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Parents Know the Drug Threat



By Kermit Banks SHERIFF

Today's Subject: Marijuana-The "Innocent" Drug

Marijuana is probably the best known drug to most parents because for years we have been hearing about it. Marijuana has long been in use in what we now term minority groups, but now it has spread across the land like cancer. Its manufacture and distribution is, of course, prohibited by law except for approved research purposes.

Marijuana is the dried flowering or fruiting top of the plant Cannabis Sativa, L., commonly called Indian Hemp. Usually it looks like fine, green tobacco. It is smoked in pipes or cigarette form. Hashish, also a preparation from Cannabis, is taken orally in many forms, and infrequently it is made into candy, sniffed in powder form, mixed with honey for drinking or with butter to spread on bread. The primary effect is a feeling of great perceptiveness and pleasure and an exaggerated sense of ability, resulting from even small doses. Erratic behavior, loss of memory, distortion of time and spatial perceptions, and hilarity without apparent cause occur. There is a marked unpredictability of effect.

Of course, these reactions are usual in the user of alcohol, too, but with the drug user there is no alcoholic breath odor. Breath odor though is most always unpleasant.

Because of the visions and exhilaration which result from the use of Marijuana, abusers may lose all restraint and act in a manner dangerous to themselves and others. User is usually accident prone because of his time and space sense upheaval. Dependence leads to anti-social behavior and could be the forerunner to use of other, far more deadly drugs.

Street terms (names) for Marijuana are: joints, sticks, reefers, weed, grass, pot, muggles, mooters, Indian hay, locoweed, Mu, giggle-smoke, Griffo, Mohasky and Mary Jane.

By the millions, and rightfully so, parents are more and more concerned or even panicked about drug use. Most disturbing is that drugs, especially Marijuana, are becoming popular even among junior high and high school students. One 37-yearold father said in a recent interview, "My seven-year-old daugh ter can spell Marijuana. I never heard of it until I was in college." On and near by high school and college grounds, raids and arrests for possession of Marijuana and other drugs are increasing across the country. Simple possession of Marijuana is a felony - rightly or wrongly - that can be punished by jail terms of 2 to 10 years or more. Drug use is, without doubt, becoming a way of life for some young people - and, for an untold but large, if not larger number of adults also. And so, think about these things, my friends - we are all in this together. As adults, it is up to US to head this thing off in our community. To do this we must all know more about drugs, their use and misuse. Will you be with me next week? I hope so. What we are studying is for a very worthwhile cause!

Blue Ridge Parkway Assoc. Meets Here

The Blue Ridge Parkway Association, an organization devoted to the promotion of the famed scenic Parkway from Northern Virginia to the Smokies, held a two day meeting in Burnsville last week. At this meeting Captain George Downing of Burnsville, the newly elected president of the Association took office for the coming year.

With more than 200 active members, the Association has rendered important service in working for the completion of the Parkway, and in attracting tourist travel to the area. The membership consists largely of Chambers of Commerce and businesses from the three states North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee.

The proposed extension of the Parkway from Western North Carolina to Atlanta is now an important concern of the Association. Action was taken at the meeting to open membership to Georgia Chambers of Commerce and others whose influence can promote the desirable extension toward the south.

Features of the Burnsville meeting, in addition to the business session, were a dinner at the Nu-Wray Inn, and "open house" with the Captain Geo.



Downings, and a picnic lunch given by Mrs. L. Henry Reed Jr. at her summer home at Ogle Meadows.

The speaker at the dinner, which filled the Nu Wray dining room, was Professor Harrell Jolley from Mars Hill, the author of an authoritative book covering the history of the Parkway. He presented an account of the Parkway from its original conception, with amusing details of the intensive political maneuvering which took place between Tennessee and North Carolina regarding the routing of the scenic road.

The Yancey County Chamber of Commerce furnished refreshments at the business session of the Association.

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Mallonee To Visit Area

Tom L. Mallonee, 11th Congressional District Assistant to Congressman Roy A. Taylor, is now making scheduled visits to the county seats and other sections of the counties.

On Tuesday, September 28, he will be at the YanceyCounty Courthouse, Burnsville,from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and at the Town Hall, Spruce Pine, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Any person who has plans

or official business pertaining to Congressional matters to be discussed, is invited to meet with Mr. Mallonee at the above specified times.

