

A STUDY OF  
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA  
FROM JULY 1, 1951 to JUNE 30, 1956

By

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### Statement of Problem

The citizens of Harrisonburg, Virginia, a small city of 11,000 people are proud of the fact that they live in a community located in one of the most beautiful sections of the State of Virginia, the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. They are equally proud of the fact that they live in a community in which the vast majority of citizens take an active part in community affairs. What they are not proud of is the growing juvenile delinquency problem in the city. Therefore, a study of the juvenile delinquency problem is needed to present the problem, to state what is being done to meet the problem, and to make recommendations for future action based on the findings of the study.

### Review of Related Research and Literature

Many studies have been made on the problem of juvenile delinquency. These studies have approached the problem from various aspects and have contributed much to the growing body of knowledge on the cause of delinquency and on the treatment of delinquents.

Clifford R. Shaw in his study of Delinquency Areas found that disproportionately high rates of delinquency were characteristic of the low-income areas located near the central business-districts and the centers of heavy industry, while low rates prevailed in the outlying residential

community of higher economic status.<sup>1/</sup>

George A. Lunday in a study of 525 boys paroled to the Chicago area from the Illinois State Training School for Boys, July, 1942, to June 30, 1944, compared the findings on the 262 successes, boys who terminated parole in a satisfactory adjustment, with the 263 failures, boys whose conduct on parole resulted in return to the school or commitment to a new agency or institution. Fifty-five of these parolees were inducted into military service and were eliminated from the study. He found that of five boys terminating parole during a given year, three will terminate satisfactorily, one will be lost to another institution or agency, and one will be returned as a violator. Lunday also found that if a parolee was not on a job or attending school by the end of the first month his chances of failure were enhanced. Lunday's data revealed that the delinquency rate of the parolee's neighborhood had no statistical significance with respect to vulnerability of the parolee. He found that the institutional files on each of the 525 cases studied furnished the most significant clues on the possibility of failure or success on parole.

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<sup>1/</sup> Clifford R. Shaw, Delinquency Areas, University of Chicago (1929)

Of the statistically significant data for prediction of success or failure on parole the most important were in the following areas: (1) Dependability, (2) Attitude toward supervision, and (3) Friendliness and sociability. Those who rated highest in these areas were most likely to succeed on parole. With respect to favorable factors in the pre-institutional history of each case, the following are listed in order of their statistical significance. Lunday found that boys on parole had a significantly better chance for success during the parole period if before they were sent to school:

1. There was a good relationship between the boy and his father.
2. There was happy relationship between the parents.
3. The boy was sixteen years old or older when he was committed.
4. The family income was more than \$100.00 per month. (1941 or 1942).
5. There was a good relationship between the boy and his mother.
6. The boy was over twelve at the time of his first offense.

Ranked below in order of their statistical significance are the factors Lunday found were unfavorable for success on parole:

1. Boy age thirteen or younger when committed.
2. Father unknown to boy.
3. Family income less than \$100.00 per month.  
(1941 or 1942).
4. Boy fourth child or later.
5. Father or mother delinquent.
6. Boy age twelve or younger at time of first  
attention for misbehavior.
7. Family lived in high delinquency area.
8. Poor relationship with parents.
9. Presence of sibling rivalry.<sup>2/</sup>

Other investigators and professional people in the field of juvenile delinquency have compiled much literature on the subject. There have been many approaches to the problem, many contradictions, and many agreements.

Roscoe Pound, Dean Emeritus, Harvard Law School, maintains that there has been enormous advance in scientific preparation for social work and in the training of those who have to do with the treatment not merely of children but also of adolescent and adult offenders. "In the last two decades research with juvenile delinquency has put us

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<sup>2/</sup> Harvey L. Long, "Aids to Differential Supervision," Referring to a study made by George A. Lunday, NPPA Yearbook, (1949) pp. 103-110.

immeasurably in advance of where we were in the formative years of the juvenile court."

He concludes that in the beginning we saw only the individual child. Later we came to see that the delinquent child with whom the juvenile courts had to do was a product of conditions which had operated to bring about delinquency long before he came before the court and that we had a preventive no less or even more than a correctional task. We had not merely to adjust or readjust the individual but to deal with conditions which were making for maladjustment of so many of his kind.

Dr. Pound says that there are two groups or classes of tendencies within the individual. One may be called the aggressive or self-assertive instinct; the other may be called the social instinct. In other words, man's nature is not a harmonious one except as he learns to bring about a working balance through training and the exigencies of life in society. Delinquency is a product of unbalance of the two sides of the individual nature so that the instinct of aggressive self-assertion gets the upper hand.<sup>3/</sup>

"Delinquency is a complicated problem which can be

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3/ Roscoe Pound, "The Juvenile Court in the Service State," NPPA Yearbook, (1949) pp. 23-28.

understood only through a study of the psychological processes which determine human behavior."<sup>4/</sup>

Edward Haydon, Program Director, Chicago Area Project, says that boys learn to steal and acquire the techniques essential to stealing through contacts with other persons in the play groups, gangs, street corner crowds, and other community groups. These organizations come into being spontaneously and derive their power and influence from the fact that they are natural products of dynamic forces in the community life and from the fact that they provide protection, security, recognition, and other basic satisfactions to their members.<sup>5/</sup>

Gustav L. Schramm, Judge, Juvenile Court of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, states that we are largely what we are by reason of the fact contacts which we have with other people, bring out what is within us. Human conduct is to a large extent determined by human contact. It is especially important that children during their immature, impressionable years be able to find themselves in relationship to the world about them. In a juvenile court we are particularly directed to consider the needs of

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<sup>4/</sup> Gladys E. Hall, "Social Case Work in Probation and Parole," NPPA Yearbook, (1942) p. 127.

<sup>5/</sup> Edward Haydon, "Community Organization and Crime Prevention," NPPA Yearbook, (1942) p. 25.

the individual child and the welfare of the community.<sup>6/</sup>

Joseph A. Shelly, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Kings County Court, Brooklyn, New York, in an article for the April, 1956, issue of the NPPA Journal stated that each period of human growth awakens old difficulties, that every new period from birth to senility carries with it the influences of earlier ones. If early rearing has been normal, a normal adolescence can be expected. But studies show the existence, in most of our cases, of earlier cultural, economic, emotional, or educational deprivations. While there are as many causes of delinquency as there are personalities involved, offenders as a rule have experienced less gratification and more frustration than most other youths.<sup>7/</sup>

According to Clinton W. Areson, Superintendent, State Agricultural and Industrial School, Industry, New York, delinquents come on the whole from inadequate families known to a succession of social agencies.<sup>8/</sup>

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<sup>6/</sup> Gustav L. Schramm, "The Court Hearing as a Part of the Treatment Process," NPPA Yearbook, (1949) p. 45.

<sup>7/</sup> Joseph A. Shelly, "Dynamics and Treatment Needs of Adolescents," NPPA Journal, (April, 1956) p. 108

<sup>8/</sup> Clinton W. Areson, "Organization of Juvenile After-Care," NPPA Yearbook, (1949) p. 91.

Life does not run smoothly in the disorganized and ever changing modern world. The processes of adjustment are always painful, and complete adjustment is seldom achieved. Marked peculiarities of individual experience may result in adjustments that deviate so far from the typical that the individual stands out in striking contrast to his fellows. Any action is a product of two complex variables: the individual's personality and the situation in which it operates. The question arises, then, whether the personality or the situation is primarily responsible for any specific act. In analyzing a typical mode of adjustment, we must constantly keep in mind the distinction between the atypical act which is a direct and consistent expression of the personality attributes of the individual, and the atypical act which is provided by a peculiar and perhaps unprecedented combination of external circumstances.<sup>9/</sup>

Shelly says it is imperative to distinguish between delinquent acts arising from social and economic factors and those resulting from personality disturbance, to separate the basic extroverted "acting out" delinquent from the neurotic delinquent.<sup>10/</sup>

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<sup>9/</sup> LaPiere and Farnsworth, "Socially Atypical Patterns of Adjustment," Social Psychology, Third Edition, p. 338.

<sup>10/</sup> Joseph A. Shelly, "Dynamics and Treatment Needs of Adolescence," NEPA Journal, (April, 1956) p. 109.

Changes in external conditions do not of themselves induce delinquent behavior; behavior is a consequence of the interaction of a personality and a social circumstance. A delinquent person may in time work out a social typical form of adjustment.<sup>11/</sup>

### History of the Juvenile Court

Since the juvenile court is the biggest single factor in dealing with the problem of juvenile delinquency it seems advisable to state briefly its historical development. There were at least three important conditions which led to the establishment of the juvenile court at the beginning of the twentieth century: (1) The reaction against the harsh treatment of children in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (2) The growth of new information about the nature of human conduct (3) The common-law conception of the state as the protector of children.<sup>12/</sup>

It was the common practice in the days before the establishment of the juvenile court to treat youthful offenders in the same manner as that in which adult offenders were treated. To cite only one example, an eight-year-old

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<sup>11/</sup> LaPiere and Farnsworth, "Socially Atypical Patterns of Adjustment," Social Psychology, Third Edition, pp. 341-342.

<sup>12/</sup> Herbert Hewitt Stroup, "The Rise of the Juvenile Courts", Social Work, p. 303.

boy who set fire to a barn was hanged for his act. Children were placed in jails along with adults, and no effort was made to segregate them according to age or background. These places proved to be breeders of criminality.

Toward the close of the nineteenth century new advances were made in the fields of psychology and sociology. Man was better able to understand himself than before. There was a growing knowledge of how and why people respond to various forces. Psychology and sociology were coming of age.<sup>13/</sup>

Also in the common law there was the view that the courts were the ultimate protector as the parents of children. The founders of the juvenile court did a lasting service by basing it upon the individualized justice of the court of chancery in England.

July 1, 1899, is the day a law became effective in the State of Illinois which provided for the establishment in Chicago of the first juvenile court in the world. It revolutionized the treatment of delinquent and neglected children and led to the passage of similar laws throughout the world. Sociologists have regarded it as the embodiment of a new principle: that law violators, the anti-social

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<sup>13/</sup> Roscoe Pound, "The Juvenile Court in the Service State," Current Approaches to Delinquency, p. 36.

and maladjusted, especially children, should be treated individually through social-casework processes for their own protection and that of society, instead of by primitive and retaliatory methods of criminal law.<sup>14/</sup>

Five years after the passage of the pioneer act, similar laws had been enacted in ten states: California, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Ten years after the passage of the first juvenile-court law its constitutionality had been well established. Today there is a juvenile-court law in every state and in many European countries.

The present Virginia Juvenile Court Law reads as follows:

"Purpose and intent-... It is the intention of this law that in all proceedings concerning the disposition, custody or control of children coming within the provisions hereof, the court shall proceed upon the theory that the welfare of the child is the paramount concern of the State; and, to the end this humane purpose may be attained, the judge shall possess all necessary and incidental powers and authority whether legal or equitable in their nature.

A child coming within the purview of this Law, whose custody the court assumes, shall be for his or her minority subject.

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<sup>14/</sup> Charles L. Chute, "Juvenile Court at the Half Century Mark", NPEA Yearbook, (1949) p. 1.

to such watchful care, custody, discipline, supervision, guardian-welfare and control as may be conducive to the welfare of the child and the best interests of the State.

"Establishment of courts. - In every county and in every city of the State there shall be a juvenile and domestic relations court.

"Qualifications of judges. - The person selected as judge of the juvenile and domestic relations court in cities having a population of less than twenty-five thousand and in counties may be a person licensed to practice law and selected with reference to his experience in and understanding of problems of family and child welfare provided that this requirement shall not apply to any judge now holding such office.

"Jurisdiction. - Except as hereinafter limited, judges shall have within the corporate limits of the city or the boundaries of a county in which they sit exclusive original jurisdiction, and within one mile beyond the corporate limits of said city concurrent jurisdiction with the juvenile court or courts of the adjoining county or counties over all cases, matters and proceedings involving:

1. The custody, support, control or disposition of a child.
2. The commitment of a mentally defective or mentally disordered child who is within the purview of this law.
3. A minor who is charged with having violated, prior to the time he became eighteen years of age, any State or Federal law, municipal or county ordinance, provided that jurisdiction in Federal offenses shall be concurrent with Federal courts and shall be

assumed only if waived by the Federal court. Such minor shall be dealt with under the provisions of this law relating to juveniles.

4. The enforcement of any law, regulation, or ordinance for the education, protection of care of children.

"Information; investigation; petition; summons.-  
When the court receives reliable information that any child or minor is within the purview of this law or subject to the jurisdiction of the court hereunder, except for the minor traffic violation or violation of the game and fish law, the court shall require an investigation which may include the physical, mental and social conditions and personality of the child or minor and the facts and circumstances surrounding the violation of the law. The court may then proceed informally and make such adjustment as is practicable without a petition or may authorize a petition to be filed by any person and if any such person does not file a petition a probation officer or a police officer shall file it; but nothing herein shall affect the right of any person to file a petition if he so desires. In case of violation of the traffic laws, or game and fish laws, the court may proceed on any summons issued without the filing of a petition.

"Notice to parents or person or agency acting in place of parents. - In no case shall the hearing proceed until the parent or parents of the child, if residing within the State, or person or agency acting in place of parents in case the parents have theretofore been legally deprived of custody of the child, have been notified, unless the judge shall certify the parent or parents without avail or unless the court shall so certify that no useful purpose would be served thereby, as set forth in 16-172.32 as amended.

"Decree. If the court shall find that the child or minor is within the purview of this law it shall so decree and by order duly entered proceed as follows:

1. Take custody and place the child or minor on probation, under such conditions as the court shall determine.
2. Leave the child or minor in his own home under the supervision of the court with or without taking custody; or take custody and place the child or minor temporarily in a suitable home, under supervision of the court pending final disposition of the case.
3. Take custody and commit the child or minor to the care and custody of the local board of public welfare of the county or city in which the court has jurisdiction, which board shall accept such child for care and custody; provided, however, that if it is established to the satisfaction of the court that the parent, parents, or guardian of the child have residence in another county or city of the state and the child has been living with such parent, parents, or guardian, commitment may be to the local board of public welfare of the county or city in which such parent, parents, or guardian have residence, which local board shall accept the child for care and custody.
4. Take custody and commit the child or minor to the guardianship and custody of the State Board of Welfare and Institutions if the child's or minor's behavior or condition is such that the court deems it cannot be satisfactorily or adequately dealt with in his own locality or with its resources.
5. Take custody and commit the child or minor to the custody and guardianship of a private agency or organization approved and licensed by the State Board to care for and place children or minors in foster homes. No court shall commit a child or minor to an agency or organization out of the State without the approval of the Director.
6. Commit the child or minor if adjudged mentally defective to a mental institution, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

"Duration of commitments and contracts for placement. - All commitments under this law shall be for an undetermined period having regard to the welfare of the child and interests of the public, but no child committed hereunder shall be held or detained after such child shall have obtained the age of twenty-one years; and the State Board and aid societies, associations, or institutions may place under contract children committed under this law in suitable family homes, institutions, or industrial schools for the care of children without further process of law for a term of years not exceeding the period of minority of such child."<sup>15/</sup>

The structure of community organization for social services to children has changed greatly since juvenile courts were created. Significant developments have taken place in the child-welfare field. Mutual respect and confidence and a clear understanding of the part each organization, public welfare or juvenile court, plays in the total child-welfare program must be present. Because each is playing an essential part in the solution of many social problems the services of each should be readily accessible to the other. Important also is interpretation to the general public of these functions and relationships.<sup>16/</sup>

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<sup>15/</sup> Public Welfare Laws, Virginia - 1954, pp. 83-94.

<sup>16/</sup> Alice Scott Nutt, "Juvenile Court Function," NPIA Yearbook, (1942) p. 95, p. 99.

### Purpose of Study

The purpose of this research is to determine the extent and nature of the juvenile delinquency problem in the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia, as revealed through those cases resulting in a formal court hearing, and to study the background characteristics of the delinquents. Also, the purpose of this research will be to interpret to the general public the method of treatment of those children who come in conflict with the law.

### Procedure and Sources of Data

The first step in making this study was to obtain the approval and aid of those organizations directly concerned with juvenile delinquency in the city.

The cases to be studied were then selected by the Superintendent of Public Welfare by reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Harrisonburg Board of Public Welfare during the study period. By this method all those cases involving acts of juvenile delinquency were obtained.

The case histories of these juvenile delinquents were studied and appropriate data were obtained from each. These data are compiled in the various tables used throughout this thesis. Proper explanation is given with the use of each table.

The judge of the juvenile court was consulted and with his help a brief history of the Juvenile Court for the City

of Harrisonburg was obtained.

Assumptions, Definitions, and Limitations

In making this study there were three main assumptions, excluding various other assumptions that could be made regarding the background characteristics of delinquents. First, it was assumed that the City of Harrisonburg has a juvenile delinquency problem. Second, it was assumed that the problem of juvenile delinquency is increasing both in the number of delinquents and the seriousness of offenses. Third, it was assumed that the citizens of Harrisonburg are interested in the problem and want to eliminate it.

Certain of the terms used in this research will have special significance. The following ones are defined:

Juvenile means a person less than eighteen years of age.

Juvenile delinquency refers to any act or acts committed by a juvenile that would cause a petition to be filed, would cause an investigation to be made by the Department of Public Welfare, and would result in a formal court hearing.

The data are limited by the fact that only those cases that have gone through all the legal steps set forth in the Virginia Juvenile Court Law were studied,

CHAPTER I  
THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF THE JUVENILE  
DELINQUENCY PROBLEM AND THE BACKGROUND  
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DELINQUENTS

The chief assumption in making this study is that the City of Harrisonburg has a juvenile delinquency problem. An effort will now be made to determine the extent of this problem, the nature or type of delinquent acts that most frequently occur, and the background characteristics leading to delinquent behavior.

1. The Extent of the Juvenile Delinquency Problem.

In the City of Harrisonburg between July 1, 1951, and June 30, 1956, there were 167 separate delinquent acts committed by 81 juveniles. Probably there were more such acts committed, but they were not brought to the attention of the juvenile court.

Some authorities tell us that if a potential delinquent can be spotted at an early age the chances are greater that he will benefit by treatment. The child who is brought to the attention of the juvenile court before delinquency becomes a habit or a definite behavior-pattern has a good chance for successful probation. Shelly maintains that allowing children to escape the consequences of repeated anti-social acts strengthens their warped values and leads

to more serious crimes.<sup>17/</sup>

It was found that most of the cases of delinquency were first brought to the attention of the juvenile court when the delinquent was fourteen or fifteen years of age. Some cases of delinquency will not be shown in this comparison because future acts were committed at a later date.

Table 1. - Relation of Juvenile Delinquents in the City of Harrisonburg, July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1956, to the Juvenile Population by Age, 1950 Census

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Juvenile Population, 1950 Census by Age Groupings					
Age	Number	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
		No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
7-9	403	3	0.1	400	99.3
10-13	470	26	5.5	444	94.5
14	103	14	13.5	89	86.5
15	136	15	11.0	121	89.0
16-17	346	23	6.6	323	93.4
All Ages	1,458	81	5.5	1,377	94.5

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It was found that there were four times as many boy delinquents as girl delinquents. This might have been assumed because one of the traits of our culture is for boys to be granted more freedom from parental controls. Another factor

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<sup>17/</sup> Joseph A. Shelly, "Dynamics and Treatment Needs of Adolescence," NPPA Journal, (April, 1956), p. 106.

that may enter the picture and cause the wide difference between male and female delinquency rates is the fact that fewer cases of delinquency on the part of females are brought to the attention of the juvenile court. Authorities are agreed that treatment for a female delinquent is much harder than for a male delinquent. The chief offense among female delinquents involves sex and is more difficult to determine. In some cases a female may be delinquent, and the fact remain unknown until she becomes pregnant. Some agency other than the juvenile court then handles the case.

Table 2. - Relation of Juvenile Delinquents in the City of Harrisonburg, July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1956, to the Juvenile Population by Sex, 1950 Census

Juvenile Population, 1950 By Sex		Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
Sex	Number	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Boys	701	66	9.4	635	90.6
Girls	757	15	1.9	742	98.1

Juvenile delinquency was found to be greater among the Negro population than among the white population. Probably the largest single factor causing this to be true is the sub-standard living conditions of the Negro population. It may be of interest to some readers to know that the City Planning Commission within the next few years is going to relocate the

families living in what is generally considered to be the Negro section of the city and rebuild this section with adequate housing-facilities.

Walter R. Chivers concludes that an important condition influencing the high rate of delinquency in the Negro juvenile population is the insecurity which has come with the increasing urbanization of the Negro population. Also, the urban Negroes are forced to live "across the railroad tracks" in what are commonly known as slum areas.<sup>18/</sup>

Table 3. - Relation of Juvenile Delinquents in the City of Harrisonburg, July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1956, to the Juvenile Population by Race, 1950 Census

Juvenile Population, 1950 By Race		Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
Race	Number	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
White	1,347	72	5.3	1,275	94.7
Colored	111	9	8.1	102	91.9

2. The Nature of the Juvenile Delinquency Problem.

It would be a difficult thing indeed to say which delinquent act is more serious than another. All such acts are a manifestation of some deep-rooted conflict within the

<sup>18/</sup> Walter R. Chivers, "The Negro Delinquent," NPPA Yearbook, (1942) pp. 46-59.

individual who has committed the act. Gladys E. Hall tells us that delinquency is a complicated problem that can only be understood through a study of the psychological processes which determine human behavior.<sup>19/</sup> It would not be within the realm of this research to go into the seriousness of the delinquent act as related to each individual committing such an act; however, the seriousness of delinquent acts as they relate to the community will be shown. The nature or type of offenses committed during each year under study are shown in table four.

It should be noted that during the five-year study period breaking and entering is the most common type of offense. The last year set an all-time high in the number of such offenses committed. Simple larceny has been the second greatest problem with the last year again having the greatest number of such cases.

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<sup>19/</sup> Gladys E. Hall, "Social Case Work in Probation and Parole", NPPA Yearbook, (1942) p. 127.

Table 4. - Type of Offenses Committed by Juveniles in the City of Harrisonburg from July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1956

Type of Offense	7-1-51 6-30-52	7-1-52 6-30-53	7-1-53 6-30-54	7-1-54 6-30-55	7-1-55 6-30-56	Total
1. Breaking and Entering	9	12	8	11	26	66
2. Simple Larceny (Less than \$50.00)	3	6	1	5	8	23
3. Grand Larceny (Exceeding \$50.00)	0	3	5	2	3	13
4. Assault and Battery	6	2	0	1	4	13
5. Truancy	2	3	1	0	6	12
6. Special City Codes such as shooting pool under 18 years of age	6	1	1	3	0	11
7. Incurrigibility	2	0	3	0	3	8
8. Vandalism	0	0	0	4	3	7
9. Violation of Probation	1	2	0	0	1	4
10. Intoxication	1	0	0	3	0	4
11. Adultery	1	1	0	0	0	2
12. Arson	0	0	0	0	2	2
13. Other	0	0	0	2	0	2

### 3. Background Characteristics of the Delinquents.

Social scientists maintain that personality development is a continuous process from the moment of conception until death. LaPiere & Farnsworth tell us that the process of socialization involves many interdependent variables, and of those variables one of the most important is the effect that prior variables have had on the individual who is being socialized. As the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined to grow.<sup>20/</sup> The child's first contact with the outside world is with his family. After the family the child expands his world to play groups, neighborhood groups, the school, and finally to the community. Each has a profound effect on the personality development of the child; each plays its role in contributing to a delinquent act committed by the child.

In this section certain of the background characteristics of the delinquents will be studied. These characteristics are divided into five areas for the purpose of study: self, home and family, neighborhood, religious, and school characteristics. Keep in mind this division is for the purpose of study only and that each area must be regarded as part of the whole background of the child.

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<sup>20/</sup> Richard T. LaPiere & Paul R. Farnsworth, "Socialization," Social Psychology, Third Edition, p. 70.

In order to simplify the measurement of such things as attitudes, relationships, and adjustments a twofold classification was used. The child was classified as having either a good or a poor attitude, relationship, or adjustment. Those who were classified as good tried to co-operate with the authorities, and those who were classified as poor showed little or no effort toward co-operation.

a. Self characteristics

In the area of self characteristics three background factors were considered:

1. Health - The health of 92% of the delinquents was rated good. Poor health was found not to be a significant factor in Harrisonburg's juvenile delinquency problem.

2. Attitude toward offense - It was found that 73% of the delinquents had a good attitude toward their offense. Work with these cases on a probation basis was more successful than with the 27% rated as having a poor attitude toward their offense. Lunday found in a similar study that the child's attitude toward supervision was statistically significant for prediction of success or failure on probation. He found that those delinquents who rated highest in having a good attitude were most likely to succeed on probation.<sup>21/</sup>

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<sup>21/</sup> Harvey L. Long, "Aids to Differential Supervision," Referring to a study made by George A. Lunday, NPPA Yearbook, (1949) pp. 103-110.

3. Number of offenses - Almost half of the juvenile delinquents in Harrisonburg committed more than one offense. During the study period 44% of the delinquents committed more than one offense while 56% committed only one offense. Prior to the study period, 23% of the delinquents included in the study had committed an offense.

Once a child has committed a delinquent act it becomes easier for him to commit another. Especially is this true if the first delinquent act goes unchecked by authorities. It has been found in several related studies that if a child can be spotted before his delinquent behavior becomes a pattern the chances are greater that his delinquent behavior can be corrected.

b. Home and family characteristics

About the start of World War II the pattern of family living in the United States began undergoing a marked change. Many homes were broken, broken in the sense that one or more family members were called away from home. Also, there was a definite increase in the number of mothers who were employed. The family as a closely knit unit was weakened.

In our present mode of family living many children find themselves a stranger in their own family group, the very place they should feel most secure. They are a product of individual-centered rather than family-centered parents.

According to U. S. Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., today when a boy gets into trouble he is likely to be on his own. His parents are related to him biologically, but in almost no other way. There may be no other human being with whom he has a warm, intimate, friendly attachment.<sup>22/</sup>

Probably in no other area of the whole problem of juvenile delinquency will you find professional people, who deal directly with the problem, more in agreement than in the area of family relationships. Almost without exception, experts agree that our present-day weakened family-unit is the major cause of juvenile delinquency.

Included in the area of home and family characteristics for the purpose of this study were the background factors of: home environment, family relationships, attitude of parents toward child, attitude of child toward parents, delinquency record of parents, economic condition of family, and employment status of parents.

1. Home environment - The home environment of 52% of the delinquents was considered to be good. The home environment was rated on such things as sanitation, condition, appearance, and pride in home.

2. Family relationships - It was found that 31% of the delinquents came from homes where the family relationship was rated good. Another 31% were from homes in which the

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<sup>22/</sup> Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., "Why Doesn't Johnny Behave?", The Kiwanis Magazine, (November, 1957) p. 27.

family relationship was rated poor, and 33% of the delinquents were from broken homes. The remaining 5% were illegitimate children.

3. Attitude of parents toward child - The parents of 63% of the delinquents were rated as having a good attitude toward their child. These parents were concerned because their child was in trouble and showed interest in correcting the difficulty. They were willing to co-operate with authorities to help their child make a satisfactory adjustment in the community. The parents of 37% of the delinquents showed no concern about their child's behavior. They displayed little or no interest in their child and would not co-operate with authorities.

4. Attitude of child toward parents - More of the cases, 59%, had a good attitude toward their parents than had a poor attitude. Lunday found in a study that when a boy had a good relationship with his mother and father his chance for a successful probation period was better than a boy who had a poor relationship with his mother and father. <sup>23/</sup>

5. Delinquency record of parents - One or both parents of 37% of the cases studied had a delinquency record. It is important to note here a direct relationship between the

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23/ Harvey L. Long, "Aids to Differential Supervision," Referring to a study made by George A. Lunday, NPPA Yearbook, (1949) pp. 103-110.

parents' attitude toward his child and the delinquency record of the parents. Through the study of the case histories it was revealed that in 93% of the cases those parents who were rated as having a poor attitude toward their child had a delinquency record.

6. Economic condition of family - The economic condition of the family in 49% of the cases was considered to be good. These families were financially able to provide adequately for their children and had no record of receiving assistance from the Department of Public Welfare. The families of 44% of the delinquents were receiving some type of public assistance. Families of the remaining 7% of the cases were considered to be in poor economic condition but were receiving no assistance. Therefore, the economic condition of the family of 51% of the delinquents was rated poor. These families were unable to provide proper shelter, food, and clothing for all of their members.

c. Neighborhood Characteristics

It was found that 84% of the delinquents studied had a good neighborhood relationship. There is general agreement that neighborhood groups are second only to the family in influence on the process of socialization. The neighborhood play-group represents the child's first contact with

the world outside of his immediate family group. It is here that he first experiences a degree of freedom from parental authority and learns to give and take with other children. It is in this group that the influence of family training on the child's ability to adjust to socially acceptable behavior-patterns will first be shown.

In recent years many studies have been made to determine the delinquency areas of a city. The results of these studies indicate that highest rates of delinquency are found in "slum" or "blight" areas. These areas are characterized by low rent, unattractive, and poorly kept houses or buildings. They are usually located where business districts have overrun residential districts.

The City of Harrisonburg has a definite delinquency area. The majority of the delinquents were from the north side of town. In this area rent is low, houses are close together and in poor condition, streets are bad, families live over small business-establishments, there is little space for normal play-activity, and families are in the low-income group.

The juvenile court has to deal with children who are a product of conditions that have been operating long before the child is brought into court. Edward Haydon maintains that boys acquire the techniques essential to stealing through contacts with other persons in the play groups,

gangs, street-corner crowds, and other community groups.<sup>24/</sup>  
Gustav L. Schramm has stated that we are largely what we  
are by reason of the fact contacts which we have with other  
people bring out what is within us.<sup>25/</sup>

With the high percentage of delinquents rated as having  
a good relationship with others in the neighborhood and  
with a definite delinquency area in the city, it is likely  
that under more favor neighborhood conditions some of the  
children included in this study would not have become  
delinquent.

d. Religious Characteristics

Two factors were used to determine the religious  
characteristics of the cases under study: church participation  
of the delinquent and church participation of the parents.  
Case histories studied contained little information on this  
background characteristic; however, enough information was  
obtained to get a general idea of the religious activities  
of the delinquents and their parents.

It was found that 41% of the delinquents were affiliated  
with a church and participated to some extent in church  
activities. In 43% of the cases there was no church affilia-  
tion or participation, and the church affiliation of 16%  
of the cases could not be determined.

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<sup>24/</sup> Edward Haydon, "Community Organization and Crime Prevention,"  
NPPA Yearbook, (1942) p. 25.

<sup>25/</sup> Gustav L. Schramm, "The Court Hearing as a Part of the  
Treatment Process," NPPA Yearbook, (1949) p.45.

The parents of 22% of the delinquents were affiliated with a church and participated in church activities. Parents of 48% of the cases had no church affiliation, and the church affiliation of parents in 30% of the cases could not be determined.

Kimball Young states that the virtues of truth-telling, honesty in dealing with others, conformity to sexual codes, and all the acceptable details of moral conduct of the community or society may become integrated with religious beliefs and practices.<sup>26/</sup>

The church, in most cases, is the child's first contact with a secondary group. His attitude toward the church is influenced by that of the parents probably to a greater degree than his attitude toward any other group.

The findings of this study indicate a similarity in the percentage of delinquents with no church affiliation (43%) and the percentage of parents of delinquents with no church affiliation (48%). There is a definite relationship between the child's church participation and the parents' church participation.

Down through the ages the role played by the church in the life of the community has changed with other cultural patterns. However, because of the religious principles upon

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<sup>26/</sup> Kimball Young, Sociology, A Study of Society and Culture, Second Edition, (1942), p. 377.

which the church is grounded, the church is often slower to adjust its attitude's towards a changing cultural pattern than other groups making up the social structure of a community are. Young maintains that in our present-day, urban church there is frequently a conflict as to whether to liberalize dogma, take up social service and educational and recreational programs, or stick by the old and tried at the cost of younger membership.<sup>27/</sup>

To the delinquent child in Harrisonburg, the conflict within the church body regarding the proper role of the church in the community has little or no meaning. This conflict does, however, have its effect on his chance to develop socially acceptable behavior-patterns. Many delinquents come from homes in which there is an apparent lack of interest in religious training, the church could, possibly through a youth crusade, serve to provide the religious training and moral attitudes generally acquired in the home.

e. Educational Characteristics

To determine the educational characteristics of the cases studied the child's attitude toward education, his adjustment in school, and the educational level of his

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<sup>27/</sup> Kimball Young, Sociology, A Study of Society and Culture, Second Edition, (1942), p. 375.

parents were considered.

In 41% of the cases studied the educational adjustment and attitude were rated good. These children were making average, and in some cases above average, grades in their school work and caused no classroom behavior-problems. The educational adjustment and attitude of 47% of the cases were rated poor. These children were either failing or making below-average grades in their school work. In 12% of the cases studied the child was not attending school.

Delinquent children have been described as concrete-minded and action-oriented. Their behavior pattern reflects processes which seem to be directed outward rather than inward. Psychologists say that this characteristic of delinquents is significant from the mental-health point-of-view since frequently it indicates a striving toward a more relevant way of dealing with certain aspects of reality. Recognition is generally achieved through body rather than mind.

In a study made by Roman, Margolin, and Harari to determine the relationship between reading retardation and delinquency, it was found that 76% of the children screened for educational problems were retarded at least two years in reading; for over half of this group the disability amounted to five years or more.<sup>28/</sup> Other studies have revealed

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<sup>28/</sup> Melvin Roman, Joseph B. Margolin, and Carmi Harari, "Reading, Retardation and Delinquency," NPPA Journal, Volume I, (July, 1955), pp. 1-7.

that one outstanding characteristic of delinquents is their educational retardation. Their mental efficiency is generally below their mental capacity.

The delinquents studied placed little or no value on academic achievement. One criticism of our school system often expressed today is the tendency to force middle-class standards on lower-class individuals. The schools in Harrisonburg are trying to meet this problem by providing vocational training at the high-school level for those students who do not plan to attend college.

The educational level of the delinquent's parents had a great deal of influence on his attitude and adjustment in school. In only 19% of the cases had the parents graduated from high school. In 35% of the cases the parents had finished or attended grade school, and 2% of the parents had received no formal education. The educational level of 46% of the parents was unknown.

It has been shown in other studies that the family exercises the greatest amount of influence in developing the child's attitudes and reactions to the process of socialization. Basic attitudes developed in the family are not easy to change. Therefore, in those families where the parents place little value on education this attitude is often passed on to the children. The findings in this study seem to show this tendency.

### Summary

The extent of the juvenile delinquency problem in Harrisonburg, as revealed through those cases coming before the juvenile court, was found to be 5.5% of the total juvenile population. A greater percentage of juveniles 14 years of age were delinquent than was the percentage of any other age group. The percentage of delinquency for boys was five times as great as that of delinquency for girls. A higher percentage of the colored juvenile population was delinquent than of the white.

The nature or type of delinquent act most frequently committed by juveniles was found to be breaking and entering. The number of such offenses was nearly three times as great as that of the second most frequent offense, simple larceny.

The background characteristics of the delinquents studied indicates that below-normal family condition is the leading factor contributing to their delinquent behavior. Lack of normal parental guidance was considered the chief factor in the delinquents' abnormal adjustment to other characteristics considered in his background.

CHAPTER II  
METHOD OF TREATMENT OF CHILDREN WHO COME IN  
CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

The first Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in the City of Harrisonburg was established in the 1930s. Judge Hamilton Haas served as first judge of the court. Mr. K. C. Moore was appointed to take Judge Haas's place while he was on leave of absence during World War II. After Judge Haas returned from the Army he decided to go into private law practice, and after that he was appointed Judge of the Circuit Court. Porter R. Graves was then appointed Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and is the present judge of this court.

The Virginia Law concerning treatment of children in conflict with the law and coming before the Juvenile Court was outlined in the introduction of this research. In the City of Harrisonburg before a child can be formally tried in the Juvenile Court a petition must be filed. Upon receipt of a petition by the Clerk of the Juvenile Court, a duplicate copy is made and sent to the Superintendent of Public Welfare. The Superintendent of Public Welfare discusses the case with the Court Social Worker who is the probation officer assigned to the Juvenile Court.

The Court Social Worker makes a complete investigation of the case and writes a sociological history of the family

and child. This information is compiled in a Pre-Trial Report and must be submitted to the Judge of the Juvenile Court at least one day before the child's hearing is scheduled.

At the hearing the court room is cleared of all spectators. Present in the room are the child's parents, the child, legal counsel, a police officer, the Court Social Worker, and the Judge. The hearing is conducted as informally as possible. In most cases, the guilt or innocence of the child has been pre-determined and the general atmosphere of the court is that of trying to arrive at the best possible disposition of the case. The Judge has the authority to deal with each case of delinquency as it relates to the individual regardless of the type of offense committed.

The disposition of each case heard by the Juvenile Court in Harrisonburg during the study period is shown in Table 5. The discrepancy between the number of delinquents (81), the number of delinquent acts (167), and the number of cases heard by the Juvenile Court (110) is due to the fact that some delinquents committed more than one offense and their offenses were heard as one case in court.

Table 5. - Disposition of Cases Heard by the Juvenile Court for the City of Harrisonburg from July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1956

Table 5. - Continued

Disposition	7-1-51	7-1-52	7-1-53	7-1-54	7-1-55	Total
	6-30-52	6-30-53	6-30-54	6-30-55	6-30-56	
1. Placed on Probation	12	12	5	16	14	59
2. Lectured by the Judge	7	6	2	1	6	22
3. Committal to the State Department of Welfare and Institutions	4	3	4	2	5	18
4. Committal to the Harrisonburg Board of Public Welfare	0	2	2	1	3	8
5. Service, such as medical or psychological examinations	0	0	1	0	1	2
6. Pending	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	23	23	14	20	30	110

1. Probation

By far the greatest number of children who appeared before the Juvenile Court during the study period were placed on probation. These children were committed to the supervision of the Court Social Worker, and resources available within the framework of community organization were used to treat and correct their delinquent behavior.

In the probation period the child was required to have frequent interviews with the Court Social Worker. During this time the first objective was to build up a friendly personal relationship between the worker and the child. Studies have shown that the child's attitude toward supervision is a significant factor in his chance for successful probation. Earlier it was shown that 73% of the cases included in this study had a good attitude toward supervision.

During the probation period the Court Social Worker is charged with the responsibility of learning as much as possible about the delinquent's background. It is his duty to work with the child and his parents to determine the best course of action to follow in helping the child make a socially acceptable adjustment in the community. Previously, in this study, it was determined that in 63% of the cases the parents were rated as having a good attitude toward their child.

In addition to establishing a close personal contact with the delinquent child and his parents, the Court Social Worker must use every resource available to him in the community to aid in changing the delinquent behavior-pattern of the child to an acceptable behavior-pattern. He must contact school authorities, neighbors, the arresting officer, the child's minister (if any), and other persons or organizations that may provide information helpful in planning the delinquent's

probation period. He must also seek the co-operation of these people in helping the child make a satisfactory adjustment.

After relationships are established and plans are formulated, the constructive period of probation begins. The duration of the probation period varies with each individual case. The Court Social Worker must maintain close contact with the child and use wise judgement to determine his progress during probation. He must constantly evaluate his own opinions in relation to the opinions of others dealing with the child. Periodically each case is reviewed with the Superintendent of Public Welfare. The Judge of the Juvenile Court is kept informed as to the progress of each case.

The delinquent himself determines the length of his probation period. When he has shown a sincere desire to form good behavior-habits and has proved his good intentions by practicing good behavior for a period of time, supervision by the Court Social Worker is gradually lessened. When, in the opinion of the Court Social Worker, legal supervision is no longer necessary to assure the child's good behavior, the case is again reviewed by the Superintendent of Public Welfare and discussed with the Juvenile Court Judge.

If, after a careful review and evaluation, it is decided to be in the child's interest to release him from probation,

the Court Social Worker will file a petition for his release. The child and his parents again appear in Juvenile Court and the Judge officially releases the child from probation.

Authorities in the field of juvenile delinquency agree that probation is the most effective way to deal with children who come into conflict with the law. A successful probation is more likely to develop lasting, acceptable behavior-patterns than any other method of treating delinquent behavior. Likewise, it is more vulnerable to failure than any of the other methods.

Probation is considered to be a failure when the child continues in his bad behavior-pattern. It fails for many reasons, not the least of which is the lack of sincere desire on the part of the child to acquire acceptable behavior-habits. All the forces which have influenced his personality before his probation still influence his behavior during probation. The child remains in the same environmental surrounding.

Motivation, therefore, seems to be the primary factor in the delinquent's success or failure to acquire and maintain a socially acceptable behavior pattern when placed on probation. If authorities are able to help the child evaluate his delinquent behavior and create within him the desire to improve his behavior, the chances are much greater that he will continue to live by normal behavior-standards.

## 2. Lecture by the Judge

The second largest group of cases was disposed of by the Juvenile Court Judge's talking to the child and his parents under the formal surroundings and authority of the Juvenile Court. In these cases the same procedure as previously described was followed to have the child's case heard in Juvenile Court. However, after investigation by the Court Social Worker and evaluation of this investigation by the Judge, the Superintendent of Public Welfare, and the arresting officer, it was determined in these cases to be in the best interest of the child that he not be placed under any legal action because of the act he was charged with.

Studies indicate this type of treatment to be most effective when the child is a first-offender and in the younger age-groups. Sometimes, by having the severity of delinquent behavior explained in a formal setting by someone in authority, the child and his parents are able to understand that such behavior will not be tolerated, and they are able to cope with the problem within the family.

Under no circumstance is the child given the feeling of "getting away" with a delinquent act. It is well established that, if a child goes unchecked in his delinquent behavior, his chance to make a normal adjustment in society is greatly reduced. Those children whose delinquent behavior is spotted

and checked before it develops into a definite behavior pattern are more likely to develop a normal behavior-pattern than those children whose delinquent behavior is allowed to continue.

3. Committal to the State Department of Welfare and Institutions

The delinquents who were committed to the State Department of Welfare and Institutions were those who in the opinion of local authorities could not be dealt with effectively under local conditions. Committal to the state was used as a last resort by the Juvenile Court.

There is some evidence to indicate that delinquents committed to correctional schools find it difficult to make satisfactory adjustments after they are released and returned home. They have the added mark of being a "reform-school boy." Age is a significant factor contributing to the apparently high rate of failure among this group. Often, when the child returns to the community, he is over the compulsory school-age and is still too young to find employment. He is left with idle time, and his feeling of being an "outcast" is strengthened.

In Harrisonburg, as elsewhere in the state, because only those cases considered too advanced to be handled locally are committed to the state correctional schools, the schools are faced with the problem of dealing with "hardened" delinquents. Even then, they are over crowded.

Some of the delinquents who are committed to state correctional schools are forced to remain in county jails until there is a vacancy in the school to which they are committed. In county jails they are in direct contact with adult offenders and subject to the many adverse effects from such contact. In addition, there is the increased timelag between the commission of the delinquent act and the start of constructive supervision. Studies indicate that delay in beginning supervision after the act of delinquency increases the time needed for proper adjustment under supervision, and the delay has some effect on the delinquent's chance for success in forming good behavior-habits.

After the delinquent is committed to the State Department of Welfare and Institutions, he is taken to one of the four correctional schools in the state, the choice depending on his race and sex. These schools are similar to any of our public schools. There are no bars on the windows, no walls, and no guards. The delinquent continues with his academic school-work and is given vocational training of special interest to him. Each school has organized athletics and participates in sports with public schools in the area. The surroundings do not give the appearance of forced detention, and every attempt is made to create an atmosphere in which trained social workers can assist the child in the

development of acceptable behavior traits.

The duration of the child's committal to the State Department of Welfare and Institutions, like the duration of a probation period, depends on his progress in forming good behavior-characteristics. When, in the opinion of the staff at the correctional school to which he was committed, his behavior is such that institutional supervision is no longer required, the local Welfare Department is notified, and the child is returned to the community. This notification of the child's return is well in advance of his actual return in order that the local Court Social Worker can plan his program of supervision. When the child is released from the state he is automatically placed on probation and under the supervision of the local Welfare Department. His probation period then becomes just like that of any other delinquent, and, upon satisfactory adjustment, he is released from probation by the local Juvenile Court.

#### 4. Committal to the Board of Public Welfare

Delinquents who are committed to the Board of Public Welfare cease to be the responsibility of their parents and become the total responsibility of the local Welfare Department. In their case, through investigation and evaluation, it has been determined to be in the best interest of all concerned to remove them from their homes and place them in foster homes. The parents are required to pay as

much of the cost of foster care as their means will allow.

Foster care has proved to be an effective way for treatment of delinquent behavior. It has the advantage of placing the child in a home environment in which he can receive the love and care of sympathetic adults. His status in a good foster home is similar to that of a child in his natural home.

The problem of adjustment is most critical in foster care. The relationship established between the foster parents and the child must be strong in order to withstand the many conflicts that naturally occur in normal family life. Mutual trust and respect are necessary requirements for successful foster-home care.

Termination of foster-home care is determined in the same manner as termination of probation. Foster care, however, is generally for a much longer period of time than probation.

##### 5. Service

In two cases the Judge ordered that special services be provided for children appearing in Juvenile Court. A medical examination was required for one of the cases, and both a medical and psychological examination were required for the other case.

The Juvenile Court has the power to dispose of each case in the manner believed to be in the best interest of the child. In these two cases it was determined that there

a need for medical and psychological help to correct the child's delinquent behavior rather than for legal supervision.

6. Pending

The disposition of one case was still pending at the close of the study period.

### Summary

The establishment of a juvenile court in Harrisonburg represented a significant step forward in dealing with the city's juvenile delinquency problem. The judge of this court, by virtue of his authority to treat each case individually, is able to dispose of each case in the manner deemed most advisable for each delinquent's development of acceptable behavior-traits.

The method most often used for dealing with delinquent behavior was probation. During the probation period the delinquent is afforded the opportunity of receiving professional counsel in dealing with his personal problems and is under the legal supervision of the juvenile court. The length of probation varies with each individual case and is terminated only when the delinquent has proved his intention to follow good behavior-patterns.

## Summary and Recommendations

One purpose of this study was to determine the extent of the juvenile delinquency problem in the City of Harrisonburg based on cases heard in the juvenile court during the first five years of employment of a Court Social Worker. It was determined that in this five-year period 81 children committed 167 delinquent acts which resulted in a formal court-hearing. The study did not reveal or attempt to determine the total number of delinquent acts committed by juveniles in the city. It may be assumed, however, that a far greater number of delinquent acts were committed by many more children than were revealed in the cases resulting in formal legal action. To determine the full extent of the city's juvenile delinquency problem a method other than the study of Welfare Department records will have to be used.

The most common offense committed by juveniles in the city was found to be breaking and entering. During the study period this offense accounted for nearly 34% of the total number of all types of offenses committed.

The background characteristics of the known delinquents were studied in an effort to determine factors possibly contributing to delinquent behavior in the city. By careful study of the Welfare Department record of each delinquent it was determined that the majority came from families whose living standards were low. Their families offered little in

the way of helping the delinquent make a socially acceptable adjustment in community life.

Another purpose of this study was to show the method of treatment for children who come in conflict with the law. The significance of the establishment of the Juvenile Court in dealing with the city's juvenile delinquency problem was shown. It was determined that probation was the most frequent method used by the court for treatment of delinquent behavior.

Further research is needed on the juvenile delinquency problem in the City of Harrisonburg. This study was too general in scope to determine effectively all of the factors involved in the total delinquency problem. A study is needed to determine the effectiveness of supervision given to those children who have become delinquent.

It is recommended that more complete information be obtained in the case histories of delinquents. A simple, uniform, family-background information-record should be established. The case record of delinquents should contain more facts.

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## A B S T R A C T

The problem of juvenile delinquency is a matter of concern to leaders in Harrisonburg. This study was made to determine the extent and nature of the City's juvenile delinquency problem revealed through Court cases and background characteristics of the delinquents. Also, to interpret to the public the method of treatment of delinquents.

The study revealed that 5.5% of the total juvenile population was delinquent. A greater percentage of juveniles 14 years of age were delinquent than in any other age group, the percentage of delinquent boys was five times as great as delinquent girls, and a higher percentage of the colored juvenile population was delinquent than of the white.

The type offense most frequently committed was breaking and entering.

Most delinquents came from below-normal family situations. Lack of normal parental guidance was the chief factor contributing to delinquent behavior.

A significant step was taken in the treatment of juvenile delinquents when the city established a Juvenile Court. The employment of a Court Social Worker to work with delinquents was a positive step in dealing with the problem.

The method most often used for treating delinquent behavior was probation supervised by the Court Social Worker. The delinquent on probation was afforded the opportunity of professional counsel and every effort was made to help him make a socially acceptable adjustment to the community using resources available within the community.