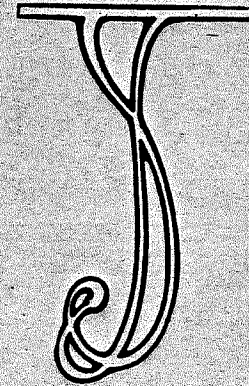


Seattle Public Library

The Seattle Juvenile
Court Report
for 1926



JANUARY 1, 1927
KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT BUILDING
200 BROADWAY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE IVY PRESS, SEATTLE



JUDGE EVERETT SMITH

THE
SEATTLE JUVENILE COURT
REPORT *for the* YEAR
1926

COURT SESSIONS
MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS
AS 1:30 P. M.
KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT BUILDING
200 BROADWAY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

PERSONNEL OF STAFF

The Court

HONORABLE EVERETT SMITH, *Judge.*
HAROLD VANN, *Referee and Chief Probation Officer.*
MRS. FRANCETTE P. MARING, *Superintendent of Detention Home,
and Assistant to Judge in Girl Cases.*
KATE NYE, *Clerk of the Court.*
FLORENCE BALL, *Investigator.*
MRS. MARTHA CASTBERG, *Probation Officer.*
JANET DONALDSON, *Probation Officer.*
A. R. McCURDY, *Probation Officer.*
EVELYN DOBSON, *Secretary to Chief Probation Officer.*
EVELYN FOLLETTE, *Stenographer.*
DR. LILLIAN C. IRWIN, *Medical Examiner for Girls.*
DR. ADA COLLISON, *Medical Examiner for Girls.*
DR. STEVENSON SMITH, *Consulting Psychologist.*

Mothers' Pension Department

LENA E. HEMPHILL, *Commissioner.*
JOSEPHINE E. PORTER, *Investigator.*
VIOLET STOUT, *Secretary.*
MRS. EMILY CURRY, *Visitor.*
MRS. BESSIE MAYNARD, *Visitor.*
ANNA KELSO, *Visitor.*

Detention Home

MRS. CARRIE E. HOUGHTON, *Assistant to Superintendent.*
MISS RUBY FARLEY, *School Teacher.*
MRS. IRENE WAMSLEY, *Boys' Attendant.*
MRS. MELVY WOOD, *Girls' Attendant.*
MRS. LOUISE MCKEE, *Kitchen Attendant.*
MR. GEORGE S. HOUGHTON, *Building Attendant.*

REPORT FOR 1926

Statistics are of value in comparing the work of various courts, noticing local changes throughout the years and in arriving at solutions for certain social problems. Unfortunately, statistics are so often unreliable that they defeat their very purpose. Under present laws, states and parts of states fail to agree as to when a person is a juvenile; when and where is the court's jurisdiction; and the real difference between dependency and delinquency. In our own state, a truant child might be classified either as a dependent or a delinquent. When the national movement for uniform tabulation along definite lines is accomplished, then statistics will have a real value and for the first time we will be sure of our ground when talking about the status of delinquency. Therefore, the tables in this report are of value only for purposes of comparison with previous reports of this Court.

The report shows a slight increase in the total as compared with last year of 20, but the County school population shows an increase of 3,419; so, in proportion to the population, the statistics show a decrease. There were 143 fewer cases of dependency and an increase of 162 in cases of delinquency. Of this number, 138 represents the increases in traffic cases and the remaining 24, a slight increase in dishonesty. The large number of traffic cases, 185 in all, is accounted for through the effort to check the driving of cars by young boys who drive without a permit and violate traffic laws. All forms of dependency show a falling off, excepting feeble-mindedness, where the records show 27 more children

committed than in the year previous. This merely means that a new building was finished at the State Custodial School giving room for a few of the many children awaiting admission.

More than one-half of the complaints came from the Police department and the next largest number from the schools and parents. The complaints charged to the Probation Officers are cases of children being brought back into Court for failure under supervision or a change of order. Court officers do not file original petitions.

Of the total of 2,074 cases, some 55 per cent were handled informally. These appeared before a Referee acting for the Court, but did not come into the Court for a formal Court hearing. This method saves the time of parents, the expense of Court procedure, and in the main has splendid results. Of course, only certain types of cases can be adjudicated in this manner.

A smaller number of children were placed under supervision, largely because of the heavy lists now being carried by the officers. The National Probation Standard limits a supervisor to 50 wards. Our women, besides many other duties, are supervising over 200 wards apiece from city and county, and so are given only the more serious of the new cases.

The number of commitments has varied very little from last year, and the Court has splendid cooperation from all institutions.

The court clerk's report shows that during 1926 \$6,779.26 was paid into the registry of the Court by parents toward the maintenance of wards in homes and institutions.

The Detention Home shows a slight increase in the number of children sheltered during the year, 1,471 in all. The Court policy is not to commit to the Detention Home or hold children longer than absolutely necessary. A day of detention often provokes helpful thinking but the child's home is the place for youngsters, if it is in any way a proper home.

The table of ages shows the peak for delinquency to be 16 years, after that there is a falling off.

More than 50 per cent came from broken homes and while over 60 per cent of the delinquent boys came from normal homes, only 40 per cent of the delinquent girls came from such homes.

As a basis for determining the trend of delinquency the following tables may be of some value:

Year	DISHONESTY		DISORDERLINESS	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1914	275	9	138	11
1915	250	7	88	4
1920	363	8	146	4
1921	344	14	167	4
1925	412	9	179	18
1926	461	15	173	4

Year	RUNAWAY		INSUBORDINATION		TRUANCY	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1914	90	17	60	15	44	9
1915	106	7	46	30	34	13
1920	145	8	109	39	47	4
1921	100	15	77	64	41	30
1925	132	50	108	79	85	28
1926	130	43	102	88	90	29

Year	SEX MISCONDUCT		School Population
	Boys	Girls	
1914	29	97	61,755
1915	40	70	65,063
1920	31	79	86,515
1921	31	105	86,269
1925	16	147	99,392
1926	12	140	102,811

From this table it will be seen that the only increase in delinquency out of proportion to increase in population is among the girls who are runaways, incorrigible, and truants; and among the boys, for truancy from school, although the number coming in for dishonesty among boys shows an even pace with population. In explanation it can be said that drivers of automobiles are to blame for a large share of the increased runaways. Girls as well as boys hail passing cars and secure free rides all over the country. Boys have been brought in recently from New York and Texas coming all the way by securing rides in passing cars. Many are brought in from the Middle West, while the trip to and from Los Angeles is just an after-school picnic. Recently two girls, both at a critical age, escaped from an institution and were carried out of the state and are still missing, thanks to pick-ups from thoughtless motorists.

If owners and drivers of cars would refuse to pick up boys and girls they would win the gratitude of the juvenile court officials, school officers, and countless distracted fathers and mothers.

The number of children classified as insubordinate or incorrigible portrays the difficult situation in which thousands of parents are now placed. It is unfair to condemn these parents as altogether unfit, for, while they

have been unable to keep up with the children's demanded freedom, it is most often because of a lack of understanding of the complex social conditions of the day, and the Court action is sought as a means of securing helpful advice as to how the child can be guided and held through the critical years when childish impatience overcomes judgment.

The increased number of truancy cases is accounted for by the effort to interpret to the community the value of the state law pertaining to high school and part time education and we feel that the effort has brought good results.

Comments on dishonesty could fill this report, but briefly, the need or imagined need for money is the chief cause. Automobiles are necessary to convey girls to parties and dances. The boy cannot buy one, it is impossible to rent one as horses and buggies were rented in the days of old, so a car is "borrowed" for a few hours. Parents are poor, the boy has no job, no spending money to keep up his end and his false pride suggests theft. Few cases of dishonesty come from the country districts. The need of money is not felt so keenly. In the city the growing boy finds an increasing demand made upon him. Shows and sweets while younger; and later shows, dances, school activities—especially high schools—articles of clothing, gasoline, suppers for girls after the dance until many boys of high school age are worrying more about how to get an extra dollar than how to get an education.

Referring again to the table, a remarkable drop is shown in dishonesty and disorderliness among girls and sex misconduct among boys. In explanation of the latter, it can be said that most of the girls were involved

with men past the juvenile court age. These are prosecuted in the superior courts. The Court stands firm on one code of morals for both girls and boys.

As the year is closed, some of the pressing needs are again forced to our attention. First is the necessity for more probation officers. The staff has had no increase since 1918 and only one since 1911. In 1918 when the one officer was added the court cases numbered 643. In 1926 with no additional help we had 2,074 cases. If children are to be helped, we should have enough officers to properly supervise. Good work cannot be done without adequate tools. An increased staff would mean the finding of free homes for many now in institutions paid for by the County. It would mean a constructive program eliminating many cases certain to come in later as delinquents. It would enable the Court to meet the demands of the outside towns and county districts. It would take care of numerous complaints which cannot be followed up now because no one is available.

Another need is a state law allowing the Court to pay more than \$12.00 a month for the support and care of a child in a private home, or else a proper state institution, for the care of purely dependent children.

The situation regarding the care of subnormal children is worse than ever before. True, the situation of that group between the State Custodial School and the Parental Schools, concerning which we wrote in 1922, has been improved by the Superintendent of the former school agreeing to accept all feeble-minded children when there is room; yet the fact remains that there is no room and little hope is offered for the admission of any child before 1928, and then only for a few of the most needy. Another institution must be built. The Court is con-

stantly forced to turn back on the community feeble-minded boys of bad habits and dangerous to the peace; because there is no institution where they can be received. Over a dozen have already been committed to the State Custodial School and returned home pending a vacancy.

Washington is one of thirteen states with no provision for adult probation. Such a law with probation officers would be a real asset to the community and such a system would pay its own way.

One newspaper, at least, in Seattle has long recognized the fact that the doubtful news value of publishing the names of children, who are supposed to have violated the law, is more than offset by the measure of good done the community at large by allowing the children's court to handle the full affair without publicity. Quite often an innocent child is hurt and handicapped by such published articles, and quite often the statements are so distorted that a childish mistake becomes an unpardonable crime. Children have been forced to run away from home to avoid facing school friends; and others have felt that they must do something serious to hold their pose of being hard boiled, expected by imitators. If the press would print the facts without the names it would be a real help to the child and be appreciated by the parents.

Seattle has lessened its possible delinquency by endeavoring to set forth constructive programs for its youth. Parks, playfields, Scouts, Camp Fire, and school activities all cooperate in this. Some of our newspapers, clubs, and fraternal organizations are deserving of our united gratitude for these successful movements.

All organizations and institutions working with the Court have been unusually cooperative and helpful and

because of this assistance the Court has been of greater value to the community.

The spirit of the court staff has been one of unselfish devotion to the work and needs of the child. Judge Everett Smith completing his first year as Judge of the Juvenile Court has drawn from his long experience with the youth of Seattle in Church, Y. M. C. A. and Boy Scouts, and has brought to the Court hearings a deep understanding of children and their problems. This with the kind, fatherly patience and sincere sympathetic interest in saving the child and promoting his highest welfare has been an inspiration to the department members.

HAROLD VANN,
Chief Probation Officer.

STATISTICS

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING TEN YEARS AND COUNTY SCHOOL POPULATION RATIO

Year	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Delinq'nt										
Boys....	443	335	503	841	765	913	957	838	979	1,146
Girls....	108	105	115	145	232	225	232	246	331	326
Neglec'd										
Boys....	149	90	146	221	179	188	193	247	381	289
Girls....	122	113	133	224	169	319	227	263	364	313
Totals..	822	643	897	1,431	1,345	1,645	1,609	1,594	2,054	2,074
County School Census..	67,051	77,660	84,760	86,515	86,269	86,622	89,438	94,698	99,392	102,811

OFFENSES AND CONDITIONS WHICH BROUGHT CHILDREN TO COURT DURING 1926

Offense	Boys	Girls	Totals
DELINQUENT			
Dishonesty	461	15	476
Insubordinate	102	88	190
Traffic violations	178	7	185
Disorderliness	173	4	177
Vagrancy and runaways	130	43	173
Sex delinquency	12	140	152
Truancy	90	29	119
Totals.....	1,146	326	1,472
Condition	Boys	Girls	Totals
DEPENDENT			
Inadequate moral guardianship	247	274	521
Feeble-mindedness	19	21	40
Abandonment	20	15	35
Poverty	3	3	6
Totals.....	289	313	602

**SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS LEADING TO COURT HEARING
DURING 1926**

Source	Boys	Girls	Totals
Police Department	875	173	1,048
Probation Officers	188	213	401
School Attendance Officers	158	79	237
Citizens	100	65	165
Parents	99	74	173
Child (in own behalf)	5	12	17
Remanded from Institutions	3	16	19
Transcripts from Justice Courts	5	—	5
Social Welfare League	1	3	4
Public Welfare Department	1	3	4
Washington Children's Home Society	—	1	1
Totals.....	1,435	639	2,074

**DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT
DURING 1926**

	Boys	Girls	Totals
Parents and children advised.....	1,003	181	1,184
Probationary supervision	75	92	167
Committed to individuals	77	77	154
Parental schools	85	39	124
Washington Children's Home Society	47	21	68
Financial aid	31	34	65
Dismissed	16	37	53
Continued indefinitely	24	24	48
State Training School	28	—	28
State School for Girls	—	12	12
State Custodial School	19	21	40
Ruth School for Girls	—	25	25
House of Good Shepherd	—	25	25
Sacred Heart Orphanage	—	22	22
Seattle Children's Home	10	5	15
Sent to Other Jurisdictions	5	9	14
Referred for Criminal Prosecution	7	2	9
Y. W. C. A. Everett Smith Cottage	—	9	9
Seattle Boys' Club	5	—	5
Ryther Home	2	1	3
Junior Department House of Good Shepherd	—	2	2
Firland Sanitorium	—	1	1
Florence Crittenden Home	—	—	—
County Hospital	1	—	1
Totals.....	1,435	639	2,074

[14]

**COMPARATIVE POPULATION OF DETENTION HOME DURING
TEN YEARS**

Year	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Boys	694	935	970	980	755	828	900	818	909	967
Girls	311	440	451	502	509	623	576	519	499	504
Totals.....	1,005	1,375	1,421	1,482	*1,264	1,451	1,476	1,337	1,408	1,471
Average period of detention (days) ..	6	6.5	5.2	6.9	6.2	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.7

* No children received for six weeks in 1921 because of smallpox quarantine.

AGES OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING 1926

Age	DELINQUENT		DEPENDENT		Totals
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
1 year and under	—	—	24	21	45
2 years	—	—	21	18	39
3 years	—	—	9	23	32
4 years	—	—	9	17	26
5 years	—	—	24	16	40
6 years	—	—	20	17	37
7 years	—	—	25	19	44
8 years	8	—	27	17	52
9 years	16	3	21	10	50
10 years	35	5	24	27	91
11 years	61	4	15	10	90
12 years	86	8	15	20	129
13 years	105	12	15	19	151
14 years	176	47	18	20	261
15 years	200	66	15	32	313
16 years	244	85	7	17	353
17 years	203	80	—	10	293
18 years	12	16	—	—	28
Totals.....	1,146	326	289	313	2,074

[15]

NUMBER OF APPEARANCES DURING CURRENT AND
PRECEDING YEARS OF CHILDREN BROUGHT INTO
COURT DURING 1926

	DELINQUENT		DEPENDENT		Totals
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
First time	717	208	161	197	1,283
Second time	193	49	50	49	341
Third time	123	42	31	45	241
Fourth time	74	17	29	11	131
Fifth time	20	10	9	3	42
Sixth time	10	-----	7	1	18
Seventh time	9	-----	2	7	18
Totals.....	1,146	326	289	313	2,074

PARENTAL RELATION

	DELINQUENT		DEPENDENT		Totals
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Parents living together	692	133	79	70	974
Parents not living together due to death, divorce, separation or deser- tion	454	193	210	243	1,100
Totals.....	1,146	326	289	313	2,074

WASHINGTON MOTHERS' PENSION LAW

SECTION 1. In every county it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to provide out of the moneys of the county treasury an amount sufficient to meet the purposes of this law for the support of mothers who, by reason of destitution, insufficient property or income, or lack of earning capacity, are unable to support their children under the age of fifteen years.

SECTION 2. The allowance to such mother shall not exceed fifteen (\$15) dollars per month when she has but one child the age of fifteen years, and if she has more than one child under the age of fifteen years, it shall not exceed the sum of fifteen dollars per month for the first child, and five dollars per month for each of the other children under the age of fifteen years.

SECTION 3. Such allowance shall be made by the juvenile court in the counties where such court is held and elsewhere by the superior court, and only upon the following conditions: (1) The child or children for whose benefit the allowance is made must be living with the mother of such child or children; (2) When by means of such allowance the mother will be able to maintain a home for her child or children; (3) The mother must in the judgment of the court, be a proper person, morally, physically and mentally, for the bringing up of her children; (4) No person shall receive the benefit of this act who shall not have been a resident of the state for three (3) years and of the county in which such application is made for at least one year next before the making of such application for such allowance.

SECTION 4. Whenever any child shall reach the age of fifteen years any allowance made to the mother of such child for the benefit of such child shall cease. The court may in its discretion at any time before such child reaches the age of fifteen years, discontinue or modify the allowance to any mother and for any child.

SECTION 5. Any person procuring fraudulently any allowance for a person, not entitled thereto, shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

SECTION 6. In each case where an allowance is made to any woman under the provisions of this act, an order to that effect shall be entered upon the records of the court making such allowance. Proceedings to obtain the benefit of this act shall be instituted and maintained in the same manner as proceedings are instituted and maintained in the juvenile court, and the prosecuting attorney shall render all necessary assistance to applicants under this act and shall appear in every such proceeding and through the probation officer, the charity commissioner or any person having knowledge of the facts, shall carefully investigate the merits of every application to the end that this act may be fairly administered and no person granted

relief hereunder except those justly entitled thereto, and no officer of the court or county officer shall receive any fees for any service rendered in carrying out the provisions of this Act. A certified copy of said order shall be filed with the county auditor of the county in which such child's mother is resident, and thereupon and thereafter and so long as such order remains in force and unmodified it shall be the duty of the county auditor each month to draw his warrant on the current expense fund of the county in favor of the mother for the amount specified in such order, which warrant shall be by the auditor delivered to the mother upon her executing duplicate receipts therefor, one to be retained by the auditor and the other to be filed by the clerk with the other records in the proceedings relating to such child or children. It shall be the duty of the county treasurer to pay such warrant out of funds in the current expense fund of the county.

SECTION 7. That sections 8385-1, 8385-2, 8385-3, 8385-4, 8385-5 and 8385-6 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

MOTHER'S PENSION DEPARTMENT

STATISTICS PREPARED BY LENA E. HEMPHILL, SUPERVISOR

Population of King County in 1920.....426,994

MAJOR REASONS FOR GRANTING RELIEF

	1926
Husbands deceased	261
Divorced	82
Deserted	100
Husbands incapacitated at home.....	21
Husbands incapacitated at hospitals.....	36
Husbands in penal institutions.....	9
Families with relatives.....	2
Mothers unmarried	2
Total.....	513

ALLOWANCES

	1926
\$ 10.00	11
15.00	169
20.00	200
25.00	85
30.00	35
35.00	9
40.00	3
45.00	1
Total.....	513

REASONS FOR REVOCATION

	1926
Children reached the age of 15 years.....	32
Children living away from home.....	8
Disregarded requirements of the Court.....	11
Husbands contributing to support.....	18
Left jurisdiction of the Court.....	14
Mothers re-married	16
Self-supporting	27
Mothers died	2
Received insurance	5
Husbands in stockade	1
Total.....	134

NATIONALITY OF MOTHERS

	1926
American	311
American Indian	1
American Negress	2
Austrian	6
Bohemian	2
Canadian	22
Danish	7
English	21
Finnish	7
French	2
German	10
Holland Dutch	1
Hungarian	1
Irish	12

Italian	6
Norwegian	45
Polish	5
Roumanian	1
Russian Jew	7
Scotch	10
Sephardic Jew	7
Swedish	26
Syrian	1
Total.....	513

RELIGION OF MOTHERS

	1926
Adventist	2
African Methodist	4
Baptist	30
Catholic	93
Christian	22
Christian Science	24
Congregational	12
Church of Nazarene	1
Christian Missionary Alliance	1
Episcopal	22
Friends' Church	1
Free Methodist	4
Jewish	12
Latter Day Saints	4
Lutheran	80
Methodist	70
Norwegian Methodist	1
New Thought	1
Pentacostal Faith	4
Presbyterian	66
Protestant	54
Swedish Mission	2
Salvation Army	1
Unity	1
Unitarian	1
Total.....	513

SOURCES OF MOTHERS' VOCATIONAL INCOME

	1926
Bakery	4
Boarders and roomers	18
Bookbinder	1
Beauty parlor	2
Cashier	3
Chambermaid	6
Clerks	30
Cooks	18
Canvassing and demonstrating	9
Day work	101
Elevator operator	5
Factory	44
Garden and chickens	9
Houskeepers	10
Janitress	24
Laundry	26
Millinery	1
Mothers at home.....	125
Teachers	3
Nurses	3
Office work and stenography	19
Printer	1
Restaurant	17
Rental agent	1
Sewing and needle work	12
Telephone operator	5
Tailoring and cleaning	4
Welfare work	2
Waitress	10
Total.....	513

HOMES OF MOTHERS

	1926
Buying on contract or mortgaged.....	150
Boarding	3
Free rent	18
Homes owned, free of debt.....	61
Homes with relatives or friends.....	50
Renting	231
Total.....	513

RENTALS BEING PAID BY 231 MOTHERS

	1926
\$ 1.00	1
4.00	2
5.00	8
7.00	2
8.00	4
10.00	31
12.00	17
13.00	5
15.00	54
16.00	7
17.00	7
18.00	5
20.00	37
22.50	5
25.00	29
30.00	11
35.00	3
40.00	3
Total.....	231

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT FOR YEAR 1926

Salaries	\$ 10,200.00
Postage	50.00
Sundry office expenses	263.51
Transportation	932.19
Relief Fund	113,915.00
Total.....	\$125,360.70