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A black and white portrait of Lili St. Cyr, a popular singer and actress. She is shown from the chest up, wearing a strapless dress with a decorative band across the bust. Her hair is styled in a classic 1950s fashion, and she has a serious expression.

DO GIs
SHAME US
OVERSEAS?

See P. 27

LILI ST. CYR
'\$5,000 A Week'
P. 31

TV's SHRINER:
EASY DOES IT

People Today

Trademark Reg.

A magazine about headline people

Vol. 3, No. 11

Dec. 5, 1951

NO COPS FOR HERB

While radio and TV broadcasters were drawing up a brand new code of ethics banning plunging necklines and offensive jokes, a bright new star ambled onto the video screen and proved that a natural born comedian needs no Dagmar-type props.

He is, of course, Herb Shriner, who now has his own show (ABC, Thurs. 9 p.m. EST). Casual and quiet-mannered, he is Indiana's favorite son and a foremost protagonist of the easy-going Will Rogers school of droll, topical comment and anecdote.

Speaking of the new code, Shriner (whose own show is clean as a hound's tooth) told PEOPLE TODAY: "I'm sure most TV people try to keep humor on a clean level . . . it'd be just awful if a TV policeman rode every camera, ready to hop off and carry off a comedian if he got out of hand."

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PEOPLE TODAY TAKES YOU TO NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

The meeting is on New York's teeming lower East Side, in a room provided free by a Presbyterian-operated center for all faiths. It's a kindergarten classroom—walls hung with brightly-colored drawings by children. Around a table is a group of people so typically average that the PEOPLE TODAY reporter thinks he's wandered into a Parent-Teachers meeting by mistake. But there's no mistake. These people are addicts and ex-addicts trying to help and find help, in Narcotics Anonymous. They talk freely, as though no outsider listens. Here is what they say:

Addicts Help Each Other To Conquer 'Dope'

DANNY CARLSEN OPENS MEETING; HE FOUNDED NA 2½ YEARS AGO



ONCE A REGISTERED NURSE, JANICE IS WAITING FOR 11TH 'CURE'

Janice Speaks: "I've been waiting six weeks now to get into the Federal Hospital in Lexington for the cure. I know it's overcrowded and there should be more hospitals, but I don't think about whether it's fair or unfair about having to wait. All I know is I've got to hold on till I get in. It's my problem and I'm selfish about it. I pile my day full of work and pile into bed in the evening.

"Sunday was terrible. I had to pin myself in bed. I had a yen a yard wide and a mile long. I wanted to fill myself with junk. All I had to do was get up and walk one block and get anything I wanted in 15 minutes. There was nothing to stop me but myself. You know



CHARLIE'S 68—HIS TRAGIC ADDICTION CAME LATE IN HIS LIFE


what hell's like when you're trying to go off the stuff. Chills, sneezing, eye-running, then the terrible pains in all the joints, even in some joints I didn't know I had. Some people vomit, but I don't. Then I got the twitches and jerks. It felt as if I was being torn apart. I just laid there and died. **But I beat that day.**

"I was a nurse when I got on the junk. It was a long time ago and I had lots of cures since. Once I was off 7 years but I went back on again. Why? Because they can't cure you. They can only take you off physically, not mentally. Outside the Salvation Army there's no social or welfare agency that really tries to help an addict stay off. **But here we can help ourselves.**"

Charlie Speaks: "When I was sixty years old I had an operation on a lung and when I came out I had to take morphine injections on account of the pain. The doctor showed my wife how to use the needle on me, and **wherever we went she had to carry the instrument.** Then I found that I couldn't stop.

"It was a burden. It ate up everything I had. Here I was in my old age, a retired businessman. I had my own home. **Everything went.** Now I live in an apartment for less than \$30 a month.

"I was taking 3 grains a day, then I came down to 1½ all by myself. It wasn't easy. One day I went to the doctor and told him 'I want to give it up,' to give me a substitute. He said there was no substitute, only the hospital in Lexington. I applied to the Sub-Treasury building for an application to commit myself but they didn't bother with that. They sent me right down without waiting. On the train I carried 4 or 5½-grain tablets in my pocket. I was out in 3 months and **I never took drugs after the first cure.** I had 2 operations, serious ones, but I couldn't have drugs for the pain.

Otherwise I'd go back on again. You can't be too careful. Once in a while I have a disturbance. Then all of a sudden **I'm back in Lexington reliving the experience.** That helps." 



Social worker Sarah Hanly passes the hat at NA meeting, says: "It gives addicts a constructive life-line." No dues or fees are collected but members give dollars and dimes to keep the work going.

Addicts Get Themselves Arrested for 'Cure'

Phil Speaks: *(In deference to his wishes PEOPLE TODAY doesn't show his photo. Phil is 23, slender, looks like a scholar.)* "I got started the usual way on reeferers when I was 16. After a while I needed a bigger bang so I went to other stuff. When I was 20, I graduated to heroin. My family is pretty prominent and it would be terrible if anyone found out. I took the cure at Lexington. It's pretty tough because they're so crowded. Over 20% down there are voluntary. The rest are committed after they're arrested."

"The Jewish Board of Guardians helped me when I got out. They gave me a scholarship, gave me money when I was down and out, even got me a psychoanalyst."

Mollie Speaks: "I used the stuff for over thirty years. I had a million cures but they never did me any good. Then I talked to Danny Carlsen and he made me feel as if I had a friend. Now I've got ambition, I want to do something worth while."

MOLLIE NEVER KNEW BETTER




"Before I met Danny all I knew was that society had some kind of charges against me. That's what they told me in court every time they arrested me. They said what I was doing was wrong but they didn't explain why it was wrong. All they did was sentence me. If they cared enough about me to teach me what

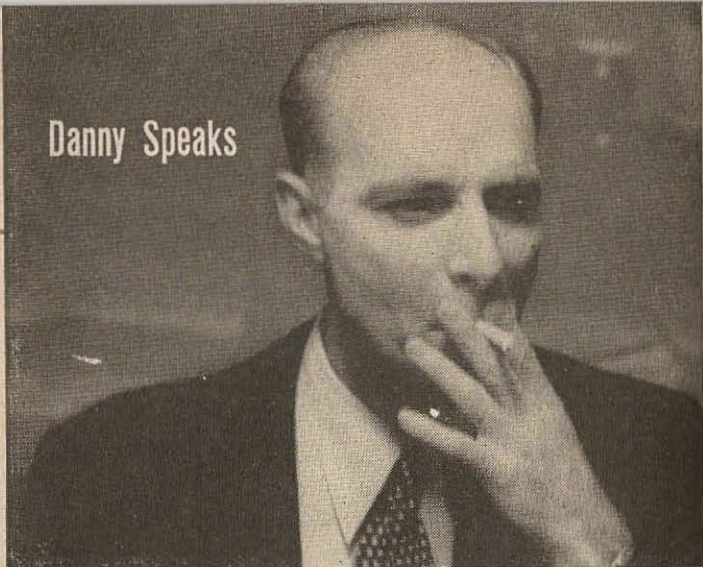


LUCY COVERS FACE SO SHE WON'T BE RECOGNIZED ON JOB

was wrong I'd have been off the stuff years ago. But Danny cared enough to teach me. He's been through it himself so he knows. Now at least I try to live like a normal person. I even make plans."

Lucy Speaks: "It's awful. I don't even remember how I first got started. I couldn't live right or do anything. But none of my friends knew what was wrong. Lucky I got cured in time and heard about Narcotics Anonymous to help me stay cured. I never committed any crimes, but if it went on I would've done anything to get the stuff." 

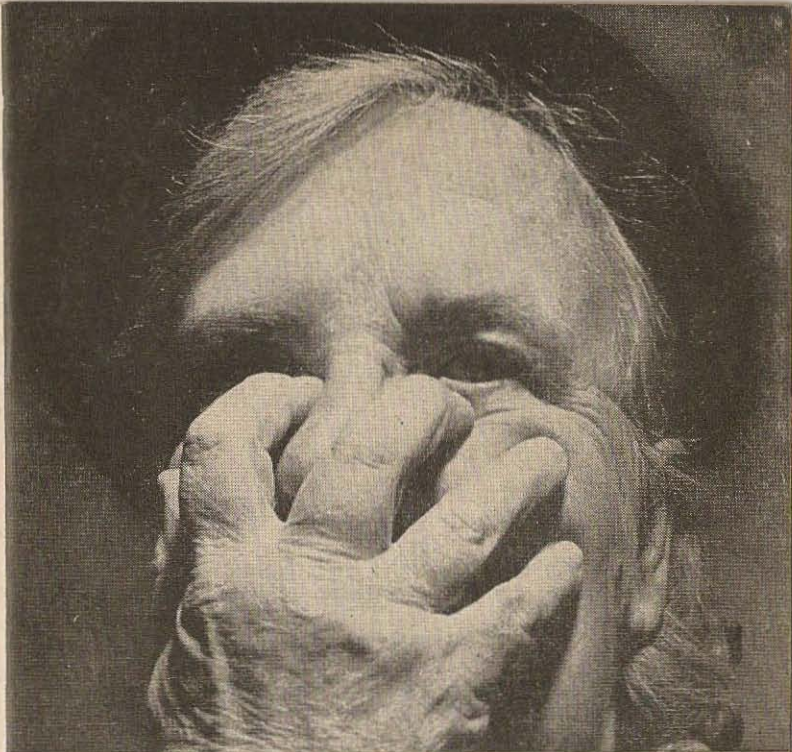
Danny Speaks



DANNY STARTED NA TO HELP FELLOW ADDICTS FIND A NEW LIFE

"When I was 16 I had a bad ear so they gave me morphine. It gave me a kick and the next thing I knew I was an addict. I hit bottom, became a 'boots and shoe addict,' even sold my clothes to get junk. I lied, stole, cheated to get the stuff, was in and out of jail.

"I learned this: Addiction's like a disease you can't cure. But **you can learn to control it.** That's why I started Narcotics Anonymous. We begin where the physical cure ends. We know our common problems; we help ourselves by helping each other. Some of us here have even volunteered to have our pictures taken to help drive home the addiction problem. We know we're not criminals or degenerates—but sick people trying to get well. We can't say we're going off junk forever. It won't work. We've got to meet each day as it comes. We can tell ourselves: 'For today I stay free.'"



WHITE-HAIRED ANNA IS 58, LOOKS LIKE TYPICAL GRANDMOTHER

Anna Speaks: "I was a nurse too, just like Janice. Then I got sick and that's what started me. Lots of doctors and nurses become addicts that way. They get sick or overworked and it's easy for them to get the stuff. They think they can control it but they can't. No one can. Down in Lexington if you call out 'Hey, doc,' **many of the people will turn around.**"
"Now I'm off it and I pray I'll stay off. I'm almost 60 but I feel as if I've been born again."