



Mrs. Marilyn Beggs, a probation officer who does her job and then some.

Photos by Kevin Higley

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John Beggs, 26, is a teacher. He has applied to teach at The Nebraska State Reformatory. David, 25, is a Lincoln police officer. Pam, 23, works for the Columbia, Missouri, police department. Steve, 21, works at the YMCA and attends Wesleyan University.

Scott, a May graduate of Southeast High School, works for the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. He plans to enroll at UNL second semester to begin working on a degree in criminal justice.

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"Somebody has to take these kids in. What are they going to do? Live at the YMCA the rest of their lives, hit the streets, get thrown in prison later?" he said.

"The kids started coming here when I was in sixth grade. I grew up with them... the Mexicans, the whites... I found they were just people, like anyone else."

One day Scott came home from school to find two unfamiliar guys sitting in the living room.

"Who are you?" he asked them.

"We live here now," they told him.

"I was resentful and jealous at first," Scott said. "I resented it that I had to share my parents with them." Scott's sister Pam, now 23, moved out into her own apartment at 17.

But Scott says the Beggs children and the foster children had some "good times" together.

One summer seven foster boys, the four Beggs boys and their sister lived in the same house.

"Twelve or 14 of us went to Lake McConaughy for six days."

With fun also came rules.

"All children need rules to live by. That's why they rebel," according to Bob Beggs.

The rules of the house were based on one tenet: "Don't disturb the neighborhood or the family."

There were other rules: everyone ate together at 6 p.m., and drugs and alcohol were not allowed in the house.

It was important that the foster children felt the Beggs' home was theirs, that they felt wanted, Mrs. Beggs said.

She told about Don, whose stay with them was his last chance.

Don balked at the discipline, Mrs. Beggs said. Then

she told him: "I want it to work. I want you to want it to." It did. Don finished high school and got a job. But foster parenthood can have its disappointments.

Pete, the last of the foster children, left the Beggs home to enter the Nebraska State Reformatory. He had burglarized five houses in the Beggs neighborhood in one month.

"Mom would try to help him," Scott said. She would get the judges to let him off easy, and she'd work with him some more. She got him a job and talked to him... Again and again, he said.

"He got along with us, so we didn't suspect him at first," Scott said, adding, "He just didn't care."

He still writes letters to Mrs. Beggs saying he'll never steal again.

The Beggs say they still feel terrible about this case, but their success rate with the other foster children has left a good feeling inside.

Scott says he and some of his foster brothers still get together. The family gets calls and letters from different states. And once in a while a former foster child will stop by and spend the night.

Most of them now are working; some are happily married. Their natural parents might have been alcoholics. Their home life might have been broken up. Some couldn't cope with family life. They lied and stole.

"You learn patience and ways to handle the different personalities by living with them," Mrs. Beggs said. Her psychology study found itself into mother-to-foster child confidential talks at nights.

"In the dark they didn't have to make eye contact," Mrs. Beggs said.

"You must be tolerant," she said. "Foster children's experiences are not always the same as yours."

Some like it so well they didn't want to leave. Harry finally did at age 22. After graduating from Southeast Community College at Milford, the Beggs "encouraged him to move out and do his own thing," Mrs. Beggs said.

Three of the Beggs "children" were enrolled in the same freshmen English course one semester at UNL and they invited their mother to speak in the class. It caused confusion when she was introduced as mother of all three—especially since they each had different colors of hair and skin.

The foster boys used to work on cars with Mr. Beggs. They liked Mrs. Beggs' home cooking. One of them told her:

"No one's ever fixed breakfast for me before, except in jail."

Scott says he might like to have foster children after he is married.

"It was fun... we were one big family... with all the boys around (only four of the foster children were girls) people might ask: 'What is this, a fraternity house?'" Scott said.

Living in style and being able to pay for it are often two different stories for the college student. Right? Well, you can stretch your spending dollar by renting. For example, for much less than the cost of buying new bedroom furniture, you can rent a new bed and dresser for your apartment.

By renting, you can; temporarily brighten your surroundings, entertain yourself (from backpacks to silent movies), and in general, enjoy some of the extras in life you thought you were too poor to afford.

Refer to the yellow pages of the Lincoln telephone directory for rental agencies, which rent the basics (such as lawnmowers, TVs, tables). But don't forget to check want ads and bulletin boards on campus for the odd things an individual might want to rent you.

Below is a list of some items rentable in Lincoln. It is not complete, but it should give you some ideas.

For those of you with no money problems and an eye for adventure, we have included some unique ways to spend your hard-earned money.

Wild blue yonder

If travel is your game, you can go by plane. Maybe you would like to visit a friend in another city or fly quickly to an out-of-town football game.

Lincoln Aviation Institute (at the Municipal Airport) will introduce you to flying for just \$5. That buys you 15 to 20 minutes in the air in a small plane flying within the edges of city limits. You will also learn the basics of "pre-flying" such as how to check the gasoline.

Maybe that little ride was enough for a diversion from the books some afternoon. If not, and you are seriously interested in flying somewhere, you can rent a plane with a pilot for \$30 an hour. If you have a pilot's license you pay \$21 an hour.

A chartered flight costs 35 cents a mile in a single-engine plane. A twin-engine plane, a must in bad weather, costs 45 cents a mile. For every 100 miles traveled, you get a free hour of rental time on the ground. Additional hours are \$7.50. If you plan to spend your time in a place between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m., the time on the ground costs you nothing.

U-Haul it off

If you have had it and want to take off for good, or if you are changing apartments, the people at U-Haul can help you out. You can rent a U-Haul trailer (see Yellow pages) for 80 cents a length foot for 24 hours. Trailers come 4 ft. by 6 ft. up to 14 ft. long. Hitch rental, insurance and a rear-view mirror add about \$4. A note of caution: subcompact cars such as Ford Pinto are not built to pull a trailer.

\$Vrrrooom . . .

If you would like to impress that special date with your neat new car, why not rent one? Illusions of grandeur may tempt you to rent a Ford LTD from Hertz. It will cost \$24 a day plus 24 cents a mile. Hertz pays for the gasoline.

For those with more conservative notions, Hertz will rent you a Pinto for \$17 a day plus 13 cents a mile. You pay for the gas.

Dean's Ford, however may offer a better deal. Pinto rental there costs \$7 a day plus 7 cents a mile. An LTD costs \$14 a day, and 14 cents a mile. You pay for gas.

Budget Rent-A-Car has a neat little economical package for the student wanting to rent some wheels.

The least expensive car here is a Chevrolet Vega. It rents for \$11 a day and 12 cents a mile. A Nova Chevy runs \$14 a day, 13 cents a mile. But weekend rates are only \$10 a day, from Friday noon to Monday noon.

For a week, Vega rental costs \$55 plus 12 cents a mile. Their "vacation rate" for the Vega is \$89.50, which gives you 1,000 free miles.

Make yourself at home

Maybe you just want to stay home and spruce up your apartment, house or dorm room.

You can rent a bed, bed rails and mattress for \$13 to \$15 a month at Ace Furniture-TV Inc. (2429 O St.). A dresser or chest runs about \$7 a month. A chair or love-seat costs \$10 minimum. Fifteen dollars a month will rent you a sofa. There is a minimum rental time for furniture at Ace of two months.

Interiors Diversified Inc. (1230 South St.) offers a large selection of furnishings to rent for a minimum of four months. Rental prices vary depending if the piece is new or used and on the style of furniture you select.

An average twin bed costs \$7 to \$9. A queen or double bed averages \$11.50 a month; dresser, \$7.50; chest of drawers, \$5.50; nightstand, \$3, and lamp, \$1.15.

Living room furniture averages \$13 for a sofa, \$6 for a chair, \$2.75 for a coffee table, \$2.50 for an end table, \$1.75 for a lamp. You can even rent a bean bag chair. \$2.25 a month.

To accommodate the munchies, a two and one-half cubic bar refrigerator can be rented for \$7 a month. Ace rents full-size refrigerators for about twice that amount.

A dining room table with four chairs rents for \$55 to \$80 a month at Interiors Diversified.

Homework helpers

For the student who wants to set up the ideal study niche, a 3 ft. wide desk can be rented for \$3.45 a month. Chair rental is \$1.

Interiors Diversified charges the first two months rent in advance plus a \$15 delivery and pickup fee.

Lincoln Office Equipment (126 N. 14th St.) can rent you a typewriter to put on your desk for \$15 to \$35 a

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