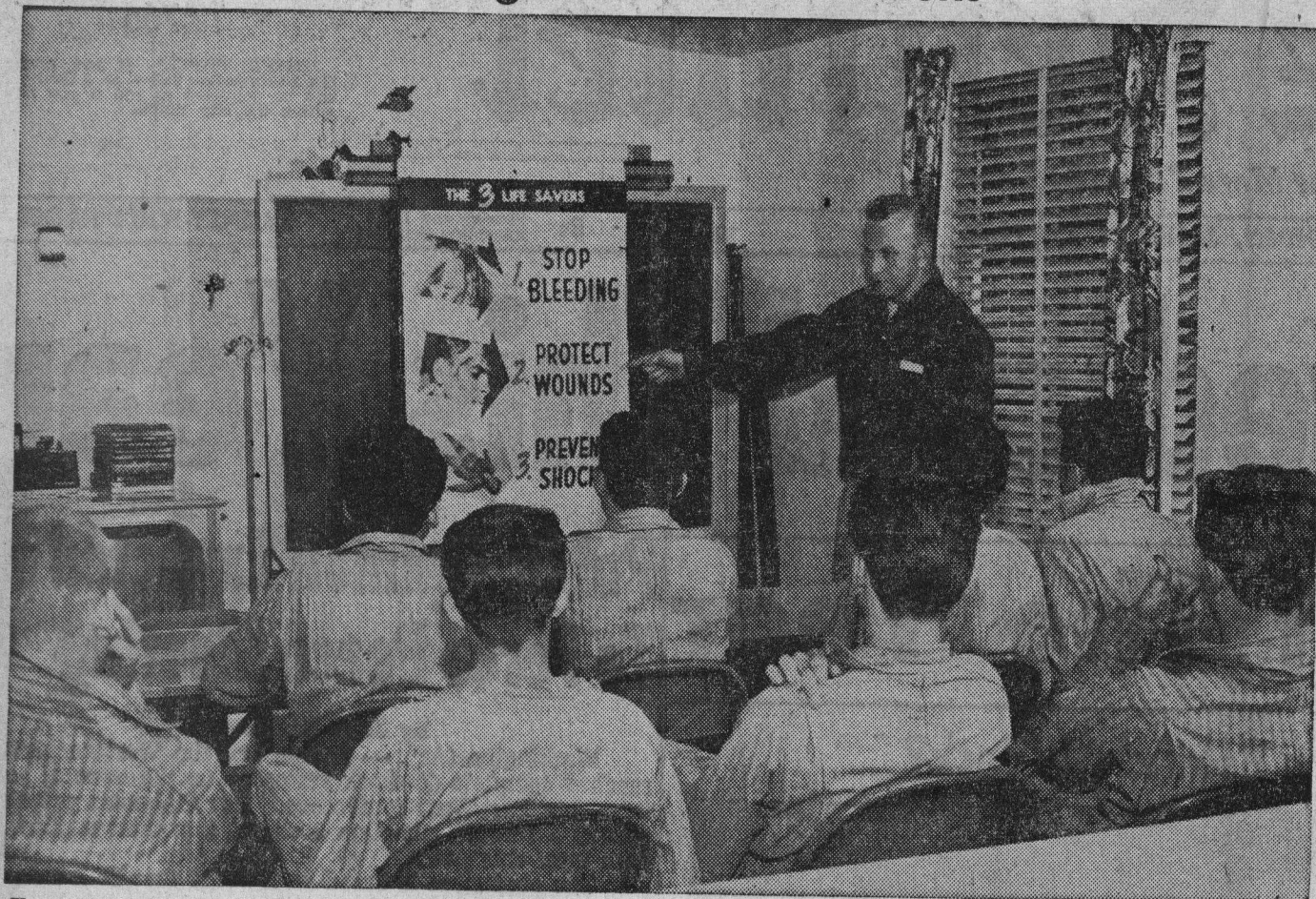


Learning To Be Better Citizens



Youngsters who spend from two to 20 days in the county's juvenile hall formerly laid around the recreation room reading comic books, playing cards and talking of their escapades. Now with a regular educational program launched by the county school system, the atmosphere has improved constructively. Thomas Dunlap leads a session in first aid.

Teaching At Juvenile Hall —Rewarding And Frustrating

By Wally Trabing

"Why should I learn about verbs?"

"If I say I ain't gonna go to town, you know I ain't gonna go, right?"

The blue coveralled youthful inmate of juvenile hall, his jaws flexed in practiced stubbornness, put this question to Thomas Dunlap, teacher of the one room class. Dunlap doesn't answer in the usual vernacular of the regular school teacher.

Ever since these youngsters struck out against the law they've been told by a large variety of officials, "you should do this, you've got to do that," until their minds revolt and close against forced advice.

Not that they don't need advice. On the contrary, most of these youths have been raised either with no advice or with the wrong advice.

It's not that they don't like home life, or the warmth of human personality. By the steady stream of letters from former inmates to Mr. and Mrs. Grant Bell, one of the pair of "hall parents," even the toughest delinquents remember their bare cells and fenced quarters with a warmth that regular kids feel about their homes.

"Most of these youngsters have acquired a certain state of mind," Dunlap said, "and the teaching approach, as far as improving their moral character, is concerned, must be carried in a round about manner."

The education program at juvenile hall was instituted last September. Classes are held during the same hours as a regular school.

One of the differences is that Dunlap must adopt his teaching to a very flexible situation — sort of on the plan of the one-room school house. The average class size is 10 and ages range from 10 to 17 years.

Dunlap can pretty well be assured of attendance, but the length of time his students remain is as unpredictable as the weather.

Juvenile hall is more of a holding institution than a prison. The youngsters are either held for their parents or await their appearance in court or transfer to

other institutions. Their stay ranges from one to 20 days.

The school is under direct control of the county schools, and one of the academically stated aims is to "provide opportunities for each child to grow intellectually, socially, and physically through the use of educational program media."

Fine! But it's not as easy as all that. Dunlap has the job of confronting a class of basically decent kids, mentally encrusted with complexes ranging from the anti-social to "couldn't care less" attitudes. He must break through to them, control them, and somehow try to live up to the fancy words of his academic superiors.

On his teaching guide appear the words: history, social science, citizenship. Many of the youngsters are far behind in their education. Dunlap combines these courses, dabbles a little in each, and presents them with a disguised emphasis on citizenship.

Much use is made of film of men and women who have made something of themselves, even though they came from poor homes or from unappealing neighborhoods. The films are discussed before and after the showing and Dunlap finds that many of the youngsters are soaking it up.

The class is informal. If the film leads to a discussion of their own trouble, Dunlap rides along.

"You know, there's a philosophy to all this," he said. "Their understanding is not too outward, but you can feel that the classes help them to understand certain things that will help them to adjust."

Typing is offered when someone comes along who is interested and needs help. Art is stressed. It gives them a chance to express themselves freely. Science, and home economics are part of the days classes.

Physical education, good rough and tumble play, works out pent up energies and makes the youngsters easier to handle in the hall. English grammar is taught or rather suggested. Dunlap infers that "it might help them to get along better by learning to write this way or say a sentence correctly."

Dunlap, an accredited teacher and a graduate of the San Jose State with a degree in penology, finds some of the discussions rather frustrating.

This is not an uncommon trend. "Did you realize when you took the bicycle you would not get away with it?"

"Yes, but I figured I'd have a little fun before I got caught."

Another example.

"Why did you take the car?"

"I hate to walk."

"Where did you learn to hot-wire a car?" "At CYA camp."

"Do you think you will ever steal another car?"

"Well, if I get tired walking I might."

Before classes were started at juvenile hall, Mrs. Bell said the

youngsters would spend their time playing cards, reading funny books, and talking about their escapades.

The funny books have been replaced by light reading booklets on water power, science, life of Marconi, Leonardo da Vinci, Joan of Arc, mechanics, etc.

"The kids really go for them," she said.

The problems of these youngsters, officials agree, predominantly start in the home. The education program at juvenile hall is an attempt to make the best of a bad situation. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Painter Couldn't Get School 'Off His Mind'

Washington (AP). — George T. Smith says he had to get the Harrison Elementary school "off my mind"—so he painted it.

School officials said they didn't authorize the work and can't pay for it.

"I got the idea last October," the 30-year-old Washington painter said last night. "I was driving by the school with my wife, and I said I was going to paint that school. I meant I'd bid on it sometime."

"But, the idea kept coming back in my mind. It said 'Paint it,' and I answered 'Paint it.' Yes, it said, 'Paint it for nothing.' And I said 'Oh no, not for nothing.'"

"I kept talking to myself and it kept coming back. It stayed on my mind every day until mid-December. I was getting an ulcer. I went to a doctor. He said I was worrying, and I knew then I had to get that school off my mind."

So Smith started to paint the outside woodwork trim and doors. He even worked Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

When someone at the school mentioned they didn't know he was coming to do the work, Smith said "Oh, well, you know how the government is."

John Riecks, assistant school superintendent in charge of buildings and grounds, said:

"We never hired him. We figure the job would have cost between \$1000 and \$1200. It was a very good job but we can't pay for it."

Smith says he doesn't plan to do any more unasked-for painting.

"But," he added thoughtfully, "I guess if it came in my mind again and began worrying me like that, I'd do it again."

Lights Proposed Along Highway 17

A feasibility study on installing street lights along the Santa Cruz-Los Gatos highway to Camp Evers to Santa's Villa is being made by the public utility committee of the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

SOVIET SCIENTIST DIES AT AGE OF 95

Moscow (AP). — Mikhail Alexandrovich Pavlov, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and noted metallurgist, died in Moscow yesterday at the age of 95. Pavlov was awarded a Stalin Prize in 1946 for his study of the properties of cast iron.

Due to the great demand of this special "Get Acquainted" offer, we will extend the offer 10 more days only . . .

HYDRAMATIC BAND & LINKAGE ADJUSTMENT

\$5.95

... \$11.95 Value ... car with Hydramatic

many people were not able to get their autos into shop for this offer . . . therefore we suggest you call for your appointment early!

HURRY AND PHONE FOR APPOINTMENT

Call GA 3-8898

FORTNER'S SURF CITY MOTORS

Your New Santa Cruz Oldsmobile Dealer

1025 Water St.

GIVE YOUR HOME A BREAK

DOOR PASSAGE

LOCKS

\$2.15

PRIME COAT

HINGES

PAIR

41¢

CABINET HARDWARE