25th Anniversary of the Summer School

Selden D. Bacon

The Summer School of Alcohol Studies started, as did many other innovative ideas and programs in the alcohol problems field, in the fertile imagination of E. M. Jellinek—"Bunky" as he came to be known to so many, many people. During the winter of 1942-43 he discussed this plan with Dr. Haggard and sounded out the idea with a few people who might serve as faculty or, because of their interest and organizational position, might encourage attendance. Dr. Haggard gained the approval of Yale University and raised sufficient funds to allow the experiment to be undertaken. Francis McPeek, a young minister concerned deeply with Christian theology and also with current social problems, was enlisted as assistant director for the six-week course. As many of you know, Bunky talked about the emerging plan with a man from Hartford whom he met at a New York City meeting of the then Research Council on Problems of Alcohol. This man immediately asked to be enrolled as soon as the decision was final. This was Wayne Womer, the first student, who later became the secretary of the Alumni Association, a group started mostly casually and informally by him at the close of that first session and during the following months.

It is almost certain that no one at that time envisaged what was to develop. Bunky did announce towards the close of that first School that a similar meeting would probably be held the next year and that if any of those in attendance (86) would like to visit for a couple of days at the close of that proposed second session, they would certainly be welcome. (There was a second session and almost half of the first year’s School came back for those “couple of days.”) But that a 25th anniversary session would come to pass, that with its opening the number of students would pass the 5,000 mark, that 10 or 20 schools modeled on Bunky’s idea would rise across the continent, no such ideas were entertained, let alone expressed, by any of those involved. But it happened.

The strength which this idea developed is perhaps illustrated by an instance reported by Gladys Price, for many years and still a member of the faculty. Only this past year a program was inaugurated in an urban section, one rife with many problems, in which representatives of the troubled area were themselves involved in the planning and program development (hardly a novel idea to those in the alcoholism field, but considered a revelation and a revolution in other areas). In considering the alcohol-related problems it was proposed that one

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Summer School Fellowships and Scholarships

At the 1966 business meeting of the Alumni Association, William Harris, '53, immediate past president, suggested the Henderson Scholarship Fund be merged with the Alumni Association treasury and that three of the Alumni Association scholarships be named in honor of outstanding men who had been of importance in developing the Summer School. The members present voted unanimously to adopt the suggestion and three named fellowships have been established:

The Ralph M. (Lefty) Henderson Fellowship honoring the man who developed the industry program,

The E. M. Jellinek Fellowship honoring the founder of the School,

The Raymond G. McCarthy Fellowship honoring the third Director of the School.

By this act, the Association will perpetuate the memory of three men who have done so much to make the School the viable and developing organization that it is today.

Your dues and your additional contributions, now at a level which is double that of two years ago, make it possible to offer annually at least three other scholarships besides the named three. As you know, this is a particularly useful program since it provides a source of funds for well-qualified students who cannot obtain support from other sources. One qualification for an Alumni Scholarship is that the candidate must be nominated by an alumnus of the School. The Scholarship Committee welcomes nominations for these awards.

The School is developing expanded outside sources of scholarship support. Significant among these is the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation which now awards six scholarships to medical students and physicians. This is a long-range, far-seeing program designed to develop a real understanding of alcohol problems by medical practitioners.

This year, and hopefully on a continuing basis, the United States Public Health Service has made available twelve traineeships for public health nurses and twelve traineeships for public health educators and administrators.

The James E. Kemper Foundation provides fellowships for six "teachers in schools of nursing." The Foundation also supports four industrial nurses for the Northeast Institute.

With the continuing scholarship programs of the many state and provincial agencies, various church groups, some local councils on Alcoholism, some industry groups, and others, the school continues to grow and is able to attract a wide range of professional participants who really are a number of distinctly different teen-age target groups.

In the final session, Thursday morning, Jay Cross, '63, described the important changes going on in the public health field with regard to alcoholism; and Edward Sands, '53 and '56, and Robert Jones brought the group up to date on the rapid and exciting developments in the activities of the Federal Government.

Monday and Tuesday evenings were left open for the many informal conversations—the "reunion" aspects of the Institute. Then, on Wednesday evening, all gathered at a banquet at which the Summer School's long-time Registrar, Esther Henderson, '47, was the guest of honor. Wayne Womer, '43, was the Master of Ceremonies, calling upon many of those present to add to his own tribute to Esther and to his reminiscences. It was a heart-warming occasion and an evening to remember.

Milton A. Maxwell
Alumni Banquet Talk

Following are the remarks made by R. Brinkley Smithers at the Alumni Institute Banquet, July 20, 1966.

The Center of Alcohol Studies is the only one of its kind, and the people of the United States look to us as the authority on problems of alcohol and alcoholism. As you know, there have been two court decisions this year ruling that an alcoholic cannot be jailed for public drunkenness, since this is a symptom of an illness. The decision left many Municipal Judges and others involved slightly confused since there is no standard definition of an alcoholic or of alcoholism. I think this is something that the Center of Alcohol Studies should work on, to formulate useful, workable definitions and to provide judges with guidelines to go by in their handling of alcoholics.

I also feel that due to our position in the field of alcoholism, it is our responsibility from time to time to estimate and publish the number of alcoholics there are in the United States. This would be particularly valuable if we could break it down with any degree of accuracy into the number of early-stage, middle-stage and late-stage alcoholics. I realize we cannot go entirely on the Jellinek formula, but I think the work of Margaret Bailey in New York will be of some help. I also feel that because of our standing and close relationship with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, we should get that Department to encourage the Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce to include questions on alcoholism in the next census. There should be questions asking the head of the family of any problem drinkers in the family; and if so, how many, what relationship they have to the head of the family, and whether they are men or women. Another question should be: Is this person, or are these persons, considered to be alcoholic or just heavy drinkers? This information will not give us an accurate count in itself, due to the stigma attached to alcoholism, but it will give us a good indication of people's feelings as to whether they are problem drinkers or alcoholics.

Then, perhaps, by an additional interview with a cross-section of the people who claimed that their problem drinker was not an alcoholic, we can not only do some constructive educational work, but can find out whether or not most of these problem drinkers are alcoholics according to our various definitions of an alcoholic. Based on this, we can increase the census count and then by comparing the census by locality with the Jellinek formula, get a more accurate figure of the number of alcoholics in the country by city and state and grand total than we have ever had before.

The last point I should like to make has to do with the stigma surrounding alcoholism. This has lessened; but in my opinion it is most important to keep alcoholism separate from narcotic and pill addiction and also separate from mental illness. We all see that there is a strong connection between these three types of difficulties. However, to get the alcoholic to treatment early we don't want to saddle him with more than one stigma, or he just won't admit that he has the problem. We all know that drinking is socially accepted and legal, which is not true of nonmedical use of narcotics and pills. We also know that an alcoholic, once he has recovered, especially if he is treated in time, is usually as normal as anyone else. Unfortunately, this is still not true of some mental patients.

Throughout the world there are groups that want to lump together mental illness, the addictions and alcoholism. Their argument is that they are more or less similar. They overlook the fact that it is extremely important, as I have said before, to remove the stigma in order to get the alcoholic to treatment as early as possible. Like all other illnesses, the sooner alcoholism is treated, the better the chance for a full and complete recovery. Also, by early treatment the family, friends, employer and the public are spared much heartache and expense. I hope that the alumni here present and those who read these remarks will hold the line and insist whenever possible that alcoholism be treated as a separate disease entity.
or two indigenous representatives of the district should attend the Rutgers Summer School of Alcohol Studies. To which the leading local representative answered that "they certainly would NOT; if they were going to a School they would go only to the Yale School." Oh, if Bunky could have been there!

The Alumni Spirit

Why the School has had the persisting vitality and continuing high morale in faculty and student alike during these many years, the staff, all being professional educators, of course do not know. It has even been suggested that some objective collection of data, utilizing control groups, statistics, longitudinal analysis, case study, etc., etc., might prove useful, useful far beyond application merely to this School or even just to the one field of alcohol problems. However, the lack of such an analysis in no way acts as a barrier to explanations, even very long-winded and learned explanations, one of the best and longest of which will now be omitted.

The students and faculty of these 24 sessions of the School provide something like an honor roll in the field. Many whose names do not appear on letterheads or in the press or as signatories of possible gems in the literature have contributed and have done so in profound and lasting fashion. There are those, of course, who did not attend. The first lecturer at an all-day seminar on alcoholism and road traffic problems held this spring attended a dinner that evening given for the speakers of the day. He commented that he wasn't much of anybody in the field since he hadn't attended either Yale or Rutgers, but since he once gave a talk at the Midwest School, he supposed he could stay for the meal.

Amongst other things, enthusiasm and energy and consistency appear in many ways and last for many years in the students. The director this month received from a graduate of one of the first three years, a lengthy letter, copies of which were to be rather generally distributed, querying whether the Center still received most of its funds for its alleged research from the liquor industry, whether the staff was as available to represent Drys as Wetts, etc. Brain washing clearly is no great function of the School. However, the occasionally still-burning issues of the old Wet-Dry conflict seem to have moved pretty far from the center of interest of students of the past 15 to 20 years. The targets of concern seem to consist in helping alcoholics and, which in many ways is a rather different aim, attacking the alcoholism; the problems of the community, the court and the individual himself in what is called the Skid Row problem; the role of both secondary schools and churches in education about drinking and alcohol; meeting the problem of alcohol use in road traffic injury and damage. Perhaps objective interest in the matter of control of availability of beverages will re-emerge. But across all these named problems the concern with the understanding of people, of processes, of groups, of values, of inter-relationships, of the very matter of understanding itself continues to transcend the specifics of this or that named situation. Perhaps the key word in all this is "concern." Many, many people are concerned and they make a magnificent student body whether in 1943 or 1967. They are still coming.

Development of the Curriculum

There are now 17 separate courses. And this is the "main session." The Northeast Institute, a week-long course that follows, is in some ways more like the school of the '40s and '50s; 9 state alcoholism programs co-sponsor this session along with Rutgers. Changes, particularly those instituted by Raymond McCarthy in 1963-4, have been rather marked. Under the leadership of Milton Maxwell those innovations have been consolidated. Three new courses appear this year. The Center plans to hold small research conferences on particular topics (e.g., handling professional and lay requests for information, the impact of ABC laws on alcohol problems) followed by small experimental training sessions, which if judged effective could become new courses in the Summer School.

A very particular need now faces the country in relation to the alcoholism. There has been national recognition of the need for "doing something" about alcoholism. To some specialists this means "more research" or "more publications" or "more doctors," but despite the real value of such developments (if you and I happen to think they are "good" research, publications and doctors), most of us, hopefully, are aware that these do not provide answers to the expectations of the interested public. The pressing need may be expressed as follows: (1) mobilize the existing resources of concern, knowledge, manpower and money to deliver treatment and preventive services; (2) activate this mobilization within the context of community attitudes and of community programs for meeting a wide spectrum of social disorders and health problems; (3) invest this action with concrete methods for evaluating its effect; and (4) in mature and constructive fashion tell the truth about what happened.

Need for Trained Leaders

This calls for executive and administrative leadership. If anyone thinks that such qualities are needed only in Washington or some state capital, they are living in a world of dreams, perhaps even nightmares. If anyone thinks such people are to be found in one profession or one organization, they surely possess a narrow view of the problems of alcohol or, indeed, of any other problem in our society. But there are people with these qualities. Some of them know about alcoholism treatment, but are inexperienced and untrained about comprehensive attacks on community problems; others know much about the latter but are ignorant about (occasionally even hostile towards) the world of alcohol problems and alcoholism. One resource for coping with this truly enormous manpower need is training. Naturally, the Rutgers School cannot pretend to answer this national training need; a need also faced by those concerned with mental illness, poverty, delinquency, trafficills and the other major problems of this age. But the School can play a part in this challenging, even Utopian, program. A glance at the courses offered in the 25th session will indicate the emphasis currently being placed in this general direction.

In its way such a proposed major thrust (not that other training aims will be downgraded) is as idealistic, perhaps even arrogant, as the earlier major purposes of the School. One might well ask, "why do these people think that they are competent to train the leaders?" It happens, despite its secondary pertinence, to be the wrong question. The more appropriate question, of course, relates to, "who will the students be?"

Selecting the Students

At the risk of offending both those mentioned and the thousands omitted I will suggest that in the first 15 years persons of the most diverse backgrounds, purposes, training and viewpoints, came to the School, and later became deeply involved or continued prior careers in the world of coping with
problems of alcohol: John Murtagh, Ernest Shepherd, Marty Mann, David Archibald, John O'Connor, Raymond McCarthy, Ralph and Esther Henderson, Brinkley Smithers, Kinion Proctor, Billy Plant, Ralph Daniel, Pat Butler, Vashti Cain, and on and on; your name too should be there. At one time 10 or 12 years ago, 23 of the 24 directors of state and Canadian provincial alcoholism programs were all graduates of the School; also bishops and policemen, medical students, temperance workers and employees and officers of alcohol beverage industries, physicians and public health officers, college professors, social workers, Salvation Army officers and newspaper men, recovered alcoholics and vocational rehabilitation workers, judges and psychiatrists and nurses and athletic coaches. Were they the right ones to come? Thank Heaven no educational experts screened the applicants (how many of you would have been there?) for I believe they were the right ones.

One of my favorite examples was a man in his 30s (probably in fact only “dry” for less than a year) who had never finished high school, but who surely knew all the answers, largely from many years on Skid Row. In itself that’s not so bad, but he kept telling everybody, in classes, in the halls, on the lawn and did so from early dawn till the wee small hours. Finally, a law-school professor and a chief judge from an unnamed metropolis, both students, were delegated (I couldn’t do it) the task of control. Surely he should never have been admitted. Following his attendance at the School, he became a counselor in a halfway house, and, on this princely salary with a 50-hour per week job, he managed to complete his high-school work and entered college; he graduated from college; he entered graduate school and went on to take his Ph.D. in social science at a major university.

From where will the new type leaders for these new years come? I don’t know. Will the staff even recognize them when they’re here? Frequently they won’t. Think of the many students who have made and are still making major contributions that we still don’t know about. Will these potential new leaders come? We will be here and there are other schools also. I think they will come. And, just as in the past two decades, those who came earlier and felt concern will urge and suggest and help. The problems and needs will change, the School will change, but people of concern, students past and students future, will for some long time to come keep that dream of Bunky a very real and productive force, an exciting and growing resource for eventual resolution of these problems.

McCarthy Memorial

The Raymond G. McCarthy Memorial is an outstanding success. To date, nearly $3,400 has been contributed, and the Memorial Committee is no longer actively seeking contributions. As you may recall, the committee decided that the Memorial should take the form of a permanent collection of the original, full-text articles of the abstracts in the Classified Abstract Archive of the Alcohol Literature.

More than 90% of all current additions to CAAL have been obtained and included in the collection. Progress toward obtaining all of the entries from earlier years is slow but continuing. More than five hundred articles from past years have been obtained and about 70% of all abstracts are now represented in the collection. This figure varies considerably from the earlier years in which less than 50% have been obtained to nearly 100% in the more recent years.

The collection is housed in a special section of the Library and contains, besides the original articles, a full set of CAAL and a sorting and study area. The full-text original articles are boxed in the gold-stamped scarlet pamphlet boxes designed and produced for the Raymond G. McCarthy Memorial collection. These are shelved in four glass-doored, locked cabinets. A bronze plaque commemorating Mr. McCarthy completes the section.

In order to maintain continuity in the work of completing the collection, the Friends of the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies have contributed $1,000 beyond the $3,400 raised by general subscription. The Center is planning to develop a continuing source of support for this work.

DECEASED-1966-1967

Edward W. Muldoon, '46, Mission San José, California
Mrs. Tillie C. Brown, '51, Bethesda, Maryland
Dr. Clarence W. Hinkley, '44, Portland, Oregon
Edward G. Smith, '58, Cooksville, Ontario, Canada
Robert S. Aikenhead, '53, Detroit, Michigan
Mrs. Jean C. Shelburne, '51, La Jolla, California
James H. Law, '44, Houston, Texas
Dr. Stanley C. Brown, '57, Ithaca, Michigan
Brig. James H. Bovill, '45, Asbury Park, New Jersey
Dr. Leon F. Cobb, '56, Pontiac, Michigan
Ted Roosevelt Williams, '63, Charlotte, North Carolina
Joseph B. Price, '48, Jackson, Mississippi
Rev. W. A. Hunnissett, '44, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
On the left is a photograph of the first Summer School at Yale, 1943. And below the Tenth Reunion (or Alumni Institute) at Yale, 1953.