and a thirteen-year-old girl. His mother refused to give her permission for this marriage; consequently, he became very determined to secure the license and marry. He made several attempts without her consent. His mother implied that the girl's parents were trying to force him to marry her. She would not give her consent, stating that it would just be another child for them to support.

Case 5 was guilty in many instances of misbehavior before his final arraignment to the court, where the judge paroled him to his mother.

He finally quit school and was employed in a service station for a short period of time. He married in 1948 and is unemployed at the present time.

Case 6 was a very likable boy, thirteen years of age, who was another member of the Cellar Gang. Seemingly, he became unmanageable due to lack of home guidance and care. He was in the sixth grade at school, attended irregularly, and made very poor grades. There was no indication of participation in any school or community activity.
His parents were divorced. His mother married a night watchman in an adjacent town in the county. She helped support the family as a public seamstress. She was of an irritable, high-strung nature and objected to Case 6 and his brother coming into the two-room apartment while she was working. Consequently, the boy spent most of his time on the street corners with members of his gang. When the charges were filed against this boy for theft in the Ferndale Creamery, the judge paroled him to his mother. She left the state after seeking a divorce, and they are now living in Oklahoma.

Case 7 was a twelve-year-old boy who was convicted of theft on March 4, 1947. He was also a member of the notorious Cellar Gang and had stolen eggs from a poultry house. He was paroled to his mother. His parents were divorced, and his mother was remarried to an illiterate man who made his living by doing yard work. The family of four lived in a three-room house in the suburbs of the city with a submarginal income. The boy's own father worked in a service station in another city. Neither of the parents took any interest in the child, each thinking the other should take the responsibility of the boy and his younger brother.

The boy was in the fifth grade, but attended school with no regularity and made very poor grades. He did not participate in any of the activities. At the present time
he is living in Sherman, Texas, but whether he is working is not known.

**Case 8** was a ten-year-old boy who was charged with burglarizing the Ferndale Creamery and the Stephen Peanut Warehouse. He also was a member of the Cellar Gang. The judge paroled him to his mother.

This boy was another victim of a broken home. Both parents were married twice. However, they are living together at the present time.

**Case 8** was in the sixth grade at the time of this incident. He had been attending school regularly and had made average grades. He rarely ever caused any trouble in school, and he participated in athletics and attended church and Sunday school. His parents own an eight-room house, and the father makes a comfortable living for the family. The boy is the older of two children and is at present residing in Bowie, where he has not given any further trouble.

**Case 9**, a fourteen-year-old "half-wit" boy, was another member of the Cellar Gang. Charges were filed against him on March 4, 1947, for the robbery of the Ferndale Creamery and the Stephen Peanut Warehouse. He was paroled to his father.

He and his younger brother lived with their parents in a three-room house in the slum area of the city. The parents evinced very little concern for him and his brother. The home life was unpleasant, and the mother did not prepare
meals for the boys regularly. Case 9, more or less a "bum", became a nuisance to the townspeople. His progress in school was extremely retarded, and he attended irregularly. Finally, with his parents' permission, he withdrew from school and roamed the streets. Having never participated in any school or community activities, he was not a part of the community life. His father had been working for the city; but since this incident was recorded, the family has moved to South Texas.

Case 10 was the younger brother of the preceding case. Charges were filed against him for the robbery of the Stephen Peanut Warehouse and the Ferndale Creamery. Since he was only twelve years old, he was also paroled to his father.

He was in the sixth grade in school when he committed the offense. He participated in no activities that were uplifting morally in the school or community. Despite his irregular attendance, he was a fair student and made very good grades. He received no encouragement in the home, and he and his brother were left to shift for themselves. Recently, he moved to South Texas with his family and is residing there at the present time.

Case 11 was another twelve-year-old boy who was in the sixth grade in school. He attended regularly and made good grades. He participated in athletics and was particularly
interested in baseball. He was a regular church attendant and affiliated himself with all church activities.

His parents owned their six-room home, located in the rural area. There were six in the family, and this boy was the youngest child. The father owned a feed store and made a comfortable livelihood. The boy spent most of his time in town with a cousin whose influence was not of the highest caliber.

Charges were filed against this boy on March 4, 1947, for theft, after he had burglarized the Stephen Peanut Warehouse. The judge paroled him to his mother, and, to date, he has been law-abiding.

Case 12 is another example of unhappiness caused by unpleasant home conditions. On January 9, 1947, the parents of a sixteen-year-old girl appeared before the juvenile judge in an attempt to reform her. She was guilty of minor theft and was beyond her parents' control. She refused to attend school or church, and she often remained away from home all night.

The father was a tenant farmer, and the family of five lived in a crowded three-room house. The parents were very strict with the girl. They felt that she should assume more responsibility on the farm, but the girl wanted to have a good time.

Eventually, the parents solved the problem in the home and the girl later married and moved to another state.
Case 13 was dated February 12, 1947. Charges were filed against a fourteen-year-old boy for cattle theft. This shy and motherless boy was employed by two criminals and became involved in the theft.

The boy and his father resided in a three-room house in a rural community. Following the death of his mother, the boy wanted to enlist in the army. He was in the seventh grade in school, with a record of irregular attendance and very poor grades. He had no supervision, but he was permitted to come and go as he pleased and to stay away from home as long as he wished.

After his trial, he was paroled to his father, who was an employee in the oil fields. Late records show that he is now in the army.

Case 14 was another product of a discordant home. In this case, charges were filed against a girl, age fourteen, for associating with "vicious and immoral" persons. On June 30, 1947, she was paroled to her father in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was an employee in the State Hospital in that city.

The girl was of a determined nature and resented authority, both in the home and at school. She was in the eighth grade and showed very little interest in school, attended irregularly, was often truant, and had a very poor record. She was not interested in any worthwhile community activities and did not participate in any school activities.
Her family life was very unsatisfactory. Prior to the divorce of her parents, there was bitter quarreling and jealousy in the home. There were five members in the family, and they lived in a five-room tenant house in a rural community. After the divorce, both parents remarried, and the girl lived with her father and stepmother. She received very little supervision from either parent. Consequently, she began to stay out very late each night, associated with "vicious and immoral" characters, and contracted venereal disease. The latest report on this case showed that the girl had recently married.

**Case 15** is that of a fourteen-year-old boy who had taken letters containing checks from various post-office boxes. Charges were filed against this boy on February 21, 1947, for theft. After the trial, the judge paroled him to his mother.

He lived in a poorly furnished house of four rooms, which was located in a rural area near a city. There were eight in the family living in these crowded conditions. The mother was of an excitable, antagonistic nature, and the father was a heavy drinker, frequently mistreating his wife and children. Nothing but discord existed within the family circle. It was necessary for the mother to work in order to help support the six children. Since the father was employed in the oil fields, and the mother worked half-time in a laundry, the children received no supervision.
Case 15 was permitted to stay out of school at any time and eventually withdrew while in the seventh grade. He never attended church and resented authority from any source.

Case 16 was a fifteen-year-old boy who had lived with his grandparents since the death of his mother. The father had remarried. Upon the death of the grandparents, the boy lived with his father and step-mother and their two children. He was in the ninth grade and was often on the truant rolls. He defied all authority, and on numerous occasions he unlawfully gained entrance to ball games and other social gatherings for the sole purpose of disturbing peace and order. His father, an oil field worker, made sufficient money to give him spending money, but he wanted his boy to work and make his own money. Finally, theft of a car, which he drove through the streets at an excessive speed, breaking every traffic regulation, brought him before the judge. He was paroled to his father, and at present his status is unknown, since he moved with his family to California.

Case 17 was a thirteen-year-old girl who lived in a three-room house on a farm with her parents and one brother. Her home situation was most unfortunate and unhappy. The father, large in stature, had an extremely mean, sullen disposition which often caused him to be brutal to the girl. He not only whipped her unmercifully for minor misbehavior, but he deprived her of all pleasure by refusing to give her any money. His reply was always that she had more than she
deserved or needed. The frail, delicate mother was unable to help the situation, since she was also deprived. The father did the spending for the family. The brother had been charged with murder, and that added bitterness to the situation.

The girl attended school irregularly. She was a nuisance when she did attend, causing trouble habitually. When she was in the sixth grade she became associated with "vicious and immoral people", as the judge described them. Charges were filed against her on May 24, 1947. When she was brought before the judge, she asked him not to send her back home, stating that she would rather live in jail the remainder of her life than return home. However, she was paroled to her mother, and provisions were made for medical treatment since she had contracted a venereal disease.

On July 17, 1947, she was again convicted for the same offense: associating with "vicious and immoral characters". She was committed to the State Training School for girls, located in Gainesville, Texas. She remained there for three months before she was released to live with her married sister in Nevada. For several months, she had a good record, but later she became implicated in some misdemeanor with ex-convicts who had at one time lived in her sister's home. The sister was involved in the same case. The girl was later arrested in California. The juvenile authorities returned her to Nevada and placed her in the Catholic
Detention Home, where she was given medical attention again. After her release from the Detention Home, she returned to Montague County, but remained for only one night and started a cross-country hitchhike. On July 22, 1948, she was seized in Jacksonville, Florida, for vagrancy and for associating with questionable characters. Finally, she became involved in a narcotic ring, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation requested that the Superintendent of the State Training School for Girls keep her there until she became of age. She escaped from the school and fled to Arizona. At the present time, she is married and is living in Arizona, and her family is living in Oklahoma.

Case 18 was a thirteen-year-old Mexican boy, whose father deserted his family before the birth of the last baby. He was the fourth member of a family of seven children; the boy lacked the proper food and clothing, as well as the proper supervision. He was apparently a very sensible and a very good boy until he began associating with an older boy who influenced him to stay away from home for weeks at a time. Furthermore, on numerous occasions, the mother of his companion shielded this boy by refusing to reveal his whereabouts, although he was probably in her own home. He was living in Tarrant County, and on July 1, 1947, he and his companion were charged with theft of some bicycles. The judge paroled him to his mother.

After stealing several guns on October 21, 1947, he and a companion concealed themselves in the woods; there they
removed their clothes near a lake, hoping to convince the officers that they had been drowned. When the officers arrested them, his mother felt that she could no longer accept the responsibility of the boy, on account of ill health and the burden of caring for the other children. The judge committed him to the State Training School for Boys in Gatesville, Texas.

The mother of this boy later wrote to the County Judge, stating that he had learned his lesson, and that he wished to get his release in order to return home and set an excellent example for the other children. Since he had a good record at the State Training School, they paroled him to his mother in a short time.

According to the last report, he made a splendid adjustment since his release and is attending school with satisfactory grades and helping to support himself.

Case 19 was a companion case to Case 21. This boy was fifteen years of age and was involved in cases of theft. The mother was employed in a factory, and the father was deceased. There were two younger children, and the family of five lived in a five-room house, which they rented. The boy in question did not attend school and never attended church. He was definitely a very bad influence on the two cases discussed previously. After the trial, the judge paroled him to his mother.
Case 20 was a shy, attractive, sixteen-year-old girl with red hair and a beautiful complexion. She lived with her family on a farm in a shabby, weather-beaten, four-room house. She was the oldest of six children and was forced to assume the responsibility of the household because her mother was confined to a mental institution. In addition to the domestic duties, it was necessary for this girl to help her father with the farm work. She loved her father, and felt that he appreciated her assistance. She was extremely unhappy because she was very lonely and had no opportunity to make friends. Her duties at home prevented her from attending school regularly, thus depriving her of the privilege of forming any friendships and having any social contacts. She was in the eighth grade at the time she was forced to withdraw from school.

Realizing that she had worked hard, the father gave her permission to go to town and get a room in a tourist court for a much needed rest. It was here that she became acquainted with people whose influence caused her to become a sex delinquent. On December 12, 1946, she made her first appearance in court on charges of immorality. Despite her pitiful pleadings against returning to a life of drudgery on the farm, she was paroled to her father. Shortly after this the mother returned home from the hospital.

After this first offense and parole, the girl was not satisfied to remain at home. In March, 1947, she was
convicted for the same offense. Since this was her second offense, the judge committed her to the State Training School for Girls in Gainesville, Texas. From there she was transferred to the Volunteers of America in Fort Worth, Texas, where she gave birth to her child. Her father was killed while she was away. Her release came, and she was paroled to her mother. At the last report she was living in Bellevue, Texas.

Case 21 was a charge against a well-dressed, thirteen-year-old girl. On December 10, 1946, she was charged with associating with "vicious and immoral" persons. She was attractive in appearance, but she was very profane in her speech and made undue and brazen advances toward men. She had indulged in several fights with girls prior to her arrest.

Her father was a rancher. The family of four lived in a four-room house. There was much discord between the father and the mother.

The girl was popular in school and participated in some athletics, but her grades were poor. Her interest in school soon waned, and her attendance became very irregular. She finally withdrew from school in the sixth grade in order to work, although her mother was ambitious for her to finish her high school education and enter nurses training. The mother wanted to send her to live with a brother with the hope that she would finish school, but the girl refused to go.
Instead of taking advantage of every opportunity and attending school, she ran away from home and secured employment. She spent her weekly salary as soon as she received it. She had difficulty in meeting her expenses, such as room rent and other necessities. She offered to share her room in the tourist court with various men if they would pay her rent. In a short time, she contracted a venereal disease and her mother took her to Wichita Falls for treatment. She remained at home for a time; but on account of the brutal treatment received by her drunken father, she left again and continued her licentious living. On July 6, 1947, she was convicted again for the same offense and was sent to the State Training School for Girls in Gainesville, Texas. She remained there until June 18, 1948. She was paroled to her mother in Shannon, Texas. She planned to live with her brother and enter school to prepare herself for nurses' training. However, she returned to the reform school in a short time. In March, 1949, she escaped from the Training School. At present, she is supposed to be in Oklahoma City.

Case 22. Charges were filed against a fourteen-year-old girl on October 2, 1947, for associating with "vicious and immoral" persons. She was beyond her parents' control and was trying to marry a boy of questionable character.

The family of this girl was very poor and had been on relief much of the time. The father was a farmer, but at the time of the girl's offense he was working at odd jobs.
The father was deaf and very illiterate. In fact, he was unable to write his name. The mother was illiterate also, and was almost blind due to nearsightedness. This family of fourteen lived in a three-room house with very meager and shabby household furnishings. They did not even try to educate the children, although the accused girl had completed the sixth grade in school and was in the seventh grade at the time of this incident. After the trial, the judge paroled her to the father. At last report, she was married.

Case 23 was a tall, slender, and very attractive girl, who was charged as a "runaway." She was very clean and took great pride in her personal appearance, especially in her pretty blonde hair. She was very nervous and quick-tempered. From the time she was able to walk, she ran away from her mother and delighted in hiding from her. As evening came on, the mother could tell that she was planning to run away, as she would get restless and begin to look around, as if hunting a place to go. Many times she would run as fast as she could, while her mother was calling her to come back.

When the girl was four years of age, her parents were separated and divorced, after having been married for twenty-two years. The father was extremely irritable and fault-finding; and before this girl was born, he mistreated the mother in such severe manner that she feared his very presence.
They had four married children, none of whom had ever given them any trouble; therefore, the mother was bewildered and did not know how to manage this child. According to the mother, this daughter was exactly like her father, and the more the mother tried to help her, the worse she became. She said that she hated her mother and would not cooperate in any way. If the mother disagreed with her, she would fight her. Many times she would eat her meals on the front porch in preference to eating in the presence of her mother.

She did not appreciate the things that were done for her, and she felt that every member of her family expected too much from her. She resented being told what to do. Her mother tried to free her of all home responsibilities. She deprived herself of many things in order to supply the child's wants, but the daughter simply resented this overprotective attitude of her mother.

After the mother and father were divorced, it became necessary for the mother to work. Since there was no one at home, the child was left alone after school hours. She did not attend school regularly, but wandered about in the neighborhood. Her grades were poor, and her mother's efforts to help her with her lessons proved futile. Seemingly, the more she helped her, the more nervous the girl became and the less she learned. At the time of this particular offense, the girl was in the fourth grade.
She attended shows frequently but would stay only a few minutes at one time. She attended Sunday school when she was a small child, but finally refused to go because her mother attended.

She had been sick from childhood, particularly with boils and sick headaches which was a characteristic of her family. The mother took her to a psychiatrist in Fort Worth, Texas, but the girl refused to respond to the examination and just cried and trembled all over. The doctor explained that her body was developing more rapidly than her mind.

As she grew older, she became more obstinate and uncontrollable. Her "running away" became more habitual, and she often stayed away two or three nights at a time. No amount of nagging, threatening, whipping, or reasoning had any effect on her. At the age of twelve, the juvenile judge deemed it necessary to place her in the State Training School for Girls in Gainesville, Texas, despite the fact that the mother felt that she should be sent to an institution for the feeble-minded. It was on September 19, 1945, that she entered the State School in Gainesville. Two years later, she was paroled to her mother because of good behavior. After two months at home, she presented the same problem as before and was returned to the Training School.

A year later, in 1948, she again proved by merit that she could cooperate, so she was given a foster home in
Gainesville, Texas. The people were very prosperous and quite well-to-do. They furnished her needs, and, in addition, gave her many luxuries. They introduced her to a group of girls, hoping that she would become interested in their activities. She continued to like picture shows and attended as often as her foster parents permitted. She became disobedient, impudent, and lazy, and on one occasion she "threw" a temper tantrum when asked to hem a dress. A short time after this incident, her boy friend failed to keep a date with her, and she displayed another temper fit and cried to go home. She became uncontrollable and was returned to the institution with a demotion. Later, she was paroled to her sister in Bowie, Texas. At the present time, she is helping her mother in a day nursery in Bowie, Texas.

Case 24, a sixteen-year-old boy, was charged for the second time with drunkenness, fighting, and disturbing the peace on June 19, 1947. This case was the result of neglect and the lack of proper supervision. After the death of the boy's father, he and his younger brother were sent to live with their grandmother, who resided on a farm. She had several children of her own, and, unfortunately, she had very little time to devote to the grandchildren. The mother was employed in an adjoining town and did not come to see the children often. When she was not working, she spent her time entirely for pleasure; consequently, the
children received no attention and affection. The boy's only sister ran away and married a man twice her age when she was only fifteen years old. His older brother volunteered for the army at a very early age. Such disorganized home and family life may have had a bearing on this boy's maladjustment.

The boy had a very pleasing personality and many friends, but he was lazy in school and made poor grades. He was inconsistent in attendance and finally withdrew when he reached the eighth grade. He spent his time in low-class eating places and "honkey-tonks". His favorite pastime was dancing in these places.

After his trial, he was paroled to his uncle since his mother had remarried, and the judge did not feel that the boy would get the proper attention. After the mother had remarried, she insisted that the boys live with her; but she was not able to manage them. According to the last report, Case 24 is now employed in the oil fields, and his record is clear.

Case 25, dated November 15, 1948, consisted of charges of aggravated assault against a boy, fifteen years of age. He had gone to the home of an elderly woman, and, after asking for a drink of water, he grabbed a gun and threatened her. He later claimed that she threatened him first. He then fled to the railroad station and pulled the switch just before a fast train was due. Fortunately, little damage
was done. The boy was taken to Wichita Falls for a ninety-
day observation in the hospital and was diagnosed as a
mental case.

He was in the seventh grade and attended school very
irregularly. He was making very poor grades and partici-
pating in none of the extra-curricular activities.

His mother and father were divorced. Both had remar-
mied, and the boy was living with his grandparents in a
four-room house on a farm. At the present time, he is
supposed to be living with the grandparents and spends his
time "loafing" in Bowie, Texas.

Case 26 is another situation where the home life was
a story of neglect, and the children were pushed aside for
other things. On September 30, 1948, charges were filed
against a twelve-year-old boy for burglarizing the Kersey
Service Station. After the trial, the judge paroled the boy
to his father, who works regularly in the oil fields in
Oklahoma.

Prior to the boy's arrest, he was living with his
grandparents in a three-room house on a farm. This boy was
the oldest of three children, one of whom had recently died.
As a result of this child's death, the mother had become
almost insane.

This boy was in the seventh grade. His grades might
have been excellent if his attendance had been regular. He
was undependable, told untruths, and ran away when he was
implicated in any mischief in school. One instance of his petty theiving was the occasion upon which he entered a neighbor's home and changed the ice card and took a portion of the money.

The mother often left the small children alone all night. On September 30, 1948, she went to Oklahoma with two men and was killed instantly in a collision on the return trip. When neighbors came in to assist the family after the accident, they found beer cans and whiskey bottles scattered on the floor throughout the house. Before the mother was buried, this boy burglarized the Kersey Service Station and fled to Oklahoma.

After the trial, he was paroled to his father. He is now living with his father and is working regularly.

Case 27 consisted of charges filed against a girl, sixteen years old, on February 19, 1948, for vagrancy. She was paroled to her mother, and the case was satisfactorily worked out in the home.

This girl was pleasant, had a well-rounded personality, and was very attractive in appearance. She was in the ninth grade, attended school regularly, and made very good grades. She participated in athletics, choral clubs, and the piano class.

Her mother owned a beauty shop and had associated with a married man until both homes were ruined. The father deserted his family, and a sister was the mother of two
illegitimate children. With such sordid surroundings as a background, this girl refused to remain at home, and it seemed impossible to control her in any way. Since the trial, the records show that the girl recently married and no further charges have been recorded.

Case 28 was an eleven-year-old boy charged with burglaryizing the Molesby Grocery on September 28, 1948. He was another victim of a divided and unhappy home. The father and mother had been separated, and he had no home life. He was in the sixth grade, a regular attendant, and was making average grades. He was anxious to become a Boy Scout and wanted to take part in outside activities. An older brother was valedictorian of his class, and this boy was ambitious to do likewise.

At the present time, the parents are living together and the father is working in the oil fields. The boy is attending school in Nocona, Texas.

Case 29 was a companion case to Case 28, and this twelve-year-old boy was charged with the same burglary. Following the trial, he was also paroled to his mother.

He was in the fifth grade in school and showed a good attendance record but made very poor grades. He was uncooperative, both in school and in the community. He seemed to delight in disturbing others and in destroying property. His father was a veteran of World War II, and the family of four lived in a three-room house. At the present time the boy is living in Nocona and attending school.
Case 30 was a cousin of the boy involved in Case 26. He was also charged with burglarizing the Kersey Service Station. He was twelve years of age and was in the sixth grade, with a record of irregular attendance and poor grades.

The father worked in a garage in the city. The family of seven resided in a three-room house in a rural community.

Case 31 was a girl, age sixteen, who was charged with vagrancy. She not only frequented low dives in the company of undesirable men, but she often spent weeks at a time in tourist courts with various men. As a result, she contracted a venereal disease. On February 21, 1948, she was sentenced to the State Training School for Girls at Gainesville, Texas, for the second time.

Case 32 was a boy born out of wedlock. The mother and father later married and left this child with his maternal grandparents, who lived on a farm in a dilapidated, dirty home. When the father joined the army, the mother also came to live with her parents, bringing with her a five-year-old son. She helped with the farm work when she was not employed in a cafe.

This boy, age sixteen, had always been small for his age and was always dirty and lazy. He was in excellent health excepting for defective sight which was caused by a crossed eye. He showed a strong dislike for school work and for any form of school activity. He was a habitual truant despite the fact that the mother borrowed money to buy clothes to send him to school. His manner was insolent both to grandparents
and other adults. He had utter disregard for authority. His grandmother always shielded him in his misconduct by placing the blame on the teacher or the classmates. She was consistently uncooperative. He was retarded in the elementary school and did not enter high school until he was almost sixteen years old.

A service club sponsored a dairy project and gave the Future Farmers of America members a registered calf to raise and enter in the annual County Fair. This boy received a calf, but he was so lazy that the animal almost starved to death as a result of his neglect. He made the statement that his calf took second prize at the County Fair, and that when he sold his calf, he would use the money to pay his graduation expenses. He continued by making the statement that he was a star football and basketball player. This information was untrue, for he spent a large portion of his time loafing on the streets with older boys who influenced him into forging his grandfather's name on a check. He remained in jail until the check was redeemed. The mother, a typical example of poverty, came to visit her son, wringing her hands and crying over his offense.

Later, the boy worked at Fort Worth in a cemetery. At the last report, he had joined the Army.

Case 33. In 1935, the mother of this boy died. The irresponsible father left him with elderly grandparents while he tramped through the country doing odd jobs. After the
death of the grandparents, the boy went to live with an uncle. The sixteen-year-old boy became shy, sullen, and gloomy and preferred to be left alone much of the time. Although he took an interest in making a truck patch, he wandered the woods most of the time hunting. He intimated that he was interested in farming and hunting because he liked to be in the "good old Texas sun." On several occasions he worked for other people, but his work was not done satisfactorily. There was much dissention in the home over his careless work.

He attended school irregularly and caused much disturbance by fighting, cursing, and annoying the girls. His grades were poor, and he showed no interest in school.

On September 21, 1946, charges were filed against him for a serious theft offense. Inasmuch as the uncle refused to accept the responsibility of rearing him any longer, the juvenile judge was forced to send him to the Training School in Gatesville. He remained there a year and was paroled. However, in the summer of 1948, he was charged with burglary. The judge withheld his verdict because the boy had passed the juvenile age. The judge said that his being placed in a penitentiary would only make the boy a hardened criminal instead of a reformed person, so he finally paroled him to the father. At the last report, he was tramping around the country, presumably in California.
CHAPTER IV

PERSONAL DATA ON THIRTY-THREE OFFENDERS

In addition to the case studies presented in the preceding chapter, it seemed advisable, for a better understanding of the offenses, to include a brief summation of certain factors in the offenders' personal histories, such as their sex and age, types of communities in which they lived, their home conditions, school records, and community activities. Data on these areas are discussed in the succeeding pages.

Sex of the Offenders

Both boys and girls were included among the offenders considered in this study. The youngest was ten years of age and the oldest was seventeen. In each of the age-groups between these two points, one or more cases was reported. Table 1 contains information relative to sex, according to age-groups.

Data in Table 1 shows that the cases under consideration included twenty-four boys and nine girls. Nine of the boys were from ten to twelve years, inclusive, and fifteen were from thirteen to seventeen. All the girls were from thirteen to sixteen years of age. One boy was ten; one, eleven; and seven were twelve. Four boys and two girls were each
TABLE 1
THE NUMBER OF BOYS AND GIRLS IN EACH AGE-GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-Group</th>
<th>Number of Male Offenders</th>
<th>Number of Female Offenders</th>
<th>Total Number Offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

thirteen, while four boys and three girls were each fourteen years of age. Four boys were fifteen, but no girl was reported in this age-group. Each of the three boys and four girls was sixteen, and one boy was seventeen. It was found that almost one-third of the cases were girls who were from thirteen to sixteen years of age; and a little over two-thirds of the cases were boys, half of which were under fourteen years of age.

Types of Communities and Home Conditions

Types of communities.—Both rural and urban communities furnish juvenile delinquents according to information obtained in the present study. Table 2 contains data on the distribution of boys and girls according to the type of community in which they lived.
TABLE 2
THE NUMBER OF BOYS AND GIRLS WHO LIVED IN RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex of Offenders</th>
<th>Rural Community</th>
<th>Urban Community</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of Male Offenders</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of Female Offenders</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in Table 2 show that eleven of the cases lived in rural communities, while twenty-two lived in urban localities. Approximately one-third of the male cases and one-half of the female cases were from the country; the remainder lived in town.

Home conditions.--The following three factors were noted in a study of the homes in which the offenders lived: marital status of the parents, number in the family, and the size of the house in which the family lived. Table 3 contains data on the first factor.

Data in Table 3 show that seventeen parents of the thirty-three cases under consideration were not living together; in four cases they were divorced; nine mothers and six fathers had remarried, either after the divorce or after
TABLE 3
MARITAL STATUS OF THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS' PARENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex of Offenders</th>
<th>Marital Status of Mother</th>
<th>Marital Status of Father</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living with Husband</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of Male Offenders in Group</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of Female Offenders in Group</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

the death of the husband or wife. A summary of information shows that over half of the parents were not living together, and almost half of them (either husband, wife, or both) had remarried.

Table 4 contains data on the occupations of the offenders' parents. Information is included on the father and mother for both boys and girls.
TABLE 4

OCCUPATIONS OF THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS' PARENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex of Offenders</th>
<th>Mother's Occupation</th>
<th>Father's Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cafe Waitress</td>
<td>Railroad Section Hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seamstress</td>
<td>Service Station Attendant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maid</td>
<td>Night Watchman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laundry Worker</td>
<td>Swift &amp; Co., Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day Laborer</td>
<td>City Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Factory Worker</td>
<td>Feed Store Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Factory Chambermaid</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beauty Shop Operator</td>
<td>Oil Field Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bootlegger</td>
<td>State Hospital Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Coal Miner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mechanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ranch Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Factory Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>City Grader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Disabled Veteran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cemetery Caretaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Day Laborer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Male Offenders in Group</td>
<td>3 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 1 3 2 1 1 2 1 5 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 2 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Female Offenders in Group</td>
<td>1 1 1 1 1 1 4 3 1 1 1 1 2 3 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4 2 2 2 2 1 3 1 1 15 3 2 1 1 2 1 3 5 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 3 33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in Table 4 show that the mothers of the offenders were employed as follows: waitress, seamstress, maid, laundry worker, day laborer, factory worker, hotel chambermaid, beauty shop operator, and bootlegger. The fathers included a railroad section hand, service station attendant, night watchman, salesman, city employee, feed store employee,
farmer, oil field worker, state hospital employee, coal miner, mechanic, ranch employee, factory worker, city grader, disabled veteran, cemetery caretaker, and day laborer. It was found that both parents of practically all of the cases were non-professional people, and most of them were unskilled laborers.

Table 5 contains information on the size of the cases' families. Data are included separately on boys and girls.

TABLE 5
SIZE OF THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS' FAMILIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex of Offenders</th>
<th>Number of Members in Family</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Male Offenders in Group</td>
<td>1 2 9 2 1 8 1</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Female Offenders in Group</td>
<td>2 2 2 1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1 2 1 4 3 9 2</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in Table 5 show that the smallest family contained two members, and the largest had fourteen. One case appeared in each of these families. The largest number of male cases were in families with four members, while the largest number of female cases appeared in families of four, five, and six members. About the same number of cases were
in families with membership ranging from one through four as in those with membership ranging from five through eight. A summary of preceding data shows that over nine-tenths of the cases were in families with membership ranging from four to seven members, inclusive.

Table 6 contains data on the size of the houses in which the thirty-three offenders lived. Data are included separately for boys and girls.

**Table 6**

**SIZE OF THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS' HOUSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex of Offenders</th>
<th>Number of Rooms in the Home</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Male Offenders in Each Group</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Female Offenders in Each Group</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in Table 6 indicate that the delinquents' houses ranged in size from two to eight rooms, with two cases living in the former size and one in the latter. A summary of information shows that thirty-one of the thirty-three, or over nine-tenths of them, lived in houses of two to five rooms inclusive, with fifteen of these living in three rooms.
School Records of the Offenders

The following factors in the school life of each offender were considered in the present study: age, grade, attendance, school marks, and extra-curricular activities. Table 7 contains information on these items.

An analysis of these data show that three of the cases were not in school. The grades of the others ranged from the fourth to the eleventh inclusive, with one case each in the lowest and the highest grade. Twenty-eight of them, or seven-eighths of the entire thirty-three, were in the fifth to ninth grades, inclusive.

Data in Table 7 also show that twenty of the cases attended school irregularly, and twenty made unsatisfactory grades. Twenty-two of the cases did not participate in any extra-curricular activity. Five participated in athletics; two participated in choral club and band; and one belonged to the Future Farmers of America. It was found that approximately two-thirds of the cases attended school irregularly and made poor grades; two-thirds did not participate in any extra-curricular activity. Three types of the extra-curricular activities were participated in by the eight pupils who reported participation. These activities included athletics, choral club, band, and Future Farmers of America. The pupils who participated in athletics showed more interest in baseball than in any other phase of athletics.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>School Marks</th>
<th>Extra-Curricular Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reg.</td>
<td>Irreg.</td>
<td>S. U.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>16</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>*15</td>
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<td>not</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>6</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total  | 10   | 20   | 10    | 20     |

*Not in school.
Community Activities of the Offenders

Such factors as church attendance and membership in the Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, and 4-H Clubs were also considered in the personal history of the offenders. Data on these items are contained in Table 8.

TABLE 8
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN BY THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex of Participants</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Girl Scouts</th>
<th>Camp Fire Girls</th>
<th>Boy Scouts</th>
<th>P. F. A.</th>
<th>4-H Club</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>Irregular</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Boys</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Girls</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in Table 8 show that twenty-five of the thirty-three cases never attended church; six attended irregularly, and two attended regularly. Thirty did not hold membership in any community organization; two were Boy Scouts at one
time; and one belonged to the Future Farmers of America.

An analysis of these data shows that the offenders in about three-fourths of the cases never attended church, and over nine-tenths of them belonged to no community organization.

Summary

A compilation of facts contained in the preceding pages resulted in the following summary of findings:

1. Offenders in almost one-third of the cases were girls who were from the ages of thirteen to sixteen inclusive; while the remaining ones were boys of whom half were under fourteen years of age.

2. One-half of the female cases and one-third of the male cases were from the country.

3. Over half of the cases' parents were not living together, and approximately the same number had remarried. Practically all were non-professional people and unskilled laborers.

4. Over nine-tenths of the cases appeared in families with four to seven members inclusive.

5. Over nine-tenths of the cases lived in houses with two to five rooms.

6. About seven-eighths of the cases were in the fifth to the ninth grades inclusive.

7. Two-thirds of the cases attended school irregularly, made poor grades, and did not participate in any school activity.
8. Approximately three-fourths of the cases never attended church, and over nine-tenths of them did not participate in any community activity.
CHAPTER V

OFFENSES, DISPOSITION OF CHARGES, AND PRESENT STATUS OF THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

This chapter deals with the following three factors related to juvenile delinquency in Montague County, Texas, during 1947 and 1948: (1) the offenses of thirty-three delinquents; (2) how the juvenile judge disposed of each case; and (3) the present status of the offenders.

Offenses

Data obtained from the juvenile judge of Montague County relative to the offenses of thirty-three juvenile delinquents under consideration are included in Table 9. An analysis of these data show that the offenses included seventeen cases of theft, five cases each of burglary and sex offenses, seven cases of immoral association, three cases of vagrancy, and one case each of assault, drinking, and forgery. In six instances the offenders were charged with two offenses.

Three findings resulted from an analysis of the preceding data: first, theft was the offense committed in over half of the cases; second, burglary, sex offenses, immoral association, and vagrancy were the offenses committed by the second largest number of cases; and third,
### Table 9

**Offenses of Thirty-Three Juvenile Delinquents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Theft</th>
<th>Burglary</th>
<th>Assault</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Immoral Association</th>
<th>Drunkenness</th>
<th>Forgery</th>
<th>Vagrancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
assault, drinking, and forgery were the offenses committed in the smallest number of cases.

Disposition of Court Charge

The disposition of the thirty-three juvenile delinquency cases is shown in Table 10. Information is contained on the first, second, third, and fourth charges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISPOSITION OF COURT CHARGES AGAINST THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charges</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Paroled to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Father</td>
<td>Mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An analysis of these data shows that on the first charge nine male cases and four female cases were paroled to the father. Two other male cases were paroled to the grandfather,
while another one was paroled to an uncle. One girl was placed in custody of both her parents on the first charge.

On the second charge, two male cases were paroled to the father; one, to the mother; one, to the grandmother; one, to an uncle; and three, to a training school. Five girls were also paroled to a training school.

On the third charge, two male cases and three female cases were each paroled to the mother. One boy was placed in the care of his father, while one girl was placed in the custody of each of these: Volunteers of America, a sister, and a training school.

Only two female cases were involved in the fourth charge. Each of these was sent to a training school.

From the preceding information, the following findings were made: (1) Approximately seven-eighths of the cases were paroled to either father or mother on their first charge; (2) over half of the cases were paroled to a training school on their second charge; (3) over half of the offenders were paroled to their mothers on the third charge; (4) both of the fourth-charge cases were paroled to a training school.

Present Behavior Status of the Offenders

Definite information could not be obtained on all of the offenders. However, their present social status and their location, according to reports from their families, friends, or the county judge, are shown in Table 11.
### TABLE 11
THE PRESENT BEHAVIOR STATUS AND LOCATION OF THIRTY-THREE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Present Behavior Status</th>
<th>Present Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Little change. Married</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Little change</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Army</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Wichita Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Fort Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Fort Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Escaped from training school</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>West Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Observed 90 days in hospital. Diagnosed as mental case because of nervous disorder.</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Wichita Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Nocona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Little change</td>
<td>Nocona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Little change</td>
<td>Montague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Nocona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Doing better</td>
<td>Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Little change</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An analysis of these data shows that eleven cases are reported to be "doing better". Five cases are showing little
change; seven have remarried; two are in the Army; and one has escaped from the training school. One was under observation for ninety days in a hospital and has been diagnosed as a mental case. The behavior of seven cases is not known.

Offenders in nine of the cases are in Bowie. One each is in the Texas towns of Bellevue and Montague. Three are in Nocona; two, in Wichita Falls; two, in California; two, in South Texas; one, in West Texas; two, in Fort Worth; and one, in Arizona. Three of the offenders are in Oklahoma, and the whereabouts of the others is unknown.

These data show that the offenders in approximately one-third of the cases are doing better. Almost one-third of those who appeared before the court are still in Montague County. Approximately four-fifths of them are somewhere in Texas. The others are out of the state or their whereabouts is unknown.

Summary

A compilation of the preceding data resulted in the following findings relative to the offenses, disposition of charges, and present status of offenders involved in the thirty-three cases under consideration:

1. Theft was the offense committed in approximately half of the cases. Burglary, sex offenses, immoral associations, and vagrancy were committed in the second largest number of cases. Assault, drinking and forgery were committed by the smallest number of cases.
2. Approximately seven-eighths of the cases were paroled to either father or mother on the first charge. Over half were placed in a training school on the second charge. Over half were paroled to the mother on the third charge. Both cases were paroled to a training school on the fourth charge.

3. The offenders in approximately one-third of the cases are doing better according to reports from the juvenile judge, the family, and friends.

4. The offenders in approximately one-third of the cases are still in Montague County. Four-fifths of them are in the state. The others are out-of-state, or their whereabouts is unknown.
CHAPTER VI

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The problem of this study was to analyze the following five factors related to juvenile delinquency in Montague County, Texas, during 1947 and 1948: (2) causes and control of juvenile delinquency; (2) personal data on thirty-three offenders in Montague County; (3) their offenses; (4) disposition of court charges; and (5) present behavior status of the offenders.

Findings

An examination of data resulted in the following findings:

1. Ascribed causes of juvenile delinquency include economic instability; parental discord; inadequacy of school offerings; lack of understanding of adolescent psychology on the part of parents and teachers; unwholesome neighborhood or community conditions; the individual's unpreparedness for vocational activities; and unintelligent job placement.

2. The approach to preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency requires provision of adequate homes, schools, churches, and playgrounds where the pupil is
surrounded by love and affection, and where he is influenced and helped to develop desirable attitudes for social living.

3. Experimental, preventive measures reported in the United States include placing the responsibility of law enforcement in the hands of juveniles; adequate recreational facilities; Sunday school and church activities; rehabilitation of youths in jail; accepted use of leisure time; community service; club projects; and other extracurricular school activities.

4. Approximately two-thirds of the juvenile delinquents in Montague County were boys, half of whom were under fourteen years of age; the others were girls who were from thirteen to sixteen years of age.

5. Approximately one-third of the boys and one-half of the girls lived in Montague County.

6. Over half of the parents were not living together, and almost half of them had remarried.

7. Practically all of the parents were non-professional people, and most of them were unskilled laborers.

8. Over nine-tenths of the delinquents lived in houses that contained from two to five rooms; almost half of them lived in three-room houses.

9. Over nine-tenths of the delinquents had families that ranged from four to seven members.
10. About seven-eighths of the group were in the fifth to the ninth grades, inclusive.

11. About two-thirds of the delinquents attended school irregularly, made poor grades, and did not participate in any extra-curricular school activity.


13. Over nine-tenths of them did not belong to any community organization.

14. Theft was the offense committed by most of the offenders; burglary, sex offenses, immoral association, and vagrancy ranked next; and assault, drinking, and forging ranked last.

15. Approximately seven-eighths of the cases were paroled to either the father or the mother on the first charge; over half were paroled to a state training school on the second charge; over half were paroled to the mother on the third charge; and both of the fourth-charge cases were paroled to a state training school.

16. The behavior of about one-third of the offenders is improving at present; the conduct of approximately one-sixth shows no change; nothing is known about the others.

17. Almost one-third of the group is still in Montague County; approximately four-fifths of them are somewhere in
Texas; the others are out-of-state, or their whereabouts is unknown.

Conclusions

An analysis of the preceding findings led to the following general conclusions:

1. Boys and girls from both rural and urban communities may be guilty of juvenile delinquency.

2. The marital status of over half of the offenders' parents was not conducive to emotional stability or home happiness.

3. The occupations of most of the offenders' parents did not provide socio-economic security for the boys and girls.

4. The houses in which almost half of the group lived in were too small for comfort, convenience, and desirable privacy.

5. The school record of the majority of the offenders was indicative of delinquency.

6. The religious life of almost all the offenders was seemingly neglected.

7. The offenders had little or no desirable social contact through community organizations.

8. Since theft was the offense committed by a majority of the offenders, and since sex offenses and immoral associations ranked second and third, respectively, in frequency,
it appears that poor economic conditions of the home and unhappy relationships could have been a contributory cause of the delinquency.

9. Since over half of the group had two or more charges against them, it appears that the person or institution to whom they were paroled failed to rehabilitate the offenders.

10. Since only one-third of the cases were reported to be improving in their behavior, it appears that too little has been done by the home, the school, and the community.

Recommendations

An analysis of the findings and the conclusions in the preceding pages led to the following three recommendations:

1. Parents, teachers, and other people associated with youth should look for early symptoms of juvenile delinquency.

2. The home, the school, and the community should cooperate in preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency by providing home, school, and community experiences for each boy and girl which will tend to guard them from delinquent temptations and guide them into happiness and success.
3. Delinquents who have been charged with offenses should be helped by the home, the school, and the community instead of being ostracized.
APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name __________________________ Age _______ Sex _______

Court Record:
   Date __________________________
   Offense _________________________
   Disposition of case _______________

School Attended: __________________
   Grade __________________________
   Attendance: Regular ( ) Irregular ( ) Truant ( )
   School Marks: Good ( ) Fair ( ) Poor ( )
   School Experiences
      Athletics _________________________
      Band ___________________________
      Choral __________________________
      Debate __________________________
      Dramatics _________________________
      Clubs ___________________________

Church Attended: __________________
   Attendance: Regular ( ) Irregular ( ) Never ( )

Community Experiences
   Girl Scouts _________________________
   Boy Scouts __________________________
   Campfire Girls _______________________
   Church activities _____________________
   F. F. A. _____________________________
   4-H Club ___________________________

Home Life:
   House: Rented ( ) Owned ( )
   Location: Urban ( ) Rural ( )
   Number of rooms in house: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Family:
   Number in family __________________
   Position: Oldest ( ) Middle ( ) Youngest ( )
   "Only" ( )
Marital Status of Parents:
- Living together
- Separated
- Remarried: Mother ( ) Father ( )
- Deceased: Mother ( ) Father ( )

Economic Status of Parents:
- Comfortable ( ) Marginal ( ) Dependent ( )

Occupational Status of Parents:
- Father
- Mother

Discipline Used:
- Nagging ( ) Threats ( ) Whipping ( ) Reasoning ( ) Praise ( ) Over-protection ( )
- Neglect ( )

Delinquent's Present Status:
- Location
- What doing

Incidents of misbehavior before referred to court

Incidents of misbehavior after referred to court

Any other information regarding the delinquent
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Detzer, Karl, "Pigs and Cabbages Reform Bad Boys," Reader's Digest, XLI (December, 1947), 125-126.

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The Fort Worth Star Telegram, August 5, 1948, P. 18.