



Alcohol death-rate explodes

Reported deaths due to alcohol increased by more than half in just 18 years, 1999 through 2017, says a new report based on NIAAA data. In 2017, 2.6% of all deaths in the United States were attributed to drinking. The percentage for non-Whites other than Amerinds and Eskimos was somewhat lower, and the percentage for Amerinds and Eskimos was somewhat higher.

The analysis was published on 8 January 2020 in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*. These figures are thought to be too low, because of under-reporting of alcohol involvement. For example, the researchers believe that only one in six traffic deaths in which drinking was a factor are reported as such.

Alcohol-related emergency-room visits were up 47% from 2006 to 2014, and alcohol-related hospitalizations were up 51% from 2000 to 2015.

A reviewer, Prof. Elliot Tapper of the University of Michigan, attributes much of these increases to “cultural and social forces” and advises that “...there has to be a way to change policy to reduce access...”

We would remind him that there is a way: prohibition. Our brothers and sisters working to ameliorate the ill effects of smoking have achieved great success by limiting access to tobacco and by making smoking socially unacceptable – by attaching a stigma to smokers.

We Prohibitionists have to do that for drinking: get alcohol sales out of our communities and make drinkers subjects of scorn.

(And we should not expect government and academe to help us; tens of thousands of reputations and livelihoods depend on researching alcoholism and on rehabilitating addicts, all of which would be threatened by an effective policy toward drinking.)

The Prohibition Party . . .
A Choice not An Echo

Practical Advice

Michigan drys still have an active affiliate of the American Council on Alcohol Problems, “ACAP.” ACAP usually disdains working with the Prohibition Party, preferring instead to lobby the major parties to mend their ways.

However, even though the two organizations work in parallel instead of together, we share common goals. The Michigan Council, “MICAP,” recently drew up a list of objectives, to guide its work. Bill Amundsen, editor of *MICAP RECAP*, summarizes them in his latest issue (v.119, no.5):

#1 – Educate public officials and the general public on the need to lower the legal definition of “intoxication” from 0.08 to 0.05. If you cannot avoid drinking before driving, the less you drink (the lower your BAC), the less likely you are to have an accident.

continued on p3, col. 3

“X” mas

Around this time of year, some people go into a tizzy over the word “Xmas.” They believe that usage to be disrespectful. It is not.

In its early days, the *lingua franca* of Christendom was Greek. The Greek spelling of “Christ” is Χριστός. The ancient scribes would write it shorthand as “X,” to save time. And so today we save keystrokes by using the same shorthand “X.”

Merry Xmas, everyone!

California Publicity

Presidential candidate Phil Collins has announced that he will be included on the California primary ballot of the American Independent Party. The AIP is a recognized party in California and is able to conduct its own primary there.

Being in the AIP primary is a useful publicity device. It enhances the name recognition of our candidate. Out 2016 candidate, James Hedges, also ran in the AIP primary. Hedges won 6th place out of a field of 7. As one of our elder statesmen said afterward, it’s good for morale to run for something and not come in last. We wish Phil the best of luck in California.

Scotland has a higher death rate from recreational drugs than does the United States. Drug deaths there have increased rapidly over the past five years.

Sign up!

For the NY Prohibitionist

Jonathan Makeley produces an excellent monthly newsletter. It is mostly about New York, but national issues impinging on New York are included. The *New York Prohibitionist* is a broad-gauge sheet discussing all of the topics covered by our national platform. Makeley is a diligent researcher, and much historical information is included about candidates both national and local.

The *New York Prohibitionist* is an electronic journal and is provided to anyone on request, at no cost. To get on the distribution list, email newyorkprohibition@aol.com, or leave a message on the New York Prohibition Party facebook page, or visit the New York Prohibition Party twitter account.

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From the Chairman's Corner

Randy McNutt

Forty years can bring a lot of change. Gone are cranky carburetors, wide lapels, and primitive home computers. Too young to remember 1980? That's when Ronald Reagan, a California actor, defeated incumbent Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer from Georgia. Oh, yes, and a Down East guy named Benjamin C. Bubar, superintendent of Maine's Christian Civic League, carried our Party's banner proudly.

Actually, he ran twice. In 1976, the party temporarily changed its name to the National Statesman Party, to better represent what Bubar called the party's comprehensive platform, of which prohibition was only one plank. With \$15,000 to spend, the party managed to appear on 14 state ballots and garner 16,000 votes. He campaigned in all of 14 states. During his second run in 1980, the party spent less money and appeared on only eight state ballots. It received a disappointing 7,200 votes. He didn't campaign as often. Needless to say, 7,200 votes would be an incredible success for us now.

I got into the party because I read a Q&A with Bubar in a book called “*The Other Candidates: Third Parties in the Presidential Elections*,” by Frank Smallwood, published in 1983. I picked it up for a dollar at a used-book shop. I didn't read it until

some years later. It fascinated me because it featured Q&A interviews with third-party presidential candidates from the 1980 race. Smallwood chose three Socialist parties, the Right to Life Party, Citizens Party, Communist Party, American Independent Party, American Party, Libertarian Party, and others. Now, it seems that most of them, except for the well-funded Libertarians, have either died out or have given up running candidates.

When Smallwood assumed that the Prohibition Party existed expressly to oppose alcohol consumption, Bubar responded, “. . . We're not a single-issue party. We've always had more than one string in our fiddle.” He added that the party favored a return to the gold standard, a balanced budget mandated by a constitutional amendment, an end to overregulation, and a serious plan to reduce our national debt. Interestingly, a number of troublesome issues facing the country then still linger.

What strikes me is the difference between our party of today and the party of 1980. We are touting only one string in our fiddle, despite a solid platform of ideas. They separate us from the one-issue parties that are doomed to end. We have stubbornly persisted, however, so obviously we have more than one thing to offer. Not that we should abandon our identifying cause—opposition to alcohol, gambling, smoking, and recreational drugs.

But what the Prohibition Party needs now is a revival of the Spirit of '76 and '80.

As I write this, I hear Adam Schiff, the constitution-busting congressman from California, saying that America had to give millions of dollars to Ukraine so that nation could fight the Russians over there instead of us having to fight the Russians over here. (Yes, he assumes all of us are that dumb.) Forty years ago, Bubar had the foresight to realize we cannot police the world. He also knew that in a lust for money our companies and government were paying to build up Red China, our enemy.

As Bubar did, we should consider taking our campaign to grass-roots America, through churches and other local organizations that influence public opinion. To help grow our decimated party, we must let people know how we feel about all sorts of issues, including the necessity to have national borders. We are not the New World Order Club.

What impressed me most about Ben Bubar's 1980 run were his convictions and

predictions. In a truly prophetic line he told Smallwood, “. . . What we've got right now is a socialist democracy bordering on anarchy. . . . If we don't turn this around, we are going to fall like Rome fell. We're rotting from within.”

Forty years on, we're starting to stink.

Candidate's Report

During the December conference call, we heard that we'll be on the Arkansas ballot. I'll be on the California primary ballot for the American Independent Party. That primary will be March 3. In January, I was interviewed by a BBC reporter.

Conservative Fundamentals

The English political philosopher Michael Oakeshott affirms that conservatism is not a set of policies, it is a mind-set: Being a conservative “is to prefer the familiar to the unknown, to prefer the tried to the untried, fact to mystery, the actual to the possible, the limited to the unbounded, the near to the distant, the sufficient to the superabundant, the convenient to the perfect, present laughter to utopian bliss.”

We Fumbled Our 150th

The 150th, Sesquicentennial, Anniversary of the Prohibition Party has come and gone – and we let it slip through our fingers. It would have been a great opportunity for nationwide publicity, but there was hardly any interest among us to capitalize on that.

Rick Knox cared, but he died before getting the ball rolling. Connie Gammon cared, but he became distracted by personal problems. Your editor cared, but nobody took his bait.

Happy Trails

Billy Joe Parker, our 2020 veep candidate, has an occasional internet journal entitled “Happy Trails in Georgia.” It's nicely designed and to the point. If you are not already on his distribution list, send your request to georgiaprohi@peoplepc.com

Parker describes his campaign as “Opinionated, dedicated but not frustrated, agitated, or abbreviated.”

NATIONAL PROHIBITIONIST



Editor's Musings

Coöperation

Temperance organizations have an attitude problem: Each of us acts as though none of the others exists. Our first concern appears to be to protect our own turf.

It is as though we were church denominations: Each of us splits hairs to define ourselves as the sole possessors of Holy Truth.

There used to be a "National Temperance and Prohibition Council which did some coöordinating, but it fizzled out in 2004. Even that didn't include everyone.

There are more of us still out there than our visibility suggests. Working together, we would be large enough once again to obtain public attention. Let's set aside our disagreements on strategy, get the NTPC back into operation, and work together to lobby for our common interest: Diminishing the baleful effects of the alcohol traffic.

"Lessons from the Geese," an article in a recent issue of *Progress* magazine, is instructive:

As each goose in the flock flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the flock has 71% more range than would each bird flying alone. *People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.*

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone, and it quickly gets back into formation in order to benefit from the lifting power of the birds immediately in front. *If we have as much sense as a goose, we will join in formation with those who also are headed where we want to go.*

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose takes over the point position. *It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership interdependently with one another.*

Following geese honk from behind to encourage their leaders to keep up their speed. *We need to make sure that our own honking from behind is encouraging, not nattering.*

When any member of the flock becomes sick or wounded, or is shot down, two other geese drop out of formation and

follow their fellow member down and stay with it until it either is able fly again or dies. Only then do they launch back into the air, to catch up with their own flock or to join another formation. *If we have as much sense as geese, we'll support one another like they do.*



Georgia Votes Wet

Voters in Cherokee County, Georgia last fall approved Sunday alcohol sales. The county Chamber of Commerce sponsored the ballot question and touted it as a fund-raising/tax-reducing measure.

Only 31% of voters opposed Sunday sales: 32,000 out of 101,000. Liberalizing alcohol sales is always good for business; it is also increases business for emergency services, hospitals, and welfare agencies.

Cherokee is the home county of Georgia National Committeeman and 2020 veep candidate Billy Joe Parker. Parker personally paid for 50,000 robo-calls urging a "no" vote.



My people are destroyed

for lack of knowledge – Hosea 4-6

Our vice-presidential candidate Billy Joe Parker calls attention to the highly successful prisoner outreach program conducted by Bard College, at Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, some "good news" about America.

Bard College was founded in 1861 by John Bard, a prominent Episcopalian layman. At first called "St. Stephen's College," its name was later changed to honor its founder. Religious bodies and lay activists founded many colleges in the 18th Century, understanding that educational opportunities improved both individuals and the larger society.

The recidivism rate of Bard's prisoner-students is only 2-1/2 percent – an astonishing success rate for any rehabilitation program. Most of incarcerated students lived in communities of low opportunity and were arrested at early ages. Fifteen area colleges and universities partner in a consortium which offers 160 courses to inmates.

Parker says, in his "Georgia Prohibition" press release: Bard College has found the formula for healing America's crime

problem and its overflowing prisons. John Bard, long deceased, reaches out from the grave to save people today. His legacy, Bard College, lives up to its motto "I Give to Thee the Crown of Life," retrieving sinners from the path to destruction.

Practical Advice, con't from p. 1

#2 – Place a sales tax of 10¢ per drink on retail sales of alcohol, and ear-mark the revenue for rehabilitation programs.

#3 – Strengthen the MICAP organization.

#4 – Lobby against the efforts of the drinks industry and hospitality industry to liberalize hours of sale.

#5 – Testify at all public meetings of state liquor control boards and other regulatory agencies. *(If you go as a private citizen, you'll be treated as a crank, but if you are on the ballot for the next election, you'll be taken seriously – run for an office, any office!)*

#6 – Identify, on traffic accident report forms, the place(s) where drivers responsible for DUI accidents drank prior to the accidents. *(This data is essential in order to prosecute alcohol sellers under the Dram Shop Act.)*

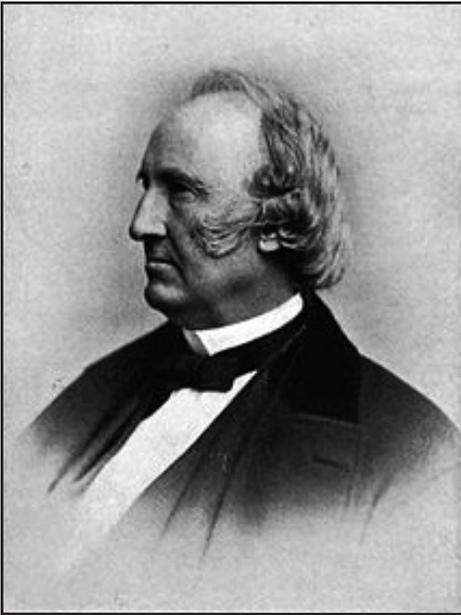
#7 – Find opportunities to witness in churches and at denominational conferences. *(You can't do this as a politician, but you can bring up the subject as a concerned member of the community.)*

Amundsen notes several other areas of public policy where continued vigilance is necessary. For example, there are "quota laws" which regulate the number of sales licenses within geographic areas, and "set-back" laws which prohibit sales near schools and churches. There are "legal age" laws" forbidding sales to minors.

An area of alcohol "leakage" often overlooked is the sale of alcohol-laced pastries and sports drinks. These are promoted by the drinks industry as a means of introducing their products to young people, of turning youths into future adult customers.



Government exists to protect the rights of the minorities. The loved and the rich need no protection – they have many friends and few enemies. – *Wendell Phillips (Prohi candidate for governor of Massachusetts in 1870)*



Wendell Phillips

Wendell Phillips was the Prohibition (Prohibition/Labor Reform) candidate for governor of Massachusetts in 1870. He received a total of 21,946 votes, of which 8000 were cast on the Prohibition ticket.

What follows is excerpted from a much longer article in Wikipedia, located by Adam Seaman:

Phillips was born in Boston on 29 November 1811, to Sarah Walley and John Phillips. His father was a wealthy lawyer, politician, and philanthropist who was the first mayor of Boston.

He attended Boston Latin School, then Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1833. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar and opened a practice in Boston.

William Lloyd Garrison soon converted Phillips to the abolitionist cause. Phillips gave up his law practice in 1836 and devoted his life to abolitionism.

At Harvard, Phillips' professor of oratory had been Edward T. Channing, a critic of flowery speakers such as Daniel Webster, who emphasized the value of plain speaking. Under Channing's influence, Phillips became a noted speaker for the abolitionist cause – honored as "Abolition's Golden Trumpet."

Wendell Phillips met fellow abolitionist Ann Terry Greene shortly after commencing his abolition work. They were engaged in 1836, and their marriage lasted 46 years. His wife's discriminatory treatment at an international anti-slavery meeting in London resulted in Phillips becoming ac-

tive, also, in the women's rights movement.

Phillips was a member of the National Woman's Rights Central Committee, which organized annual conventions throughout the 1850s, published its Proceedings, and executed plans adopted by the conventions. He was a close adviser of Lucy Stone, and a major presence at most of the conventions, for which he wrote resolutions defining the movement's principles and goals.

Despite his belief that Ulysses S. Grant was not suited for the presidential office, and dissatisfied with Grant's and the Republican's refusal to endorse his comprehensive Reconstruction program of "land, education, and the ballot," Phillips supported both Grant and the Republicans in 1868.

After the Reconstruction Era, however, Phillips turned his attention to other matters. He became an advocate of Indian rights, arguing that the 15th Amendment granted citizenship to Amerinds as well as to Blacks, and he became a temperance advocate, realizing that the alcohol traffic underlies many social problems.

Phillips suffered from heart disease during his last years, but continued speaking out against the ills of society until the last few days of his life. He died at home, in the Charlestown district of Boston, on 2 February 1884. His body laid in state in Faneuil Hall, then was interred at the Granary Burying Ground.

Wendell Phillips was the epitome of a Prohibition Party reformer!



Trust Fund

The Prohibition Trust Fund Association held its winter conference call on January 16th.

An additional \$11,000 was granted to the PNC, for additional ballot access work.

An additional \$2000 was granted to the PPHS, for additional website development.

(Up to) \$2500 was granted to the PNC, to send Connie Gammon to Sochi, Russia next October, where he has been asked to lecture at the XXVI International Forum on Sobriology, Prevention, Social Pedagogy and Alcology. This Forum is a gathering of alcohol activists from mostly Soviet-Bloc countries. The organizers specifically wanted someone to address the history of the Prohibition Movement in the United States and of the Prohibition Party.

Sound Money

The Prohibition Party has always advocated sound money. It protects the value of savings and ensures that wage increases result from productivity gains rather than from a need to keep up with inflation. In the Nineteenth Century, the gold standard held price increases to only 12%, over the entire 100 years. Countries abandoned the gold standard in the 1930s and printed paper money in an effort to spend themselves out of the Great Depression. After WWII, the gold standard was replaced by the "Bretton Woods" agreement to peg currencies to the US dollar, then the world's strongest currency. This failed in the 1970s, in a period of high inflation and was replaced by a consensus to seek annual inflation of 2%.

In the United States, both major parties are now trying to spend themselves rich, cutting taxes and printing money to make up the difference between their wants and their income. Profligacy never comes to a good ending. America has either to collect the taxes to pay for what it wants, or trim its want list.

Gambling

Finland is among the many places which try to balance their budgets on the backs of the poor. A state agency, "Veikkaus," promotes gambling, and four-fifths of Finns are punters. Half of gambling revenue comes from 5% of the bettors, and over 3% of the adult population are believed to be compulsive gamblers.

The *Economist*, a news magazine which promotes vices as legitimate (and taxable) businesses, dismisses gambling addiction with the comment: "Every path has its puddle."



Brewers

Faced with declining sales, alcohol pushers are employing novel methods to boost their business. Guinness, Ireland's largest brewer once sought to persuade President Obama to amend America's calendar of official holidays to include St. Patrick's Day. St. Pat's Day already is the country's fourth-most-popular occasion for getting sloshed (the first three being New Year's Day, Superbowl Day, and Hallowe'en).

To his credit, Obama rejected the suggestion.