

...ia, born on St. Patrick's Day, took a walk in the warm sun with its mother yesterday. The

Como zoo. (AP Wirephoto) ♦ ♦ ♦



Mostly about People

By Wally Traling

The Women's Christian Temperance Union does not disapprove of alcohol as long as it doesn't team up with the olive.

Although I've been known to take a beer . . . or two, and could never make their team, I went out to Mt. Hermon recently to talk it over with two nice ladies—both VIP's in the WCTU.

"We are not opposed to alcohol per se," said Mrs. Eila Parker, corresponding secretary to the state organization from Oakland. "There are many good uses for it in industry. But for drinking, we say it's unhealthy and destructive."

By this she was thinking of the five million alcoholics in the U.S., the blood dripped onto the highways from drunk drivers, the dirty tricks it plays on the liver and brain.

The WCTU is opposed to drinking, prostitution and smoking too.

Mrs. Ida A. Stine of Mount Hermon, who was state president for seven years, worked hard on the likker problem, but she was also an enemy of smoking—especially on buses.

"I labored single handedly to get out petitions in the east bay and won a ban against smoking on buses in 12 cities," she said, with Mrs. Parker confirming this with vigorous nods.

Since it was organized in 1874, there were the highlights of WCTU achievement:

As early as 1875 a Senator Blair introduced a bill in congress for national prohibition.

Vermont was the first state to pass statutory prohibition laws in 1882.

In 1896 the WCTU, growing all the time from state to state, raised \$10,000 for Armenian relief.

In 1903, it had a good year. Liquor was banished from the U.S. capitol and on the side the ladies were in there fighting against polygamy.

From 1907 to 1916 they helped dry up 16 states. They were also busy with women suffrage, gaining rights in seven states.

They pushed through a law ban-

ning liquor from the U.S. mails in 1908, and old Georgia joined the speakeasy states.

Another attempt was made to win national constitutional prohibition in 1911, but it was still too early.

During World War I, the WCTU raised \$73,666 for "relief and education; \$129,601 for French, Belgian orphans; and almost \$200,000 for "comfort bags." And just for good measure Alabama and Arizona went on the wagon.

And then on January 16, 1920, the bar rags were squeezed (legally) for the last time and the U.S. became a vast pre-TV waste land of luckless likker likers.

That taken care of the organization turned to other fields. In 1923 they worked hard for a child labor amendment. And a woman from Georgia became a U.S. senator.

Repeal of the 18th amendment was a blow in 1933, but the WCTU went down fighting. TTT raised a million dollars to "fight the effects of the repeal."

Nowadays the organization is concentrating its efforts in the schools. On the side they are out after liquor advertising on TV and sipping of the giggly stuff on airlines.

The ladies gave vent to their wrath upon columnist Lucius Beebe, the connoisseur of various liquids. "We don't like him. He's for everything we're against," they said.

In other fields the WCTU helped dim the red light districts in California and, Mrs. Stine confided, the WCTU in Japan is squashing prostitution in that country, too.

The pure food law, workmen's compensation and orphans have felt the hand of this organization.

The ladies wouldn't give me the national membership figures of their organization because: "We're not supposed to."

These ladies are not in this work to be goodie-goodies. Both have had personal experiences within their families that perfectly demonstrate their points.