

Alcoholism Ranks As One of America's Four Major Problems Affecting Health

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of dispatches on where we stand in the fight against alcoholism. It reports on the growing incidence of this affliction, and the scope of our efforts to control it.

By LOUIS CASSELL

Washington—Alcoholism today claims nearly 3 million victims in the United States. It ranks with heart disease, cancer and mental illness as one of our four major health problems. America is spending millions to curb the other three diseases—and is getting results. But we have yet to launch an effective national fight against alcoholism. The number of alcoholics is growing at a rate of at least 100,000 a year.

These are some of the findings of a United Press survey into the status of the long-promised "counter-attack" against alcoholism.

The survey showed heartening progress in some areas—notably in new treatment techniques which today offer the alcoholic a bright prospect of recovery if he seeks competent help.

But it also showed that only a small percentage of alcoholics are receiving the treatment they need. There are still vast gaps in our knowledge about this affliction. And, in the words of Dr. William C. Menninger, the famous psychiatrist, "only a pittance of money is being devoted to changing the picture."

The present scope of the alcoholism problem—and our comparatively feeble efforts to deal with it—are demonstrated in the following facts, supplied by the American Medical Assn., the National Institute of Mental Health, and state alcoholism agencies:

If you drink alcoholic beverages—and well over half of all American adults do—the statistical odds are one in 15 that you eventually will become an alcoholic.

BUDGET—WATER COMMISSION WATER FUND
July 1, 1957 to June 30, 1958

RECEIPTS:	
Estimated Cash on Hand June 30, 1957	\$ 81,643.73
Estimated Water Revenues	379,040.00
Transfer from Water System Construction Fund	4,100.00
Other Receipts:	
Customer Service Connections	\$ 12,000.00
Servicing Customer Installations	26,900.00
Connection Fees	1,600.00
Water District Operation	7,260.00
Rents	240.00
Assessments for Trunk Water Main	45,723.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$557,819.25
EXPENDITURES:	
Operating Expenses	\$145,977.00
Franchise Taxes	3,750.00
Interest on Bonds	58,735.00
Labor & Material for Customers' Service Connections	12,000.00
Labor & Material for Servicing Customers' Installations	25,000.00
Capital Expenditures	241,005.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$486,967.00
ESTIMATED BALANCE JUNE 30, 1958	\$ 70,852.25

BUDGET—WATER COMMISSION WATER SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION FUND
July 1, 1957 to June 30, 1958

RECEIPTS:	
Estimated Balance June 30, 1957	\$104,052.85
Interest on Investments	3,100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$107,152.85
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Transfer to Water Fund	4,100.00
ESTIMATED BALANCE JUNE 30, 1958	\$103,052.85

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEARS	EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 1957-58	CLASSIFICATION	Budget Allowance 1957-58
1954-55	1955-56		
22,937.36	5,364.46	4-00 Street Construction	58,288.00
\$ 34,664.69	\$ 6,093.44	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 88,088.00
\$ 54,477.49	\$ 60,710.71	PERSONAL SERVICES	\$107,232.00
22,548.00	23,093.75	Operation & Maintenance	49,700.00
34,664.69	6,093.44	Capital Expenditures	88,088.00
\$111,690.18	\$ 89,897.90	GRAND TOTAL	\$245,020.00

STORM SEWER FUND
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Engineering	\$ 1,425.00
Storm Sewer Constr.	46,075.00
Total	\$ 47,500.00

STREETS AND SEWERS

PERSONAL SERVICES:	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:	EXPENDITURES:	GRAND TOTAL:
Utility Worker I	Office Supplies	Personal Services	\$ 15,473.00
General Foreman (1PT 490)	Warehouse Supplies	Operation & Maintenance	42,825.00
Mechanic Foreman	Paint	Capital Expenditures	1,500.00
Utility Worker III (2 330-390)	Travel	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,500.00
Utility Worker II	Gasoline	EXPENDITURES	\$ 15,473.00
Carpenter	Electricity	Personal Services	\$ 15,473.00
Overtime	Telephone & Telegraph	Operation & Maintenance	42,825.00
Compensation	Drainage Control	Capital Expenditures	1,500.00
Retirement	Const. Sidewalks	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 59,798.00
Social Security	Outside Work		
	Street Sign Maint.		
	Equipment Maintenance		
	Bldg. Maintenance		
	Sewer Repairs		

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

PERSONAL SERVICES:	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:	EXPENDITURES:	GRAND TOTAL:
City Electrician (1PT 430)	Misc. Supplies	Personal Services	\$ 16,985.00
Park Meter Att.	Traffic Supplies	Operation & Maintenance	16,153.00
P.W. Director (1PT 780)	Meter Parts & Supplies	Capital Expenditures	3,210.00
Engineers Aide II (1PT 370-390)	Publications	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,210.00
Secretary (1PT 270-290)	Mileage	EXPENDITURES	\$ 16,985.00
Extra Help	Travel	Personal Services	\$ 16,985.00
Compensation	Car Expense	Operation & Maintenance	16,153.00
Retirement	Electricity for Signals	Capital Expenditures	3,210.00
Social Security	Annual Interconn. Cost	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 36,348.00
	Traffic Signal Repairs		

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED REVENUES (OTHER THAN IMPROVEMENT FUNDS 1957-58)

Property Tax	Arterial Street	Fire Maintenance	General Bond	General Fund	Library	OH-Street Parking	Park & Swim. Pool	Sanitary Sewer	Sewage Treatment	State Tax Street	Storm Sewer	Water Bond	Total
\$143,000.00	\$ 93,759.00	\$ 55,753.00	\$286,421.00	\$ 18,427.00		\$ 23,440.00	\$ 19,000.00				\$ 47,500.00	\$ 41,895.00	\$729,795.00

Medical Science now applies the diagnosis of alcoholism to any drinker who depends on alcohol to meet ordinary demands of living and whose use of alcohol has begun to cause him serious problems at home or at work.

These "hidden alcoholics" are still able to keep up appearances. They continue to function, at least part time, as wives and mothers, or as business and professional men. The vast majority of them will not acknowledge even to themselves, that they have lost control over their drinking and have become addicted to alcohol.

The real cost of alcoholism cannot be measured, because no one can put a price tag on a broken home, a brilliant career down the drain, a human life that turns into a nightmare of hangovers, blackouts, broken promises and uncontrollable cravings.

But a minor part of the cost can be estimated. Wage losses attributed to alcoholism amount to 432 million dollars a year. When you add in higher crime and accident rates, law enforcement and medical expenses, authorities consider 1 billion dollars a year a conservative figure for the direct, countable cost of alcoholism.

And what are we spending to combat this menace? The one-word answer suggested by the United Press survey is "pennies."

Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia now have official alcoholism programs. Some of these exist mainly on paper. Others operate clinics and hospitals, and conduct research and public education services.

For the support of all of these programs, state legislatures last year voted a grand total of \$3,823,188.

The number of patients treated by all state-supported facilities in 1956 was 22,906—or less than one out of every 200 of the nation's alcoholics.

The research picture is equally bleak. A check of major federal, state and private agencies turned up a total annual outlay of less than \$700,000 for scientific studies of alcoholism. This is only one-fifth as much as the Agriculture Department spends each year for research on foot-and-mouth disease in cattle.

Tomorrow: What science has learned about the causes of alcoholism.

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Masculinizing Hormone Helps Female Canary Birds to Sing

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Writer

New York — It is not at all impossible for female canary birds to sing and sing brilliantly, but they need a little help, science has found. The help is a "shot" of masculinizing hormone.

That may or may not be the explanation of a phenomenon which has appeared here and there around the country of late. Canary birds which sang their heads off in the pet shop, lost the gift soon after buyers took them home.

Since male canaries sing enthusiastically as long as they live, that was exceedingly strange. This strangeness became colored with suspicion when some of these birds were definitely identified as female of sex.

You see, among birds, females don't sing. They only chirp. But here were female canaries who had been singers, if only for a time. Unless nature had suddenly reversed the rule, something had been done to these females.

Test Five Birds
E. H. Herick and J. O. Harris, poultry scientists of the Kansas State college of agriculture and applied science, took nine young but mature female canaries.

By hypodermic needle, they gave five a minute amount of male hormone preparation. Within nine days the female chirping was beginning to sound like song and within 12 days all five were singing although for only a few seconds of time.

But thereafter the females began singing for progressively longer periods "and the song was indistinguishable from that of a male bird," the scientists reported.

For approximately one month the five females sang and then they stopped and began chirping precisely like the four females who hadn't been treated.

Safety Campaign Being Conducted For 4th of July

Chicago—There is a chance of one traffic smash-up for every 20 miles of highway travel during the four-day Fourth of July week end, the National Safety Council said today.

The Council estimates there will be 45,000,000 motor vehicles on the nation's 3,400,000 miles of streets and highways—an average of about 13 vehicles a mile if they should all take to the road at the same time.

In an attempt to prevent a holiday of tragedy for hundreds of persons, the Council again is conducting a nationwide campaign for a safe Independence Day celebration. The campaign, supported by 158 national organizations, is designed to increase public awareness of the extra holiday hazards and the extra caution needed to overcome them.

"Accidents of all kinds took 8,600 lives last July," said Ned H. Dearborn, president of the Council "and the Fourth contributed substantially to the toll. Dangerous Factors

"This year we have many dangerous factors—a four-day holiday, more cars and mileage, and plenty of money. These add up to a big celebration—and a big hangover of grief and suffering unless we crack down on the small minority of drivers who refuse to heed appeals for decent behavior behind the wheel. Fortunately most drivers are decent, law-abiding citizens who may be guilty of inattention, thoughtlessness or ineptitude, but who will listen to appeals for safety and try to hold down the toll."

"There are two days to hold down deaths during a holiday period such as the Fourth. One is for police to be especially alert and vigorous in enforcement, and crack down on those who refuse to listen. The other is for all of us to recognize that holidays are danger days and walk and drive in a prudent manner."

We, the undersigned Chairman and Secretary of the Budget Committee, hereby certify that the foregoing statement of Budget Estimates are as approved by the Budget Committee duly appointed for the purpose of preparing said Budget estimates for the City of Medford, Oregon, for the ensuing year ending June 30, 1958.

Signed: H. J. Beyd, Chairman
Signed: Marina S. Gates, Secretary