



Good News



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

JUNE
1961

400 Attend Santa Rosa Conference

The summer conference of the Northern California Council of AA, held at Santa Rosa, May 27-28 was voted by all who attended "a very full and finely-planned program of major meetings, workshops, and AA sessions". The two-day conference, in terms of accomplishment, belied the 400 who crowded into every meeting on the agenda.

This interest was early evinced by the good crowd which attended the preconference AA meeting held Friday night at Harmony Hall and heard Jack I., secretary, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, speak.

DOZEN SESSIONS

Registrations, starting at 8:00 a.m., were followed by two AA sessions and a pair of workshops. The Hospitals and Institutions Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. and a General Service meeting at 3:30 p.m., were only two of a dozen meetings scheduled between noon and the dinner recess on Saturday.

A welcoming address was delivered by Santa Rosa's Mayor Alan Charvoz, to kick-off the Open Meeting at 8:15 p.m., Saturday. Keynote speech was made by Inez G., of Whittier. Her talk was warmly received.

Sunday at 10:30 a.m., Northern California Council held their business meeting, and the Hospitals and Institutions Committee held separate sessions. At the final Open AA Meeting, at 2:15 p.m., Dede and Tom W., Brisbane, a fine husband-and-wife team, held their attentive audience with an excellent talk generously spiced with humor.

PINCH-HITTER

Jim M., Sacramento, pinched-hit for Jim L., Santa Rosa, as chairman of the Sunday afternoon meeting. Santa Rosa's Jim was almost exhausted from the great amount of work involved in arranging and conducting the Santa Rosa Conference. His Sacramento substitute did

an outstanding job as did Charlie R., San Francisco, at the Saturday night Open Meeting.

Several outstanding events made the conference more than worthwhile. Following the Saturday night Open Meeting, the Alateens, with Robert B., Santa Rosa, in the emcee slot, put on a show including a sparkling performance of music and humor. Bus D.'s "Mello-Daires" played for dancing.

Workshops, held all during the two-day gathering were crowded and highly appreciated. In more than one instance, time limitations forced adjournment before participants were ready to close. These included, "Group Inventory", "AA in Rest Home", "Community Agencies and Alcoholism".

The dining room was a bustling place. Food was excellent and abundant; the coffee good and black, and arms-length AA plentiful and constant. The San Rosa Committee headed assistantsecretary Errol W., and aided by Paula B., and Jim L., deserve great credit for a good job, well done, on short notice. Formation of the program and the many "mechanics" needed to make things click, were handled with intelligence and dispatch.

Spread of the participants on the program, i.e., chairman, moderators, etc., was good and all gave creditable accounts of themselves. It was the consensus of opinion that a regrettable lack of communication and advance notices resulted in the rather small attendance, which observers aver, rated a much larger attendance and participation of AA members.

SHOWCASE

The month of June has five Fridays and Myrl G., program director, has again come up with an impressive roster of AA and "outside" speakers for the Central Open Meetings held at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, sometimes known as our "showcase" meetings.

JUNE 16—Sigrid M., S.F. Young People's Group, and Charles B., Los Altos Group.

JUNE 23—Olive E., Tiburon-Belvedere Group, and Ralph S., San Mateo Group, No. 1.

JUNE 30—Johnny B., San Jose, and E. G. Savides, Associate Superintendent, California Medical Facility, Vacaville, California.

The label "showcase" was long ago given the Big Friday meetings by members who found them invaluable for almost instantaneously erasing the so-called "stigma" from the minds of visitors and the potential members who may be laboring under the misapprehension that ALL AAs were a bunch of wine-sodden wretches. The fine appearance of the big audience and the quality of speakers went a long way towards dispelling this notion. Hence "showcase."

35 & UNDER

Clancy I., Los Angeles Fellowship, will be principal speaker at the First Quarterly Open House Meeting of the "35 & Under" Group, Thursday, June 22, at 8:30 p.m. Meeting will be held in the auditorium of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 610 Vallejo Street, between Grant and Columbus Avenues, San Francisco.

Refreshments will be served. All are cordially invited.

H & I REVIEWS PROGRAM

Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous will hold its next meeting at Fort Bragg, Saturday, July 15, Bud C., H & I Chairman, announced last week. One of the highlights of the all day gathering, will be another of those fabulous abalone picnic dinners with Leo M., serving as host. All AA's and friends are invited.

A review by the H & I Committee's activities during the month of May revealed the following:

Recommendations

(1) At the pre-Conference meeting of May 13, at 1755-34th Street, Sacramento, the Steering Committee of the service group, regional and area chairmen met to consolidate opinions and make recommendations concerning H & I's future course to the full committee.

The full committee met at the afternoon session and acted on these recommendations: (a) **The incumbent General Chairman should remain in office for two additional years due to the many important business affairs now in the process of being activated;** (b) **The Contact Chairmanships should rotate more frequently in order to allow more persons to participate in this capacity. It is the general feeling that a healthier all-around committee will be the end result of this action;** (c) **The H & I Committee is eagerly seeking persons, male or female, interested in serving on this important AA activity. (Note: contact Bud C., general chairman, P.O. Box 4032, San Francisco, 1.**

(2) Following the May 13 meeting, the H & I committee members motored to the annual conference at Folsom Penitentiary. An invitation affair, it was attended by 112 persons.

Inmates as well as outside speakers presented a terrific program. It was the concensus that anyone receiving a "bid" to the next affair will be the loser if they fail to attend.

Vacaville's CMF

(3) Throughout the rank-and-file of AA's in Northern California, the status of the Vacaville Symposium of May 20, remains a "conversational piece" and in some quarters, a

AVENUE ALANONS MEETING JUNE 21

The Husband-and-Wife team of Bev and Archie, will feature the June 21st meeting of the Avenue Alanon Group, at St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue. Meeting is slated for 8:00 p.m.

Bev and Archie are noted in Northern California AA circles and have a potent story to tell. AA's as well as Alanon members are invited to attend.

Refreshments and a social period follows the "team" talk.

BOB FLIPPIN RECOVERING

A host of friends who missed Bob Flippin at the Santa Rosa Conference May 27-28, will be relieved and happy to know that recent surgery at Kaiser Foundation Hospital — which kept Bob from attending — was successful and he's on the mend.

Flippin is a long-time friend of AA. A member of the San Quentin Penitentiary staff, he founded the AA Group at "Esque."

He has not missed a Conference in many years, and at Santa Rosa, everyone was asking the other fellow, "Where's Bob?"

matter of considerable controversy.

AA's in the Northern California area are aware that all publicity, arrangements, finances, and other details were handled exclusively by the C.M.F. of AA Group.

H & I's Reaction

According to Bud C., his committee people are interested in reviewing the results of the Symposium. Said Bud:

"From where we sit, it appears that AA is on thin ice if due caution not practiced. **The inmate group has made it clear that the "Clinton Duffy Fellowship" is an organization completely OUTSIDE of AA; that they are interested in reaching alcoholics whether or not they are AA members, religious groups, or what have you.**

"It now seems that this is an activity that must be handled at the parole or state level, and loyal AA members should be guided by AA's Tradition No. 6. It will be helpful and comforting to read Bill W's publication, "AA Tradition, How It Developed", and, in particular, pages 52, 53 and 54."

G.G. Group Plans Open House Birthday Party

One of the oldest neighborhood groups in S.F. Inter-County Fellowship is making plans for an Open House Birthday Meeting and Homecoming party in its new location, Tuesday, June 20, at 8:00 p.m.

Gala affair will be held in its new location St. John's Episcopal Church, Fifteenth and Julian Streets, where they established a meeting place last May. Prior to that date they were temporarily meeting with the Highlanders Club.

Reactivated in the summer of 1959 after a short period of suspension, the veteran S.F. group will celebrate with old-timers handling arrangements. Fred K., one of Golden Gate's oldest members will be chairman of the anniversary party. Jack I., the S.F. Fellowship secretary, and Father Jim B. will share the rostrum as principal speakers. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Among the old-timers currently active in the group's affairs are Frank W., secretary; Pat R., treasurer; Fred K., Dorothy R., MacA., and Estelle R.

Golden Gate Group invites all San Francisco AA members and their friends to its Birthday Party.

Fifth Annual New Jersey Convention In June

A capacity crowd is expected at the Fifth Annual New Jersey AA Convention, Saturday, June 24, at Notre Dame High School, in Lawrence Township, outside Trenton, New Jersey.

The one-day meeting is a General Service Conference, embracing major committees of the N.J. Fellowship including Hospitals and Institutions; AA Panel Meeting; Alanon Family Group; Friends of AA; Alateen; Rarely Have We Seen (or Ageing in AA); Young People's Group; General Assembly Meeting.

Following dinner at 7:00 p.m., an Open Meeting will adjourn the Convention.

BILINGUAL MEET

Quebec Regional Conference Set

The Quebec Regional Bilingual Conference will be held in Montreal, Canada, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 27, 28, and 29, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

For the benefit of those who wish to reserve a banquet table or tables (10 seats per table) for their group or friends, the following system has been adopted.

(1) For each table required, forward one prepaid "Conference" registration ("6.00) which will reserve the table or tables until September 15.

(2) After this date, unfilled vacancies at these tables will be completed as registrations are received. Banquet tables will be assigned on "first come - first served" basis.

For example, should you desire to reserve a table for your party, forward at least one Conference registration with the notation that you wish to reserve a table either in your Group's - or your own name.

A table will be assigned to this registrant and the number noted on the Official Receipt which will be returned to sender. As subsequent registrations are forwarded between now and September 15, be sure to indicate that they be assigned to your particular reserved table.

Registration cards may be obtained from your own group, from Central Inter - County Fellowship office, 166 Geary Street, Room 79, YU 2-4473, or by writing to P.O. Box 278, Station "L", Montreal 6, Quebec, Canada.

Montreal is a delightful city, entirely modern but with an Old World atmosphere. Both English and French will be heard on all sides, although not nearly so much as in the city of Quebec. Those planning a vacation in the Fall but with no firm decision may find a trip to Montreal and the Bilingual Conference replete with new, attractive experiences.

GAY JAMBOREE

Anniversary Of 'Big Meeting' Attracts 300

The Central All - Groups Meeting - sometimes call the 'Big Meeting' held its 15th Annual Anniversary, Friday, May 12, at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, with some 300 members, their relatives and friends, attending.

When it broke up at 1:00 a.m. after the strains of "Three O'Clock in the Morning" hinted at the hour, some pronounced it "an inspiring evening" others "a grand time" and all generally voted it a "jolly good jamboree and let's have more of 'em."

Paul G., Mill Valley, chairman, was assisted by Harriet H., Downtown Group. While waiting for the meeting to get officially underway, Dana H. played a variety of piano selections to make the waiting minutes more pleasant.

John F., San Carlos, gave an impressive talk on "Gratitude" and short talks were made by members whose first contact with AA was at the Central All-Groups Meeting.

These include Ralph S., Downtown; Betty L., Women's Alano Group; Jim H., Midtown; Arnold R., Parkside; Phil G., Ambassadors; Dorothy D., Surf Group; Blanche P., Downtown, and Ray E., Lincoln-Park.

The Mello-Daires played danceable tunes until "lights out" at 1:00 a.m., and Florence S., Surf Group, won the Grand Door Prize — an Admiral Clock Radio.

MELLO-DAIRES DATES

Herewith is a list of June AA dance dates at which the Mello-Daires will provide the music:

SATURDAY, JUNE 17—Sacramento Meeting & Dance, in the Labor Temple, Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento, California.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24—S.F. Alano

AA PICNIC

Sunday, August 6 is the date set for the 1961 AA Picnic.

Again, as in 1960, Adobe Creek Lodge has been selected as this year's picnic site. The big AA all-day outing will feature dancing, games for young and old, swimming in an excellent pool with lifeguard attendants, hot dogs, pop, fresh coffee, and a hotly-contested ball game.

There's ample parking space, loads of shaded picnic tables and dozens of barbecue pits.

Adobe Creek Lodge is an ideal spot for a picnic and if there are any "Doubting Thomases" "ask those that were there last year."

ALANO CLUB 4th ANNIVERSARY

An elaborate shindig has been slated for the two-day celebration in observance of the Fourth Anniversary of the San Francisco Alano Club in its location at 414 Grant Avenue, July 22 and 23.

According to the planning committee in charge, the affair will be the biggest and most colorful party since Grant Avenue was known as Dupont Street.

Although final plans have not been completed a preliminary run-down lists these activities:

- (a) Open House on both days
- (b) Saturday, July 22 — a big dance starting at 9:00 p.m.; a Floor Show at 10:30 p.m., featuring our own Doug. Richardson and his Pup-pets; refreshments and fine door prizes.
- (c) Sunday, July 23 — Buffet Luncheon served from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm.

Additional features may be added to the above program as the Anniversary date approaches. And anything added will be of high caliber entertainment.

Tell your AA friends, "everyone is invited."

Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

For current or future dance engagements, contact: Paul "Bus" Doane, 1568-18th Ave., OV 1-8601, San Francisco, 22.

Who Are the Alateens-What Are They?

Probably one of the most exciting phenomena to come hurtling out of the Blue Yonder and into the orbit of Alcoholics Anonymous is the mushrooming growth of The Alateens. For the benefit of those unfamiliar with this youth movement (and until just recently Ye Editor was one of them) we think it timely and appropriate to give space to this exceptional and unique movement of U.S. 'teenagers — Editor.

To acquaint all of us with the aims and purposes of Alateens, the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., New York City, have issued a pamphlet titled, "Operation Alateen", for teen-age children of alcoholics.

"Operation Alateen" says in part, "Now that teen-age groups are a recognized and vital part of the whole AA and Al-Anon Family program, it seems timely to pass along some experiences and suggestions from the growing pains era.

Actually, so many new Alateen groups are being constantly formed and expanding that every stage of development exists throughout the country. Al-Anon's book, "Living With An Alcoholic" and the new "Manual for Al-Anon Family Groups" tell how to form Alateen groups and conduct meetings.

Here we want to give a lift to well-established or faltering Alateen groups which may hit a plateau. Many teen-agers write to Headquarters that interest in the basic Alateen program shows no sign of lagging but that fresh ideas for meetings seem to run out. Also that problems arise that prove baffling. This pamphlet may act as a spark-plug to your group."

SUGGESTED PREAMBLE

From the Fifth Avenue Alateen Group in New York comes the following suggested preamble which is read at the opening of each meeting:

(a) The Alateen Groups are made up of children of problem drinkers who find that meeting with other children of alcoholics is helpful. We realize that even though the alcoholic parent may have joined AA, and the non-alcoholic joined Al-Anon, we, as their children, can play an important role in re-uniting the family.

(b) We urge you to try our program. We, in Alateen, have learned to become individuals. We try to accept the fact that alcoholism is a disease. In studying the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous we can accept the fact that we are powerless over alcohol, and that we can develop the ability to de-

tach ourselves emotionally from our parents' problems, yet retain our love for them.

(c) Our changed attitude might possibly inspire the alcoholic to seek help which may eventually lead him to AA, so there is no need for discouragement even though the alcoholic may be still drinking.

(e) We will always be grateful to Alateen for giving us a way of life and a wonderful, healthy program to live by and enjoy.

(d) We try at all times to reassure our parents that we do not discuss THEM at our meetings. Our sole topic is the solution of our own problems.

TWENTY QUESTIONS

From the Fifth Avenue Group in New York also comes a set of questions suggested for use in Alateen meetings:

- (1) Is your unhappiness at home affecting your school work?
- (2) Do you hate your alcoholic parent or only resent his drinking?
- (3) Does the fact of having an alcoholic in your family hamper your social relations and activities?
- (4) Do you try to provoke the alcoholic?
- (5) Have you ever attempted to escape the problem?
- (6) Do you feel inferior, frustrated and depressed?
- (7) Are your problems in the home distorting your reasoning and behavior?
- (8) Will you permit your ambitions for the future to be influenced by a parent who is drinking?
- (9) Have you become less religious through living with an alcoholic?
- (10) Would you marry an alcoholic?
- (11) Have you experimented with

alcohol yourself?

- (12) Have you learned to detach yourself emotionally from your parents' problems without detaching yourself from your parents as individuals?
- (13) Do you spend enough time and interest in Alateen affairs to replace resentment and self-pity?
- (14) Do you believe that Alateen "helps those who help themselves"?
- (15) Can other people's problems help you understand your own?
- (16) Can your attitude influence the other members of your family toward accepting the problem?
- (17) Can YOU strengthen your family circle?
- (18) Can you be happy in your home if you apply the knowledge you have derived from Alateen meetings?
- (19) Has Alateen deepened the affection and understanding between you and your alcoholic parent?
- (20) What things in the program FIRST helped you and what has CONTINUED to help you most?

These questions could well form the basis or round-table discussions, using only one or two per meeting, or they could easily be related to the Twelve Steps to form a lively springboard for delving into basic Alateen attitudes and problems.

Since the first Alateen group was formed in California in 1957, many questions have poured into Headquarters from puzzled members. These questions fall into a pattern of typical problems needing practical answers that have already worked. Perhaps some of them may help you solve your own week-to-week difficulties.

THE SPONSORS

Al-Anon, AA and Alateen members themselves seem to agree that a sponsor (or advisor or counselor) is a necessity, and that the right one can be a tremendous help. Equally accepted is the concept that the advisor should NOT be a parent of ANY member of an Alateen group. A very real question arises as to how much the sponsor should participate in meetings, and how much — he or she — should "guide" the group. Most 'teen-agers want to run their own show and turn to the advisor only for help in specific

(Continued on page 5)

Alanons: Tight Santa Rosa Schedule

A busy schedule was experienced by Alanon delegates attending the Northern California Conference of AA at Santa Rosa, Saturday and Sunday, May 27-28. Serious business commenced at noon Saturday with a discussion concerning Alanon literature for Hospitals and Institutions. With John C., San Jose, serving as chairman, delegates authorized the purchase of needed literature.

Jean S., who served as an observer at the recently-held National Alanon Conference in New York, gave highlights of the N.Y. meeting. She pinch-hit for Helen Balder, Alanon State Delegate, of southern California. Helen was unable to attend.

20th Anniversary Soon

A banquet and dance highlights San Jose's 20th Anniversary to be held Saturday, June 17, at Mary Ann Gardens.

A sumptuous dinner at \$3.50 per person will be served from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A live orchestra has been engaged to provide danceable music from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Deadlines for tickets is June 10. AA's throughout Northern California are invited to attend.

(Continued from page 4)
problems.

"SPONSOR TROUBLE"

Sponsors, very much like parents, vary a lot; some of them are such a wonderful combination of inspiration and friendship that Alateen members welcome their presence and advice.

Other groupings, with the best intentions, tend to direct too much and talk too long and too often.

If Alateen groups are having "sponsor trouble" it is suggested that they call a business meeting minus the sponsor and take a moral inventory of the group's attitude and behavior. Are their suggestions and ideas really good but do you prefer to make your own plans and decisions? Re-read and study the Twelve Steps and particularly the Twelve Traditions. Very likely some of the answers to problems may be made clearer.

If this procedure doesn't seem to answer the group's problems, it is perfectly reasonable to request another AA sponsor or one from another Al-Anon group.

JUNE THEME

Alanon delegates re-convened at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the general theme of the June Alanon Conference "Rebuilding Family Relations Through Alanon and AA." A tale by Tolstoi was recited by Rhoda R., Palo Alto, wherein the famed author used "faith and patience — compassion and willingness" to illustrate the pattern decreed for us by our Higher Power to provide a fulfilled life.

ALANON HONEYMOON

Ray C. spoke of family rebuilding with the sober alcoholic stressing that the Alanon partner goes through a "honeymoon" period similar to that of the AA. They must be prepared to conquer old and new resentments as time goes on, especially as the AA mate becomes more and more involved in AA activities.

CLOSED WORKSHOP

On Sunday morning, two Alanon meetings at 10:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. First session was again devoted to the Family Rebuilding theme with emphasis on the practice of Alanon principles and the need of regular meeting attendance to provide a solid foundation for renewing a well-ordered and harmonious family life.

Second meeting, a Closed Workshop, was devoted to exchanging ideas on ways and means of making group meetings more effective. Rhoda R. contributed several useful ideas, among them:

Beginners were given a list of suggested reading including the Big Book, and "Living With An Alcoholic." The group was divided into

Beginners Sections with leaders changed after four meetings preventing too much personal dependence upon group leaders. For beginners with a "few more twenty-four hours" than others, sections were formed for Inventory Study and Spiritual Aspects of the program.

OTHER IDEAS

One of the Sacramento groups has Alanon and AA groups meeting the same evenings with a pot-luck supper. After dinner, AA's and Alanons split up for separate meetings.

This would not work, another delegate reported, inasmuch as in her group most of the Alanons still had practicing alcoholic mates.

Donna-Lee said that holding numerous special beginners' meetings had been successful in her area.

Jean S., told the assemblage that San Jose Alanons and alcoholic women held several luncheon meetings annually. These affairs brought about mutual understanding and friendships.

Daytime Alanon meetings were suggested by Virginia W. She said that for many reasons, some women are unable to attend nighttime gatherings. San Mateo reported they already had such a group with good attendance.

Workshop adjourned with delegates claiming session had been rewarding and helpful.

ALANO CLUB JUNE DOINGS

Wilma P., S.F. Alano Club, reminds those who may have forgotten that a bridge game and tournament is held at the Club, 414 Grant Ave., each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.

Wilma listed the Club's major events for June, as follows:

June 24—A dance with the Mello-Daires providing the music.

June 30—June AA Birthday Parties will be held from 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Coffee Cake — Dancing. Everyone is invited to join the festivities honoring those that celebrate "birthdays" in June.

June 25—2:00 p.m. Drawing for officers of the Breakfast Club.

100 Attend Marysville's 14th Birthday

Marysville Group of AA held its Fourteenth Anniversary, Wednesday, April 19, at Alicia School, Linda, near Marysville.

Among the more than 100 present was co-founder of Marysville Group Doc R., and Hugh R., and Loren J., the group's first two "babies."

Hugh R., chairman, noting that the evening's Guest Speaker had not arrived, asked Tom of Oakland, Walter McC., Sacramento, and Floyd B., Roseville, to pinch hit. They did. The first two had completed their talks and Floyd was in the middle of his splendid talk, when in walked the "absent" Guest Speaker, Father Jim. He had been delayed by a Bay Bridge accident.

The pinch-hitter's talk was so good that the late-comer accused him of stealing his stuff, an "even the poem I intended to close my talk with" moaned Father Jim in mock anguish.

The three pinch-hitter's and Father Jim's talks were of such superior calibre that all have been taped.

A variety of birthday cakes were served at refreshment time along with other goodies and mucha mocha.

SPAGHETTI FEED

The First Birthday party of In Between Fellowship was held Saturday, June 3, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the group's eastbay headquarters, 4710 East 14th Street, Oakland.

Piece de Resistance (or the main Event, to you, Buster) was a sumptuous spaghetti dinner followed by the cutting of a gorgeous birthday cake with a single candle adorning it.

Jim and Jane O'T., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, were guest speakers.

Incidentally, Marian F., secretary of In Between Fellowship, reminds readers of Good News that In Between has an Every Sunday Breakfast at 4710 E. 14th Street, Oakland, at 7:00 a.m., with a meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Dunsmuir Note

The following note from up north addressed to Rollin W., business manager, Good News, is printed simply because it shows action and progress hardly ever ceases among AAers. Brief note is from Charles L., secretary, Dunsmuir Group. Charley writes:

Thanks for sending the five copies of Good News which were gratefully received and put to good use.

Yes, we would appreciate the May and June issues as they can be of great help in spreading the good word of AA. I subscribed for a year for the group at Chico, last Fall. It has been coming O.K.

How much would it cost us for five copies each month? We are a small group (6) and are somewhat financially limited.

However, we are receiving some encouraging nibbles lately; also have recently set up an Alanon Group in McCloud.

Would be happy to see any of you if you stop in Dunsmuir.

SOUPBONE ANYONE?

Dear Good News:

Sorry this (renewal of Good News subscription) has been delayed. Hope to square it up now. In and out of the hospital. Have to go back again and if anyone wants a special soup bone they can have it from me. They can't buy one like it as the bone will be taken from my stump in a couple of weeks.

Today being my 12th Birthday, I am grateful to my Downtown Group that "told me how" on May 17, 1949. I love them all and think many times of being "The Little Mother of the Alpine."

Many thanks to the "GuyUpstairs" and to all of you.

Magee (the Amputee)

Maggie Maloney,

Pittsburg, California

When sheer, raw courage is coupled with humor, however grim, it is a rare and unbeatable combination. — Editor

The North Highlands Group observed its fourth birthday January 6 . . . with a panel meeting in St. Stephens Presbyterian Church . . . on the panel were six speakers whose AA ages ranged from six months to fifteen years . . . thanks

Sacramento's 20th Anniversary

Central California Fellowship of AA is sponsoring a jolly jamboree in celebration of its 20th Anniversary, Saturday, June 17, starting at 8:00 p.m. Birthday party will be held in the Labor Temple, 2225 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento.

The gay shindig will be chair-manned by Ed P., now of Vacaville, and his wife, Helen. Ed is an "early bird" dating his membership in Sacramento back when AA was first introduced into California's capitol city.

Aiding him in arrangements is a committee of other old-timers including Alice and Floyd B., now of Roseville. Guest speakers are Jane and Jim O'T., San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship.

The Mello-Daires with Bus. D., wielding the baton, will provide the dance music from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. At 10:00 pm. the main lights will be darkened and dimmed color lighting effects will make for romance, and stuff.

Following the meeting, a smorgas-board type of buffet supper and a variety of soft drinks and good coffee, will be served.

The Sacramento correspondent reporting this shindig said, "the tariff for all this is \$2.00, with no "kitty" or gimmicks. Just a barrel of AA for everyone. Come On! Let's Go."

PICNIC

Helvetia Park, five miles north of Sacramento, will be the locale of Central California Fellowship's annual picnic and gettogether on Sunday, August 6.

Henry F., program and entertainment chairman, Central California Fellowship, said this outing is expected to surpass any other the Sacramento groups have yet put on. All the acts, entertainment, and other activities have not been engaged yet but will be announced in a future edition of Good News.

Henry's new address is 2228 O Street, Sacramento, California.

to By the Way, the Central California Fellowship's publication edited by Secretary Ruth G., for most of these items in Scattered Shots . . .

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DELEGATE REPORTS ON G. S. MEETING

A joint session of General Service, Panels One and Two, was held at the NCC in Santa Rosa, Saturday, May 27. Lloyd S., Santa Clara, chairman-delegate, Panel One presided.

Jim M., Sacramento, represented Bertha W., Avenal, Panel Two chairman, delegate, untalbe to attend.

A report on the 11th Annual General Service Conference held in New York, April 19-22, was made by Lloyd S.

BASIC SERVICE

"Willingness to Help" was the keynote of the Conference, Lloyd noted. He reported, "Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is the basic service the AA Fellowship gives. This is our principal aim reason for our existence.

"AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else, we ourselves, and those who have not been given the truth may die."

Lloyd also said, "There was an absence of fear for the future of AA in the N.Y. Conference. The delegates — know from experience this Fellowship can survive any foreseeable crisis if we adhere to its best principles".

"MATURITY" STRESSED

"Finally," he added, "it was a Conference of 'Maturity' — realizing the necessity of growing and working together as a Fellowship — disregarding petty differences — and concentrating on the unifying effect of service".

Many matters were considered during the 3-day gathering, and a special film edited at the Long Beach Convention, showing representative scenes, was shown to the delegates.

Matters of releasing the film for

Surf Group Selects

After having completed a full year term as Group Secretary, Florence S., has been succeeded by Tom C., Bill G., program chairman, Surf Group, announced last week.

For the benefit of the Central Office secretary, Tom's address is 355 16th Avenue, phone EV 6-6071, San Francisco. Please change this on mailing list.

NAPA ALATEENS

Formation of the Napa Valley Alateens was recently announced by Orpha M. and Gertrude K., co-sponsors.

The teen-agers reside in the City of Napa and meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 1200 Jefferson Street, Napa. Present plans call for an open meeting every third meeting in the month.

Prominent speakers will be invited to address the group at the open meetings, the sponsors said. And all interested AA's and their guests are invited, also.

presentation at area meetings was discussed, but was abandoned for reasons of anonymity.

NO PAPERBACK

Briefly, the matter of a cheaper, paperback edition of the Big Book was put over without action, but it was felt by Bill that many do not fully appreciate the role of the Big Book as the guarantor of the solvency of the General Service Office.

The Birthday Plan is still being used in many places. The Trustees have approved an arrangement whereby the royalties on Bill's books for AA will go to Lois if she outlives him.

Hospitals and Institutions groups are increasing rapidly, showing a total membership approaching 25,000. A new pamphlet, "Memo to an inmate" is now available in addition to much other new material.

The Convention went on record as favoring the holding of the 30th Anniversary International Convention in 1965. Toronto, Canada, was the most favored location which, however, is subject to review in 1962.

AA OVERSEAS

1,112 Groups, 17,737 Members

In a report to the 11th Annual General Service Conference (NYC, April 19-22) it was disclosed there is now 1,112 Overseas groups with a total membership of 17,737 men and women. This growth and development was reported by Ann M., at the Conference. Highlights:

FRANCE —

Establishment of an active group of approximately 30 members who were attracted by a series of leading articles in a leading French daily.

LATIN AMERICA —

Contact with approximately 250 correspondents who became interested in AA as a result of an article in a Spanish-language edition of READER'S DIGEST. (General Service Office has recently inaugurated a Spanish Newsletter, distributed to 108 Spanish-language groups and 17 Loners).

JAPAN —

Expressions of interest in the AA program on the part of a representative of the Osaka Mental Hygiene Clinic.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA —

Publication in the Afrikaans of a one-volume digest of three basic AA books, with assistance from General Service Office.

TRANSVAAL —

Publication of mimeographed AA material in Isixhosa language.

EAST AFRICA —

A pamphlet in Swahili is now available.

DENMARK —

Increased interest in AA resulting from publication of two articles in a leading magazine for women.

NEW ZEALAND —

Progress toward formation of an AA Council of New Zealand.

PILLCOHOLIC

It's better to be an alcoholic than a Pillcoholic — but better still — not take anything that comes out of a bottle. (from Alky Ally, official publication, Group 1, Denver, Colo.).

GSO Reaffirms AA Public Information Policy; Cites Its Need For Growth

Last year, local AA Public Information Committees were invited to share their experience with the General Service Office in order that GSO might have an overall picture of AA's public information activities. Today, more than 50 local P.I. Committees are listed with GSO.

They receive special bulletins and material from General Service Board's P.I. Committee, as well as the monthly Exchange Bulletin.

Some AA's may wonder: Why do we need a P.I. Committee? The answer seems to be that it fills a need — particularly where AA has grown. Usually, when a group gets started, the pioneer members take care of requests from local church groups, doctors, judges and others in the community who are interested in alcoholics and want information about AA.

PUBLIC SERVICE

As the group grows and neighboring groups are started, a committee to handle these activities gives local AA members a greater representation and voice in their public information service.

Our exchange of information suggests that AA members with professional experience in communication media and public relations, as well as those with AA service experience, can be useful on a P.I. Committee. Their term of service allows for rotation, in keeping with AA custom. And the committee is always directly responsible to the group or groups it serves.

POLICY REAFFIRMED

Last month, the 1961 General Service Conference reaffirmed AA's movement-wide Public Information policy which states:

"In all public relations, AA's sole objective is to help the still-suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him and those who may be interested in his problem our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol.

We believe that our experience should be made freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should reflect our gratitude

for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside AA are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcohol."

(Reprinted from AA Exchange Bulletin)

BOATING IS FUN

Serenity Fellowship Group of Napa is now conducting open meetings on Mondays at 8:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8:00 p.m., and on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Clara L., Napa group secretary, said "all you vacationers are cordially invited to attend any or all these meetings." And boating is fine up here, too.

Editor's note: Clara, we'll "pass the word." But boating is done on water. And water was used by us as "chasers." Isn't there a better come-on like Christian Brothers? It's up Napa way. We wouldn't touch. Just peek.

500 ATTEND EASTBAY 20th ANNIVERSARY

Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown couldn't make it and sent his regrets (see below) but more than 500 AA's and guests celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Eastbay Intergroup Fellowship in Oakland's Municipal Auditorium.

The big affair was held on Wednesday, April 19, with a galaxy of noted speakers including former Mayor Clifford E. Rishell of Oakland; Dr. Clarence Reidenbach, First Congregational Church; Dr. John R. Philip, State Department of Public Health, and Nick N., Eastbay Fellowship.

OUR JACK ATTENDS

Keynote address was delivered by Cliff W., Whittier and voted "highly inspirational" by the assemblage. Jack I., S.F. Inter-County secretary was guests chairman for the occasion.

Governor Brown, unable to attend because of his presence in Washington, D.C., on April 19, did the next best thing. He sent a warm message which was read to the gathering. His remarks set the tone for the Birthday Party.

REGRETS SENT

The Governor said: "I regret that I cannot be with you for the meeting of the Eastbay Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous but, as you know, I will be in Washington, D.C., on the 19th.

"I hope you will do me the favor of expressing to those present my deep sympathy for the work of Alcoholics Anonymous and my respect and admiration for all those who work through Alcoholics Anonymous to help others.

World Renown

The world is a better, and much healthier place since Alcoholics Anonymous has been at work and the pattern which you set in your work has spread around the world and has been used in hundreds of ways to help those in need.

There is nothing I can say about problem drinking that would add to what has already been said by members to members. What I can say is that I consider this to be our Number One health problem and I will continue to exert my influence and use my office to contribute to solutions in California.

May God Bless you all for what you are doing."

Sincerely,
EDMUND G. BROWN
Governor.

Jack H. of Chico is in the cancer hospital at the City of Hope, Duarte, Calif. . . . Velma I. of Sacramento's Round Table Group is seriously ill at her home . . . Fred G. and Bob G. of Sacramento's Group 3 were hospitalized in December, the former in the Southern Pacific Hospital in San Francisco, and the latter in Sacramento's Mercy Hospital . . .

Maurice and Nelli C. of Grants Pass, Ore., spent the holidays with their old AA friends in Sacramento