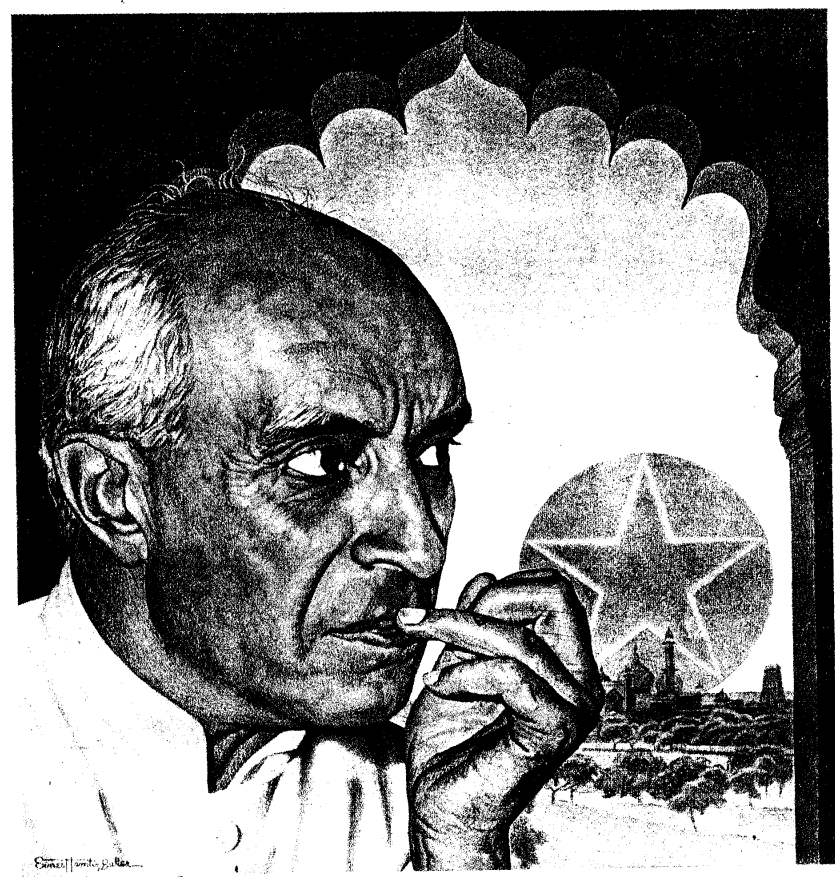


1951

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TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



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the man on the fence is in a dangerous spot.

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VOL. LVII NO. 39

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appointment for surgery. Mrs. Hawley had cramps, was admitted to Parkview Episcopal Hospital. When Dr. Bramer got to her, the baby's foot had slipped back through the abdominal wall. With surprising ease, the baby's body was massaged out of the uterus, through the incision to a fairly normal delivery. Thelma Jean Hawley weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz.

Last week, out of the hospital after five days, Mrs. Hawley was "feeling real good."

The White Stuff

Young Danny had an abscessed ear, and to ease the pain a doctor in St. Joseph, Missouri gave him morphine. Danny had been an insecure, troubled child longer than he could remember—both his mother & father died before he was five. At 16, Danny knew nothing about psychology, but he knew that the "shot" gave him a lift. From a peddler he got morphine regularly for six months; then he lost his contact and could get no more. He became weak, nauseated, sweaty, shaky and depressed. Danny was sent to a state hospital.

"No Such Thing as a Cure." Danny learned a lot in the hospital. Veteran gowsters taught him how to get a ration of white stuff. When he got out, Danny did not go home. He hummed around the country, doing odd jobs, lying, stealing, forging prescriptions—anything for a bang. Time & again he was picked up and convicted, usually to serve his sentence in the U.S. Public Health Service's hospital for narcotic addicts at Lexington, Ky. "They can withdraw you," says Danny, "but there is no such thing as a cure. You just have to stay away from the stuff."

Between terms, when Danny seemed to be away from the habit, he got married. Before the first baby was a year old, Danny was shot up again. When his wife left him he tried to commit suicide. And so back to Lexington.

Up to this point Danny's story had a deadly familiar ring. Every year, thousands of teen-agers take the first step to narcotic addiction—usually by smoking a reefer (a cigarette containing marijuana) because they don't want to be called "chicken." Dope peddlers have been pushing their wares through high schools and street gangs. Now estimates of the number of addicts range anywhere from 50,000 to 300,000.

Eleven Out of 80. Last week, Danny stood up in a Y.M.C.A. auditorium in Manhattan and told what had happened to him during his last stint at Lexington, and how this might help other victims. Danny had started listening to members of Alcoholics Anonymous. "It seemed religious," he says, "and like most addicts I didn't care anything about God. It might work for those drunks but not for us. But after a while I began to feel that this group had the answer." Danny studied the A.A. code, saw how it could be applied to discharged dope victims, and founded Narcotics Anonymous.

Now, on the first anniversary of Narcotics Anonymous, Danny could report on about 80 addicts who had tried mutual-aid, group therapy. Six had stayed drug-

free for a year or more, five more have been free for a shorter time. Ten are known to have slipped back into the habit; so, probably, have most of the 60 who cannot be traced.

Numerically, it was a small beginning. But the group in Manhattan (and others being formed in Chicago, Los Angeles and Vancouver) offered new hope to men who had suffered the agonies of withdrawal at Lexington or at the similar P.H.S. hospital at Fort Worth, only to fall into the habit again.* Says Danny, whose downfall began with an earache 25 years ago: "I've been a burden to the Government most of my life. Now I can repay my debt."



John S. Savage
FIREMAN WALTHER & BABY NIELSEN
Like a shoehorn in the throat.

Rattle in the Throat

In a dozen years of riding rescue trucks, Eugene W. Fields, battalion chief in Omaha's fire department, tried to guard against every emergency. His trucks became hospitals on wheels with baby-delivery kits, oxygen masks, resuscitators, inhalators, iron lungs, ether masks, surgical gowns and sterile sheets. But Fields, a onetime Navy fire-fighting instructor, still fretted over occasional cases in which he had seen people choke to death while his crews probed blindly for something in the throat.

Then Fields read a magazine article about the laryngoscope, a device like a shoehorn with a built-in light for looking down people's windpipes. This was for him. Lest he be accused of "practicing medicine" without a license, Fields got advance approval from the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society. He and his crews took a hospital course in use of the laryngoscope, and Fields talked an insurance company into donating two of the \$65 gadgets.

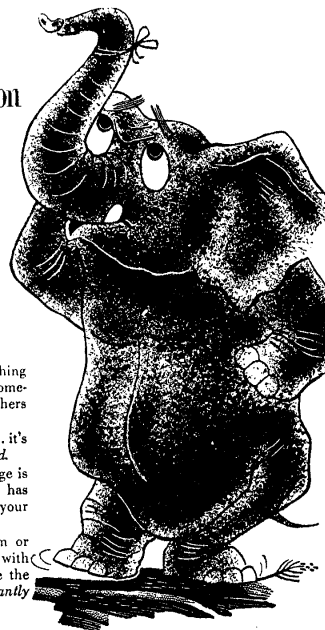
Squad Captain Charles F. Walther of

* The states and cities have no such treatment centers. Parents of teen-age addicts demonstrated before New York City Hall last month, urged the city government to set up a center.

TIME, MAY 7, 1951

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