

An open meeting of the three Ardens and surrounding communities sponsored by the Resources Committee of the Three Ardens to considered the problem of crime and narcotics in the Ardens was held on Monday, February 23, 1970 in the Gild Hall.

The meeting as chaired by William Press, Chairman of the Town Assembly of Arden and was attend by a large group of adults and young people. Mr. Leon Tanzer, Chairman of the Resources Committee had arranged to have Detective, Michael Naumowich of the Crime Division and Dectective, Francis Talmo of the Narcotics Division of the Delaware State Police address the meeting to outline the extent of the problem in Arden and suggest methods of correcting the situations.

Detective Naumowich stated that since the beginning of 1970 there were only five complaints on file with the State Police listing house burglaries of sound equipment, Hi-Fi equipment, tire and wheels from a car, batteries, radios, etc. He had not check the record of burglaries for 1969.

He felt that most of the burglaries happened because the thieves were looking for money and material that could be sold quickly to get money to pay for the drugs they needed.

He listed several ways that residents could prevent burglaries:

1. Keep lights on during the night both at back and front doors whether you are home or not. Lights are considered one of the best defenses.
2. Be alert to protect your neighbor's home and others in the community
3. Women who live alone should only list last name and initials in phone book. Do not open door unless you know the person. Even ask policemen for identification.
4. Apartment dwellers and others should jot down auto tag numbers if they see strange cars lurking in the vicinity.
5. Write down the serial numbers of all appliances like radios, Hi-Fi, stereo, etc.
6. Jot down the cost and date of purchase of appliances.
7. Lock all doors when you are working in the garden.
8. When leaving for vacation take following precautions:
 - A. Call county, state police and inform them how long you will be away. In the event there is a local police office, inform him also. Leave word with the authorities where a key can be found.
 - B. A timer to turn on lights is a good investment.
 - C. Have mail held or forwarded.
 - D. Call home occasionally, but let phone ring only a few times.
 - E. When out for the evening let the radio or television on.
 - F. Contact local authorities to report when returned from vacation.

Misdemeanors can be handled by the magistrates courts, but van be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

Felonies has to go to superior courts and indictment by a Grand Jury.

Buglaries are listed as 1st degree, involving murder or rape; 2nd degree, involving burglary at night, 3rd degree, burglary of public buildings; 4th degree involving larceny of article

Detective Talmo stated that we do have a drug problem in Arden and he has about 15 known users of heroin in the three communities. On Monday at 4 A. M. he found 107 hypodermic needles under a tree in Arden. About 16% of the heroin in this area is being pushed from the three Ardens. Arden has the reputation as being the drug center of New Castle County. There are many users of marijuana in Arden, but he feels the biggest problem we have are those that use heroin, cocaine and other dangerous narcotics.

Many people in the audience questioned that the problem in Arden was as great as Detective Talmo indicated. Mrs. Baker, who is adult sponsor of the Teen Guild of the Arden Club, stated that although she has heard the young people talking about marijuana, she had never seen them smoking it and she had not heard anything about the more dangerous drugs.

Many people wondered why parents wait so long to do something about the problem. Mr. Talmo felt that most of the reasons is that people do not recognize the signs of addiction and do not know what to do about it when they do discover the situation.

Marijuana causes redness of the eye and redness around the perimeter of eye plus symptoms of lethargy. When it is smoked it smells something like oregano burning.

Cocaine frequently produces acts of violence.

Heroin causes irritability, falling off of grades in school, tell tale puncture marks on skin.

Parents should call their physician or call Detective Talmo if they need help. Dr. Vandervort is helping young addicts with the methedone drug that has been somewhat successful in England.

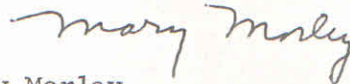
Several people at the meeting pointed out that marijuana is not considered an addictive drug, but it is illegal to use, possess, sell it; therefore, those apprehended are liable to arrest.

Detective Talmo stated that in many cases that he knows, the youth started with marijuana and then tried the stronger drugs that are very addictive and hard to control. Much of the robbery of easily disposable goods is done by those needing money to finance drugs.

He stated that the residents of the communities should be alert to strangers, take down licence numbers, report any suspicious action of their children to him-young people are not arrested unless they are definitely selling drug-, use all educational ways available to present the dangers of drugs.

Everyone present were appreciative of the help the two detective offered in solving our problems.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Morley

Secretary of the Town Assembly of Village of Arden