

Breaking Of Drug Habit Can Be Frustrating Job

SAN FRANCISCO
Why can't we solve the drug problem?

It's somehow a frustrated silent-majority middle-America question.

A youth in a free clinic in Seattle replies: "What problem?"

A doctor treating addicts in San Francisco ponders a moment and murmurs, "That's a good question."

A drug cop in Washington says defensively, "Law enforcement can't do the whole job. But we've made a lot of progress in the last two years."

And a parent in New York persists, "Why can't we solve the drug problem?"

The drug problem. Tintype visions of Oriental opium dens, or young American kids with their backs flat up against a wall and their heads nodding, or dark rooms and dirty needles, or adolescents with a dance in their eyes, a faster dance than usual. Or the up and down escalator of the mind, or the exciting kid in school who gives bad habits a good name. A kaleidoscope of misconceptions and realities, one worse than the other.

Not a bad question: Why can't we solve the drug problem?

We are solving the drug problem, but there are no easy answers.

Only the frustration of realizing that you cannot have a cop on every street corner, you cannot stamp out every opium poppy in the world, you cannot open every package or frisk every tourist or search every ship and plane that comes to the United States. You cannot put the heel to the throat of every youngster who tries marijuana.

It took a long time for drugs to become everybody's problem. Drugs were a buried sin, hidden in the Negro ghetto, the beatnik haven. They suddenly exploded on middle class America. "Why now the big rage about drugs?" asks a federal attorney. "Is it

because it's come from one side of the tracks over to the other side? Instead of being in Harlem, it's now on Park Avenue and Vista Way. People are really jammed up about it now because their kids are involved... Where the hell were they 15 years ago?"

Actually, explains Raymond Enright, an assistant chief of the bureau's enforcement division, the United States had a drug problem in the early 1900s. Nearly every patent medicine and elixir contained something for the soul. Cures all your ills from rheumatism to cancer, makes you a new man. More direct than today's sales pitch, but then, it was a young country in 1913. A federal survey estimated a quarter million addicts in a nation of 100 million. That was hard drugs, opiates, real narcotics.

Most of it came from legitimate supplies. In 1914 the United States Congress passed the Harris Act clamping controls on the narcotics. Three years later the nation also prohibited alcoholic beverages.

In 1933 the nation repealed alcoholic prohibition. Today there are an estimated six million alcoholics in a nation of 200 million. Many began drinking during prohibition.

The all-time low in drug addiction came during and after World War II. But by 1950 the aimless society was producing a growing number of heroin users, and marijuana's allure was finding its way out of the confines of the ghetto.

At the same time tranquilizers like Miltown joined aspirin in common use as much of the adult society looked for peace in a pill.

That set the stage. Pills, barbiturates, pep pills, mind-benders exploded on the children of the '50s as they matured into the hippies and high school students of the '60s.

Why can't we solve the drug problem? Look how long it took to create it.

Yet, from places as diverse as

Miami, New York, Seattle, Phoenix, Washington and this hilly addict-haven comes a generality: The drug problem is being solved, slowly, ever so slowly. There is real tangible hope where there was none. There is optimism where there was despair. It has been a long time coming. It has a long way to go. But the remedy is in the making.

"I think we're going to see a peak, or we've already seen it, in drug usage and in the controversy," says a lawyer for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

Says an expert at the National Institute of Mental Health: "The real progress will come in the 1980s. The 1970s will be the action decade, cementing what we have discovered in the 1960s."

The experts sum it up this way:

—For the first time, through education, there is a new generation of kids coming up who are wise on drugs, wary of drug use and abuse. In some schools, says NIMH, there is evidence that marijuana use has crested. There is also evidence that nationwide the use of hallucinogens like LSD, and dangerous stimulants are declining.

—The new drug law focuses on the sellers. It reduces the penalty for simple possession of marijuana to a misdemeanor, marked down from a felony. Many states will follow. Too often courts have rebelled at throwing a 10-year sentence at a kid for blowing pot, says a federal lawyer. The new 30-day penalty is more likely to be used. It fits the crime.

—There is a calculated risk: that as a misdemeanor the tendency will be to ignore private marijuana use or casual experimentation unless it is flaunted publicly. It raises the question: does the new law only provide a more realistic penalty, or does it moderate the prohibition?

Southern Iraq Marsh Arabs Live Surrounded by Water

— They catch birds with a horse's tail and shoot fish with a dart.

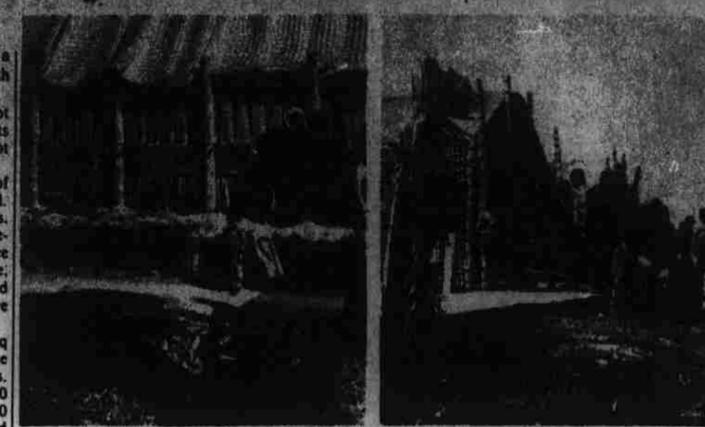
Arabs to the core they ride not camels but graceful reed boats and live surrounded by water not sand.

They are the marsh Arabs of southern Iraq, an unusual breed. They dress like desert Arabs, with flowing robes and checkered headcloths held in place with two strands of black rope; but live in a soggy marshland covering about 6,000 square miles.

The marshes of southern Iraq are fed by the floodwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. They extend from about 100 miles south of Baghdad for 200 miles down to Basra at the head of the Persian Gulf. No one knows exactly how many Arabs live in the marshlands, but the area has been a sanctuary from oppression for centuries.

Mesopotamia — the land between the two rivers — has seen more than half a dozen civilizations since the beginning of recorded time. As one succeeded the other, each with its share of harshness and deprivation, refugees fled into the trackless marshes by the thousands.

The Arabs were the last to



NO CAMELS - The marsh Arabs of southern Iraq don't ride camels but graceful reed boats instead. They live surrounded by water, not sand. At left, an Arab family stands outside of its reed hut. At right are tourist cabanas made of reeds.

his target in the shallow waterways. A sudden lunge, a tug, and a wriggling fish emerges neatly speared through the middle. The marsh Arabs have evolved an architectural style that is unique in the Middle East.

A typical hut is built of reeds on a base packed with mud, papyrus plants and reeds. The hut and its base is attached with ropes to four palm trees planted near each corner. When the floodwaters come, the house floats but does not drift away.

Entire villages are built in this fashion, connected by narrow waterways plied by reed canoes that can be as long as 30 feet.

Village meeting houses are masterpieces of Gothic-looking arches, latticework windows and spacious interiors — all done with reeds.

The way of life of the marsh Arabs has given them particular social customs. Married couples, for instance, do not wear wedding rings. Instead, the husband wears one of his wife's dresses over his own cloak before going out to fish or hunt.

"This means that the man is married and tired of other women," explained a village headman. "It means that he considers his wife to be the most beautiful of all."

conquer Mesopotamia — modern-day Iraq and they left the deepest imprint. The refugees in the marshes adopted Arab ways, the Islamic religion, and the Arabic language.

They live in villages of reed huts, fishing and hunting during the food, farming the land in the dry season. It is a way of life that has remained basically un-

changed for centuries.

The marshes abound with hundreds of wild boar and thousands of migratory birds like ducks, cormorants, herons and geese. The water is thick with fish for most of the year.

The marsh Arabs have developed unusual if efficient ways of catching their prey.

To catch birds, a horse's tail is

spread on the ground and covered with grain. The birds come to feed, peck about and soon their legs are so entangled in the hair that they cannot fly.

Fishermen use nets in the deeper stretches of water. But another way of doing it is with a small dart attached by a string to the fisherman's wrist. As still as a rock, the fisherman observes

PERQUIMANS COUNTY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1971 - 1972

Proposed by Board of County Commissioners

FUND	Appropriated for Requirements	Anticipated from Sources Other Than Ad Valorem	Amount Levied	Rate
GENERAL FUND	\$ 156,753	\$107,753	49,000	. 20
Extension Service, Veterans Administration, Fire Dept., Conservation, County Accountant, Rescue Squad ...	47,295	10,545	36,750	. 15
Solid Waste, Health, Blind, Building Repair, Library	74,768	28,218	46,550	. 19
CAPITAL OUTLAY (General)	96,450	47,450	49,000	. 20
POOR FUND	11,117	3,767	7,350	. 03
DEBT SERVICE	47,588	47,588	None	. 00
GENERAL SCHOOL FUND	209,300	106,400	102,900	. 42
SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT FUND	54,200	5,200	49,000	. 20
CAPITAL OUTLAY (Schools)	31,300	6,800	24,500	. 10
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	52,171	36,246	15,925	.065
AID, to the AGED	102,240	94,890	7,350	. 03
AID to FAMILIES OF DEPT. CHILDREN	158,400	146,150	12,250	. 05
AID to the DISABLED	86,400	80,275	6,125	.025
REVALUATION RESERVE FUND	3,550	1,100	2,450	. 01
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	13,437	6,087	7,350	. 03
COURT FACILITIES FUND	2,000	2,000	None	. 00
SURPLUS FOOD PROGRAM	6,683	6,683	None	. 00
TOTALS	\$1,153,652	\$737,152	\$416,500	\$1. 70

(a) GENERAL FUND:

Intangible Tax	\$ 4,000
State & County Beer & Wine Taxes	14,200
State & C	
Marriage Licenses	175
Interest	1,200
Delinquent Taxes	5,000
Surplus	51,007
Tax Commissions	13,000
Fees	8,700
Rents	1,140
Refunds	8,094
Local Sales Tax	40,000
TOTAL	\$146,516

(b) CAPITAL OUTLAY (GEN.)

Contribution from General Fund	47,450
TOTAL	\$ 47,450

(c) POOR FUND:

Refunds	500
Rents	800
Surplus	1,617
Interest	100
Poll Tax	250
Intangible Tax	500
TOTAL	\$ 3,767

(d) DEBT SERVICE:

Intangible Taxes	1,300
Interest	4,000
Surplus	38,288
Delinquent Taxes	4,000
TOTAL	\$ 47,588

(e) GENERAL SCHOOL FUND:

Refunds	47,000
Miscellaneous Taxes	5,500
Fines and Forfeitures	14,000
Transfer of Funds	1,500
Surplus	20,000
ABC Funds	12,000
Other Receipts	6,400
TOTAL	\$106,400

(f) SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT FUND:

Intangible Taxes	1,200
Surplus	4,000
TOTAL	\$ 5,200

(g) CAPITAL OUTLAY (Schools):

Surplus Funds	6,000
Intangible Tax	800
TOTAL	\$ 6,800

(h) WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

State & Federal Aid	34,602
Surplus	1,644
TOTAL	\$ 36,246

(i) State & Federal Aid and Surplus

(i) State & Federal Aid and Surplus	94,890
(j) State & Federal Aid and Surplus	146,150
(k) State & Federal Aid and Surplus	80,275
(l) Revaluation Reserve Interest	1,100
(m) Industrial Development Fund Surplus	6,087
(n) COURT FACILITIES FUND:	
Fees	2,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,000

(o) State Aid

(o) State Aid	\$ 6,683
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Estimated Property Valuation for Tax Purposes \$24,500,000

A detailed copy of the proposed budget may be seen in the Office of the Register of Deeds in the Courthouse.

Prepared By: D. F. Reed, Jr.
COUNTY ACCOUNTANT

ALLSTATE THRU JULY 6

VALUE CIRCUS

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- C. CAULKING GUN
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- E. PANELING ADHESIVE

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DIAL 441-4981