



Getting Life Into Focus

Skid Row Is Camera Subject as Part of Salvation Army Rehabilitation

Photostory By DWIGHT BOYER

SOMEWHERE in the heart of each skid-row character there is a tiny spark of self-respect left—a spark that seldom glows and, when it does, must be fanned to try once more to defeat the curse of alcoholism.

At the Salvation Army's Eagle Avenue headquarters of the Cleveland Harbor Light Corps, now in its seventh year of rehabilitation work with homeless alcoholics, those with a sincere determination to defeat their curse get a helping hand from the Men's Social Service Center and the No Al Co Club, an organization of 55 ex-alcoholics well on the road to victory over their handicap.

"The percentage we manage to save is small," say Capt. and Mrs. Edward V. Dimond, officers in charge. "Many soon slip back into their old ways but the few we keep on the right road make the effort a worthwhile and satisfying one. Those who are sincere when they enter our resident program find that we have much to offer in assistance—uplifting spiritual guidance, employment service, counseling, group therapy and recreation."

Living proof that the alcoholic can make a comeback, the No Al Co Club offers encouragement to the converts by sponsoring activities of interest to all—craft instruction, holiday parties, bowling, softball and golf. Mrs. Dimond is advisor to the Golden Age Club, limited to men over 60 who have taken a new lease on life.

One of the most successful No Al Co Club projects is the Eagle Photographic Society. A complete darkroom, field trips to interesting locations, studio sittings and contests keep interest high. Several members have become proficient enough to win prizes in outside contests.

Models for the studio sessions often are the homeless men who wander in for the evening evangelistic service and the free meals. Some pose willingly; others shy away—thinking perhaps of pictures taken in happier days.

Known only by nicknames such as "Steve" or "Mike," those who pose sit at ease in the glare of the floodlights. The sitting over, they depart into the anonymity of skid row.

BOB SELTZER

She Fights to Save Lost Souls

Mrs. Dorothy Dimond's representation of herself as versatile but untalented is an evaluation readily disproved by her record of service to the Salvation Army.

She holds equal rank with her husband, Maj. Edward V. Dimond, commanding officer of the Harbor Light Center and the Red Shield Lodge in the five-story building at 2304 E. Ninth St.

The trim, brown-haired, blue-eyed Maj. Dimond, mother of three, helps immeasurably in the spiritual, moral and physical reformation of men, notably in reclamation and permanent regeneration of alcoholics, for the non-sectarian religious and charitable organization founded in London in 1865.



MRS. DIMOND

She delivers sermons as leader of some Sunday services for Harbor Light members, sings, plays the organ and conducts the Harmonichords in hymnals. At nightly religious services in the first-floor chapel, open to the public, she plays the organ or bass viol, her husband the saxophone, and alcoholics the drums, guitar and piano. Her combo also plays for special civic events.

Maj. Dimond is hostess at lunch every Friday for 30 male members of a golden-age club who live at the Red Shield or in downtown rooming houses.

Every Friday she holds a meeting for the No-Alco Club of the center. To qualify for membership, a man must have been sober for two weeks. Once a month she stages a program with a speaker or a film and refreshments. She also is hostess Sunday nights with coffee and doughnuts for center members and guests. Alcoholics from the center conduct their own meetings on Wednesdays.

Sunday meals attract the largest attendance. There are golden-agers, alcoholics, transients and residents of the lodge. All dine at stand-up tables in the basement, except the golden-agers, who are seated.

Maj. Dimond publishes a monthly newsletter "The Drum Beat" for the center, the SA advisory board and business friends. She makes chalk drawings at Harbor Light meetings while taped music is played. Once a month she visits a rest home as a member of the SA League of Mercy, and donates the SA weekly, "War Cry," and candy.

"Many of the things I do are compulsive," said Maj. Dimond. "My English-born parents were SA soldiers. My father played a euphonium in the band. My mother died when I was 16. Her three children were reared in SA."

"The upper three floors of the center accommodate guests as the Red Shield Lodge. Many came to us when the city closed the lodge on Lakeside Ave. Some guests on public welfare, others are self-supporting. Dormitories and single rooms accommodate 130 men. SA furnishes meal tickets to the needy."

Maj. Dimond was born at Worcester, Mass. She attended high school, secretarial school and the SA training school for officers in New York City. She served the Salvation Army six months at East Liverpool, O., and six months at Painesville.

In 1952 she married Dimond, a native of Mt. Vernon, N. Y. She had met him in Worcester, where his parents were SA majors. Her husband was assigned to Harbor Light Center in 1950. When he was promoted to major, she automatically attained the same rank. The Dimonds are the parents of Victor, 13; Susan, 10, and David, 8. They live at 15415 Greenway Rd.

At Citadel On March 25

Salvation Army Event Set



MRS. MAJ. EDWARD V. DIMOND, accordionist, and Paul Voland, on the tenor guitar are members of the combo which will play during the Salvation Army civic meeting March 25 at the Citadel.

Maj. Edward Dimond, director of the Harbor Light Center in Cleveland, will be guest speaker during the annual civic meeting of the Salvation Army March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Citadel.

The work at the Cleveland center is concerned primarily with the rehabilitation of alcoholics.

Maj. Dimond, who will be accompanied by his wife, also

will present the Harbor Light Combo, a group of former "skid rowers" who have found music to be a therapeutic agent in bringing back meaning to their lives. The combo is under the direction of Maj. Dimond. His wife plays with the group.

Maj. Dimond is the son and grandson of Salvation Army officers.

Music is but one phase of

the center program. There are classes and hobby groups nightly in addition to evangelistic services.

Among the combo members is Paul Voland, 56, a former disc jockey and singer for Youngstown and Painesville radio stations. He plays the guitar arrangements.

Capt. Edward L. Bosh is head of the local Army.



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FROM RADIATOR ALCOHOL TO RESPECTABILITY

'This Army Recruits on Skid Row' was the way religion editor GEORGE R. PLAGENZ headlined his full-length feature article, reprinted here with permission of *The Cleveland Press*, on The Salvation Army's Harbor Light Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Major Edward V. Dimond, center director, is optimistic that the three-point program (spiritual, physical and social) will be even more successful now that they have moved into the eight-story renovated YWCA building.

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Some of them can remember drinking radiator alcohol strained through rye bread. They believed that filtered out the poison.

"I don't know whether I ever had any of that or not," says a 65-year-old former skid row habitue, "but if anybody ever run it through the bread I probably drank it because I drank with them kind of people."

Some are even nostalgic about the old life on skid row.

"The cost of living was low," re-

flects a 61-year-old man whose life style took him from one flophouse and greasy spoon to another for 25 years. "And on skid row nobody cares how you look and they don't ask any questions."

"The money was easy," wistfully adds a younger man—in his 50's—whose gravel voice betrays his 15 years of sleeping outdoors a good part of the time. But the twinkle in his eye also betrays a merry heart.

"Living on skid row you get to know a lot of people," he says. "I would borrow money from them when I was drinking. Or I would hang out around some of the high-class shows. The well-dressed people who come out—they're easy to bum. And very polite. Myself I always preferred people with a little class."

But those days are behind them now. That is the promise these residents of the Army's Harbor Light Center have made to themselves, anyhow.

Not all of them keep the promise. But many do. Some of them even "make good."

THERE'S EARL BARTLETT, who today drives a 1971 Chrysler Imperial.

Tall, slim and well-dressed Earl, who is in his early 50's, lives in a penthouse apartment on the eighth floor of the new Harbor Light Center at East 18th Prospect Avenue—the old YWCA.

He has his own TV, kitchen and private bath. He pays the premium rate in rent.

A locksmith, Bartlett was voted "Employee of the Year" in 1970 at Diebold Inc., safemakers.

This is a different Earl Bartlett from the one who first appeared at the old Harbor Light Center on East Ninth Street 10 years ago, a down-and-out alcoholic.

The road to the top didn't go straight up, however. There were some slips. Bartlett was in and out



CLEVELAND, Ohio—Paul Voland, who was on skid row for 15 years, now is fulltime counselor at Harbor Light Center. A former radio singer, he sings and plays guitar in the center's combo.

of the Harbor Light Center six times in the next six years. Nobody who is drinking can live at the center, but anybody is welcomed back who wants to make a new start at sobriety. Bartlett hasn't had a drink in the last four years.

Although the turnover rate among the residents is high, many complete the crucial "one year of sobriety" test.

"The skid row alcoholic with a year or so of sobriety behind him has a 50-50 chance of going another year without a drink," says Major Edward V. Dimond, director of the center.

Major Dimond is optimistic that the Army's three-point program of treatment (spiritual, physical and social) for male alcoholics can be

even more successful in the center's new quarters.

"We can house 300 men in the new center," Major Dimond said. Only 150 could be accommodated in the former location. Most had to sleep in dormitories.

The eight-story renovated YWCA can provide private quarters for the center's permanent residents, of whom there are quite a few. Although many of them have steady outside jobs and would be able financially to live elsewhere, they prefer the surroundings and the companionship of the center.

PAUL VOLAND, who will be 60 in May, is one of the old residents. He first came to the Harbor Light in 1961. There were some slips the first couple of years but only one (for five days) in the last eight years and none in the last six.

Paul, an accomplished musician who once sang as a guest on the Kate Smith radio show, is now senior personnel instructor for the center. He prefers living there, he said, because "I can stay sober more easily and can help others along the way. I enjoy the life."

Voland sings and plays tenor guitar in the center's 11-piece combo. He once was a vocalists and disc jockey for radio stations in Youngstown, Ohio, and Oil City, Pa., until drink defeated him.

He came to Cleveland in 1946 and spent 15 years on skid row here before finding his way to the Harbor Light Center.

Music plays a big role in the Army's program of rehabilitation. Major Dimond, son and grandson of Salvation Army officers, was brought up on the cornet and trombone.

He got the idea that music could be good therapy for somebody seeking to get off skid row. He noticed that alcoholics were often loners who lacked social integration.

What better way to bring them out than by involving them in a group where everyone has to participate? It was also a way to give the men a sense of social acceptance.

Most of the homeless men who wander into the center never have played a musical instrument, but they soon learn in the center's music classes.

Dimond saw that many of the older men who didn't have teeth couldn't play the Army's traditional brass instruments, so he added guitar and harmonica.

Nobody at the center feels self-conscious about the fact he has a drinking problem. Major Dimond's easygoing manner and light touch are largely responsible for this straightforward attitude.

"We're going to have a little syncopation now," he will tell the men at a music class. "Syncopation is irregular movement from bar to bar. That means most of you are highly qualified." The men get a good laugh out of this.

The drinker who comes to the Harbor Light Center gets a free dormitory bed and meals to begin with. As his health and attitude improve, he begins doing menial work around the center.

Most of the men soon are working at jobs outside the center although they continue to live and attend classes there. They also must attend the nightly evangelistic meetings.

There are also prayer meetings and Bible classes to attend and seminars on alcoholism and job training. Social groups include a men's club, a fellowship hour and hobby programs.

As soon as the men start drawing pay from their jobs, they must contribute to the cost of their stay.

What has the Harbor Light meant to some of these ex-dwellers of skid row?

"It has brought me back to sanity," says the man with the gravel voice. "It brought my thinking away from that booze and showed me what the Lord could do for me."

The 65-year-old man who was trying to remember whether he had ever drunk radiator alcohol strained through rye bread had this testimony: "Without this center I would have no life. It has brought the respect of my children back to me. And I have learned that as long as I walk with the Lord, I can talk to Him about anything."



CLEVELAND, Ohio—Francis Hutnick serves as elevator operator at the new Harbor Light Center. Many residents earn their room and board by working at the center. Others hold outside jobs and contribute toward their support by