

# Saloon Problem Caused by Scofflaws

A NEWSPAPER report says the public is confused and "family restaurants" are threatened with closure as public nuisances if Oklahoma liquor laws are enforced.

There is no necessity for either situation to exist. All restaurants need to do is stop violating state laws by running open saloons and all the public has to do is to obey laws concerning the use of alcoholic beverages.

The problem is not that the law is unclear; the problem is that many people do not agree with the law and openly flout it. This is compounded by failure of public officials to uphold and enforce laws.

In previous eras when lawbreaking was rife, those who deliberately disobeyed laws they didn't like were referred to as scofflaws. Under various banners, scofflaws abound today.

Liquor law violations are common. Not only do people see or buy liquor contrary to the law, many people drink excessively and then drive their cars unsafely in overt violations of the law.

This sometimes results in illogical or ridiculous actions. When a driver smashed his car into another vehicle in Noble County, killing six people, blood tests showed excessive alcohol. Reactions of officials was to propose changing speed limits near the intersection.

What was needed was more stringent enforcement of laws concerning drunken driving. What happened? Arrests in the state for drinking drivers have dropped about 1,000 per year since 1978.

A few weeks ago a similar accident occurred near Okmulgee, also killing six people. One driver was suspected of being drunk because of the strong smell of alcohol. Officials said it would be weeks before blood alcohol tests would be ready. Blood tests usually take minutes.

An even more serious effect of scofflaw attitudes is the ruination of children and youth who imitate their parents and other adults.

Studies at the University of Oklahoma show that the ability of most alcoholics to solve problems is im-

paired. Businessmen long have been aware that employees with hangovers and related alcohol problems are unreliable and produce less than they are capable of doing.

The reason liquor and beer distributors, restaurant owners, hotels, motels and resorts are concerned about the possibility of law enforcement is their lack of concern about the well-being of their customers.

Their proposed solution is to make more sales to more people by advocating a referendum to make "liquor by the drink" available.

"To me, there is nothing more immoral than teaching our children to ignore or disobey the law because we choose to look the other way when we see a lack of enforcement of a law which we ourselves choose to ignore," said former state Sen. Bob Funston, who has been named to lead the campaign for more liquor for sale in more places.

So, during the holiday season, watch out for scofflaws driving cars. Half of all fatal car accidents involve drinking drivers.

# Teachers Want to Stay

## TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in reply to your Dec. 12 editorial. As classroom teachers we resent the facts as you have presented them. Let's get the facts straight.

1. The \$1,600 Salary Increase: The \$1,600 you so blatantly refer to as average salary increase was distributed by educational level and years of teaching experience; therefore, a first- or second-year teacher received approximately \$300 to \$400 per year. This cannot compete with inflation.

2. A Cost-of-Living Raise: State employees receive one every year. State legislators just voted themselves one to \$18,000 for the five to six months that they are in session, plus \$35 a day for travel expenses. Why not the teachers? Aren't teachers entitled to cost-of-living raises, too? (We notice that you have had to increase the price of your papers and also cut back on services.)

3. Early Retirement: What difference does it make if a teacher begins at age 21 and retires at 51? Military personnel may retire with 20 to 30 years' service with partial or full retirement pay plus medical benefits and commissary privileges. No one cares what age they are.

4. The Classroom Pressure Cooker: Try 30 minutes' duty before and after school, bathroom duty, hall duty between classes, and 35-minute lunches. Add to this two hours a night of preparing and grading papers. Since parents give us the responsibility for guiding their children in social skills, self-discipline, respect for others and academic areas, why, then, should they not be willing to pay us for accepting that responsibility?

5. Recharging Batteries: In reference to the three months' "vacation," one needs to survey teachers to learn that many must find summer employment. Others return to college or travel with educational study groups to further their education. As with others, teachers have been forced to "moonlight" during the regular teaching year.

6. Think Back: Where did you learn writing, spelling, math, reading, science, history, music, physical education, art and public speaking? Were not the teachers of these subjects contributing factors in the attainment of your goals?

We invite you to follow one of us through a typical day. Walk a mile in our shoes — then tell us that our goals are excessive. Society seems willing to pay excessive fees for entertainment, and union members secure higher salaries. All teachers ask is a chance to at least keep up with inflation.

**Concerned Teachers,  
Putnam City-Central  
Junior High School**

JAN 4 1981  
**Thinking Outmoded**

## TO THE EDITOR:

Once again I read one of F. Deering's asinine editorials against our state having a sensible and workable liquor-by-the-drink law. Really — is this Neanderthal thinker the best you can come up with as an advocate for your unreasonable and unthinkable opposition to an enforceable liquor-by-the-drink law?

Is he so ignorant as to believe that our state does not have liquor by the drink in fact, even if not by law? Do you and he both think that the rest of the civilized world is out of step and only good old Bible-Belt Oklahoma should have such ridiculous laws regarding the serving of alcoholic beverages?

It is unfortunate for our state that with all the fine and brilliant people in it, such "thinkers" as F. Deering and Bailey Smith get the media exposure and make our state a laughingstock throughout the rest of the country.

**Gary L. Chrisco, Edmond**

## Spirit Fades Quickly

### TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to know what happened to all of the Christmas spirit the day after Christmas? My 2-year-old son and I went to an after-Christmas sale to pick up a few items and I have never in my life seen so many rude, push-and-shove people.

I am speaking specifically of the adults. Even the teen-agers were much kinder than most of the adults. I like a good sale also, but not to the point of being totally rude and inconsiderate.

My 2-year-old was saying "I'm sorry" to grown people who were pushing into him instead of the other way around. How rude can people