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Casebook Narcotics—IX

Addiction Is Recognized As Illness By AA Group Founded To Fight It

No Particular Point Of View Necessary For AA Membership Except The Desire Of An Addict 'To Stay Free Of Narcotics'

By Jack Lewyn

If Addicts Anonymous, as a group, should fold tomorrow, its spirit would live on in the hearts of many men who have found a true salvation in its purposes.

But the group is gaining strength—not losing it—both inside the hospital and outside, where its alumni adhere strictly to its principles, and even preach them, for their welfare and the welfare of others.

This problem of addiction is so deep, so gripping that experts in the field of treatment recognize that a patient must be hit by some mysterious spark within himself to make him abstain in the face of temptation.

Hundreds of addicts have felt that spark through the capable help of the hospital's staff and have been completely cured of the habit.

Through Addicts Anonymous, "we have found a way of life which no longer compels us to use drugs," its members maintain. "Addicts Anonymous is the great reality which has expelled our obsession.

"Banded together in groups, sometimes working alone, we aim to help fellow users recover their health. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it. There are no fees—AA is an avocation. Each member squares his debt of gratitude by helping other addicts to re-

cover. In so doing, he maintains his own freedom from the habit."

This is the last of a series of articles on narcotic addiction.

The creed of Addicts Anonymous parallels closely that of its "parent body," Alcoholics Anonymous, which has grown rapidly since it was founded in 1934. There are between 80,000 and 100,000 members of Alcoholics Anonymous

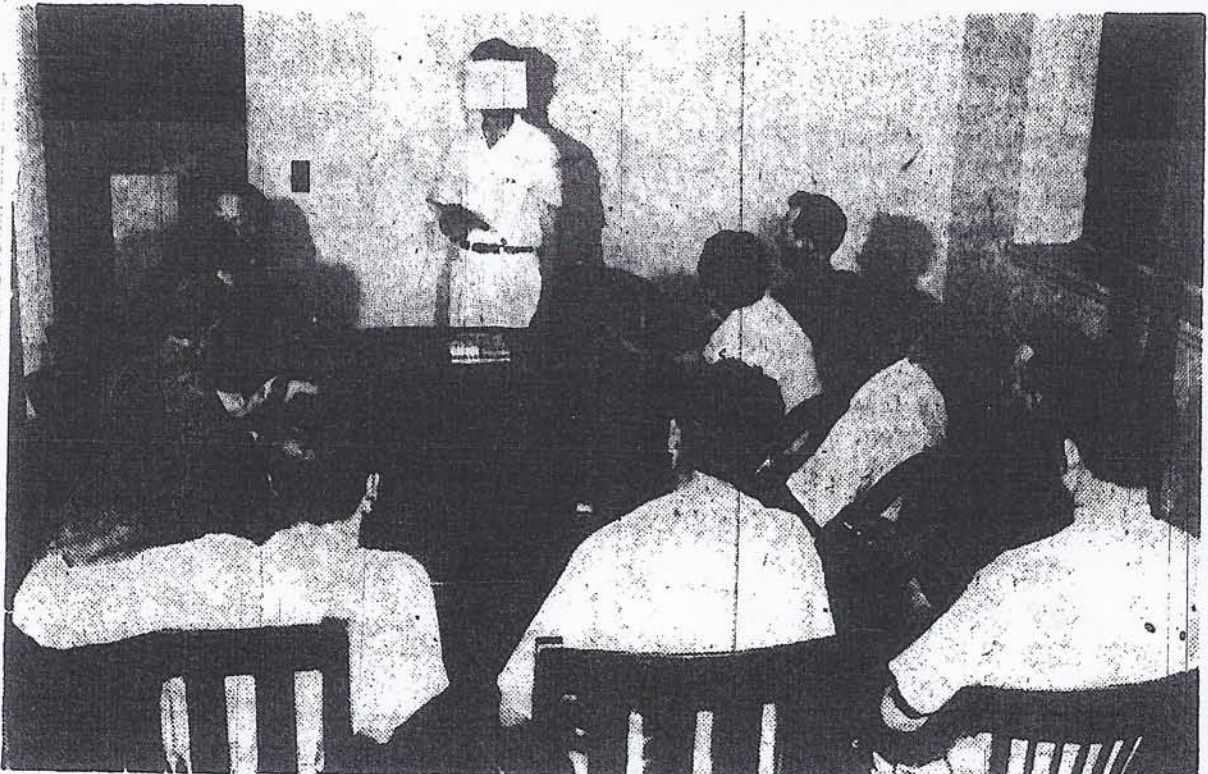
in 2,500 groups in the United States and possessions.

The AA way of life has penetrated the walls of 55 prisons, 48 hospitals and sanatoria where active, recognized groups are functioning.

Based On Experience

The AA approach to addiction is based "upon our own experience upon what we have learned from medicine and psychiatry, and upon spiritual principals common to all creeds. But combining these

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Steering Committee Of Addicts Anonymous Group.

—Herald Photo

Barkley told Sampson he would fly to Middlesboro Saturday.

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Sheep Rabies

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Bond Talk

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Addiction

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resources, the recovery rate among alcoholics who went to end their addiction has been phenomenal. We see no reason that a similar program would not be effective in drug addiction.

"We think of addiction as an illness: An obsession of the mind coupled with a physical dependency. It is a shattering sickness—physical, emotional and spiritual. How to expel the obsession that compels us to use narcotics against our will is the problem of every addict."

For membership in Addicts Anonymous, like the theory of the original AA, no particular point of view is required of anyone except his desire to stay free of narcotics.

There is a symptom common to all who suffer from addiction to habit-forming drugs. They cannot continue self-administration of drugs without developing physical dependence and a phenomenal craving, and once they have taken any habit-forming drugs into their systems, something happens, both in body and mental sense, which makes it virtually impossible for them to stop.

The men and women of Addicts Anonymous put it this way:

"They, more than most people, lead a double life. A marked personality change takes place when they take alcohol or drugs into their systems. They adopt characteristics and do things that, when they sober up, revolt them. They vaguely remember certain episodes, are remorseful and, as fast as they can, push these memories far inside themselves in the faint hope they will never see the light of day. This inconsistency provides the fear and strain that makes easy the alibi for another 'toot'."

12 Steps Of AA.

In its program, the hospital's Addicts Anonymous group uses the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, with only one obvious variation, the change from alcohol to drugs:

1. "We admitted we were powerless over drugs—that our lives had become unmanageable."
2. "Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."
3. "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him."
4. "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."
5. "Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."
6. "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."
7. "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."
8. "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."
9. "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."
10. "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."
11. "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry it out."
12. "Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this mes-

sage to other addicts, and to practice those principles in all our affairs."

Honor Roll

The hospital group has an Honor Roll of ex-addicts and there is considerable pride attached to it.

One former member wrote: "Sorry you thought something happened to me. You folks, the group, I mean, would be the first I should write if that happened, telling you to remove me from the Honor Roll. For I do deem it an honor to be on the Narco Honor Roll. God forbid that I ever slip off."

Many former members correspond with the chapter regularly, outlining their status in society, discussing their aims and encouraging each other.

Whenever one fails to get a copy of the group's weekly circular, "The Key," an underscored complaint usually results.

"I want to testify," wrote an ex-addict, "as to the way society has accepted me since I left Lexington. I have found that I am received by all classes of society for what I am now, not for what I was."

Another wrote back and said he was "high" again, indeed—"high on the AA program."

Still another penned: "I know damn well I won't slip. My wife's my sponsor. Nuf sed!"

The same man passed along what he called "a shocking bit of news." His local AA group had elected him secretary.

And in the files of Addicts Anonymous also is this letter:

"I never before have realized the real problem that an alcoholic is faced with. I find we have a few living within a stone's throw of our home. I was called from my bed last night to sit with a neighbor having the DT's. I have never seen a more confused person in my life. I said to myself 'shame on us whom they call nervous.' And ashamed I am at my past weakness. Too bad that it has taken over forty years to wake me up. This is a long time to be on drugs, and I have not even taken a shot since my release."

The picture of narcotics addiction is black for a junker. For those who want hope, they may find it through the government and ex-addicts themselves.

But the road of addiction is always paved with heartbreak.

Congressional

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peared at closed meetings. The gist of Johnson's statement was released later.

"None of this presents a happy prospect," he said, "but the cold war is not a happy circumstance."

Besides last fall's atomic bomb explosion in Russia, Johnson listed these other developments as having brought about a revision of defense plans:

"The fall of China, the serious situations in Southeast Asia, the break in diplomatic relations with Bulgaria and deteriorating relations with other satellite countries, the Soviet assumption of control over the armed forces of Poland, Soviet naval expansion, the increased Soviet pressures in Germany, the recent attack on a naval aircraft in the Baltic, and the recent Soviet demands relative to Trieste."

Predicting new record peacetime funds for defense after next year, Johnson also asked the House group to restore \$203,000,000 previously cut by the committee from the amount asked by President Tru-

Parkrite Sues

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if all other requirements had been met.

The suit pointed out the property involved was in Industrial C classification, where a parking lot is permitted, and also stated provisions of the state safety code had been met in Parkrite's plans.

LOT WOULD RESULT IN

TRAFFIC HAZARD—McCLOY Police Chief Dudley McCloy yesterday said that in his opinion a parking lot on the Union Station park site would constitute a traffic hazard.

Chief McCloy said his opinion was based on observation and discussion with other officers. In a note to City Manager Harold Cheek, the police chief wrote:

"I am opposed to the erection of any parking lot on Main street in the congested area. It is my opinion that the erection of a parking lot in front of the Union Station would create a traffic hazard in addition to the hazard already existing as a result, mostly, of the parking lot located on the opposite side of the street."

Parkrite Auto Park Inc., in a suit brought yesterday against the city, declared that early in April the police department's traffic bureau said no traffic hazard was involved.

Concerning the city's view that denial of the construction would be to the best interest of the city, Parkrite labeled this as "resorting to unpublished and unenacted restrictions and regulations."

If this contention were allowed, the suit declared, the city would be "illegally and arbitrarily attempting to exercise the power of taking real property without payment of compensation therefor," a violation of both the state and federal constitutions.

The suit added that the city's contention placed denial of the permits "in the sole discretion of city officials."

Additionally, the suit stated Parkrite had attempted to purchase an occupational license for the parking lot but that Miss Genevieve Feehan, the city treasurer, had returned the money, and said she had been advised by the corporation counsel not to accept it or issue the license.

Specifically the court was asked to hold that Parkrite had complied with all regulations and to order Shea and Robison immediately to issue permits. Also, Parkrite asked that Miss Feehan be directed to issue the occupational license.

Finally the suit asked that the court hold that any action of Shea and Robison in attempting to deny the permits by going beyond the terms of the ordinance was null and void.

Bond Issues

(Continued From Page 1)

less depreciation and on today's value, assumedly will be adopted on some basis by the city which spent \$52,000 on the survey, the witness added.

The principal purpose of the revaluation survey is to "remove inequities," but the dollar figures would remain the same regardless upon what percentage basis the city adopted the formula, Wain-

be changed by exclusion of some of the proposed territory.

No matter what formula of assessment is employed, funds would have to be raised to meet the cost. The Cole-Layer-Trumble formula would raise the ratio from 50 cents on the dollar to 85 cents on the dollar. The effect is to decrease the tax rate, "but the tax dollar would be the same if the city adopted 80 per cent of the C-L-T formula."

On re-direct examination by Arnold, Wainwright reiterated his education and experience in municipal financing, gave detailed information on the method his firm—Wainwright, Ramsey and Lancaster—employs in all municipal surveys and repeated that the city employed the firm (not Wainwright individually) to "make an analysis of the financial effects of annexation and to recommend methods of financing."

In contrast to the first hearings, yesterday's was virtually free of objections. First was made by Arnold 47 minutes after the hearing opened and was noted by Judge Colbert after he consulted his watch.

Arnold objected that Lisle's interrogation was testimony rather than questions. Lisle and his co-counsel Ben L. Kessinger offered a few objections as did Arnold, but the hearing was smooth and technical.

John Maragon

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termine was whether he lied about what he did.

The specific charges on which Maragon was convicted were that he lied when he said:

1. His only bank account in 1945-46 was in a Washington bank. The trial brought out evidence he had another account in San Antonio, Texas.

2. At the time he took a temporary job with the State Department in Greece in 1945 he had ended his employment with a Chicago importing firm, Albert Verley and Company. The government produced evidence he was on the departmental and Verley payrolls at the same time.

Maragon could be sentenced on each of these two counts to as little as eight months to two years in prison or to as long as 40 months to 10 years. The courts rarely impose the maximum penalty.

But Bailey refused to turn Maragon loose on bail until he is sentenced.

Maragon's lawyer, Irvin Goldstein, announced he would try for a new trial and carry the case as far as possible. He dropped a nickel in a telephone to call Mrs. Maragon and let her know the jury's verdict. She had gone home when the case went to the jurors.

Goldstein said he might be able to argue his motion for a new trial a week from Friday. If Bailey turns him down, Maragon could be sentenced immediately afterward.

Then the case could be appealed to a higher court.

Two Killed, 11 Hurt As Train Hits Bus

PORT EDWARDS, Wis., April 26 (UP)—Two men were killed and 11 injured today when a Milwaukee railroad passenger streamliner plowed into a bus at an intersection.

The bus, carrying 13 railroad maintenance men, was hurled 50 feet against a steel power pole and rolled over into a ditch.