

THE ANTIS' TRUTHFUL ARGUMENT

TO THE GOOD PEOPLE OF GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS:

We, your fellowcitizens of the State of Texas and Ex-Saloon Keepers of Counties that have adopted Local Option, appeal to your reason and sense of justice. Our business has been destroyed and we have been forced to abandon our lucrative occupation in other counties by the votes of misguided men who believed that Sobriety and Industry were conducive to wealth, and who preferred Peace and Quietude to the Security of Soberness to the song of the Reveller and danger from Rioters; and by the united influence of men and women in communities who held their good name above price, and who would not hazard or barter the character of sons, the honor of husbands, the happiness of wives and daughters and the peace and harmony of the family circle for blood money paid by Saloons in rents and license; and by votes of men whose hearts were moved by the sufferings of the Drunkard's Wife and Children, and by poverty of his widow and Orphans. By the votes of men influenced by the above enumerated and kindred considerations we have already been excluded from nearly half of the Great State of Texas, and the work goes on; and we ask of you the simple privilege to conduct our nefarious traffic in your community in peace and in security. We ask it in the name of Personal Liberty, and in the name of all that is attractive, pure, elevating and refining in the Saloon, the Gambling Hall and Brother.

We expect Those who have houses to rent to us, and ALL who wish our patronage or fear our enmity, and EVERY ONE who aspires to office to cast their ballot for the Saloon on September 9th; and to Ministers, Christians and all whose principles or sense of obligation to Society forbids such a vote, we say, you can serve US ALMOST AS WELL and ease your conscience by staying from the polls--you can be sick or be busy, or your family unwell.

In twelve months we have increased the number of Saloons in the fair city of Sherman about 30 per cent, and we promise you that if on September 9th the majority for the Saloons rolls up, we will pour in from every quarter and increase your population by the addition of Hundreds of Gamblers, Pimps, Inmates of Brothels and the skum that follows in the wake of the Saloon.

We will gild and fresco our fronts to attract the unwary, and will add Gambling halls with private rooms, dumb waiters, and back doors that will be open night and Sunday for husbands, sons, young men and college boys--the bloom and beauty of the State and pride of your city, will become a vision of the past. We will dethrone the reason of your most brilliant young men. We will lay tribute upon every industry, we will bankrupt and impoverish our dupes and victims, and drive their wives and children from homes of comfort to the streets and hovels of poverty. We will inject the virus of crime into the blood of unborn infants, and consign the progeny of our devotees to lives of crime and infamy. We will fill your poor houses, asylums and prisons; we will incite crime, theft, murder and assassination, and will furnish employment for courts, jurors and officers, and we will burl then you with taxation to run courts, protect your homes and care for paupers.

Your county is the most fruitful, and your cities the fairest in the State, and in return we only ask your vote. Remember us on September the 9th.

THE WANDERING SALOON KEEPER.

P.S.--(Confidential) If defeated we shall * * * * *

This is taken from what appears to be a handbill approximately 5 1/4 X 11. It is printed on front only; back side is blank.

The copy available to me was very fragile, already frayed at the edges and in two pieces.

The handbill bears J. F. Evans' own handwriting:

J. F. Evans in Action at the top

From J. F. Evans at the bottom.

It obviously refers to an election to be held on "September 9th", but I have no way at this time to determine the year. It mentions that other Texas cities have already banned saloons by local option. It appears that this election preceded by some years the National movement to pass the Constitutional amendment about Prohibition.