

**Ex-Addicts Kick Smoking**

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# Ex-Addicts Kick Smoking

Los Angeles Times

**LOS ANGELES — Synanon members,** most of whom are former narcotics addicts, are now kicking the cigarette habit.

Since Monday it has been against the rules for about 1,500 members to smoke at Synanon residences in several California cities.

The decision was a radical departure from past practice for the private rehabilitation group. Since Synanon was founded 11 years ago it

has provided its members all the free cigarettes they wanted to smoke.

"It was kind of goofy," Jack Hurst, Synanon president, said today. "Cigarettes represent money, and we were spending about \$200,000 a year on cigarettes."

"We had been looking with horror at the mounting bill for cigarettes."

About five or six weeks ago, according to Hurst, several members of the board

thought they would try to give up smoking.

"And it worked," he said. "We soon found that within a matter of weeks we had a thousand people who had given up cigarettes."

Hurst admitted that it was not easy because the addiction to tobacco is "tremendous; giving up cigarettes can be rougher than giving up narcotics."

But, he said, Synanon's group philosophy is working.

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