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# Study of characteristics and background of returnees and non-returnees in a training school for juvenile delinquents.

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Thesis

STUDY OF CHARACTERISTICS AND BACKGROUND OF RETURNEES AND  
NON-RETURNEES IN A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

by

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( B. S. in Education, Boston University, 1952 )

Submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Education

1953

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## CHAPTER I

### Statement of the Problem

Juvenile delinquency is a topic that has been gaining widespread attention, especially of late years. Not only have correctional authorities become more and more concerned with the problems of juvenile delinquency but the effects are being noted among community agencies, educational leaders, parents, and laymen alike.

Much in the way of research has been done and continues to be carried on to determine factors affecting the adolescent in his progression towards delinquency with eventual incarceration but little has been undertaken to investigate factors contributing to a youngster's return to a penal institution once he has been released and placed on parole. This study attempts to survey the background and characteristics of youthful offenders who have been paroled from a training school in Massachusetts. It is essentially a study comparing two groups of boys who were paroled from the Lyman School, half of which failed in their parole obligations and were returned to the school for further training while their opposite number made good their parole



period and continued to live in their respective communities discharging their responsibilities favorably and seemingly making sociably accepted adjustments.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of such a study is to note the factors influencing the adolescent prior to and during parole period which contribute either to his return to a training school or to sustain him in his role of private citizen, thereby entering the ranks of non-recidivists. These factors under investigation may come under the general heading of parole placement, whether the youngster was returned to his parents, placed in a foster home, placed in custody of guardian or returned to a number of other possible havens of care. The home and family factors having a place in guiding the destiny of a youth on parole. Such questions as emotional conflict between parents, between children, between both children and parents; adequate living quarters; family conditions make the child feel disliked or unwanted are but a sample of inquiries aimed at the home and family. Other factors in the school and community environment have a direct bearing on the youngster's success or failure while on parole. Personal and physical characteristics as well as institutional treatment leave their imprint and mold

the youth's mind, his attitude and personality development. Thus they spell the difference between a well adjusted adolescent life or a career in crime.

MERIT:

It is the express purpose that such a study may have its effect upon the youthful offenders who have been incarcerated by law. The disposition of potential parolees is based on facts about the youngster which coincide closely to those investigated in this study. Parole boards may note the conditions which have been helpful to the youngster on parole as well as the deterrent factors crippling the boy's chances of remaining outside the confines of our training schools. Parents, both foster and real, may realize that conditions which they themselves create, permit, and allow to go unchecked, are influencing a youngster in their care to continue to live in the family circle or return to an environment quite unlike the family setting. School officers, teachers and administrators may, too, be made aware of their influence and guide their relations with former training school inmates. The various community agencies which directly or indirectly cast their influence upon the youth either contribute in some way to the child's well being in the community or forsake him because of the problems he may

present. Then, the institutional officers may be guided in their treatment, the rehabilitation procedures, eliminating those of little value and promoting those of vital significance. Society, if it is to retain a semblance of structure may wish to take a leading part in combating the adverse elements contributing to parole failure, thereby incurring safety and well being for a greater number of its citizens not alone our youthful offenders but adults alike. For one day youth no longer remains adolescent but takes the adult role along side of his neighbor.

JUSTIFICATION:

1. The high rate of recidivism among juvenile delinquents. The Gluecks, in their study of one thousand juvenile delinquents, revealed that 88.2 per cent of our juveniles recidivated and 11.8 per cent were non-delinquents during the five year post treatment.<sup>1</sup>

2. Research in this particular area of delinquency control is shamefully neglected. Dr. W. C. Kvaraceus in his appeal for continuing research states: "More information and study are required in order to discover why certain individuals who are surrounded by essentially the

1. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, One Thousand Juvenile Delinquents, Harvard Press, Cambridge. p. 151

same environmental factors respond with delinquent aggressive patterns of behavior which others do not. This is the same as asking why certain individuals tend to select unacceptable behavior responses rather than some more acceptable response patterns."<sup>2</sup>

3. There is an urgent need to reduce the number of returnees thus diminishing likely careers in crime. Barnes and Teeters, in introducing their chapter on, Institutional Treatment of Juvenile Delinquents have this to say: "Those who know the problem of crime best are unanimous in insisting that we 'save the youth of today from becoming the criminals of tomorrow.' Records of penal institutions throughout the county show that the bulk of their inmates started their criminal careers in early youth. A rather significant and startling fact is that locked up in our reform schools, protectories, houses of refuge, detention houses, and jails are thousands of children from seven to sixteen and seventeen years old, actually serving sentences imposed by the courts of the land. Add to this number, other thousands on probation and thousands labeled predelinquents by crime prevention agencies, and behavior problems by various child-

2. William C. Kvaraceus, Juvenile Delinquency and the School, World Book Company, Yonkers-on-Hudson, N. Y. p. 291

guidance clinics."<sup>3</sup>

4. There is a constant search to determine the effectiveness of prescribed treatment in curbing the delinquencies of our youthful offenders. Mr. Clifford Shaw, Director of the Chicago Area Project describes its efforts to reach conclusive evidence on this subject:

"During the past twenty years, the Department of Sociology of the Illinois Institute for Juvenile Research, in collaboration with Professor Ernest W. Burgess and others of the University of Chicago, have been engaged in intensive investigations into the nature and causes of delinquency in metropolitan regions, especially Chicago. Many and complex data have been assembled, and voluminous literature has been compiled on the subject. No conclusive evidence on many of the pressing questions involved has resulted. Certain definite assumptions may be drawn, however which are basic in the creation and procedure of the experiment known as the Chicago Area Project, the purpose of which is to discover methods of reducing and preventing delinquency in areas characterized by a large volume of delinquent children."<sup>4</sup>

One significant assumption resulting from this probing

3. Harry Elmer Barnes, Negley K. Teeters, New Horizons in Criminology, Prentice-Hall Inc., N.Y., p. 897.

4. Ibid., p. 979.

research reads as follows:

"Current practices in dealing with delinquency have been ineffective. It has been recognized that correctional schools, reformatories and prisons, while necessary for the immediate protection of life and property, are not effective in aiding offenders to become law abiding citizens. In general, commitment to an institution means only further education in crime, tending to confirm the inmate in his criminality. Punishment and incarceration are predicated upon an assumption of individual responsibility which does not exist. To the extent that it is understood that delinquency is only symptomatic and a manifestation of deeper social ills, intelligent programs for dealing with it can be established. Such programs would not consider the treatment of juvenile delinquency as an end in itself, but only a means to an end."<sup>5</sup>

SCOPE:

Based on the study of 200 delinquent boys, 100 of which violated parole conditions by committing additional offenses and thus were returned to the Lyman School for Boys, compared to a like number who during their parole period made satisfactory social adjustments sufficient to avoid further

5. Ibid. p. 980

institutional commitment.

The subjects of study include those returnees to the Lyman School during the year 1951. In order that conditions and circumstances be somewhat similar for comparison of significant factors, each returnee was compared to a former inmate who had been placed on parole on or about the same time as the returnee. In some cases the date of parole for returnee and non-returnee go back to the early days of 1945 while a greater number include those paroled between 1947 and 1950.

The subjects investigated in the light of their characteristics and background were covered on specific facts and factors under the following general headings:

1. Parole Placement
2. The Family & Home Factors
3. The School Factors
4. Community Factors
5. Personal and Physical Characteristics as Factors
6. Institutional Treatment

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

The definition of a Delinquent Child according to Massachusetts State Law is one between seven and seventeen who violates any city ordinance or town by-law or commits

an offense not punishable by death. The concept of delinquency used in this research follows the prescribed law.

Recidivism is interpreted accordingly: A falling back into prior criminal habits, especially after incarceration - institutional treatment in this research.

A Returnee is one who according to authoratative decision returned to the confines of a correctional institution due to parole failure.

PAROLE is defined as a conditional release of an inmate with indeterminate or unexpired sentence - the state or period of such freedom.

RESTATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

To investigate pertinent factors of two groups of boys who were released on parole from the Lyman School for Boys, Westboro, Massachusetts. One group of boys because they failed their obligations under parole conditions were returned to the same institution for further treatment compared to their like number who made good their parole promises, thus were not returned but continued to live their lives according to laws, standards and customs stipulated by society.



The nature of specific factors in the research is an attempt to point out the characteristics and background of each youngster included that has cast influence on the particular boy to the extent that he either recidivated into the ways of crime, was apprehended, sentenced and recommitted for additional treatment, or he adjusted sufficiently to remain out of reach of law enforcement bodies thereby allowed to live beyond the confines of previous institutional care.

The comparative value of such a study is to note significant differences between these two groups - returnees and non-returnees that may be an aid to correctional authorities, parole officers, parents, teachers and all other interested persons who are devoting their time, skills and energy to reduce the number of youthful offenders, correctional school inmates and high rate of recidivism among our juvenile delinquents.

## CHAPTER II

RESEARCH PROCEDURE:

This research was made possible through the cooperation of the Chairman of the Massachusetts Youth Service Board, the Massachusetts Boys Parole Division, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Lyman School for Boys, Westboro, Massachusetts.

It was first necessary to enlist the permission of the Chairman of the Youth Service Board to carry out the proposed research. Following a series of discussions as to the plans, the procurement of data, and the setting for investigation purposes, permission was granted to enter the files of delinquents committed to the Lyman School for Boys.

The setting for investigation was left to the discretion of the writer. Either the files in the office of the Boys' Parole Division, Boston, Massachusetts or those at the Lyman School were available for study. While both these offices were utilized, a greater portion of the investigation was completed at the Lyman School.

It had been established that selection of cases from the files would include those delinquents who were returned

to the Lyman School during the year 1951.

For each name recorded as a returnee during 1951 a second list of names was also recorded of those who had not returned for further treatment. In order that similarity of environmental conditions existed during the parole period of each comparative group the second list of boys was selected on the basis of release on parole on or about the same time as his opposite number from the first group or returnee group compiled. After matching the non-returnee group with the returnee group, examination of individual cases was started.

A study was made of each case to determine all aspects of the delinquent's background and personal traits affecting his particular behavior. The age, time of sentence, commitment, parole release date, offense and in the case of returnees date of recommitment was recorded on the Check List-see Appendix. Opposite the various factors noted on the check list an appropriate mark was made in the box, whether positive or negative according to the findings in the case folder.

Following the examination of one hundred returnee cases and one hundred non-returnee cases, the identical information was transformed to a larger master chart to facilitate statistical measurements of each factor related to its

specific case. Percentages were computed, differences measured and conclusions drawn. Notation of the percentage and differences may be noted on tabulated sheets found in the Appendix.

It is well to <sup>re</sup>iterate that the validity of such a research stands on the accuracy of information recorded in the folder of each case investigated. All material gathered and recorded on the check list was taken from logical notations within the folder of the particular delinquent in question. Although direct answers to every question of factors may not have been stated emphatically in every case, inferences approximating a true response to a particular question could be drawn following complete and thorough examination of facts found concerning the specific case. A constant and conscientious effort was made to treat all the information secured in as objective and confidential manner as human nature would allow.

## CHAPTER III

THE FINDINGS:PAROLE PLACEMENT:

Parole placement was the initial area of investigation since it is generally agreed that a great deal of bearing as to the youngster's adjustment in the community depends largely to whom he is paroled. The satisfactory or non-satisfactory adjustment conceivably spells the difference whether he will continue to remain in the community or due to further criminal exploits be returned to institutional care. Examinations show that among the returnees 57% were returned to the parents' home while 43 per cent of the total were released elsewhere. Compared with these figures it is noted that among the non-returnees 84% returned to parents' home and the remaining 16 per cent were placed in a different locale. Significant to point out, the non-returnees presumably have a fair margin over the returnees in which case placement in the parents' home has proven satisfactory results and substantiates the general concensus that in cases where a child can be placed in the parents' home his chances of suitable adjustment looms a shade brighter. To be sure, other factors come into focus than just the fact that the child is placed in his parents' home.

TABLE I - RETURNED TO PARENTS' HOME

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Returned	57	57	84	84
Not Returned	43	43	16	16
Total	100	100	100	100

Release of the youngster to both his own parents reveals an attempt by parole board officials that where it appears feasible such an arrangement more than likely brings satisfactory results. It is observed that among the returnee group about one-third (31%) were placed with both parents while the remaining 69% were paroled with other parties with varying degrees of arrangements. Among the non-returnees the figures again show a variance in parole placement from the former body. Slightly less than half (46%) of this group were released to both parents and 54% discharged to other existing home situations. Such recordings as these given, seem to demonstrate the influence of both parents in assisting the delinquent child to make a wholesome recovery from the previous unacceptable trend in crime.

TABLE 2 - WITH BOTH OWN PARENTS

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
With	31	31	46	46
Not With	69	69	54	54
Total	100	100	100	100

Placement with stepfather and own mother seems to show little appreciable difference between the two groups. Sufficient, however, to note that less than 10 per cent of each group were placed in this particular arrangement. Even so, the non-returnee group have a slight edge over the returnees according to the following table:

TABLE 3 - WITH STEPFATHER AND OWN MOTHER

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
With	4	4	9	9
Not With	96	96	91	91
Total	100	100	100	100

Of even slighter difference between the returnees and non-returnees is the placement with stepmother and own father. Except in the case of previously mentioned arrangement there

appear very few parolees released to stepmother and own father. The figures in the following table record the findings:

TABLE 4 - WITH STEPMOTHER AND OWN FATHER

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
With	3	3	4	4
Not With	97	97	96	96
Total	100	100	100	100

There appears no difference between the number of the two groups being returned to the custody of the mother only. In each group about one fourth (22%) were released to the mother only and the remaining 78 per cent paroled to other home arrangements. While these figures show a considerable increase over the two former arrangements discussed, they are well below the tabulation of those returned to Both Own Parents.

TABLE 5 - WITH MOTHER ONLY

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
With	22	22	22	22
Not With	78	78	78	78
Total	100	100	100	100



Very little difference is noted between the two groups being released to the custody of their father only. It seems apparent that an extremely low number from each group are released to this particular family arrangement. By comparison with those paroled with Mother Only there appears a decided decline within each group being returned to the Father Only. This arrangement compares closely in number that of the Stepmother and Own Father category.

TABLE 6 - WITH FATHER ONLY

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
With	5	5	3	3
Not With	95	95	97	97
Total	100	100	100	100

Foster home placement presents a strikingly different picture than those observed thus far. Among the returnees it is found that one third (33%) of the total number were placed in foster homes. This figure approximates the same figure of this particular group placed with Both Own Parents. In other words, about the same number of returnees were released to foster homes as were returned to their own parents. In the group of non-returnees only nine per cent of the total number found themselves released to foster homes while 46%

were returned to the home of their own parents. Figures related to the returnee group seem to indicate the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the foster home as well as both their own parents in influencing the particular delinquent to conform to the established customs, laws and traditions set down by society.

TABLE 7 - PLACED IN FOSTER HOME

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
With	33	33	9	9
Not With	67	67	91	91
Total	100	100	100	100

Delinquents, both returnees and non-returnees placed in custody of guardian are found to differ in number a small degree. Six per cent of the returnees were placed with guardian - one other than his immediate family - while 9% of the non-returnees also were placed in custody of guardian. The following table points up the relatively low number from each group released to custody of guardian as to the total number:

TABLE 8 - PLACED IN CUSTODY OF GUARDIAN

	<u>RETURNEES</u>		<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
With	6	6	9	9
Not With	94	94	91	91
Total	100	100	100	100

THE FAMILY AND HOME FACTORS:THE FAMILY:

In an effort to discover the delinquents' background in the family setting a series of factors were selected from the total family environment. For the most part the discussion that follows presents a picture of the family setting of both returnees and non-returnees prior to institutional incarceration. In the cases returned to the same family scene many of the same factors which existed prior to commitment continued while the child was on parole. Without doubt, some factors increased in intensity during the parole period if only for the fact that the youngster had "spent time" in an institution and may have shamed the parents or siblings. Thus, the possibility of conflict within the family may have led to greater severity. Conditions, on the other hand, in many cases apparently improve somewhat, depending upon a

multitude of real and psychological factors surrounding the family circle.

It is notable to observe that among the delinquents a greater per cent (67%) of the returnees were subjects of broken homes than among the non-returnees (48%). A breakdown of the factors responsible for a break-up in the home finds relatively insignificant differences between the two groups where death of one or both parents resolved the family to be broken. Approximately one-fifth of the homes in both groups were broken due to death in the family controlling structure. Practically none - one exception - of the homes in both groups were broken because of desertion. Divorce between the parents of the delinquents was responsible for 20 per cent of the homes being broken among the returnee group, while thirteen per cent of the non-returnees homes suffered due to divorce of the parents. Other causes for broken or atypical homes recorded in Table 9 refers to those youngsters born of illegitimate marriage. The per cent (27%) of returnees resulting from this kind of union appears greater than those among the non-returnee group - 16 per cent having been reared under these conditions.

TABLE 9 - THE FAMILY IS BROKEN OR ATYPICAL

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Broken Home	67	48
Due to Death	20	19
Due to Desertion	0	1
Due to Divorce	20	13
Due to Other	27	16

A small margin of difference between the returnee and non-returnee group whose family belongs to a marginal group is recorded. Twenty-one per cent of the returnees compared to twenty-five per cent of the non-returnee fits this type of family situation. No difference between the two groups are born of Negro parents. Five per cent in each group were offsprings of Negro parentage. Youngsters reared in homes of foreign-born parentage are found to be 15% among returnees and 21% among non-returnees. Only one among returnee group comes under the heading of Other as noted in Table 10. Other in this case refers to a child who is born outside the limits of the United States and its Territories. The youth in question was born in Canada, living there only a short time when his parents established residency in the United States.

TABLE 10 - FAMILY BELONG TO MARGINAL GROUP  
ETHNIC AND RACIAL BACKGROUND

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Marginal Group	21	25
Negro	5	5
Foreign-born Parentage	15	21
Other	1	0

Factors closely associated with immediate family relationship give evidence of the background within the family pattern which cast a tremendous influence over the delinquents. It is found that approximately half the returnees and non-returnees came from a large family. Large in the sense that there were five or more children living at home. Slight difference is noted between the two groups. The non-returnees show strength in number over returnees in this particular instance. Attention is given to Table 11 for exact number.

Information of parents having court records, which in most instances the father holds the lead over the mother. In a number of cases, however, both mother and father had experienced a "run-in" with the law and its courts. Better than fifty per cent of both groups were children of parents with court records. No substantial degree of difference is reported between the two groups in this connection.

Cases in which brothers and sisters of returnees and

non-returnees who themselves have been delinquent is reported that among the returnee group twenty-nine per cent are included. While among the non-returnee group a higher percentage (35%) is recorded as having delinquent brothers or sisters. Worthy of mention in this regard that the total number of delinquent brothers or sisters in both groups is considerably less in number than parents having court records of both returnees and non-returnees.

The family of both groups of boys having inadequate income to live decently reaches close to seventy-five per cent. Slight difference between the two groups is recorded. Although, in every case, this information was not stated as such. Following a complete review of all the available data in the case folder, sufficient evidence pointed in this particular direction to conclude that the family did or did not have adequate income to live decently. Decently, herein, implies living with adequate comforts and facilities as well as with a normal degree of respect.

Evidence of urgent economic pressure is observed in the number of mothers of both groups employed outside the home. Approximately one-third of the mothers of returnees were gainfully employed outside the home, while a greater number of the non-returnees' mothers worked for wages away from the

home setting. Forty-five per cent of the mothers fall into this particular category.

TABLE 11 - FAMILY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Large Family	42	51
Parents have court records	53	52
Delinquent brothers & sisters	29	35
Inadequate income	74	71
Mother employed	31	45

Existence of unwholesome family relationship is reported in better than seventy-five per cent of the homes from which returnees lived. Among the non-returnee group 68% of the homes showed signs of unwholesome family relationships. In both groups the percentage is better than half of those reported in which conditions were not considered unwholesome.

A preponderance of cases in both groups revealed evidence that there were cultural conflicts between parents and children in existence. Ninety-eight per cent among returnees compared to 95% among non-returnees. Conflict between parents and children in this respect seems to represent a decided cleavage between parents and their off-



springs. Not only does this apparent chasm exist between parents and children but the forces behind each are without doubt consistently in battle with the opposing forces.

Almost as high percentage wise is the evidence that family conditions make the child in both groups feel disliked and unwanted. Ninety-two per cent of both groups are reported with these conditions prevailing. In the light of this information it can safely be assumed that "rejection" has played a major role in the lives of these youngsters in their particular home environment.

Evidence of drunkenness in the family is recorded better than fifty per cent among the returnee group, while in the non-returnee group the figure stands at 49%. Drunkenness may be attributed to either the father or mother and in a good share of the cases to both parents. No evidence of drunkenness among the siblings or the delinquents included in the research was available.

A significantly large proportion of both groups of youngsters were reported to have been "neglected" by their parents. Among the returnees evidence reveals that 97% had experienced neglect in one form or other from their parents. In the non-returnee group figures rose to 98%. Conditions, therefore, according to given figures and those

in the rejection column show fairly close relationship between these two factors influencing the delinquents.

It is recorded that more than seventy-five per cent of the parents of both groups have demonstrated emotional conflict between each other. In the returnee group 88% of the parents fall within the struggle of emotional conflicts. Among the non-returnee group the per cent drops to 79.

Although the emotional conflict conditions between children of the returnee and non-returnee group do not approach that of the parents, there still remains evidence that conflict between children exists. Among the returnees forty per cent reveal this type of conflict and in the non-returnee group 35% reflect similar conditions.

Emotional conflict between parents and children rise to a level above the previous two conflict condition areas described. Among the returnees evidence reveals that 93% experienced emotional conflict with their parents. Among the non-returnees eighty-nine per cent experienced like conditions of conflict between their parents.

TABLE 12 - PERSONAL CONDITIONS IN THE FAMILY

---

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Unwholesome relationships	77	68
Cultural conflict -		
parents and children	98	95
Disliked and unwanted	92	92
Drunkenness in family	56	49
Neglected by parents	97	98
Emotional conflict -		
between parents	88	79
between children	40	35
between parents & children	93	89

---

The family scene was characterized by specific and pertinent factors which, over any extended length of time, may have contributed adversely and given the youngster ample cause for rebelling against any form of authority. It is observed that "nagging" was consistently raising its ugly head in the homes of both returnees and non-returnees. Eighty-nine per cent of the returnees lived in homes where nagging occurred. Among non-returnees scenes of this kind were almost as prevalent. Eighty-two per cent is reported in this group.

About half the families from each group were characterized by frequent severe punishments. Punishment was reported as leveled at the delinquents for the most part.

Other members of the family may have received punishment as well. Forty-eight per cent of the returnees were subjects of this kind of treatment, while 40% of the non-returnees received punishment of similar nature.

Few family scenes were characterized by overprotection. In the returnee group four per cent fall under this heading. Among the non-returnees one-tenth of the total group were reared in homes in which overprotection appeared evident. It is generally reported within the case folders that the delinquent in question was subject to more protection than seemed advisable. This condition may have affected other members of the family as well and no doubt did in some homes.

Evidence of intense rivalry between children appeared greatest among returnee group. Thirty-two per cent is recorded in this particular finding. In the non-returnee group 24 per cent of the homes were characterized with this type of situation existing.

The condition of extreme parental domination was found in fourteen per cent of the returnees' homes. Seven per cent were reported among the non-returnees with evidence of this kind of condition in control of the family circle.

One of the important items noted was the lack of discipline in the homes of both returnees and non-returnees.

Slight difference reported between the two groups. Eighty-eight per cent of the returnees lived in homes where discipline seemed wanting. Free rein to do things desired without proper discipline was recorded among 87 per cent of the non-returnees' home situation. Unbridled control of the youngsters in these homes without doubt contributed immensely to set the pattern of authority in the minds of the particular children involved.

Significant as well, is the apparent lack of religion in the homes of both groups of boys investigated. Over fifty per cent of the homes of both groups seemed lacking in religion. Specifically among the returnees sixty-two per cent of the homes appeared guilty of these conditions. Among the non-returnee group 53 per cent of the homes were reported lacking in religion.

TABLE 13 - FAMILY SCENE CHARACTERIZED  
BY PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
By nagging	89	82
Frequent severe punishment	48	40
Overprotection	4	10
Intense rivalry-children	32	24
Extreme parental domination	14	7
Lack of discipline	88	87
Lack of religion	62	53

THE HOME:

A number of physical factors surrounding the home and family were investigated to present a clearer view of the total home environment. Considerable emphasis is given to environmental conditions within as well as outside the home setting. One of the areas of examination was the adequacy of living quarters these two groups of boys inhabited prior to institutional commitment and of those returned to the same home during parole. It was found that among the returnees more than one third of the homes from which they came were physically inadequate. Compared to this figure it was discovered that among non-returnees 29% of their home residences were not adequate for comfortable wholesome living conditions. Overcrowded conditions, physically run-down, and inadequate home facilities seem to account for the general over-all inadequacy of living quarters for all concerned in the family.

It was also noted that among the families of these two groups a considerable amount of moving from one locale to another seemed to prevail. Among the returnee group it was found that 30% of the families were classified mobile or migratory. Of the non-returnee group 29% came under the same classification.

The question of whether the families of the two groups lived in underprivileged neighborhoods brought the following tabulation. It was learned that among the returnees twenty-four per cent of the families lived under these existing circumstances. A greater percentage, however, is recorded among non-returnees. Thirty-nine per cent of the families from this group are included under the underprivileged neighborhood column.

Strange as it may appear, the families of returnees and non-returnees living in high delinquency rate areas present a rather unusual picture. It is reported that among the returnee group seven per cent of the families live in this particular environment. Among the non-returnee group 27% of the families are inhabitants of this type of surrounding.

Where there are no play opportunities in yard, neighborhood and in general vicinity of the home it is recorded that among returnees eleven per cent had inadequate play facilities to occupy their time and expend youthful energy. Almost half again as many from the non-returnee group lived under these conditions. The problem of playground activities and space for same still plagues our community civic leaders but seemingly to society's detriment our youth remain unsupervised in this particular direction.

A considerable percentage from both groups of delinquents lived in multi-family dwellings....two or more families occupying the same house. It is found that among returnees seventy-one per cent of the families lived in this type shelter. Slight difference is found among non-returnees where 72% of the families lived under similar conditions. Tenement house areas generally seemed to be the site for about three fourths of the delinquents.

Few families of both groups occupied rooms over a store or business establishment. Only four per cent from each group were reported having their home over a place of business.

These factors of home conditions seem to suggest a low economic level of the families involved. Such data supports the findings previously given regarding inadequacy of income to support a family of moderate size. With the apparent rising cost of living one ponders whether the conditions described are not inevitable.



TABLE 14 - THE HOME SITE

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Inadequate quarters	35	29
Mobile or migratory	30	29
Underprivileged neighborhood	24	39
High delinquency rate area	7	26
No play opportunities	11	21
Multifamily dwelling	71	72
Living over business establishment	4	4

SCHOOL FACTORS:

Frequent discussions have been raised among students of penology with regard to the school environment affecting its pupils adversely. The question of whether the school system is responsible to a certain degree for delinquent behavior on the part of some of its youngsters has yet to be settled. There seem to be those who will take issue in the negative and those who side with the positive. Dr. Kvaraceus has presented stimulating information in this concern which seems worthy of our interest.

He states that, "Literature in the field of juvenile delinquency reveals on the whole, rather unsatisfactory school adjustment for most children who fall into difficulty with the law. Retardation is unusually high, low school

achievement and poor marks predominate, truancy is frequent, dislike for school and teachers is the rule rather than the exception, and early school leaving is often the delinquent's own solution of an unsatisfactory situation."<sup>6</sup>

Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck in their recently published book comparing delinquents with non-delinquents make the following comments in their chapter on the Boy in School: "Though education may not completely account for the structuring of character and the motivation of conduct, it can give the student a sense of emotional satisfaction in the achievement of skills; it can arouse socially acceptable ambitions; it can put him in contact with persons with whom he can identify himself and whom he can strive to emulate. On the other hand, it can leave scars in the psyche of the growing child which may well be related to the development of antisocial attitudes and an ultimate defiance of all authority."<sup>7</sup>

Information gathered in this research presents a picture of school factors and their consequences not unlike those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.

Data recorded reveals that among the returnees and non-

6. Op. cit., p. 135

7. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, The Commonwealth Fund, N.Y., p. 135

returnees twelve per cent in each group have limited verbal ability. Difficulty of expression whether due to physical speech imperfection, lack of adequate vocabulary or because of psychological manifestation, places a burdensome handicap on the child at the offset. Not infrequently because of this seemingly insurmountable impediment the child reacts in an aggressive manner or he chooses to run from the scene of frustration.

An exceedingly high rate among both groups of boys has shown little interest in school work. Among returnees it is found that 93% appeared disinterested. In the non-returnee group eighty-three per cent have demonstrated similar inclination.

As a result of such findings related, it is not surprising to find that seventy-eight per cent of the returnees were unsuccessful in school. Among the non-returnees 71% experienced relatively the same frustrating situation.

School retardation has not been uncommon to the two groups of boys. It is recorded that among the returnees more than one-third have repeated one or more grades. The findings among non-returnees differ only slightly. Thirty-seven per cent of the latter group repeated one or more grades of their school career.

TABLE 15 - FACTORS RELATED TO SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Limited verbal ability	12	12
Little interest	93	93
Unsuccessful	78	71
Repeated one or more grades	35	37

The number of grades repeated by the boys in these two groups was recorded to show the extent of discouragement which must have ensued following notifications of being held back another year in school. Not only the child in question but the entire family must have sensed the prevailing conditions and responded in their own way. It was found that among the returnees twenty per cent had repeated one grade. Among non-returnees 15% repeated a like number of grades. Those youngsters who were reported to have repeated two grades it was learned that among the returnees 9% were included. In the non-returnee group the percentage increased to thirteen. Youngsters who repeated three or more grades are reported with these findings. Four per cent among the returnees and 10% among non-returnees.

TABLE 16 - NUMBER OF GRADES REPEATED

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
One	20	15
Two	9	13
Three or more	4	10

Evidence that a number of the children investigated found school work difficult in some way is observed by percentage of those in a "special class." Slow learners, those with reading and speech difficulties, low general mental ability may account for being placed in a special class. Among the returnee group it was found that seventeen per cent received special instructions relative to their difficulty. Among the non-returnees twenty-seven per cent were also segregated to a special class in their respective schools.

More than half (54%) of the boys from the returnee group expressed an intense dislike for school. Among the non-returnees similar expression had been registered by almost as many boys. Forty-six per cent of this group fit this particular category. Criticism leveled at the school in many cases made reference to the principal and teachers.

Among those delinquents who transferred frequently from school to school it was recorded that thirteen per cent were

included in the returnee group. Among non-returnees eleven per cent transferred from school to school due to shifting site of the home, school authorities deemed it wise and necessary or the parents enforced their decision on the youngster as to the school he attends.

According to records a significant representation of the boys from each group were, in age, one of the oldest in his particular class. Among the returnee group it was found that eleven per cent fit this classification. Of the non-returnees the percentage increased to nineteen who come under this particular heading.

TABLE 17 - DELINQUENTS IN THE SCHOOL SETTING

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
In special class	17	27
Dislikes school intensely	54	46
Frequent transfers	13	11
One of oldest in class	11	19

Truancy, in a school situation, gives evidence that the youngster prefers running away from difficult or unpleasant social conditions rather than face necessary obligations. On the other hand it points to a tendency toward more absorbing activities than the school offers on the part of the youngster.

It is found that in each group of boys over 75% had been truants from school. Among the returnees eighty-two per cent skipped school from time to time rather than attend classes. In the non-returnee group seventy-eight per cent were recorded as truants.

It is also reported that a considerable number from each group intend to leave school as soon as the law will allow, many just waiting until they become of age to "quit school". Of the returnees 67% of the boys expressed a strong desire to quit when the time came. Among non-returnees 58% expressed similar notions.

TABLE 18 - BOYS AWAY FROM SCHOOL BY CHOICE

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Truant from school	82	78
Intends leaving school	67	58

The feeling of not belonging, of being outside the cast-as it were - seems to be quite prevalent among delinquents. In this study, one fourth and better from each group of returnees and non-returnees felt that he did not belong to the class group in school. Among returnees twenty-nine per cent felt along these particular lines. Among non-returnees 25%

expressed similar dissatisfaction of their place among peers.

Not only in the case did a number of delinquents feel "unwanted" by the classmates but some felt that they were not being accepted by the school staff - teaching and administrative body. It is reported that among returnees thirteen per cent felt unaccepted in this area of school. From the non-returnee group twelve per cent expressed similar views.

TABLE 19 - FEELING OF BEING UNWANTED IN SCHOOL

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Feels not belonging to class group	29	25
Feels unaccepted by school staff	13	12

It was found that a considerable number of boys from each group took little or no part in extra curricular activities in school. A degree of difference is noticeable between the two groups in this regard. Among the returnee group it was learned that 82% preferred other activities than those generally associated with extra curricular in the school environment. In the non-returnee group sixty-eight per cent failed to take little or no part in such activities as well.



Ambition for school work, according to findings, was decidedly lacking among most of the boys investigated from both groups. No difference is tabulated between groups. It was reported that in each group of returnees and non-returnees ninety-four per cent lacked purposefulness in school work. In effect, school work as a process of learning meant very little to a great proportion of these boys. Realization of their particular ambitions, aspirations, or goals lay outside the folds of education.

TABLE 20 - MIND AND BODY ACTIVITY IN SCHOOL

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Little or no part in extra curricular activities	82	68
Lack purposefulness in school work	94	94

COMMUNITY FACTORS:

In addition to the various factors described in the preceding chapters an examination of community factors becomes our next concern. The atmosphere of the neighborhood in which these boys sought adventuresome pleasure, recreation, companionship, spiritual values and part time employment is recorded from evidence found in each delinquent's case folder. No attempt is made in discussion of these factors

to present the motives of youngsters in seeking the particular community activities they selected. Evidence that these youngsters have served a certain length of time in an institution for their particular anti-social behavior may have been due in part to the effect these factors have influenced their activities.

Church attendance was broken down into three frequency or time element divisions: regular, occasional, and rare or never. It was reported that more than fifty per cent from each group attended church regularly. No significant difference was observed between groups. Among the returnees fifty-six per cent regular church attendance was recorded. In the non-returnee group the percentage rose to sixty, attending church services regularly.

It is found that those boys from each group attending church occasionally closely approach one fourth of the total number investigated. Among the returnee group twenty-two per cent are reported to have attended services occasionally. Among the non-returnees twenty-three per cent are included in this particular column.

Attending church services rare or never reaches a substantial figure. Among the returnee group 22% are reported to have attended church but a very few times, if any. In the

non-returnee group seventeen per cent are recorded to fit the same category.

TABLE 21 - CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Regular	56	60
Occasional	22	23
Rare or never	22	17

It is found that a relatively small number of boys from each group were active participants in Youth Service Organizations. Such organizations as the Young Men's Christian Association, respective Church Clubs or Leagues, the Boy Scouts or like associations created for the benefits of our youth may be considered as but a few of the total number in various communities. However, all communities may not have the benefits of those listed but may have others either on a local or municipal scale or possibly national.

Regular or active participation in one or more clubs or associations among the returnee group is very low. Two per cent of the total number in this group are included. Among the non-returnees the percentage increases to ten, those actively engaged in some youth organization designed for their

own development toward effective citizenship.

Closely allied to foregoing information is the data concerning leisure time activity of the boys involved under adult supervision. It has been observed that very few boys actively participated in youth organizations. It comes as no great surprise therefore, to find a very low number of the boys who spent their spare time enjoying activities under adult supervision. Findings reveal that among the returnee group only three per cent of the boys were supervised by adults in recreational and character development activities. Among the non-returnees data records but 5% response to this type supervision.

TABLE 22 - LEISURE TIME ACTIVITY

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Participation in youth organizations	2	10
Leisure time activity under adult supervision	3	5

Society is becoming more and more aware of gangs engaged in delinquent behavior. Not only do we find evidence of boys' gangs but the girls have also found a refuge for companionship, kinship and in many instances acceptance and recognition

in the gang unit. These groups - gangs - with their own leaders and interests are presenting an added problem to those who are striving to reduce delinquent behavior and its destructive results. In this study it is observed that many delinquents included were well acquainted with gang type activities in their respective surroundings. More than fifty per cent of the boys from each group (returnees and non-returnees), it is reported, were members of gangs engaged in delinquent behavior.

Among the returnee group 54% of the boys were found members of this kind of group advancing delinquent behavior. From the non-returnee a greater percentage (66%) were reported to have belonged to their particular gang.

Significant information was secured through investigation of case history presenting evidence of the number of boys in this study engaged in a street trade - a trade in the sense of juvenile work during after-school hours, weekends, holidays and vacations. Those trades found common to juvenile work were selling papers, shoe-shine, "pin boy" in bowling alleys and the like. It was discovered that among returnees 42% had been engaged in this kind of employment. Among the non-returnee group thirty-six per cent made spending money from a street trade.

TABLE 23 - GANGS AND STREET TRADE

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Member of gang engaged in delinquent behavior	54	66
in a street trade	42	36

A considerable number of delinquents attended movies regularly - the minimum of once a week. Some delinquents were reported to have frequented the theatre two and three times a week regularly. Findings reveal that among the returnee group 76% of the boys attended movies at least once a week. In the non-returnee group the percentage varies slightly. Seventy-five per cent of this group were regular patrons of the movie houses.

Evidence of social disorganization of communities from which these boys came appeared relatively low in percentage but perhaps not so when considering the overall total.

Information reveals that of the returnee group ten per cent of the boys came from communities where social disorganization appeared common. From the non-returnee group it was found that 19% of the boys lived in communities lacking in social organization.

TABLE 24 - MOVIE ATTENDANCE AND SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Attends movies regularly	76	75
Evidence of social disorganization	10	19

PERSONAL AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AS FACTORS:

A study of delinquents is hardly considered complete without examination of the boys included from a personal and physical point of view. We have investigated many factors influencing the youngster from external forces. Now we get a glimpse of the boy's personality and observe the results of certain characteristic traits which may have caused some to revert to criminal behavior following incarceration and others to make satisfactory adjustments following institutional commitment. The writer does not maintain that the factors investigated in this area of research are the only ones of an internal nature which make up the total personality of the child. These are but a few of the whole personality. It was intended that as many personal and physical factors would be included - information of which could be secured from the case folder of the individual delinquent - which seemed feasible and within the range of proper interpretation and evaluation.

The age of the youngsters was our first concern. If the boy's age was between the nine and sixteen year range he was considered within the standard established for this study. It was reported that all but one youngster from both groups fit this particular age group. The one child who appeared outside the limits established was among the returnee group, his age surpassing the highest point in the range by seven months. Transfer to the Industrial School for Boys, Shirley, Massachusetts, had been his final disposition at the Lyman School.

The general intelligence of the boys was recorded according to test findings in the case folder. The I Q or intelligence quotient listed was based on the Wechsler Bellevue full-scale intelligence test. The figure 85 was established as a practical standard for intelligence quotient. Measurement based on those boys whose I Q was greater than this figure as compared to those falling below eight-five. It was found that about half of the boys studied had an I Q of 85 or below this number and about half were above. Among the returnees 46% were reported with an I Q of 85 or below. In the non-returnee group 53% were included in the same column. Little differences were noted between the two groups.



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 TABLE 25 - AGE AND INTELLIGENCE AS FACTORS
 

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	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Between 9 and 16 years of age	99	99
I Q of 85 or below	46	53

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Evidence revealed that a substantial proportion of the boys examined enjoyed good health. Below ten per cent of each group of boys were reported to be in poor physical health. Among the returnee group nine per cent were considered by medical reports in poor physical health. In the non-returnee group six per cent of the boys were considered in similar general condition.

Those delinquents who were handicapped by physical defect or defects were reported relatively few in number. Among the returnee group 15% were afflicted by serious physical disability which in many cases required medical treatment. In the non-returnee group it was found that eight per cent suffered from physical impairment of varied extent.

TABLE 26 - PHYSICAL CONDITION

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
In poor health	9	6
Has physical defect or defects	15	8

Aggressiveness, according to certain psychological analysis, may be born of deep insecurity or weakness and is often indiscriminate in its aims and means. Usually it is directed against somebody or something rather than toward a positive goal. Evidence indicates that among delinquents aggressiveness often predominates. Information regarding this particular characteristic was recorded as reaction to situations in an overly aggressive manner on the part of each boy investigated. It was found that a substantial number of delinquents comply in this area. Among the returnees more than three fourths (76%) reacted to situations in an overly aggressive manner. Among the non-returnee group the percentage drops to sixty-eight per cent fitting the same characteristic.

Examining the next trait of withdrawn nature or submissiveness, findings differ to a considerable extent from those of former trait described. This trait of submitting

to others who are believed stronger often is done in an attempt to gain security as well. However, the means and aims differ from the former trait. In many instances those youngsters harboring this type of trait make up the group of followers. Those who exceed in aggressiveness may in turn organize, give instructions or orders and become leaders in their own separate groups. It is found in this study that less than one fourth of the boys from each group react to situations in an exceedingly withdrawn manner. Among the returnee group 20% of the boys fit this category. Among non-returnees 24% are reported to react in a submissive manner.

TABLE 27 - REACTS IN AGGRESSIVE OR WITHDRAWN MANNER

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
React to situations in aggressive manner	76	61
React to situations in withdrawn manner	20	24

Rebelling against forces of authority is reported common among delinquents. Among the two groups investigated the returnees have a greater percentage than is found among non-returnees. It is noted that in the returnee group 69% of the boys rebel against all forces of authority - not

necessarily in overt actions. Among the non-returnee group forty-seven per cent are also included reacting against authoritative measures. It is little wonder that many youngsters who are subject to a variation of factors influencing their existence should appear emotionally unstable. It is found in this study that emotional instability is part of the personality structure affecting all but a few exceptions of the boys examined. No difference is observed between the two groups in this regard. Among each group of boys - returnees and non-returnees - ninety-seven per cent are characterized as emotionally unstable.

TABLE 28 - MARKED BY REBELLING AND EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Rebels against all forces of authority	69	47
Emotionally unstable	97	97

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT:

The final area of investigation gives consideration to the institutional environment and the boys' response to its particular setting, policies of confinement, and routine of rehabilitation. Information secured is subject to an

evaluation of the records of each delinquent investigated.

In response to custody and discipline to his commitment each boy was appraised on achievement of merits and discharging established obligations without the benefit of disciplinary action. If the youngster earned the specified number of merits established upon entrance within reasonable length of time and without improper advances exceeding authority determination of favorable response was given. If, on the other hand, evidence pointed to general dissatisfaction during the period of incarceration determination of unfavorable response to custody and discipline was made. It was found that among the returnee group twenty-nine per cent of the delinquents responded favorably to custody and discipline in the institution. In the non-returnee group forty-two per cent were included under the same column.

Investigation of boys receiving medical attention during their commitment period was tabulated. According to reports it was found that among returnees 13% were receiving medical attention. Among non-returnees 12% of the boys received medical treatment.

The kind of treatment rendered, whether specifically medical or neuropsychiatric, was also recorded. It was

learned that in the returnee group eleven per cent of the boys received treatment of a medical nature. Among the non-returnees four per cent of the delinquents received treatment of similar nature. Neuro-psychiatric treatment was administered to three per cent of the boys in the returnee group. Ten per cent of the non-returnees received treatment of this kind while in custody of the school.

TABLE 29 - RESPONSE TO CUSTODY AND MEDICAL CARE

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Responds favorably to custody and discipline	29	42
Receives medical treatment	13	12
Medical	11	4
Neuro-psychiatric	3	10

Evidence related to the employment history of the boys during commitment was next recorded. In cases where information reflected good employment record a subsequent mark in the positive column was made. Information revealing employment record not reaching the particular standard established provided an appropriate symbol in the negative column on the check list. According to findings, forty per cent of the boys in the returnee group present a good employment record in the institution. Among non-returnees the percentage rose to

forty-eight per cent gaining similar recognition.

Progress in educational training was based on the findings of school records in case folders of the delinquents. Information in this regard reveals that among the returnee group thirty per cent of the boys demonstrated progress in educational training at the school. Among the non-returnee twenty-eight per cent of the boys were included in the same category.

TABLE 30 - EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Good employment record	40	48
Progress in educational training	30	28

Information reflecting favorable response to religious training during commitment period becomes our next concern. Very little difference is noticeable between returnees and non-returnees in this particular area of investigation. It was found that among the returnee group twenty-three per cent of the boys responded favorably to religious training. Among the non-returnee body twenty-nine per cent were recorded under the same column.

Active participation on the part of the boys in the recreational program presents the following information. According to reports it is noted that among the returnee group twenty-two per cent were active participants in recreational activities in the institution. A slight increase in percentage is observed among non-returnees. In this latter group it was found that twenty-eight per cent of the boys were active participants in the school recreational program.

TABLE 31 - RELIGIOUS AND RECREATIONAL TRAINING

	<u>RETURNEES</u>	<u>NON-RETURNEES</u>
	100 Per Cent	100 Per Cent
Responds favorably to religious training	23	29
Active participation in recreational program	22	28



## CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY:

The significant points which can be drawn from information gathered on Parole Placement may be summarized as follows:

A greater percentage of the boys in the non-returnee group were returned to the home of their parents than those from the returnee group. Evidence would seem to indicate that such a parole arrangement, where feasible and practical, has played an important role in the adjustment of the child and consequently resulted in preventing additional time spent in an institution - due to a return to former criminal practices.

Placement of boys with both their own parents has been utilized to a greater extent than with any other arrangements examined, especially in cases of the parents remarriage, parents living singularly and in custody of guardian. It may also be noted that greater number of boys from the non-returnee group were paroled to both their own parents than among returnees. Thus the influence of both parents can readily be noticed in preference to other possible arrangements.

Foster home placement occurred more frequently among the returnee group than among non-returnee group. One-third of the total number of returnees placed in foster homes were unsuccessful during their parole period, consequently spent additional time under confinement of the institution.

Evidence pertinent to family relationship from a social, economic and cultural point of view certainly gives cause to question the family unit from which these boys came. The fact that better than fifty per cent of the homes were broken due to various reasons gives but an idea of the tremendous upheaval in existence that must have added fuel to the fire of frustrations, conflicts, and general discord among the parents and children alike. Information recorded time and again of the family setting that parents in many cases were responsible for the child's misbehavior. Unwholesome conditions, economic impoverishment, depravity, lack of discipline and religion appeared in over fifty per cent of the homes of these youngsters. Conflict, generally, was practically a byword in the homes of almost all the boys.

This, of course, is not new information discovered of the delinquents' family but the fact that it is not new gives society a chance to ponder of the progress, if any, being made to correct these apparent conditions.

The home site of a good proportion of the delinquents has been observed inadequate in many respects. Some, lacking in space, adequate facilities, proper sanitary conveniences, and healthful environment. It was found that many families of these boys were often changing their residency, thus creating insecurity and a feeling of being tossed from pillar to post in the mind of the youngsters. Living in under-privileged neighborhoods - slums - in high delinquency-rate areas appeared common. Inadequate playground space or facilities seemed prevalent as well. In view of these findings, therefore, need for constructive measures to rectify apparent conditions appears imminent.

Information concerning the delinquent in the school environment presents a discouraging picture. Disturbing factors giving rise to frustrations which often precede or accompany misbehavior are constantly at work about the school scene. Repetition of grades, truancy, little interest in school work, feeling of being unaccepted by classmates and school staff, lacking in purposefulness at school are but a few factors which rank high on the list of both groups of boys investigated. Between the two groups there appears a slight significant difference of these factors influencing the boys. Generally, the school session for many of these boys is an unhappy, unsuccessful and unsatisfactory

experience in their young life. Marked by such episodes in their immature minds these boys never escape the pressure of these factors preying on their ambitions, ideals, and goals. Unknowingly, youth often chooses the path of least resistance only to find out later that it is spotted with pitfalls of shame, disgrace, and tragedy to themselves and their family.

The youngsters in the community seem to have free rein to go about doing what they choose without regard to hours they keep, companions they mingle and form gangs with, or spiritual values. Adult supervision of their activities was decidedly lacking in both groups of boys examined. Indications pointed to substantial social disorganization of the communities in which these youngsters lived. The picture of the kind revealed by community factors conceivably are the breeding grounds of our delinquents and criminals who later stalk the society that once gave them freedom unbridled.

It has been observed in discussion of the personal and physical characteristics of delinquents that most of them enjoy good physical health. Some, to be sure, have physical defects but the number is relatively small against the total. General intelligence of about half the boys examined appear from dull-normal downward. Their opposite number appear above the 85 I Q standard. Considerably more boys are characterized by aggressiveness than submissiveness or withdrawn

behavior. In the returnee group aggressiveness appears strongest. A substantial number rebel against forces of authority. Here too, the returnee group surpasses the non-returnees in percentage. One characteristic which appeared common to almost all the boys was emotional instability. It seems probable to assume, in view of these traits noted, that a general feeling of insecurity is not uncommon with these youngsters.

In the area of institutional treatment there seems a noticeable difference in response to treatment between the returnees and non-returnees. According to information secured the non-returnee on the whole responded better to custody and discipline, than the returnees. The employment records of non-returnees look more promising than the returnee group. Response to religious training and participation in recreational programs also appears strongest among non-returnees. Very slight difference noted between groups of progress in education training. The conclusion, therefore, can be drawn that in response to institutional environment, and all that it entails, the non-returnees have demonstrated greater cooperation than the performance of their returnee inmates.

CONCLUSION:

The problems of juvenile delinquency are immense. Here we are dealing with a dynamic being who, in his early stages of life, seems to have started off on a wrong footing. Society, though it is making strides in coping with problems our delinquents present, has placed great emphasis on corrective measures after the delinquent has been apprehended by law. Preventive measures are yet to gain the widespread attention that they earnestly deserve.

This study of recidivism is, in a sense, one of examination in prevention. Especially during parole period, does it not become the concern of parole officers, police officials, social agencies, families of delinquents as well as others, to take measures which will prevent the youngster from returning to criminal behavior, thus, from returning for additional commitment? Evidence reveals the ineffectiveness of our present preventive measures.

Principally, however, this has been a study of the background and characteristics of two groups of boys apprehended for their anti-social behavior, committed to an institution, and placed on parole. Comparison was made of those boys who returned to the institution following additional apprehension with those who were not returned for further training.

Differences have been noted, perhaps not large in many areas, but sufficient it would appear to warrant consideration. The various factors included present a picture of the delinquents who have wronged in some way society's customs and have as the remark states, "paid the price." What will be their role in society in time to come?

LIMITATIONS OF STUDY:

1. This study was based on the evidence secured from the case folders of delinquents involved.
2. The sampling of cases was maintained at the established number of two-hundred. One-hundred returnees and one hundred non-returnees.
3. Statistical treatment of data was maintained at a level within comprehension by the lay person as well as those acquainted with statistical measurements.
4. Factors selected for the research are by no means all those influencing the delinquent child. Promise of a response to each factor within the case folder as well as suitable evaluation and interpretation was the guiding principle of choice in factors.

NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Follow-up study of returnees to present day disposition.
2. Follow-up study of non-returnees to present status.
3. Investigation of foster-home placements within their placement environment.
4. Survey of juvenile delinquency prevention programs in effective operation in various communities.



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APPENDIX

	<u>NR</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>R</u>
	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>Parole Placement</u>				
Returned to parent's home-----	84	57	16	43
With both own parents-----	46	31	54	69
With stepfather and own mother-----	9	4	91	96
With stepmother and own father-----	4	3	96	97
With mother only-----	22	22	78	78
With father only-----	3	5	97	95
Placed in foster home-----	9	33	91	67
Placed in custody of guardian-----	9	6	91	94

The Family and Home Factors

The Family

Family is broken or atypical-----	48	67	52	33
Death-----	19	20	81	80
Desertion-----	1	0	99	100
Divorce-----	13	20	87	80
Other-----	16	27	84	73
Family belongs to marginal group-----	25	21	75	79
Negro-----	5	5	95	95
Foreign-born parentage-----	21	15	79	85
Other-----	0	1	100	99
Family is large (five or more children)-----	51	42	49	58
Parents have court records-----	52	53	48	47
There are brothers & sisters who have been delinquents-----	35	29	65	71
Family does not have adequate income to live decently-----	71	74	29	26
Mother is employed outside the home-----	45	31	55	69
Family relationships are unwholesome-----	68	77	32	23
There are cultural conflicts between parents & children-----	95	98	5	2
Family conditions made child feel disliked & unwanted-----	92	92	8	8
There is drunkenness in family-----	49	56	51	44
There is evidence child has been neglected by parents-----	98	97	2	3
Emotional conflicts take place between parents-----	79	88	21	12
between children-----	35	40	65	60

Key: R - Returnees  
NR - Non-Returnees  
P - Positive  
N - Negative

	<u>NR</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>R</u>
	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>
Emotional conflicts take place between parents & children-----	89	93	11	7
The family scene is characterized by				
Nagging-----	82	89	18	11
Frequent severe punishment-----	40	48	60	52
Overprotection-----	10	4	90	96
Intense rivalry between children-----	24	32	76	68
Extreme parental domination-----	7	14	93	86
Lack of discipline-----	87	88	13	12
Lack of religion-----	53	62	47	38

#### The Home

The living quarters in the house are not adequate-----	29	35	71	65
The family is mobile or migratory-----	29	30	71	70
Family lives in underprivileged neighborhood---	39	24	61	76
Family lives in high delinquency-rate area----	26	7	74	93
There are no play opportunities in yard, neighborhood, etc.-----	21	11	79	89
Family lives in multifamily dwelling-----	72	71	28	29
Family lives over a store or business establishment-----	4	4	96	96

#### School Factors

Has limited verbal ability-----	12	12	88	88
Has little interest in school work-----	83	93	17	7
Is unsuccessful in school work-----	71	78	29	22
Has repeated one grade or more-----	37	35	63	65
one-----	15	20	85	80
two-----	13	9	87	91
three or more-----	10	4	90	96
Is in a special class-----	27	17	73	83
Dislikes school intensely-----	46	54	54	46
Transfers frequently from school to school----	11	13	89	87
Is one of the oldest in the class-----	19	11	81	89
Is truant from school-----	78	82	22	18
Intends to leave school as soon as law will allow-----	58	67	42	33
Feels that he does not belong to the class group-----	25	29	75	71
Feels that he is not accepted by the school staff-----	12	13	88	87
Takes little or no part in extracurricular activities-----	68	82	32	18
Lacks purposefulness in school work-----	94	94	6	6

<u>Community Factors</u>	<u>NR</u> <u>P</u>	<u>R</u> <u>P</u>	<u>NR</u> <u>N</u>	<u>R</u> <u>N</u>
<u>Church attendance</u>				
Regular attendance-----	60	56	40	44
Occasional attendance-----	23	22	77	78
Attendance rare or never-----	17	22	83	78
Participation in Youth Service Organizations--	10	2	90	98
Leisure time activity under adult supervision-	5	3	95	97
Member of gang engaged in delinquent behavior-	66	54	34	46
Is in a street trade-----	36	42	64	58
Attends movies regularly-----	75	76	25	24
Evidence of social disorganization-----	19	10	81	90
<u>Personal and Physical Characteristics as Factors</u>				
Subject is between 9 and 16 years of age-----	99	99	1	1
Has limited academic aptitude (IQ 85 or below)	53	46	47	54
Is in poor health-----	6	9	94	91
Has physical defect or defects-----	8	15	92	85
Reacts to situations in overly aggressive manner-----	61	76	39	24
Reacts to situations in exceedingly withdrawn manner-----	24	20	76	80
Rebels against all forces of authority-----	47	69	53	31
Is emotionally unstable-----	97	97	3	3
<u>Institutional Treatment</u>				
Responds favorably to custody and discipline--	42	29	58	71
Receives medical treatment-----	12	13	88	87
medical-----	4	11	96	89
neuro-psychiatric-----	10	3	90	97
Has a good employment record-----	48	40	52	60
Shows progress in education training-----	28	30	72	70
Responds to religious training-----	29	23	71	77
Participates actively in recreational program-	28	22	72	78









