

**Ferdie J. Deering**

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# Patty Hearst Makes Poor Example

**O**NE reason many youngsters develop distorted notions about success and the road leading to it is that "pictures" they see of "successful" people are unbalanced and misleading.

The trial of Patty Hearst, pampered daughter of a rich San Francisco family, has been played up for months with a lot of sentimental slush. One magazine called it the "trial of the century," but the only notable thing about it was a family failure that caused a confused girl to turn to sordid companionship that led her into big trouble.

A contrasting picture that received only a fraction as much news coverage and which may have been overlooked by many was the 61st Oklahoma City 4-H and FFA Livestock Show.

Here were some 4,500 boys and girls who have learned to work and to do, showing results of their efforts in vigorous competition, hoping to earn a profit and a little recognition. They represented the best of thousands more who had shown animals at county or district shows.

The accomplishments of these thousands of youngsters who are doing things right attracted little attention compared to the California girl who did everything wrong, but their deeds were a million times more meaningful and worthwhile.

A logical inference that might be drawn is: "If you want to be noticed, do something wrong. Doing things right won't get you anywhere in this cockeyed world."

Of course, that's a false and mis-

leading observation, because teenage gangs, smoking and drinking, drug abuse, idleness and crime lead to trouble. Some youngsters can't see that far ahead, because they are misguided by thieves and dope pushers, and by excessive publicity given to characters like Patty Hearst.

One of the most valuable gifts parents can provide for their offspring is to teach them to work at worthwhile tasks. Unfortunately, our laws and customs make this difficult.

Child labor laws were needed to stop poverty-stricken parents and greedy employers from exploiting children at low wages, depriving them of educational opportunities.

The negative side of such laws is that youngsters may finish high school or college with little opportunity to observe business careers and with virtually no real work experience.

Without work background, many lack motivation to study or to hold jobs. When they belatedly apply for work, employers are reluctant to hire them, because minimum wage laws and fringe benefits required make their low productivity a costly expense.

Oklahoma's 130,000 4-H Club members and 18,000 Future Farmers of America (FFA) compete successfully for honors and championships in national events, because they have learned to do by doing. Many have accumulated funds for college when they finish high school, but their working experience is worth more.

If we expect our youngsters to be industrious, to seek higher values of life, and to accomplish worthy careers, we need to give achievements "equal time" with failures. In these times, success is sensational, too!

## The People Speak

### Hearst Needs To Confess All

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I want to express my opinion in thanking your paper for printing the article "Patty Hearst Makes Poor Example" written by Ferdie Deering.

It is disgusting to read and know about Patty Hearst as she had a wonderful opportunity to make good and be helpful to others.

The FFA and 4-H Club members work hard and enjoy their work in accomplishing a worthwhile award, and as you say "very little is printed about them."

Patty Hearst should confess and repent and tell the court so, instead of trying to escape punishment.

Alma M. Foster, Woodward