

# County Public Welfare Board Sees Improvements



The satisfaction of seeing improvements in the juvenile hall, county jail, hospital, foster and boarding homes is heartening

remuneration to this group of volunteers who compose the county board of public welfare. Members shown here are: Miss Helen Phelan, Watsonville, left;

Miss Frances McCaskill, 121 Button street; Mrs. Catherine Glenn, Soquel, chairman; Jack Rasmussen, Boulder Creek, and Mrs. Alice Earl Wilder, Ben

Lomond. Not shown are Frank Howard, 168 Plateau avenue, who is on vacation, and Rev. J. Gregory Michaels, Watsonville.

## County Public Welfare Board Sees Results Of Hours, Work

By Norman Indahl

Aged persons in boarding homes are happier about the meals. Women in county jail show a sparkle in their eye and renewed vigor since the living quarters have been improved.

Meaningful incidents such as these give heart to a group of seven lay volunteers who have played an unheralded major role in upgrading the standards of juvenile hall, county jail, hospital, foster and boarding homes.

A minister, banker, and housewife are part of the well-coordinated board of public welfare, serving as an advisory committee to the board of supervisors. Mrs. Catherine Glenn of Soquel for the third successive year is chairman.

Each member is assigned to particular projects and is responsible for turning in quarterly progress reports. Besides having a specific assignment, they also assist other fellow members on their projects.

Composing the committee are Mrs. Alice Earl Wilder, Ben Lomond, foster homes; Jack Rasmussen, Boulder Creek, and Frank Howard, 168 Plateau avenue, jails; Miss Helen Phelan, Rev. J. Gregory Michaels, both of Watsonville, juvenile hall; Miss Frances McCaskill, Watsonville, and Mrs. Glenn, boarding homes.

The group is responsible for the county hospital, the jail, boarding and foster homes, and the juvenile hall.

Supervisor Walter G. Merrill was instrumental in having the advisory committee created in April, 1957. Appointments are made by members of the board of supervisors.

"They have definitely improved the standards of the boarding and foster homes, juvenile hall, and hospital and jail," Merrill

declared. "I think the members did a great deal, in particular, to improve the women's section of the county jail."

The board makes quarterly and annual reports to the board of supervisors on its findings.

"It makes no difference what problem the operator has, Mrs. Glenn is willing to give advice and help us," Mrs. Mary Morris, owner of a rest home at 208 Fern street, reported. "I definitely feel the committee is doing a good job for rest home operators in the county."

Most of the members sandwich in a good many hours for the committee per month with their family life, but some give an unusual amount of time. The chairman, in particular, deals with boarding home problems at least two hours per day. She is completely immersed in a desire to improve conditions.

Another strict addict to gaining results is Mrs. Wilder, putting in a great many hours per month.

One point that Mrs. Glenn has a hard time in putting across is the fact that the committee works with the welfare department, but is not in any way a part of this department.

The advisory committee makes inspections, while the welfare de-

partment takes care of enforcement of regulations, she emphasized.

Permits to operate boarding homes for the aged are authorized by the board of supervisors, following approval by the welfare department and board of public welfare.

Mrs. Glenn explained that her committee attempts to check all the boarding homes throughout the county at least once per year, but attention is concentrated on the establishments that need to be improved the most. Homes bearing the most watching in the city of Santa Cruz, she reported.

Since the advisory committee went into effect, many sub-standard homes have closed up once they came under the watchful eye of her team.

"Most people seem to have the wrong impression about boarding homes," Mrs. Glenn stated. "They feel all are sub-standard. This is far from the truth. The homes, as a whole, are far above average."

Rasmussen, manager of the Boulder Creek office of the County Bank of Santa Cruz, explained he checks at least once every three months on the county jail. There is no certain time when this is done. In fact,

the banker emphasized, he tries not to set a pattern so the sheriff will know when to expect him.

Points the banker looks for are the quality of meals, housekeeping problems and conditions, in general, of the jail. He always checks the menu to make sure hot meals are served.

A marked improvement has been made in the condition of the jail since Sheriff Doug James took office last January, Rasmussen, and his fellow committee worker, stressed.

"The welfare committee has done a lot in improving the jail, but a great deal of credit must go to Sheriff Doug James," Howard related. "There has been a 100 per cent improvement since James took office. The sheets are clean, the men's cells are noticeably cleaner. Jailer Carl Wood is doing a great deal to upgrade conditions."

"I like to talk to people and get their view," Howard, who checks the hospital and juvenile hall, he related. "I want to make sure that the proper treatment and recreation are provided."

Recently Mrs. Wilder and Miss McCaskill began another check of all the foster homes. The pair plan to give emphasis to new foster homes that have been established within the past six months and not been surveyed as yet. Helping check homes in the southern sector is Miss Phelan.

One of the points that Mrs. Wilder pays close attention to is the love and affection the children have for their parents. In many homes the children show their warmth for parents while the pair are there.

Mrs. Wilder feels that far reaching results can be obtained by the committee members since operators of the various facilities are more willing to air problems with the volunteers than persons directly responsible for the particular place.

## TV Plans One Live Drama In Fall

By Charles Mercer

New York (AP). — Last season numerous television critics and viewers frequently asked: Why doesn't NBC-TV have a live dramatic series?

Beginning September 20, with "Sunday Showcase," the network is going to have exactly that. There is every indication that it should be one of the best on the air.

To my mind, it's one of the most significant programming experiments of the forthcoming season. NBC is gambling that enough

says he has an "extraordinary script" by S. Lee Pogostin called "People Kill People Sometimes." It will be followed by a two-part adaptation of Budd Schulberg's "What Makes Sammy Run?"

A comedy by Patrick Dennis, author of "Auntie Mame," is planned, as well as works by Alfred Bestor, John Osborne and one by Arthur himself.

Well, you might ask, why get so excited about this program?

Chiefly because it's one of those remarkably few TV series that bucks the increasing trend

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