

gambling apparently was a severe problem in Arvin only. In Dinuba, the justice of the peace considered the problem noteworthy, while the school principals, the mayor, and the PTA president stated that a few cases came up from time to time but the problem was not severe. The justice pointed out that it was associated with broken homes and poor economic conditions, and all agreed that the incidence of misbehavior was highest among the labor families. In Arvin the school principal, one merchant, and two of the ministers found the problem great and emphasized sexual promiscuity and gambling. The justice of the peace, one county sheriff, and one minister admitted to a real problem but did not emphasize it, while another sheriff and the PTA president did not consider it severe. While these accounts were at variance, they suggest that if the Dinuba situation is described as normal, the social conditions of Arvin youth must be considered bad. The association of juvenile delinquency with the laboring class, particularly children of white field hands, was generally agreed upon.

For purposes of the present study, community efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency are far more significant measures than the incidence of delinquency itself. For the latter may have many causes, while the efforts to prevent delinquency by means of social programs are direct testimonial to the degree of community solidarity and its social quality.

In Arvin, at the time of field study, the only active program was a series of baseball games for the older boys. This had been in progress for several weeks, and had the support of the sheriff's office and unofficial aid from the Lions Club. In addition there was a small Boy Scout troop and a Camp Fire Girl organization.

One Arvin merchant who took an active interest in community welfare became alarmed by the juvenile problem and determined to find why no county funds had been spent on playground facilities in Arvin. He discovered that no request had been made, and as a result of his action, Arvin secured lighting and equipment for the empty lot that had been loaned for use as a playing field by a private company. The lack of leadership was constantly cited as the cause for the dearth of facilities. The school superintendent contended that the Boy Scouts should be led by persons other than teachers but that nobody else would take the job and that it was often difficult to get the board of review out for a review meeting. The school itself sponsors a program of athletics for the children, and the school has a safety club and a youth council. These activities do not extend beyond school hours, and do not reach any of the young people beyond elementary-school age.

In Dinuba there are two Boy Scout troops, each with its own clubhouse. These are sponsored by the Rotary and the American Legion. A third troop is being planned and a Cub Scout pack has recently been organized. There is also a Girl Scout group sponsored by two teachers. The Masonic Lodge has a Rainbow Girls and a DeMolay group; there are weekly dances held by the high-school students at the women's club, and the Y's Men's club maintains a recreation hall.

This hall was created out of an old store building. A paid supervisor is on duty each night, and facilities for billiards, table tennis, shuffleboard and for reading and the cultivation of hobbies are all available there. The place accommodates from 30 to 80 boys each