



Come to Georgia

The 2017 Prohibition Party Mid-Term Conference will be held in Blairsville, Georgia on June 13, 14, and 15, Tuesday evening through Thursday morning. Blairsville is at the intersection of US routes 19 and 76, about 60 miles north of Atlanta and 60 miles southeast of Chattanooga.

The suggested hotel is Blairsville Comfort Inn. All sessions, including the Wednesday night banquet, will be held at the Union County Community Center, which is an easy walk from the hotel.

Rooms are \$125/night (\$106, if our group takes at least six rooms). The cut-off date for guaranteed rooms at this price is May 13. The hotel reservation number is 706-745-6844 – tell the clerk you are with the Prohibition Party Conference.

For additional information, contact the Conference Chairman, Rick Knox, knoxandknox@aol.com.

A few of the agenda items will be:

1. A future permanent location for the Prohibition Party office. We need a place to store our archives and memorabilia.
2. A Secretary for the National Committee. Jim Hedges has continued acting as the *de facto* Secretary since his election as Treasurer two years ago, but a replacement Secretary is needed.
3. Electing (or not) several new members to the National Committee.
4. Up-date on the revised edition of Roger Storms' history of the Prohibition Party, *Partisan Prophets*.



Union County Courthouse in Blairsville

“Let us, then, fellow citizens, unite with one heart and one mind. Let us restore to social intercourse that harmony and affection without which liberty and even life itself are but dreary things. And let us reflect that, having banished from our land that religious intolerance under which mankind so long bled and suffered, we have yet gained little if we countenance a political intolerance as despotic, as wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions.”

— Thomas Jefferson (inaugural speech)

Marijuana Problems

Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (“CHS”) is an affliction of people who have used marijuana heavily and for a long period. The incidence of CHS is more frequent in states which have legalized medical and/or recreational use of marijuana. It is characterized by abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.

Before legalization, doctors rarely saw CHS. Because most are unfamiliar with it, diagnosis may require several visits to eliminate other possible causes of the symptoms.

Untreated, CHS sometimes results in

dehydration and kidney failure, but once identified, the symptoms disappear within a few days after stopping marijuana consumption.

How many users suffer from CHS is unknown, both because it is a “new” disease with which most doctors are unfamiliar and because pot-heads often will not tell their doctors that they are indulging in weed.

-- (Based on a CBS Interactive article by Jonathan Lapook.)

Rise and Fall

A chart of the ballot access of Prohibition Party presidential tickets shows clearly how adoption and then repeal of National Prohibition controlled the fortunes of the Prohibition Party.

The first national election after our founding, in 1872, saw our national slate qualify in six states. Success increased rapidly until, in 1884, we qualified in 30 states. Thereafter, our ticket qualified in about 40 states in each election, peaking at 42 states in 1916 – the last election year before the Volstead Act became law.

But then our voters, thinking their job was finished, left us and went on to other issues, not understanding that, absent vigorous enforcement, greed and self-indulgence would resurrect the alcohol traffic. Nearly half of our support had vanished by 1920, when we qualified in only 26 states. By 1924, three-quarters was gone: Our national ticket appeared on only 10 ballots. By 1928, we had collapsed to only 8 states.

Repeal galvanized the temperance movement, and during the 1930s our support swelled, reaching 27 states by 1940. We did well in the 1940s, retaining the ballot in 19 or more states through 1952. Then, the bottom fell out again. After well-known vocalist Stuart Hamblen in 1952, we never again nominated candidates with nationwide reputations, and we never again have been on the ballot

The National Prohibitionist

ISSN 1549-9251 D

Published at Box 212, Needmore, Pennsylvania 17268
by the Prohibition National Committee.

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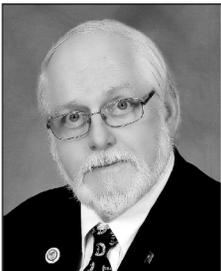
Deadline: last Monday of the month

Contributed articles are welcome, but will not be acknowledged or returned unless a SASE is enclosed.

Subscription: \$5/year (12 months) – make checks out to the Prohibition National Committee, memo “National Prohibitionist Fund,” and mail to the address above.

Editing, typography, and graphic design by The Camel Press, Big Cove Tannery, Pennsylvania. Printing by Mercersburg Printing, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

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From the Chairman's Corner

Rick Knox

Happy New Year! The theme for this Party will be “Forever Forward!” We have to keep marching, always forward.

This means politics is a 24-7 task. There are no “final” victories. We must open our doors to new converts who believe in a cause greater than themselves. We must get involved again in local races, from city council on up. We must be ready to work against the advancement of alcohol, gambling, illegal drugs, and any other vice that is a threat to our communities.

It is time to start a membership drive. Target churches, civic groups, and concerned citizens.

We must work for stronger DUI laws – zero tolerance for drinking and driving. We accept no compromise on drugs. We stand for real family values, not just at election time but all the time. We are both a civic group and a political party. We must learn to participate in the political world by showing that we are a party of character, of honesty, of principles, decency, and morality.

Many of you have expressed a desire to build a permanent headquarters and historical center for the Party. This will cost money, but it will serve as a lasting tribute to the many who have stood up and opposed the evils of alcohol.

We will hold a Conference in either

spring or early summer to discuss all of the topics mentioned in this column. Your thoughts and input about a location and a date would be appreciated.

Rise and Fall

continued from page 1

in more than 11 states. In 2000 and again in 1912, we had near-death experiences when political ephemera dealer Earl Dodge ran in only one state in 2000, and evangelist Jack Fellure ran in only one state in 2012.

The success of state and/or local candidates mirrored the success of the national ticket. There were local slates in 7 states in 1872. Twenty years later, in 1892, there were local slates in 38 states. Twenty-five or more states fielded local slates during each presidential-election year from 1888 through 1916. Then, after adoption of the 18th Amendment, most state organizations disintegrated. Only nine remained in 1928.

And again, as with the national contests, Repeal caused renewal of local organizations: Twenty states fielded local slates in 1944. Then again, our state organizations withered away, dropping by half, and by half again. After the Bubar campaigns of 1976 and 1980, there were no more – The five “local slates” after 1980 were five individual agitators running by themselves.

Geographically, the Deep South did not support the Prohibition Party, despite its anti-drinking “Bible Belt” Baptist religious culture. Of the Border States, only Kentucky and Missouri had significant Prohibition Party organizations.

Utah was also conspicuously lacking in Prohibition Party activity, despite its predominately Mormon non-drinking culture.

Conversely, the Midwestern “Cornbelt” states and Northeastern states were the driving force behind the Prohibition Party, areas where Methodist and Anabaptist religious bodies were strong. California was the only outlier, and it may appear significant only because of its relatively large population.

The map of national election tickets is somewhat different from the map of state organizations. In recent years, especially, this reflects the ease of getting on the ballot in specific states more than it does the level of interest in the Prohibition Party and should not be given as much importance as the map of state tickets.

Dry Roaring Spring

The small central-Pennsylvania town of Roaring Spring became “dry” soon after its founding in 1888. The following passage is from the addendum to D.M. Bare’s (1920) *Looking Eighty Years Backward*. Bare was the owner of the paper mill at the spring.

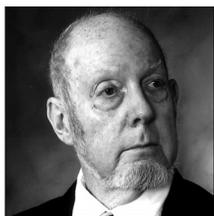
“But this one thing can be said of the citizens of the town, that their aim has been to make it easy for her people to do right and hard for them to do wrong. There were a number of citizens in the early history of the town that believed that the open saloon was a curse to any community and with that in mind they decided to undertake to rid our community of this curse, for a saloon had already been in active operation here for a dozen or more years. It meant a hard fight but the good people won out and the effect of this victory was that for the past 36 years not a gill of liquor has been sold in this town except for sacramental or medicinal purposes. Of course, liquor has been sold and liquor has been drunk here but not a spoonful of it legally. Needless to say attempts have frequently been made during the past 36 years to secure licenses for the sale of liquor, but through the persistent efforts of the temperance people, with the aid of the Anti-Saloon League, all their endeavors have failed. Now that prohibition has become the law of the land with it has come a wonderful change in the sentiment of the people on the liquor question. Where is the man now that would say that Roaring Spring is not a better town because it has been legally dry for the past 36 years?”

Ed. note: Roaring spring is still alcohol-free, 129 years after its first “dry” vote.

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of men and women. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; ‘tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.”

— Thomas Paine (“The Crisis”)

NATIONAL PROHIBITIONIST



Editor's Musings

Executive Mansion

All of us in the Marine Band are required to have "White House Clearance," because the most essential part of our job is to provide music for the President. My clearance was "no clearance," because the Secret Service thought I belonged to "too many organizations." "You're a joiner," said the agent who did my initial background investigation.

That had no practical consequences. Col. Schoepper had no more respect for the Secret Service than he did for anything else, and I was assigned to many presidential details.

One such was at a downtown hotel where the President was expected to address a convention. I always brought long something to read on these occasions, because the Band was required to be in place an hour before the event began.

I carried the loose parts of my tuba inside the tuba. These clanked and rattled when I set the horn down on stage, and the sound got the attention of one of the Secret Service agents present. He watched as I reached down into the horn and retrieved my mouthpiece and bits. He kept on watching as I reached in again and retrieved my music stand and folder. Sitting down, I withdrew the stand from its bag, unfolded it, and placed the music folder on it. Then, I reached into the horn a third time, grasped a roll-up copy of that morning's *Washington Post*, and began pulling it out, hand-over-hand. The agent jumped to his feet and spread his arms, ready to throw his body onto the rifle he must have thought I was concealing amongst the sheets of newspaper.

The White House rose garden was used, in season, for small ceremonial events. The Band would assemble there and serenade the visiting dignitaries. Led by the drum major, we would get off the bus somewhere along the south driveway, form up in single-file, march into the garden, then assemble into a compact group.

One day, the drum major got distracted after the line commenced advancing, pointed the way, then disappeared from view.

Kipling's inspirational poem "If"

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting, too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied to, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look to good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will, which says to them "Hold on!"
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings – nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforbearing minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And – which is more – you'll be a man, my son!

The first man, a happy-go-lucky trombonist, marched all the way to the far side of the garden, as was customary. Finding no one there to order "halt," he U-turned and marched back through the garden. Still no drum major. He made a second U-turn, the rest of the Band dutifully following. By the time the drum major returned, the entire Marine Band was making a snake, back and forth through the rose garden. The crowd may have thought it was a rehearsed precision drill....



Japanese Casinos

The national government in Japan is attempting to force casinos on local communities, against their will. Not that the Japanese are opposed to gambling: They play several varieties of local games with enthusiasm.

However, the citizens fear the association of organized crime with casinos, and they worry about gambling addiction. They also know that the casinos would be controlled by foreign (*i.e.* American) corporations. Only 12% of Japanese are in favor of casinos.

The national government has proposed building the casinos on artificial islands, to inhibit locals from gaining access to them, and has suggested admission fees, to deter patronage by low-income people.

As is true everywhere, the Japanese government sees gambling as a source of tax revenue and of tourist spending, without considering the cost of gambling to local communities.

"Research does reveal a genetic disposition to substance abuse, but those who believe their addiction is a disease show less of an inclination to resist it." – J.D. Vance in *Hillbilly Elegy*

State Lotteries

About half of Americans participate in state lotteries, but younger people do it less. This has caused a panic among lottery operators, who fear that it portends a long-term decline in gambling.

Social reform organizations have had little to do with the loss of interest in lotteries, although we rejoice in the good news. Young people feel more financially stressed than their elders, and they prefer forms of gambling with instant payoffs such as sports betting.

Nationwide, the state lotteries (all but 6 states now sponsor gambling) bring in 80 billion dollars each year. A quarter of that is used to supplement tax receipts; the rest goes for administration and pay-outs.

Lottery administrators are trying to protect their income by making it easier to buy tickets. The Prohibition Party would rather protect low-income people by abolishing lotteries and pay for government programs by levying taxes paid equally by all citizens, instead of by preying on the poor.

Dr. James Britton Cranfill



Dr. James Britton Cranfill was born in Parker County, Texas, in 1859. He was raised on a farm, spending about 3 months each year in school. He spent almost 2 years as a Texas cowboy, and during all this time he carried his books tied to his saddle in order that he might read and study during his few spare moments. At the age of 19 he became a teacher in a country school in Crawford, McLennan County. Here he met the lady who was to be his wife, and at the age of 20 he was married to Miss Ollie Allen, of Crawford. Soon thereafter he began the prosecution of his medical studies. Having successfully passed his examinations, he commenced practicing his profession at Turnersville, Coryell County. In 1881 he began the publication of a small paper called the Turnersville *Effort*, and the next year he established *The Weekly Advance* at Gatesville, the county-seat of the county.

This at once openly and vigorously espoused the cause of Prohibition, and the editor's power and influence were felt, not only in his own county, but throughout the entire state. At this time he was an ardent Democrat, and in 1884, when Cleveland was elected, was one of the speakers at the ratification meeting in his town. He was a delegate the same year to the Democratic convention which met at Houston, and introduced at that convention a resolution against the liquor traffic. It was very promptly laid on the table. This, however, did not shake Dr. Cranfill's faith in the Democratic Party. He became locally prominent in politics and was frequently urged to seek office, which he always declined to do. He continued to denounce the liquor traffic. In 1886, Dr. Cranfill being convinced that there was no hope of securing Prohibition through his party, resolved to organize the Prohibition Party

in Texas. In August, 1886, he called the first Prohibition Party convention of Texas, which met Sept. 7, and nominated a state ticket, which the following November polled 19,000 votes.

In 1886 he moved to Waco. Soon thereafter the great campaign for Constitutional Prohibition began in Texas, and Dr. Cranfill took a position at once as the leading journalist on that side of the issue. In 1889, he was elected to the superintendency of the Baptist mission work in Texas, and this placed him at the head of this great denomination in his native State. Under his administration the mission work of the State was doubled, and he has the distinction of having been the leader of the largest State mission work ever done in the history of the United States. In January, 1890, Dr. Cranfill was ordained as a Baptist minister by the First Baptist Church of Waco.

Dr. Cranfill has held numerous positions of trust besides the ones mentioned. He was for several years chairman of the State Prohibition Committee of Texas, was twice elected vice-president of the Baptist Young People's Union of America, and is a member from Texas of the National Prohibition Committee. At the national Prohibition convention which met at Cincinnati in 1892, Dr. Cranfill was nominated for Vice-President of the United States. He did several weeks of very active work during the campaign, canvassing the states of Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.

Dr. Cranfill is at present editor of *The Texas Baptist Standard*, one of the most widely circulated Baptist papers in the Southern States.

-- Reprinted from *An Album of Representative Prohibitionists* (1895)

Cancer Sticks

Worldwide, about a fifth of adults still smoke tobacco, according to the World Health Organization. The good news is that as recently as 10 years ago, a quarter of adults smoked. But it's not all good news: Population growth means that, although the percentage has fallen, the total number of tobacco addicts has not.

Tobacco-related illnesses cause more than one in nine adult deaths.

Historic

Paul Watters has donated 3 issues of the 1911 *National Prohibitionist* which he found hidden in the frame of an old mirror. These contain photographs and biographical notes of candidates, as well as articles on Party activities. Thanks, Paul!

Binge Drinking

An article in the September issue of *Atlantic* magazine, Caitlin Flangan's "How Helicopter Parents Cause Binge Drinking," is worth taking to heart. Flanagan notes that binge drinking is largely a phenomenon of students from well-to-do households attending prestigious schools, students fiercely driven to succeed both professionally and socially. Extreme drinking is driven by young people's desire for extreme success in life, a desire created and abetted by parents extremely anxious that their children be exceptionally successful in life.

No amount of temperance education or of moderation counseling can solve the problem of binge drinking. Only severe restrictions on the availability of alcoholic beverages and public disapproval of drinkers can eliminate binge drinking.

Count Your Blessings

If you reduced the World's population to 100 people, 57 would be Asian, 21 European, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, and 8 from Africa.

Fifty-two would be female and 48 male. Seventy would be non-White, 30 of them Caucasian. Seventy would be non-Christian, 30 of them Christian. Six would possess 59% of the entire World's wealth, and those six would all be Americans.

Eighty would live in sub-standard housing, 70 would be illiterate, and 50 would be mal-nourished. Only one would be college-educated, and only one would have a personal computer.

If, today, you have ample food, nice clothes to wear, and a comfortable place to sleep, you are richer than 70% of the World's people.

America already is a great place to live. Let's keep it that way!

-- *Progress* magazine