

# Teenagers And Alcohol Abuse

The U. S. Public Health Service says about 95 million people in America — more than two-thirds of the adult population — use alcoholic beverages, with no outward ill effects. The figure seems probable, but the lack of effect could only be accepted by someone far removed from law enforcement.

The Department of HEW allows that there are probably 9 million Americans who are what society now politely calls "problem drinkers." Excessive drinking is involved in half of our 56,000 traffic fatalities annually, half of all homicides, and one third of all suicides. Further, the misuse of alcohol contributes heavily to widespread job absenteeism,



with an estimated \$15 million resulting loss in production, incalculable cost in human suffering, untold thousands of unhappy marriages and broken homes, a high percentage of all crime and two million arrests yearly for public drunkenness.

By  
**EARL  
LLOYD**  
KM Police Chief

Undeniably, the attitude a teen has toward the use of alcohol stems from parental outlook on the subject. There are, of course, teen drinkers who come from abstaining home environments, but these are the exception not the rule. The fact remains, alcohol-related teen arrests are alarmingly high and the number is growing rapidly each year. Some parents breathe a sigh of relief when their youngsters use alcohol instead of drugs, reluctant to acknowledge the fact that alcohol is also a drug, and in terms of cost to society, alcohol is the greater problem.

†COPE Corner

Should the teen be allowed to imbibe in moderation at home, in the hope that removing the usual taboos to this extent will discourage outside excessiveness? If this were a viable procedure with statistics to support it, alcoholism among teens would surely not be the growing problem it is today. When alcohol is used by teens — in the home or wherever the probability of getting into trouble with the laws of the community increases markedly.

The only complete protection against the possibility of a teen developing excessive drinking habits is insistence by the parents that there be no drinking, with complete abstinence on the parents' part being the firm example. However, if this is not possible, observing these suggestions will be helpful:

Drinking parents should strive to present a constant example of drinking responsibly and in moderation.

—Excessive drinking should never be acceptable to the family, over-indulgence never looked on as humorous.

—Drinking should never be demonstrated to be an escape; avoid such terms as "I NEED a drink," and allowing the teen to see the parents driving a vehicle after drinking, or breaking other laws relative to the use of alcohol.

—Parents should never display a belief that drinking makes for a "real" man or woman image, and that non-drinkers are considered antisocial or unfriendly.

Drinking in the home should never be done for the sake of drinking, or because "it's time for a drink." Ideally it should be shown to be a connection with eating or social activities.

Crime statistics show, beyond doubt, the key to the entire problem of teen-alcohol involvement, in the home or away, is basically within the home environment at all times, and is controllable when other drinkers in the home act responsibly.

This department feels it best to prohibit teen drinking at all times. Experience shows that, to the teen under the influence, whether at home,

in a motor vehicle or on foot, alcohol most often means the beginning of trouble. You can count on our wholehearted cooperation in handling all

problems involving teens and in return we solicit the same attitude with parents in this community.

Next Week: Drug Abuse Today

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## Booklets Provide Anti-Thief Tips

The COPE Community Crime Watch program will be continued in January, according to COPE President Sam Teseniar.

"We are working on several programs of interest to the community at large in the crime prevention area," Teseniar said. "We will announce the date of the January meeting later."

Through the courtesy of State Farm Insurance, COPE has received a series of booklets containing crime prevention tips. The first in the series, "The Adventures of Surelocked Homes," will be available Saturday at The Mirror-Herald, local drug stores, service stations and independent grocers in the area.

"The booklets are free for the asking," Teseniar said. "There is a limited number, so those taking a booklet should share it with friends. The tips included in the booklets will help citizens make their

homes more secure against burglary."

A new booklet will be available each month.

Teseniar said Kings Mountain is fortunate to receive the information and is one of the few areas in the state having privilege to the booklets.

"In conjunction with the first booklet COPE has a film available to clubs, church or citizens groups free of charge," Teseniar said. "Contact Police Chief Earl Lloyd for information on securing the film for your group."

COPE has been rated as very successful during its first six months of operation and, according to Teseniar, "We have ideas and programs to make the program even more of a community service in the coming months."

"Our success to date is due to the help and cooperation of private citizens, merchants, businessmen and local police," Teseniar said.

## Dog Is Shot By Gunman

Cleveland County deputies reported that a brown, mixed dog belonging to Sesko White of Rt. 3 was shot around 4:30 p. m. Monday with a small caliber weapon.

The animal was reportedly shot in the left side behind the front leg.

Deputy B. D. Fortenberry investigated for the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

## Larceny Of Cash Reported

Larceny of cash ranging from \$7 to \$95 were reported by KMPD this week and investigation is continuing.

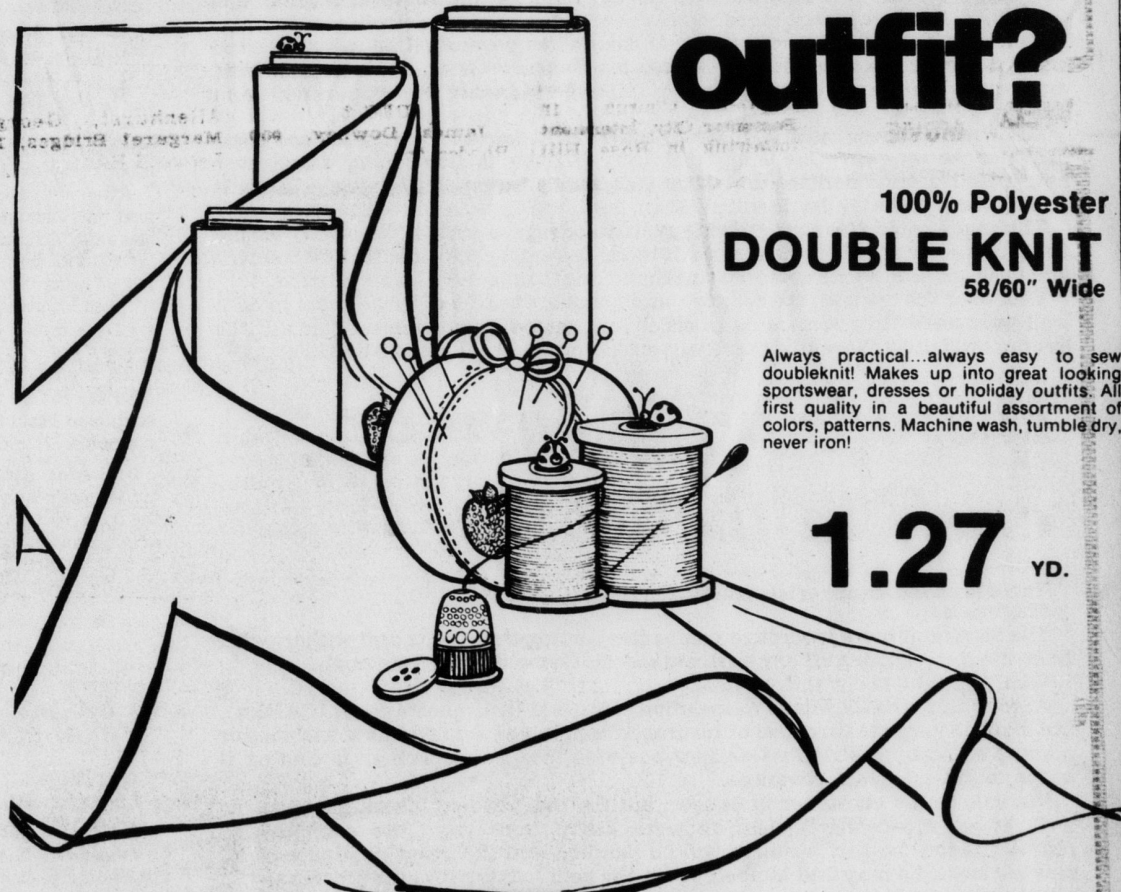
According to KMPD reports, Maxine Howze, of Rt. 2, employe of Blackwelder Textile Co., reported that while she was working Friday night someone pried open a window in her car and took \$95 from a brown envelope in a dash pocket. Police speculate that the subject was aware of the money because he didn't bother Mrs. Howze's tape player or tapes. The car was parked in the company parking lot, according to Ptl. David Bridges who was called to the scene.

According to investigating Ptl. Harry Martin, Rosemary Toney, of Rt. 1, waitress at Little Moo, caught a juvenile as she approached the back freezer for meat with her pocketbook in his hand. The young man threw the pocketbook on the floor and fled with \$7 in cash.

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