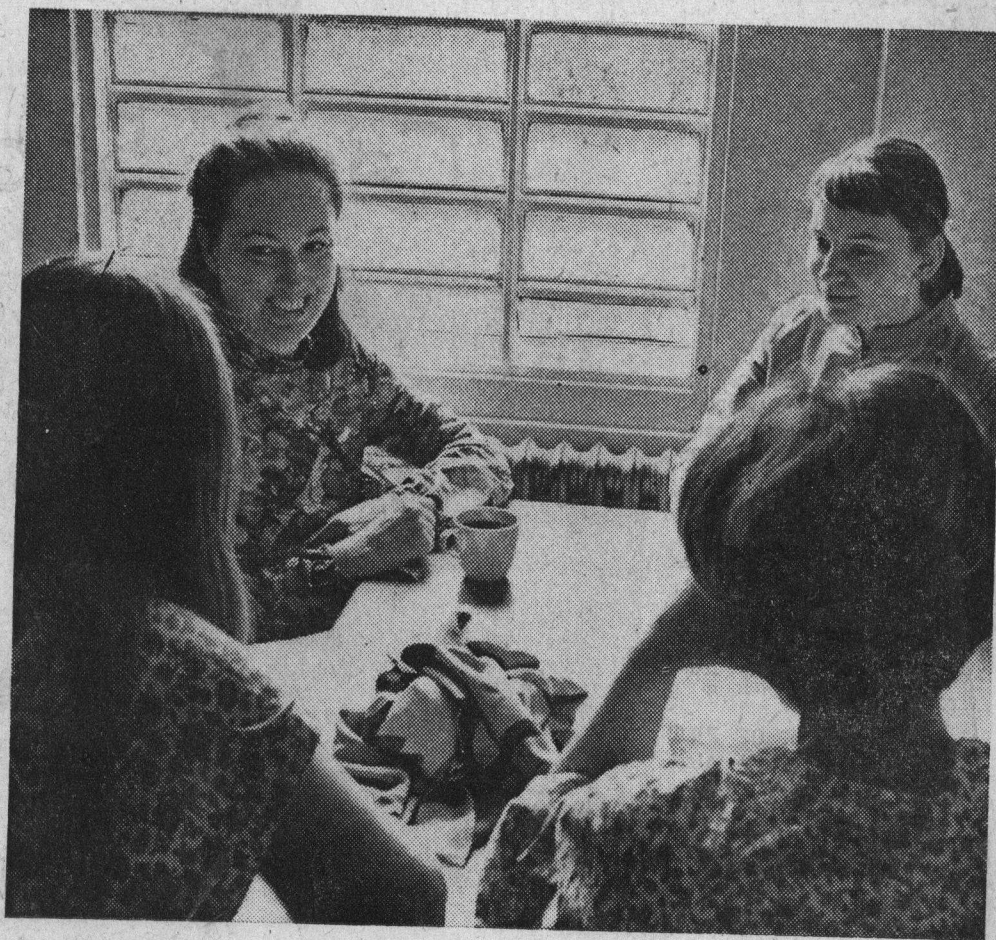


'Friends Outside' Bring In Sunshine



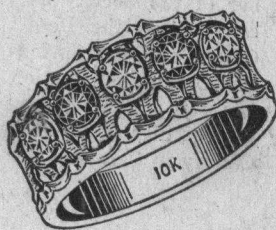
Friendly Visitors work with the girls in jail, not FOR them. By working with them they are able to do more FOR them.

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Friendly visits by "Friends Outside" (Elizabeth Ball, left, and Marcia Anderson) brighten the long days for girls in jail. Friends Outside is a volunteer groups of visitors from Community Volunteer Service.

By JEAN BAKER
Sentinel Staff Writer

"... I was imprisoned and you visited me..." And you brightened the day by...

- listening to me
- helping me
- providing me a break in endless days
- bringing me a game to play, a book to read, a pattern to sew
- by being yourself — a person — and accepting me as one.

This is what a "Friend Outside" is and does.

Friends Outside are a group of volunteer women who make bi-weekly visits to Santa Cruz County jail. According to the girls they visit, they are morale-lifters. They come for only one reason—because they care.

Friends Outside was formed last December under the auspices of the Community Volunteer Service of which Miss Marian McBee is director.

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, faithful, interested women go to the jail laden with paperbacks, selected magazines, materials for sewing and games. The way they spend the two hours varies with the moods of the girls.

Sometimes they just visit

has a sewing problem with which she needs help. Maybe she just wants to talk. Or perhaps the perceptive volunteer sits quietly, observing a game of solitaire or watching smoke curl to the ceiling, listening (but never advising) as a girl talks...

"We try to work with the girls; not for them," Miss McBee points out. "By working with them, we are able to do more for them."

The women's quarters at Santa Cruz County jail are inadequate. Not only are there no facilities for rehabilitation for the girls, but the space in which they are accommodated is limited. Planned to house only 10 girls, frequently the quarters are cramped with as many as 15.

Because of this and the need for diversions, the CVS began plans for a program of visitation. Interested persons met with Lt. Carl Wood, deputy sheriff in charge of the jail; the women's matron, Mrs. Sally McDonald; and with the probation staff to ascertain what could be done and to receive training

for those who were to become the "Friends Outside."

The sole function of Friends Outside is to provide activities—NOT to do a probation officer's job — not even to know anything about the circumstances which brought the girl to this place in her life.

The idea of "Friends Outside" had its start in Santa Clara County through the guidance of Rosemary Goodenough. It was so widely acclaimed in that county that Miss McBee heard of it and was anxious to introduce such a program here.

Now in its fifth successful month in Santa Cruz County, the program is receiving attention from other local groups and business concerns. A women's fellowship group from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church contributed an exercycle; Welcome Wagon and women's clubs have donated materials and notions which the girls use to stuff animals; business concerns have given yardage and yarn for sewing and knitting projects.

What began on a small,

but hopeful scale, is expanding as community interest grows.

Future plans for Friends Outside could include work with the men in jail by helping their families. This may become possible when the new jail farm opens, Miss McBee hopes. Perhaps this will include the families of women, as well.

In the meantime, the Community Volunteer Service looks about with "wide angle lenses," continually focusing its attention on fulfilling current needs and surveying other areas where it may help.

Now in new quarters on the grounds at the General Hospital, the CVS continues its former services to the elderly (transportation, friendly visits, telephone check-ups), a literacy program to teach foreign-born and non-readers to read and write, the school volunteer program—and now Friends Outside.

This is what a group of VOLUNTEERS can do for a community — this community, our community.

(Next Week: A Look at What a Jail Can Be)

At The Library