

Dogwood Time at Greenfield Hill



Dogwoods in blossom on Old Academy Road in the Connecticut village yesterday. Visitors find the scene ideal for picture-taking

Ira Rosenberg

Ex-Addict Talks To Dope Users In Women's Jail

Man Who Founded Narcotics Anonymous Tells of Own Hard Road to Recovery

By Arch Parsons Jr.

Twenty-five women filed into the chapel of the Women's House of Detention yesterday, giving up half their two-hour recreation period, to hear a talk by a fellow they call Danny.

Seemingly, they were as unlike as possible. Some were young girls, others gray-haired and elderly. They were of various religions and races and levels of well-being. Their one common bond, although some would not have admitted it, was that all were near, or full-fledged, narcotics addicts.

The fellow they had come to hear—the only person many of

New Approach to Gambling Law Proposed by Bar Group's Counsel

In search of a solution to the country's crime problem, Robert Daru, counsel to the committee on justice of the New York Criminal and Civil Courts Bar Association, proposed yesterday that criminal penalties be removed from the gambling laws.

At a press conference in his law office, 292 Madison Avenue, Mr. Daru said "a realistic approach" shows that neither "wide-open legalized gambling," as permitted in Nevada, nor the complete prohibition of gambling will stop "the pollution which is crippling our system of justice."

As a middle course, Mr. Daru suggested that some betting and games of chance be allowed under state controls with a low ceiling on wagers, while all non-controlled gambling be declared unlawful, but not criminal.

"This would take the police out

of the picture," Mr. Daru explained. "When there are criminal penalties, police are always in a position to offer protection for corrupt practices."

By making most gambling unlawful but not criminal, he argued that those who wanted to stop it could do so through action in the civil courts. A landlord could evict a tenant for operating a dice game, he explained, and any citizen could obtain an injunction against any non-controlled gambling enterprise.

Mr. Daru contended that this "should satisfy those who feel gambling is immoral."

He said he will present his plan formally at hearings to be held by the bar association early in June. At that time, District Attorney Roger D. Foley, of Las Vegas, Nev., is expected to report how legalized gambling in Nevada has failed to deter crime.

Dogwood Time Comes Again to Greenfield Hill

3,000 Trees in Blossom in Historic Village; Special Events Await Visitors

Special to the Herald Tribune

GREENFIELD HILL, Conn., May 6.—Three thousand dogwoods in blossom along the streets of this historic Fairfield County village just west of Bridgeport are putting on their brief but spectacular pink and white display, and today residents of Greenfield Hill began to welcome the visitors who come annually to look.

Residents agreed that the flowering should reach its peak next week end, in the middle of the two weeks of special events scheduled for dogwood time.

Dr. Isaac Bronson, a surgeon who served in the Revolutionary

Ex-Addict Talks To Dope Users In Women's Jail

Man Who Founded Narcotics Anonymous Tells of Own Hard Road to Recovery

By Arch Parsons Jr.

Twenty-five women filed into the chapel of the Women's House of Detention yesterday, giving up half their two-hour recreation period, to hear a talk by a fellow they call Danny.

Seemingly, they were as unlike as possible. Some were young girls, others gray-haired and elderly. They were of various religions and races and levels of well-being. Their one common bond, although some would not have admitted it, was that all were near, or full-fledged, narcotics addicts.

The fellow they had come to hear—the only person many of them will listen to—was Daniel Carlson, forty-four, who until two years ago had been an addict for twenty-five years. Nine of those years were spent in hospitals, detention homes and penal institutions. In the twenty-fifth year Danny was taking a shot of morphine every three hours.

"At that point," he recalled, "I tried to commit suicide."

Audience Is Attentive

Danny—no one ever calls him Mr. Carlson—talked to the women about what he calls his "life insurance." This is an organization called Narcotics Anonymous, which he founded two years ago and through which he finally "got the monkey off my back"—the term many addicts use to describe their state.

The women listened rather carelessly at first. There were even a few giggles. Danny smiled with them and began to explain Narcotics Anonymous, why he started it, how it resembles the more famous Alcoholics Anonymous, how

it keeps addicts "off the hook." He recalled some of his own experiences and spoke with that jargon which is peculiar to and understood by every addict.

His listeners quieted and paid attention. At the end of forty minutes, they asked him questions about addiction and about their own personal problems. Only Danny realized when the hour was over. Afterward, several of the women told Danny they would drop by his office, at 133 West Fourteenth Street, when they get out.

The office is a small cubbyhole lent to N. A. of the Salvation Army. To date, N. A. has been virtually a one-man operation with a tiny treasury. Danny, a former furniture finisher, lives on \$25 a week he receives as a relief recipient from the Department of Welfare. He lives in one room of a cold-water flat. He works seven days a week on N. A. business until he has to return to the hospital for treatment of a kidney ailment, a souvenir of his former addiction.

They Help Each Other

In his office, Danny explained N. A. "We work on the theory that drug addiction is a disease," he said. "The first step is to get rid of the physical dependency upon drugs. That's what we call 'withdrawal.' It's not a cure. And it's not worth a tinker's dam unless it's followed up. That is what we are trying to do.

"Narcotics Anonymous is an informal society of former addicts who aim to help each other expel the obsession that compelled us to use narcotics. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it. There are no fees—N. A. is an avocation. Each member squares his debt of gratitude by helping other addicts to recover. This way, he maintains his own freedom from the habit."

The organization holds meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays at the McBurney branch of the Y. M. C. A., at 215 West Twenty-third Street. Only Danny and other former addicts attend these meetings. Here they discuss their personal problems and what N. A. calls "the twelve steps" to recovery.

The steps include: "We admitted we were powerless over drugs—that our lives had become unmanageable . . . we made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves . . . we admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human the exact nature of our wrongs . . . we made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all . . . we tried to carry this message to narcotic addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Danny tours the city, speaking in so-called "contaminated" communities where addiction is rampant and urging known addicts to go to the United States Public Health Hospital at Lexington, Ky., for a withdrawal, which usually takes about six months.

The hospital is N. A.'s birth-

place. Danny, who had been there several times, went back for a final attempt to break the habit in March, 1949. There he organized a correspondence club with other addicts and studied the techniques of Alcoholics Anonymous. When he was released in December of that year he formed the first chapter of the organization; the addicts met in one another's homes.

Money Is Chief Need

There have been times when Danny has virtually barricaded himself in his room to avoid "taking a shot," as he calls it, but the times are getting farther and farther apart, he said.

The Lexington hospital charges according to the patient's ability to pay. When addicts can't afford the trip, N. A. tries to find the money. "There are three things we need," Danny explained. "Money, a special hospital for addiction here in New York and a larger staff. One man, the handful of reformed addicts and friends we have and what we can save from our incomes do not go very far."

Danny also corresponds with reformed addicts all over the nation. N. A. branches are being formed in Washington, Los Angeles and in Canada. Recently, during an hour in his office, he persuaded one addict—an eighteen-year-old girl—to go to Lexington, told a mother that her son was "doing fine" as an N. A. member, arranged to speak at a church in Brooklyn and told another N. A. member to work a bit harder toward getting hospital facilities in the city.

"Some of my friends think I've blown my top," he said, "but I know how good it feels to get rid of the habit and I know how much still has to be done."

The New Haven to Face Senate Hearings May 28

WASHINGTON, May 6 (UP).—Sen. Brien McMahon, D., Conn., announced today that his Senate Commerce subcommittee will begin hearings May 28 in its investigation of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad.

He said in a statement that the inquiry is designed to find out whether the New Haven's management "has been and is maintaining the road in a safe operating condition." He said his subcommittee intends to find out "just what the situation is." He said the subcommittee staff has been gathering information about the New Haven from a variety of sources and that "the material so far gathered very definitely warrants further investigation."

Other members of the subcommittee are Sens. Charles Tobey, R., N. H., and Owen Brewster, R., Me.

Road Is Silent

[A spokesman for the New Haven Railroad said Sunday night that the road's management had no comment to make on Sen. McMahon's announcement.]