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A study of juvenile probation as it affects treatment of juvenile delinquents in Fulton county, Georgia 1930-1944

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A STUDY OF JUVENILE PROBATION
AS IT AFFECTS TREATMENT OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
1930-1944

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY
LOUISE LYDIA ALLEN

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JUNE 1946
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Each sizeable locality finds itself confronted with problems of juvenile delinquency. There have been many and varying proposed plans for preventing delinquency throughout the country. It has been said that as long as there is a complex society as exists today, the phenomenon of delinquency will remain prevalent. Thus, it becomes of paramount importance that plans be devised whereby the individual who comes in conflict with the law may be helped to remedy his anti-social behavior and become a useful citizen. Probation has been designed as an instrument to effect such plans.

Probation is an accepted method of treatment in nearly every civilized country in the world. It is considered as the most important step taken by the courts in the individualization of treatment of the young offender. It may be defined as a system of social investigation and treatment required by law and recommended by the court for those who have violated the law.\(^1\)

It is the opinion of the best authorities that:

No youthful offender should be sent to a penal institution until it is definitely determined that he is not a fit subject for probation. To this end, it is urged that every effort be made to broaden probation and to provide more and better probation supervision... It is clear that probation, when it is applicable, is much more satisfactory, yet, much less expensive from the social point of view, than imprisonment.\(^2\)

\(^1\)Constitution of the State of Georgia, 1877, Section 9, Article 6, Par. 1.

The past ten years have shown an increase in juvenile delinquency, particularly in urban areas due to the influx of population to the defense areas. This situation is pointed out not only by the reports of penal institutions, but indicated through everyday medias, such as the newspapers, radio and screen. As a result of such publicity, the writer's interest was aroused to discover to what extent has the Fulton County Juvenile Court in Atlanta, Georgia participated in the prevention and in a plan of treatment of the anti-social behavior of youthful offenders.

Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study is to make a general survey of the development of juvenile probation under the direction of the Juvenile Court in Fulton County, Georgia; to ascertain those factors which have influence upon probation practices; and to determine whether or not there is any criterion for judging the effectiveness of probation.

Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study covers Juvenile Probation in Fulton County, Georgia from the period 1930 to 1944. Included in this study is a presentation of cases known to the Juvenile Probation Department during the period 1930 to 1944 inclusive. The study is of necessity limited in that individual case records of the probationers were not accessible.

Method of Procedure

Information for this study was secured from documentary
material such as the Statutes of Georgia secured through the State Capitol Library and the reports of the State Department of Public Welfare and the State Department of Education of Georgia. Further data was obtained from the National Probation Association, the United States Children's Bureau, United States Census, and references and proceedings of the National Probation Association. Data pertaining to the cases was obtained from the statistical reports of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, Atlanta, Georgia, and the Juvenile Court statistics of the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor. An inquiry sheet was used in interviewing the chief probation officer and other workers of the Fulton County Juvenile Court to obtain additional information.
CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF JUVENILE PROBATION

The law giving the juvenile court power to place a child on a probation is a method of great value in treatment. This so-called "flexible instrument" of the court, originated in Boston in 1878 as an outgrowth of the common law method of the "conditionally suspending sentence" which had long been used in Massachusetts and had been introduced by John Augustus, a local Boston shoemaker.¹

Credit is given to Augustus for probationary service as early as 1852. Actual treatment resulted from his work, and he attempted to carry out the rudiments of case work practice by individualizing the person and at the same time, by taking care to ascertain whether his charges were promising for probation. Probationary work under Augustus entailed investigation and supervision as well as services in the form of relief, employment and education. Several years later a report was published which gave an account of his work with youthful offenders. The results had a profound effect on the people in modifying the rigidity of the criminal law as applied to young delinquents.

Parallel to this development, came the juvenile court movement in the states which legalized the procedure of investigating and supervising the young offender as Augustus had instituted and the young person was informally brought to the attention of the court.²

¹ Helen Pigeon, Probation and Parole (New York, 1942), p. 87.
² Ibid., p. 88.
The first juvenile court was passed in Illinois in 1899. Subsequent probation laws were authorized in the states of Rhode Island, Minnesota, New York and Colorado which were instituted in other states. Shortly after the establishment of the first juvenile probation courts in the states, private agency workers became active in the field of juvenile probation. In 1900, the Buffalo Charity Organization Society organised a committee on probation which was instrumental in the passage of a state law to amend the City Charter of Buffalo. This law authorized the appointment of two probation officers to bring about a closer relation between the legal aspect of the court and the social rehabilitation of young persons.¹ Charitable societies in other cities followed the example of Buffalo and stressed the need for a legal procedure in cases where probationary work was indicated over the entire United States.

During the early part of the twentieth century, a number of private agencies were being established for the care and protection of children as thousands of young delinquents were still being handled as adult criminals. These agencies placed agents in various courts whose duty it was to protect the interest of the child. At first, the work was unofficial, but by 1909, these agency representatives had attained legal status; made investigations; and served as probation officers.²

² Ibid.
³ Helen Pigeon, op. cit., p. 87.
There was no significant development in regard to probation work with youths until the results of the 1930 White House Conference of Child Health and Protection were known. This federal interest was an incentive to strengthen welfare services for children as well as for those who were delinquent. The recommendations of this national conference forced intensive investigation, supervision and the selection of adequate personnel to handle delinquents.

During the latter part of the thirties, an increase from 200 probation officers to 5000 workers occurred. The probation officers were no longer volunteer persons but paid full-time and part-time workers. In addition, the standards were raised so as to insure efficiency and the service to the delinquents. Gradually, as the standards of work were improved, it was possible for the more successful workers to indicate that education, training and accumulated experience were valuable in this type of work. These factors have enhanced professional competence among the workers.

On the other hand, probation service varied widely in the many states. In many places, personnel was poorly selected, with no basic qualification and no uniformed system of appointment. Preliminary investigations were most inadequate and in many cases, supervision was nothing more than receiving occasional reports through mail or in brief interviews with the probationers. As workers became more concerned about the effectiveness of their work, there was a great need to review the entire probationary field. As a result, the National Probation Association was
formed in 1907.1

The purposes of this organization were to study and to standardize methods of probation for juveniles by conferences, field investigations and research; to extend and to develop the probation system by legislation; and to promote the establishment and the development of juvenile courts throughout the country. The National Probation Association was also designed to cooperate with local, state and national organizations to bring about treatment and prevention of delinquency.2 This organization set forth probationary standards and functions as follows:

The probation officer makes social investigations and submits written reports thereon. He must so evaluate, interpret, and present the data obtained that the court, institution or any authority may use the report as a guide to disposition. The officer is more than an investigator. He is an advisor and consultant to the court. The investigation report is also to serve as a guide to the officer when the individual is under supervision as a probationer. While later contacts may change first impressions and result in modification of the tentative plan of treatment, a good investigation report is a sound step toward rehabilitation.3

Despite the standards formulated by the National Probation Association, cases under supervision in some probation departments were too large to permit frequent visits. Little time was devoted to the use of resources or to develop a constructive, meaningful relationship with the delinquent. This situation was of primary concern to those working in the probation field. The

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2 Ibid.
3 Helen Pigeon, op. cit., p. 90.
National Probation Association concluded that proper standards to deal with young people who came in conflict with the law should include the following points:

Complete pre-sentence investigation in each case before probation is granted, careful selection of cases, and qualified personnel. Provision for men and women officers for juvenile offenders; and officers trained in children's work. Case loads of not over fifty. Intensive supervision according to sound case work; revocation of probation in case of failure or menace to society, and adequate staff organization and machinery.¹

But the experiments led by psychologists and psychiatrists emphasized the worth of the individual, as well as the possibility of treatment for the individual child.² As a result, it stressed the purposiveness of behavior and meaning anti-social conduct has for the child. Probation took on a more scientific approach. Its individualization of the delinquent became one of the greatest treatment processes in the criminal court. Federal probation, having gained impetus from state and local plans, was introduced and became a part of each court unit.

Significantly, the State of Georgia was not greatly influenced by a treatment approach for the young delinquent. Before laws were enacted for the creation of special courts, the hearings of children's cases in Georgia were conducted in courts in accordance with the methods commonly used in handling adult cases. Children were placed on trial if their offenses were serious. If the child's offense was of minor importance, he was released with no supervision. No effort was made to determine the

¹Ibid.
underlying causative factors leading to his difficulty nor was there any attempt to correct the child's delinquent tendencies. A lecture by a presiding judge and his instructions to parents to chastise the child was the extent of the legal efforts to treat and prevent anti-social conduct.

In some instances, a special officer was designated to deal with children brought to court. This procedure, however, depended upon the presiding judge, but no constructive supervision was provided for the young offender. The officers could do little more than inform the child and his parents to report to them at stated intervals. The officers had no special training for probation work; nor did they engage in any sort of social study relating to the child, his family or his home environment. A statement by one of the early probation officers of Fulton County in 1904 indicated that efforts were made to keep "the children brought to the police station away from the prisoners, and their cases were heard separately."1 This practice continued until the passage of the 1906 Act authorizing the establishment of a Children's Court in Georgia.2

These early efforts were the only methods used for handling young delinquents prior to legislative enactment. But at the session of the General Assembly in 1908, an act was passed creating the Children's Court Law. This Act provided for the establishment of a children's court as a branch of the superior

1Fulton County Juvenile Court, "Reports," (Atlanta, Georgia, 1929), p. 16.
court in any county in Georgia on the recommendation of two successive grand juries. The children's courts were given jurisdiction in their respective counties over children under sixteen years of age who committed an offense against any law of Georgia except capital offenses. Moreover, the hearings of children's cases were to be conducted in private chambers as far as was practicable. Under this Act, the child or any person legally interested in him had the privilege to request a trial by jury. Furthermore, the Act made it mandatory on any county setting up such court when so requested by the judge to provide and to maintain detention quarters for children separate from the jail. In addition, it required that a matron be in charge of them while waiting for court proceedings.

The Act defined a delinquent and wayward child as follows:

The term "delinquent child" shall be construed to mean any boy or girl under sixteen years of age who violates any city ordinance or commits any offense against any public law of this state not punishable by death or life imprisonment. The word "wayward" shall be construed to mean any boy or girl under sixteen years of age who habitually associates with vicious or immoral persons; or who is an invitee of or frequents a brothel or bawdy house; or who is growing up in circumstances expanding him or her to lead an immoral, vicious, or criminal life.

The Act further authorized the judge to appoint a probation officer, and such other officers of the Children's Court as he considered necessary to execute the provision of the law.

1 Georgia Laws, 1908, pp. 1107-1108.
2 Ibid., p. 1108.
3 Ibid., p. 1109.
The judge has the power to prescribe their duties and to fix salaries which are to be paid out of the county treasury.

During the General Assembly Session of August 16, 1915, Judge Tindall prepared an act to be introduced to the Legislature. This move was an attempt to declare the Act of 1908 unconstitutional and to pass an act to create special or separate juvenile courts in all counties in Georgia with a population of 60,000 or more. The 1908 juvenile court law was declared unconstitutional by the Georgia Supreme Court on the grounds that it violated the provision for the uniformity of jurisdiction, powers, proceedings and practices of all courts of the same grade or class.

Not until 1916 was an act passed and later amended to provide in counties with less than 60,000 population that the judge of the superior court "designate an existing court of record to act and be known as the juvenile court of said county." These courts, however, were not to create any new courts, but merely to bestow upon an existing tribunal additional judicial powers. This law covered only misdemeanor offenses and stated that:

Those who violate any penal law or any municipal ordinance, or who committed any act or offense for which he could be prosecuted in a method partaking of the matter of criminal actions or those who were found in any place committing an offense for which an adult may be punished by law or who was under improper or insufficient guardianship or contact so as to endanger the moral, health or general welfare of such child are taken into account; the state acts as parent of the child. For those who come within this law for the education, care and provision for the appointment of probation officers who were to serve under the law. The

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1 Carrell Larmore, op. cit., p. 51.
2 Georgia Code Annotated, 1933, Sec. 24, p. 24-2427.
courts were given the authority to appoint one or more deputy probation officers to be paid out of the court funds.\(^1\)

Although Georgia has enacted legislature regulating treatment of juvenile offenders in the criminal courts, the State has lagged far behind national standards. Public and private agencies became concerned over the existing situation and proceeded to plan to have the law amended so that probationary treatment might become state-wide and more effective. The 1935 session of the Legislature amended the juvenile court law and extended the services throughout the State.\(^2\)

In spite of these efforts, reports from sheriffs in Georgia showed that there was a marked increase of three hundred percent from 1930 to 1945 in the number of children detained in jails. At present, only eight juvenile courts report probationers, and there still exists a dire need for trained workers in the probationary field.\(^3\)

\(^1\)Ibid.
\(^2\)Georgia Board of Control, Department of Public Welfare Reports (Atlanta, 1932-1935), p. 30.
\(^3\)Ibid.
CHAPTER III

FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The physical set-up of the juvenile court is worthy of consideration because there is need to separate children from adult offenders and from contacts with participants and on-lookers as far as possible. In addition, it becomes imperative to protect the youthful offender as much as is permissible within the law by making his hearings private.

Organization of the Department

In considering the organizational set-up of the probation department in Fulton County, the location and arrangement of the juvenile court in which the probation department is housed is important. The Juvenile Court is centrally situated in the city of Atlanta within the vicinity of the supreme court. There is limited amount of space allotted to the probation offices of the Fulton County Probation Department. Only two offices are provided for the probation officers. This inadequacy of planned facilities curbs interviewing space. As a result, short contacts with the probationer are the results in that all the workers must have access to these two offices. Furthermore, lack of space interferes with the privacy of the interviews. There is very little or no privacy relative to intake, and those persons who submit complaints can be heard by others waiting for interviews.

The Juvenile Probation Department is under the control of the Juvenile Court and is under the supervision of a judge, a chief probation officer and nine additional staff members.
of these nine staff officers are probation officers. Interestingly, clerical workers of the probationary service handle intake and three of the clerical workers serve as night clerks. There are no Negro probation officers.\(^1\) The organizational set-up of the department is shown in Diagram I.

![Diagram I](attachment:image)

Diagram I

ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP OF THE JUVENILE PROBATIONARY DEPARTMENT IN FULTON COUNTY

The general administrative duties of the Department are allocated to the chief probation officer who supervises the work of the Department. These administrative duties include the reception of complaints; the investigation of cases before and after the petition is filed; supervision of the children on probation; and clerical and stenographic work. There are no Negro officers designated to supervise Negro juvenile offenders.\(^2\)

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\(^1\)Carrell Larmore, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 39.

\(^2\)Ibid.
Selection of Personnel

There are varied opinions regarding the qualifications of juvenile court personnel. An inquiry was sent out by the administrative office of the United States Supreme Court to penal institutions, criminologists and other organizations as to their views on what were the essential qualifications of probation personnel. The majority of agencies contacted were in favor of specific standards and one agency recommended general qualifications for the probation officer. Those agencies which made definite statements as to education suggested that graduation from college should be the minimum educational requirement for the probation officer, and another organization was convinced that at least two years of college training with satisfactory grades was important. The remaining agencies who made no specific comment as to educational standards stated that:

Substantial weight should be given to academic training; that many schools of social work are giving courses now that fit people to be probation officers if they have the right personality. That probation officers have senior membership in the American Association of Social Work; and that considerable weight should be given to training in studies which deal with human behavior, such as psychiatry, psychology, sociology and social work.¹

It was considered essential that probation officers should have experience in one or more of the several branches of social work. Although no inquiry was made as to the method of selecting candidates for probation work, twelve of the organizations stated that civil service examinations on the basis of a competitive

written examination were imperative for classification and appointment purposes.

In regard to personnel qualifications and selection, the Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department has attempted over the years to maintain standards in compliance with those outlined by the United States Children's Bureau. The Department realizes that untrained persons contribute little or nothing to the welfare of the offenders who are to be guided. The success of probation depends largely on the qualifications of those persons engaged in the work.

Minimum standards in Georgia for probation officers have been established by statute. This selection and qualification and appointment of personnel are made according to civil service. The law definitely states that:

All appointments are...made on the basis of merit only, determined by a public competitive examination, held by three examiners appointed by the court. The examiners conduct the examination of all applicants and...certify to the clerk for appointment to each position the names of the three highest...from which appointments are made.1

Although the merit system is an asset in the selection of personnel for a probation department, it is of paramount importance that those in charge of this department be well trained and have basic knowledge in dealing with people. The present staff of the Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department has been appointed through civil service. The four probation officers are college graduates. Two of the other staff members have had two years of college training, and the remaining four persons have

1State of Georgia Department of Public Welfare, Social Welfare Laws (Georgia, 1934), p. 34.
been appointed after having successfully passed competitive examinations.

The chief probation officer of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, who is a trained social worker, is appointed by the judge and is responsible directly to the judge. She has attended a recognized school of social work and has vast experience in dealing with youths. Likewise, the judge of the Juvenile Court has had vast experiences in legal work in court procedures and recognizes that the youthful offender requires treatment.¹

The Juvenile Court Law of Georgia authorizes the judge of the superior court to pay to the chief probation officers and to the deputy probation officers such salaries as are prescribed by the court. The probation officers in Fulton County receive compensation comparable with the amount paid the average social worker in Georgia. These officers were paid $1500.00 in 1930 which increased to $2000.00 in 1944.²

In - Service Training

In-service training is an important responsibility of the chief probation officer. Fulton County Probation Department is conscious of the value of the in-service training program. The probation officers are helped to acquire much of the training they need on the job and through conferences. Certain supervisory periods are set aside, at which time, the officer is able to

¹Statement by H. B. Mays, Chief Officer of the Georgia State Pardon and Parole Board, Personal Interview, Atlanta, March 19, 1946.
²Ibid.
present his cases and to discuss with the chief probation officer all difficulties arising in his contacts with the child, the family and the community. This permits an evaluation of the progress of the case and a modification of the treatment program.

Rich educational experiences may be found in various types of case conferences. Literature for staff use is valuable and individual conferences are helpful where workers are free to discuss situations that affect the treatment plan of the young offender. The chief probation officer attempts to keep the staff up to date on the various social work techniques. Material necessary for a more complete understanding of probation work is furnished to the officers.¹

It would appear that the Fulton County Probation Department has attempted to provide private and separate hearings for the juvenile offender. There is, however, insufficient interviewing space to allow for frequent contacts and privacy with the probationer and those interested in him. Georgia has put into effect a merit system to classify, to select and to appoint its probation officers. Although social service training is not mandatory for these officers, there is some attempt to inculcate case work concepts through an in-service training program and case conference methods.

¹ Statement by Lottie Ramspeck, Chief Probation Officer, Fulton County Juvenile Court, Atlanta, Georgia, Personal Interview, March 18, 1946.
The first step in the treatment of the child is investigation. This calls for the exercise of special care in obtaining information regarding the child, his family and his home conditions. In some of the juvenile probation departments, a division is made between the officer who is to investigate cases and those who supervises them.

In Fulton County the procedure is that the same officer investigates, supervises and follows his case from the time the complaint is made until the child is released from probation. This plan has advantages in that it saves the child and his family from making adjustments to two different officers. On the other hand, the officer is more familiar with all circumstances and needs and is in a better position to work with the child.

The probation officer uses the information gathered in the investigation to help the child make a better adjustment. To accomplish this, it is necessary for the probation officer to work closely with the family of the child.

Duties of the Probation Officer

Probation implies constructive treatment. The emphasis is no longer on punishment or retribution, but is placed upon helping the individual to readjust to community life and to modify his anti-social behavior. Home visits are a most important phase

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1 Ibid.
of probation work. They bring the officer into contact with both the child and his parents and enables him to obtain information of the character, habits and conduct of the probationer.

The major points that the Fulton County Probation Department considers important in a home investigation are the cause of the complaint, the child's developmental history, habits and conduct. In addition, home conditions including previous delinquencies of the child, the composition and characteristics of the child's family, the parents' occupation, their earnings, the type of dwelling, and the emotional tone of the home which may have a special relation to child's conduct are ascertained.

By means of advice and guidance, home visits very often result in the correction of many unhealthy conditions in the family whether they are due to ignorance, poverty or neglect. If sufficient contacts are made and a good relationship is established, the probation officer and the family are able to know what to expect from each other. This relationship based on mutual cooperation will invariably influence the treatment plans for the child.

In many instances, home visits reveal that the family is contributing to the child's delinquences. The parents may be tyrannical in their methods of parental control. This may indicate that an interchange of confidence between the child and his family may be lacking and that the child may not be permitted to express his normal desires. In such cases, the task of the probation officer is a tremendous one. He must use his

1 Ibid.
imagination and utilize all of his skills and knowledge for constructive work in handling the family situation. It is the duty of the officer to help the family gain a better understanding of the child and his needs and to become aware of and to assume their responsibility for the child. It is anticipated that through his contact with the family, change in the child’s conduct would take place. It is also his duty to help the parents establish a better relationship with the child.

The probation officers of Fulton County use every available community resource to assist the family to become one in which the child can grow to be a healthy, well-adjusted individual. The officer is often expected to give legal advice and secure financial assistance for the family. Furthermore, attempts are made to surround the probationer and his family with every helpful influence. He does not, however, undertake services for the offender or his family which other agencies are better equipped to render but makes these services available through referrals.

Work With The Probationer

After the investigation, the probation officer continues treatment while the child is under supervision. Consequently, supervision becomes a process of intensive re-education and adjustment for the child. It begins by outlining to the child, the conditions under which he is placed on probation. The statutory provisions for Fulton County provides that the plans of probationary period shall be explained to the child in a friendly as well as according to its legal sense.¹

¹Katherine Lenroot, Juvenile Court Standards (Washington, D. C., 1928), p. 156.
It is during this early contact with the offender that the judge has an opportunity to establish a relationship with the child which paves the way for cooperation or antagonism. But in Fulton County, as is true elsewhere in Georgia, the judge does not specify the conditions of probation except in special cases. In the event that the delinquent's case is of a serious nature, the judge at the time of the hearing explains to the child and his parents the conditions of his probation period. These conditions may be outlined on a card giving the name of the probation officer, the term of probation and the time and place the child is expected to report. Conditions applicable to an individual case are usually permitted and specified in writing. Invariably, the probationer is prohibited from frequenting public dance halls, loitering on streets, remaining out late at night and moving from the vicinity without the permission of the court.

In general, the individual probation officer exercises a considerable amount of discretion regarding both the conditions of probation and the decision as to whether the child and his parent are complying with the conditions imposed. Negative discipline is of little value unless it is accompanied by constructive help.¹ In specifying the conditions of probation, the child and his parents should have it clearly understood that all situations are not covered in writing in the probationary plans.

and should be cleared with the court when they arise. Unfortunately, the probation officers of Fulton County maintain such short contacts with the children placed on probation that although the importance of planning individual treatment is known, the extent to which such procedure is followed in Fulton County is a minor one. Frequently, parents have little understanding of what is expected of them or of the child.

Prompt formulation of definite plans of individual treatment at the beginning of a probationary supervisory period is a very important aspect of probationary services. It tends to promote constructive work at the beginning of the case and thus prevents failure. At the same time it may enable the child to shorten his probationary period. It is a task which requires not only understanding on the part of the officer but most of all a creative imagination, constructive outlook and training. To be really constructive, the plan of treatment must take into account not only the limitations of the probationer disclosed but moreover, the potentialities upon which the desired conduct and character may be shaped. Treatment must be based upon an awareness of all the factors of the problem of the probationer including personality, habits, reactions, attitudes, mental and physical capacities, home influences and the effect that the community resources have upon his environment.

Cooperation With Other Organizations

To obtain a well-rounded picture of the child's needs, the

\footnote{Ibid.}
probation officer must have knowledge of the probationer's work in school, vocation and recreational relationships in his community. The probation officer attempts to secure the cooperation of school departments, principals, and teachers. This cooperation is of vital importance not only because a large proportion of the children on probation attend school but also because the child spends three-fourth of his time in school. Having accepted the responsibility for placing the child on probation, the court must take the initiative in collaborating with the school in the task of supervision.

One of the important features of supervision in the Fulton County Probation Department is to secure the school history, scholarship, attendance and conduct record of the offender who is on probation. From these reports, the officer is able to learn more about the achievement of the probationer and thereby modify treatment plans according to individual needs. The result of this relationship with the school has been noticeable in that the school reports have assisted the probation officers in knowing what the child's difficulties are and have helped in planning with the child and his parents more effectively.

Successful probation work with children who are soon to enter employment and those who are gainfully employed requires knowledge of the vocational opportunities; the kind of preparation required for various occupations; the legal regulations governing the employment of children; and the conditions and opportunities for advancement.1 Directing the delinquent child

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away from "blind-alley" occupations was recognized as one of the most crucial and difficult problems confronting the probation officer. It involves determining as far as possible the child's capacities, stimulating his ambition and arranging opportunities for more adequate preparation for his livelihood. There is a great need to relate this phase of the probationary work with that of the school.

The constructive recreational programs developed by group work organizations, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Associations, settlement houses and various kinds of clubs for boys and girls are generally recognized as of special importance in work with the delinquent. The officers of Fulton County recognize this fact and attempt to keep in touch with playgrounds, clubs and other agencies. In some cases, they try to guide the reading of the child under their supervision. The emphasis placed on recreational habits is important because the use the child makes of his leisure time very often relates to his difficulties with society. Injurious recreation and loafing often caused by the lack of any recreational facilities are generally believed to be of great significance in delinquency.

Probationary Records

The records should be carefully planned and reviewed periodically by the probation officers. Record keeping in the Fulton County Probation Department has been handicapped. Inadequate and insufficient clerical service has interfered with this important
part of probation officers' work. As a result, much of the information pertinent to treatment is retained in entries in notebooks which the officers carry with them. The entries are made when information is obtained but are not always arranged case by case.\(^1\) This factor in itself hinders the availability in the court of information on a particular case. The cases kept are not usually recorded in a readable form because they are written in longhand. These factors are significant in that the records may not only be of importance to the judge when cases come before him, but they also serve as a guide as to the progress of the child and the formulation of future treatment plans. In the event that there is a change in probation officers, the new officer will be able from the record to determine what type of offender he is to deal with and to know what the situation is at that time.

Probation officers are required by law to keep a record of each child placed under their supervision.\(^2\)

Inadequate record keeping has serious connotations. Adequate information from a full complete case record is an asset to the judge in rendering a decision as to the disposition of the case. Furthermore, it is of major importance that during the probationary period a complete, continuous record be kept to help the probation officer formulate or modify treatment plans in accordance with the probationer's needs.\(^3\)

\(^1\)Statement by Lottie Ramspect, op. cit., March 15, 1946.

\(^2\)Katherine Lenroot, op. cit., p. 176.

\(^3\)Ibid.
In addition, record keeping becomes an important instrument as a means individualizing the probationer.

It seems evident that in order to individualize the probationer and to plan a treatment program based upon his needs, it is essential that an adequate social study be made by the probation officer. In this connection, the child placed on probation must come in contact with persons who can establish a relationship while under supervision which is meaningful to him and enables him to want to modify and change his behavior. A well rounded study of the child must take into account the influences of the home and the community plus his recreational pursuits and school life. The importance of record keeping for formulation of plans and treatment purposes is basic in any probationary program.
CHAPTER V

PERTINENT FACTORS RELATIVE TO CASES HANDLED BY THE FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Statistical data on delinquency present a general picture of the volume of work of the Juvenile Court in dealing with delinquent behavior. In 1929 the majority of the courts in the United States dealt with the greatest number of delinquents than at any other time in history. According to the Georgia Juvenile Court statistics, 2,269 children's cases were handled in Fulton County. This, of course, included the number brought over from the previous year.

Delinquency by Population

The rate of delinquency for Fulton County occurring in 1929 was approximately 29 per 1000 of the children's population. This year was one of prosperity immediately preceding a period of great depression throughout the thirties. But a marked change in the rate of delinquency took place in the years which followed. Since 1930, the trend has been downward. The rates of delinquency ranged from 15 delinquents per 1000 of the children's population to 24. Significantly, since 1929, the highest rate of delinquency was during 1935. Delinquency declined steadily from 1930 until the year 1935 when an acceleration of cases were known to the Juvenile Court. The high rate of delinquency for that year was 24 per 1000.

It has been generally noted that in times of prosperity when money flows freely, delinquency rates are high. The year 1935
was indicative of a slight rise in the material wealth of the country and a break in the depression period. The preceding facts are presented in the following table which shows the rates of delinquency during the period 1930 to 1944, inclusive.

TABLE 1

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY RATE IN FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA FROM 1930-1944*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population***</th>
<th>Number of Delinquent Cases</th>
<th>Delinquency Rate Per 1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18,454</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>58,343</td>
<td>1,186</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>59,289</td>
<td>1,264</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>60,235</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>61,181</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>62,127</td>
<td>1,547</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>63,073</td>
<td>1,216</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>64,019</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>65,911</td>
<td>1,121</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>66,857</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>67,802</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>68,348</td>
<td>1,164</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>69,594</td>
<td>1,270</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>70,640</td>
<td>1,549</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>71,586</td>
<td>1,376</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*U.S. Children's Bureau, Juvenile Court Statistics; 1930-1944.
**Estimated from the 1930 and 1940 Children's Population as taken from the Sixteenth Census of the United States for Fulton County, Georgia.

The year 1943, or the second year of World War II, probably brought more money into the homes than any other years since 1929. The war conditions, parents and other relatives leaving home and defense work were factors which tended to fertile the soil for the seeds of delinquency.
From 1930 to 1944, the Fulton County Juvenile Court handled approximately 18,500 delinquency cases, giving an average of nearly 1230 cases per year. According to annual reports of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, it is estimated that the Negro delinquents constituted over one-half of this total number. Significantly, the years 1936 and 1937 were the only two years which approximated the yearly average. The median for the distribution of this period was 1216 cases. The greatest deviation above and below the median was 333 cases and 210 cases respectively, which occurred in the years 1934 and 1943. Despite the increase in the children's population of the County, at no time did the rate of delinquency reach as high a level as that of 1935.

**Offenses of Probationers**

According to Belle E. Beard, an authority in the field of juvenile probation, it is difficult to rank offenses as to the nature of seriousness. The stealing of a penny by one child may show a greater degree of emotional disturbance than the stealing of ten dollars by another child. Cause and effect, therefore, not the intrinsic worth of the goods misappropriated determine the meaning of the delinquent act. The offenses committed by the delinquents range in seriousness from taking an apple from a vender's cart or a penny stick of candy from a grocer to forging checks, stealing automobiles, and assault and battery.

The offenses for which the boys were referred to court differed greatly from those which brought girls to court. Table 2 gives the distribution of reasons for referrals from 1930 to 1938 inclusive.
### Table 2

**Reasons for Referrals to the Fulton County Juvenile Court from 1930-1938**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1338</td>
<td>1186</td>
<td>1264</td>
<td>1039</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>1547</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>819</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carelessness</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ungovernable</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truancy</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex offense</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury to person</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquor</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic violation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Robbery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Reasons</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


It is quite obvious that of the different categories, the greatest number of cases were referred to the court for larceny or misappropriation of the property of others. This classification included automobile stealing, burglary, or unlawful entry.
robery and all other types of stealing. The classification which ranked second in highness was carelessness which included some acts of misbehavior. It was difficult to ascertain by whom the referrals were made, however, it is valid that approximately 50 per cent of the total number was reported by the police. In general, Fulton County Juvenile Court statistics showed that social agencies played a minor role in the referral of delinquency cases to the court. It is interesting to note that the number referred for truancy was small in comparison with other reasons for referrals. This was attributed to the fact that schools were handling the behavior problems with the child unless the act committed was beyond their control.

It has been discovered that conditions found in the homes had much weight on the reasons for referrals to the Court. In 1936, 780 cases came from broken homes and 432 cases from normal homes. The following year, 801 cases were reported from broken homes and 441 cases from normal homes. While the number of cases dealt with by the court due to broken homes were in both years nearly twice as many as those resulting from normal homes, the figures give rise to inquiry into the lack of assets in the home including proper supervision by both parents of the child. It is a recognisable fact that the main source of security for a child is his parents. This being true, it becomes almost impossible for one to expect the child to preserve emotional equilibrium not withstanding the fact that he may be attempting to develop in various respects unless he has adequate parental supervision.
Age and Sex

Of the number of cases handled by the Court, the ages at which juvenile delinquency was prevalent is noteworthy. Table 3 gives the number of delinquent cases handled, by age and sex.

TABLE 3

AGE AND SEX OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN THE FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT FROM 1930 - 1938 *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age and sex of child</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total cases</td>
<td>1338</td>
<td>1166</td>
<td>1264</td>
<td>1039</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>1547</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td>1260</td>
<td>1121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys' cases</td>
<td>1110</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>1074</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1301</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 under 12</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 under 14</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 under 16</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 under 18</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 and over</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls' cases</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 under 12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 under 14</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 under 16</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 under 18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 and over</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


when referred to the Court. The greatest concentration lies in the fourteen to sixteen year age group for both boys and girls. This age group comprised nearly one-half of the number of delinquent cases referred to the Court. The range of the peak age of delinquency was obviously during the period twelve to sixteen years with the boy and girl under ten presenting very few cases.
One cannot assert that the same factors are not present at all ages. What would be conducive to delinquency in a child age ten might not have the same effect on a child age sixteen, who would present behavioristic tendencies due to factors personal with himself.

The high concentration in the fourteen to sixteen year age group can be attributed to the fact that during this period the child is passing through a trial age of emotional adjustment. It is in this period that changes are taking place biologically, physically and emotionally. Young people at this age are more imaginative, self-assertive and as a result, attempt more adventures and daring escapades.

There is a greater increase in gang activity in adolescent boys between these ages than at any other time. Boys' gangs are found to exist in many larger communities, and very often, before a boy can be admitted to membership of a gang, it is required that he steal something. To a great extent, the purpose involved is to see how brave the boy can become instead of intending to be malicious.

Cases On Probation

In regard to the disposition of cases, the use of probation, relative to the number of children under the supervision of officers, was significant. Table 4 shows the number of children placed on probation and what per cent this number was of the total.

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1 Margaret Mead, "Coming of Age in Samoa", From the South Seas (New York, 1929), Preface IIA-XII.
tal number of delinquent cases handled from 1930 to 1944.

**TABLE 4**

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DELINQUENTS ON PROBATION FROM 1930-1944**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of delinquent cases</th>
<th>Number on probation</th>
<th>Per cent on probation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18,454</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>37.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>42.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>1,264</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>35.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>46.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>19.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>1,547</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>30.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1,216</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>15.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>39.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>1,121</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>29.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>27.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>16.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>1,164</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>15.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942*</td>
<td>1,270</td>
<td>**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>1,549</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>15.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>1,376</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>18.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*U.S. Children's Bureau, Juvenile Court Statistics: 1930-1944

**Data for 1942 not obtainable.**

During the period there were 18,454 delinquents, of which approximately 27 per cent was placed on probation. An average of 337 cases were handled each year by the Fulton County Probation Department. Of the cases referred to the Court, no more than 46.10 per cent was placed on probation at any one time. In 1935, when the second highest number was referred to the Court, a little less than one third was placed on probation, whereas in 1943, when approximately the same number
was referred to the Court, less than one sixth was under the supervision of the probation officers.

The deviation in the numbers placed on probation each year showed a marked degree of variation. The number of children under the supervision of the probation officers during this period ranged from 165 to 500. The disposition of cases, in many instances, by the court depends on the practices of the court and on the availability of facilities for supervision of the children needing such service. With reference to the number of cases handled by the Fulton County Juvenile Court and in regard to standards set up for effective probation service, the number of probationers per officer ranged from seventeen to fifty. It is agreed that fifty cases are sufficient for one officer to supervise efficiently. For the most part, case loads of less than fifty probationers permit individualization and give the probation officer an opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with the needs of the child.

It is difficult to designate the definite length of time that any probationer was under the supervision of an officer. The National Probation Association, in its standards, has recommended a general minimum probationary period from six months to one year as desirable. In the Probation Department of Fulton County, exceptions to this practice are allowed upon the recom-

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mendation of a probation officer, or the chief probation officer. The length of probation in each case is determined by a study of the case, the needs disclosed, and the progress made.¹

It would seem that on the basis of the general nature of the cases handled by the Fulton County Juvenile Court from 1930 to 1944 that delinquency has not increased in proportion to the population. The extent of the problems dealt with by the probation officers were confined chiefly to lack of respect for property or authority. As is consistently true, more boys than girls were known to the Court, and the greatest number of children referred were from twelve to sixteen years old. Since 1933 there has been a decline in the number of cases placed on probation in Fulton County.

⁴Statement by Lottie Ramspeck, op. cit., March 29, 1946.
CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The development of juvenile probation is one of the most outstanding achievements in the treatment of delinquency that this nation has witnessed since the nineteenth century. In the early part of the twentieth century, probation was a discretionary act on the part of federal judges who tended to suspend the sentences of the young offenders. Since 1930, probation has been considered as a method of individualization not punishment, but treatment of individuals by means of analyzing the basic reasons for anti-social behavior.

Although Georgia had enacted the Children's Court Law in 1908, probation work lagged throughout the State as few counties erected children's courts. From 1930 to 1945, only eight juvenile courts in Georgia handled juvenile offenders or attempted to use probation methods. The Fulton County Juvenile Court which has been in existence since the passage of the Children's Court Law, is perhaps the largest court of its kind in the State.

Although the Fulton County Court authorizes the separation of juvenile delinquents from adult offenders and permits the privacy of hearings for youths, the Probation Department is inadequately staffed. Despite the fact that the probation officers are college graduates, all are not trained social workers. Furthermore, the low salaries paid these workers do not attract the best qualified persons for the position.

Since effective probation implies treatment, it is imperative...
that the probation officer be a person who is familiar with behavior as well as capable of applying case work techniques in order to help the delinquent through his difficulties.

A most important aspect of investigation and supervision relative to the probationary period is that of record keeping. In the Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department, case recording is limited due to untrained personnel unfamiliar with the use of record keeping. The practice of retaining pertinent information relative to the probationers in the probation officer's notebooks is handicapping in having available at all times information in the agency on the case. This factor interferes with the use of the record for treatment purpose in that the data obtained is scattered, sketchy and inaccessible.

The facts, however, which the Department obtains in its investigatory process present a general picture of all the factors that have aggravated the problem as well as the community resources which are of a curative nature, namely; the schools and organized recreational groups. Vocational training organizations have likewise been considered in utilizing the talents of the young offenders while he is under the care of the probation officer.

It is interesting to note that of the 18,464 delinquent cases handled during the years 1930 to 1944 in the Fulton County Juvenile Court, the highest rate occurred during the year 1935 which was a depression year. Although the general population of Fulton County has been on the increase since 1935, the rate of delinquency in comparison has been practically the same. Contrary
to the opinion that delinquency rates are high during the boom years, when parents and older siblings are employed. Fulton County indicated no considerable increase in the number of cases coming to the attention of the Juvenile Court. Misappropriation of the property of others and no respect for authority constituted the major reasons for referrals to the Fulton County Juvenile Court, whereas the problem of truancy from school held a comparatively low rank in terms of the number referred from 1930 to 1944.

The greatest concentration of delinquency in Fulton County for both sexes was between the ages of twelve to sixteen years. It appeared that boys showed more emotional difficulty during these years than girls who revealed symptoms of maladjustments between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years. This reiterates the need for more and well qualified workers in the Fulton County Juvenile Court who are cognizant of the problems with which adolescents are faced and are able to help bridge the gap between the causative factor of the problem and the solution to the young delinquent’s difficulty.

Of the 18,454 delinquent cases reported to the Fulton County Juvenile Court between the years 1930 and 1944, the greatest per cent placed on probation occurred in the depression year 1933, which was 46.10 per cent, whereas in 1935, when more delinquency cases were reported only 30.12 per cent were placed on probation. The general trend was that the higher the percentage of delinquency cases reported to the court, the lower the per cent of such cases placed on probation. Although the Probation
Department was drastically curtailed during World War II, the decrease in the use of probation is closely related to the inadequately trained personnel.

The Negro delinquent having constituted over one-half of the delinquent population in the Fulton County Juvenile Court suffers from the lack of not having had a Negro probation officer on the probation staff. The Negro juvenile delinquent does not receive the benefit of what might rightfully be due him in terms of supervision because of the inadequacy of the Probation Department's Services.

In general, the Probation Department of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, Georgia attempted to broaden its horizon in the treatment of delinquents from the earlier years when little effort was given to the understanding of problems peculiar to the adolescent from the ages ten to sixteen. The Department has shown an interest in the delinquent from sixteen to eighteen years of age. This fact alone gives evidence that there is an enlarging concept of probation as it affects treatment of delinquents.

Although the Juvenile Court of Fulton County, Georgia does not put into effect the latitude and standards as are outlined by the United States Children's Bureau, it does, however, attempt to focus all efforts upon the situation of the young delinquent who has met with some internal or external conflict. The goal of the Department is directed towards treatment and not punishment. The success of the work of the Juvenile Probation Department, however, will greatly be determined by community consciousness of the needs of youths as well as publicity of the work that the Probation
officer promotes or undertakes. It would appear that the community can aid in the type of service that the Probationary Department attempts to render by requesting that compulsory school attendance be enforced as well as visiting school teachers and child guidance clinics be established under state auspices.
Inquiry Sheet

I. Volume of work

A. Number of children of various types on probation during last year. 

B. Average number any one time:
   1. Average number of children on probation to one paid probation officer at any one time (classified according to type). 
   2. Largest number. 
   3. Smallest number. 

C. Do probation officers engaged in supervision have other duties? 

II. Conditions of probation

A. Does the Judge, in placing on probation, define the conditions of probation? If so, what conditions are usually specified? 

B. Does the probation officer, immediately after the child is placed on probation, explain to the child and his parents the conditions of probation? What requirements are usually specified in cases of various types? 

C. How much discretion is vested in the probation officer in this matter? of the judge? 

D. What are the functions of the chief probation officer in this matter? 

III. Reporting

A. On what type of cases are reports to probation officers required? 

B. Where and when are reports made? 

C. How many children report at a time? 

D. How much time is spent with each child that reports? 

E. What is expected to be gained from the reports? 

F. Opinion of probation officer in regards to value of reporting. 

IV. Home visits

A. How often do officers make visits to homes of probationers? 

B. At what time of day are visits made? 

C. What purposes are accomplished through home visits? 

D. What is required of the family in case of bad neighborhood or home conditions? 

E. Opinions of probation officers in regard to the value of home visits. 

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V. The relation of the probation officer to the school
   A. Reports required from teachers
   B. Visits made to school

VI. The relation of the probation officer to the child employer
   A. Reports required from the employer
   B. Visits made to place of employment
   C. Efforts made to guide choice of occupation and encourage vocational training (through cooperation with other agencies or otherwise)

VII. The relation of the probation officer to the child's recreation
   A. Efforts made to direct child's recreation
   B. Cooperation with recreational agencies

VIII. The relation of the judge to probation work
      A. Supervision of work by the chief probation officer
      B. Details as to the amount of supervision, case conferences, etc.

IX. Individual records and reports
    A. Is the written record made of each investigation?
    B. Monthly reports
       Does this report show results of physical and mental examinations, and any other information available?
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