

Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Juvenile Corrections: What Direction?

From the Editor: The following is an excerpt from the 1989 report: "Violent and Chronic Juvenile Crime" published by the Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center of the Minnesota State Planning Center. This report examines violent and chronic juvenile crime in Minnesota. The number of juveniles arrested has been increasing steadily since 1980 despite a decline in the number of juveniles in the state. Arrests for violent crimes have also increased, although only about two percent of all juvenile arrests are for violent crimes.

Each year 400 juveniles are brought to juvenile court for especially violent crimes (homicide, sexual assault in the first or second degree, aggravated assault and the first or second degree, or aggravated robbery). To study what happens to violent juveniles, a group of violent juveniles under 15 years old was followed for two years through court records in Hennepin County.

Those juveniles who started out their delinquent activity by committing serious assaults had a 62 percent chance of being returned to juvenile court in the follow-up period for a new delinquent offense, although they were unlikely to be charged with another violent crime. Those juveniles who started out by committing a sexual assault were much less likely (27%) to return to court. The use of court intervention did not appear to have a significant impact on the likelihood of a violent juvenile returning to court.

In Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, there are several hundred juveniles who are charged with three or more offenses in a year and up to a dozen offenses. To find out what happens to these active offenders, a group who were under 15 years old and who were nonviolent were followed for two years.

Of the juveniles in the active-but-nonviolent group, 57 percent were found delinquent for a new criminal offense in a two-year follow-up period. Again, court intervention seemed to have little effect on the likelihood of continued delinquency.

The Report Concludes with Several Recommendations:

- Aggravated assault should be a special concern among those who deal with juvenile delinquents. Serious assaults are the fastest growing component of violent juvenile crime, and juveniles who commit aggravated assaults are likely to become chronic, but usually nonviolent, delinquents.

- The courts need to examine their approach to juveniles in the 14-or-under age range who have committed a violent crime or who are in court repeatedly in short time period. These juveniles are likely to become chronic offenders, and yet court interventions do not appear effective at reducing the likelihood of future delinquent activity. At the same time, these juveniles are too young simply to be locked up or sent on to adult court.

The report also considers a number of court practices concerning juveniles

and how those practices affect the fairness of the juvenile court process.

Overall, this analysis of juvenile delinquency shows that we are in a difficult position with regard to violent and chronic juvenile offenders. If the court, or the legislature, moves in the direction of punishment and incarceration of serious juvenile offenders (as other states have done), we can expect to see a substantial increase in the need for facilities and institutions. There are many juveniles who might be called serious delinquents, but most of these offenders are not under confinement at the present time. On the other hand, the traditional treatment and rehabilitation approach of the juvenile court does not seem effective.

-Reprinted with permission of the author, Stephen Coleman, Ph.D., Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, State Planning Agency, 1989. To obtain the full report, contact the State Planning Agency at (612) 296-7819.

MCCA Training

Lisa Roberg has requested that those wishing to attend our ever-popular Wednesday morning training seminars, please pre-register because our last session was overbooked. Lisa also wanted our attendees to know that the price of these sessions (\$15) would equal an annual membership fee. To register, please call Lisa at Reentry Services at (612) 292-1466.



Allen Oleisky, Judge of District Court

Judge Oleisky: The end of an era

As of August 1, 1990, Judge Allen Oleisky will be leaving his position as Chief Judge of the Hennepin County Juvenile Court, a job he has held since 1979, and returning to his role as one of the 52 judges in the adult criminal/civil divisions. During the ten-year period, Judge Oleisky has witnessed dramatic increases in the Juvenile Court's caseload. As an example, Oleisky noted that in 1984, their County Attorney charged approximately 3000 cases, whereas in 1989, their chargings had increased to 5600. The judge noted a substantial increase in crimes of violence, including more assaults and homicides. In regard to the latter, Oleisky said when he first took the helm of the Juvenile Court, homicides were an extremely rare occurrence, whereas now it is not uncommon to have as many as ten juvenile homicide perpetrators charged per year. Much of this increase he attributes to the heightened level of gang activity which also brings about a concomitant increase in drug related offenses or vice versa. In 1984, 36 cases were charged for either possession or drug sales. By 1989, those chargings had surpassed 200. Dovetailing these trends was an increase in the numbers of dependency and neglect chargings of juvenile parents, currently happening at a rate of 300-500

per month.

Judge Oleisky's response to this has been to continue the hard working habits that he had been so well known for in his previous eight years as a judge in the adult system. In addition to his primary functions a juvenile court administrator and trial judge, Oleisky has also been active as a liaison and advocate with the State legislature, served on a variety of local and national committees and frequently was seen addressing various community groups.

Mixed feelings accompany the Judge's leaving, a departure undertaken solely due to the length of tenure prescribed by the legislature. During his ten-year tenure, he observed the system become both more adversarial and more professional. He praised the innovative work of the probation staff, especially their new surveillance unit and the bifurcated PSI and supervision units that he believes allows the probation staff to best utilize their individual skills to the greatest good of the community and the clientele. The main deficit, according to Judge Oleisky, is the lack of secure facilities within the juvenile justice system, resulting in an increase in the number of runaways, who now tend to be more dangerous than their counterparts of ten years ago. Judge Oleisky will be replaced by Judge Isabel Gomes, whom he described as an excellent choice to fill this demanding and sensitive position. Although he will be sorely missed by those he had formerly worked with, his hard working habits and personable style will be welcomed by those in the adult system. Bon voyage and welcome aboard.

Peter Batterman

Generalist vs. Specialist

When asked whether I thought the "generalist" or "specialist" approach was better in the probation field, I concluded that my answer is "yes." By this I mean that we need not try to choose between these two approaches, but can selectively use both. An article in the Winter 1990 A.P.P.A. Magazine entitled, "The Balanced Approach in Juvenile Probation," describes four basic

concepts upon which juvenile justice operates:

- Community protection;
- Offender accountability;
- Competency development;
- Individualized assessment.

There is a generic juvenile probation task of providing "generalist" casework and management for each juvenile offender which should reflect and enforce this "balanced" approach. My own bias is to include initial investigation in these duties, rather than "specialize" this responsibility. The resulting recommendations will be more realistic and respected if made by the same person who will later implement and enforce them. A "generalist" probation officer who stays with an offender from entry to exit in the Juvenile System provides a needed element of continuity and stability to that youth's experience. Many juvenile offenders will receive all their needed services for this "generalist" probation officer.

There are also situations within juvenile probation where "specialist" probation staff can best provide appropriate services. We are all familiar with "specialists: who are not probation officers, such as psychologists, psychiatrists, medical personnel and chemical dependency counselors. We frequently involve such professionals, as co-workers, to provide an offender with specialized assessment or treatment services. The same concept can be utilized within juvenile probation to develop "specialized" services by involving professionals and para-professionals as co-workers with the "generalist" probation officer.

We currently have both specialized family counseling and intensive supervision staff at the professional level, or a par with our probation officers. We also have para-professionals who work with the probation officer to provide intensive school attendance supervision to chronic truants; diversion services to first offenders, and coverage for Juvenile Court Hearings on non-active offenders, as well as other selected hearings. If funding were available, I would also institute several victim service specialists at the para-professional level.

Just as our system functions best through a "balanced" approach, I believe our methods of utilizing staff are best when they are based on a "balanced" use of both the "generalist" and "specialist" models. I also believe that the "team" approach has great advantages with our chronic, serious juvenile offenders.

-James H. Hayes, Director
Juvenile Division, Ramsey County

Juvenile Sex Offenders

For the past seven years, Olmsted County Community Corrections has been offering specialized supervision for sex offenders. The Corrections Department prefers this approach to meet the great variety of needs of sex offenders. Probation officers assigned this task receive specialized training whenever it is available. Additionally, the county contracts with Ron McGuire, a therapist who provides treatment services to sex offenders.

All sex offenders are referred to one of several group programs provided by the County, and closely supervised. Renee Moulon and Tom Rime are currently the two probation officers assigned to provide supervision.

Renee also co-facilitates groups with the therapist. Juvenile offenders who are not appropriate for formal treatment programs are assigned to the Healthy Sexuality Group which is led by Renee.

Renee and Tom will be two of the trainers working with Jerry Anderson of the Department of Corrections to provide mandated sex offender training.

Renee Moulon, Probation Officer
Olmsted County

"Crack Down" a booklet about cocaine and crack is jam-packed with good information. Published by KARE 11, the booklet is free and can be ordered in bulk for distribution to clients and parents alike. To order, call KARE 11 at (612) 546-1111.

Family Counseling Project: Ramsey Co.

The Family Counseling Project (FCP) seeks to provide an alternative to residential treatment by allowing selected juveniles to remain in their homes while participating in a variety of counseling services involving both them and their parents. Its basic premise is that many juveniles' actions cannot be separated from the conflict, pain and self-defeating patterns of behavior within their families. It is believed that many families can and will use help to improve their relationships if they are exposed to a combination of support, education and counseling on family issues.

With a staff of one professional and six volunteers, the FCP uses a team approach, working with probation officers, Juvenile Court, parents, schools and community, and relying on volunteers to co-facilitate multi-family groups which meet weekly.

Aware that the learning process in counseling is gradual, and that persons have differing rates of change, the services offered are open-ended; and families are welcome to return at any time after completing the Program. No fees are charged.

Following the initial intake and orientation session, the family is assigned to one of the three multiple-family groups most appropriate to its needs. It is an expectation that family members will discuss their specific family issues at the group sessions, and attempt to recognize what can be changed, and how, as well as what cannot be changed. Members learn about family, parent and child responsibility. Constructive feedback is encouraged all group members. The sharing of experiences, connecting with others, and generation of mutual support are considered essential and vital elements to the groups.

The primary issues addressed by parents include: setting limits and expectations, establishing and following through with consequences, positive role-modeling, and taking care of their own feelings and needs. The youth commonly focus on: accepting parental

limits and consequences, remaining law-abiding, dealing with consequences affacing them outside the home and developing their own values and standards.

During 1989, 106 families participated in the FCP, and an all-time high 82% successful completion rate was achieved.

-Mary Danielson
Family Counseling Project

Intensive Supervision Project: Ramsey Co.

It is our purpose in this project to provide an alternative to placement which will enable selected delinquent youngsters to remain in their homes while experiencing levels of supervision, accountability, and consequence which approximate those provided through correctional placement.

We hope to accomplish these goals by setting up clear behavioral expectations for each youngster in the form of written project requirements, and by providing the services of three intensive supervision specialists and trained volunteers to monitor, quickly respond, and enforce short-term consequences to each youngster's behavior. These services are available on a 14 1/2 hour-a-day, seven-days-per-week basis.

In a sense, we are attempting to create an "institution without walls."

Our focus is not to force change of attitudes within each youngster, but to enforce accountability for outward behavior. Our plan has been to use a combination of realistic, strict expectations, accompanied by firm, fair, short-term consequences. Within this framework, we provide these youngsters with the experience of relating to a group of authority figures who are caring, consistent, confident and firm.

It is our belief that this combination of elements provides the most likely catalyst to produce positive behavioral change within delinquent youngsters.

A total of 162 youngsters were served in this program during 1989, with an all-time successful completion rate of 75%.

-James Hayes, Director
Juvenile Division, Ramsey County

Volunteers: Home Detention Program

The Ramsey County Volunteers in Corrections Program (VIC) provides training and support to interested community members who donate of their time and energies to enhance many corrections programs in their effectiveness and scope.

The Home Detention Program, developed in 1979 to reduce the daily juvenile detention population, is one program which benefits from VIC efforts. With two paid staff and, on average, 20 VIC's running the program, 111 juveniles were monitored on this alternative to detention in 1989, with 89 completing it successfully for an estimated savings to the program of \$145,875.

Upon being Court Ordered into this program, a contract is prepared, reviewed and signed by the juveniles and their parents. The juveniles then return to their homes, where they are expected to remain, except for school attendance (and occasionally for work), until their next Court Hearing. The juveniles are then monitored by phone at random times during which they are expected to be at home. If a juvenile cannot be reached by phone, the police are notified and he/she is brought to the Juvenile Center, then back to Court the next day.

The program has been found to be very successful with a minimum of paid staff. VIC's are utilized effectively to maintain phone contacts and file reports to the Court of their contacts made, dates and observations. Although not required, some VIC's make home calls and become better acquainted with the juveniles; and some who have formed relationships and taken a special interests in an assigned juvenile even appear in Court with him/her.

The Home Detention Program is just one example of how the VIC Program is mutually beneficial and satisfying to both our volunteers and our programs. Volunteers feel satisfied in knowing they are contributing, whether through phone or personal contacts; and this alternative to detention is available

to a great number of juveniles with great cost effectiveness to the program.

-Ray Lescher, Manager
VIC Program, Ramsey County

Q & A: Emancipation of Juveniles

What is emancipation of minors?

The term "emancipation" of a minor means the freeing of a person under the age of majority — Minnesota, this is 18 — from legal obligations to his or her parents, and the freeing of those parents from legal obligations to that child and terminating the parents' authority over that child. Ordinarily, this occurs when the child reaches the age of majority or when a teenager marries or enlists in the Armed Forces.

Hundreds of teenagers are living as emancipated minors, i.e., living away from home, supporting themselves, and not subject to ordinary parental control. This is despite the fact that in Minnesota, there is no formal legal process to establish emancipation.

What do Courts say about emancipation? While there is no established process for emancipation, the courts have on a case basis, looked at evidence of parental consent and control and the child's living situation and ruled, after the fact, that some children are emancipated.

How does a Court decide whether a child has been emancipated? In all cases to date, courts have looked at the behavior of the parents and child and made the decision on factors such as:

- existence of a letter written by the parent to the child saying, "I agree that you are on your own;"
- existence of a formal document drafted by an attorney;
- the parent's action or inaction in permitting the young person to live independently;
- whether the young person has been living away from home, supporting herself, and not living under parental control.

In all cases, however, the parents have no guarantee the child was emancipated until the court decides that it has occurred. In some cases, a parent believed he or she had emancipated a child and court has decided otherwise.

Can the Juvenile Court

emancipate a child? Although it is not called emancipation as such, juvenile court statutes allow a court to order a child into independent living as a result of a "child in need of protection and services" action.

Is there any other way to try to emancipate a young person through the Courts? There is not a clear process, but an attorney could bring a declaratory judgment type of court case on behalf of a young person of their parent and ask that a judge declare the young person to be emancipated. This would probably require that a young person be living independently, either with parental approval or at least parental failure to object, and have some factual reason for a declaration of emancipation.

When is it important to decide if a juvenile is emancipated? In such questions as, can a young person:

- sue or be sued
- leave home to live on his or her own
- get General Assistance
- authorize medical care
- sign a contract or a lease, set up a utility account, or register a car?

Is emancipation needed in order to get AFCD or GA? AFCD has its own eligibility requirements and emancipation is not one of them. Minnesota's General Assistance law, however, does allow 16 and 17-year-olds to receive GA in certain situations, including when they have been emancipated or living away from home as part of a social services case plan. However, it is not easy to decide if emancipation has occurred, since there is no clear process to establish it.

Must a young person be emancipated in order to request medical care? No, in certain circumstances. Minnesota allows certain minors to request medical care:

- Minors of any age may consent to medical care relating to pregnancy, childbirth, venereal disease, and drug and alcohol treatment, without parental consent.
- Teenagers who have given birth may consent for medical care for that child and for themselves.
- Sixteen and 17-year-olds living

Emancipation Cont'd pg. 6...

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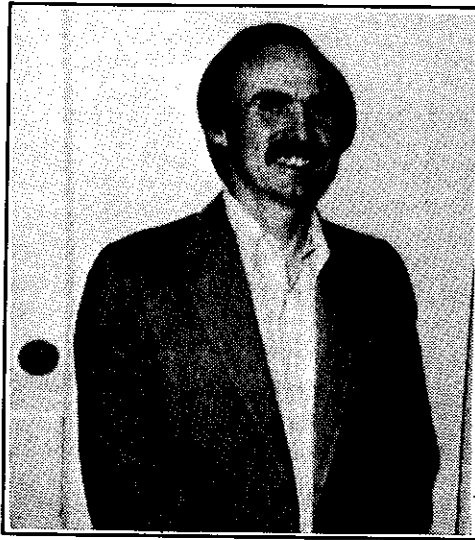
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We want you to know...



Bruce Clendenen

The MCCA Board has much to be thankful for as we begin our business for the new board year. We also have a concern. First, the thanks. Thanks to the new board members that joined: Dave Conde, Dianne Aisenbrey, Dianne Binns, Lisa Roberg, and Bodo Suemnig. We look forward to their contribution to the MCCA Board, MCCA membership, and the further development of corrections professionals in Minnesota. Thanks also to the Crappie Tournament Committee, who turned out an exceptional effort at our annual "fun"draising event. there was a record breaking turnout, number of fish caught, weather, and fun. The committee obviously planned well.

Next, the concern. One of the major goals of MCCA is to increase the level of professionalism in corrections in Minnesota. We feel we have been successful at this goal over the years with our training and lobbying efforts. In particular, we have seen community corrections professionals increase their expertise in dealing with offenders through experience, training, and education. College degreed professionals continue to increase in our ranks each year. We believe there is a connection between this increase of education and the elevation of proficiency and respect in the field. It

has come the MCCA Board's attention that Hennepin County Bureau of Community Corrections is suggesting an elimination of the four-year bachelor's degree requirement for Probation Officers. While they may have sound reasons for making such a unilateral change in practice, we feel there are questions to be raised. Will this effect the skill level and professional approach in Hennepin County Corrections? With Hennepin County being the largest employer of county corrections in the state and a long time leader of innovative approaches, could a trend be set for the rest of the state? Have they studied whether or not a four-year degree requirement has had a positive effect on service delivery over the past few years? Just what does a four-year degree mean when it comes to hiring and retaining good employees? Are there other avenues to obtain the same expertise?

Many of us have answers to those questions and other possible questions we have not asked based on our experience. We would like to hear from you about this issue. Selected responses will be published in upcoming issues of *Happenings*. The main issue with the MCCA Board is maintaining and continuously upgrading professional standards and practices in Minnesota. How will this policy change effect that goal? Please let us know what you think.

-Bruce Clendenen

SOLOS' services

A program called SOLOS (Sharing Our Lives of Separation) offers transportation to MCF-Red Wing for families of incarcerated juveniles. the trip is just \$1.00 and runs on a weekly basis. SOLOS also offers counseling and support groups for families. For more information, contact SOLOS at (612) 340-5432.

Emancipation Cont'd....

away from home, supporting themselves, no matter what their source of support, may give consent to medical care for themselves and no other person's consent is required. If the young person gives consent under these circumstances, he or she is responsible for the costs.

Note: The fact sheet by the Community Legal Education Program of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis is not meant to explain all your rights. If you need legal help, call the Juvenile Law Project at (612) 827-3774. If you live in Greater Minnesota see your family attorney or call your legal services office for legal help or referral information. 3/89.

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Where to call for help

Lawyer Referrals/Court Related Problems

Minneapolis Legal Aid Juvenile Law Project

(612) 827-3774

Minneapolis Legal Aid Mental Health Law Project

(612) 332-1441

University of MN Law School Clinic

(612) 625-5515

Legal Advice Clinic

(612) 339-9139

MN Legal Services Programs:

•St. Paul (and southern MN referrals)

(612) 222-5863

•Anoka County

(612) 422-7575

•Minneapolis (and central MN referrals)

(612) 334-5970

•Moorhead (and northwest MN referrals)

(800) 452-3625

•Duluth (and northeast MN referrals)

(800) 622-7266

•Cass Lake (Leech Lake, White Earth and Red Lake Reservation residents)

(800) 422-1335

Hennepin County Public Defender

(612) 348-7530

Hennepin County Guardian Ad Litem

(612) 347-7102

Ramsey County Public Defender

(612) 298-5797

Ramsey County Guardian Ad Litem

(612) 298-4047

Legal Rights Center

(612) 871-4886

Lay Advocacy Services/Mental Health Problems

Mental Health Assn. of MN

(612) 331-6840

MN Ombudsman for Mental Health

(612) 296-3848

Social Services and Abuse Problems

Hennepin County Family Services

Intake

(612) 348-2324

MN Chippewa Tribe Social Services

(No. MN office)

(218) 335-8581

The Bridge for runaway youth

(612) 377-8800

National toll-free switchboard for

runaway youth

(800) 621-4000

Educational Problems

Legal Advocacy for Persons with

Developmental

Disabilities

(612) 338-0968

Toll-free

Mandated sex offender training

The State Legislature has mandated that training be provided to individuals who supervise sex offenders. The Department of Corrections has the responsibility of providing the training. Jerry Anderson, Training Director, along with a committee comprised of probation officers and treatment staff, have been working diligently to comply. Training will be available to all agents who provide probation and supervised release supervision to sex offenders, both adult and juvenile. Mr. Anderson feels strongly, when the size of the organization allows, that selected individuals should specialize in sex offender supervision. "All corrections agents," he says, "should be trained to recognize relapse behaviors and take appropriate action. However, in order to adequately supervise sex offenders, caseloads should not exceed 25 in number, and group supervision is desirable."

In relation to juvenile sex offenders, Mr. Anderson feels strongly that a distinction should be made between the character disordered offender and the youth who engages in occasional inappropriate or experimental behavior.

A "dry run" training session was conducted by the DOC in March to try out the training model with representatives from a number of counties. The model has been refined based on input from the participants and will soon be available throughout the state.

The first session will be conducted May 9th and 10th at the Training Center at Sauk Center, MN. The fee is \$20 for the two-day training session for non-DOC employees. Please call Holly Chromey at the Training Center (612)

Such a deal: it's free

For those of you who want to get a step up on the upcoming, mandated DOC sex offender training based on the Vermont model, call the National Institute of Corrections office in Boulder, Colorado, at (303) 939-8855 to receive a free copy of their manual: "A Practitioner's Guide to Treating the Incarcerated Male Sex Offender." This is good stuff. A comprehensive guide to the field of correctional treatment of sex offenders, including chapters on legal issues, duty to protect, relapse prevention, research on the use of the penile plethysmograph and conducting a clinical assessment of sex offenders, amongst other articles.

While you're at it, call toll free: (800) 851-3420 to get on the mailing list of the National Institute of Justice and receive their "Clearinghouse Information Package." The National Criminal Justice Reference Service is the largest, most comprehensive source of available criminal justice information. The Reference Service houses the Justice Statistics clearinghouse, the Juvenile Statistics clearinghouse and the Corrections Exchange. Besides offering various publications, they offer custom topical and bibliography searches, along with a wide variety of their services.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS:

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For further information, please contact:

The American Probation and Parole Association
c/o The Council of State Governments
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Lexington, KY 40578-1910
(606) 231-1917

Comings and goings

Pete Puffer, Director of Intake for Alpha House, has taken a new position with Nexus, effective April 18th. Pete's new duties will primarily entail conducting psychological evaluations on referrals and new clients as well as assisting therapy staff with their routine interventions by doing psych assessments on program residents. Pete will also be taking over the role of Facilitator of project Pathfinder's "R group," or as it is also known, the recalcitrant group. Originally, Pete began working with sex offenders at the North Central Health Care Facility in Wausau, WI, in 1980. There he led offender and victim groups as well as conducting presentence evaluations on sex offenders for the local county courts. In 1984, Pete began working at Alpha as a case supervisor and moved into the role of Intake Director in 1985, when Tim O'Brien left for Eden House.

Replacing Pete will be Cindy Gelman, who has worked at Alpha as a case supervisor since 1985. Cindy faces a burgeoning intake caseload. Cindy's

earlier experience in the field includes stints at the Family Renewal Program as well as having worked for several years with the TSOP program at Lino Lakes. Carole Nienaber, M.A., is replacing Cindy as Alpha's new case supervisor.

Speaking of Nexus, in addition to their recently adding Project Pathfinder to their family this march, they also opened two new facilities in Illinois. Some ninety miles south of Chicago they have begun operating a residential program for youthful offenders that is projected to serve approximately 100 youthful offenders by late 1991. In West Suburban DuPage County, Nexus has opened an outpatient program in conjunction with the special education programs of local school districts. Currently they have 18 clients, but Nexus director, Glenn Just, said efforts are already underway to expand programming into several neighboring counties, including Chicago's populous, Cook County.

-Pete Batterman

Reminiscing: State Training School Dining Hall

Minnesota was admitted to the Union in May of 1858. Three decades later in May of 1990, the cornerstone was laid for the new administration building and dining room on the grounds of the State Training School for boys and girls in Red Wing. The building has been continually occupied since its completion and remains a landmark in the Hiawatha Valley.

Following a determination in the early 70's that the food service operation should be decentralized, a new kitchen was built on the grounds of the facility. Demolition then occurred to eliminate the kitchen addition which had been attached to the original dining room. The 1960's and 70's were not known for preservation movements. Demolition of many original and historical buildings was occurring throughout the State of Minnesota. Remodeling was occurring in numerous State Hospitals and many original buildings were being demolished. Fortunately in the community of Red Wing, a number of concerned citizens were actively beginning to promote the notion of restoration and were especially concerned about the administration building on the grounds of the State facility. Legislative committees had questioned the economics of maintaining old buildings due to the inherent cost.

At the federal level, the historic sites statute had been passed, which allowed both public as well as private buildings to be declared historical and registered as historic sites. While this legislation did not protect buildings from demolition, it did indicate that if federal money were ever to be made available, no substantial changes could be made in the appearance of the building. Also, it provided an opportunity for preservationists and concerned citizens to utilize the historical sites designation as an argument against the demolition. In order to plan a strategy around the preservation of the administration building and dining room, we began a

process which was successful in designating the administration building and dining room as historical sites. The appropriate legislators were informed and told that a plan would be developed to restore the dining room to its original appearance. We indicated that costs would be kept at a minimum and that it was a long-range project. Legislators were also informed that there was strong community sentiment for this project and that demolition would be very unpopular politically.

In retrospect, the assurance that this would be supported by the community seems to have not only resulted in lack of interest in the demolition proposal, but the strategy and plan was accepted by the key legislators involved. I recall distinctly during one committee hearing a legislator suggested that the building be restored to its appearance in 1887. This suggestion was initially met with some surprise by the other members as this individual had previously voiced serious concerns about restoration initiatives. It then dawned on the group

that this restoration would obviously have resulted in demolition since the building did not exist in 1887.

It has now been many years since the question was raised as to what should be done with the old dining room. It appears that that question has certainly now been answered.

•Reprinted from the January/February 1990 Issue of The Centennial Cornerstone 1889-1989 with its permission and that of the author (Orville Pung, Commissioner of Corrections, MN).

New MCCA Board Members

The Board of the MCCA welcomed three new board members which were appointed at the annual Board retreat at Wilder Forest.

Dianne Binns is a probation officer in Hennepin County in the felony unit where she has worked for the past year. Previously, she worked for six years as a case manager at the Correctional

Facility, Stillwater. Dianne has a caseload of approximately 70 clients and prepares an average of five presentence investigations a month.

From Washington County, Bodo Suemnig has many years of experience in corrections, having begun there in 1963. Currently, he is a program manager of the PLACE program (since 1984), a day treatment program for delinquent youth.

Dianne Aisenbrey has been a probation officer in Dakota County for the past 11 years. She is currently coordinating staff development and planning for the Community Corrections Department. Dianne was one of the original MCCA Board members when it was created in 1976.

The Board officers did not hesitate to appoint new members to committees, lest they find themselves with nothing to do. Good luck!

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