

A STUDY OF DELINQUENCY OF MANHATTAN, KANSAS, YOUTH  
FROM 1946-1954

by

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## INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is one of the greatest problems facing civilization today. Articles in the newspapers and magazines, programs over the radio and television have brought this distressing problem to the doorstep of every American home. All have finally become acutely aware of this problem. Why has this problem become so noticeable in the last few years? Can it be completely abolished? Why is the modern crusade taking place? What position is Manhattan playing? The parent, the schoolteacher, the clergyman, the policeman, and the judge all have their ideas. The author will reveal these later in the report and at the same time attempt to answer the above pertinent questions.

Individuals and civic organizations have become more cognizant of youth and their need for better supervised and guided recreational programs. Youngsters already have more facilities than before the publicity and more will be forthcoming. Those who are interested in this weighty problem of delinquency explain that it is caused by: war tensions and the uncertainty of the world situation; the congestion of the cities; environmental conditions; comic books and such literature; family conflicts and misunderstandings; the automobile; the television and radio; while others just explain that the younger generation is different. All these answers are partially right. The cause for delinquency, in a group, cannot be given; instead, each delinquent and the surrounding factors must be considered separately.

The upper and middle class parents believe that juvenile delinquency is a problem just for the lower class to cope with. It is not. In fact, every home is just as susceptible to this problem as it is to any dreaded, contagious disease. When the parent and the community awaken to this fact, then the first step in the annihilation of this problem will have begun. For those individuals who shrug their shoulders or just overlook the situation the community must mean little. One receives as much as one gives, and if nothing is given, how then can one receive?

#### Objective

The overall purposes of this report were: to discover the degree of seriousness of delinquency in Manhattan, Kansas; to find possible causes of this delinquency; to discover the activities and recreational programs which are helping in the reduction of this problem, and to recommend additional preventive measures if there be any.

#### Limitations

The unknown between the actual number of delinquents and those apprehended; the unknown between those apprehended and those written up are important limitations.

This study as it pertains to the seriousness of the problem in Manhattan would only reach perfection with the television camera beamed in on all delinquencies committed in Manhattan.

Records at the police department from 1946 until June, 1950 were destroyed by the flood in 1951. Those records available were useful but not entirely adequate for the study. Additional data such as details surrounding the offense, age, sex, race, and the religion of each offender would have furnished other facets for study.

The greatest limitation was that of time. Instead of weeks and months to prepare -- years could be used advantageously in this survey.

#### Scope

This study was concerned only with those residing within the metropolitan area of Manhattan and did not include all of the Riley County area.

Only those offenders from 12 through 15 were considered in this report. The years 12 through 15 were chosen because these years represent what is generally considered as the most crucial years of a teenager. Delinquency occurs many times between these ages because the youngster comes into contact more with magazines, movies, etc. at this time.

Included in this study on the prevention of delinquency in Manhattan are observations of a parent appearing in probate court with her son who was on parole; of P.T.A. meetings; interviews with the principal of the junior high school, director of the recreational commission, the police chief and police captain of the Manhattan Police, county sheriff, and the judge

of the probate court; and computations of police and probate court records.

#### Definition

Juvenile delinquency cannot be helped until the full meaning is both known and completely understood. The cultural meaning of the word delinquency states that it is a piece of behavior which is in contradiction with the value of demand of the dominant cultures within which a given child moves or any behavior which runs counter to the dominant value system within which the child character formation takes place.<sup>1</sup>

The National Probation and Parole Association defines the delinquent child as:

- (a) one who has violated any law of the state or any ordinance or regulation of a subdivision of any state,
- (b) one who by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient is uncontrolled by his parents, guardians or custodian,
- (c) one who is habitually truant from school or home,
- (d) one who habitually deports himself so as to impair or endanger the morals or health of himself.<sup>2</sup>

A juvenile delinquent is an individual from ten to seventeen years of age who gets into trouble with the police.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Redl, Fritz and David Wineman, Children Who Hate, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Teeters, Negley and John Otto Reineman, The Challenge Of Delinquency, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> "Juvenile Delinquency --- Shame of The Nation", Senior Scholastic, May 12, 1954, p. 4.

Currently and in the immediate future, part of this definition will be used because we are most concerned just now with those delinquents who are involved with the police.

The legal concept of delinquency simply states which type of behavior is forbidden by law, in which state and for what age group of children.<sup>1</sup>

There are many definitions but since each state and municipality have their own separate laws concerning this problem we will concentrate on Kansas and the Manhattan laws and ordinances.

The term "Delinquent Child" was defined in 1905, the year that the Kansas Juvenile Court was created, as any child under the age of 16 years who:

1. violates any law of this state or any city, town or village ordinance,
2. is incorrigible,
3. knowingly associates with thieves, vicious or immoral persons,
4. is growing up in idleness or crime,
5. knowingly patronizes any pool rooms or place where gambling devices are operated.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Redl, Fritz and David Wineman, Children Who Hate, p. 142.

<sup>2</sup> "Needed: More Information on Juvenile Delinquency", Your Government, January 15, 1955, p. 1.

In the General Statutes of Kansas 38 - 402, a delinquent is described in this language.

This act shall apply only to children under the age of 16 years, not now or hereafter inmates of any state institution or any industrial school for boys or industrial school for girls or some institution incorporated under the laws of this state. Provided, that when jurisdiction has been acquired under the provisions hereof over the person of the child, such jurisdiction may continue for purposes of this act until the child has attained its majority.

This wording and law were under revision in Topeka at the legislature at the time of this study: The new wording was:

- (1) Delinquent child "means a boy less than sixteen years of age, or a girl less than eighteen years of age,
  - (a) whose behavior is injurious to his welfare or
  - (b) who deserts his home or who is habitually disobedient or beyond control of his parents or other custodian; or
  - (c) who, being required by law to attend school, willfully violates rules thereof or absents himself therefrom; or
  - (d) who violates any state law or municipal ordinance.

As can be readily seen, the new terminology would be better understood and would be in our modern day language. It has taken from 1905 to 1955 - 50 years for the legislature to see the need of revising and clarifying the laws concerning juvenile delinquency, and still this did not pass in the Kansas Senate.

## PROCEDURE

The information in this study was obtained through various sources. After the subject was chosen, much reading and research was done at the college library. In recent years, many books and a tremendous amount of periodicals have been written about juvenile delinquency. The problem was to find material with information pertinent to the subject at hand. No completed study on delinquency could be found on Manhattan or similar size cities. Studies between juveniles and non-juveniles and other such studies made by Drs. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck were valuable.

Research in the field was the most important phase of this report. Interviews with the various leaders of Manhattan were invaluable. Through this medium the author was able to realize the problems, tribulations and dreams of these leaders.

In an effort to fully realize the extent of the problem, Police Chief Leo Osbourn and Captain Krey of the Manhattan Police Department were interviewed. It was their expert opinion that juvenile delinquency had not reached serious proportions in this area. It was believed that the present problem could be farther eliminated were the salary adequate to offer a greater incentive to keep high caliber police officers on the job who would better know how to deal with juveniles.

The county sheriff who comes into contact with fewer delinquents than the city police department or the probate court was conferred with. Sheriff Deckert lived within the jailhouse,

consequently he came into direct contact with all lawbreakers who were placed in confinement. Since he concerned himself with the county as a whole he saw the situation from a relatively larger scope.

Judge Scott Pfuetze, Judge of the Manhattan Probate Court, willingly related the purpose and functions of the court, some of his methods in dealing with the youngsters, and his ideas as to the cause of delinquency. It was during the interview that the author was able to observe the judge in action as a juvenile parolee appeared before him.

The school has played both an extensive and vital role to the juvenile. Since the school takes so much of a child's time and energy it was important that a leader within the school be interviewed. Mr. Glenn Burnett, the Principal of Manhattan Junior High School, was that leader who not only came into contact with all the youngsters who attended school between the ages of 12 and 15, but also took an interest in each individual youngster. If his ideas were followed, very few if any juveniles would come into contact with law enforcement officers.

Mr. Frank Anneberg, the Director of the Manhattan Recreation Commission, was interviewed so that the activities of his commission could be better understood and to reveal exactly what the city had planned for the youngsters throughout the year as preventive measures against juvenile delinquency.

These interviews were a very important aspect of the study of delinquency in Manhattan. Without these interviews this report would have had no basis of reality or comparison. These

men who were interviewed, knew the community and had worked with the delinquent youngster as well as the non-delinquent; consequently were authorities concerning this subject, and could speak from experience.

Records were tabulated from two sources. The police department kept every reported complaint, misdemeanor, and felony committed in Manhattan making it an extensive endeavor to tabulate the misdoings of the juvenile. A cross file was kept with the case of every juvenile numbered. Separate books listed by months, containing all crimes -- automobile accidents, etc., committed within the city had been kept by this department from the period 1950 through 1954. The numbers for every delinquent were found in these books and the information therein was tabulated.

The books maintained by the probate court were similar to those found at the police department. There were differences, however. The probate court handles only the most difficult of the juveniles, those who are turned over to it by the police. The ledger which is maintained, contains all the cases that the probate court handles. Only the name of the offender, the date of the offense and the case number, were to be found in the ledger. These were traced to case histories kept inside of a vault which were very explicit and detailed. These cases were examined individually and recorded for the age, sex, offense, and family background.

An actual observation was made of one child who was on probation. The author witnessed an actual case reporting to the

judge of the probate court concerning his behavior for the preceding month. Perceiving the actual delinquent helped the author to comprehend the actual problem contained in the report.

The interviews, records, and observations were the main-stay of the study, and were the main procedures used.

#### DATA AND DISCUSSION

There were approximately 560 juveniles from the age of 12 through 15 attending public schools in the city of Manhattan. This constituted approximately 3 per cent of the total population if the students at Kansas State College were counted, or 4 per cent if they were not. Even though these youngsters constituted a seemingly small percentage of the population they certainly maintained a vital role in the community. They could play a destructive role. Statistics showed that in Manhattan 12.1 per cent of all reported Disturbances of the Peace, 10.2 per cent of all reported Petty Larceny, and 6.4 per cent of all apprehended for Driving Violations were juveniles.

It is unbelievable that any youngster under 16 could do a terrible wrong. Yet, the studies and statistics which have been found and compiled in this report reveal that a delinquent does commit acts or crimes that have been decidedly wrong according to society standards.

Doctors Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck have written many studies on juvenile delinquency. In one study they compared 500

non-delinquent boys to that of 500 delinquent boys. The delinquent boys used in the study were inmates of the Lyman School for Boys in Westboro, Massachusetts, while the non-delinquents were from the public schools in the city of Boston.

They paired the non-delinquent boys with the delinquents according to age, ethics, origin and total intelligence quotient to the most possible extent.

The median age of the non-delinquent boys was 14 years, 7.79 months, standard deviation of 1 year, 7.06 months, while the delinquents had a median of 14 years, 5.54 months and a standard deviation of 1 year, 4.92 months.<sup>1</sup> The Wechsler-Bellevue Full-Scale Intelligence Quotient was used to measure the total intelligence quotient. The non-delinquents had a median of 92.28 and a standard deviation of 13.26 as compared to the delinquents measured 94.24 as a median and a standard of 12.02.<sup>2</sup>

A majority of the boys, both non-delinquent and delinquent were from poor environments. The non-delinquents coming from poor neighborhood influences were 94.2 per cent; while the delinquents coming from poor neighborhood influences were 94.8 per cent.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Glueck, Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> Glueck, Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, p. 38.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

Another study based on the above was written by the Gluecks as a follow-up to analyze the situation as a whole. These and other such studies helped the author initiate this report on the Manhattan problem.

The police department and the probate court records were the sources where much pertinent data were found. Records obtained from the police department revealed many facts concerning delinquency in the Manhattan area. Between the years of 1950 through 1954, 72 cases of delinquency were recorded in the files. Of these, 52 of the cases were boys; 11 were girls; and 9 were groups or gangs of boys -- each group or gang treated as one case.

In the year of 1950 there were 3 cases recorded; 1951, 10 cases; 1952, 30 cases; 1953, 15 cases; and in 1954, 14 cases. (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of recorded cases annually

Year	:	Police	:	Probate Court
1946		--		2
1947		--		1
1948		--		4
1949		--		3
1950		3		2
1951		10		0
1952		30		4
1953		15		5
1954		14		3
Total		72		24

The police department had no records of juvenile delinquency from 1946 through 1949. Accurate records were available from July, 1950, through 1954. Comparisons can be made from 1950 through 1954 between records of the police department and the probate court. Twenty per cent of the cases filed by the police have been sent to probate court during periods indicated.

The ages of many delinquents were not listed on their records. On their records was simply the remark, "juvenile", which could have meant any age up to 16. The records of 30 juveniles between the age of 12 and 15 were considered in this report. They were divided as follows: 3 cases were 12 years old, 4 cases were 13, 15 cases were 14 years old, and 8 were 15 years old.

Table 2. Comparison of cases filed

Age	Police		Probate Court Number Filed
	: Number Apprehended	:	
12	3		2
13	4		4
14	15		6
15	8		8
No age given	42		4*
Total	72		24

Severe cases of juvenile delinquency were sent to the probate court from the police department. There were so many cases filed that had no age listed for the child that the above data

\*Probably in the 12 through 15 age group.

cannot be used to draw upon conclusively. Still it indicates that both 14 and 15 years of age of the juvenile is the time when the juvenile is most susceptible to evil influences.

The offenses committed by the juveniles recorded in the police files and listed according to the frequency committed were:

1. Driving violation
2. Running away
3. Petty Larceny and burglary
4. Fighting and disturbing the peace
5. Shooting a B.B. gun unlawfully
6. Loitering
7. Trespassing
8. Vandalism

Driving violations included offenses such as failure to stop at stop sign, driving the wrong way on a one-way street, speeding, and driving without a driver's permit. It was the most repeated violation of all the offenses. Many of these youngsters committed this same misdemeanor two and three times. Each time the child promised to leave the automobile alone and the parent promised he would not allow the child to drive.

A run-away youngster is one who leaves home without the express consent of his parents or guardians with the intent of staying away for an indefinite period. Many of them were apprehended before they had gone far from home. Running away from home is called a delinquency because it shows in many instances

that the parent has no control over the child.

Petty Larceny -- Every person who shall within the City of Manhattan steal, take, or carry away any money, personal property or effects of another, under the value of twenty dollars, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.<sup>1</sup>

Burglary is defined by law as the felony of breaking into and entering the house of another at night with intent to commit a felony therein.<sup>2</sup> The offense of petty larceny was settled in a majority of the cases with the parents returning the stolen money to its owner. In most cases this offense was committed by a group of two or more boys.

Fighting and disturbing the peace is anything from two boys fighting to a group-fight, or any unnecessary noise or action which disturbs a citizen. The police attempts to handle these offenses between the boys and parents and the complaining citizen since it is normally a minor case.

The B.B. gun was misused by the youngster in a number of cases filed by the police. Apparently the juvenile often misunderstood exactly how the weapon was to be used, and many times he would shoot at passing cars, people, and animals, causing the police to intervene. This is what the Manhattan City Ordinances state concerning weapons:

And any minor who shall have in trade, loan, or otherwise furnish any pistol, revolver, or toy pistol by which cartridges or caps may be exploded, or any dirk, bowie knife, sling shot or

<sup>1</sup> Revised Ordinances of The City of Manhattan, Kansas,

<sup>2</sup> The American College Dictionary, p. 160.

toy known as "rubber sling shot" or other dangerous weapons, to any minor or any person of notoriously unsound mind, shall also be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.<sup>1</sup>

When the incident is not severe, the police, the parents, and the boy or boys involved work together for a proper solution.

Loitering, trespassing, and vandalism were acts of misconduct which were found to be committed by youngsters of 12 through 15 in a very few cases. Loitering consisted of staying out late at night unaccompanied, or standing on a street corner with obviously no intention of going anywhere. In such cases the parent or guardian could be prosecuted under Section 28 of The Manhattan City Ordinances. Two groups of boys playing in an individual's yard without permission were the only two offenses of trespassing listed. Many juveniles were guilty of vandalism. These offenses of vandalism consisted of throwing rocks and snowballs at passing automobiles, creating a definite hazard to property and drivers. These problems were also often solved between the police, the parents, and the children.

The probate court has records, as a whole, of a much more serious nature than those kept by the police department. That is understandable in that the police settle the minor cases and refer those cases of a more serious nature to the probate court. In these records are found habitual offenders and cases of

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<sup>1</sup> Revised Ordinances of The City of Manhattan, Kansas,  
p. 124

children where the parent has lost all control of the actions of the child.

At the probate court only a total of 29 cases were recorded in the space of 9 years from 1946 through 1954. Of these 29 cases, 24 cases were those of youngsters 12 through 15 years of age, 5 were 11 or younger. Of the 24 cases, 19 were committed by boys, and only 5 by girls. Seventy-nine per cent of the offenders was boys, thus making it evident that the boys were guilty of creating more delinquency than the girls.

Twenty-four cases of juvenile delinquency were filed in Manhattan Probate Court between 1946 through 1954. Seventeen of these juveniles -- 13 boys and 4 girls, were committed to either the Boy's Industrial School at Topeka or the Girl's Industrial School at Beloit.

Table 3. Types of delinquency in probate court

Boys	:	Girls	
Assault and Battery	5	Sexual Misconduct	2
Truancy and Theft	5	Running Away and Immoral Habits	1
Stealing and Larceny	4	Assault and Battery	1
Burglary and Larceny	3	Violation of Personal Property Rights	1
Violation of Personal Property Rights	2		
Total	19	Total	5

The school cooperates fully with the police department, the probate court, and other personnel who come into contact

with wayward youngsters. In return, the school receives cooperation, and its important place in the community is recognized. In several instances the delinquent is even paroled to the parent, guardian, or the school by the probate court in an effort to rehabilitate him.<sup>1</sup> A majority of all first offenders are paroled. Second offenders are usually committed to either the Girl's Industrial School at Beloit, or the Boy's Industrial School at Topeka.<sup>2</sup>

The juvenile is not sentenced for any specific allotment of time to the correctional institutions. The personnel who come into contact with him keep him in the school until they believe he can fit himself adequately into society. In this way every youngster has been treated in the best possible manner through the excellent care and observations of professionals.

Of the 24 cases filed at the probate court 10 were paroled, and from indications they had not committed another mistake.

The author was in a position to observe the actual proceedings of a boy who was on parole. This youngster had been on parole to his mother since January of 1955. The boy, 14, and a fellow companion burglarized and stole from three separate communities before they were finally apprehended. The favorable appearance and manners were instantly noticed as the parolee appeared before Judge Pfuetze. His attitude was excellent. Every month, for an indefinite period, he was required to report

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<sup>1</sup> Judge Scott Pfuetze, Judge of the Probate Court, interviewed March 9, 1955

<sup>2</sup> Loc. Cit.

to the judge and give a resume of his activities for the preceding month. This youngster and his companion were placed on parole after all the money and goods taken were replaced. The companion committed another offense and was immediately sentenced to the Boy's Industrial School only 10 days before he reached his sixteenth birthday.

#### ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND CAUSAL FACTORS

Various causes have been expounded upon concerning this number one social problem of juvenile delinquency. These theories were explained by capable and learned men. Albert Deutsch said:

Any student of delinquency knows that causes for it are so many and complex that it is logical to speak only of factors of causation. Delinquency is a behavior reaction of an individual to his particular environment. The environmental causative factors are multiple and often in combination; the factors within the delinquent himself are just as varied, perhaps even more so, and are often complex. The individual and his environment have to be considered separately.<sup>1</sup>

Doctors Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck through their studies found that in 85 per cent of the cases studied the family lived in crowded areas where vice and crime ran rampant. In two out of every five of the cases the earnings of the father were so meager that the mother was forced to supplement the income. Nearly half of the boys (45.1 per cent) was from homes broken by divorce, desertion, death, or disease. In all, 92 per cent

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<sup>1</sup> Deutsch, Albert, Our Rejected Children, p. 178.

of the homes were for one reason or another:

Not conducive to the happiness of the children, either because a breaking-up of the household took place, or because, though the home remained intact, the conjugal relationships of the parents were unpleasant, the parents were ineffectual disciplinarians or were themselves immoral or delinquent or the children were unsupervised or neglected.<sup>1</sup>

C. A. Tonsor said:

Parents play a large part in juvenile delinquency through errors of omission and commission. The parents who neglect to integrate their children in the family, fail to give them responsibilities, fail to give approbation for work well done, fail to give the companionship children crave, are creating delinquents.<sup>2</sup>

Some parents unconsciously derive pleasure from the child's bad behavior because it satisfies the unconscious impulses which they had toward misbehaving themselves. These conclusions were drawn by Dr. Johnson of the Mayo Clinic and Dr. S. A. Szurek, of the University of California, School of Medicine. These findings are based on a ten year study which was conducted at Rochester and San Francisco Institutions and the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis:

Knowledge of this 'major' cause of juvenile delinquency should be spread widely, the doctors advocate, with the object of putting up parental conscience barriers against the fostering of misbehavior in their children as a substitute for misbehavior by themselves.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Deutsch, Albert, Our Rejected Children, p. 179.

<sup>2</sup> Tonsor, C. A., "Dizzy Daisies" and "Daffy Delinquents", NASSP, Oct., 1954. p.70.

<sup>3</sup> Teeters, Negley and John Otto Reineman, The Challenge of Delinquency, p. 25.

Two psychiatrists, Ralph Broncale and William E. Boutelle, said that the major cause of delinquency in juveniles was the instability of the smaller society in which we live that trains them for the world -- the family.<sup>1</sup>

Harold Strong, Director of Children's Village at Dobbs Ferry, has spent his life studying delinquent boys. He thinks a child's desire to belong to a group was one of the major causes of delinquency. If the child were rejected by all the "good" groups, they could still always find their place with the "bad" groups. Juveniles, just as adults, are social animals.<sup>2</sup>

Since the cases of "known" delinquency committed by boys outweighed those committed by girls, those cases of boys should first be considered. A warm relationship between a father and son is of great significance in helping a boy to develop a wholesome set of ideals through emotional identification with the father. Should this bond not be close, the growing child may seek substitute anti-social satisfactions in companionship with delinquent children, or he may pass through a stage of grave insecurity, frustration, and resentment with resultant psycho-neurotic symptoms. Research showed that only half as many fathers of the delinquents as of the non-delinquents (40.2 per cent : 80.7 per cent) evidenced warmth, sympathy, and affec-

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<sup>1</sup> "Helping Bad Boys", Life, March 15, 1954, p. 97.

<sup>2</sup> Bowen, Chester, "Why They Go Wrong", Saturday Review February 27, 1954, p. 13.

tion toward their boys.<sup>1</sup>

The case was similar with the mothers. In a substantially lower proportion among the delinquents (72.1 per cent : 95.6 per cent), the mothers had what might be described as a warm attitude. However, 24.4 per cent of the mothers of the delinquents, compared with 15.2 per cent of those of non-delinquents, showed clear evidence of being overprotective. Overprotectiveness by the mother is sometimes stressed as a cause of delinquency, and of neuroticism, in children. A far higher proportion of the mothers was frankly indifferent (21.2 per cent : 3.4 per cent) or openly hostile and rejective (6.7 per cent : 1 per cent).<sup>2</sup>

The causes for delinquency in Manhattan were found to be very much related to the causal factors that experts have elaborated upon earlier in this study. The records of the probate court revealed the family conditions of the youngsters. The physical characteristics of the home itself were often deplorable. One home, for example, if it could be called that, did not have any windows. Another home was cluttered with filth and junk and was described as in overall poor condition. Still another was overcrowded and in poor repair. A vast majority of the youngsters take pride in the appearance of their home and parents; therefore, if neither appear to manifest these expectations the child tends to stay away from the home.

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<sup>1</sup> Glueck, Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, p. 125.

<sup>2</sup> Loc. Cit.

If the child is deprived of the home where can he go? The answer was evident. He goes to places of ill-repute, wanders the streets, and if not checked will eventually become a problem. The home, therefore, can be one cause for the child to become wayward and unmanageable.

Parents that deserve parenthood oftentimes have no children; while others who have no conception of parenthood have an over-abundance. Parents themselves who are bad examples of adulthood cannot be expected to be a good example to children. Yet parents of these disturbed and maladjusted children blame everyone but themselves. Nothing can be substituted for good training.

Another prevalent causal factor found in this study was companions. Wayward friends many times lead the youngster, who would not have otherwise created a disturbance to the probate court. Generally, an older companion would lead the younger child to commit offenses which bring him into contact with the police. In a few cases an older brother leads the younger brother into the trouble, but in the majority of these cases, the boys were only companions outside of the family. Groups of boys would get into trouble together with one leading the rest.

Lack of church attendance was noted in all the youngsters recorded by the probate court in Manhattan. If the child has been surrounded with pure, good thinking, he has no time for his mind to wander into bad or damaging thoughts. This concept goes back directly to the parental attitude. Parents are examples to the children and when the parents do not take an ac-

tive part with their religious attitude, children have not been properly encouraged to further their religious education.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale in referring to juvenile delinquency said: "The cure, it seems to me, is through religion and the development of respect for the dignity of human personality and devotion to God."<sup>1</sup>

It appeared that broken homes, poor health, and low economic status were additional factors which were prevalent in the cases of delinquents on files at the Manhattan Probate Court.

Interviews with the individual officials who daily came into contact with youngsters 12 through 15 years of age brought different points of view as to the causes of the local problem. Judge Pfuetze, judge of the probate court, replied to questioning that he believed parental neglect was the most likely cause of the delinquency problem in Manhattan. Unhappy children reflect their unhappiness by committing acts of delinquency. They did not have the guidance, leadership, and direction that was so earnestly required from the parents. "A delinquent is not born, but is made," he said.<sup>2</sup>

Sheriff Deckert, county sheriff said that he believed over 50 per cent of the delinquents in Manhattan came from broken homes thus creating an unhappy situation for the child.<sup>3</sup>

Police Chief Osbourn, Manhattan City Police Chief, and

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<sup>1</sup> Juvenile Delinquency Digest, April, 1955, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Judge Scott Pfuetze, Judge of the Probate Court, interviewed March 9, 1955.

<sup>3</sup> Sheriff Deckert, Riley County Sheriff interviewed April 4, 1955.

Captain Craig, Captain of the Police Force both agreed that the main cause of the local problem was the parents themselves. Lack of discipline, both parental and self-discipline, were definitely lacking in the cases with which they had come into contact.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Burnett, Principal of Manhattan Junior High School, said that he thought the main cause of delinquency was lack of home interest.<sup>2</sup> He continued by stating that on school nights many youngsters keep late hours on the streets downtown or in establishments such as pool halls, bowling alleys, etc., instead of at home studying or in bed.

Frank Anneberg, Director of the Recreational Commission, said that the summer recreation program helps in the lowering of the delinquency in the summer. This summer program is geared to the many interests of the youngster. The park is a hub of activity with the majority of children taking an active part in the activities offered.<sup>3</sup>

#### CONCLUSIONS

The study of juvenile delinquency has brought certain conceptions to the forefront.

Statistics have limited significance when compiled and compared because the "hidden delinquents" cannot be accurately

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<sup>1</sup> Police Chief Osbourne, Manhattan Police Chief, interviewed March 16, 1955.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Glenn Burnett, Principal of Manhattan Junior High School, interviewed April 5, 1955.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Frank Anneberg, Director of Manhattan Recreation Commission, interviewed March 7, 1955.

estimated. Those children who have never been apprehended or those whose names have never been recorded in the police or probate court files constitute these "hidden delinquents". Remedial measures cannot totally eliminate delinquency until all delinquencies can be identified.

Some suggestions to help alleviate the Manhattan situation are:

1. Parents need to awaken to their vital place in their youngster's life. To help them accomplish this, a re-education program would be "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it", found in Proverbs twenty-second chapter, the sixth verse. The Manhattan school leaders with community leaders were trying to form a Parent Code modeled after a successful one in Kansas City. Measures such as this need to be encouraged.

2. The local newspapers should never capitalize on a news-story of a delinquent. Instead they should practice self-restraint. Front page spreads, especially when distorted can cause a youngster to believe there is no possible chance of straightening up.

3. Police re-education program should be established. A majority of times the public comes into contact with this agency under adverse conditions, making it difficult for the policeman to be appreciated and welcomed. Children should be taught that the policeman is his friend and not his enemy.

4. An agency or a guidance committee consisting of capable

persons should be set up to help those boys and girls who are "potential" delinquents. An applicable proverb here "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". These potential delinquents should be identified and their minds guided to constructive thinking and action.

5. Similar systems of record keeping should be used by both the police department and the probate court. Yearly, the rate of delinquency should be checked and the activity programs for the juveniles should be evaluated. Starting at the cause of the problem is the best method of destroying it.

6. A more realistic educational program to prepare the juvenile for home living should be adopted in the schools, in the clubs, and in the church. At every opportunity, typical everyday problems of the home situation should be introduced and a proper solution suggested. As this program takes hold, today's juvenile -- tomorrow's parent will be more capable of coping with the delinquency problem.

7. Each parent and citizen needs to cooperate fully with the community agencies to stamp out this horrible problem. These future citizens are our most valuable, important, and potential resources. They must be helped.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author wishes to thank: Dr. H. Leigh Baker for his assistance and guidance; Police Chief Osbourn and Captain Krey of the Manhattan Police Department and Judge Pfuetze of the Probate Court for aiding the author in studying of the records; the leaders in the community for cooperating in the interviews; and her husband D. C. Revels, for his aid in the preparation and checking of this report.

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## APPENDIX

## QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE CHIEF

1. What is the total number of police officers on the force?
2. Are there any officers on Manhattan's Police Force designated as having special responsibilities for work with juveniles?
3. Does Manhattan Police Department require any educational training or experience to become a policeman?
4. Does the police department use any special procedures in apprehending, transporting, identifying, questioning, and holding children, than those used in the case of adult offenders?
5. Does Manhattan's Police Department offer a training program for its officers?
6. What do you believe is the chief cause of delinquency in Manhattan?
7. What do you believe the school can do to help?
8. Have you noticed an increase or decrease since 1946? What do you attribute this to?
9. Is there any curfew for youngsters under 16?
10. Why does a child become a delinquent?
11. Does it run in families?
12. Has Ft. Riley affected the delinquency problem any?
13. If a police officer apprehends a child because of alleged delinquency and does not release him immediately, when and by whom are the parents of the child notified of his whereabouts?

14. Is there a juvenile court law in Manhattan governing children and young people alleged to be delinquent?

15. To what age can a young person still be considered a juvenile according to law?

16. Can young people below this upper age limit sometimes be tried in an adult court?

17. If so, under what circumstances?

18. How many juveniles have the officers of your department had contact with during each of the past 9 years because of alleged acts of delinquency?

19. According to law, for what offenses or reason connected with delinquency can a child be brought before the juvenile court?

20. How many of these young people did the police take into juvenile court?

21. How many did the police not refer to juvenile court? How many did the police release immediately without any action?

22. In the case of children not referred to the juvenile court, does the police officer sometimes seek out the parents of a child to inform them of the child's misbehavior? Does the police officer sometimes notify school authorities? Does he sometimes refer the child to a religious advisor? - to a recreational or other youth-serving organization? - to a welfare or health agency? Does the police officer sometimes himself work with the child and his family toward the child's readjustment or does he always refer children to a community agency such as those men-

tioned above?

23. Do police officers place children in detention without first bringing them to the court? If so, under what circumstances?

24. Is a police officer empowered to release a child from detention without first receiving permission from the juvenile court?

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT

##### Court itself:

1. Is the juvenile court an independent one?

2. How many days per month is the juvenile court in session? Are sessions heard at regular intervals?

3. Does the court that hears the children's cases follow procedures different from those used in local courts trying cases of adult offenders? How different?

4. Has the juvenile court its own room?

5. Is the general public barred from the room in which juvenile court cases are heard?

6. Are juvenile court records kept confidential?

7. Can children appearing before the juvenile court because of alleged delinquency, have counsel?

##### Judge of the Probate Court:

1. How are you selected or elected?

2. Are there any special qualifications as to education, training and experience that an individual must meet before he

can become judge of juvenile court?

3. Do you have status, prestige, and salary on equal status with your duties?

4. Does the judge devote himself exclusively to cases involving children?

5. How many cases of children handled officially by the juvenile court each year -- 1946 through 1954?

a. How mayythese be classified as to types of offenses?

b. What was the disposition of the cases?

6. What is the official procedure in handling delinquents?

7. How many children on probation during the past nine years (46 through 54) successfully completed it?

8. How many are on probation at this time?

9. Where are the children held in custody? -- runaways?

10. What was the total number of children held in custody during each of the nine years (1946 through 1954).

11. What do you believe the school's role is in the prevention of juvenile delinquency? Is our schools adequate in Manhattan?

12. How does the municipal and state law define juvenile delinquency in Kansas? In Manhattan?

13. How can we completely eradicate juvenile delinquency from Manhattan?

14. What age between twelve and fifteen have the most cases of juvenile delinquency?

15. What type of delinquency is most committed -- by

boys? by girls?

16. Is juvenile delinquency on the decrease or increase?

17. What has been done to stop juvenile delinquency in Manhattan?

#### QUESTIONS FOR RECREATION DIRECTOR

1. What part does your recreational program play?

2. What other services could Manhattan supply for its youth?

3. How do you feel about today's youth?

4. What do you believe are the main causes of Manhattan juvenile delinquency?

5. Do you believe parents could help more? How?

6. Do you believe the school is supplying the youth with the right kind of education?

7. What kind of inadequacies are in the program of school for youth?

#### INTERVIEW FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

1. What do you do with the delinquents when you arrest them?

2. Have you any idea as to how many juveniles are not found - unknown delinquents that are not caught? Could you estimate?

3. What do you believe the main causes of the juvenile delinquency in Manhattan are?

4. What program could you suggest that would help those who are prone to delinquency?

5. Do you believe this problem could be completely eradicated from Manhattan?

INTERVIEW OF MR. BURNETT, PRINCIPAL  
OF  
MANHATTAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1. What role do you play in helping to prevent juvenile delinquency?

2. Does the recreation program help with the solving of the problem?

3. What do you believe is the main cause of juvenile delinquency? Can we (the community) do anything to help?

4. Can the school do anymore than it is already doing in the elimination of juvenile delinquency?

A STUDY OF DELINQUENCY OF MANHATTAN, KANSAS, YOUTH  
FROM 1946 THROUGH 1954

by

MARGARET JEANNE REVELS

B. S., Florida State University, 1950

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Education

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

1955

This is a study of juvenile delinquency in Manhattan, Kansas from 1946 through 1954. This report was concerned only with the youngsters residing in Manhattan proper.

The purpose of this survey was to discover the nature of delinquency among juveniles in Manhattan; to find the actual causes of this delinquency; to discover the activities and programs which were helping in the reduction of this problem; and to recommend additional preventive measures if there were any.

The information was obtained through various sources. Literature was reviewed on definitions, and the extent of delinquency throughout the United States. Research in the field was the important phase. Interviews with various officials of Manhattan were invaluable. Records were tabulated from the police department and the probate court. An actual observation was made of one child who was on probation which helped in the understanding the problems of the youth.

The findings were numerous. It was pointed out that 12.1 per cent of all reported petty larceny and 6.4 per cent of all apprehended for driving violations were juveniles. A boy was more likely to become delinquent than a girl. Between the cited years, 72 cases were reported in the police files. Of these, 52 cases were those committed by boys.

Lack of supervision by parents, parental neglect, poor home conditions, wayward companions, and non-church attendance, and even low economic status were found to be causal factors in this problem.

Many suggestions to help alleviate the Manhattan situation were included. Parents need to understand and fulfill their vital place in their youngster's life; local newspapers should never capitalize on news stories of delinquents; police re-educational program should be established; similar systems of record keeping should be used by both the police department and the probate court; and a more realistic educational program to prepare the juvenile for home living should be adopted in the schools, in the clubs, and in the church.

# ~~Boys~~ Early Teens Crucial Years, K-State Grad Student Finds

Special to The Capital

MANHATTAN—Though youths 12 to 15 years old make up only 3 per cent of the permanent Manhattan population, they were responsible for 12.1 per cent of all reported disturbances of the peace, 10.2 per cent of all petty larceny, and 6.4 per cent of driving violations here from 1946 to 1954.

Mrs. Margaret Reeves, graduate student in education at Kansas State College, studied youngsters in the 12-15 age group, since those usually are the most crucial years for teenagers. She found that most of the offenses were committed by the 14-15-years-old group.

The most repeated violation by teen-agers, which appeared on the police docket, was "driving without a driver's permit." Mrs. Revels found that many youngsters committed this same misdemeanor two or three times, despite the fact that "each time the child promised to leave the automobile alone, and each time the parent promised he would not allow the child to drive."

Fighting and disturbing the peace usually was the work of a gang of youngsters, and petty larceny usually was committed by a group of two or more boys.

Among other offenses were running away, loitering, trespassing, vandalism, and shooting bb guns at passing cars, people and animals.

Of 72 delinquencies appearing on the police docket from June 1950, thru 1954, 52 committed by boys, 11 by girls, and 9 by gangs. About one in five of the

cases went to probate court. Here first offenders usually were paroled, apparently with excellent results. Second offenders nearly always went to a correctional institution.

Mrs. Revels concluded:

"Parents need to understand and fulfill their vital place in their youngster's lives. Local newspapers should not capitalize on news stories of delinquents; a police re-education program should be established; similar systems of record keeping should be used by both police department and the probate court; and a more realistic educational program to prepare the juvenile for home living should be adopted in schools, clubs and churches."

*N. Leigh Barber*



# JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DIGEST

After reading pass to:

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## A Newsletter

*Devoted to report and summary of current events and major incidents of concern to professional workers interested in cause and prevention.*

VOL. I, NO. 3

APRIL 1955

### The HOME and JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

"Without question, juvenile crime is increasing, and among many reasons, I think the basic reason is a gradual decrease in home discipline. The child that has never been taught discipline in the home is only going to respond to the court when punishment is severe."

State's Attorney John Gutknecht of Chicago, US News & World Report, January 14, 1955.

"Anyone working for many years with courts and social agencies, as has this writer, is struck by the invariable tie-up of juvenile delinquency with broken homes. One sees the parade of children of divorce not only in the juvenile courts but in the mental hygiene clinics as well, children whose raw deals from their parents have turned them to crime, truancy, school failure, even narcotics ---and sometimes plunged them into psychosis."

Howard Whitman, nationally prominent on social issues, NY Herald Tribune, June 20, 1954.

"Before women's attentions were directed to things other than being a good mother there were no juvenile courts and no need for them."

Judge Venable Vermont, County Children's Court, Spartanburg, S.C., NY Times, July 2, 1954.

"But today, in many instances, parents are not assuming their full responsibility and there is a breakdown in the home. This is the greatest cause of juvenile delinquency and it must be remedied."

Judge Benning M. Grice, Bibb County, Georgia, Juvenile Court, NY World-Telegram & Sun, November 10, 1953.

"I think perhaps that we need to intensify a campaign of education for young parents."

Eleanor Roosevelt, NY World-Telegram & Sun, August 31, 1954. "Another important phase in the prevention of delinquency is the program for foster homes for children who come from broken homes, but cannot remain with either parent. This program has meant salvation for many fortunate youngsters who are placed with men and women willing to give them affection and guidance and to make a financial sacrifice in supporting them."

Richard Clendenen and Herbert W. Beaser, US Senate Committee on JD, Sat. Eve. Post, Jan. 29, 1955.

"Where Is Home? The sociological claim is that the old-fashioned automatic authority of parents is disappearing too completely, that too many homes have lost the basic idea of refuge and have become way stations with complete kitchens and TV sets. Too many times, home is no longer where the heart is---it's where the car keys are."

Newsweek Magazine, Sept. 6, 1954. "Time after time, in studying juvenile offenders, I have noted the utter lack of interest of some parents in their youngsters."

J. Edgar Hoover, Newsweek's Platform, November 1954.

Prof. Sheldon Glueck and his wife, Dr. Eleanor T. Glueck, of the Harvard Law School, found that twice as many delinquents came from broken homes as from families in which the parents lived together. They discovered, for example, that in the cases of 7 out of 10 of the delinquents, the mothers were either away from home or, if they

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

were home, paid no attention to the children and allowed them to run around the streets without knowing what they were doing. In 3 out of 4 cases, the household routine was nonexistent or disorganized, with no specific hour for meals, bedtime or homework. 7 out of 10 families enjoyed no recreation together as a family. In 8 out of 10 cases, the parents either didn't like their children's friends or didn't care who the children's friends were. 60% of the boys never spent any leisure time at home.

"Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency" Newsweek's Platform, Nov. 1954. "We found...that the slums do contribute a disproportionate number of delinquents...but millions of good Americans began life in the slums and thousands of delinquents come from good homes, good neighborhoods and good families."

Richard Clendenen and Herbert W. Beaser, of US Senate Committee on JD, Sat. Eve. Post, Jan. 8, 1955. A definite correlation between the delinquency rate and family life and personal motivation is viewed in Toward An Understanding of Juvenile Delinquency, a study of Baltimore, Maryland.

Bernard Lander, Columbia University Press, New York, 1954. New York City in 1954 had a "substantial and dismayed" increase in

#### -- NO MAGIC FORMULA --

"Everyone who is concerned about delinquency seems to be seeking a magic formula for lessening it and for better or new cures. They are making little progress.... Little attention is given to prevention. Why not supply boys with a good environment when their home and neighborhood environment is bad? Why not provide wholesome activity and leadership for boys who need them? Why not give boys who want to be decent a chance for decency? Why not give guidance to boys who may lack understanding guidance in their homes? Why not keep boys good?" D.W. Armstrong, Boys' Clubs of Amer.

#### HARRIMAN'S PROGRAM

"...we cannot afford to do less than the maximum in our power to protect the children of our state." Governor Harriman emphasizes that the

juvenile delinquency. Out of 22,000 cases involving juveniles, 17,500 were "directly traceable to broken homes." The home is the most important place to start the attack on the problems of juvenile delinquency according to

Francis W. Adams, police commissioner.

Juvenile delinquency could be related frequently to a "traumatic disturbance in the family" that produces feelings of insecurity, rejection, inferiority, or inconsistency. Rebellion against such conditions, taking the form of delinquent behavior, may serve to strengthen the child's ego or be used by him as a means of arousing sympathy for his situation. Delinquents under analysis often revealed their behavior had been motivated by a desire to get the sympathetic attention from welfare workers that was lacking for various reasons at home.

Dr. Ralph Brancale, Director of NJ Diagnostic Center, Menlo Park, NY Times, August 22, 1953.

Judge Hyman Barshay, of Kings County (Brooklyn) Court said on the Citizens Union Searchlight Program (WRCA-TV, Feb. 20, 1955) that the final answer to the problem of juvenile delinquency was in the home. The parents must act as friend, counselor, confidant and even policeman to their children.

NY Herald Tribune, Feb. 21, 1955



problem must be attacked on many fronts -- better schools and housing, adequate recreation, improved policing, enlightened courts, greater attention to the values of probation and psychiatry, stress on rehabilitation. He wants to strengthen the State Youth Commission. Overcrowding at Warwick and Youth House needs to be corrected. Greater encouragement of daycare centers and after-school facilities for the children of working mothers must be provided. The Harriman program is an admirable start against a difficult problem.

NY Herald Tribune, Jan. 28, 1955

#### DELINQUENCY MOVIE

"Blackboard Jungle," MGM's feature movie on the juvenile delinquency problem in schools is now being shown. The picture is adapted from Evan Hunter's novel which was given enthusiastic and highly favorable reviews in the Times, Tribune, Saturday Review, Time Magazine, and Book-of-the-Month Club News. Many NYC school authorities feel the book is inaccurate and distorts the truth about the city's vocational high schools which Hunter labels "garbage can of the educational system." About the movie, Glenn Ford, who plays the part of a young school teacher, says, "first honestly socially significant film made at MGM."

#### A letter to the Editor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Mr. Fornwalt:

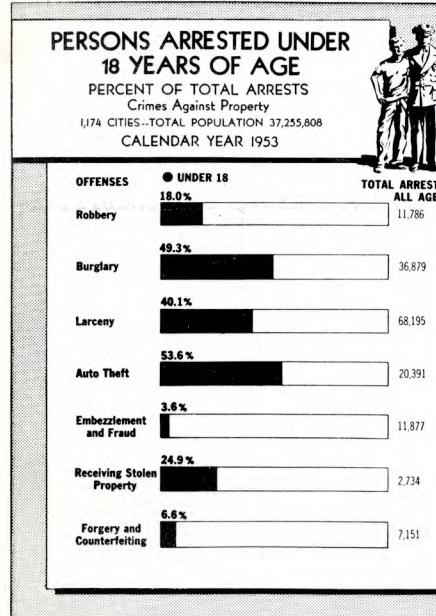
My attention has been directed to the February, 1955, issue of your publication which on page 2 reflects the statement, "FBI figures for 1953 show that juvenile delinquency increased 4.5 percent in cities and 9.6 percent in the rural part of the country."

For your information, we did not compile statistical data concerning juvenile crime on a rural or urban basis for 1953 and it appears that the above-quoted statement refers to the urban-rural crime trend figures appearing on page 67 of the enclosed 1953 annual Uniform Crime Reports Bulletin. The statistical data concerning juvenile crime appears on pages 108 through 112 of this bulletin.

I wanted to bring this matter to your attention since you might wish to include a corrected statement in a subsequent issue of your publication.

I was happy to see that you included my article from the January, 1955, issue of "The American Magazine" in your section "Recommended Reading."

J. Edgar Hoover



(Editor's Note: JDD gratefully acknowledges the above letter with the correct information from Mr. Hoover. To give our readers a graphic picture of juvenile crime we are reproducing on the left a chart from page 112 of the 1953 issue of Uniform Crime Reports.)

#### New Books out this month



TREATMENT OF THE DELINQUENT ADOLESCENT  
Harris B. Peck and Virginia Bellsmith. NY: Family Service Assn. of America. 1954. 147pp. \$2.00. Based on experiences in a children's court clinic, the authors discuss efforts to reach delinquent adolescents and their parents. They appraise the achievements as well as the limitations of psychotherapy in a court setting. Patterns of pathology, individual treatment and group therapy for adolescents and parents is considered.

RE-EDUCATING THE DELINQUENT  
S.R. Slavson. NY: Harper & Bros. 251pp. \$3.75. "...an account of work with delinquents in an institutional setting (Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls School of the Jewish Board of Guardians), its contribution to the field as a whole goes far beyond this specialized phase of treatment.... This book should find its way into the hands of...all whose daily job is with 'wayward youth.' ...training manual for almost every children's institution in the country." -- Frank T. Greving's review in NYC Youth Board News, January 1955.

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