Ferdie J. Deering

Alcoholism a Leading Destroyer Of Life, Health of Americans

F Americans really were serious about stamping out one of the top "killers," it could be done. The cause and the cure of one of our leading destroyers of life and health are known.

Alcoholism is now rated the nation's third most deadly disease, after heart disease and cancer. Estimates indicate that 100 million Americans drink, over 10 million of them alcoholics. Only 10 per cent ever will recover, while nearly a half million will become "skid row burns."

The cause of alcoholism is alcohol; nothing else. The only reported cases of alcoholism among non-drinkers involved stunted, subnormal or abnormal babies born to alcoholic mothers.

The cure for alcoholism is for victims to stop drinking. This is not an easy accomplishment, because society, business, government and other circles provide alcoholic drinks so lavishly that even those who want to guit may not be able to do so.

Business has good reason to be wary of chronic alcoholics, because they become undependable. The medical director of General Motors reported last year that employees with drinking problems are absent from work an average of 93 days a year and that their sickness and accident claims are four times normal. A state official reported there are 60,000 employed alcoholics in Oklahoma

A government study of 211 large corporations reported last fall that as many as 20 per cent of the top level executives in New York City either are alcoholics or potential alcoholics. The same study classified 28 per cent of the nation's teen-agers as

problem drinkers, many of them in trouble with the law.

It has long been known that drinking is involved in half of all traffic fatalities, plus a great proportion of those in which victims are crippled or disfigured and property damaged.

Some authorities call alcohol the nation's "worst drug problem," although others classify it simply as a "disease." Whichever it is, from all angles alcohol is a killer.

A nationally recognized medical authority reported in a recent issue of Scientific American that "as the incidence of alcoholism has risen in the U.S. population, so has the incidence of cirrhosis of the liver." In 1974 it climbed past arteriosclerosis and influenza to rank seventh as a cause of death.

Yet, Oklahoma citizens again are being called upon to vote on November 2 to legalize serving of liquor by the drink. Reasons given for legalizing liquor further are to make it more readily available, thereby attracting conventions and tourists to hotels and restaurants, increasing sales.

Other results to be expected would be more habitual drinkers, more intoxicated drivers, more alcoholic mothers, more fatal automobile accidents, more teen-aged drinkers, more crime and more broken homes. The dollar cost would be incalculable.

If increased alcoholism, with all of its undesirable side effects, is what Oklahomans want, the liquor-by-thedrink proposition will be approved in November.

Perhaps recent sex scandals in Washington may cause voters to decide it is time for America to start on the upward path again. More liquor isn't the way to go.





By Joe L. Ingram Executive Director-Treasurer QUG. 1 8 1913

Ferdie J. Deering, outstanding Baptist layman, recently wrote an article on alcohol for the editorial page of The Daily Oklahoman. Here are some of the things he says about alcohol and alcoholism:

"Alcoholism is now rated the Nation's third most deadly disease, after heart disease and cancer. Estimates indicated that 100 million Americans drink, over 10 million of them alcoholics. . . . The cause of alcoholism is alcohol; nothing else. . . . The cure for alcoholism is for victims to stop drinking. . . .

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Schedule

Aug. 20—The Baptist Foundation Committee Meetings
Aug. 22—Osage Heights Church, Ponca City
Aug. 25—7 a.m.—Governing Board, Grove Hospital Noon—Governing Board, Miami Hospital

SANE Is on the Job

SANE is working diligently to lead the battle against liquor-by-the-drink. Campaign plans will be announced soon.

Planning and Promotion:

Our Church Believes in Cooperative Program

By Larry Adams, Pastor, Immanuel, Shawnee

At Immanuel, Shawnee, we really do believe that the Cooperative Program is the best way to support missions. The Cooperative Program is several years my senior. I can never remember not having it or not appreciating it. Most of our people at Immanuel will never serve on a mission field. Their fulfillment of the Great Commission, therefore, must be expressed in another way. That medium is the Cooperative Program. Through it they can be involved in missions around the world.

Our gifts through the Cooperative Program have almost doubled in the past two years. How? (1) Through increased giving on behalf of our people; (2) by an increased percentage of giving.

At the present time our church gives 18 percent through the Cooperative Program. Our long range goal is 25 percent. We have increased it from 15 percent the last two years.

The attitude of our people toward mission giving was very beautifully depicted just recently. One of our families gave a check for a rather large sum to the church. They also gave a second check for the Cooperative Program which was our designated 18 percent of the amount. This family believes that the Cooperative Program is definitely the best way.

I have a friend in another state who

continually has financial problems in his church. Sometime back he wrote me wanting to know my secret for raising the finances of our church. As you well know, I have no secret. I do, however, have a motto. It is very simple: Trust God and tell the people. It works every time.

Of course, work and planning help to achieve your objectives. Pray like it all depended on God and work like it all depended on you, is just another way to phrase it.

The first thing we consider, as we plan our annual budget, is our increase to missions. We have just completed a \$415,000 remodeling job at our church. During this time our budget and missions gifts have almost doubled. How? Our people believe the Cooperative Program is still the very

best way. God will honor and bless such an attitude.

I don't mean to brag on myself but I do mean to brag on our Lord and our people. They form an unbeatable alliance.

Note: the above testimony was solicited by Lyle Garlow, associate executive direc-

Woman's Missionary Union:

Area Training Meetings Set

By Miss Abbie Louise Green, Director

Methods conferences are planned for the 15 area meetings to be held Sept. 13 through Oct. 1. Each member of a church Woman's Missionary Union will have an opportunity to learn about methods and plans for the new church year.

The meetings will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. The following methods conferences will be held: (1) WMU officers (WMU directors, secretaries, enlistment - enlargement directors); (2) Baptist Women presidents; (3) mission study chairmen and mission study group leaders; (4) mission support chairmen and prayer group leaders; (5) mission action chairmen and mission action group leaders; (6) Baptist Young Women officers and members; (7) Acteens leaders; (8) Girls in Action leaders; (9) Mission Friends leaders.

Other members may choose the conference in which they are most interested Listed below are the dates and places:

C	23.1 04	Church
Sept. 13	East Central	Heavener, First
Sept. 14	Southeast	Atoka, First
Sept. 15	South Central	Davis, First
Sept. 16	Lawton	Davis, Filst
Sept. 17		Duncan, First
	Capital	Oklahoma City, Olivet
Sept. 20	Panhandle	Guymon, First
Sept. 21	North Central	Woodward, First
Sept. 22	West Central	Cordell Di-
Sept. 23	Southwest	Cordell, First
Sept. 24		Grandfield, First
ocpt. 24	Central	Chickasha,
C 07		College Heights
Sept. 27	Delaware-Osage-	Bartlesville,
	Cimarron	Highland Park
Sept. 28	Northeast	Claremore, Trinity
Sept. 29	Tulsa	Talendre, Trinity
		Tulsa, Ranch Acres
Sept. 30	Muskogee	Muskogee, First
Oct. 1	Shawnee	Prague, First
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Seminaries:

New Orleans Enrolment Up

An all-time high enrolment figure for credit students, 1,139, has been reached at New Orleans Seminary, according to seminary registrar, George C. Herndon.

"This figure represents a 20 percent increase in enrolment over a year ago, and is an all-time record enrolment,' stated Herndon.

Herndon attributes the increase to "the very fine spirit which has existed between students and faculty and alumni for the past several years." Alumni are also credited by Herndon with recommending record numbers of new studer. to their alma mater. Seminary president is Landrum P. Leavell.