

pendent from school. He was allowed back on probation but he was completely indifferent to his teachers, his subjects and to education in general. He was not a discipline problem when he was in school. It was just that he wasn't in school very much. His high school records show he started smoking in the sixth grade, had repeated auto accidents and was cynical with no desired for education.

He came to the Mahoning Valley Vocational School after he received a medical discharge from the service for poor adjustment. His future looked rather bleak at the time of his arrival at the Vienna facility. He was one of the first two boys to register at the school. He wasn't happy about it, nor unhappy. Just indifferent.

Allen had a "you-gotta-show-me" attitude when he was interviewed upon his arrival. He completed the course, graduated, and moved to California. Recently this letter was received:

Hi . . . Thought I'd write you a letter so you could update your statistical files. I have been employed for the past month as a computer operator with the Corporate Agency, a subsidiary of the California Finance Co. We do the data processing work for three other associations. My starting salary was four hundred dollars a month, \$4800 a year. The score I got on the IBM Computer Programmers Aptitude was the determining factor in my employment. However, I certainly wouldn't have obtained the job if it hadn't been for the education and start in life I received at MVVS. By start in life, I am referring to the initiative that was stirred in me at the school, to start overcoming my handicap of being a high school dropout, and the courage to further develop my desire to become a successful person, and help contribute to the betterment of the society we live in.

"I will be going to San Jose City College this fall and intend to continue my career in college indefinitely—for as long as I am able to read and write. I feel now that a person shouldn't stop his education in college after receiving degrees, etc., but should continue the learning process throughout this entire life.

"Although it has taken a year and 3,000 miles I hope that my success and perseverance may be an inspiration to others at the school who may feel they haven't a chance of becoming a successful person. It's certainly not too late for them if they have the initiative and desire. I think it might be a good idea if you make available to all the students, all the current books on positive thinking. I have read several and they certainly helped me in relation to the problem I was faced with. I think it might also be helpful to the students if they are familiarized with the six steps of the Scientific Method for solving problems. I've found they should be applied more often to the problems in life one faces as well as for the problems in textbooks.

"I have read several articles in various newspapers, expressing the concern of the public over the cost of operating schools such as MVVS. It's unfortunate that the public can't keep a few facts in mind: We are all human and apt to make serious mistakes in life, such as dropping out of high school. Some of the greatest men in history have made similar mistakes in their lives before reaching their important status. Then is it not also possible that some of us may possess the same qualities and if given the chance to get back on our feet may repay society many times in our accomplishments? Yes, it does take an awfully large sum of money to start these schools, but perhaps a few people should give it some second thought. You certainly won't find any of the spoiled brats you find in so many other schools, demonstrating and protesting the freedoms and rights that persons such as myself have learned to respect, because of the mistakes we've made. Too many, of more fortunate students, who graduate from high school and then go on to college seem to feel that these freedoms are owed to them and don't realize what they must do to keep these freedoms and earn them for their children.

"I intend, and I hope to, repay you and all the other people at MVVS in my accomplishments in the future and my contributions towards society and the betterment of man."