

PROBATION SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ANNUAL REPORTS 1958-1959 HARRIS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

This booklet details to the citizens of Harris County the definite steps which are being taken to provide a program of service to delinquent, dependent and neglected children and their families. We sincerely hope this will give the average citizen an insight into the successful work being done presently as well as gaining even more support for the work that must be done in the future.

PAUL IRICK
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER



R. O. D. SCHOENBACHER
ASST. CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

PROBATION DEPARTMENT
OF
HARRIS COUNTY

3540 WEST DALLAS
HOUSTON 19, TEXAS

TO: ALL CITIZENS OF HOUSTON AND HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS' COURT
THE HONORABLE JUVENILE BOARD

This Report of the Probation Department of Harris County, Texas, for the years 1958 and 1959, is submitted for your approval. It is designed to keep you cognizant of the fact that effort toward solution of the problems concerning the children of our County must never for an instant be relaxed; that these problems are ever-present, and that your continuing interest as individual citizens, organizations, and community units is vitally necessary, in addition to those of us responsible for the actual process of aiding and planning for these children.

In addition to the statistics so necessary to a report, we have endeavored to bring you in closer touch with the program which we are presenting by a brief summary of the functions of each Section of this Department, with photographs of the various steps necessary to the service of the Section, from the starting point, through hearing in Juvenile Court, and further planning.

We have also tried to present to you, Harris County Institutions in picture form, so you may truly see the activities participated in by the children committed to institutional care. We are grateful to Herbert K. Baldry, member of our Parole Section staff, who has devoted his own time to the photographing and processing of the pictures for this report.

This Department has completed fifteen months of occupancy of the new, modern facilities provided by the Citizens of the community, the Juvenile Board and the Commissioners' Court of Harris County, for which we should like to express our sincere appreciation. We believe that much impetus has been given to the movement of the entire program, and we know that the innumerable details of processing have been accelerated during this period of occupancy.

The support and assistance rendered by the Churches of all denominations, of Houston and Harris County, in their untiring efforts to help the children in solution of the problems besetting them, is of inestimable value. We are also truly appreciative of all assistance and service rendered by individuals and organizations too numerous to mention.

We are most appreciative of the service rendered to children by the Juvenile Divisions of the Houston Police Department, the Sheriff's Department of Harris County, and all other law enforcement agencies in this area. Without their constant cooperation our efforts would be lacking in full completion.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL IRICK, Chief Probation Officer

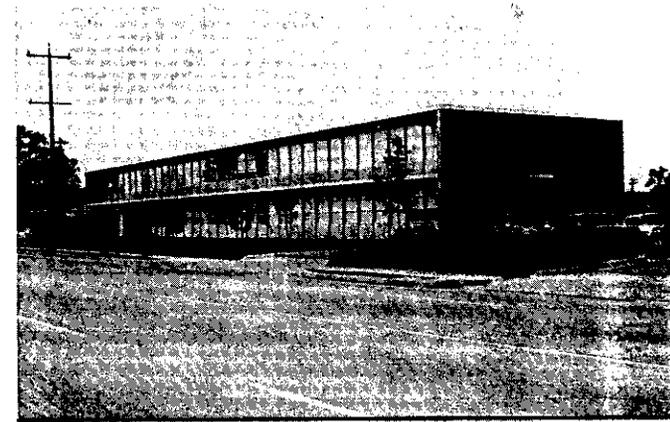
HARRIS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S new and modern facilities are beneficial in the service to Dependent and Delinquent Children

The new Probation Department building is located on West Dallas Avenue and is convenient to downtown facilities related to the operation of the Department. Although only minutes away from the County Court House, Police Station and the downtown area, the building is not on a main thoroughfare but in a quiet neighborhood just off a super highway. The Administration Building is approximately 17,000 square feet and is built around a landscaped inner court. Adjoining the large public lobby is an informal hearing room where the Judge of the Juvenile Court may hear cases. There is another entrance for staff members directly across from their parking area. The Administration Building includes approximately fifty offices, plus waiting rooms and other specific areas such as conference rooms, stenographic rooms, and others.

The Juvenile Home, which is 22,000 square feet, is directly in back of the Administration Building. There is ample room for expansion should it be desired.

The Home is designed with various reception and visiting rooms as well as staff offices. Also, there are orientation rooms, isolation rooms, and examination rooms along with a small chapel, laundry, kitchen and dining facilities. There are three sections, consisting of single rooms, with the boys and girls on separate floors. Separate grass-covered playgrounds are provided for boys and girls. There are also enclosed areas for recreation during rainy weather. Paved parking areas are provided and the complete site of both buildings is landscaped both for beauty and ease of maintenance. Both buildings are heated and cooled by a forced air system with steam boilers for heating and water chilled units for cooling.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



JUVENILE HOME

THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

The Law provides this service to the child upon referral to the Department — Texas Vernon Civil Statutes, Article 2338-1.

Section 1. PURPOSE.— The purpose of this Act is to secure for each child under its jurisdiction such care, guidance and control, preferably in his own home, as will serve the child's welfare and the best interest of the state; and when such child is removed from his own family, to secure for him custody, care and discipline as nearly as possible equivalent to that which should have been given him by his parents.

The principle is hereby recognized that children under the jurisdiction of the Court are wards of the State, subject to the discipline, and entitled to the protection of the State, which may intervene to safeguard them from neglect or injury and to enforce the legal obligations due to them and from them.

Sec. 2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE ACT — This Act shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purpose herein sought.

Sec. 3. DEFINITIONS — The word "Court" means the "Juvenile Court." The word "Judge" means the "Judge of the Juvenile Court." The term "delinquent child" means any female person over the age of ten (10) years and under the age of eighteen (18) years, and any male person over the age of ten (10) years and under the age of seventeen (17) years:

- (a) who violates any penal law of this State of the grade of felony;
- (b) or, who violates any penal law of this State of the grade of misdemeanor where the punishment prescribed for such offense may be confinement in jail;
- (c) or, who habitually violates any penal law of this State of the grade of misdemeanor where the punishment prescribed for such offense is by pecuniary fine only;
- (d) or, who habitually violates any penal ordinance of a political subdivision of this State;
- (e) or, who habitually violates a compulsory school attendance law of this State;
- (f) or, who habitually so deports himself as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others;
- (g) or, who habitually associates with vicious and immoral persons.



Each child referred to the department for a first offense is received through the Intake Section. The complaint is investigated and record made thereof. The child is interviewed by Intake Officer so that background, history and attitude may be noted in the record. The family is interviewed for parental background, history, statements concerning the child and the act or acts and to observe the attitude of the family, individually and collectively.

The further function of the Intake Section is to study, evaluate and plan for individual service to child and family. If cases appear to require short-time service by the department, for example, a runaway child to be returned to his proper place in the home in the community or in another city or state, the case is handled in its entirety by the Intake Section.



THE JUVENILE OFFENDER



DELINQUENCY

Casework service for the delinquent child is supplied through three Sections of the Department: (1) the Intake Section, which makes preliminary examination of the referral, contacting the complainant, witnesses, neighbors, school, church, hospital, police officers, other agencies as called for, as well as the family and the home. Report is compiled from this, and if results indicate that further work with child and family is indicated, the case is assigned to (2) Boys Delinquency Section, or (3) Girls Delinquency Section.

The caseworker from the Delinquency Section works with child and family in an effort to determine cause and effect treatment. Complete social case history is compiled. When Court hearing is indicated pre-Court studies and evaluations are made, and sincere effort is expended to draw some feasible plan for the child's future, to be placed before the Court.

In some instances the child may be placed on probation with filing of petition pending.

In 1958, three thousand eight hundred and ninety-four boys and girls between the ages of ten (10) and eighteen (18) were brought or referred to the Probation Department for a wide variety of offenses. In 1959, four thousand four hundred ninety boys and girls were referred:

	Boys		Girls	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
White	1768	1903	436	662
Negro	965	1045	173	278
Latin/American	458	453	94	149
Totals	3191	3401	703	1089

AGES OF CHILDREN: (Boys between 10 and 17 years of age are handled)

(Girls between 10 and 18 years of age are handled)

	1958	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Boys		126	150	243	390	534	794	954	
Girls		13	15	27	101	150	154	136	107
		139	165	270	491	684	948	1090	107

	1959							
Boys	263	155	256	354	574	821	978	
Girls	39	18	61	148	250	233	191	149
	302	173	317	502	824	1054	1169	149

OFFENSES COMMITTED

	Boys		Girls	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
Auto Theft	419	366	16	21
Robbery	52	92	1	6
Burglary and Unlawful Entry...	910	733	46	46
Other Theft	490	687	46	96
Truancy	31	42	21	27
Runaway	209	263	289	424
Being Ungovernable	48	55	61	87
Sex	70	115	68	103
Use or possession of Drugs,	4	8	5	10
Assault, Injury to Person.....	136	169	31	40
Malicious Mischief	118	112	—	3
Traffic Violations	21	37	1	4
Other	683	722	118	222
	3191	3401	703	1089

DETENTION FOR THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

Through the Harris County Juvenile Home during 1958 and 1959 passed some forty-eight hundred boys and girls between the ages of 10 years and 18 years. The children are brought in by the Juvenile Divisions of law-enforcing agencies of Houston and Harris County by reason of some offense or delinquent act committed by them, or in rare instances because they need to be placed in protective custody. Some offenses are minor infractions; other children are detained for crimes as serious as any perpetrated by the most hardened adult. Upon petition to the Court, the child is held until Court hearing.

The Harris County Juvenile Home provides a program for these delinquent boys and girls who must be protected from community or themselves. Treatment and diagnostic service is begun during their stay.

Reception of the child includes complete identification information prior to being assigned to individual room which, though small, contains a bed, lavatory and commode.

Physical examination by the physician on duty four hours each day, is the next step. This is followed by psychological examination by Probation Department's full-time psychologist. This psychological examination is the first step along the path to possible rehabilitation for the delinquent child. The results enable case-worker, Juvenile Home personnel, and finally the Court itself, to acquire understanding knowledge of the motivation behind the delinquent act, and guide them in their planning for the child.



DETENTION PROGRAM

THE CHILD IS PLACED IN THE JUVENILE HOME, WHEN NECESSARY, BY ORDER OF THE COURT WHILE THE CASEWORKER PREPARES THE CASE FOR HEARING.

A program designed to fill the period of detention for the child, and to aid in arousing or stimulating a better community relationship in him/her is maintained. This program includes special education classes and Arts and Crafts classes. A small, growing, library is available for leisure periods. A sewing class for the girls helps to open up a whole new vista for the child, in some instances.

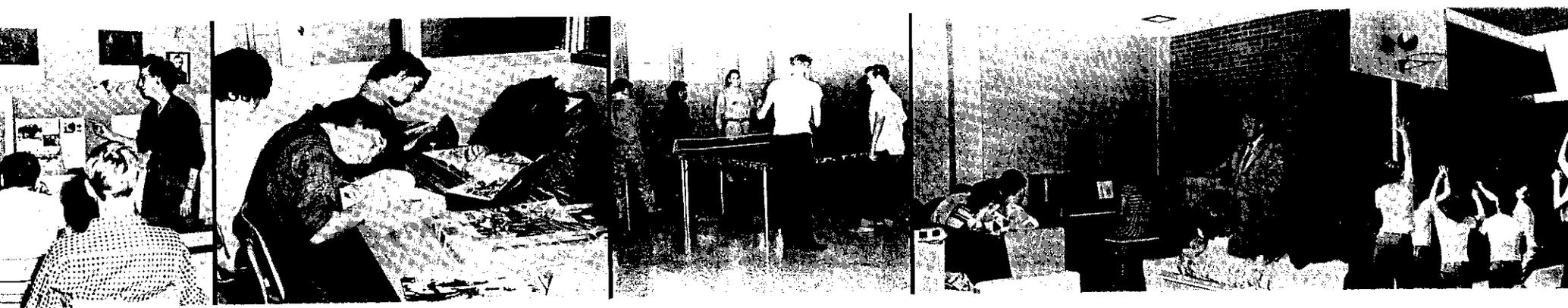
Sports, including baseball, football, basketball, etc., are encouraged, under supervision in the enclosed outdoor areas. A large and well-equipped gymnasium is located in the rear portion of the Juvenile Home Building. All equipment, including kitchen facilities, a complete laundry, study rooms, interview rooms, storage rooms, etc., is of the newest and most approved design. The entire building is monitored by a specialized system which permits immediate knowledge of any emergent situation, such as sudden illness during day or night, concerning each child.

Special education classes, with teachers provided by the Houston Independent School District, help the child to remedy some of his school problems and help him to a better understanding of a subject which may be giving him difficulty.

A beautifully appointed Chapel is provided and clergy of all denominations hold services regularly. Representatives from the Houston Council of Churches and the Baptist organization work closely with the Probation Department and the children held in the Juvenile Home.

Actual figures below give some idea of the detailed study and planning which must be made to handle this constant flow of children in need of help.

Number of Children detained in 1958:	Boys			Girls		
	White	Negro	La/Am	White	Negro	La/Am
TOTALS	1130	649	371	307	117	78
Average Length of Stay.....	3.8 Days			502 Girls		
Average Number in Ward Daily.....	22.7			4.4 Days		
				Boys		
				Girls		
Number of Children detained in 1959:	White	Negro	La/Am	White	Negro	La/Am
TOTALS	1047	741	362	405	155	129
Average Length of Stay.....	4.56 Days			689 Girls		
Average Number in Ward Daily.....	25.52			4.23 Days		
				7.94		



JUVENILE COURT FOR THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

When approved by the District Attorney, a petition is filed in Juvenile Court. The parents of the child may retain legal counsel if they so desire, and counsel may request jury trial. This privilege is infrequently used in delinquency hearings, and the hearing is usually informal. Evidence in many cases is heard by the Referee and presented to the Judge of the Juvenile Court who may:

Dismiss case if legal charges are not substantiated;
 Declare child delinquent, and place on probation to parents under the supervision of a Probation Officer;
 Declare the child delinquent and commit to The Texas Youth Council for placement with:

Gatesville State School for Boys
 Gainesville State School for Girls (White and Latin American) } According to State Law, commitments are for indeterminate period
 Crockett State School for Girls (Negro)

Declare delinquent and place in foster home, or home of relative, under supervision of a Probation Officer,
 Declare delinquent, and place in a County Institution.

JUVENILE COURT — DELINQUENCY

	1958						1959					
	Boys			Girls			Boys			Girls		
	W	L/A	N	W	L/A	N	W	L/A	N	W	L/A	N
Number of children referred to												
Juvenile Court	664	162	216	54	29	34	445	146	203	90	22	39
New Cases	535	133	186	21	10	16	320	98	165	59	16	28
Reopened Cases	129	29	30	33	19	18	125	48	38	31	6	11
DISPOSITION:												
Committed Texas Youth Council....	79	24	44	16	3	14	66	54	43	17	11	5
Committed Harris County												
Boys School	40	10	2	—	—	—	30	—	5	—	—	—
Committed Convent of Good Shepherd												
Declared Delinquent—Probation												
to Parents	178	26	32	4	3	2	119	31	30	10	1	3
Declared Delinquent—Probation												
to Father	28	5	9	1	1	2	16	3	6	1	—	1
Declared Delinquent—Probation												
to Mother	55	24	27	9	1	6	30	18	15	16	12	—
Declared Delinquent—Probation												
to Relatives	50	8	21	3	2	7	38	14	8	6	5	3
Declared Delinquent—Probation												
to others	30	1	2	7	1	1	18	4	2	4	3	1
Cases Passed	106	34	46	6	6	8	70	35	31	12	4	1
Cancelled and Reset.....	93	27	28	6	3	4	46	38	16	3	1	2
Dismissed	7	2	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—



HARRIS COUNTY BOYS SCHOOL FOR THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

HARRIS COUNTY BOYS SCHOOL

This is a custodial care home for delinquent boys from the ages of ten (10) to fourteen (14), who are placed by the Juvenile Court. The program is so designed to meet the needs of the individual boy from academic, recreational and environmental standpoint.

The school is located at Webster, Texas, some twenty (20) miles from Houston, in a rural, farm-like setting, with the white stucco main building reached via a winding gravel driveway from the highway, overlooking the cottages for personnel and the numerous farm buildings.

The main floor of the school building houses schoolrooms, assembly rooms containing TV and radio, and dining facilities and kitchen. Work areas such as the laundry room are to the rear of this area.

Dormitories are on the second floor, each child having his own bed, chair, and locker in which to keep his personal clothing, etc.

A small gymnasium is located in the basement area. In addition to this a concreted outdoor sports area has recently been installed under the auspices of a civic organization. A full-time athletic director, and a coach are employed at the school, and baseball, football, boxing and other sports are participated in, sometimes on a competitive basis with teams from outside sources. If a particular boy is found to excel in a certain field he is encouraged, coached, and counseled with to make a goal of his talent, for his future.



HARRIS COUNTY BOYS SCHOOL

School studies are planned to supply in part, the needs of children of varying ages. Each child attends school a half day and his studies are either at, or very close to the grade he would be in as a student at his regular school. When a boy is released from the Boy's School and returns to his own community he is privileged to take examination at his own school and then placed in the grade for which he is prepared.

The boys are encouraged to become familiar with all phases of farming. Supervised experimental plantings are made, animals and fowl are groomed for show purposes, and presently a conducted program on soil conservation is part of the schedule. An honor and merit system is used throughout the school, and a boy must earn the privilege of caring for one of the fine show animals by earnest study, good behavior and conformability. The great part played by the instilling of the principles of honest competition into these boys is noted in the large trophy cases at one end of the dining room holding blue ribbons and trophies of every description which have been won by individual boys and teams from the school.

All boys at the school have been committed by the Juvenile Court for an indefinite period, according to the laws of the State of Texas. After commitment the boy is under the supervision of a caseworker from the Parole Section of the Department.



FOR THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

The caseworker visits the boys at the school regularly, counsels and works with them on their personal problems. He consults with family and friends of the child, and works closely with the administrative staff and personnel at the school. He utilizes all public and private facilities of the community in an effort to further satisfactory adjustment so the boy may return to a proper place in the community.

When the boy has reached a satisfactory period of adjustment mentally, morally, and emotionally, in the opinion of the Superintendent of the School, the caseworker is notified that the boy is ready for release. The caseworker then submits the plan for return to family, or other placement, which he has been compiling, to the Court, and final disposition is made by the Court.

Supervision of the boy upon his return to the community is continued by the caseworker until such time as he has made complete and satisfactory adjustment, or has removed from Harris County, or reached the age of adulthood.

These figures indicate the flow through the School of boys from the ages of ten to fourteen for 1958 and 1959:

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
1. Number in School first day of year.....	62	68
2. Number placed during year.....	48	55
3. Number released	41	73
4. Number on hand last day of year.....	66	50



PAROLE FOR THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

The Texas Youth Council, having no parole supervisors, depends upon this Department for parole supervision of their wards. Children are released from these State Schools when, in the opinion of the School authorities, they have made satisfactory adjustment at the School. Parole Section of the Probation Department is advised of the release of this child, and caseworker from this Section makes contact with family and child. A system for regular reporting is set up for boy or girl, and the caseworker continues efforts toward complete rehabilitation for the child in the community.

Failure to report regularly, further complaints of delinquent behavior, or apprehension by law enforcement agencies call for appearance of the child before a Parole Committee which evaluates the circumstances and sends a report to the Texas Youth Council, who may order revocation of the parole of the individual and return to the State Institution.

Statistics below show commitments, releases, etc., for each of the three State Schools which are under the administration of the Texas Youth Council:

<u>GATESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS</u>				<u>1958</u>			<u>1959</u>		
	White	Negro	La/Am	White	Negro	La/Am	White	Negro	La/Am
Number of Harris County Boys in Institution first day of year.....	41	30	26	66	27	52	66	43	59
Number committed during year.....	79	44	24	17	13	30	81	42	59
Number returned (Revocation of Parole)....	21	13	19	68	41	82			
Number paroled during year.....	71	46	39						
Number in Institution last day of year.....	70	41	30						

<u>GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS</u>					<u>(White and Latin/American Only)</u>	
	White	La/Am	White	La/Am		
Number of Harris County Girls in Institution first day of year.....	28	7	16	5		
Number committed during year.....	16	3	15	5		
Number returned (Revocation of Parole)....	3	—	4	—		
Number paroled during year.....	33	10	18	7		
Number in Institution last day of year.....	14	—	17	3		

<u>CROCKETT STATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS</u>					<u>Negro Girls Only</u>	
Number of Harris County Girls in Institution first day of year.....		26		21		
Number committed during year.....		14		18		
Number returned (Revocation of Parole)....		—		4		
Number paroled during year.....		20		21		
Number on hand last day of year.....		20		22		



THE DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILD

Casework service to dependent and neglected children is offered to children and families assigned by Intake Section of the Department. Pre-court investigations and evaluations are made to effect protection of these children.

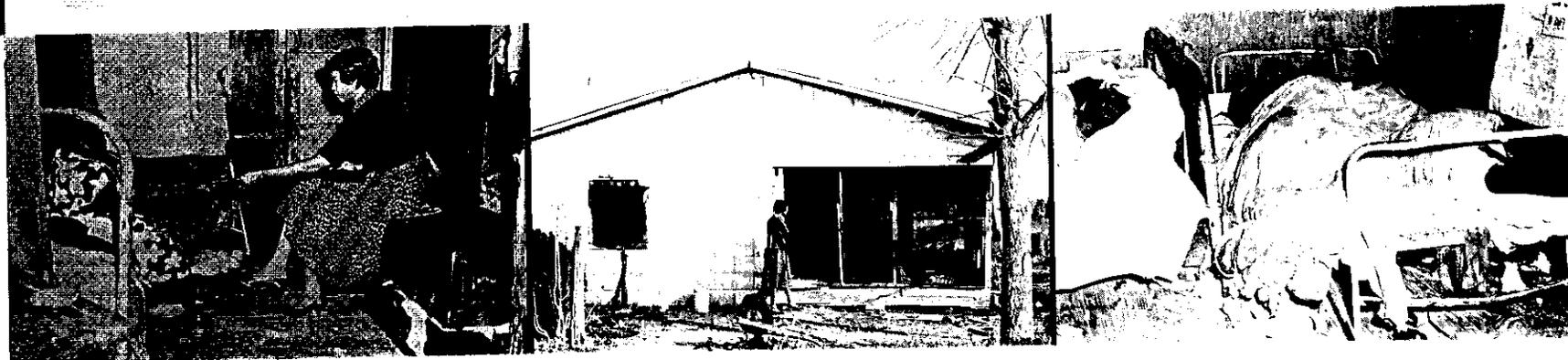
After Court action, supervision of children in their homes, institution, or in foster homes is effected.

Figures below will give some idea of the extent of this serious problem concerning children and families in Harris County:

	1958 1959		1958 1959		1958 1959		1958 1959	
	White		Negro		Latin/Amer.		Total	
Number of children under supervision first day of year..	805	671	274	246	196	151	1275	1068
Number added during year.....	892	1234	265	701	102	238	1259	2173
Number closed during year.....	1026	987	293	573	147	185	1466	1745
Number on hand last day of year.....	671	918	246	374	151	204	1068	1496

Complaints reach the Probation Department through regular law enforcement agencies, relatives, interested friends, neighbors, etc., in cases in which children are involved. Immediately, the caseworker contacts the complainant and investigates, directly, the situation. The caseworker investigates and evaluates the individual case by making a complete study of the family and history before presenting all case facts to the Supervisor during a conference. Children are placed, when necessary, in emergency homes. When the situation warrants assignment to the Dependency Section, the caseworker from that Section goes to work immediately to compile case history and evolve plan for the best interest of child/children.

WHERE
HE
COMES
FROM



EMERGENCY FOSTER HOMES FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

EMERGENCY PLACEMENT

Harris County maintains Emergency Homes for both white and Negro children who need immediate care, after having been ordered into custody by the Court pending hearing of petition alleging neglect. Since these children have been subjected, usually, to disturbing situations and influences these emergency shelters strive to maintain a home-like atmosphere such as might be found in the home of the average family rearing a large family.

Inside, the same casual, warm feeling of the "large family" home is characterized by the individual cribs of different pattern and design, which tends to promote a sense of security for the small child knowing that a particular crib is "his/her" bed.

Caseworkers from the Dependency Section of the Department work closely with the Emergency homes and spend as much time with the children under their supervision as they possibly can. Supervised pre-school activities, play periods, quiet periods, etc., are a part of each day's planning.

A full-time registered nurse is an integral part of the program of the Department, and the health, as well as the welfare of Harris County dependent/neglected children is assiduously guarded. Pictured is hospitalized boy being visited by nurse.

Statistics listed below give but a small glimpse of the value to the community of these Emergency Homes, operated by conscientious, understanding women whose love for children is expressed individually to each small boy or girl coming under her roof:

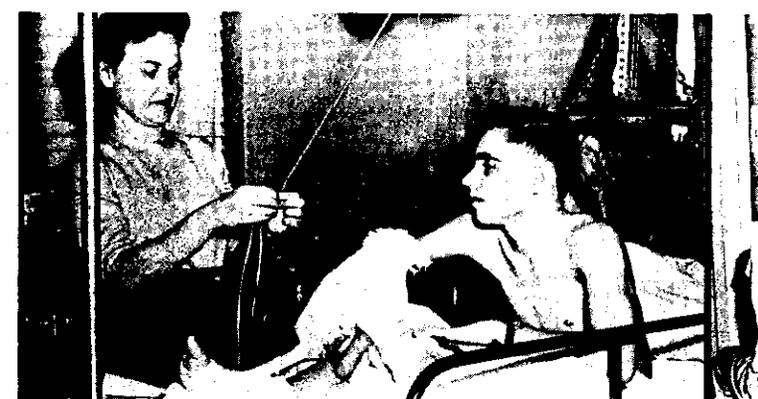
	1958		1959	
	White	La/Am	Negro	
Number of children on hand first day of year.....	19	11	9	4
Number of children placed in home during year....	144	178	68	94
Number released from home during year.....	156	179	69	96

FOSTER HOMES

Both Dependent/Neglected and Delinquent children are sometimes placed in individual foster homes on either a board, or free basis, pending permanent Court plans. Each home has been carefully investigated, scrutinized and weighed against high standards, before it is accepted for placement of children. Upon acceptance as a foster home it is under the supervision of the caseworker. This caseworker makes constant effort to place the child in a permanent home, since holding a child in a temporary situation adds to the dependency and hinders adjustment.

Facts concerning the placement of children, both dependent/neglected and delinquent, in accepted foster homes during the years 1958 and 1959 are as follows:

	PAID HOMES				FREE HOMES			
	Dependent/ Neglected		Delinquent		Dependent/ Neglected		Delinquent	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
Number of children in homes first day of year.....	104	97	2	3	31	33	6	6
Number of children placed during year	87	109	8	6	30	12	10	4
Number of children released during year	94	89	7	4	31	26	4	6
Number of children in homes last day of year.....	97	117	3	5	33	19	6	4
TOTAL NUMBER FOSTER HOMES IN USE DURING YEAR	1958		1959					
	135		140					



BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME FOR THE DEPENDENT CHILD



Burnett-Bayland Home is operated as a temporary institution for children of school age, who are awaiting some type of permanent placement. It is located on a large suburban tract on the outskirts of Bellaire, Texas, but in Houston proper. Here, too, as in all Harris County Institutions concerned with the children of the community, a well-rounded program including school studies, recreation, sports, the pursuit of hobbies, and chores for small hands is followed. Earnest effort to veer away from Institutional methods and to maintain as nearly as possible a home-like atmosphere is constant. Children placed in the Home continue to attend the school where they are enrolled; they are transported to and from school in bus owned by the Home. Supervised study periods at the Home after the school day is ended are scheduled each day so that homework is accomplished. The children are quartered in rooms and dormitories with plenty of sunshine and air provided by many freshly curtained windows. They are assigned to chore duty of varying kinds.

BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN



The spacious grounds at the Home are conducive of sports such as baseball, football, etc. The fully equipped gymnasium indoors lends itself to other seasonal sport, such as basketball.

Parlors invite group singing, or table game sessions, and other indoor recreation. One staff member was formerly a teacher of music and children who desire to do so are given regular lessons in voice and piano. Music appreciation sessions are offered to all children at intervals. Recitals at which the children may display their various talents are also arranged. Birthdays of the children are observed and properly celebrated.

Children are encouraged to pursue hobbies acquired either in their home environment or after they have been placed at the Home. As a result of this the Burnett-Bayland grounds has housed ponies, a donkey, a goat and her several kids, dogs, ducks, pigeons and other pets dear to the hearts of all children, and especially to these children who, through no fault of theirs have become "displaced persons."

The beautiful Chapel is maintained on the grounds for services by all denominations and children are taught regularity of attendance and the value of spiritual guidance.

Activity during the year through the Burnett-Bayland Home is shown by the figures below:

	Boys		Girls	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
Number of children in Institution				
on first day of year	49	54	46	50
Number received during year	80	72	81	59
Number released during year	75	82	77	75
Number in Institution last day of year	54	44	50	34



JUVENILE COURT FOR THE DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILD

When a situation appears to call for legal action petition for dependency and/or neglect is filed with the Juvenile Court. The Court, at the hearing, may:

Dismiss the case if charges are not substantiated,
Declare the children dependent and neglected, and

Place in foster home,
Private or other institutions,
State Institutions,
Burnett-Bayland Home,

TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS,

Request further study of children and parents,
Request services of other agency.

Both the Court and the Dependency Section are limited by the law, and by the lack of personnel and facilities. Although counselling service is endeavored the large number of referrals necessarily limits this service. The focal point of service is planning for the rapid return of Wards of the Court to a family situation so that children are not held for long periods of time thus adding to the dependency and neglect situation. However, when parents are unable or unfit to care for their children and it does not appear likely that they will ever be able to assume proper parental responsibility, permanent plans for long-time care for these children must be made. The Court endeavors to make suitable arrangements with all possible speed.

The chart below shows the action of the Juvenile Court in handling cases of dependency:

	Cases		BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL CHILDREN	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
Number referred to Juvenile Court.....	143	204	133	272	129	264	262	536
New Cases.....	102	107	86	155	75	148	161	303
Reopened Cases.....	41	97	47	117	54	116	101	233
DISPOSITION:								
Declared dependent — Placed Burnett-Bayland Home.....			31	38	33	34		
Declared dependent — Placed Foster Home.....			15	27	21	24		
Declared dependent — Placed with Both Parents.....			11	10	13	10		
Declared dependent — Placed with Father.....			8	9	2	2		
Declared dependent — Placed with Mother.....			8	6	10	9		
Declared dependent — Placed with Relatives.....			11	15	10	22		
Declared dependent — Placed with Faith Home.....			—	—	—	—		
Declared dependent — Placed with Catholic Charities.....			—	—	2	—		
Declared dependent — Placed Other Agency.....			11	13	2	11		
Cases passed.....			32	96	31	81		
Declared delinquent.....			7	8	3	1		
Petition dismissed.....			35	16	38	20		



SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MINOR CHILDREN

Although not primarily a casework service, the department is required to serve the Courts in recording the payments of support for minor children involved in cases of divorce. This entails receiving and disbursing of funds as directed. The demand for service has constantly increased and major changes in procedure were initiated in the year 1954 to expedite the service. In many cases it is required that counseling be given the recipient of the funds to assist them with problems of continued support for their children as ordered by the Court. Also, it is required that records be produced for the Courts as needed.



Number of active cases on January 1, 1958.....	4,008	On January 1, 1959.....	4,428
Number of new cases accepted during 1958.....	2,051	During 1959	2,085
Number of old cases reopened during 1958.....	914	During 1959	1,078
Total of all cases during 1958.....	6,973	During 1959	7,591
Number of children receiving support during 1958..	12,922	During 1959	14,349
Average number of children receiving support each month	7,523	During 1959	8,409
Total amount collected and disbursed during 1958	\$3,028,045.28	During 1959	\$3,565,017.07
Cash on hand December 31, 1958.....	None	On December 31, 1959.....	None
Number of warrants issued during 1958.....	99,150	During 1959	110,351

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ALL CHILDREN

In many cases where children are involved in Court proceedings, special investigations and casework service are required by the laws and/or the District Courts. In matters pertaining to the custody of minor children the Court may require that an investigation of both parties be submitted for evaluation by the Court. In the matter of adoption the Law requires that investigation and report of the adoptive parents, as well as the former antecedents of the child be prepared and submitted to the Court prior to granting of the adoption. This Service is provided by the Department as directed by the Courts.

Probation Departments and Social Agencies from other cities and States frequently require investigation of homes and/or persons of this area, and requests are made to this Department for studies and evaluations of the situation to aid them in their services.



The following figures reflect the number of cases handled during the years of 1958 and 1959 for each type of Special Service supplied by this Department:

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Custody Investigations received	102	159
Adoption Investigations received	718	829
Tuberculosis cases of Indigent Adults	174*	—
Out-of-Town Investigations (O.T.I.'s) for Other Agencies	359	404
Applications for Austin State School (for feebleminded)	99	172

* In July of 1958 processing of these cases was properly removed from the Probation Department and placed with the County Welfare Department.

PROJECTIVE PLANNING FOR HARRIS COUNTY CHILDREN

As shown in this booklet Harris County has taken a definite step forward in providing a program of service to the delinquent and dependent/neglected children and their families. In 1959 the Juvenile Board and Commissioners' Court approved a future building program to include shelter care facilities for Negro and white children — facilities for the dependent/neglected Negro child and expansion of services and facilities at the existing institutions. These planned facilities are necessary for the effective operation of a casework program, and are needed here in our ever-growing, heavily populated community. The Juvenile Board and Commissioners' Court are aware that a successful program of this type needs personnel to perform this individualized service, and have done everything possible to augment this service within the limits of the statutes and the tax monies available. This program will continue to grow, and the children's needs will be serviced as long as the Community is aware of the existing need, and of the fact that these services can only be effective through adequately trained personnel. If delinquency and dependency are to be controlled the cost will rise and the COMMUNITY must direct that funds be available to continue this service to children and youth.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT — HONORABLE BILL ELLIOTT, County Judge

W. KYLE CHAPMAN,
Precinct Number 1

V. V. RAMSEY,
Precinct Number 2

PHILIP E. SAYERS,
Precinct Number 3

E. A. LYONS, JR.,
Precinct No. 4

JUVENILE BOARD — HONORABLE BILL ELLIOTT, County Judge

HON. TOM COLEMAN, JR., . . . 151st District Court
HON. JOHN L. COMPTON . . . Dom. Rel. Court No. 2
HON. SAM W. DAVIS . . . Criminal District No. 5
HON. LEWIS DICKSON . . . 125th District Court
HON. EDMUND B. DUGGAN . . . Criminal Dist. Court
HON. WM. M. HOLLAND . . . 127th District Court
HON. WILMER B. HUNT . . . 133rd District Court

HON. BYRON JOHNSON 80th District Court
HON. LANGSTON G. KING . . . Criminal Dist. No. 2
HON. ARNOLD H. KRICHAMER . . . Crim. Dist. No. 4
HON. MIRON A. LOVE . . . Criminal District No. 3
HON. SEARS W. MCGEE 55th District Court
HON. J. W. MILLS . . . Domestic Relations Court
HON. BEN MOORHEAD 11th District Court

HON. PHIL PEDEN 157th District Court
HON. JOHN SNELL, JR. 152nd District Court
HON. THOMAS J. STOVALL, JR., 129th Dist. Court
HON. BERT H. TUNKS 113th District Court
HON. BEN F. WILSON 61st District Court
HON. BEN WOODALL Dom. Rel. Court No. 3

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES —

HON. JOHN L. COMPTON . . Dom. Rel. Court No. 2

HON. J. W. MILLS . . . Domestic Relations Court

HON. BEN WOODALL . . . Dom. Rel. Court No. 3

AN ARCHITECTURAL LOOK AT YOUR NEW
JUVENILE HOME & ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
FOR
HARRIS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The following description of the new buildings for the Probation Department is given to you so that you may better understand the functions of the structure and plans of the facilities.

The location is on West Dallas Avenue adjacent to the Lighthouse for the Blind. The site is convenient to related downtown facilities such as the County Courthouse, Police Station, and the downtown area generally, and yet is off the main thoroughfare and away from run-down sections of the city from which many of the juvenile inmates come.

The Administration Building, of approximately 17,000 square feet, faces south directly on West Dallas and is arranged around a landscaped inner court. The public enters a large entrance lobby at the southwest corner which adjoins a Hearing Room where the Judge of the Juvenile Court will hear many cases informally, rather than in the downtown courthouse. Detained children may be brought from the Juvenile Home along a covered walk to the Hearing Room for trial. A third entrance is provided on the east for staff members entering from their separate parking area. Other areas in the Administration Building include about fifty offices of various sizes for case workers, as well as small waiting rooms, toilets for the public and employees, a staff conference room with kitchenette, clerks, files, stenographic pool, and machinery and supply rooms.

The Juvenile Home, of approximately 22,000 square feet, is situated to the back of the property to gain seclusion. Future expansion, if required, is contemplated toward the south into the open area separating it from the Administration Building. The public entrance, which connects with the Administration Building and public parking area by means of a covered walkway, opens to a large General Reception and Visitors' Waiting Room with Intake and General Offices, Visiting Rooms and public toilets adjacent. A separate entrance is provided for detained children with Superintendent's office and Staff's rooms near by. Also located in this wing are orientation rooms for children entering the home, an Isolation Room, rooms for medical and Psychological examination, a chapel, a laundry and janitor's room, a dining room, and kitchen with adjacent food storage facilities. A service court is provided for deliveries to the kitchen and access to the machinery room and incinerator. The two story portion of this wing includes three groups of bedrooms; two groups for boys located on the lower floor and one group for girls on the upper floor. Each group consists of from twelve to fifteen single rooms (each with its own water closet and lavatory), a four-bed dormitory with adjacent toilet, a shower room and storeroom for cleaning equipment. On the lower floor is a large reception room, storage, a toilet room, and school room, all to be shared by the two groups of boys. Similar, but smaller facilities are provided on the upper floor for girls.

Separate grass covered playgrounds are provided for boys and girls. A paved play area at ground level and an enclosed deck opening from the girls' recreation room are available for recreation during rainy weather. Paved parking areas are provided and the site is landscaped for beauty and ease of maintenance. Both buildings are heated and cooled by a forced air system with steam boilers for heating and water chilled units for cooling. The designs for both buildings were developed by the Architects from a program of requirements prepared by Messrs. Paul Irick, Chief Probation Officer, Dan Schoenbacher, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, and Dave Baker, Superintendent of the Detention Home. Development of the program and subsequent planning studies were carried on under the direction of the Building and Grounds Committee of the Juvenile Board, Judge Phil D. Woodruff, Chairman. The other members of the Juvenile Board were Judge Bob Casey, Chairman, Judge Spurgeon E. Bell, Judge Ewing Boyd, Judge Roy F. Campbell, Judge Tom F. Coleman, Jr., Judge Lewis Dickson, Judge Edmund B. Duggan, Judge William M. Holland, Judge Wilmer B. Hunt, Judge Dan W. Jackson, Judge Byron Johnson, Judge Langston G. King, Judge W. Sears McGee, Judge J. W. Mills, Judge Ben Moorhead, Judge Phil Peden, Judge John Snell, Jr., Judge Thomas J. Stovall, Jr., Judge Bert H. Tunks, Judge Frank Williford, Jr., Judge Ben F. Wilson, Judge A. C. Winborn, Judge Phil D. Woodruff.

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A.I.A. - ARCHITECTS

October 14, 1958