

Drugs

Drugs In The County — Part 2

Extent Of Drug Use Unknown

(Second of a six-part series)

By BILL NEUBAUER
Sentinel Staff Writer

No one can say how many Santa Cruz County residents have drug problems. Few addicted to aspirin or cigarettes or sleeping pills or social drinking show up at the hospital or jail or drug treatment centers, for these places are for those who could not cope with their bag.

An indication of the magnitude of the local drug problem comes from Ed Stedtfeld, director of the Drug Abuse Preventive Center on Emeline Avenue.

"I think I can fairly say that during the last year we had contact with 1500 to 2000 persons with problems," Stedtfeld said.

Dr. L. J. Ruschin, director of County General Hospital, said it would be impossible to estimate how many residents have drug problems.

"There are so many addictions or drug dependencies," he said. "I tell a man if he can't turn down a social drink, he is an alcoholic. When you speak about drugs you have to remember that alcohol is a drug, or aspirin or coffee or tobacco."

Ruschine said that in the past year the hospital's alcoholic detoxification unit processed about 200 persons. Detoxifications for heroin, barbiturate and other drug addicts also were performed.

"We receive many more requests for aid now than we did three years ago," Ruschin added.

Another indication is that the sheriff's department has exceeded its budget this year by some \$40,000 because of the type of inmate now being lodged in jail: More persons are now being charged with drug offenses than common-law crimes, and more personnel is needed for supervision.

But all officials point out that people who come to hospitals, jails or treatment centers reflect only a small part of the total drug scene. They have come into notice because they are at the end of their rope or happened to run afoul of the law.

A social worker reported, for instance:

"I work with needy families. I may notice when I visit homes a minor or an adult whom I

and human suffering. There it takes only about four days to kick the habit cold turkey, but he pointed out that mental health services are needed to help the victim overcome his psychological dependence on the drug.

Drs. Svihus, Ruschin and Seapy said it is extremely difficult for a heroin addict to kick the habit on his own. Seapy said

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, the most difficult part of the treatment comes after the victim has been withdrawn from the drug.

"Mental health services simply

must go hand in hand with withdrawal work" Sivhus noted.

Overcoming barbiturate addiction, which is actually a bigger problem than heroin, must be done under medical supervision because "it is very dangerous and can kill," Sivhus said.

But providing medical and mental health services solves only one of the many problems in the drug scene, the three doctors stress.

Paternal training and guidance are needed to prevent development of conditions in the home which incline the young (and adults) to seek "escape" through drugs. Drug abuse education is needed in the schools. Somehow values must be given to people who have few real ones and many distorted ones.

Aptos Supervisor Ralph Sanson said that a crisis situation can be avoided only through a multi-faceted approach such as the doctors suggest.

Speaking on county failure to have a drug abuse control plan operable by now, Sanson said:

"I can't justify the nonexistence of a program. It is due to our failure to recognize the problem. No money was put into the budget last year for a program. I did suggest in a letter to the board of supervisors a year and a half ago that the nature, scope and magnitude of the problem was not understood and that we had to come to grips with the problem and conduct a survey to determine how things stood. This became controversial when, through UCSC, we attempted to survey the schools. I accused the school administrators unfairly of not being seriously interested in getting a solution to the problem. After I sat down with them I realized they were doing as much or more as anyone but that we needed a smart guy to analyze the problem. Until Svihus was made coordinator in November, that's about all that has been done."

Harry Richardson of the Do It Now Foundation, which seeks to aid solution of the drug problem through preventive education and rehabilitative work with drug dependents and drug addicts, thinks county officials were unrealistic in thinking the drug scene would pass the area by.

"This would have to be a

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Page 11



Board members of the American Red Cross Santa Cruz District recently got a firsthand look at the emergency vehicle and station wagon from San Jose district

headquarters. Gordon Bent, director of disaster services for the Central Coast Regional Chapter, displays a kit of materials to, from left, Stanley E. Jacobson, Mrs. Rich-

ard Eldridge, Mrs. Howard Shontz, Ray McIntyre, Chuck Adams, James Bell and Dick Eldridge. March has been designated as National Red Cross Month.

March Is Red Cross Month

The American Red Cross, which has benefited the Santa Cruz community in crises such as the 1955 flood, as well as through blood, water safety and first aid programs, is having its month in March.

During March the local Red Cross, which derives most of its financial support from the United Fund, will request additional contributions from its

each of the 19 bloodmobile visitors.

In addition, there was a program to assist military families. Also, a total of 2939 persons enrolled in water safety classes in which Red Cross instructors were used, and 1639 received Red Cross certificates.

In first aid classes, 582 enrolled in classes, 545 received Red Cross certificates and 286

Shaffer said the district's center at San Jose has been selected as one of the top blood centers in the country. The center serves as district headquarters for Santa Cruz, San Benito, Santa Clara and Monterey counties.

The center received its high rating for efficiency and service to its communities.

think has a drug problem. They aren't going to tell me about this, although some do when they get to know me better. 'My experience is that most of the people I deal with, those under the age of 65, have tried drugs. About 90 per cent of those I've talked with about their habits have used marijuana, or 'grass'. Use of grass by teenagers is high because grass is cheaper than liquor. They tell me they can get stoned for 50 cents.'

Another indication comes from school administrators and from law enforcement officers whose work takes them to campuses.

An admitted drug problem in San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District has led to adoption in principle of a program to combat drug misuse by school and community youth.

Detective Sgt. James Marston of the Sheriff's Department reports that marijuana, amphetamines and barbiturates are bought on some school campuses.

Dr. Donald Seapy of Scotts Valley is so concerned about youth involvement in drugs that he voluntarily researched the drug problem and now "raps" with high school kids to give them authoritative information on the psychological and physiological implications of drug abuse.

But Dr. Seapy and others stress that the problem is far from the problem of young people alone. Adults are involved more heavily in the drug scene than the young, both as users and pushers.

People who work among the young people or adults, they think these are the prime offenders but because the young, having all their lives before them, benefit most from preventive education or medical and psychological therapy.

But whether the users are young people or adults, they constitute a relatively huge market for those involved in drug traffic. They also pose a relatively huge problem for one of the smaller and poorer counties of the state.

Dr. Richard Svihus, county health director and county coordinator for a proposed county-wide drug abuse control plan, points out that medical and psychiatric tris only a small part of total problem.

"Yet," he said, "this treatment, which is extremely expensive, is also extremely important. We have almost no facilities for handling the heroin addict, yet he must be handled. We think a methadone center is extremely important to reduce the crime rate, drug traffic

members and friends to help support its more than 250 volunteers.

During 1969-70, a total of 2270 units of blood were collected in the Santa Cruz district and 2738 units were used. In the past seven months, 1684 units have been produced and 1657 used.

Local officials state that in 1970, a total of 2558 pints of blood were collected, with 30 to 45 volunteers working on

Santa Cruz Red Cross Chairman Robert Ward noted that besides those annual programs, the Red Cross is in a position to assist communities such as Santa Cruz during the 1955 flood, or the Los Angeles area during its recent earthquake. He said some \$650,000 in blankets, food, temporary housing etc., was expended in the Santa Cruz area immediately following its flood.

Board member N. Manfred

This year testing for hepatitis in blood is expected to be carried out at the center, and an "auto-analyzer" which automatically types blood may be put into effect.

DAY CARE CENTER

The Capitola Planning Commission will decide whether to allow establishment of a children's day care center in a residential section when the commission meets tonight at 7:30 in the city council chambers. Karen Mungari has asked for a use permit to operate the center at 817 Sir Francis Ave.

Richardson said, "The county is on Monterey Bay, the biggest unguarded harbor on the California coast. It is only 75 miles south of San Francisco, the original drug explosion point. It is only 30 miles from San Jose, the fastest growing city in California. It is close to Big Sur and Carmel, which is the rock music magic land. The problem in the county had to happen in view of all this and the mass exodus from cities by people who want to escape from city problems. Why wouldn't the problems come to Santa Cruz, which is one of the most desirable areas in the country?"

UCSC To Help Develop New Peace Corps Teachers' Plan

UCSC and the Salinas Union High School District have been named to participate in a new Teacher Corps-Peace Corps program to promote better teaching methods both in the U.S. and abroad.

UCSC is the only West coast campus involved in the program. Four other campuses in other parts of the country will be announced during this week.

Through the local program, 40 corpsmen, mostly from minority groups, will be trained as high school teachers in Salinas schools, then serve two years in Malaysia or the Philippines. In all, the three years of work could lead to an M.A. degree in teaching.

"Primary purpose of the program," said UCSC's director of teacher education Clark Roginson, "is to prepare better teachers in general, and to develop bold, new teaching techniques. Hopefully, what we learn in this project will be useful throughout the country."

Corpsmen recruits will be required to have already earned a B.A. degree and have strength in science and - or math. No previous professional preparation in education is de-

sired, and no foreign language is essential.

Once chosen, the corpsmen will live in Salinas and work as full-time teacher interns in Salinas junior and senior high schools. They will, however, spend some of their time on the UCSC campus to build up the academic side of the program. UC's Center for South Pacific Studies and the UCSC Board of Studies in Anthropology will provide additional resources.

Seven team leaders, to be recruited from the present teaching staff in the Salinas schools, will oversee the corpsmen's work. At the end of the year, the corpsmen will be fully credentialled secondary school teachers.

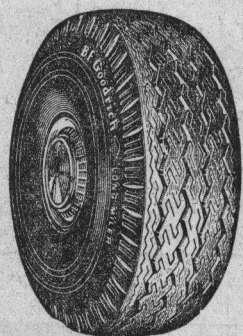
Robinson said that the corpsmen-interns will not replace regularly employed teachers in the district, but will supplement and enrich the Salinas program.

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