

Chowan Marriage Rate To Spurt

The sound of wedding bells will be heard more often in Chowan County from now on. More young couples will be marching to the altar this year and next than in some time.

This is evident from the sharp increase in the number of young people who will be in the age bracket in which most marriages take place. These potential brides and grooms are the product of the postwar years of the '40s, when the birth rate hit an all-time high.

It appears, from the local population figures and from previous experience, that the marriage rate in Chowan County will reach 12.7 per 1,000 residents this year.

By way of comparison, according to figures from the Department of Commerce and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the local rate was 10.4 marriages per 1,000 in 1964.

Throughout the nation, an average of 10.9 weddings per 1,000 is expected this year. The prediction for North Carolina is 9.4 per 1,000.

Not since the troops came home in 1946 has the country experienced a marriage boom such as occurred that year when nearly 2,300,000 weddings took place. From then on there was a steady decline to a bottom of 1,500,

000 in the late '50s. Now, however, the curve is moving upward again, with some 2,000,000 weddings in 1968, a total of 2,140,000 in 1969 and about 2,200,000 expected this year.

Examination of the figures shows that the number of marriages in any community is directly proportional to the number of people in the principal marrying ages—20 to 24.

In that age bracket in Chowan County, at the present time, there are approximately 1,330 well above the 1964 total of 1,030.

Up, Down Drugs Bad

Amphetamines and barbiturates are the "up and down" drugs, usually taken in pill form.

They are said to "pick you up" when you're down and "bring you down" when you're up." For most people, amphetamines do have exhilarating effects, while barbiturates bring calming.

They are powerful drugs, too powerful to play around with. Yet too many people are doing so. No one knows how many, but the best estimates are that about 200,000—and perhaps as many as 400,000—persons regularly abuse these and other non-narcotic drugs.

The case of Mary Jones illustrates the matter. It's a hypothetical case, not a real name, but it is true.

Mary takes amphetamines to get going and barbiturates to put her to sleep. She does this day in and out. She takes the "up and down" pills without the supervision of her family doctor.

Mary is—or is on the way to being—a slave of these drugs, addicted to them, a "junkie" as the slang goes. What is worse, she doesn't know it. She doesn't know facts she needs to know, like these:

The "up drugs," pep pills also called "bennies" and "speed," are a group of drugs known as amphetamines. They form one-half of what is perhaps the biggest part of the drug abuse problem in the U. S. today.

The other half of the problem are the "down" drugs—sedatives, sleeping pills, the large family of drugs made for medical purposes to relax a person.

What do the "down drugs" do?

They produce a relaxing effect for most people; in normal, medically supervised doses, they mildly depress the action of the nerves, skeletal muscles and heart muscle. In abnormal doses, the effects resemble alcoholic drunkenness.

Are these drugs addicting? The amphetamines or "up drugs" produce "psychological" dependence—a practice

With the increase in the number of weddings, there will follow, in due time, a rise in the birth rate, which has been at a low level for some time.

For the local business man, the picture is a rosy one. Each marriage represents thousands of dollars of spending—for jewelry, clothing, furniture, household necessities, appliances, insurance and eventually baby carriages. The initial outlay in setting up a home is estimated at more than \$3,000 per couple on average.

that can become a habit for mental or emotional reasons.

The "down drugs," barbiturates usually, are physically addicting. Some experts consider barbiturate addiction more difficult to cure than dependency upon a narcotic like heroin or cocaine.

Are these drugs dangerous to use?

They have definite medical and health values if properly used under a physician's direction.

None is properly available without a physician's prescription. This is for the very good reason that their misuse or abuse can be dangerous.

Barbiturates are a leading cause of accidental poison deaths. Sleeping pills distort how people see things; they slow down reactions and responses. They are an important cause of automobile accidents.

Amphetamines misused can lead to accidental deaths and to accidents because they can distort perception, judgment, and even cause severe mental derangement.

For a free leaflet on "The Up and Down Drugs," write to Box 1080, NIMH, Washington, D. C. 20013.

Wise Monkey
A wise monkey is a monkey who doesn't monkey with another monkey's monkey.
—Coast Guard Magazine.

This Is The Law

By ROBERT E. LEE
(For the N. C. Bar Association)
Contracts Of Drunks

Is a drunken person liable on his contracts?

The ordinary contract or conveyance made by a person so excessively intoxicated as to be unable to understand its nature and effect is voidable at his option. Upon becoming sober, his voidable contract may be ratified or disaffirmed.

Ratification may be by conduct, as by retaining that which has been received, or failure to disaffirm for an unreasonable time. After contract or conveyance has been ratified, it becomes binding absolutely, and cannot then be avoided.

Upon disaffirmance, that which has been received must be returned, or an offer made to return it, unless it was wasted before the party became sober.

The law does not undertake to relieve a man from his contracts made when he is under the stimulus of liquor. It will only afford relief sometimes when it appears that the party seeking it was so drunk that he was destitute of reason and unable to comprehend the nature of the contract and its consequences, or, in other words, of knowing what he was doing.

If a man is so drunk that he doesn't know what he is doing, he is contractually incapacitated. He doesn't have a mind that can meet another mind in mutual agreement.

A person cannot have a contract avoided merely because at the time it was made he was so under the influence of liquor that he could not act wisely and discreetly, nor drive a good bargain. This is because many of us who make our contracts "sober as a judge" subsequently discover we have not acted wisely and gotten bargains.

Although it was formerly held that a man should be liable upon a contract made when he was in a state of intoxication brought on by voluntary excessive drinking, on the ground that he should not be allowed to stultify himself, this is no longer the law. If a man is drunk un-

Sports Afield By Ted Kesting

We all know that more fishing waters will be needed to prevent existing waters from being overcrowded and overfished by the steadily increasing number of anglers. So what is the outlook for more fishing acreage?

One of the most powerful factors in this connection is the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, which will provide some \$200 million a year for the next five years, available to all states. Fishing will come in for an appreciable share of this billion-dollar fund, both directly and indirectly.

Further indirect benefit to the nation's 40 million fishermen will come from the acceptability of plans providing cleaner water, additional water acreage, new recreational facilities on water, marinas and boat livers, access sites and so forth.

Direct benefit will come from acceptable plans for providing more fishing piers,

der the law of contracts, it is immaterial as to the how he acquired that status.

A drunken person is liable for necessities furnished to him, or to his wife and minor children. This is an exception to the general rule. He must pay a reasonable price for the necessities.

catwalks for fishermen on bridges and causeways and other advantages of the encouragement of angling.

As far as pollution is concerned, we have seen an encouraging about-face in the pussyfooting which has gone on for years because of the political influence of the polluters, the pollutants coming essentially from industrial and municipal effluents.

Federal funds of many kinds can now be withheld until a state cleans up its pollution. A good example is the multi-million-dollar disposal plant erected by the city of St. Louis when federal funds were withheld pending its construction.

Because of the pollution abatement in the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, fishermen are reporting a return of sporting species in encouraging number, according to Sports Afield Magazine's Angling Editor Homer Circle.

Siltation has ruined many fishing areas and the Soil Conservation Service is pursuing a sound program of showing farmers how to keep soil on their fields and out of our waters. Timber is now being harvested in ways that do not interfere with its water-holding benefits.

And while the use of "hard" pesticides has done

undeniable damage to fish populations, these are now being rejected in favor of little residual effect on fish.

And millions of acres of water are being made into new fishing bonanzas thanks to advances in the sciences of fish culture, transportation, transplanting, hybridizing and so on. The most notable example is, of course, the coho in Lake Michigan and possibly others of the Great Lakes.

So it goes. As all these factors are added up and become part of the total picture, I see every reason for optimism about the future of our fishing.

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