

# WHITE RIBBON BULLETIN

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Litchville, North Dakota 58461  
Official Organ of W. C. T. U. of North Dakota  
'NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH'

VOLUME LXXXI

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NUMBER 6

## Notice

New 16MM National Film: "Short Distance Runner" deals with teenage drinking from age 11 to young manhood. Regular price for this film is \$245.00 but a 'Special Offer' good only until January 15th allow 25 percent discount for only \$183.75.

We are ordering this film and have great need of your help in paying for it. How much can your local or district help? Please send donations or monies to Mrs. Oscar Johnson, Harwood, N. Dak. 58042 immediately.



Some try to Define it  
Some try to Endure it.  
Some try to Live it  
Jesus came to Give it.

### TEMPLES

"The heaven of heavens" is no exact  
Location anyone can place,  
Illimitable, infinite --  
Minute confines for grace.

And yet the everlasting Lord,  
Constricted, cramped within the wide  
Heaven of heavens, deigns to enter  
The lowliest heart, and to abide.

-- Jane Merchant

### This We Believe:

We believe in a loving God as Father who created us in His own image to love Him and one another.

We believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Lord who has given us the way, the truth, and the life.

We believe in the surrounding presence of God's Holy Spirit in our daily lives to know His will and the challenge to follow it.

We believe that when we falter and fail we have a cleansing forgiveness for our sins which separate us from those we love.

We believe in the Holy Scriptures which tell us of man's desire to know God and to find Him in the prophets, the disciples, and the apostles.

We believe in prayer which takes our concerns in communication directly to God about ourselves, our family, our community, and the communities of the world.

We believe in the sacredness of the family which enables each home to become a living laboratory of a miniature Kingdom of God.

We believe in the world-wide church of Christ which binds the grieving, the lost, the insulted, the injured, the outcasts into a caring fellowship of love.

We believe in the assurance of eternal life which makes this day a part of our own eternity, until we are wholly Thine --

This we believe.



National YTC Spiritual Life Director, Carma Kulish of Dickinson, giving devotions at National Convention Youth Night at Springfield, Illinois.

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**YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW**

It is a real privilege to be back in the beautiful Peace Garden State tonight. I have had the privilege of speaking to hundreds of students in high schools and colleges in your state yesterday and today and will reach more tomorrow. I was impressed last year with the fine attendance and good spirit at the 1976 State Convention and was so pleased to be invited to share a message with you tonight.

I have been a WCTU member for 22 years and I consider it an honor to be connected with an organization to which I believe every Christian woman should belong.

Think with me now about yesterday. In America's early years drinking was so widely practiced and accepted that even some preachers were partly paid with kegs of rum and beer. When the problem of drunkenness became very serious the Washington Society was formed to work for the rehabilitation of drunkards. They experienced a measure of success but soon learned that for every person they helped there were many more to take his place. So, in the early 1800's there began the great pledge-signing movement. Many took the total abstinence pledge and kept it. Others were not able to do so because of social pressures to drink and many were never reached by the drive which centered in churches.

Finally it dawned on Christians that only by outlawing the liquor traffic would their fellow man be safe from this dangerous product. In 1853 the first state Prohibition law was adopted by Maine under the leadership of Gen. Neal Dow, the "Father of Prohibition." A number of such laws followed but were soon repealed as the wets bribed and pressured state legislatures to do their will. In the 1850's a number of state political parties were formed to oppose alcohol. These groups which had such names as Temperance Party, Prohibition Party and Anti-Dram Shop Party nearly all merged with the new Republican Party. They did so because they were promised that once slavery was eliminated the liquor traffic would be dealt with next. They were encouraged by the election of Abraham Lincoln, a stalwart foe of beverage alcohol. When Lincoln was killed his party went into the hands of men who were favorable to the liquor interests.

Thus it was on September 1, 1869 that some five hundred men and women gathered in Farwell Hall, Chicago to form the Prohibition Party. This marked the first time in American history that women were seated as equal delegates at a national political convention.

Five years later in Cleveland, Ohio the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was born in prayer and as a result of the Crusade begun in Hillsboro, Ohio. Women from many states immediately joined the WCTU and the Century-long movement began.

The WCTU and the Prohibition Party were both strongly influenced by an intelligent, dedicated and inspired Christian named Frances Willard. Not only did she spark the amazing growth of the WCTU but her leadership played a major role in lifting the Prohibition Party to a place of influence and importance in the political life of the nation.

The Anti-Saloon League was formed some 20 years later. It did not, at first, take the same strong stand against all use of alcohol-its emphasis being on closing down the saloons - but finally it saw the need to support total abstinence and national Prohibition and joined in the crusade for a dry America.

When National Prohibition was adopted most drys were sure that it was in the Constitution to stay forever. What most failed to recognize was that no law can enforce itself. Prohibition enforcement, especially at the national and large city levels, was left largely in the hands of men who bitterly opposed the law. Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew Mellon, for instance, was in charge of national enforcement for most of the Prohibition era. He was also the largest stockholder in the Overholt Distillery in Pittsburgh, Pa.

In spite of the efforts of both major parties to sabotage the law and the betrayal of Prohibition by many officials who had won election by making dry promises the record stands that Prohibition was a great success. The liquor interests have admitted that, as late as 1933, 67 percent of all adult Americans were total abstainers. Today that figure stands at only 29 percent. So great was the reduction in crime that many jails were half-empty. So few drunkards needed treatment that most Keely Cure Institutes were closed. No - that is NOT

the picture presented to us today of Prohibition.

But - who presents the picture of Prohibition as an era of unparalleled lawlessness and misery - all caused by the terrible Prohibition law which was foisted on the American people by a minority of fanatics? That false picture is one which has been painted by the liquor traffic AND by the news media which obtains huge advertising revenues to lure young people and adults into adopting the drink habit.

You and I should be proud to belong to the WCTU and other organizations which helped to bring about National prohibition. Thank God that so many lives were spared because our predecessors in this cause cared more for people than for dollars. NEVER APOLOGIZE for the 18th Amendment. That law was the finest, noblest law enacted in America since the adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

As we look at today we cannot help but be saddened by the moral and spiritual conditions which prevail in our beloved America. The Bible cannot be read in most schools but filthy and blasphemous books are often part of the required reading program for our children. Crime has reached an all-time high in America and it is unsafe to walk the streets of most major cities at night. F.B.I. records reveal that 2,600,000 arrests were made in 1976 for driving under the influence, drunkenness and violations of such laws as selling liquor to minors, bootleggings. Etc. That figure is only part of the picture since many states no longer arrest people who are drunk even though such people are a menace to public safety.

Remember these figures the next time someone tells you that Prohibition caused crime. Also remember that at least 50 percent of all other crime such as murder, rape, etc. can be traced directly or indirectly to the use of alcohol.

Judge Raymond Berg, head of Chicago's municipal traffic court, conducted a survey for several years recently. He found that 80 percent of all those arrested for drunk driving were social drinkers NOT alcoholics. So, take those TV commercials about alcoholic drivers with a grain of salt. Social drinkers are the biggest part of the problem.

By the most conservative estimates 20,000,000 problem drinkers and alcoholics now drain America financially, physically and morally. That army of degraded human beings grows by at least 500,000 each year. The National Safety Council now admits that at least half of the 40,000 to 50,000 highway accident deaths each year are due to the use of alcohol. We lose at least 400,000 Americans each year to alcohol-that includes highway deaths, alcohol-related physical and mental illness and homicides committed by intoxicated people. That is about seven times as many lives as we lost in twelve years of participation in the Vietnam War.

Have you seen any protest marches lately against THAT needless loss of life? Have you heard

any politicians promising to wage war on that great enemy - beverage alcohol? Even many people who drink alcoholic beverages are finally admitting that school IS America's Number One Drug Problem. It is no exaggeration to say that America will be destroyed by the liquor traffic unless we destroy it first.

That is today! What of tomorrow?

History is strewn with the wrecks of nations and empires which fell because of moral decay from within. We must turn America around or it will continue on its toboggan ride to oblivion.

What can you and I do to save the situation?

The greatest tragedy related to alcohol and other social evils is that so few Christians are involved in the battle to save America. Many have tried to justify their indifference by claiming that Christians should be virtual monastics. Others have evolved a new position which says that alcohol is O.K. if taken in moderation - I say new - not new to the liquor interests but new to those churches and pastors which once spoke with a thus saith the Lord on this subject.

Anyone familiar with the Word of God knows that Christians are to be the salt of the earth. Salt flavors, heals and preserves. Only as we involve ourselves in the political and educational life of America will we be able to flavor America with our Christian influence, help heal our nation of its' dreadful moral diseases and preserve our nation as a free and good nation for our children and grandchildren. We must then work to re-educate our ministers and other Christians so that total abstinence and Prohibition will once again be emphasized in our preaching and teaching ministries.

Tomorrow we need to retain our strong support of total abstinence for the individual and Prohibition for the nation. Forty-four spell out years since Repeal have proved us right-beverage alcohol can NOT be controlled. It can only be destroyed. We must NOT change our basic beliefs because they are right.

However we need to adapt our methods to life in America as it is today. At one time we could fill the largest hall in town by announcing a temperance meeting. Today, most people do not attend any meetings. They get their information chiefly from the news media and printed matter which groups distribute. We need to stress neighborhood meetings in which interested friends will come into a home, hear a speaker, get literature and are challenged to get into the work. Many will attend such small informal gatherings who will never go to a public meeting in a large hall.

Neal Dow said we must "sow the nation knee deep in Prohibition literature." I believe that the printed page is our most powerful tool to use for tomorrow. We ought to use all of the fine materials published by the Signal Press and others in the temperance field. If each member of the WCTU

would distribute an average of just three pieces of literature per day we could reach all America in just one year.

Tomorrow we need a stronger sense of unity and a greater degree of cooperation between the various Prohibition and temperance organizations in America today. The leaflet "Alcohol Is America's Number One Drug Problem" which is at your literature table here is being distributed by many groups in America today as a joint effort. We ought to cooperate on more literature projects to reduce the costs of literature and present a united front in reaching Americans with the truth. We must work together tomorrow or we will be no match for the liquor traffic and its allies in government.

There is no one who believes more strongly in temperance education than I do. Education MUST be a major element in our program. Yet, there is a very real danger involved in stressing education to the exclusion of all other work. The liquor traffic would like nothing better than for the WCTU, the Prohibition Party, I.O.G.T. and similar groups to give up their legislative work, their local option activity and their support of dry candidates. They would love to limit us to just one of our tools. Frances Willard said we must educate, agitate and legislate. She later came to see that we must also administrate the law. We must educate tomorrow but we must use the other three-fourths of our tools too.

Tomorrow we must be aggressive. Too often since Repeal we have apologized for our cause. We need to take a leaf from those who have begun to fight the cigarette habit. Smoking has been an even more entrenched and socially acceptable habit than the use of alcohol for many years. Yet, in a short time, the number of smokers has dwindled to a distinct minority of our population. A massive national effort has resulted in laws which set aside non-smoking areas in public places in Arizona and other states. We must just as boldly state that alcohol is a dangerous drug which threatens America. We need to say that drunkards are not the laughing matter which many television and movie scenes would have us believe. We must put the wets on the defense. WE have been on the defense too long. Let's take the offensive now!

Tomorrow we must make ourselves felt politically. I personally am a Prohibitionist - a member of the party of Frances Willard, Ella Boole, Ida B. Wise Smith, Mamie Colvin, Mother Stewart, Anna Gordon, Ruth Tooze, and a host of other WCTU greats. I personally believe that every WCTU member should also be a Prohibitionist.

Yet, if you are a committed member of another party and plan to remain there you should be working in your party to support dry candidates. If none exist you should seek to name some who are willing to run. The politicians in North Dakota will never take you or me seriously as long as we support them while they support the liquor traffic.

There are millions of Americans today who favor Prohibition. If these millions would back their beliefs with their votes we would see the start of a great national movement against alcohol and for Prohibition.

Tomorrow we need to seek, demand, and obtain adequate publicity for our cause. A greedy ego-inflated stunt driver can convince many millions of gullible Americans to see him risk his life in crazy stunts. In the process he is given millions of inches of free publicity. By contrast when Pakistan adopted National Prohibition recently only two lines appeared in one national news magazine - nothing in other publications. When the wets win an election we see big publicity but very little when such states as Kansas, Oklahoma, Utah and North Carolina defeat liquor-by-the drink.

Finally, tomorrow we must reach more children and young people. Why are so few youth in our ranks today? Think back! Why did you get involved in this cause? Where did you first hear that a Christian had this responsibility to fight evil and the forces of Satan in this nation?

Most of us were reached in our churches. Our youth today are largely uninvolved because many Sunday School teachers and pastors have not told youth the truth about alcohol. Few young people are challenged to consider a lifetime career in the WCTU, the Prohibition Party or with other similar groups. I believe that individuals who give their lives to this work in response to the leading of God's Spirit are just as much in full-time Christian service as are pastors and missionaries. Do you teach a Sunday School class or have other groups of children you reach today? Do you serve on a Christian Education Board? Use your voice to insist that Christian Citizenship and alcohol education be a part of the Sunday School and youth programs. The youth we reach today will be the leaders in this cause tomorrow. They will also reach many other youth.

God wants you and me to keep on keeping on. Satan and the liquor interests tell us our cause is hopeless. They whisper in our ear that we have done all we can do. People have changed and there is no use fighting such a powerful foe. We who love God are His Church. He has promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against His church. May we today rededicate ourselves to being the salt of the earth as Christ has commanded.

God WILL see to it that we eventually win.

(Speech of Earl F. Dodge, WCTU State Convention, 1977, speaker at Lisbon. Our thanks to Mr. Dodge for permission to reprint it here.)



If a drug can make you drowsy, don't take any drink until the drug has worn off. It adds additional complications to an already dangerous alcohol problem.