JUVENILE VANDALISM IN THE
CITY OF VANCOUVER

An Exploratory Study of
Juvenile Vandalism as found in the
City of Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada.

by

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ABSTRACT

Vandalism, as one facet of juvenile delinquency, has received scant attention from social scientists in North America. This reflects the relatively low proportion of all delinquent acts which can be described as "vandalism" on the one hand and the efforts of social scientists to develop all-encompassing theories of delinquency causation on the other. This study has proceeded on the premise advanced by Alfred Kahn in his book, Planning Community Service for Children in Trouble, that community service must not be built on the assumption that delinquents are a homogeneous group. Kahn maintains that our efforts will be more fruitful if we develop an awareness of the heterogeneity of the group.

Therefore, this study represents an initial, exploratory study of juvenile vandalism to determine what, if any, factors set juveniles who indulge in vandalism apart from other delinquents.

A descriptive-diagnostic research design suited the exploratory nature of the study and permitted the use of the experience survey method. A survey of the literature on juvenile delinquency gave focus and direction to the study. The questionnaires developed for the study were based to a large extent upon theories extracted from the literature. A survey of the literature, questionnaires, the examination of records, interviews, and case studies were the methods utilized. Data was obtained from law-enforcement agencies and from public and private business organizations in the City of Vancouver.

Vandalism occurs in all areas of the community and in all social classes. Predominantly a group activity of younger male juveniles, vandalism is characterized by contagion from group member to group member and from group to group. Vandal acts occur in areas or situations isolated in various ways from direct observation. Reports on the incidence of vandalism from non-law-enforcement sources in the City indicate that this crime occurs more frequently in middle-class and upper-class areas but the juvenile court records show that the majority of juveniles appearing in Court reside in the lower-class areas. These findings indicate the middle-class attitude of the official court system and the prevalence of delinquency in the more affluent class of society. The need for detailed research into the delinquent activities of the upper-class juveniles pleads to be recognized. Until society permits further research into delinquent behaviour to focus equally upon all strata of society, complete comprehension of the act of juvenile vandalism in the City of Vancouver will not be achieved.
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JUVENILE VANDALISM IN THE CITY OF VANCOUVER
CHAPTER I

A SURVEY OF THE RELEVANT LITERATURE

Rationale for the Study

The rationale for this study is provided by Alfred Kahn, who notes in his book, Planning Community Services for Children in Trouble, that community services must not be built on the assumption that "the administrative labels 'delinquency' and 'neglect' denote populations to be dealt with as though all their numbers were relatively similar. Only recognition of the range and heterogeneity subsumed under each of the labels will permit realistic planning."

We have selected the study of juvenile vandalism because there are few studies and little factual information which have been written on vandalism. This is surprising in view of the fact that vandalism is one type of delinquent act which appears to arouse more than its share of public interest and concern.

Vandalism as a Social Problem

The act of vandalism as in any delinquent act involves the violation of social rules and orders that regulate the interaction of individuals and groups within our social context. The vandals present a departure from the norms, morals and sanctions of our society. Their acts of deviance become a threat to some of our cherished social values, goals and institutions, and precipitate conflicts, prejudice and hatred, and disorganization. All of these undesirable elements constitute a social problem.

The public tends to react to vandalism with disbelief and hostility.

Vandals not only violate some of our social values (e.g. respect for the property of others), but their actions appear irrational to the police. The irrationality of the act is ascribed to its wanton and wilful nature without any apparent gain by the offender.

**Vandalism as Specific Type of Delinquency**

Juvenile vandalism has been included in the literature and in the public's mind under the general designation of delinquency. As Kahn suggests there is a danger that generalizations about delinquency will inevitably lead to misconceptions about sub-categories of delinquency such as vandalism. Delinquency is not a phenomenon of any one social class, ethnic or religious group, geographic area, or age group.\(^1\) It represents various forms and channels of juvenile misconduct within the youth's own social stratum or subgroup. There are differential rates and characteristics of each type of delinquency. Vandalism is an entity of delinquency, with its specific characteristics and types.\(^2\) It differs from other delinquencies in trends, patterns, and behaviour. We ought to isolate it from various delinquencies, and try to identify the specificity of vandalism. An independent study of vandalism and vandals will not only clarify misconceived generalizations about delinquency, but will also enable us to examine the range and scope of vandalism as an acute social problem as well as attempt to differentiate juvenile vandals from other delinquents.

**Inadequate Facts and Information on Juvenile Vandalism**

There are voluminous writings, research reports and statistical data on juvenile delinquency developed by sociologists, psychologists, social workers

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and many other experts in the field. However, the problem of juvenile vandalism has received limited attention in research studies and projects. There is a significant lack of factual information on vandalism despite the fact that it is a continually present social problem in our community.\(^1\) Through our media of mass communication we are presented with sensational and sometimes distorted reports of acts of vandalism. Factual statistical information and sociological studies of this problem are needed if we are to explore and understand its nature. We hope our present study may provide some of this information so that we may enhance our understanding of, and develop a more rational approach to, the problem of juvenile vandalism.

**Objective and Scope of Our Study**

Our study is to focus on juvenile vandalism in Vancouver. We intend to examine the local situation by undertaking a statistical assessment of juvenile vandalism in Vancouver from 1960 - 1964. From the factual information acquired, from selected case studies and from a survey of the literature we shall attempt to detail some of the specific characteristics of juvenile vandalism.

The method of our study will be based on a descriptive-diagnostic design, and a study aims the assessment of the characteristics of a population or situation without concern for theory formation.\(^2\) Through statistical analysis during the last five years, as obtained from records and case material from the Police Department, and the Family and Children's Court, we hope to determine the pattern, trend, and prevalence of vandalism. From our factual infor-

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mation we hope to be able to determine the nature and characteristics of young vandals in Vancouver. We intend to develop a profile of a typical juvenile vandal. Who is he? What is his age, sex, and personal characteristics? What kind of individual and family background does he have? What are the sociological aspects (e.g. lower class subculture, gang activities, male-identity, etc.) relating to the vandal and his deviant behaviour?

Our study consists of four main chapters. The first chapter will be a review of the relevant literature. The second chapter will present statistical data of the incidence and related demographic characteristics of vandalism. The third chapter will develop a profile of a typical juvenile vandal, based on a study of cases handled by Family and Children's Court. The last chapter will summarize our findings and suggest further avenues for exploration.

Definition of Vandal and Vandalism

The origin of the term "vandalism" is of interest. During the French Revolution, 1793-1795, the Republicans in protest against the Monarch and the class system he represented developed a "iconclastic reaction" which resulted in the destruction of art objects of pre-revolutionary era. Later, the Conventionnels of the Republic tried to control the iconoclasm, and a "Committee of Public Instruction" was formed and given the responsibility to study and report on this matter. Henri Gregoire, a member of the Committee presented his findings to the Convention during the latter half of 1794. In his speech he blamed the destruction upon the enemies of the Revolution and described the activity as being "wilful and ignorant destruction" and "vandalism". The term vandal being a reference to a Germanic people who ravaged Gaul and Spain in fifth century A.D., and later settled in Africa. In 455 A.D. they ruthlessly sacked Rome. The term "vandalism" was coined at this time by the French Republicans to
emphasize the wilfully destructive activities of the iconclasts.¹

With this origin and the historical background in mind, the term, "vandalism" came to mean premeditated destruction of visual symbols because of their specific emotional or idiological content. Vandalism, today, however takes many forms and has various implications, and it would be difficult to restrict it to this historical interpretation.

The Present Meaning of Vandal and Vandalism

Webster's International Dictionary defines vandalism as "hostility to, or wilful destruction or defacement of, things of beauty, as works of art, literature, historical monument, etc."² and describes a vandal as "one who wilfully destroys or mars anything beautiful, as a work of art, also wanton or ignorant destroyer or defacer of any building, monument, etc."³

Today vandalism includes other than destruction of beautiful, artistic things. It encompasses such acts as the slashing of tires, bus or theatre seats, breaking windows and street lights, defacing sign boards or public statues, churches, destroying trees, buildings, etc.⁴;⁵

From the juvenile statistics of the United States Children's Bureau vandalism has been included as "act of carelessness or mischief". On the other hand vandalism is often included in such designations of delinquent activities as "malicious mischief", "wilful and wanton misconduct", "destructiveness", "disorderly conduct", "incorrugibility", or even "assault".⁶;⁷

However, the term "vandalism" as a category of juvenile offences has the popular connotation of the destruction of private or public property.

According to the Canadian Criminal Code "wilful" and "mischief" acts in respect of destruction or damage of property are interpreted as:

**Wilful** - "Every one who causes the occurrence of an event by doing an act or by omitting to do an act that it is his duty to do, knowing that the act or omission will probably cause the occurrence of the event and being reckless whether the event occurs or not, shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Part, wilfully to have caused the occurrence of the event."

Where it is an offence to destroy or to damage anything:

(a) The fact that a person has a partial interest in what is destroyed or damaged does not prevent him from being guilty of the offence if he caused the destruction or damage, and

(b) The fact that a person has a total interest in what is destroyed or damaged does not prevent him from being guilty of the offence if he caused the destruction or damage with intent to defraud.¹

**Mischief** - "destruction or damage": Everyone commits mischief who wilfully

(a) destroys or damages property,

(b) renders property dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective

(c) obstructs, interrupts or interferes with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property, or

(d) obstructs, interrupts or interferes with any person in the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property.²

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¹ Crankshaw's Criminal Code of Canada, Carswell, Section 371 (1 and 3), 1964, p. 139.
Clearly it shows that the term "vandalism" is not mentioned or defined by the Criminal Code. However, the "wilful destruction" and "mischief damage" are commonly referring to vandalism by the legal authority and the public. Therefore "vandalism", a journalistic term, and "wilful damage and destruction" the legalistic terms, are synonymous.

In our study, "vandalism" is described as the malicious, deliberate, and wanton damage to or defacement or destruction of property, public or private, with no apparent material gain on the part of the vandal, to distinguish it from damage occurring from breaking-and-entering and theft.¹ ⁴

Interrelation of Juvenile Vandalism and Delinquency

Juvenile vandalism has been generally classified in the literature under delinquency. Therefore it is essential to give some time to the examination of delinquency - its conceptual basis and types in relation to vandalism.

When we discuss delinquency we must first establish the meaning of this term. As Tappan states "it is important to see the nature of delinquency as clearly as possible and to understand the problems that have impeded efforts at definition. Because on the interpretation of the term depend all those vital differences which set off the juvenile delinquent from the adult criminal at the one extreme and from the non-offender at the other."³ Therefore, we require a concrete definition if we are to analyze the nature of delinquency.

Legal Definition of Delinquency and Its Relation to Vandalism

The definitions of delinquency exist in laws that provide the basis for dealing with juvenile offenders. The Children's Bureau of the United States uses the following definition of delinquency in its reports: "Juvenile delin-

quency cases are those referred to courts for acts defined in the statutes of State as violation of law or municipal ordinance by children or youth of juvenile court age, or for conduct so seriously antisocial as to interfere with the rights of others or to menace the welfare of the delinquent himself or of the community."¹

In the United States all the jurisdictions, except the federal, include a wide range and variety of behaviour as "delinquency". They are listed specifically by each state. The total number of separate offences for which children can be charged number thirty-four, varying from theft to smoking.² Among the fifty states there is little uniformity in the definition of what constitutes a delinquent act.

In Canada, the *Juvenile Delinquents' Act* defines a juvenile delinquent as: "Any child who violates any provision of the Criminal Code of any Dominion or provincial statute, or of any by-law or ordinance of any municipality, or who is guilty of sexual immorality or any similar form of vice, or who is liable by reason of any other act to be committed by an industrial school or juvenile reformatory under provisions of any Dominion or provincial statute."³

The *Juvenile Delinquents' Act* states that the juvenile court shall have jurisdiction over every child under age 16. The revised Act also gives the provinces the power to raise the maximum juvenile age limit to 18. This has been done in British Columbia and Quebec, and for girls in Manitoba and Alberta.⁴

In 1963 the "Family and Children's Court Act" was introduced in the Province of British Columbia. In the Act, the Family and Children's Court of

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British Columbia was established for the purpose of assisting and guiding families and individual members of families in overcoming social and matrimonial problems, and for the purpose of dealing with the juvenile delinquent. The court has (1) the powers vested in a juvenile court by the Juvenile Delinquent Act of Canada; (2) the powers to try any child charged with an offence against the laws of the Province; (3) the power to deal with all cases within the jurisdiction of a juvenile court, a family court, a juvenile and family court, or a judge of any of these courts.¹

We must realize that delinquency is multi-determined, and has various components. The causation of this deviance is a complex composite of biological, psychological, and sociological factors. The various theories of delinquency causation have been based largely on these three aspects. A brief survey of the current theories of delinquency will enable us to delineate the contributing factors of juvenile vandalism as one type of delinquency.

**Biological Aspects of Delinquency Causation**

**Constitutional defects** - defects in body structure, such as deafness, blindness, lameness, and others, may lead to personal feelings of inferiority and, in turn, produce compensating asocial and antisocial traits of delinquency.¹ ²

**Organic Illness and Injury** - diseases and physical injuries may affect the child's normal body functions. They may require the child to make specific biosocial adjustments according to his own view and the view of others as to his capacity to function. For instance, endocrine imbalance may present personal problems to both girls and boys. Tappan suggests that "girls who suffer from pituitary malfunction are believed to represent a common type in children's

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¹ Tappan, P.W., op. cit.
courts because they have been exploited in attempting to secure affection despite their physical handicap. Boys with Froehlich's syndrome may become involved in serious acts of an aggressive nature in order to prove their manliness. Such boys may become involved in vandalism. Conditions such as chorea, epilepsy, encephalitis, and syphilis may result in obscure problems of maladjustment leading to delinquent acts.

It is important to realize, however, that the biological aspect of delinquency causation cannot be isolated from psychological and sociological factors.

**Psychological Aspects of Delinquency Causation**

The psychological explanation of delinquency stems from the pioneering work of Sigmund Freud, who substantiated the role of the unconscious in determining an individual's behaviour. Freud and his followers established the psychoanalytic theory as the basis for formulating the systematic frame of reference for studying human behaviour.

Psychoanalytic theory as applied by the various schools of thought view personality as being composed of conscious and unconscious levels. Within the two levels there are three functional and interrelated systems, the Id, the Ego, and the Superego. Each of these has specific characteristics and functions with interdependent relationships to one another.

The Id comprises the total personality at birth. It is primitive in nature, and constitutes mostly the unconscious region. It operates mainly on the "pleasure principle", regardless of the consequences. The Id is responsible

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1 Tappan, P.W., op. cit. p. 125.
for the supply of psychic energy which directs and motivates the direction and aim of the "dual instincts". They interact with one another to neutralize the impulsive and primitive expressions of each.

There is no Ego at birth. As one's personality develops the Ego begins to appear and to act as the regulator between the Id and the external world. It resides mainly at the conscious region and provides the knowledge and ability to choose, to judge and to think. Through learning and experience the Ego may expand or contract, may grow stronger or weaker, depending on such environmental factors as the parents' assistance to the child in problem solving. Ego functions according to the "reality principles", with the capacity to control and to delay the expression of impulses. Ego regulates the instincts of the Id to conform to the demands of reality, for the Id must be governed in order to become acceptable. Ego also prohibits those instincts which express themselves in self-destruction or destruction of the environment.

The Superego is chiefly unconscious. It begins to develop in the individual during the third or fourth years of life. It is a police force which censors the decisions and actions of the Ego in regulating the Id. The Superego is the other restraining force of one's impulses. It embodies the moral standards which the individual acquires and with which he identifies himself. The Superego has a double task - to give value danger signals and to represent certain values.¹

The Ego is the intermediary between the Id and the Superego and the external world. It is responsible for the processes of perception, the management of memory, the control of voluntary movement, the production of adaptive delay between perception and action, and the decision of fight and flight. It

organizes and evaluates the organism's external needs (physiological and psychological needs) in relation to the demands of the external environment so as to achieve a self-regulating balance and growth for the individual.¹

When the Ego is weak or inadequate it fails to adjust the individual to the external situation and the primitive impulses may gain direct expression in the form of antisocial behaviour.

When the individual encounters anxiety-causing situations the Ego will develop effective devices, which we generally refer to as "psychodynamism" or "defensive mechanism" to help maintain the proper equilibrium between the three systems (Id, Ego and Superego) of the personality. These dynamisms serve as the medium of expression for the modified Id impulses. They protect the Ego from two major dangers in the external world - the loss of sources of love and approval, and the threat of injury to self. They also protect the Ego from the internal dangers of loss of approval of the Superego. Therefore, these dynamisms enable Ego to gain adjustment or adaptation to reality.

The interrelationship of the Id, Ego and Superego to their specific functional parts and to purposeful psychodynamisms comprise the basic structure of the psychoanalytic approach.

Psychoanalytic concepts have been applied to explain delinquency causation by numerous investigators. These have emphasized different stresses and have used different approaches. They may be divided into "psychoanalytical instinct theories", "psychodynamic problem-solving theories", and the "theory of ego diffusion".

Psychoanalytical Instinct Theories

The instinct theories presume the Id to be responsible for antisocial

and deviant behaviour from birth to the time one has learned to develop proper functioning of Ego and Superego. The control and restraint of impulses are learned. Delinquent behaviour represents the expression of the Id's antisocial impulses at times when the Ego and Superego are weak or defective in their function.

Aichhorn applied this "instinct theory" to those delinquents who refused to accept either restraint or authority. The behaviour of such delinquents may result from either an excessive amount or the deprivation of love. These delinquents acquire feelings of indifference for the rights of others and have no respect for the property of others. Aichhorn suggested that the delinquent possesses little capacity to repress his instinctual impulses and to direct the energy away from primitive goals. Thus the delinquent is unable to achieve the command of ego and Superego in order to perform according to the ethical code of his external world.¹

The work of Friedlander is also based on the "instinct theory". She differentiates between the delinquents and the non-delinquents on the basis that the latter receive sufficient gratification from their relationship with their parents. They are able to repress socially unacceptable impulses and to develop a social-conscious Superego. The properly functioning Superego regulates and controls the impulsive demands of Id. In this way the individual is able to develop a sense of his own worth, a solid Ego.²

Friedlander finds that the parent-child relationships have a primary effect on the child's development. These relationships are determined both by the parents' personality structure and environmental forces. Delinquents

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behaviour and other forms of hostility and aggression occur when the child with an inadequate Superego and Ego encounters unfavourable environmental conditions which inevitably precipitate antisocial behaviour.

**Psychodynamism Problem-Solving Theories**

The delinquent act is viewed as the behaviour or adjustment that is unconsciously applied by the individual to those psychic conflicts which exist among the Id, Ego, and Superego.

There are different types of psychic conflicts among the delinquents. One may find feminine tendencies or unconscious homosexual wishes in conflict with a masculine ego-ideal; there may be a conscious hostility towards a parent or siblings which is controlled by fear or guilt; or there may exist incestuous impulses pressing against the Superego. All these various sources of psychic conflicts require the specific psychodynamism to enable the delinquent to use his deviant behaviour as a form of problem-solving. For instance, a father-hating youth may project his hostility by attacking a stranger. He can easily reconcile such a delinquent act with his Superego, and obtain satisfaction from it.¹

Healy and Bronner's finding that aggressive or deviant behaviour represents the delinquent's substitutive satisfaction for his psychic needs is well known. They stress the point that the delinquent acts are meaningful in terms of the subjective values of the individual delinquent as related to his psychic conflict.²

**Theory of Identity Diffusion**

Erikson suggests that antisocial behaviour is the result of a crisis

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which the youth faces in the process of developing his sense of identity. The individual's experiences in the crisis will basically determine his adjustment in adulthood.¹

In order to become a psychologically healthy individual, Erikson thinks the adolescent must achieve a firm sense of "ego-identity", that is a persistent sameness within oneself, and a persistent sharing of some kind of essential character with others. Ego identity is a consistent, conscious, inner conception of oneself which is gradually created and which one perceives as one's role as reflected in others.²

Identity formation is an intricate process which starts at infancy and extends through a series of psychosocial developmental stages. It reaches relative completion at the end of adolescence. However, the failure of this gradual developmental process may lead to undesirable Ego diffusion.

Erikson presents some of the manifestations of Ego diffusion in adolescence:

(1) **Diffusion of time perspective** - the adolescent may experience disturbance in the time element. One moment he is so anxious to act, the next he is totally immobilized. He may simultaneously feel very young and very old. Erikson suggests that it is the adolescent's basic distruct that causes his inability to fulfill his desire.

(2) **Problem of intimacy** - the adolescent is unable to develop true intimacy with others until he has resolved his psychosocial crisis, and has established a firm sense of ego identity.

(3) **Diffusion of industry** - the adolescent has a distorted sense of workmanship. He is eager to experiment in searching for a self-image or ego identity. Sometimes he seeks self-destruction, or becomes preoccupied with seeking an identification with his father or other persons. Such a youth may become involved in destructive acts emanating from a distorted sense of industry.

(4) **Choice of negative identity** - the individual may totally reject his role and his responsibility to others. He may assume irrational attitudes and become involved in undesirable behaviour. He opposes his parents' ideas and guidance in order to emancipate himself from them. At the same time he may have trouble with authority. To establish a firm sense of his own identity among other adolescents, he tends to be uncompromising in his prejudices and loyalties to the ideas and values of his own group. The youth obtains his sense of belonging by becoming a member of a gang. Thus, he is able to assert his masculinity and his defiance of authority safely. This choice of negative identity may result in such antisocial behaviour as acts of vandalism.

Erikson sees delinquent behaviour as occurring because of a basic defect in the personality development of the young person. At adolescence the youth experiences identity diffusion and psychosocial problems which have not been resolved since infancy. Parents or other adults who have significance for the youth usually fail to understand the youth's need for love, security and acceptance throughout childhood. The adults fail especially to understand the child's need for, or to permit experimentation with, means of emancipation from adult control. All these misunderstandings and non-acceptance may force the adolescent into a negative role. Erikson suggests that a "psychological moratorium" should be granted to the adolescent so as to permit a delay of their
adult commitments and obligations. Thus the youth will have a chance to seek his own identity, to test his potential, and to experiment with various work roles. He may then be better able to prepare himself for a healthy and adequate adulthood.

Social Disorganization and Delinquency

Social disorganization refers to situations in which interpersonal bonds and institutional controls are weak and hence ineffective in controlling behaviour. It frequently occurs in the physically deteriorated and space-limited urban areas. In these crowded cities the slums consist of heterogeneous populations with diverse values and norms. This cultural diversity readily produces social conflicts and varied behaviour patterns among the young. Obviously the poverty-stricken urban slum lacks the social cohesion of a stable community necessary to induce conventional behaviour and deviant control. The concept of social disorganization as a factor in delinquency and crime is well illustrated by the studies of Shaw.

1 Cavan, R.S., Delinquency Juvenile, op. cit., p. 69.
community. The effective control over the young is made difficult or impossible in many urban areas because of such factors as cultural conflict between immigrants and their children, rapid population movement, and the presence of adult criminal groups. Under these conditions delinquency can even become a tradition, transmitted from older groups of youths to younger.¹ Targets for vandalism and stealing are also readily available in urban areas. Lander, from his Baltimore study, also supports the view that the lack of social control and social cohesion is a contributing factor in deviant behaviour.²

However, there are limitations on the delinquency induced by social disorganization: (1) High mobility may show high or low delinquency - Sullenger suggests that mobile families may improve their condition, and have low rate of habitual delinquency;³ (2) Physical deterioration of urban areas do not necessarily cause delinquency - Lander in his Baltimore study claims there is no real relationship between delinquency rate and the physical aspects of substandard housing; (3) The urban slum is not totally lawless, it can be organized through the interest of the lower class population; (4) Although the social instability and physical conditions of the slum may provide growth of delinquency, the delinquent culture, and its aspirations in relation to means and goals, has yet to be examined.

Delinquency as an Aspect of Lower-Class Culture

Miller and Kvaraceus believe that the lower-class culture is characterized by distinctive values which are markedly different from the law-abiding middle-class values. They also claim the delinquent gang may automatically

violate the legal code when they conform with the normal adult lower-class culture. Miller stresses that "engaging in certain cultural practices which comprise essential elements of the total life pattern of lower-class culture automatically violates certain legal norms." He also suggests that the delinquency of lower-class adolescents is a reflection of certain basic "focal concerns" which characterizes the lower-class and pre-disposes its members to law-violation behaviour.¹ These "focal concerns" or values include: "Trouble" - in one of its aspects represents a situation or a kind of behaviour which results in unwelcome or complicating involvement with official authorities or agencies of middle-class society; "Toughness" - the concept of physical prowess in lower-class culture, demonstrated possession of strength and endurance and athletic skills; "Masculinity" - symbolized by a complex of acts and avoidance; "Smartness" - interpreted as the ability to outsmart, outwit, dupe or "con" others; "Excitement" - many of the most characteristic features of lower-class life are related to the search for excitement or thrill in activities of gambling, alcohol, music, and sexual adventuring; "Fate" - many individuals from the lower-class feel that their lives are subject to a set of forces over which they have relatively little control.² Miller thinks that some of these "values" may be present in the middle-class as well, but the priorities set on them are much higher and intensified in the lower-class. The author points out that some lower-class gang activity, while illegal, is neither an intentional rebellion against middle-class standards nor a protest against barriers to upward mobility. Illegality is incidental to the urge to achieve lower-class normal adjustment. So the delinquents have internalized the distinctive code of the lower-class.

Their effort to conform to their own values thus presents conflicts with the middle-class norms. The author believes that this cultural conflict is of central importance as a causation of juvenile delinquency.¹

There is a possible link between vandalism and the "focal concerns". Among the lower-class boys vandal activities may provide the excitement and the expression of physical toughness they need. As a matter of fact, vandalism also provides the means for group or gang activity among the adolescents.

*Inadequacies of the Culture-Conflict Theory*

1. This culture-conflict theory is not able to explain all types of delinquent acts. It tends to be confined to adolescent males in the lower-class urban areas. But delinquencies occur throughout the total social structure. They are committed by females, middle and upper class adolescents, and residents of rural areas. Therefore it is unlikely this theory can apply to all delinquent activity.

2. The authors stress that lower-class boys have the urge to conform with the lower-class norms. But this would not explain those instances of lower-class boys who have achieved upward mobility or who have internalized the middle-class values and norms.

3. The "focal concerns" of the lower-class group, such as trouble, smartness, excitement, fate and autonomy are shared by the middle-class. They also may be the preoccupation of adolescents in general. So the "focal concerns" cannot be convincingly applied as leading the lower-class delinquent to serious law violation.

*Delinquency as the Response to Frustration*

Cohen suggests that lower-class gang delinquency is derived from the

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status anxiety and the frustrated aspiration of the lower-class boys with their limited social and economical means.¹ This theory is based on the fact that the lower-class boys suffer from "status deprivation" and "low self-esteem". They are unable to join and share the middle-class status and reward. They become resentful and hostile to the dominant value of the middle class such as courtesy, respect for property, non-violence. The delinquent gang is the natural consequence of group formation in order to share the members' mutual hostilities. It also creates a set of group-held values which serve to recoup the loss of self-esteem and to insulate the working-class boys from further status deprivation.

Through a learned pattern boys acquire the delinquent behaviour by becoming members of a group in which delinquent conduct is already established. The established delinquent values, codes and activities of delinquent gangs represent the delinquent subculture which is the essential requirement for the performance of each gang member.

The characteristics of the delinquent subculture are described as the following:

(1) Working-class boys from families with relatively low status, power, security of income are disadvantaged in the struggle for success, since their working class parents are not able to provide them with the opportunity, attitude and value needed for middle-class participation. Yet the boys aware of the attributes and success goals of the middle-class culture through schools, churches, and teachers, etc. This middle-class orientation frustrates the working-class children who aspire to become successful middle-class people, but they are not able to participate in and be accepted by the middle-class.

They are frustrated by the desirable but unretainable goals and standards of the middle-class. So they not only turn against the middle-class values and norms, they also develop in-group solidarity to a set of codes and values of their own to provide themselves with independence, autonomy, and insulation from adult control.

(2) Delinquent activities are non-utilitarian and serve no practical purpose. The gang commits "purposeless" stealing of clothes, things and food they do not want or need. Through stealing they become involved with activities of vandalism, trespassing, etc. It seems that the act of vandalism is accidental or secondary to the delinquent act.

(3) The delinquent activities are malicious, hostile and negativistic in nature. The gang will value precisely what middle-class institutions devalue.

(4) Gang activities are rarely planned with long range goals in sight. The delinquent acts are usually committed for the obtaining of immediate pleasure. All of these characteristics comprise the delinquent subculture. They also provide prestige and security within the gang for the frustrated working-class boys with middle-class aspirations, and the institutionalized values and custom will be learned through association. Thus, through the process of cultural-transmission a youth becomes delinquent.

(5) The delinquent subculture is a repudiation of middle-class standards. By this repudiation the working-class boy no longer consciously feels guilty when he breaks middle-class standards or is inferior in achievement.

(6) Some of the working-class boys may over-react, and become excessively hostile or aggressive against the middle-class values, e.g. the destruction of property by the delinquent as defiance of the middle-class value.

Inadequacy of this Theory

Cohen's theory given above can be criticized on the following points:
(1) The theory assumes there is a sharp break between the value systems of the middle and working classes;

(2) Also it assumes a homogeneity in the behaviour, function, and type of lower-class delinquent groups;

(3) This theory tends to explain the formation of delinquent subculture by means of the "coping device" of the "status frustrated" working-class boys without comparing other possible alternatives, e.g. retreat from reality: satisfaction with the lower-class status; striving for upward mobility.

Delinquency Caused by Lack of Opportunities

The research team of Cloward and Ohlin proposes the hypothesis that delinquent subcultures develop when both legitimate and illegitimate opportunities for success are lacking.¹

The authors suggest that three major delinquent subcultures are encountered among adolescent males in lower-class urban areas: (1) The Criminal Type - This is based principally upon criminal values, its members are organized primarily for the pursuit of material gain by such illegal means as extortion, fraud, and theft; (2) The Retreatist Type - These members have withdrawn into a restricted world in which the ultimate value consists in the "kick" - drug using; (3) The "Conflict" Type - The members of this group are in pursuit of status through the use of violence, manipulation of force or threat of force.

The authors stress that these three types characterize the delinquent modes of adaptation according to the availability of the youth's opportunities, both legitimate and illegitimate. They believe that education, social prestige, and personal aspiration are the legitimate means and become the principal avenue for upward mobility in our society. Unfortunately, the lower-class youth is

confronted with cultural and economic barriers to these legitimate means. He is inevitably limited in obtaining the upward social movement. When pressures from unfulfilled aspiration and blocked opportunity become sufficiently intense, many lower-class youths turn away from legitimate channels, and adopt other means beyond conventional norms, which might offer a possible channel to success.  

This explains the origin of the criminal and "conflict" types. However, the adolescents who are deprived of both legitimate and illegitimate means become "double" failures and are more vulnerable to temptations to commit delinquent acts than others. Because they are incapable of accepting their downward aspirations and of facing social reality, they may select the retreatist behaviour as their mode of adaptation.

According to the hypothesis, whether a youth becomes a criminal, a member of a fighting gang or a drug addict depends upon the opportunities, or lack of them, by which he may achieve the goals of success. The conventional goal for all of them is financial success. As Merton observed, "recourse to legitimate channels for financial success is limited by a class structure which is not fully open at each level to men of good capacity. Despite our persisting open-class ideology, advance toward the success goals is relatively rare and notably difficult for those armed with little formal education and few economic resources."  

There are discrepancies between aspirations and opportunities to achieve success which increase as one descends in the social class structure. Adolescents of the lower-class are faced with restrictions and frustrations when their legitimate upward pathways are blocked. Yet, they are unable or unwilling to accept this reality. Their alternatives for reaching their goals will inevitably be the illegitimate ones which lead to the delinquent behaviour.

Inadequacy of the "Opportunity Theory"

(1) Aspiration for Upward Mobility - Cloward and Ohlin have based their hypothesis of lower-class delinquency on the thwarted aspiration for upward advancement. It is important to examine some of the aspects of this upward mobility - how many lower-class youths truly aspire to such movement? The majority of the lower-class appear to accept "reality" and to stay within their social structure. According to Hollingshead and Redlick's study in New Haven, seventy per cent of the upper-lower-class families were satisfied with their way of life, and their children were not striving upward. Thirty per cent of all upper-lower-class families have moved upward from the lower-lower class. This illustrates that upward mobility appears to be limited to a minority of the lower-class. It shows that few have the upward aspirations to enter middle-class status. ¹

(2) Availability of the Legitimate Opportunity - Cloward and Ohlin emphasized that the lower-class youths are faced with cultural and economical barriers which have "closed" all the legitimate opportunities (e.g. education) for upward advancement. But with our present public school system every school age child is theoretically provided with educational opportunities from elementary through secondary schools. At the level of higher education there are numerous tax supported universities and colleges with minimal tuition. Besides, scholarships and loans are frequently available to the poor but able youths. Thus, there are apparently many legitimate aids "open" to the lower-class boys and that are within their reach. Therefore, the degree of "lack of legitimate opportunity" among the lower class boys is debatable.

(3) Aspirational Level and the Conventional Goal may not be the same through the social classes. The opportunity-theory is based upon the assumption that youths strive for the conventional goal (financial success) and for upward aspiration. It is questionable as to whether or not the "aspirational level" and "goal for success" are the same throughout the entire social strata. Aspirations and goals in life may vary from one individual to another in the same way as they may differ in direction and intensity among the classes.

Delinquency Caused by Anxiety of Masculinity

Cohen sees the delinquent behaviour of the middle-class child as caused by basic anxiety about the attainment of a male identity.\(^1\) His hypothesis is based on Parson's theory of "masculine protest" as the origin of aggressive and antisocial behaviour, particularly as related to the family and occupational system.\(^2\) Cohen and Parsons believe that the middle-class family is generally characterized by the isolation of its children from socially significant male adults because the male members of the family are either absent or preoccupied. In these middle-class families the mother assumes the essential role of disciplinarian. She transmits the symbols of good behaviour to her son. The boy may unconsciously identify "goodness" with femininity. In order to assure himself of his masculinity the middle-class boy acquires "bad" behaviour as a means of denying femininity. Cohen suggests that delinquency in the middle-class male represents the attempt to cope with the anxiety which emanates from his sex-role identification. It has the primary function of providing the child with reassurance of his masculinity. This might be one explanation for the middle-class

\(^1\) Cohen, A. Ibid, pp. 166-167.
delinquent becoming involved in wanton destruction.

The Link between Vandalism and Delinquency Theories

The constitutional defects, organic illness and injury may affect the youth's normal body functions, and lead to personal feelings of inferiority. Such a boy may become involved in wanton destructive acts as compensation for his physical defects.

An individual with a defective Ego and Superego is unable to regulate or control the impulsive demand of the Id which may gain antisocial expression in deviant behaviour such as wilful destruction.

Erikson sees that the adolescent experiences "identity diffusion" and psychosocial problems which have not been resolved from early childhood. The negative identity and the diffusion of time and industry may lead to delinquent behaviour, and he may become involved in vandalism as gang activity.

There is a possible link between vandalism and the Miller's "focal concerns" of lower-class culture. Among the lower-class boys vandal activities may provide the excitement and the expression of physical toughness, also the means for gang activity for the boys.

Cohen suggests non-utilitarian and purposeless gang activities among the working-class boys. Some of the boys may over-react, and become excessively hostile or aggressive against the middle-class values, e.g. the destruction of public or private property.

Cloward and Ohlin see that the lower-class youth is confronted with cultural and economical barriers to his legitimate means in retaining the upward social movement. So he (the "conflict" type) pursues status through the use of violence and force. Such boys may become involved in malicious and wilful damage of property.

Cohen also suggests the delinquent behaviour of the middle-class child
as caused by the anxiety of masculinity which is difficult to obtain from the
temale-centred middle-class home. In order to assure himself of his maleness
he may become involved in wanton destruction.

We have briefly discussed the biological, psychological and sociological theories of delinquency causation which are relevant as the possible cause
of juvenile vandalism. However, we must be aware that vandalism is multi-
determined by these causal factors. Each vandal is a unique individual (biological and psychological determinants) functioning in a specific milieu (cultural
and environmental determinants). His deviant behaviour, as the modes of adapt-
ation to meet his internal and external needs, is purposive and specific. How-
ever, the causal explanation of his deviance (vandalism) is comprised of a com-
posite of many interrelated causal variables. We must also realize that each
theory has reflected not only the author's viewpoint and the trend of his time
but also emphasizes his area of study to interpret his hypothesis. All those
hypothetical theories require scientific testing in order to verify their valid-
dity. They, also, can be challenged by new approaches in ideas and theories and a
affected by the time and changes occurring in our society.

Typologies of Delinquency

As a result of the various studies of delinquency authorities have
developed certain delinquent typologies to distinguish between different types
of young offenders along a psychosocial differentiation of the individual's role
behaviour which may add to our understanding of vandals.

Loughmiller suggests there are four main delinquent types which may be
described as:¹

¹ Loughmiller, C., "Salvaging the Juvenile Delinquent", Institution on
Juvenile Delinquency, 1962, p. 166.
(1) **Social delinquent** - he is an aggressive youth who resents the authority of any one who makes an effort to control his behaviour. His sense of values do not conform to those of society. He mainly commits crimes against property - theft, burglary, "vandalism" - with his gang.

(2) **Neurotic Delinquent** - he internalizes his conflicts and is largely preoccupied with his own feelings. His delinquent behaviour is often compulsive and irrational. He may become involved with wanton destruction.

(3) **Asocial Delinquent** - he is motivated by self-interest and has little feeling for others. His delinquent acts have a cold, brutal, vicious quality, for which he feels no remorse or guilt. His difficulty is the result of early and severe deprivation of love, warmth, and affection. This brings about a basic incapacity for feeling toward others.

(4) **Accidental Delinquent** - the youth is essentially socialized and law-abiding, but happens to be at the wrong place at the wrong time, and becomes involved in a delinquent act not typical of his general behaviour.

Kvaraceus and Miller suggest a typology of delinquent youth based upon two variables: (1) delinquency, and (2) emotional disturbance. According to these authors the child population may be classified into four subtypes:

1. **The normal youngster** - includes most of the youthful population. The youth is generally psychologically normal, perhaps sometimes becomes involved in minor mischief, but essentially he is not a delinquent. He might, however, accidentally become involved in acts of vandalism.

2. **The delinquent youngster with little or no emotional disturbance** - This group includes the main delinquent population. This type of child commits delinquent acts mainly because of his deviant cultural background. Such a type

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is usually found in the urban, slum neighbourhoods. Vandals are very likely included in this group.

(3) The delinquent and disturbed youngster - This delinquent type results chiefly from emotional disturbances, probably related to his cultural background. This youth may become involved in vandal acts.

(4) The disturbed but not delinquent youngster - The child of this type is emotionally disturbed but is not markedly delinquent.

Types of Juvenile Vandals

Based on Kvaraceus and Miller's delinquent types, Martin developed the "vandal types" from his Bronx study on juvenile vandalism. His three types of vandals may be described as:¹

(1) Disturbed Vandals - This group includes mainly the boys suffering from "psychotic disorders" or "personality disorder". Their intelligence usually ranges from "lower than average", "dull and backward" to "feeble-minded".

(2) Essentially Law-abiding Vandals - In this group are usually children from intact homes with little parent-child conflict and tension. In general, these children have had no previous delinquent offences.

(3) Subculture Vandals - Martin disclosed that half of the young vandals in this group live in underprivileged, deprived homes located in delinquency prone neighbourhoods. The majority of these youths come from families characterized by parent-child tension and conflicts. The parents are usually ineffectual in regulating or supervising the behaviour of the child. With one exception all the boys in this group had records of both delinquency and gang activity. Half of the group studied by Martin had previously been involved in vandalism.

¹ Martin, J.M., Juvenile Vandalism, op. cit., pp. 31-72.
Typology of Vandalism

Martin formulates a typology of juvenile vandalism from his Bronx study as the following:¹

(1) Predatory Vandalism - The vandal acts are economically motivated in acquiring "scarce goods" by the juvenile thefts.

(2) Vindictive Vandalism - One expresses the antagonism and hatred toward special individuals and groups. Such as the anti-semitic signs and the anti-minority acts may be used as ravage or hostility to racial or religious minority groups.

(3) Wanton Vandalism - Property destruction of this type occurs for diverse reasons in a wide range of situations. Generally, the individual or the groups owning or controlling the damaged property seems totally irrelevant. The destruction may occur as youth group activities of "play" for "fun".

Studies on Juvenile Vandalism

From a study of vandalism in Denver from 1944-54, Gordon presented the following general characteristics of the young vandals:

Family Background - half of the vandals came from broken homes. The majority of vandals were from the lowest economic status. There were few vandals from middle-class homes.

Age Group - the majority of vandals were 15 to 16 years old.

Sex - there were more boys than girls.

School Records - half of the vandals had adjustment problems to the school situation. Either the school curriculum was not attractive to them or their academic interest had declined.²

Martin's Bronx study on juvenile vandalism presented the following

¹ Martin, J.M., Juvenile Vandalism, Ibid, pp. 73-103.
² Gordon, R., Vandalism, op. cit.
features of the vandals:

**Age Group**
- 8.0% from 6-8 years old
- 25.8% from 9-11 years old
- 31.0% from 12-14 years old
- 30.3% from 15-17 years old

**Socio-economic Status** - half of the young vandals were from lowest socio-economic class.

**Ethnic Ratio**
- white (67.8%)
- non-white (16.8%)
- Puerto Rican (15.4%)

**Parent-Child Relationship** - 62% of the vandals had parental conflict and home tension.

**Group Association**
- 4% belonged to one group
- 96% belonged to more than one

Kitchen also points out a few typical features of the young vandals as:

Vandalism is mainly committed by juveniles under 18 years old. The acts of vandalism are frequently a group or gang activity from 2 to 20 youths were involved, and the acts usually are non-material gain in nature. They seem to be contagious.¹

From a study of the literature we obtain a general profile of the vandals - they are mainly boys in their early teens with parent-child conflict. The majority of them are from lower socio-economic class. The acts of vandalism are often a group activity.

Juvenile vandalism is a unique social problem to our society. This juvenile deviance presents a specific type of delinquency. We need additional facts and information to enhance our understanding of this problem.

We have discussed the legal definition and the present meaning of juvenile vandalism, and its interrelation with delinquency. A survey of the

theories of delinquency causation has been presented to explain the possible
causal explanation of vandalism. Typologies of delinquents and of vandals and
vandalism have been discussed briefly to provide a general introduction to the
problem of juvenile vandalism.
CHAPTER II
EXAMINATION OF AVAILABLE STATISTICS

The focus of the Study

Crime against property is tangible and evident. There exist certain features about an act of wilful damage to property which are concrete and measurable. What is attacked? Where is it located? How many acts of wilful damage occur? What time of year do such acts occur? How many individuals are charged with such acts? Adequate answers to these and other questions would help to further our understanding of this type of delinquency. This chapter focuses upon the characteristics of the act of wilful damage and/or damage to property (the legal terms applied to vandalism) and some of the demographic characteristics of the juveniles who commit such acts.

The City of Vancouver, located at the western end of the Fraser Valley and bounded by the North Arm of the Fraser River, the Strait of Georgia, English Bay, Burrard Inlet and Boundary Road, was chosen as the area of research for several reasons.
(1) It is the major urban centre on the West Coast of Canada and therefore contains the western headquarters of many companies, both public and private.
(2) Crime, the focus of this study, is known to be concentrated in urban areas.
(3) The nature of this research project required many contacts with the various agencies involved. The limitations of time demanded an area near the School of Social Work.

(4) Vancouver contains many useful public services (e.g. a police force, a developed Juvenile Court and probation system) thought to possess pertinent information.

(5) The researchers were relatively familiar with the geography of the City and its social services.

(6) The selection of the City of Vancouver rather than the Greater Vancouver Area removed the problem of coordinating data from several police departments, school boards, etc. and limited the scope of the study to a point where completion was a possibility within the time allowed.

The survey of the literature in the first chapter indicated that not only is the study of vandalism relatively rare, but that this research project was the first to be attempted in Vancouver. A lack of research in this area handicapped the thesis group. Usually, when a reference to a research paper was discovered the paper was unpublished. Lacking the guidance of previous research and, therefore, lacking the knowledge of sources of data, flexibility of approach to the task was essential. The flexibility of the descriptive diagnostic design allowed the use of the experience survey, a method used throughout this chapter.

Literature on delinquency provided a basis for tentative questions. Exploratory interviews established an estimate of the material available. Questionnaires and interviews extracted certain facts which were used to obtain some of the demographic characteristics of vandalism in Vancouver. To provide a dynamic view of vandalism, to establish patterns and to determine trends, the five year period between 1960 and 1964, inclusive, was selected

for study.

During the collection of data for this study many officials in the City of Vancouver stated that, in comparison to most cities of comparable size in both Canada and the United States, Vancouver has a low rate of damage to property. To test the validity of these opinions and to add perspective to this study, national and provincial statistics for delinquency in general and for damage to property were examined. The Province of Ontario was chosen to use for a comparison with the Province of British Columbia. Although the delinquency rate in British Columbia is slightly higher than Ontario (See Table I) the rate of damage to property in British Columbia is much lower than the rate in Ontario (see Table II).

Selection of Sources of Data

Vandalism has been defined as malicious, deliberate and wanton damage to, defacement of, or destruction of property, public or private, with no apparent material gain on the part of the vandal. Certain features of this definition indicate probable sources of information on vandalism. The act is a crime and this aspect points to the police department as a probable source. The terms "deliberate" and "wanton" imply intent and motivation, which might be discovered in the pre-sentence reports of a juvenile court. "Property, public or private" indicates those persons or corporate bodies who suffer the damage from acts of vandalism. Therefore, the selection of the sources of data was based upon the above rationale. These sources divide according to their function into law enforcement and non-law enforcement sources.

* See comments of School Board and Parks Board, Pages 46 and 48.
The non-law enforcement sources were expected to provide some insight into the attitude of the public toward vandalism and the extent or seriousness of the problem in the community. The selection of these sources was based on three criteria:

1. Each source must be a city-wide organization;
2. Each source must possess a centralized administration;
3. Each source must have either its head office or a regional office in the City of Vancouver.

It was assumed that such organizations would possess centralized, and co-ordinated record systems in one central location.

Law enforcement agencies were visualized as sources which receive and co-ordinate information supplied by the non-law enforcement organizations and therefore would serve as a point of integration. There exist various police departments in Greater Vancouver each possessing a separate administration. By limiting the research project to the City of Vancouver the law enforcement agencies selected, encompassed the entire research area under one centralized administration. The criteria utilized in the selection of non-law enforcement organizations then become valid for the law enforcement agencies.

It was expected by the utilization of the above-mentioned sources to trace the known acts of wilful damage from their place of occurrence in the community to the police department who attempt to attach an individual to the act and then to follow the individual to the courts where personal and social characteristics could be determined.

**Non-Law Enforcement Organizations - Insurance Agencies**

Vandals attack residential and business property and much of this property is insured against such damage. The insurance companies are in many cases the only centralized source of data pertaining to the damaging of private
### TABLE 1

**JUVENILES APPEARING IN COURT - 1961**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>INDIVIDUALS APPEARING</th>
<th>POPULATION 5 - 19 YRS.</th>
<th>DELINQUENTS PER 1000 POP. 5 - 19 YRS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15,024</td>
<td>2,741,035</td>
<td>5.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,952</td>
<td>2,627,045</td>
<td>0.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>872,333</td>
<td>7.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>832,106</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,751</td>
<td>222,490</td>
<td>7.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>212,513</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics Reports 1961 on (1) Population; and (2) Juvenile Delinquents.

### TABLE 2

**OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY - 1961**

(Excluding Arson, False Alarms, Trespassing)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>INDIVIDUALS APPEARING</th>
<th>POPULATION 5 - 19 YRS.</th>
<th>DELINQUENTS PER 1000 POP. 5 - 19 YRS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>2,741,035</td>
<td>.466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2,627,045</td>
<td>.018</td>
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<td>Ontario</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>832,106</td>
<td>.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>222,490</td>
<td>.364</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>212,513</td>
<td>.014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics Reports 1961 on (1) Population; and (2) Juvenile Delinquents.
residences and small business establishments. Many insurance companies exist in Vancouver and a source was needed which would co-ordinate the data supplied by the insurance companies. Finally, two centralized sources were approached.

**Public Utilities and Boards**

The nature of the function of some business organizations places their property in direct contact with the public. The British Columbia Telephone Company, the City of Vancouver Electrical Department and the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority all provide equipment for the public use. Mutilated telephone booths, broken street lights and slashed bus seats are seen occasionally by most people.

The City of Vancouver Parks Board maintains parks and recreation centres for all ages and juveniles utilize these facilities regularly. It was assumed that the Parks Board could provide a picture of vandalism in the play area of the juvenile.

Juveniles attend school. Some meet frustration, disappointment and failure in school, which may lead to acts of wilful damage against the school. These reasons lead to the inclusion of the Vancouver School Board in the sources selected.

**Law Enforcement Agencies**

When dealing with crime, the police department cannot be ignored as a source of data. In a book written by Thorsten Sellin and Marvin E. Wolfgang entitled *The Measurement of Delinquency*, the authors discuss thoroughly the merits of police records as a source of data for crime. "The value of a crime rate for index purposes decreases as the distance from the crime itself
in terms of process, increases." Police reports are written closer to the
time of the actual crime than for instance pre-sentence reports in Juvenile
Court, and, therefore, it was assumed that police records would be more reli­
able than most others.

The Family and Children's Court possess files on juvenile delinquents
and their families. If access to these files could be gained, significant data
on the characteristics of the act of wilful damage and on the personal
characteristics of the offender might be acquired.

Methods

Letters, telephone calls, interviews, questionnaires and the
examination of records were the methods utilized in the research. Letters
were sent to most of the selected organizations to introduce the research
topic, to indicate the type of information desired and to introduce the thesis
group. Interviews to explore the nature of the information available were
essential in most instances, however, some of the interviews were conducted
completely on the telephone. When detailed information was available,
questionnaires were designed and forwarded to the specific organization.
Through this method the searching of records by members of the thesis group
was limited to one source only. When questionnaires were utilized the results
were discussed in further interviews.

The Examination of Data - Non Law Enforcement Sources

Insurance Companies

The Oakridge Insurance Agencies and the Canadian Underwriters

1 Sellin, Thorsten and Marvin E. Wolfgang, The Measurement of
Association in Vancouver were contacted. No insurance companies which keep statistics on damage to property could be found. Both sources felt that no data would be available. Literature on insurance verified these opinions. Vandalism is covered by Fire Insurance under Extended Coverage Endorsement. "Indemnity against loss by vandalism and malicious mischief may be provided individually under the optional perils policy but it is most often written under the special vandalism and malicious mischief endorsement as an extension to the extended coverage endorsement.

When comprising statistics on fire insurance, insurance companies do not list separate totals for extensions to the extended coverage endorsement. The complete lack of data on damage to property in the 31st Annual Statistical Review of the Canadian Underwriter, April 15, 1964, is therefore understandable. Thus, valuable data on wilful damage to property is hidden in the statistics for fire insurance. No material could be obtained from the insurance agencies on damage to property.

The British Columbia Telephone Company

An introductory letter was sent to the telephone company and a reply was received promptly. The company maintained that vandalism was not a serious problem for them and that they possessed no statistics on the crime. No information could be acquired from this company.

City of Vancouver Electrical Department

A member of the thesis group made an exploratory visit to the City of Vancouver Electrical Department Maintenance Garage at 323 Alexandra Street.

---

An impromptu interview took place with the engineer in charge.

The Electrical Department keep figures on the cost of maintaining street lights, but these statistics cannot be broken down into categories which indicate the cause of the breakage. A street light may be broken by strong winds, severe cold, a stone or a bullet, but the break appears the same in almost every case.

The Electrical Department spends $20,000 annually on replacements of all kinds. The engineer could not even tender an estimate on the number of street lights broken wilfully by individuals. He did supply figures on the cost of the various types of street lights.

Cost of Street Lights

- Old Type Globe: $11.30 for the glass
- New Round-Type Globe: $16.00 for the glass
- Modern Oval-Type Globe: $16.80 for the glass, and $10.00 for the mercury lamp

Street lights are broken with everything from rocks to heavy calibre rifles. When a rifle bullet punctures the metal section of a street light and leaves the globe by puncturing another hole in the metal section, workmen can sight back through the holes and determine the point from which the rifle was fired. In some cases, this method has led to the detection of the culprit.

Certain areas were designated as high damage areas. The following four areas form an area of high damage extending from the south-east to the north-west of Vancouver:

1. The Fraserview area was described as "particularly bad."
2. Another high damage area is that bounded by Cambie Street, Oak Street, 41st Avenue and 59th Avenue.

* See figure #1.
(3) The area north-west of Granville Street and 41st Avenue suffers frequent damage.

(4) A high breakage belt follows the railway track of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. This area extends along Arbutus Street and the Boulevard from Marine Drive to north of Broadway.

The number of breakages reaches a peak during the summer months.

The City of Vancouver Board of Parks and Public Recreation

The Parks Board were prompt, and co-operative during all contacts with them. Correspondence and telephone interviews provided the following information.

The Parks Board place all expenses for damage to property under maintenance costs. The policy is to play it down – not to ignore it but to avoid publicity on damage to property. The first letter received from the Parks Board exemplifies this approach.

"We have very little vandalism in our Parks and Recreation system compared to some cities. We attribute this to a high standard of maintenance, a good quality of facility, and the fact that we have a resident caretaker in nearly all of our community facilities. ... We do find that in some remote areas, planting and boulevard trees do occasionally receive minor damage."

The staff experience difficulty distinguishing the purposive act from the accidental in many cases. All information received from the Parks Board was recalled by various members of the staff. No information received came from any official records.

The Supervisor of Building and Maintenance provided some information in the first telephone interview and then promised to chat with other staff members to try to gather as many major incidents of damage to property in
1964 as they could recall.

Damage to property reaches a peak between June and September. School age children carve their initials on swing seats, write on washroom walls and on almost any interior or exterior wall. Cigarette burns on floors are very common. The Supervisor of Building and Maintenance stated that it is necessary to paint more often due to activity of this nature but damage is an occupational hazard. In recent years the Parks Board have designed their facilities and have selected certain materials in order to reduce the opportunity of wilful damage to property. Glass breakage is the most common complaint. According to the Supervisor, there is something about the sound of breaking glass which appeals to the age group or the mentality of juveniles.

The Parks Board don't want damage to their property to be publicized. A few years ago an attempt was made to educate the public in the use of the parks. Park rangers appeared in the parks. The people became riled; the Parks Board received a storm of criticism and the parks received even more abuse.

The staff of the Parks Board clearly expressed the opinion that publicity creates contagion. If a news item in any of the mass media of

1 Specific Acts

September, 1964 - The Killarney Community Centre suffered a rash of damage to some trees and shrubs. Special police were hired to catch the culprit. The vandal chopped off several expensive trees just above the roots.

October 11, 1964 - The Renfrew Community Centre was broken into by a group of boys who had been forbidden to use the facilities. They broke several windows, then they urinated and defecated on the floor.

December 5, 1964 - A group of boys broke into the Oak Park Bath House and started a fire. The interior was being painted and heaters had been installed to help the paint to dry. The boys poured paint over the heaters. The paint burst into flames, ruining the heaters and the new paint work. The leader of this group was charged.
communication relates the happenings of an act of vandalism, the story usually exaggerates the seriousness of the incident and creates an aura of notoriety about the act. This is what the "demented mind" is looking for, according to the Supervisor of Building and Maintenance. Often a chain of vandal acts commences.

The Director of the Killarney Community Centre confirmed the views of the Supervisor of Building and Maintenance. Even at the Killarney Community Centre which is situated in the area of highest juvenile population density, there is very little damage to property.*

* The Vancouver School Board

The administration offices of the Vancouver School Board were approached and a questionnaire, intended to be completed by the researchers was developed. Three interviews resulted in rather limited findings.

The files of students remain in the various schools scattered throughout the City until the students leave school. Only then are the records filed in a central location. Statistics on damage to property do not exist in the central office and do not officially exist in the school system. Principals may possibly possess personal knowledge of a juvenile suspected or guilty of a delinquent act and only interviews with each principal could substantiate or refute this possibility. Damage to school property is included in maintenance costs, removing any possibility of securing accurate data on the incidence of acts of damage to property. Wilful damage and accidental damage cannot always be clearly separated.

In 1960 the School Board commenced installation of burglar alarms

* See Figure 2
in their schools. This operation, completed in 1964, cut out almost all vandalism inside the schools. Mr. Jones of the Maintenance Department estimated that damage to property cost $36,000 in 1963-64 and that approximately $31,000 of this total was spent replacing windows. This total covers accidental and wilful breakage. He maintains that the damage due to vandalism in Vancouver Schools is only a fraction of that in New York Schools.

In the summers between July 1st and August 31st of 1963 and 1964, the School Board conducted a study of property damage which revealed that 1270 pieces of glass were broken in 1963 and 1256 pieces in 1964. The schools damaged are scattered throughout the city and not concentrated in any one area. Certain areas appear to have higher rates, but not consistently higher rates.

The Results from Some of the Schools*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Number of Pieces of Glass Broken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerrisdale</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Elizabeth</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Mary</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: - Vancouver School Board.

The British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

A brief interview with Mr. Hoare of the Security Department of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority resulted in a questionnaire being sent to Mr. Williamson of the Security Department. Two interviews were held with Mr. Williamson to discuss the reply to the questionnaire. **

The Security Department maintain accurate records on damage to

* See Tables 9, 10 and 11 for complete study.
** See Appendix A-1.
property. Although the records are based on Greater Vancouver, the staff extracted data on the City of Vancouver. One question omitted from the questionnaire could not be answered when submitted later without searching again the entire records system for Greater Vancouver. The questionnaire was misinterpreted in one question which asked for the area in which damage to property occurred. The first report divided the incidents into each and west areas of the city only. The Security Department staff then subdivided the incidents of damage to buses and railway property on a percentage basis into more specific areas. Table No. 5 lists the number of offences in these specific areas. These figures were established by dividing the annual figures east and west for each type of damage by the percentage listed for each area. The results were then checked by dividing the totals for each and for west for all years, by the percentage for each area and then these results were compared with the totals of the separate areas for all years. These figures are only approximately accurate.

Mr. Williamson of the Security Department provided pertinent information from his personal experience during the interviews. Damage to buses occurs mostly on school runs. If one act of wilful damage occurs others usually follow. It seems to build up in a school. It appears to be contagious. A gang of juveniles usually gathers at the back of a crowded bus and behind the mirror by the rear door. The crowd provides the necessary protection and isolation. They slit seats, tear out the foam rubber, rip handrails from their moorings, break windows, rip up advertisement material and even throw seats out of the window. All of the above acts happened on one bus in 1961. A group of students from John Oliver Secondary School were returning from a skating party at Kerrisdale Arena and they left the bus a shambles. The Technical School on East Broadway, the John Oliver Secondary School and the
King Edward Continuing Education Centre produce the highest rates of damage to buses. Not all seat damage is done by juveniles.

Damage to buses occurs in the west and south-east areas of the City more than in other areas. A belt of damage runs along 41st Avenue from Kerrisdale to Knight Road and Victoria Drive and then follows these streets south to the bus loops. The B.C. Hydro and Power Authority have difficulty keeping windows in the bus loop at 54th Avenue and Victoria Drive. They attribute this damage to the boys' club at 57th and Victoria Drive.

The British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority run a railway between New Westminster and the Kitsilano Yards near Granville Island. The railway follows the Fraser River from New Westminster to Marpole and then turns north along the Boulevard and Arbutus Street to the Kitsilano Yards. High damage areas along the railway exist between Knight Street and Fraser Street and from 12th Avenue and Arbutus Street to the Kitsilano Yards. Freight cars, engines, cabooses, switch lamps, switch locks and push cars receive damage.

A group of boys (thought to be from the boys' club at 57th Avenue and Victoria Drive), threw beer bottles through the windows of the engine and the caboose of a train. Another group (1964) broke the lock on a push car and enjoyed a ride. They left the car on the tracks as a train was approaching but the engineer saw the object on the tracks and stopped.

Insulators on power lines receive much damage in rural areas from rifle bullets, but in the city only the occasional insulator at a sub-station is broken.

Generally, the act of wilful damage occurs in an isolated or hidden area. The act is usually performed by a group. Approximately 20% - 25% of juveniles charged with wilful damage to property belong to families who receive
TABLE 3

INCIDENTS OF WILFUL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY IN VANCOUVER AREA ONLY 1960 - 1964.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buses (windows, seats, etc.)</strong></td>
<td>30E*</td>
<td>30E</td>
<td>37E</td>
<td>29E</td>
<td>37E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33W</td>
<td>35W</td>
<td>22W</td>
<td>33W</td>
<td>25W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bus Loops</strong></td>
<td>2E</td>
<td>2E</td>
<td>4E</td>
<td>3E</td>
<td>4E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freight Cars</strong></td>
<td>4E</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>3E</td>
<td>5E</td>
<td>3W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Railway Property</strong></td>
<td>24E</td>
<td>23E</td>
<td>43E</td>
<td>20E</td>
<td>23E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switchlocks and lenses, etc.</td>
<td>43W</td>
<td>58W</td>
<td>45W</td>
<td>52W</td>
<td>45W</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Authority Vehicles</strong></td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meters (Gas &amp; Electricity)</strong></td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>3E</td>
<td>4W</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tools (Misc.)</strong></td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insulators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substations</strong></td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Misc. property, kits, etc.</strong></td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>1E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Street light reports</strong></td>
<td>1E</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poles</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>140</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JUVENILE TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>133</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>140</td>
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</table>

95% of above


* E - East
W - West
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>OFFENCE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Short trolley wires.</td>
<td>West end (Highbury)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Damage to interior of bus.</td>
<td>41st - Kerrisdale Arena Crowd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>A drunk damaged a service station door</td>
<td>22nd &amp; Renfrew</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(B.C. Hydro property).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bus seats</td>
<td>West end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Bus Depot window</td>
<td>Larwill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Air rifle at bus windows</td>
<td>33rd &amp; Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Electric Meters</td>
<td>Keefer Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Bus interiors</td>
<td>41st Avenue</td>
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<td>16</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Railway pushcar (Charge Trespass)</td>
<td>Marpole</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td><strong>BUSES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-East Van.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renfrew</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsway &amp; Fraser</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunbar</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerrisdale</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Street</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>148</td>
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<td><strong>RAILWAY PROPERTY</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>East</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Fraser &amp; Main</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Road</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main-Marpole-Oak</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitsilano</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbutus</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** British Columbia Hydro & Power Authority, Security Dept. Records.
welfare assistance. Sometimes those from the more well-to-do homes are actually foster children placed in homes in the area.

The Family and Children's Court in the City of Vancouver decide whether an individual will be charged with an offence. When the Security Department of the B.C. Hydro find an individual suspected of committing a more serious offence, they submit a report to the Court. The Court then decides whether the individual will be charged. In any other area of British Columbia, the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority would simply press charges. If the damage is costly and/or the individual is a repeater, the Hydro seek to press charges. Only the more serious offences are reported to the police and often the police submit a report to the Court.

The Security Department seek restitution for damages and prefer this type of control to submitting a report to the Court or to pressing charges.

Law Enforcement Sources - Vancouver Police Department

An exploratory interview with the police officer who directs the Youth Preventive Squad led to a referral to the statistician of the police department. Two attempts to gain information through the statistician produced only the yearly totals of damage to property for all age groups. Finally a questionnaire forwarded to the Supervisor of Accounts and Records produced results. Tables on Juvenile Crime were obtained from the Vancouver Police Department Annual Reports for 1961 and 1962.

The Vancouver Police Department use the five part classification of police incidents, based upon the uniform classification of offences developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to categorize offences.

* See Appendix A-2.
** See Table Nos. 6 and 7.
In this system, damage to property is hidden in Part II Cases, Section 26 -
Other Offences. The minor position given to wilful damage to property by the
International Association of Chiefs of Police, indicates the attitude of the
police in North America to this type of crime. Wilful damage to property is
more of a nuisance than a problem to the police.

Police records do not separate wilful damage to property and acci-
dental damage to property. This limitation distorts the results. The answers
to questions which requested the location in Vancouver of both the acts of wilful
damage and the residence of those charged with such acts specified only three
large areas of the City. These areas are too large to be useful in any analysis.

The answers to the questionnaire submitted to the Records and Accounts
Department appear in Appendix B. The answer to question 1 indicates no signi-
ificant increase in the incidence of damage to property over a five year period.
The answer to question 5 leads to a similar conclusion for juveniles. The
large increase in those charged for 1963 stems from a riot after the Grey Cup
Football Game.

A comparison of the answers for 1963 and 1964 to questions Nos. 3
and 5 shows that the greater proportion of acts of damage to property for which
the offender is known are committed by adults. To assume then that the greater
proportion of damage to property is committed by adults would appear to be a
logical conclusion, but certain aspects of the functioning of the law limit
the validity of such conclusion. The adult who damages property would be
reported and/or arrested with less pangs of conscience than an eleven year old
boy. Where restitution appears impossible, the victim would be less likely to

---

1 Wilson, O.W., Police Records Their Installation and Use
(Chicago: Public Service Administration, 1942), p. 257.
### TABLE 6

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth and Auto Squad - 1961

#### Total Juveniles Arrested and Summoned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1959</th>
<th>1960</th>
<th>1961</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MALES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 12 Years</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 15 Years</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Years</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Years</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age not shown</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEMALES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 12 Years</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 15 Years</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Years</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Years</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age not shown</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### TYPES OF CASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>8 - 15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>Not Stated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manslaughter</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaults (all kinds)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robberies &amp; Attempts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. &amp; E. and Attempts</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thefts and Attempts</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Thefts &amp; Attempts</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession Stolen Goods</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Charges (C.C.C.)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Liquor Act</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Act</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaway and Truancy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagrancy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Immorality</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrigibility</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City By-Laws</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Delinquencies</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 49a -
TABLE 7

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

JUVENILES - 1962

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL JUVENILES CHARGED</th>
<th>1960</th>
<th>1961</th>
<th>1962</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MALES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 12 Years</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 15 Years</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Years</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Years</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age not shown</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2309</td>
<td>1773</td>
<td>2264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 12 Years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 15 Years</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Years</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Years</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age not shown</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>278</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TYPES OF CASES           | 8 - 15 |      |      |
|                         | M - F  | M - F | M - F |
|                         |        |      |      |
| Assault C.B.H.          | - -    | - -  | 3    |
| Assault on Police       | - -    | - 1  | 2    |
| Rape & Indecent Assault| - -    | 2    | 1    |
| Robbery & Attempts      | 6      | 3    | 1    |
| B. & E. & Attempts      | 149    | 23   | 29   |
| Shoplifting             | 88     | 19   | 9    |
| Auto Thefts & Attempts  | 35     | 64   | 62   |
| Other Thefts & Attempts | 132    | 32   | 27   |
| Possession Stolen Goods | 68     | 32   | 4    |
| Hit & Run               | 1      | 1    | 2    |
| Drunk or Impaired Driving| 1   | 1    | 2    |
| Other C.C.C.Traffic Off.| 1     | 2    | 6    |
| Arson                   | -      | -    | 2    |
| Damage to Property      | 37     | 3    | 6    |
| Gov't. Liquor Act       | 41     | 4    | 29   |
| Motor Vehicle Act       | 146    | 219  | 24   |
| Vagrancy                | 3      | 1    | 6    |
| Sexual Immorality       | -      | 9    | 6    |
| Forgery,Fraud & F.P.    | 3      | 2    | 1    |
| Municipal By-Laws       | 103    | 9    | 50   |
| All Other Delinquencies | 70     | 57   | 44   |
| **Total**               | 883    | 146  | 533  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUPS</th>
<th>Not Stated</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chgd.</td>
<td>Charges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault C.B.H.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault on Police</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape &amp; Indecent Assault</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery &amp; Attempts</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. &amp; E. &amp; Attempts</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoplifting</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Thefts &amp; Attempts</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Thefts &amp; Attempts</td>
<td>202</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession Stolen Goods</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit &amp; Run</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunk or Impaired Driving</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other C.C.C.Traffic Off.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage to Property</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gov't. Liquor Act</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Act</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>1082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagrancy</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Immorality</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgery,Fraud &amp; F.P.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal By-Laws</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Delinquencies</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

883 146 533 96 506 72 42 11 2589 3503
press charges against a small boy than a grown adult. After discussing the reliability of the results with police officials, the impression remained that the adult incident would often be accidental and as a result of intoxication. An intoxicated person, it is assumed, would be easier to apprehend than a lithe, young lad. Therefore, although the greater proportion of individuals attached to acts of damage to property are adults, it does not follow necessarily that the greater proportion of the acts are performed by adults.

Damage to property is an offence of the younger, male juvenile as the answers to questions six and seven indicate. The answer to question nine distributes the acts of damage to property according to area. The amount of damage in each area is approximately proportionate to the number of juveniles in each area.* The City of Vancouver had a population of 384,522 in 1961. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics Report for 1961 on population does not provide a breakdown of the population by age groups which corresponds to the legal juvenile age group in British Columbia, therefore, three age groups were combined, resulting in a juvenile population in Vancouver between ages of five and nineteen years of 82,448. The area bounded by Boundary Road in the east, Broadway on the north, Fraser Street on the west and the North Arm of the Fraser River to the south contains the greatest density of juvenile population. Based on statistics for males only, the 5 - 19 year age group comprises 27.2% of the entire male population in this area, while the rate for the entire city (based on males only) is 21.8%. In Vancouver the juvenile population is concentrated in certain areas.

Many acts of damage to property are not reported. It is estimated that only 25% of minor acts are reported to the police. Approximately 95% of

* See Figures Nos. 1 and 2.
the acts reported are by the victim or by neighbours, while only 5% are detected by police patrols. The police despatch a constable to investigate even a minor report of damage to property. If the identity of the offender is known, the victim decides whether or not he will lay charges against him. The police will not arrest a juvenile unless there is no responsible parent or guardian in the home of the juvenile.

**The Vancouver Family and Children's Court**

The Vancouver Family and Children's Court decide whether or not an individual should appear before the Court. If the individual is brought to the Court and found guilty, he or she is designated as "delinquent". The Court does not find the individual guilty of car theft or of wilful damage, etc. Therefore, the philosophy of the Court results in a system where no official statistics on the incidence of various crimes are kept. The data in Table No. 8 was gathered by the Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Harry Robson, who has a personal interest in this type of offence (damage to property).

The acquisition of personal data required an inspection of the files of every individual charged with damage to property. Since the Census of Canada took place in 1961, that year was selected. Problems developed attempting to co-ordinate the file material with the prepared questionnaire, therefore, face sheet information only was used. The details of this problem will be discussed in Chapter III.

The major portion of the material gathered from the court files applied to the chapter on case studies, but some of the material has been adapted to statistical reports.

The Court record sheets were used to acquire the names of juveniles charged with damage to property. The address of the property damaged was...
### TABLE 8

**JUVENILES CHARGED UNDER WILFUL DAMAGE IN THE FAMILY & CHILDREN'S COURT FOR THE CITY OF VANCOUVER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>7-13</th>
<th>14-15</th>
<th>16-17</th>
<th>7-13</th>
<th>14-15</th>
<th>16-17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Figures not available at time of investigation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DISPOSITIONS

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key to abbreviations:**

- **Cont. Probation**: Continued Probation
- **Final Disp. Susp.**: Final Disposition Suspended
- **Adjn.**: Adjourned
- **Tr. M. Court**: Trial in Magistrate's Court
- **Dism.**: Dismissed
- **S.O. Withheld**: Dismissed
present in almost every file. Figure No. 3 locates the offences in various areas of the City according to census tract. The residential address of each offender was secured and Figure No. 4 locates the residences in census tract areas. The majority of offenders live in the area east of Main Street and South of 16th Avenue.

Included in the Court record sheets are lists of cases settled Out of Court. The addresses of these offenders were also plotted on a chart. The charts locating the residences of those cases settled In Court and Out of Court indicate the socio-economic areas of the city according to census tract. Based on the general socio-economic status of the census tract area there appears to be a relationship between socio-economic status and the decision to settle a case Out of Court (or In Court). A comparison based on the occupation of the parents of the offender is presented in Chapter III, and is more significant.

The Court record sheets were utilized again to establish the frequency of offences against property according to the time of year. Figures Nos. 6, 7 and 8 illustrate the findings for the years 1961, 1962 and 1963. The incidence appears to follow the happenings of the school year. The months of January, April, May, June and September have high rates. The children return to school after holidays in January, April (Easter) and September. The high incidence in June may be related to the pressure of final examinations. The charts were based on the date of Court appearance and not upon the date of the offence. The high rate for November 1963 is attributed to the happenings at the end of the Grey Cup Football Game of that year.

* See Figure No. 5.

** See Figure No. 9.
Fig 2. Percentage of Population
0 - 14 Years (1967)

Integration and Speculation

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports were used to compare the incidence of juvenile delinquency in the Province of British Columbia to the incidence in Canada and the Province of Ontario. The rate in British Columbia is higher than in the nation as a whole or in the Province of Ontario.* Delinquency reports for Vancouver were available according to city area and the exact juvenile population of that area was obtained from Ottawa. The rate per 1000 population was calculated. The incidence in Vancouver according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for males under the age of 16 years for 1961 is 525, while the Vancouver Police Department Annual Report on Juvenile Crime for 1961 lists 645 juvenile, male offenders under 16 years of age. Calculated on the population between the ages of 7 - 15 years in Vancouver the official (D.B.S.) statistics yield a rate of 10.16 per 1000 population, but the police statistics yield a rate of 12.47 per 1000 population.** Only in the City of Vancouver (in British Columbia) does the Family and Children's Court decide whether a juvenile shall be brought into Court. This practice may account for the discrepancy between the police and Family and Children's Court statistics.

The rate of damage to property in the Province of British Columbia is almost half of the rate in the Province of Ontario and is lower than the national average. In the City of Vancouver, the police do not consider juvenile vandalism an important crime. Calculated with data from the sources used above, the rate of juvenile delinquency in Toronto is 29.36 per 1000 juveniles. The rate in Toronto is more than twice the rate in Vancouver. Although there may be a difference between the area designated by the term "City of Toronto" in the reports on population and the area designated by the same term in the reports

* See Table No. 1
** See Table No. 6
on juvenile delinquency, it is assumed that the areas implied are identical. Rather than assume that juveniles in Toronto participate in delinquent activities to a much greater degree than do juveniles in Vancouver, and since this study could not investigate the law-enforcement practices in Toronto, possible explanations were sought in Vancouver.

The British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority and the City of Vancouver Electrical Department claim that the area south of 41st Avenue is an area of high damage to property. The information gathered from the Vancouver Family and Children's Court indicates that only seven juveniles appeared before the Court from that area in 1961. They represent one-sixth of the juveniles appearing in Court from the entire city. Yet this area contains the highest juvenile population density and is considered a particularly bad area for damage to property. This area is patrolled by a detachment of the Vancouver Police Department which contains within it the Youth Preventive Squad. This squad attempts to prevent delinquency. A first glance at Figure 4 would lead to the conclusion that the squad is succeeding in its tasks, but this is also the area of the highest damage to property. Perhaps it could be argued that a greater number of juveniles in an area are bound to commit a greater number of crimes - and they do. But why are they not charged with these crimes? The area immediately to the north, bounded by Cambie Street and 41st Avenue, contains fewer juveniles, it is not considered to be the worst area in the City for vandalism, yet it possesses twenty juveniles charged with damage to property in 1961. This is almost half of the juveniles charged with such acts in the entire City. This area is policed by the same detachment of the Vancouver

* Correspondence with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Ottawa failed to either refute or confirm this assumption.
** See Figure 1.
Police Department.

The Family and Children's Court requests reports on all incidences of juvenile delinquency before the juvenile charged with an offence is brought to Court. The Court decides whether the juvenile will appear before a judge. It is significant that the area south of 41st Avenue contains one-half of the juveniles whose cases were settled Out of Court in 1961. This area has been assigned a higher socio-economic status than the area immediately to the north which was defined above. It could not be ascertained whether this represents the attitude of the Court or the attitude expressed in the reports submitted to the Court. F. Ivan Nye in a study of delinquency which utilized children in school as a source of information, rather than children in prisons or on probation, concluded that vandalism is a crime of upper-class boys and girls. Court statistics hide this fact. The Court bases its decision on whether a juvenile should appear before the Court on the basis of the stability of the juvenile's environment. The characteristics of family life which result in a Court appearance are typical of the lower-class family. Often it is not the seriousness of the offence but the pattern of family life which results in a court appearance.

The Parks Board and the School Board tend to hide acts of vandalism. They keep only minimal records of the crime. They do not want publicity about it. When they have few records, they have little which could be published. All non-law enforcement organizations which provided data, seek restitution wherever possible and press charges only in serious offences. (This practice protects the juvenile from the more affluent family). These factors and the

Court's practice of controlling their intake would tend to reduce the official incidence of damage to property. The practices of other areas would have to be known before these factors would be developed into a valid comparison.

The British Columbia Telephone Company feel they have no problem with damage to property. Any statistics from insurance companies lay hidden in fire insurance coverage. The Electrical Department of the City of Vancouver have difficulty in determining the cause of damage. Although the Parks Board claim difficulty in differentiating between the accidental and the purposive, they and the School Board tend to hide the problem for what appears to be sound theory. The theory that publicity increases the number of offences was considered to be valid by the Parks Board, by the School Board and by the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. The Parks Board staff emphasized that they did not want any information published. They maintain that the problem is slight yet they construct their buildings of special material to reduce damage to property. The Parks Board stated that the period of greatest damage is between June and September. Their denial of the problem may partially account for the lower rates during the summer months.*

Wilful damage to property not only occurs in contagious spurts but it also occurs predominantly as a group activity. A juvenile committing an act of vandalism while he is alone is rare. (The two individual acts listed in Table 5 were committed by drunk adults.) Vandalism spreads from one group member to another and then from one group to another.

Throughout the interviews the factor of visibility has emerged. Street lights are broken along streets bordering a railway track. Buses receive damage when crowded. Schools are damaged during weekends and holidays. The

* See Figure No. 9.
Fig. 6. Number of Juveniles Charged with Damage to Property Appearing in Court Per Month in 1961.

Source:  Vancouver Family and Children's Court Records.
Fig. 7. Number of Juveniles Charged with Damage to Property Appearing in Court per month in 1962.

Source: Vancouver Family and Children's Court Records.
Fig. 8. Number of Juveniles Charged with Damage to Property Appearing in Court Per Month in 1963.

Source: Vancouver Family and Children's Court Records
Fig. 9 Total Number of Juveniles Charged with Damage to Property Appearing in Court Per Month Between 1961 - 1963 Inclusive

Source: Vancouver Family and Children's Court Records.
railway yards at Marpole are isolated. If the property is isolated or a barrier of cover can be created - vandalism may occur. As the Director of the Youth Preventive Squad stated during an interview, "Vandals are cowards". Most crime occurs in secret and in that way vandals do not differ from people who commit other crimes, but there is one element in wilful damage to property which indicates a type of cowardice. Two staff members at the Vancouver Board of Education offices were discussing one day at coffee time a school to which an addition had been built. "They always break the small windows in the old section. They never bother with the big ones in the new wing". "Don't forget - those big ones face a row of houses!" It appears that some vandals still respond to a type of control. They know what they can damage without too much fuss being made to find out who did it.

The Parks Board ascribe a low damage to property rate to the presence of a resident caretaker in each facility. This theory may have a degree of validity. The presence of a caretaker eliminates the isolation factor which has been mentioned by almost all sources. Physical separation from other buildings is not the only form of isolation. Damage to property occurs many times during darkness. The railway yards at Marpole, windows in schools and bus loops all receive damage during the night. One night a bus trolley jumped off the power line and as the operator went to replace the trolley, a young lad quickly tore up several advertisements on the bus. He was seated again before the lights went on.

Damage to property occurs where property is isolated and where the juveniles are. The School Board maintain that damage is more in some areas but occurs at almost every school. Juveniles are in schools and use school property. The greatest proportion of damage to property occurs in areas of the city where the density of juvenile population is high. The charts illustrate this point
TABLE 9

A COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF PIECES OF WINDOW GLASS BROKEN DUE TO VANDALISM FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1963 TO AUGUST 31, 1963 AND THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1964

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1963</th>
<th>1964</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: - Vancouver School Board Records.

TABLE 10

WINDOW GLASS BREAKAGE - (VANDALISM)

SCHOOLS WITH A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN BREAKAGE IN 1964 OVER 1963

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1963</th>
<th>1964</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bayview</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickens</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexsmith</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaughnessy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennyson</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byng</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: - Vancouver School Board Records.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>1963</th>
<th>1964</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Elizabeth</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selkirk</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secord</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathcona</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tecumseh</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchill</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killarney</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Templeton</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Edward Annex</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: - Vancouver School Board Records.
clearly. *

The Electrical Department in Vancouver, the Parks Board, the School Board, the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority all claim that damage to property increases during the summer months, but the Court records show a decrease during the summer months. It appears from Court records that schools do not press charges until September. The Parks Board staff avoid the problem, the Electrical Department have difficulty finding a culprit and the only organization in this study still attempting (during the summer) to detect vandals in British Columbia is the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (who have their own Security Police.)

The various statistical tables from the various organizations approached cannot be integrated into a meaningful whole. B.C. Hydro do not report all acts of wilful damage to the police or to the Court. Some, the more serious, are reported to the police and only the juveniles associated with the more serious damage are referred to the Court. The Court receives the reports from the school, parents, the police, the fire marshall, the B.C. Hydro and other sources. The police only receive information from the Court about offenders, whom they referred. There is no organization which possesses complete information about known acts of wilful damage, damage to property or the offenders. No means exists, outside of a time-consuming investigation, to integrate these figures.

Vandalism closely fits the legal description attached to wilful damage in the Criminal Code of Canada Part IX, Sections 372 and 373. The charge of damage to property may entail any type of damage and does not imply intent. Police statistics are based on damage to property. The statistics from the

* See Figures Nos. 1 and 2.
B.C. Hydro represent wilful damage. The cases examined in Court involve mainly acts of wilful damage. Therefore, the study of the individuals appearing in Court is a study of wilful damage, i.e. vandalism.

A certain amount of skill is involved in the commitment of certain undetected vandal acts.* This type of skill may be learned from other juveniles which may support to some degree the theory of differential association. Acts of vandalism occur in rapid sequence in one area. The juveniles may consider that their "rep" is at stake if they cannot also perform a vandal act.

Vandalism is an offence of the younger juvenile as Figures 7 and 8 illustrate. As he matures, the juvenile probably finds other means of obtaining recognition or he turns to lucrative crime. This theory coincides with that of Cloward and Ohlin which is outlined in Chapter I.

Reports from the School Board indicate that wilful damage to school property could be interpreted as a general adolescent frustration with the seemingly interminable and impossible means that society has prescribed to the attainment of material and adult goals. Although Cloward and Ohlin view delinquency as a crime of the lower-class boy frustrated in his attempts to achieve middle-class status and material possessions, the above interpretation supports their theory to a degree.**

Sound conclusions are based on precise facts. The facts gathered in this study are in many instances neither very precise nor very scientific.

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* In one case, a member of the Security Police of the B.C. Hydro sat immediately behind two juvenile suspects on a public bus. Although he could detect no suspicious activities, when the boys had left the bus, he found the bus slit in several places.


** See Chapter I.
Even the yearly incidence of vandalism obtained from police records is not accurate—police records do not list all acts of damage to property in Vancouver. Even considering the statistical limitations, certain general findings lead to some pertinent questions. Vandalism occurs in all areas of Vancouver, but tends to be more prevalent in middle and upper-class areas. Those appearing in juvenile court charged with damage to property live mainly in lower-class areas. It is not the seriousness of the crime, or the personality of the juvenile but the resources of the family, which determine whether or not the juvenile is dealt with in Court or Out of Court. The philosophy of both the Court and the police appears to be that if the parents are responsible then the parents can handle the juvenile. What words can be used to describe "responsible parents"? They are stable (they control their impulses), efficient and thrifty (they budget well) ambitious in a career, interested in the community and adaptable to the new situation of a child in trouble. The adult possessing these qualities could be a responsible parent and he would also be responsible in business. The very same qualities of the responsible parent are those of the successful middle-class and upper-class individual. Is the Court judging an individual, a crime or a social class? Is there a law for the rich and a law for the poor? Is justice sacrificed in the name of treatment?

** See Page 62.
CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF CASE FILES

This chapter will examine information and data taken from case files of juvenile vandals adjudged delinquent on a charge of wilful damage in 1961. From these statistics we will attempt to present a profile of a "typical" juvenile vandal.

This profile will be restricted to the information available from the Family and Children's Court files in the City of Vancouver.

The term "vandal" has some type of connotation in almost everyone's mind by reason of the material written and spoken in our news media. This category of delinquency is viewed by the general public somewhat sensation­ally as indicated by the choice of adjective used in the press. Popular denunciations range from such things as "coddled teenage bandits" to those "juvenile roughnecks" who have proliferated with the advent of the automatic­ally fueled furnace and the discard­ing of the straight-edged razor.

Our approach to the study of the juvenile vandal has taken us to what available facts there are concerning the vandal and vandalism. In the City of Vancouver the only source which has records suitable for our pur­poses is the Family and Children's Court of the City of Vancouver.

The case files of the Family and Children's Court pose several limitations for this study. The case files are not designed to provide the quantity of information by which one could assess all the vandal's personal and family history in detail. In the cases of vandalism where its severity is a matter of degree, the dispositions by restitution, even if considered
an expedient solution, automatically impedes further fact-finding. There were no formal pre-sentence reports on any of the case files with the charge of damage to property in 1961.

The face sheet information was the most uniform data device available and the one document which was in all case files. The face sheet information includes the following items: date of referral, sex, address, birthdate, school attending and grade, religion, occupation of father and mother, marital status of parents, number of siblings, and the list of delinquencies.

One cannot, therefore, be justified in claiming the cases we have studied represents any specific cross-section or random sampling of the juvenile vandal. We can claim to be able to present in an exploratory manner a study about the vandal and vandalism. This exploration will show us some interesting features regarding juvenile vandalism. Also, we can give some case illustrations about the juvenile vandal, his family and general comments concerning data collected for the year 1961.

For the purposes of this study we have chosen the calendar year of 1961 and the cases reported of vandalism which came under the jurisdiction of the Family and Children's Court of the City of Vancouver, British Columbia. These cases were chosen where a charge was laid in which there was damage to property, wilful damage or malicious damage. The number of cases which were settled through the juvenile court was thirty-nine. Those cases which were settled Out of Court or without the disposition of a court judge, were twenty-six. Thus the total number of cases examined is sixty-five.

From the daily charge sheets of the Family and Children's Court we were able to secure all reported cases of charges of damage to property, wilful damage and/or malicious damage. The Out of Court settlements gave us
the least amount of information. The charge sheets had the name of the juvenile vandal, address and the charge which was laid. From the City Directory of 1964 we were able to secure the occupation of both father and mother and make a determination if both parents were in the home.

**Cases Settled Out of Court**

Out of the twenty-six cases settled Out of Court there were five on which we were unable to find any information in the City Directory.

Five of the twenty-six homes indicated the absence of the juvenile's father. The occupations of the mothers were then listed when the absence of the father was evident.

1. Receptionist for a service organization
2. Typist
3. Stenographer
4. Clerk in a department store
5. Janitor for a maintenance service

These occupations do indicate a type of steady employment but not particularly well-paid. On the basis of available evidence, monies might be a factor of why the cases were settled Out of Court.

In Chapter II we have ample evidence that a large number of cases of vandalism are never referred to the Family and Children's Court. One might assume several reasons for this: (1) No one wanted to lay a charge, (2) the vandals were never caught, or (3) if the vandals were seized then restitution was worked out between the parties involved.

The Juvenile Court stresses the policy of the importance of disposing of a case in terms of the best treatment for the juvenile. It seems apparent that in many cases of vandalism this treatment is in terms of financial
restitution by parents or the vandal himself. These acts may be first offences and not of such severity as to involve the juvenile in the Court through which other juveniles of more severe delinquences are processed.

There were sixteen situations where both parents were indicated as being in the home. In these cases the fathers' occupations were listed as:

(1) Truck driver
(2) Service representative for B.C. Hydro
(3) Lineman with B.C. Telephone
(4) Salesman for a bakery
(5) Caretaker of apartments
(6) Carpenter
(7) Fireman
(8) Swamper on a truck
(9) President of a heating firm
(10) Realty salesman
(11) Partner in plating firm
(12) President and manager of a business firm
(13) Salesman for a car company (2)
(14) Produce worker

In these sixteen cases one can see that there are several businessmen as well as business owners or partners, and many other white collar and blue collar employees. There was one incidence where seven juveniles were involved in the damage of a city bus. In this case, which was settled Out of Court, the occupations of the fathers were: (1) president of a business firm, (2) realty salesman, (3) partner in a plating firm, (4) president and manager of a business, (5) salesman for a car company (two juveniles from this home), (6) unknown.
In the total group of twenty-six there were at least six identifiable groups in which vandalism took place. These groups ranged from two to seven juveniles in a group. Out of the twenty-six there were only three case situations in which we were unable to determine whether the vandalism was committed by a single juvenile or by a group of juveniles. We were also unable to determine if these were first-time offences or one in a series of delinquent acts. The identifiable groups of vandals were as follows:

(1) One group involving two juveniles
(2) Two groups of three juveniles
(3) Two groups each involving four juveniles
(4) One group of seven juveniles

From this information we can assume that in the majority of cases of vandalism, it is executed in the framework of group activity. This assumption is taken from the cases settled Out of Court.

Cases Brought Before the Court

Let us now examine thirty-nine cases of damage to property which were brought before the Family and Children's Court for disposition. In these cases the individual files of the juvenile vandal were examined and face sheet information was collated with a view to developing a profile of the juvenile vandal.

The case files had the date of referral to the Court. A significant figure for the month of September was evident. It seems that the coming together of the school children gives rise to formation of groups and in some cases this might lead to some type of vandalism.

In the month of September there were nine referral dates. This accounts for 23% of all referral dates. Prior to September and during the summer
months of June, July and August there was a total of four referral dates. These three summer months accounted for only 10% of the thirty-nine referrals in 1961. These figures give further support to the fact of group formation by reason of the commencing of the school year.

The ages and number of juvenile vandals in each age are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is quite obvious that the age of most frequency is that of fourteen. The age span of thirteen, fourteen and fifteen accounts for 66.7% of the total number of juvenile vandals. This leaves 33.3% scattered among the ages of nine to twelve and sixteen and seventeen inclusive, with a visible tapering off after the age of puberty.

The school grade at the time of the vandal act is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF JUVENILES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not in school</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From these figures we find that 84.6% of all the juvenile vandals are distributed between grades six to nine. The remainder 15.4% are distributed between grades three to five and ten and eleven, with one not in school.

If we assume that a child is six years of age when he begins grade one we can
then transpose the school grade into a chronological age by adding six to each grade level. When we do this we find a change in the supposed level of school grade achievement as opposed to the actual achieved level of school grade.

Taking the birthdate of the juvenile vandals, we find 66.7% of them are between the ages of thirteen and fifteen, inclusive. However, when we transpose the reported school grade levels by adding six years, we find that 69.2% of the juvenile vandals should be in this grouping.

One could only speculate that there may be slow learners, possibly some juveniles are emotionally deprived or some type of sociological phenomenon is operating and this affects their school performance. We have no way in this exploratory study to substantiate these speculations.

The religious affiliations were widespread and therefore not too significant:

(1) Church of England . . . 2  (7) Roman Catholic . . . 11
(2) Danish Church . . . . 1  (8) Presbyterian . . . 4
(3) Glad Tidings . . . . 1  (9) Protestant . . . . 8
(4) Jewish . . . . . . . . 1  (10) United Church . . . . 7
(5) Lutheran . . . . . . . . 1  (11) None reported . . . . 2
(6) Pentecostal . . . . . . 1

These religious preferences were listed on the face sheet of each case file. There was no way to check and see if these juveniles and/or their families were actively engaged in any of their church activities.

The mothers' occupations of the thirty-nine juveniles processed through the Court were given as follows:

(1) Comptometer operator . . 1  (3) Hairdresser . . . . 1
(2) Grocer . . . . . . . . 1  (4) Housewife . . . . . . 23
(5) Institutionalized (PMH). 1 (8) Social Allowance . . . . 1
(6) Nurse . . . . . . . . . 1 (9) Unemployed . . . . . . . 1
(7) Sales Clerk . . . . . . . . . 7 (10) Unknown . . . . . . . 1

These occupations are quite widespread except for the frequency of the role of the housewife. This category of housewife accounts for 58.9% or nearly 60% of all reported occupations of the mothers.

The occupations of the fathers are as follows:

(1) Bus Driver . . . . . . . . . 1 (16) Orderly (hospital . . . . 1
(2) B.C.Hydro Representative . 1 (17) Painter . . . . . . . . . 1
(3) B.C.Telephone Lineman . . . 1 (18) Roofer . . . . . . . . . 1
(4) Butcher . . . . . . . . . . . 1 (19) Sales clerk . . . . . . . 1
(5) Business man . . . . . . . . . 1 (20) Sawmill worker . . . . 1
(6) Cafe-owner (grocer) . . . . 1 (21) Shoe repairman . . . . 1
(7) Carpenter . . . . . . . . . . 2 (22) Spray painter . . . . . 1
(8) Construction worker . . . . 1 (23) Storeroom keeper . . . . 1
(9) Despatcher . . . . . . . . . 1 (24) Tailor . . . . . . . . . 1
(10) Foreman . . . . . . . . . 1 (25) Tapman (Canadian Leg.) . 1
(11) Fur buyer . . . . . . . . . . 1 (26) Truck Driver . . . . . 3
(12) Labourer . . . . . . . . . . . 2 (27) Power House Attendant . 1
(13) Lubeman (garage) . . . . . 1 (28) Unemployed . . . . . . . 3
(14) Window Cleaner . . . . . . . . . 1 (29) Mechanic . . . . . . . 1
(15) Millworker . . . . . . . . . . 2

The overall picture of the fathers' employment is that the majority are in the blue collar labouring class. In comparing the occupations of the fathers in which settlement was made Out of Court, there is a decided difference in the overall picture of white collar vs. blue collar occupations.
By using a liberal and arbitrary connotation to the terms white dollar and blue collar, the following percentages appear:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENT</th>
<th>IN COURT SETTLEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White collar</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue collar</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The foregoing illustration shows that the cases of vandalism which were settled Out of Court represented a higher percentage of fathers with white collar occupations. One might speculate that this suggests financial restitution of the vandals' damage to property was readily available and thus did not warrant further action by the Court.

From the sibling count we found that the average number of children per family is 2.9, which is close to the Canadian national average. The count of siblings per family, excluding the parents and primary subject (juvenile vandal) is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF SIBLINGS</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF SIBLINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>18</td>
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One will readily observe that there were no family situations of over nine children. There were only four families of seven to nine children and
these four families accounted for 32.7% of all the children.

One of the cliches of the literature on juvenile delinquency is that the delinquent comes from a "broken family". In the case of a juvenile vandal, our study of cases in 1961 shows that a rather small percentage of the families are not together. In 69.2% of the families both natural parents are in the home, in 5.4% two parents by reason of remarriage, in 12.8% there was one parent in the home by reason of death, 10% of the families had a separation of the parents, and only 7.6% had a break in the marital status by reason of divorce. It is highly significant that in twenty-seven out of thirty-nine families there were both parents living in the home.

In this exploratory study we also examined the vandal act. The total number of delinquences for all thirty-nine juveniles was one hundred and seven. This means an average of 2.7 delinquences for each vandal. This does not mean just wilful damage, damage to property or malicious damage. These other delinquencies can and do include theft, breaking and entering, etc.

The major delinquency involving vandalism showed 61.5% has to do with the breaking of glass and of this 66.7% of all broken glass involved school windows. The following list gives us a picture of the damage done by these juvenile vandals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY DAMAGED</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School windows</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House or apartment windows</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City bus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle tire punctured</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private auto windows broken</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad box car</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CASE STUDIES

Let us now examine four case files. These cases are to be illustrative of what material is available in the juvenile case files. From this information we can only speculate as to the causes of the delinquent act and make other pertinent observations.

We recognize the limitation of drawing any conclusions based on such incomplete information but this was the only case material we found which was applicable to juvenile vandalism.

In order to have some type of uniformity of presentation we shall present the vandal's primary act, followed by whatever case information is applicable.

We have numbered the cases #1, #2, #3 and #4. The name used in each case is not the juvenile vandal's actual name.

Case #1

Billy, age fifteen, was charged with wilful damage. Even though disputed by Billy, a trial was convened and he was adjudged delinquent. The damaged property involved was a city bus. This situation was clearly a group endeavour. A probation officer recorded there must have been "mob hysteria".

This act involved four principal juveniles with ages ranging from thirteen to fifteen. There were eight other juveniles involved in a "lesser degree" whose ages ranged from twelve to eighteen inclusive.

Billy's record consists of charges of theft, breaking and entering
and wilful damage.

Billy lives with a brother, age seventeen, and sister, age eight months, and parents of a second marriage. In the family relationship Billy does not get along well with his father. His mother tends to "rage" and cause a great deal of family strife. Billy is said to be in competition with his older brother, who is relatively unrestricted in his behaviour outlets. Billy has also complained of the limited amount of spending money he receives.

Outside the immediate family relationships he is considered to be "co-operative" but not so within his own family.

Billy's I.Q. was recorded as 118 and he is in Grade 9. His health is considered good, with no physical defects, but he is considered small for his age.

Billy seems to be an average boy, whose main disadvantages are poor familial relationships and smallness in physical stature. One could conceive of the idea that Billy, because of the limited, if any, personal recognition in his own home, seized upon the bus incident as an opportunity to be one of the group. The destruction of the bus could be done by almost anyone and Billy's small physical stature would not in any way prevent him from this action.

Billy may have seen group loyalty as his first concern along with the establishment and maintaining of group conformity.

Billy's poor father-son relationship and poor brother-brother relationship could be the basis for the importance of Billy gaining male identity via his peer group.

Whatever our assumptions, we recognize that Billy's delinquent acts are evidence of some type or combination of factors which give rise to such
behaviour.

Case #2

Jimmy, age twelve, along with nine juveniles, set fire to railroad ties. One hundred and sixty were totally destroyed and four hundred were partially destroyed. No charge was laid but some type of restitution was made to the railway company.

Jimmy has been involved in many other delinquencies. These range from theft of auto hub caps, breaking and entering, to the committing of mischief by wilfully damaging property. This wilful damage involved six juveniles entering a vacant factory and wilfully damaging property to the value of $500. No details about the disposition of this incidence were recorded.

Jimmy is considered an average student but with a quick temper and, according to school officials "is acting out due to an insecure home environment". He is considered friendly to adults and co-operative with his peer group.

Jimmy's parents have had some difficulty in their marital relationship. In 1959, his mother and father were divorced after a long separation. His father now lives in the United States, sends no financial support, and has not attempted to make any type of contact within the family.

At the present time Jimmy's mother is employed as a stenographer and bookkeeper. Her hours are irregular in that she is away in the evenings, weekdays, and until 11:00 p.m. on week-ends. This has meant supervision by a grandmother and, at times, by his fourteen year old sister. There have been no male figures of strong influence in his life.

The form of discipline used by his mother has been strappings and discontinuance of his 25 cents weekly allowance.
It is obvious to see that Jimmy has had female domination all of his life. Being athletically inclined Jimmy has had no family member or friend who has taken an interest in his life. With the irregular development of what expectations there are in life, Jimmy has had to find some way to identify with male companions.

The Probation Officer, with the consent of Jimmy's mother, referred Jimmy to the Y.M.C.A. Big Brothers' Group. Jimmy responded quickly and favourably. The case file noted that a continuance of the plan would be advisable and this arrangement has not been altered.

To speculate one may say that Jimmy may have had a typical anxiety status problem. With the clear-cut evidence of no familial male identifications, the growing seriousness of his delinquent acts and the most favorable response to the Big Brothers' organization suggests this phenomenon.

Case #3

Bruce, age twelve, broke a window of a private home by the throwing of a metal valve cap. The value of the window was $2.50. There was another youth at the scene but no action was taken against him.

Bruce's family is of Hungarian descent. He has a younger brother and sister and both parents are in the home.

Bruce is considered above average in school work and, according to his parents, he is not a behaviour problem in school.

Bruce's case file is not very full in detailed information but it does illustrate the fact that causal factors are difficult to ascertain. We do not know if there is some basic problem which would give rise to Bruce's delinquency or if what Bruce did was a complete accident.

In either case the severity of the act does not determine its method
or pattern of disposition in the Court. If there would have been an apparent and severe problem of personality or familial relationships there may have been a greater involvement by the Family and Children's Court.

Case #4

Alfred, age sixteen, caused window damage to an auto by throwing rocks. The car was parked in a carport at the rear of a private home. Besides damage to the 1959 Cadillac, the stones thrown hit the stucco exterior of the house, and the total damage amounted to $150.

For this delinquency Alfred was adjudged delinquent and placed on probation.

Alfred's familial relationships appear to be strained by reason of the separation of his father and mother. His mother's attitude toward his father is revealed by her saying, "I'm tired of supporting the family and he has done a poor job of this in the past three years".

Alfred has been described as an extrovert at school and inclined to be rather antagonistic toward persons in authority. Along with a record of low grades there are also minor behaviour problems which, at times, have brought on strappings by the school authorities.

In his social life he does not belong to any organized clubs and spends his leisure time in the company of friends. He takes offence if he figures one of his friends or he himself has been "wronged".

This delinquency involved another juvenile who was not apprehended. The two youths carried out this act at 12:05 a.m. It seems likely that they were probably together many hours prior to the incident and when the end of the day was upon them and the almost magical timing of this Cadillac being set before them, they struck out against it and all of its representations. The boys were said to have run a considerable distance before being seized,
thus suggesting a high emotional involvement in this act and its symbolic representations. The chase was seemingly adventurous in itself.

After a relatively long probation period Alfred expressed a desire to join the Army. What representation this held for Alfred could only be speculation. Possibly the dependent role of an Army enlisted man with designated forms of acting out was seen by Alfred as a means of channelling his pent-up energies and aggressions.

All of the cases presented have been viewed in a speculative manner. All of them have signs of lower economic class status but not enough information is available to allow such a documentation on an individual case.

There are many basic factors or conditions which psychologists, psychiatrists, and sociologists offer as causes of juvenile delinquency. In our exploratory study of the case files of juvenile vandals we were unable to isolate any specific factors as being the causes of vandalism or basic reasons for the development of a juvenile vandal.

We can, however, present a profile or picture of the characteristic features of a juvenile vandal and acts of vandalism brought to the attention of the Family and Children's Court of the City of Vancouver during the year 1961.

The personal characteristics of the juvenile vandal as indicative of the sixty-five cases studied show the vandal to be a male between the ages of thirteen and fifteen.

On the whole he is an average student with the possibility of being a slow learner. Although he is not typically seen as a behaviour problem by school authorities, it is interesting to note that the most frequent type of act is the breaking of school windows.

(Because of the incompleteness of case file information, the determination of the vandals' motivations could not be identified in either psychol-
logical or sociological terms. The breaking of school windows might be read as a psychological disturbance, i.e. hostility toward authority figures or it might be seen as having sociological implications - striking out at middle-class values.)

The typical vandal is not likely to be found in formal groups such as Cubs, Scouts and Y.M.C.A. He does list a church affiliation but one wonders if his lack of interest in formal leisure-time groups also characterizes his activity in Church groups.

(As a result of Court appearance there are some referrals made to the Big Brothers' organization. If the juvenile vandal has had female dominance and lacks opportunity for male identifications this forms the basis for such a referral. The Big Brothers' organization has several favorable reports on boys responding positively to this form of treatment.)

The figures #1, #4 and #5 in Chapter II and the total information found in this chapter bear out the fact that the typical juvenile vandal will most often come from families having average or below-average socio-economic status.

(There is evidence to suggest that a majority of cases studied showed the fathers of these vandals to be blue collar employees. Further, the area of residence of these juveniles is the section east of Main Street. The cases in which settlement was made Out of Court shows the fathers to be, on the whole, in white collar occupations. Their area of residence is most often in the above-average socio-economic areas of Vancouver.)

The juvenile's family has an average of 2.9 siblings per family. The Canadian national average is around 2.5 per family. This indicates that the vandal and his family are in the national average grouping.

(There is certainly not enough evidence to attribute vandalism to a
large family but rather the contrary appears to be the rule.

The vandal, contrary to popular notions about juvenile delinquents, comes from a two-parent home. This does not insure marital or family tranquility and for some reason the juvenile vandal does become involved in acts of damage to property.

Thus, the most significant basic factor found to be in all cases of vandalism settled in the Court was the low economic status of the family with a certain number of vandals, mainly ones in which settlement was made Out of Court, representing the so-called middle-class homes.

FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED TO COMPLETE PROFILE

Lack of standardization in recording of pertinent information on agency files made it impossible to gather information in the following areas:

(1) IQ and standardized psychological testing.
(2) Assessment of the quality of family relationships.
(3) Detailed information on the disposition of a case of both In Court and Out of Court settlements.
(4) Degree of involvement in church affiliation.
(5) Some information of how the juvenile vandal views himself in society and the opportunities open to him.
(6) In view of the prevalence of sociological theories, an attempt might be made to test the degree of identification of the juvenile vandal without middle-class values.

After reading this chapter on the review of case file information, one becomes aware of the need for further research into the causes, development of a typology of the juvenile vandal and the possible preventative measures one might take against this form of delinquency.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS

As has been explained, this thesis is in the nature of an exploratory and descriptive study of the character and incidence of juvenile vandalism in the City of Vancouver. Our approach has had to be both broad and flexible for we met with no uniformity in the collecting of information such as we have sought. Since the statistical and factual results of our enquiries are given on the preceding pages, it is felt that this chapter will contain our thoughts and speculations resulting from the attitudes we met, the information that we were able to obtain, and how these correlate with some of the present day thinking on the subject of juvenile vandalism.

It is notable that we have mentioned only one Canadian reference in our first chapter and it is a minor reference only. Some time was spent in an examination of the literature both on and surrounding our subject and we have endeavoured to use those people whose theories form a basis for speculation with regard to the problem as it might exist in Vancouver. We could find no Canadian writing with specific regard to vandalism but we do recognize that we can benefit from American thinking and exploration for we are both of the North American culture, so there are similar facets to our problems. What we are faced with, however, is a number of tentative theories. That is, a number of views seeking the causal factors for this societal phenomenon.

It is agreed by all that juvenile vandalism is an expression of juvenile delinquency within our society, and it is not the purpose of this thesis to separate these in any way. We focus on this one aspect from a choice of aspects and, if such exploration leads to information that can be
used in the interests of reducing the incidence of juvenile delinquency as a whole, or of juvenile vandalism in particular, then such a study will have achieved a praiseworthy goal.

This last remark brings us face to face with the question of the values of our society. Let us agree that ours is an "acquisitive" society; that we set store on material possessions. Mr. R.H. Tawney explains the adjective further: "What it implies is, that the foundation of society is found, not in functions, but in rights; that rights are not deductible from the discharge of functions, so that the acquisition of wealth and the enjoyment of property are contingent upon the performances of services, but that the individual enters the world equipped with rights to the free disposal of his property and the pursuit of his economic self-interest, and that these rights are anterior to, and independent of, any service which he may render."¹ Tawney goes on to point out that because of the provision for and existence of competition in our society "the disposition to regard individual rights as the centre and pivot of society is still....the most powerful element in political thought and the practical foundation of industrial organization... Modern societies aim at protecting economic rights.....Such societies may be called Acquisitive Societies, because their whole tendency and interest and preoccupation is to promote the acquisition of wealth."² This might

2. Ibid, pp. 27-29.
sound extreme for, surely, ours is a complex society in its attitudes and values, but this aspect is a basic value and vandalism is that overt expression of delinquency that damages property, either private or public. Because of the value we set upon property and, therefore, ownership, we deplore but nevertheless understand expressions of retaliation or intended hurt against an individual being directed against that individual's property. Further, we can extend our understanding into the area of public property, or utilities, since such have an ownership though it is group ownership rather than individual ownership.

The selection of a definition for the term "Vandalism" caused us some thought initially for this is not a legal term. In general, it is accepted as a descriptive term, but today's unfolding knowledge in the fields of human psychology and human behaviour makes the aspect of wantonness questionable. Property is involved but is there ever neither purpose nor provocation to the act and, therefore, ever no resulting gain or satisfaction for the perpetrator? A society's laws exist to protect that which is valued within the society, so our society has laws dealing with the protection of our property. Our law meets its obligations at present by the Acts referred to in Chapter I which, as Chapter III, illustrates, are used by abbreviation such as follows: "damage to property"; "wilful damage", and "malicious damage". In "damage to property" we see an allowance for a lack of knowledge of the cause or intent of the action. However, the act itself is not acceptable and this is what the law deals with. The answer, or multiple answers, to the question of the presence of true wantonness will probably be explained by those who are exploring the field of vandalism, some of whom we refer to in our first chapter. However, though we have new and recent knowledge with regard to the behaviour of both individuals and
groups of individuals which leads us to believe that all behaviour is meaningful, that it is a symptom of, or expression of, a need, this knowledge is still largely within the hands of academicians and professionals. The general public is still uninformed and this state is perpetuated by the newspapers and other such media the producers of which themselves are uninformed. Therefore, if this behaviour, these acts of vandalism, are expressions of a need, the "help" which is necessary is being withheld by the greater part of our society. Within this framework of thinking and because of the lack of former enquiries, this thesis has been addressed to the questions, to what extent does the phenomenon of juvenile vandalism exist in the City of Vancouver and what are its characteristics.

Our study has led us to the conclusion that the phenomenon of juvenile vandalism does exist in the City of Vancouver, and it is felt to the extent that those who are directly affected usually take some corrective measure. That is, restitution is usually sought for the damage. However, it is not regarded as a major social problem within the area. In 1961, (this year was chosen from which to quote examples for it is the most recent year with census tracts and figures available) the total number of cases referred to the Family and Children's Court (the juvenile court) was 1316. Of this number only 65 were cases of property damage. It is true that some damage to property may have been effected in connection with some of the other cases but the major indiscretion resulted in an alternative charge. Table 11 of Chapter II shows that on a Province-wide basis the percentage of juveniles appearing in Court on property offences per thousand of the total juvenile population is only .378%. Table 1 of Chapter II informs us that 8.8% of the total juvenile population is the figure for all juveniles appearing in the Provincial Courts. So, although these figures do not prove the problem to
be a minor one in itself it cannot be but obvious that the number of juveniles who appear in Court on charges of property damage are a minor group of those who appear in Court. (For comparison purposes, Dominion-wide statistics are given also in Tables 1 and 11 of Chapter II).

Thus, we see that offences against property, which are the present legal categories for acts of vandalism, are a minor section of the total recorded picture of juvenile delinquency. Tables 6 and 7 of Chapter II list a breakdown of the types of categories within the law under which a juvenile may be adjudged delinquent. These charges provide a picture of the juvenile delinquency pattern in the City of Vancouver.

When considering these figures, it must be remembered that these are concrete statistics. That is, they result from an act having been performed contrary to the law and the person responsible for committing the act has been identified and brought before the Court. It has been quite impossible for us to assess what acts of juvenile vandalism have been committed in Vancouver without the perpetrators having been caught. Such damage is not always reported to the police for there is no action that can be taken under the law. However, insurance companies are often resorted to in such instances though it has been noted already that such damage is covered under the general clause "Extended Coverage Endorsement". How many instances of such damage occur to people that do not have insurance coverage or, again, damage with circumstances that do not meet the terms of the clause, is an unknown quantity. Thus, we see that a full and true picture of juvenile vandalism in Vancouver cannot be obtained at this time. The full facts simply are not available.

Because it is property that is affected, we can see that an act of vandalism is disturbing to people and to communities. It is a threat to an individual's personal living. If an incident occurs in one area of the city,
the knowledge of that incident is distressing to most residents and if the
person or persons involved in committing the act do not become known the
threat is remembered and increases when another incident occurs. Vandalism,
therefore, is news and this is apparent in the reporting of it in our news-
papers. As we have noted, many incidents occur without the perpetrators
being identified. This situation is examplified by Appendix "B" of Chapter
II where, in 1964 for example, we see that of the 2182 complaints laid in
the Police Department only 135 individuals were charged. For our purposes
we note that of the 135, 46 were juveniles. Thus, we see an argument for a
special consideration of the situation. We have laws for the protection of
property but, apparently, we are not able to make them very effective. What
is lacking? Why this painful gap between offences committed and offenders
identified? This is a question the answer to which we were not able to seek
within the limits of this thesis, but this could be a subject for enquiry
and one from which some practical procedural recommendations could ensue.
For this thesis, the point helps to illustrate somewhat dramatically the
unknown portion of the overall picture. Is the problem of juvenile vandalism
greater in the City of Vancouver than is realized?

Vancouver is a city concerned with a known major problem of narcotic
trafficking and addiction. Bank robberies and hold-ups occur. Such items
are headline news in the first instance and usually because of the amount of
money involved. It is for the sake of this money that even the lives of one
or two individuals may be endangered, but the community as a whole does not
feel threatened in the same way as by an act of vandalism for there is a
purpose to the act which is understood though the chosen means of acquisition
is not acceptable. There is a relationship between the need and its satis-
faction which has a boundary so that no more than a few people may be
affected by the act. What we are discussing is the equilibrium of the life of the City of Vancouver. What is stressful in one area may not cause equal stress in another location if there is a boundary. Concern is felt, for whatever the event, it is a component part of the City's life as a whole, but distance plays its part. People's lives are not so affected by an occurrence when they are physically removed from it.

This brings us to the question, do the known occurrences of juvenile vandalism occur more frequently in one part of the City more than in another? Chapter II has indicated the difficulties in obtaining information that could be correlated readily. More information than we have been able to obtain is needed to answer this question properly. However, we are able to make some comments on our findings and we would like to relate them to some of the present-day thinking regarding juvenile delinquency and, specifically, juvenile vandalism where possible.

Chapter II notes that the City of Vancouver's Electrical Department's suggested high damage area is closely related to the considered high damage area of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority's city property. The City's Electrical Department list their area as being in the Fraser View area which is in the south-eastern part of the City. They note, too, that there is a line of frequent damage, though minor damage, which follows the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority's railway into the western parts of the City. The British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority suffers its greatest damage in the south-eastern area of the City also. Theirs is an area adjoining Fraser View, but this area is extended into the western part of the City, it being their 'buses that suffer the greatest damage. It is notable that this western south-eastern line is a regular 'bus route, so two factors emerge: first, that there is an area which appears to be an axis regarding
damage; secondly, that both sources mentioned are public utilities. Although we have commented on the difficulty of separating accidental from other types of damage to school property, it could be noted that Lord Nelson Elementary School suffered considerable damage in 1964 and it is situated near to the Victoria Drive 'bus route which touches the south-eastern area of the City.

Because of the geography of Vancouver, this area is comparatively distant from much of the City and its residents, so many would feel unaffected personally and particularly in view of the fact that most damage is done to public property. The damage to public property aspect is borne out in Chapter III which lists the property damage done by those juveniles brought to Court. In view of the fact that the recording of complaints at the Vancouver Police Department regarding property damage are not separated into the two categories of public or private, it is impossible to assess what proportion of the damage is done to private property. It follows that the nature of that damage is hidden in the present system of recording, also. It can be noted, too, that no insurance company could be found which kept statistics on damage to property. This observation adds a facet to the unknown aspect of the overall picture to which we have already referred. Chapter III does tell us that out of a known 39 cases only 6 charges were for damage to house or apartment windows so it is unlikely that the present attitude of the average Vancouver resident is very apprehensive. He will not feel personally threatened even though alerted to the presence of such vandalism in his City.

Figure 2 of Chapter II shows us that the Fraser View area of the City stands alone in its high proportion of juvenile population. It is interesting to note that Figure 4 of Chapter II shows that none of the 39 cases brought to Court in 1961 lived in this specific area, but this area has frequent patrolling by the City Police. This extra police attention became
directed to the area in the few years preceding the compilation of this thesis, and it is thought that this action has had the desired effect. However, two of those cases settled Out of Court live in the area itself and a few of those brought to Court live in adjoining areas.

A trend in present day thinking is that in certain instances delinquent behaviour is adaptive behaviour in that it serves to meet the special circumstances in which an individual finds himself, or group finds itself, even though the behaviour violates the accepted rules of the larger group of which he or it is a part. What of the theory that the delinquent solution among middle-class boys is that it is their way of coping with a basic anxiety about the achievement of male identity? On considering the 39 cases which were taken to Court, we note that 27 of them had both parents in the home. We could imagine that from the occupations listed in Chapter III the fathers' work did not take them far from home for long periods of time and we can see that the majority of mothers did not regard themselves as working mothers, that is, with a paid occupation outside the home. However, this situation is open to surmise for nothing is known of the emotional stability in the home. What the masculine image is for these boys is something unknown. The information available did not indicate whether or not the mother is the dominant value disseminator in the home so this question, or theory, is open for exploration.

The Community Chest and Council's Research project on Metropolitan Vancouver informs us that Fraser View and the adjacent areas have the lowest population growth and the lowest immigration rates for the City. This shows some stability though it is notable, too, that the homes in this area are not generally owner-occupied. It is listed as an average socio-economic area. So, with these facts in mind, there does exist an argument that the known
acts of vandalism are not expressions of social deprivation. However, this must be measured against the fact that mobility is part of today's living and the 'bus route which suffers heavy damage is the one that joins the Fraser View area with the Kerrisdale and Dunbar areas. These latter areas are rated the highest in the socio-economic index for Vancouver. Here is found a high percentage of households which are owner occupied as opposed to the lowest percentage which exists in the Fraser View area. In view of the already mentioned value set upon ownership in our society, do those living in the south-eastern part of the City regard themselves as deprived, as a lower class? This is pointed out in connection with Cohen's theory regarding the status anxiety of lower class boys.

Figure 4 of Chapter II shows Fraser View and its surrounding areas to be in the average family wage and salary income group. The Kerrisdale and Dunbar areas are shown to be of the highest, beyond the average group. When Cohen describes the shared problems of disadvantages felt by some of mainly dependent families or those of low-income labourers and service workers, perhaps here in Vancouver the comparative social situation is the same but between different levels of society. Perhaps this is a pointer as to why we do not have a true delinquent gang culture of problem proportions in this City. Instead of the social disadvantage being felt by a labouring group it is felt by a different type of working group and one that has some "middle class" amenities and values. We live in an age of mass media, and propaganda regarding the acquisition of property (be it cars, clothing, houses, etc.) is all around us and it is brought right into our homes and private lives via the radio and other means. The young, who have more money in their pockets at an earlier age than did their parents, are under a special barrage from the advertisers. Do these young people see themselves as a deprived
group because of this element in their lives, also? These are pertinent questions, but this thesis is exploratory only. We have been unable to tackle the next step of finding the meaning behind such facts or symptoms of social behaviour as it exists in Vancouver at this time.

It is noteworthy that of the 65 cases of juvenile vandalism known to the Vancouver Family and Children's Court in 1961, 26 were settled Out of Court. We have no idea of what action promoted the laying of the complaint nor do we know what form the satisfactory retribution took. At present, no record is kept of these facts. The retribution could have been monetary, and it could be assumed that the parents involved could have met the expenditure from their income.

The purpose of this concluding chapter is not to repeat the points made in former chapters, but to pull together the outstanding pointers which have emerged from our study. Because of the diversity of our findings, and for the purposes of a possible subsequent study, we feel it is helpful to make the following list:

1. The very diversity, or scattered findings, that we mention results from the fact that the social phenomenon of juvenile vandalism is not considered to be of problem proportions in the City of Vancouver when compared with other recognized forms of juvenile delinquency.

2. Because of attitudes resulting from the foregoing observations, there is no uniformity in the recording of incidents. Indeed, there is little recording at all beyond the authorities upholding the law. Other social institutions, such as schools, do not apply themselves to the question other than to attend to the obtaining of satisfactory restitution whenever possible.
3. Possibly because of greater acknowledged problems within the keeping of the law, the Court authorities do not have information other than identifying information and a listing of the Section of the law that is violated, on the individual perpetrator. This is generally true of those cases that were brought to Court as well as those that were settled Out of Court. Any supplementary recorded information tends to be the result of enquiry into family relationships, so that any attempt at explaining the behaviour tends to accentuate and support the psychological theories. It appears that the more recently acquired sociological theories, such as Cohen's theory on the status anxiety of middle-class boys, are not being incorporated or drawn upon.

4. Most Court records indicated whether the individual acted as one of a group or alone, but there was no information about the group, its purposes, mores, etc. That is, there is no indication of a consideration of a possible sub-culture.

5. Most known juveniles involved in acts of vandalism in Vancouver are male.

6. In the light of today's knowledge, emotional security and satisfaction are felt to be the best provisions a parent can give to a child for his, or her, future acceptable and satisfying role in society. The Court recognizes this in its provision for requiring a pre-sentence report. However, we must presume that the reporting in Court must usually be given verbally for very few such reports or social histories were on file. This may not damage the Court hearing itself, but such a lack handicaps research into the problem or any effort made by others to remove the problem by attacking the causes. The causes themselves are hidden by this non-recording.

7. The juvenile who is charged with an offence against property in
Vancouver is usually aged 13 or 14, so it is an offence of a young group. Nine of the 39 recorded cases in 1961 were first offences, however, those cases that entailed property damage incidental to another charge or complaint were lost in the records.

8. No continuing record is kept of the offender whose case is settled Out of Court. Therefore, and bearing in mind the amount of vandalism which occurs the perpetrators of which are never identified, it is impossible to say what percentage of those involved in acts of vandalism ever commit other offences. Chapter III tells us that between the 39 cases considered there was a total of 197 delinquencies. Details of how many of the 39 individuals were actually involved would have to be drawn from the files and a further study made to trace how many of them became charged with other delinquencies at a later date.

9. Are the areas of damage related to opportunity? We noted that our two main sources of information within the community are both public utilities. Also, that the Fraser View area itself now has a low crime level but that it has extra patrolling by police. Is there a special attitude towards public utilities in Vancouver in which opportunity plays its part? It is interesting to note the support given in Chapter II to Sutherland's theory of differential association. This, in essence, is the imitation of the experience of others. Several public bodies subscribe to the idea that publicity of acts of vandalism on their property serves only to incite more of this type of behaviour.

10. School achievement has been discovered to be generally low amongst the 39 cases considered. However, whether or not mental retardation or, say, some physical handicap, plays an important part is not accessible information.
We have been unable to determine what, if any, the motives were behind the acts which have occurred in Vancouver. We have seen that the majority of cases in Court for 1961 were involved in damage to schools, but whether these were an indication of a general outburst against authority or some other unwanted influence, or whether they were instigated by an individual which spread throughout a group, is unknown.

Surprise might be felt that Hallowe'en does not show an increase in acts of juvenile vandalism, but it must be remembered that there is a greater acceptance of minor property damage at this time of year. This attitude can be supported by the police and Court officials who are the recipients of the complaints. An increase in acts at such a time would not necessarily indicate an increase in this aspect of juvenile delinquency. As the opening comments of this chapter indicate, society is concerned with retribution for loss and is affected by boundaries to an act beyond which safety is felt. So, if these two aspects are present and can be met, we feel that the threat is dissolved. Because of the annual repetition of Hallowe'en there is an expectation of this event. Protections have been provided for society by itself, such as 'teen age gatherings with socially acceptable excitements and opportunities, and these have proved to be deterrents to acts of vandalism and, so, are thought to be supportive of the equilibrium of the City's life.

Other questions can be drawn from our findings, but the points we have drawn out seem to be the most pertinent to our purpose and relate to the theories mentioned in Chapter I. We should, perhaps, mention again that this thesis does not intend to disagree with the law as it stands today in the light of present knowledge of the meaning of behaviour. However, we do question the need for the continuance of present attitudes regarding juvenile
vandalism in this City and, therefore, of the juvenile offender himself. As has been pointed out, much of the full picture is left to surmise, and unless this is corrected in some manner both personal and group attitudes are open to fallacies. Such a situation could serve to aggravate and, therefore, increase the problem. The Family and Children's Court in Vancouver functions on the premise that it is a remedial Court. That is, to the best of its ability it endeavours to pass a sentence which will help rehabilitate offenders back into a less socially deviant way of life. This thesis does not quarrel with this principle but, because the results of our inquiries have shown such a large area for speculation, the Court itself, too, is obviously working within this vacuum. The protection is, of course, that it deals only with the act. In itself it does not pass judgement on the motive. However, we can speculate and hope that a broader understanding of the act would benefit the Court in making a proper decision. Also, a wider and deeper understanding of the problem might produce new and appropriate resources either for the Court or for the general public.

Thus, an argument exists for further study in the area of juvenile vandalism in the City of Vancouver. We anticipate that this would be in the interests of the citizens of Vancouver and, also, in the interests of the juvenile offender himself. In short, we do not feel that the present attitudes in Vancouver are facing up to the problem as it is manifested today. Its actual proportions are not known. So, its possible significance in the total incidence of juvenile delinquency in the City is, virtually, unknown.
APPENDIX A-1

QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY

"It would be appreciated if the answers to the following questions could cover the period from January 1, 1960 to December 31, 1964 and provide yearly totals."

(1) QUESTION

What is the incidence of property damage to the property of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority in Vancouver? (Not Greater Vancouver).

ANSWER

Approximately 155 incidences per year. (See Table No. 3).

(2) QUESTION

What proportion of these incidents are known to be acts of wilful damage?

ANSWER

Our files are only wilful damage.

(3) QUESTION

What proportion of the acts of wilful damage were committed by individuals under the age of 18 years?

ANSWER

95%

(4) QUESTION

How many complaints were laid against individuals for these acts?

ANSWER

27 - See Table No. 4.
(5) **QUESTION**

How many complaints were laid against individuals under 18 years of age?

**ANSWER**

25

(6) **QUESTION**

What was attacked? What types of property were damaged most frequently? e.g. bus seats, electric meters, etc.

**ANSWER**

Bus seats, advertising cards, street lights, bus shelters, insulators.

(7) **QUESTION**

In what locations in the City of Vancouver were these acts most prevalent? e.g. broken meters - West End 130

- East Hastings 20

etc.

**ANSWER**

Tables No. 3 and 5 indicate which property is attacked, how frequently and where.
APPENDIX A-2

QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

(1) QUESTION

What is the number of complaints of wilful damage and mischief known to the police and occurring between January 1, 1960 and December 31, 1964, with totals for each year?

ANSWER

1960  --  1978
1961  --  2148
1962  --  2381
1963  --  2119
1964  --  2182

(2) QUESTION

In what sections of the city did these incidents occur?

ANSWER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West End and Downtown</th>
<th>East of Main</th>
<th>West of Main - South of False Creek</th>
<th>Not Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>1086</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) QUESTION

How many individuals were charged with these acts?

ANSWER

1963  --  213
1964  --  135
(4) **QUESTION**

What was the male-female ratio of those charged?

**ANSWER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(5) **QUESTION**

How many of those charged were juveniles? (Under eighteen).

**ANSWER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>--</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>Not Stated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>111</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(6) **QUESTION**

Is it possible to obtain an age breakdown of the juveniles charged with wilful damage and mischief?

**ANSWER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Under 14</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>Not Stated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(7) **QUESTION**

What is the male-female ratio of juveniles so charged?

**ANSWER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(8) **QUESTION**

In what areas of the city do the juveniles who were charged with wilful damage or mischief live?

**ANSWER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>West End and Downtown</th>
<th>East of Main</th>
<th>West of Main - South of False Creek</th>
<th>Not Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(9) **QUESTION**

In what areas of the city did the acts of vandalism associated with the juveniles charged occur.

**ANSWER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>West End and Downtown</th>
<th>East of Main</th>
<th>West of Main - South of False Creek</th>
<th>Not Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTION
Is it possible to obtain a breakdown of the type of vandalism - slashing tires, breaking windows, etc.?

ANSWER
Information not available.

SOURCE: Vancouver Police Department Records.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

General References

Burt, C. The Young Delinquent. Appleton, New York, 1925.

### Bibliography

#### Specific References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Specific References (Continued)


Wilson, O.W. Police Records, Their Installation and Use. Public Service Administration, Chicago, 1942.