

Modern Taproom Customers Have Thirst for Knowledge

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK—(AP)—The taproom of today is going intellectual. The customers have a thirst for knowledge as well as for the cup that cheers, and the ideal bartender of the future will be a man who won a Rhodes scholarship. For the fine art of mixing a "Missionary's Delight" is less important to the man behind the bar than his ability to umpire the zombic arguments of his mixed-up patrons.

Solid Topics

"They used to talk about politics and the weather," said Bill O'Brien, a young ex-sergeant now night whistle-wetter at a bistro across from Radio City Music Hall. "But now you'd think they all were in training for a radio quiz program. They stand around arguing about how many lovers Queen

Elizabeth had or who was the second man to sign the Declaration of Independence."

A nickel phone call to the New York Public Library will settle most of the disputes during the day.

Need Atlas

"But you need more than a telephone directory at night," said Bill. "We keep a two-volume dictionary for the word players, a World Almanac, and a couple of sports manuals. But what we need is an atlas."

It seems the barroom Marco Polo game and bet most on matters of geography. "The favorite trick still is to try to name the 48 states in five minutes," said O'Brien. "And only one out of twenty can do it."

Other popular questions are: What is the third largest state? What is the second largest state in New England? What state on the eastern seaboard has the smallest coastline? What direction would you be going if you were traveling through the Panama Canal?

Has Answers
The correct answers—in Bill's bar anyway—are in order, Montana, Vermont, New Hampshire and southeast.

One customer caused no end of confusion by demanding to know the proper term for a stomach operation. He wouldn't accept appendectomy, and everybody was stumped. Including the customer, who'd forgotten it.

But Bill boned up and is waiting for him to bring up the subject the next time he shows at this evening center of adult education. "I'll give him a bellyful on stomach operations," Bill said.

Knows All of Them
"There's gastroenterotomy, an incision of the stomach or the stomach and intestine."

"Three's gastropexy—to attach the stomach to the abdominal wall."

"There's gastroplication, if you want to fold back and stitch together the folds of the stomach to prevent dictation—whatever that is."

"There's gastroenterostomy, an operation to form a passage between the stomach and the intestine."

"There's gastrorrhaphy, the job of sewing up wounds of the abdominal wall or the stomach."

"There's gastrotomy—that's to make a permanent opening in the stomach to put in food."

He's Ready
"And there's plain old ordinary gastrotomy, if you just want to open the stomach to take out a nail you've swallowed."

"Yep, I'm ready for that guy. I dare him to come back."

I asked Bill what geographical question was most often asked. "The regular customers ask who played right field for the Yankees before Babe Ruth," he said. "And the strangers want to know where the men's room is."

CUSSION BILLED
Paul B. Means, head of the Unit of religion in the University of Oregon, will participate in a round-table discussion on "World Federal Government and World War III" at a meeting of the One World club Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the C.A. The gathering is open to the public. Examination free.

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