Community Team Curbing Alcoholism

By RENE CAPPON
WELLINGTON, Kan. IS — Docand priest, welfare chief and
secutor, sheriff and editor have ed in a common effort to te the "zeros" count again in

rural community.
hey're members of a remarkorganization known as the
nner County Council on Alco-

ity," Dr. Karl E. Vold-

munity," Dr. Karl E. Vold-one of the council's founders, "Most of them don't con-the anything. They don't even up their backyards. In that makes them a com-ity responsibility. The alco-must be helped to live with elf again—he has to learn more to be a good husband, r and neighbor." a council pits the weight of nunity resources in an inten-

nunity resources in an inten-campaign against alcoholism, h has been described as the a's biggest unsolved public

problem. sas' State Commission on alism helped launch the tand supports it. Lewis Anexecutive director of the says the group probably up on the American scene. ique on the American scene.
idea was to determine
ier—and how—a small town
ackie the complex problem
own. Today everybody coni with the experiment is

ed less than two years council is zealously prop-the view that alcoholism . Its earthy, homespun ap-has paid off in reclaimed als and reunited families.

iduals and reunited families. Illington, is a county seat of 8,000 residents in south cen-Kansas. Its situation with to alcoholism is no worse, perhaps a little better, than lost aimiliar places. But al-les aren't rarities, here as

here eige.

re are some four million
em drinkers in the United
s, authorities say, and ecoc losses attributed to them
to 900 million dollars each
In Kansas, which repealed
bition only six years ago,
are an estimated 21,100 allice.

cil member Stewart New-itor of the Wellington Daily sees to it that the group's int and activities are fully

er Teacher
council's executive director
a amiable, greying former
er and farmer, Morris Woodlembers include, besides Dr.
ang and Newlin, a Catholic
accomply commissioner, the

Voideng and Newlin, a Catholic priest, a county commissioner, the superintendent of schools, the county attorney, the sheriff and the welfare director whose agency is co-sponsor of the council with the State Alcoholics Commission.

Wooden does most of the councilment who hold themselves available for such sessions. They advise, cajole, and lend moral support during the dark crises that are part of the alcoholic's weanpart of the alcoholic's wean-process. They help arrange ters with his employers or

The council's work has made itself felt in Sumner County's law enforcement picture. "It has reduced our drunk driving offenses," said Sheriff Everett Baumgartner. "We wouldn't want to be without the council today."

Reduces Offenses

The council meets monthly in Wooden's office in the new, modern court house to set policy and thrash out various cases.

Wooden keeps a scoresheet ich shows that over an 18-onth period the council conductd nearly 500 interviews with alcobolics—sometimes in jail—relatives, and interested parties. Of some 50 cases handled, half have been rehabilitated to normal community life—meaning, for the alcobolic, total abstinence. Others haven't made it, but cep trying.

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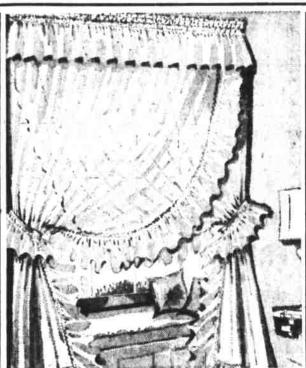
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