

Alcoholics in Program Are 'Frustrating Group'

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Elmira—There is "no question that this is one of the most difficult groups to work with," Alexander Clark, a member of the policy advisory committee of the Alcoholism Rehabilitation Program said about the program's clients, persons who live in Elmira's inner city.

The alcoholics in the program tend to have low self-esteem, low levels of education and low job skills, Clark said. The result is "a very frustrating group" to work with, he said, with a "very high level of relapse"

But the persons involved do "have potential," he

said, and "can return to the mainstream" of society.

Clark and Ms. Mary Huyler, director of the Alcoholism Rehabilitation Program (ARP), explained the agency's activities at an Alcoholism Seminar at St. Joseph's Hospital recently.

Ms. Huyler noted that ARP is currently renovating new and larger quarters at 310 W. Third St., a former Mormon Church, which will help insure confidentiality, and provide more space for the drop-in center.

The drop-in center, she explained, is open from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the week, and from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and gives clients a way to fill time, without reverting

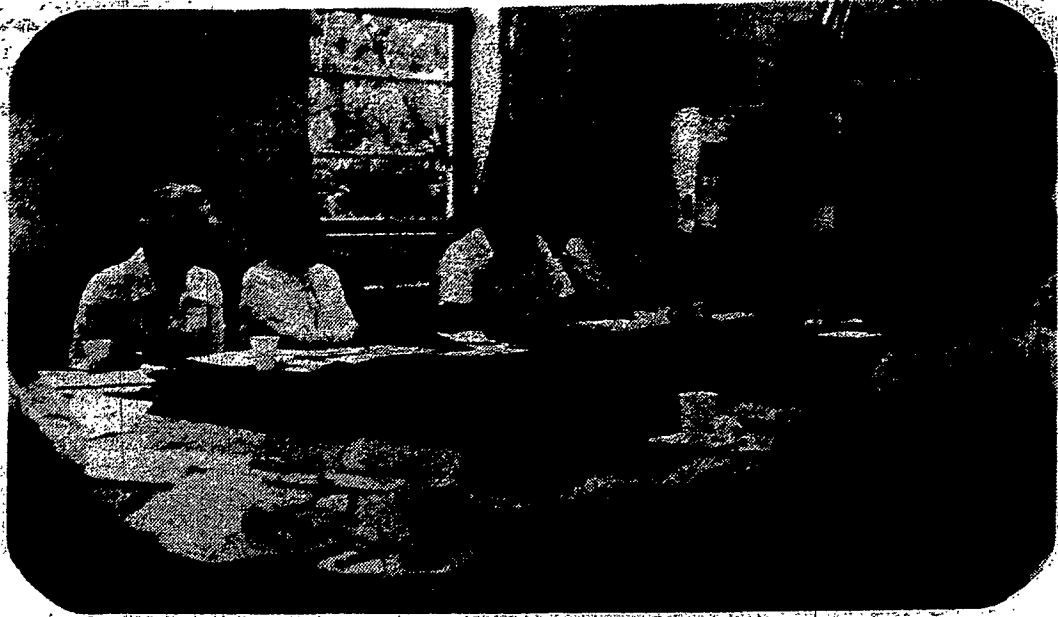
to their former, drinking, habits. She noted that the center has between 450 and 500 drop-ins each month.

Ms. Huyler said that the agency acts as a referral service to other local agencies, depending on the needs of the client. If medical de-toxification, which involves in-patient hospital treatment, is indicated, the agency follows up after the client's release, trying to ease the person back into the society which had been a drinking one, without his reverting to drinking.

The agency also sponsors social events for their clients, many of whom have no family, Ms. Huyler explained. ARP sponsors a softball team, she noted, and has events on holidays. Clients also grow crops on land provided by the Elmira Correctional Facility, with seeds and plants provided by St. Mary Our Mother Parish, Horseheads. She also pointed out that the work on the new quarters is being done by the clients

Alcohol is often only part of their clients' problems, Ms. Huyler said. The clients are primarily low income, male members of minority groups. She noted that they already have problems, which are further complicated by alcohol. Clients often have serious family problems, she said, such as wife-beating and child abuse. She noted that the clients' children have a high school drop-out rate, and that it is common for other family members to become alcoholic.

A future project, Ms. Huyler reported, is a half-way house for alcoholics who have completed a de-toxification program, to ease their re-entry into the society in which they formerly drank, with the goal of reducing relapse. Finding a facility has been difficult, she said, but she hoped it would be available in a year, operating in conjunction with other local alcoholism rehabilitation programs.



Council Charts Progress

St. Patrick's, Corning, Parish Council met Friday, Oct. 27, and Saturday, Oct. 28, to evaluate the council's progress on goals established last year, and to chart new objectives for the coming year. The weekend, which began with a retreat Friday night, was facilitated by Father Douglas Hoffman and Sister Jean Rodman of the diocesan Office of Pastoral Ministry. Above, during Saturday's session are, from left, Mrs. Alice Brown, Sister Agnes Catherine, parish pastoral assistant, George Velie and James Hintz.

SOUTHERN TIER

AUBURN-GENEVA

St. James Sets Supper

Waverly—St. James' School's Home School Association is sponsoring its annual Harvest Supper Tuesday, Nov. 8 beginning at 5 p.m. at the IR Club in Athens, Pennsylvania. The dinner will feature turkey and all the trimmings. The event is being organized by Mrs. Sharon Lynch and Mrs. Diane Wilson.

Tickets are on sale at the Waverly News Stand and Campbell's News, Waverly, Athens Pharmacy, Athens, and Montgomery Ward and Langan & Leo in Sayre, Pennsylvania. The proceeds from the dinner will be applied towards the salary of the art teacher at the school.

YOUTH DANCE

Corning—St. Patrick's Youth Council is sponsoring a disco-dance Friday, Nov. 4 from 8 to 11 p.m. in the parish hall. Youth in grades seven through 12 are invited, admission will be 50c. The dance will feature recorded music, and the council promises a variety of snacks will be available.

ALUMNI DINNER

Elmira—The St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumni will conduct their annual Harvest Supper and Card Party Thursday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. to honor the Sisters of St. Joseph who teach at the school. Alumni are asked to bring a dish to pass.



Photos by Martin Toombs

Workshop

Sister Jean Rodman, right, recently led a workshop on "The Meaning of Church" at an assembly held at St. Margaret Mary Church in Apalachin. A group discussion at that same assembly held the attention of, above, left to right, Vince Suegla, St. Patrick's, Owego; Susan Brown, Ithaca College; and John Kreip and Dennis Geiser, both of St. Margaret Mary.



St. Joseph's Presents Oppy, Swartwood Awards

Elmira—Mrs. Dorothy Hughes, St. Joseph's Hospital's printing coordinator, was presented an "Oppy" Award in ceremonies at St. Joseph's Oct. 24.

Mrs. Hughes, employed in the printing department since 1966, was honored for her "giving of self" in her daily hospital duties and in her community life.

Her department is responsible for printing many hospital forms, and she is in contact with virtually every unit at St. Joseph's. It is her "attitude and personality" in meeting with these areas that led to her nomination for the award.

The "Oppy" Award is presented twice annually to members of the St. Joseph's Hospital family. The purpose of the award is to develop an awareness that all employees are a part of the hospital public relations team.

As a member of the first Operation People Committee, which names "Oppy" winners, Mrs. Hughes also was instrumental in spearheading the bowling league at the hospital as well as being an active participant in innumerable patient and employe functions.

Outside the hospital she is active in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Rosary and Altar Society of St. Mary's Church, Elmira, and other activities as well. She resides with her family on Beecher Street in Elmira.

Three of her seven children also are employes of St. Joseph's and joined their father, Edward, and other members of the family in the festivities in the hospital cafeteria.

Sister Martha Gersbach, administrator, was assisted by the co-chairman of the Community Relations Committee, Arthur Kendall in the award presentation.

Two other hospital

employes were presented with savings bonds for quick action in situations that could have resulted in tragedy. Merritt Wilson of Adams Street, Elmira, Dietary Department employe, successfully applied the "Hug of Life" to an unidentified visitor in the hospital cafeteria recently. The victim, choking on meat, expelled the particles after Wilson performed the Heimlich maneuver on her.

Joseph Considine of Elmira Street, Elmira, an orderly, responded to a call for help and was successful in calming an upset patient awaiting treatment in the Emergency Services Area. The distraught patient could have inflicted bodily harm on himself and others, but through Considine's calm, professional approach, the patient was subdued.

The savings bonds were made available through the Swartwood Fund, established by a local businessman, to recognize St. Joseph's Hospital employes for actions such as those of the recipients.



Celebrate Life, in a recent concert for the parents and pupils of Elmira's Hopkins Street School.

Celebrate Life Concert Nov. 27

Horseheads—Celebrate Life's annual fund-raising concert has been scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Samuel Clemens Performing Arts Center in downtown Elmira.

The Celebrate Life folk group is one of the singing groups at St. Mary Our Mother Church, which also is known for its frequent concerts throughout the area.

Funds raised by the concert will be used to resolve the problem caused by the breakdown of the group's bus, which has left

the 50-member group using a caravan of cars to keep its concert engagements.

In addition to leading the singing at a Sunday liturgy every other week at St. Mary Our Mother, the group performs for outside groups at the rate of once a week. Special shows are prepared at Christmas time, and the group visits local nursing homes and other functions. Last year the group performed "Godspell" several times locally, and also took the production to Maryland. That show will be revived this year for presentation during Lent and the Easter

season. The nine-year-old organization has had 500 different members; currently it's adult advisors are Ray and Pat Defendorf and Faith Eaton.

The fund-raising concert will be given in the newly reopened, Clemens Center, which seats more than 1,600 people. Formerly the Elmira Theater, the facility has been renovated as a center for the performing arts.

Tickets for the concert are available from group members, or at the door.