

# Good News



VOL. XI  
No. 2

Published Monthly in San Francisco, California  
By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

OCTOBER  
1962

## PROGRAM

### Fortieth Conference — Fall Session

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS

**Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7, 1962**

VETERANS' MEMORIAL BUILDING  
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1962

- 9:00 a.m.—REGISTRATION OPENS
- 11:00 a.m.—A.A. Meeting—Chairman: Cecile P., Santa Rosa  
Speaker: John M., Fremont
- 1:00 p.m.—General Service Public Meeting  
Co-Chairmen: Lloyd S., Santa Clara and  
Cliff J., Sacramento  
Guest Speaker: Jules P., G.S. Delegate, Los Angeles  
Question and Answer Panel: Stan W., Fairfax, Moderator
- 2:45 p.m.—Hospital and Institution Committee Public Meeting  
Chairman Casey P., Santa Rosa  
Guest Speaker: Harry Elkins, M.D., Medical Director,  
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Clinic, Santa Clara County  
Speaker: Patty T., Alameda
- 4:30 p.m.—Institution Workshop; Bud C., H. & I. Committee Chairman
- 5:15 p.m.—Hospital Workshop: Harriet H., Co-Chairman Hospitals
- 8:30 p.m.—A.A. Public Meeting — Chairman: Bill G., San Francisco  
Invocation: Rev. H. T. Ward, O.P., Pastor, St. Vincent's Church  
Address of Welcome: Judge Wallace W. Cox  
Chapter Five: Marion T., St. Helena  
Twelve Traditions: Jennie K., San Pablo  
Guest Speaker: Anthony F., Los Angeles
- 10:00 p.m.—Dancing
- 11:00 p.m.—A.A. Meeting — Chairman: Jess P., Pleasanton  
Speaker: Jim M., Salinas

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1962

- 9:00 a.m.—NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
  - 10:15 a.m.—Secretaries Workshop—Chairman: Tom O., Secretary,  
Oakland-East Bay Central Office
  - 1:00 p.m.—A.A. Public Meeting — Chairman: Eleanor H., Lafayette  
Invocation: Pastor Ernest Iden Bradley, Community  
Presbyterian Church  
Chapter Five: Millie J., Vallejo  
Twelve Traditions: Donna B., Vallejo  
Guest Speaker: Marion F., Los Angeles  
Vallejo Conference Committee, Rawson M., Chairman  
Co-Chairmen: Warren T., Carl S., Hazel L.
- FOR EARLY ARRIVALS —  
Friday, October 5, 1962, 8:30 p.m.  
A.A. Open Meeting — Vallejo Fellowship  
820 Marin St., Entrance on Driveway  
Speaker: Wayne P., Stockton

(Continued on page 8)

## AA Banquet

# HURRY! ONLY A FEW TABLES REMAIN UNSOLD

As we go to press, the number of seats that are not bought and paid for, to the Eighth Annual Banquet and Dance, shrinks like an erst suit in a Spring downpour. Only a few tables remain unsold.

According to Banquet Chairman John F., San Carlos Group, some 897 seats at \$7.50 have already been sold and the cash, checks and money orders has been banked and credited to the Banquet Fund. That means that a mere 100 seats, or ten tables remain available—with about three weeks before the Curtain Goes Up.

#### AA Honored

Demand for tickets is greater than in previous years and reservations have come in from as far away as Mexico and Canada. Virtually all nine counties of the Bay Area will be heavily represented and practically all of the remaining 49 counties will have one or more diners in attendance.

Sponsored by the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship of AA — this Eighth Annual Banquet and Dance—celebrates the 24th year of AA in San Francisco and the 27th anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Site of the colorful, "dress-up" affair is the lovely Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Palace Hotel, Saturday, October 27, starting at 7:30 p.m.

#### Committeemen

Keynote speaker is the veteran star of the famed "Queen for a Day" show—Jack B.—Beverly Hills Group.

(Continued on page 8)

## Hazel Aids Napa To Get Speakers

Hazel L., one of the important aides serving on the Vallejo October 6-7 Conference committee, finds time to aid and abet the Napa Fellowship in obtaining "outside" speakers.

During the month of October, Hazel has arranged for this talent line-up:

**TUESDAY, OCT. 2** — John S., South San Francisco.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 9** — Closed AA meeting. Also Alanons meeting.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 16** — Katy B., Alameda Group.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 23** — Closed AA meeting. Also Alanon meeting.

Tuesday, Oct. 30 — Panel meeting. All meetings are held at 641 Randolph Street, Napa, and all meetings start at 8:30 p.m.

Hazel reports she owes a great deal of gratitude to Napa, saying, "It took seven years and two towns and their combined groups to get me on the beam. Ergo, my allegiance to Napa is almost equal to that of Vallejo. The groups of both communities are very dear to me."

She further reports that Napa now has a Steering Committee with Dr. Ed. P. and Orpha M., sparkplugging things with the result that "Napa is going places."

Orpha has accepted the tough assignment of running the Coffee and Refreshment Bar at the Vallejo Conference.

## S.F. Alano Club Cancels A Dance

Since it is a truism (truism is a two-bit word for "lead-pipe cinch") that one cannot be in two places at one time, the San Francisco Alano club will not have a dance at its 414 Grant Avenue clubhouse on Saturday, October 6.

Instead, the club members will dance at the Vallejo NCC Conference, same night. However, on Saturday, October 20, it has scheduled a Surprise Dance Night with prizes and surprises — and the "Jumpin' Jacks."

On Saturday, October 27, it will hold its popular monthly AA Birthday Party and Dance.

## WHAT'S NEWS?

What is news? Actually it is anything that arouses mild-to-strong interest or emotion. It can be anything from a destructive typhoon in Japan to Jack Benny's toupee.

In AA circles it can be a birth, death, or marriage. (Leave the divorces to Winchell or Herb Caen.) It can be as simple as the moving of a group (however small) from one location to another—or even a change from Monday to Tuesday, or some other day; an appointment of a new group secretary. GOOD NEWS is hungry for short, "quickie" items. You do not have to be a reporter or writer to dash off the simple facts. Get 'em to Bill Scanlon, 2517 Mission Street, room 11, San Francisco, 10. The re-write, if necessary, will be done by him. But get it down on paper, now!

## New Groups in S.F. Fellowship

The September issue of the Secretaries Bulletin, issued by the Central Office of S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, lists the following group news:

### NEW GROUPS:

**Women's Discussion Group** — a closed group, meeting on Tuesdays, at 8:30 p.m., at the 1464 Club, 1464 Valencia Street, San Francisco.

**Santa Rosa Beginners** — a closed group, meeting on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Alano Club, 70 South "E."

**Friday Afternoon Women's** — a closed meeting that gathers Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room of the Grace Lutheran Church, Loma Verde and Waverly Streets, Palo Alto, Calif.

### CHANGES:

**Women's Lighted Lamp Group** — Has moved to Participation Hall, 1364 Valencia Street, San Francisco. Is now meeting on Monday evenings instead of Tuesdays.

**Mission Men's Group**—Now meets at 8:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. Same location.

### INACTIVATED:

**Peninsula Young People's** — Meetings temporarily discontinued.

## OHLHOFF HOUSE TO CELEBRATE

Annual Open House plans have been completed by members and friends of the Henry Ohlhoff House to celebrate its founding four years ago—in 1958.

On Sunday, October 7, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., the hostel, established by the Episcopal Diocese of California, will hold appropriate dedication ceremonies with Right Reverend Richard Millard Suffragan Bishop of California, conducting the services.

Founded primarily to "aid the healing of alcoholic men in body, mind, and soul," the Henry Ohlhoff House has given shelter to some 700 men.

Civic leaders, prominent businessmen and outstanding clergymen have been invited to take part in the Open House rites.

The Ohlhoff House Group of AA holds an open meeting each Thursday at 8:00 p.m. On Sunday, the Open House ceremonies include a special AA meeting with a panel of outstanding speakers. It starts at 8:00 p.m.

All AA members, families and friends are cordially invited.

## Upstate Activities

Eureka's a busy beehive of AA activity, and thanks to Millie B., some of these activities are now being acknowledged and reported. For instance, Millie is working a new beginners group and planning an AA blood bank in the Humboldt-Del Norte area. Also she reports, "a new Sunday afternoon meeting that gathers in the Eureka Alano Club, 401 'S' Street, has been started. New group meets at 1:00 p.m."

## Napa Visitors

Two carloads of AA members from Pleasant Hills Group travelled from their Contra Costa County community to make "neighborly visit" to the Napa Fellowship meetings.

Napa is apparently in the throes of acute growing pains because it is playing host to other visiting groups such as Martinez and Sacramento.

## International Meeting Set by Young AA People

What may be an important breakthrough in the world-wide study of alcoholism at a new, basic level—the younger alcoholic—could develop from the Sixth International Conference of Young People in AA.

The world-wide gathering will be held at the Hotel Wade Hampton, Columbia, South Carolina, May 31-June 2, 1963. The three-day conference is expected to be an inspirational, enthusiastic program dedicated to all alcoholics but primarily aimed toward the younger alcoholic.

Already dubbed the "Young in Heart in AA," the international gathering is expected to attract tremendous attention from all media throughout America and the Western World because alcoholism has become an almost "universal addiction."

Some thinkers who have given the problem serious study believe that "alcoholism may have to be attacked—through educational processes—at the 'teenage level'."

Reservations to the Conference are being accepted and the committee handling arrangements request that all inquiries for hotel accommodations be directed to Drawer X, Tryon, North Carolina (cq).

## New Alanon Group Formed in S.F.

The Civic Center Family Alanon Group is the newest organization in the growing roster of Alanon groups in the Bay Region. Lilian A., through the Family Alanon office, recently opened at 166 Geary Street, San Francisco, announced the first meeting will be held Thursday, October 18, at 12:30 p.m.

Group will meet in the assembly hall of the Church of the Advent, 261 Fell Street, San Francisco. Coffee and cake will be served but since it is a noontime gathering, some may wish to bring along sandwiches, too.

Son: "Daddy, what's an opera?"

Dad: "That's where some guy gets stabbed in the back and instead of bleeding, he sings."

## Back Porch Meet In Pollack Pines

Back porches have played an important part in the lives of Americans and many persons have fond memories of this friendly, screened-in area with several old but comfortable chairs and rockers in constant use, especially on warm autumn evenings with a harvest moon shining softly on the rambling roses growing over the door.

So its newsworthy to report that the Friday Evening Group of Pollack Pines now hold its meetings on the back porch of Lucille H., new secretary. She cordially invites AA's from all over the country to stop by and have a chat, a cup of coffee, and rest a bit.

Nostalgic yearning to again experience the complete restfulness and sense of peace that comes of sitting on a back porch may be a strong magnet which will attract many to Lucille's back porch meetings.

## 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and AA in Braille

"Alcoholics Anonymous," the "Twelve Steps" and "Twelve Traditions" are now printed in Braille and available from the General Service Office, New York City.

The Big Book is in three volumes and priced at \$7.50. The Twelve Traditions and Twelve Steps, printed as one book, is in two volumes, and priced at \$5.00.

The General Service Office is in touch with several blind members who like to correspond in Braille with other AA's. If you know of a blind member who wants to share this activity, write his name and address to GSO, P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station, New York City.

New York also requests that the word be passed that literature in Braille is available for blind members. Every blind person should know about this service and about these AA books, and that GSO will put one blind person in contact with another for purposes of correspondence.

## Carberry To Speak at "Show Case" Meeting

Plenty of talent—from the ranks of AA, and "outside" speakers—will highlight meetings scheduled for October by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship at the Central All-Groups' Friday night sessions held at Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Myrl G., the Fellowship's program chairman, corralled Sheriff Matt Carberry for the October 19 meeting and then came up with a complete roster of stellar platform performers from within our own AA Bay Region groups plus one from Visalia.

Carberry, Sheriff of the City and County of San Francisco, is well-informed on the complex problems involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of male and female alcoholics and was one of first penal administrators to initiate enlightened reforms within his jurisdiction.

The monthly schedule is as follows:

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5** — Paul G., Mill Valley, Marin Newcomers Group, and Clinton Duffy, former San Quentin Warden and now serving as executive director, S.F. Council on Alcoholism.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12** — Jim W., San Francisco H & I Committee, and Jim M., Mill Valley, Marin Stag Group.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19** — "Meek" M., Redwood City Group, and Sheriff Matt Carberry

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26** — George O'H., Palo Alto and Menlo Park Groups, and Ray W., Civic Group, Visalia, Calif.

Former Warden Clinton Duffy, a pioneer in state and national efforts to aid the suffering alcoholic, will talk on "Alcoholism and the Community." All meetings at 240 Golden Gate Avenue start at 8:30 p.m. The coffee bar is open at 7:00 p.m. Parking is available around the corner on Leavenworth Street. An elevator is in service to the Third Floor meeting hall.

Bob Hope: "President Kennedy is using Ike's old budget as petty cash."

**ANNOUNCING**  
**EIGHTH ANNUAL**  
**BANQUET & DANCE**

**Grand Ballroom**  
**Sheraton-Palace Hotel**  
Market and New Montgomery • San Francisco

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27th**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**GUEST SPEAKER: JACK B., Beverly Hills Group**  
**EXCELLENT CUISINE • DRESS INFORMAL**  
**12-PIECE ORCHESTRA**

**Tariff \$7.50**  
(including tax and tip)

Sponsored by S. F. Inter-County Fellowship of AA

## A Columnist Gives Advice On Drinking

This item taken from Alky Ally, official publication of Group One, Denver, Colo., is a reprint from one of Ann Landers' columns.

Dear Ann:

I took your advice 18 months ago and you solved my problem. But you created a problem worse than the one you solved. I'm sorry I listened to you.

My husband was a heavy drinker. He had a heart of gold but he could never quite make it home on payday with his check. You suggested AA. Well, it worked. He hasn't touched a drop in over a year, but I liked him better the other way.

He has become very tight with money—won't even buy himself a lunch. He walks to work to save bus fare. He wants me to account for every dime I spend, even though I work and earn almost as much as he does. He doesn't have a sense of humor any more and he isn't any fun. At least when he was drinking he was jolly. What do you say now?—signed—MAD AT YOU.

**ANN SAYS:**

I say you have a pretty short memory. I remember your letter well and it was pathetic. Your husband used to forget where he lived and you had to go out at night checking the saloons to bring him home. You were a nervous wreck and had a terrible time holding your job because you were up all night with him.

His drinking was beginning to affect his health and you were afraid he would lose his job because of absenteeism. And you're complaining because he isn't jolly? Now . . . you are the one who is SICK!

A hard-boiled AA member might also render the verdict, to wit: "Her Old Man may be on the wagon. He certainly ain't on The Program."

Editor

Two inmates were conversing in their well padded cell: "I've decided to buy all the diamond and emerald mines in the world."

The second considered this seriously for a few minutes and then softly murmured, "Don't know as I care to sell."

## Is Half as Good as Whole Sobriety?

It was quite a shock to hear a visitor argue quite sincerely that in his opinion if AA kept an habitual drunk sober half of the time, it deserved just as much credit as if the patient remained sober all the time. He used such platitudes as "Better to have tried and lost, than never to have tried at all," and "At least he was sober SOME of the time." The attitude of this member seems to be getting rather prevalent among too many people, it is something to think about for all of us. Are we relaxing too much in the maintenance of high principles?

## Breakfast Group Welcomes Visitors

Nancy L., new secretary of the Sunday Morning Breakfast Group that meets each Sabbath at 12:30 p.m. at the S. F. Alano Club, third floor, announces that visitors and newcomers to AA are cordially welcome at their Sunday gatherings.

Says Nancy: "Newcomers who are seeking a stimulating discussion may find it here. The format consists of 15 minutes devoted to the beginner and the balance of the hour to discussion of one of the 12 Steps."

For people who work nights, the Sunday Morning Breakfast Group fills a real need. The San Francisco Alano Club is located at 414 Grant Avenue, corner of Bush Street, in downtown S. F.

## Hungover, Bud? Put 13 Black Pins in Cork

New York—An exhaustive survey carried out by scientists at the Yale Center of Alcoholic Studies has exploded every myth of the hangover cure, say United Press International.

From the boiled cabbage the ancient Egyptians used to eat to the ice pack of today's victim, they dismissed every pet theory on the hangover cure as just another delusion.

Dr. Leon Greenberg, the director of the center, said eating food before drinking could lead to an even WORSE hangover.

**"If you have dinner before drinking you have to imbibe twice as much to get that glow and a hangover twice as bad will follow.**

"And glass for glass, beer will give you as much of a hangover as whiskey, probably more," he added.

"But to really risk a king-size hangover I nominate gin because the usual flavouring in gin is oil of juniper and many people are sensitive to it."

Dr. Greenberg said hangover cures had been tried from prairie oysters, yogurt, a combination of bungleweed, fever rot and wild lettuce leaves to wild sage leaves. One of the most "charming" customs comes from Haiti.

**"The suffering native puts 13 black-headed pins in the cork of the bottle he drank from — and this voodoo is supposed to render the 'spirits' helpless.**

"But it is no more useless than the other so-called cures," remarked Dr. Greenberg.

## 75 Attend Meeting

The Central Service Committee of Humboldt-Del Norte reports it held a highly successful meeting Saturday, September 8, in the Eureka Veterans Memorial Building, 1020 H Street, Eureka, Calif.

Some 75 persons attending heard Casey P., Santa Rosa, deliver an inspired talk. Meeting was arranged by Lloyd S., Coastal Panel One Delegate.

## MOURNED

Elizabeth "Betty" G. died last month, leaving a legion of sorrowing relatives and friends on both sides of the Bay. She will be remembered particularly in San Francisco AA circles for the great work she performed as an employee of S.F.'s Central Office, where she did heroic spadework in urging and creating many women's groups in addition to her daily office chores.

Her "quality" surpassed even her AA "quantity" as demonstrated by one of her last earthly acts. Immediately prior to her lamented death which she knew was imminent, she sent a contribution to the Fellowship — in gratitude!

## Q and A Panel to Highlight Alanon Meeting Oct. 17

The Avenue Alanon Group has slated another Question and Answer session by popular demand.

On Wednesday, October 17, at 8:30 p.m., a team of three non-alcoholic Alanon members and a trio of AA members will compose a six-man panel that will attempt to answer written questions submitted from the floor.

Murrel S., Avenue Alanon secretary, said this annual gathering has gained a growing interest within Alanon and AA groups throughout the Bay Area because it permits shy or backward members of Alanon to obtain satisfactory answers to vexing problems that they would find difficult to get enlightenment upon except through this direct method.

The AA panelists are Harriet H., Tommy H., and Harold S. The non-alcoholic Alanon panelists are Dorothy H., Minda L., and Dorothy V.

Avenue Alanon holds its meetings in the auditorium of St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, one block off Market Street, with good bus and streetcar service.

## 86 Gay Aridians At Fall Meeting

The nomadic Gay Aridians of Puna Aloha held their September 15 meeting in the Parish Hall of St. John's Episcopal Church, Stockton.

Lillian G., Stockton, served as hostess for the gathering ably assisted by two score other Gay Aridian members of Stockton. Attendance of 86 was drawn from the area bounded by Marysville, Fresno, Monterey, and San Francisco — representing 17 different towns and cities.

### "Fear" Topic

Co-chairman of the meeting was "Tex" a non-alcoholic gal from Alameda who lead a discussion on the topic "Fear." Some 45 others entered the discussion from the floor, and, naturally, 45 versions of the keynote subject was aired. The discussion period consumed two hours, including the "coffee break" that closed the interesting gathering.

This group does not pass the hat at its meetings. Financial support of its group functions and share in the Caribbean Crusade is largely obtained from a Book Raffle which includes alcoholic books and "pink elephant" items contributed by members.

### Lady Godiva

Winner of the last prize at the Stockton meeting almost ended in near-tragedy. A dedicated "dormant drunk" from a large neighboring city—she got her dress caught in her chair in her eagerness to claim her prize at the Prize Table—and almost had to abandon dress and chair. The prize? a lovely bottle of perfume. And if the disrobing act went any further, might have been dubbed "Her Sin."

A short business session wound up the evening. One of the major decisions: to shift the Gay Aridian Bulletin from monthly to "every other month" publication basis.

It's "live" circulation mailing list includes 39 different countries and islands.

It isn't often that anyone kisses the bridegroom at the wedding reception but the bride's father often must feel like doing it.

—Salinas Californian

# THE FIRST CALL

By Tom C., Albany, Calif.

The telephone rang and when I heard Brian's voice I instantly thought that he called me to attend a meeting with him. But instead, he asked if I would make a call with him? A call? Me, who was a novice to AA, whose feet were not yet wet. Me with only a month of sobriety, thirty days of AA, a month of rediscovering life anew, but due mainly to the fact that I had deliberately avoided alcohol, walking in some cases blocks out of my way so that I would not pass a familiar bar or liquor store.

"You have to start sometime," Brian's words crashed through the wall of my thoughts, penetrated my fears and I agreed to accompany him to a scene where I knew liquor would exist—the demanding mistress would be there and once again, would be trying to win back my love, tempting and teasing me back to her bosom, draining me entirely of my hopes, ambitions, destroying my sobriety.

## Gin and Vomit

And the scene was as I had imagined. But it really did not take much imagination, for much of my life had been spent in similar scenes. A room filled with the stench of gin, beer and vomit, tobacco and human perspiration. A room suspended in space — where time and life had stopped.

**How appropriate—a clock on the mantle was not running, the newspaper on the table which was unread was ten days old, letters lie unopened, dishes stacked high in the sink, the toilet remained unflushed.** The only activity this room had seen for more than a week was the process of procuring bottles of liquor from the liquor store a block away—removing the cap and draining the contents of the deadening fluid. Why is it man will not drink embalming fluid, poison, cleaning bleach or ammonia and yet think nothing of releasing alcohol into his system?

## "I Need Help"

The young man, Jack K., was my old self standing before me, trembling, nervous confused, and though he had been drinking for days, dying for a drink, but now embarrassed to take one, for he had called for help, made a sincere effort to get at the root of his trouble, and knew that

he would look ridiculous should he drink before us.

"I need help," he said, "and I need help so bad, so I called AA."

**Little did he realize how wise he was. How I envied him and wished that I had taken this step earlier—before I had lost my wife, and the only thing important to me.**

For an hour Brian and myself briefed the young man on AA and related our own sad encounter with alcohol. We took him to his first meeting, and even though he was in a drunken stupor, each speaker said something that gave him an injection of sobriety.

## The "Secret"

He was stimulated and wanted more AA and planned to go to meetings. And I felt good inside for making a small assistance in helping this fellow alcoholic. It was at this point that the true value of Alcoholics Anonymous struck home to me—you have to give of yourself, to lend a helping hand to maintain your own sobriety, your own sanity. You have to keep someone else sober in order to protect your personal sobriety—it comes back to you, like love. You have to give of your love freely and completely to have it returned. The whole secret, that is not really a secret, you have to give—before you can receive.

## The First One

When you think of taking the first one ask yourself—"Is it easier to stay sober or is it easier to sober up?" Do you want to keep your self-respect or take a chance on trying to regain it again?

Do you want to be loved or do you want to be pitied? Is there just ONE valid reason why you should drink again? The answer is NO.

## Letter Stresses Friendship Need

August 14, 1962

Editor,  
GOOD NEWS,  
San Francisco.  
Dear Bill:

I have read your "Good News" for several months and I think you are doing a good job.

I am not writing to criticize AA or anyone else. I came to AA in 1945, and I was a broken person. In more ways than one. So I owe a lot to AA.

I was active in AA for 15 years and when my last relative passed away, I left the home I had and came West. Now, for the last two years I have travelled the West Coast and have been to a hundred meetings. I always make one a week, some place.

I have found very few groups that seem to be interested, or have time, to talk to strangers. The smaller groups are the best to go to. They seem interested in everyone there.

Next time you go to a meeting, notice the stranger sitting alone. You will be surprised how many you see.

Alcoholics that are not drinking are shy and backward. They come to meetings because they want someone to talk to—or to help their cause—which may be big and many.

Maybe if they find a willing ear they feel they are getting something out of AA. Perhaps you can call this to the attention of the Group Secretaries. It may help some.

Yours truly,  
Andrew M.

## Old Poems Never Die: They Mellow

"The wonderful love of a beautiful maid; the love of a staunch, true man;

The love of a baby, unafraid—have existed since time began.

But the finest, tenderest, sweetest love, (Even greater than that of a mother)

Is the beautiful, passionate, infinite love, of one poor old drunk for another."

(This bit of dogged doggeral is by Anon and is for the edification of younger people.)

*Good News*

Published Monthly in San Francisco  
By the Northern California Council  
of Alcoholics Anonymous  
Address all letters to GOOD NEWS  
166 Geary Street, Room 79

San Francisco 8, California  
Subscription Price — \$1.20 per year



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**Santa Clara Group Meetings Held in Swank Restaurant**

The Fair International Gourmet House that boasts eight "swish" restaurants—Mexican, Italian, Hofbrau, Barbeque, Chinese, Doughnut Shop and Candy Shop—also houses the Santa Clara Friday Night Dinner Group.

For a dinner-meeting AA group, this setting is appropriate—if not ideal.

The Gourmet House is located in the Moonlight Shopping Center, Bowers Avenue and El Camino Real, Santa Clara, and the Friday Night Dinner Group starts gathering for their weekly meeting at 7:00 p.m., in an air conditioned room. How fancy can we get?

The Men's Alanon Group also meets in this gourmet's paradise on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., and also taking advantage of the air conditioning (and fine food aromas) is the Santa Clara Breakfast Group which meets every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

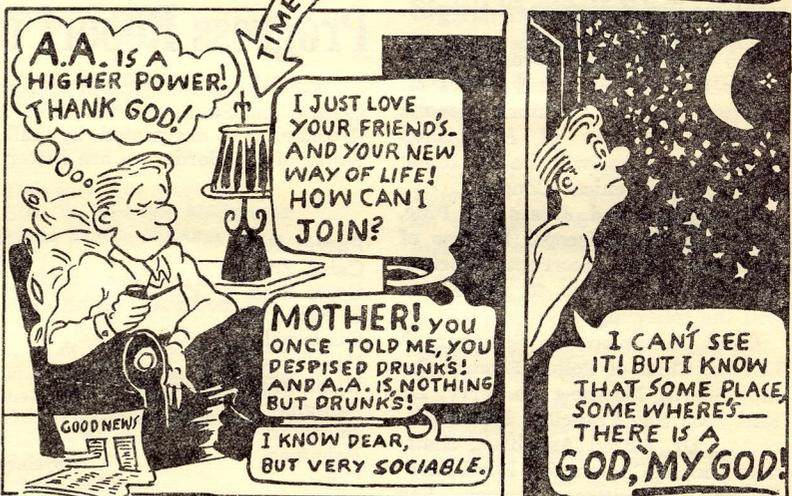
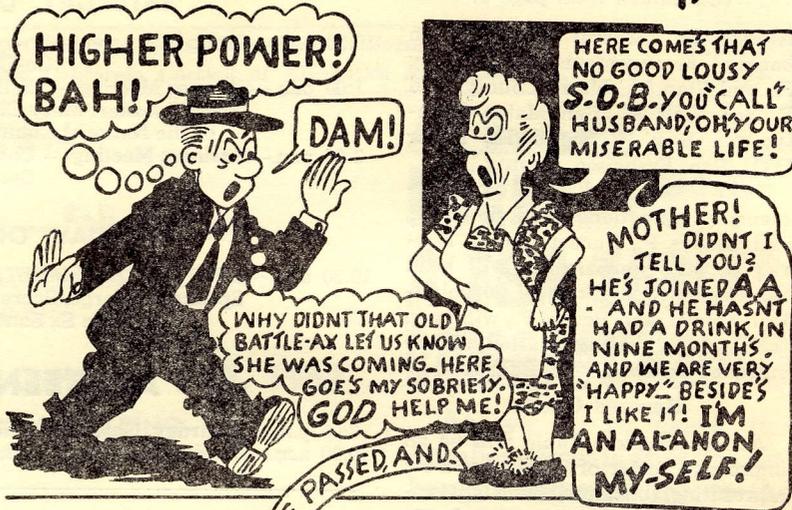
We trust that none of these members are on a diet.

**Big Annual Outing**

The people who are affiliated with the Humboldt-Del Norte AA Groups turned out in large numbers to attend the 2nd Annual Picnic, held Sunday, September 9, at Requa.

Big hampers filled with picnic goodies, excursions on the Klamath River, swimming, boating, fishing, and plenty of wholesome outdoor fun highlighted a lovely day-long outing. A capacity crowd attended, Millie B., our Eureka correspondent, reports.

**THE ALKY AND THE HIGHER POWER** by PETE



FAITH IS TO BELIEVE WHAT WE DO NOT "SEE" AND THE REWARD OF THIS FAITH IS TO SEE WHAT WE BELIEVE. — ST. AUGUSTINE —

**The Epitaph of Skid Row**

It is so crowded that it brings to mind a modern day freeway, but only in reverse, for these men are in no hurry to get to no particular place. They shiver and hunch their shoulders from the cold air. The neon lights from bars and pawn shops fall upon their frames, death masks, faces bloated by alcoholism, haggard maps of misery. Hungry eyes shuffling by, aware of the police cars cruising the area. Music calls to them from the dives and the whiff of alcohol tempts them. Life is a mystery, strange beyond all telling. And Americans everywhere are drinking, more than ever. Today they are buying liquor in grocery stores, drug stores and package stores—how many of them are unaware that someday they will be saying: "If only I had never drank—" the epitaph of Skid Row.

Tom C., Albany, Calif.

Doctor: "You have acute appendicitis."

Mary: "Listen, I came here to be examined and not to be admired."

MORE ABOUT

**S.F. BANQUET**

(Continued from page 1)

Aiding the General Chairman on banquet arrangements are Dorothy H., and Stan W., Marin County; Ted F., and Walt W., San Mateo County; and Sam P., Sigrid H., Roger O'D., San Francisco County.

Table Decor and floral arrangements will be done by Evie McD., and Gladys P., Sunset Group. Harriet H., and Barbara B., will head the Hostess Committee of 30 volunteer women, and Bernie F., will keep traffic from getting snarled at the entrance to the Grand Ballroom.

**Honored Guests**

At the Speakers Table will be an impressive roster of dignitaries from representing, business, civic government, medical profession, the clergy, and the judiciary.

The Catholic Archdiocese will be represented by Reverend James M. Murray, general director, Catholic Charities, in lieu of Archbishop McCucken, who will be in Rome for the Eucumenical Congress.

**Right Reverend James M. Pike, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California will interrupt important administrative work to attend, as will the following:**

Chief Administrator Sherman P. Duckel, Chief of Police Thomas Cahill, Sheriff Matthew Carberry, Dr. Ellis Sox, San Francisco Health Director; Dr. Alfred Auerback, chairman United Community Fund Alcoholism Committee; former San Quentin Warden, Clinton Duffy; Judges Leonard Thomas of San Rafael, and William Cox of Vallejo; AA friend Bob Flippin, Judges Frank Rose of San Mateo, Emmet Daly and Gerald Levin of San Francisco; Dr. Nevitt Sanford and Dr. W. M. Jellinek, both executives of Stanford University's Center for Human Relations, and Cliff Engle, KFRC's chief announcer.

**Ollie & Larry**

Ollie O. (formerly Ollie L., before she married Larry O., one-time manager of First Step Home, Vallejo), is now cozily ensconced with hubby at their new home, 1847 East 25th Street, Oakland, Calif. They want to correspond with, and share experiences with other AA's.

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**AL-ANON PROGRAM**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1962**

- 10:30 a.m.—Group Workshop—Chairman: Lois D., Chico  
Co-Chairman: Virginia C., Modesto
- 1:00 p.m.—Speaker Meeting — Chairman: Mattie, Vallejo  
Guest Speaker: Mary Clark, Carmel, West Coast Co-Ordinator of the National Council on Alcoholism
- 3:00 p.m.—Business Meeting — Chairman: John C., San Jose  
Secretary: N.C.C. of Al-Anon

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1962**

- 10:30 a.m.—ANNIVERSARY MEETING — Chairman: Andy A., Oakland  
Speakers: Marge, Sacramento; Esther M., Fort Bragg;  
Gene S., Santa Clara; Jules D., San Jose

**ALATEEN PROGRAM**

- 3:00 p.m.—Saturday, October 6, 1962. Alateen Meeting
- 10:30 a.m.—Sunday, October 7, 1962. Alateen Meeting

**Progress Report of Caribbean Crusade**

Figures on the growth and expansion of the great AA movement in Central and South America, Mexico — oftimes referred to as the Caribbean Crusade, and designated by Bill W. as the "AA Population Explosion" South of the Border — are better understood by these comparative tables:

|                | 1961<br>Members | 1962<br>Members |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Puerto Rico    | 320             | 380             |
| Canal Zone     | 64              | 68              |
| Costa Rica     | 223             | 249             |
| El Salvador    | 1,022           | 1,421           |
| Guatemala      | 10              | 52              |
| Honduras       | 7               | 327             |
| Nicaragua      | 18              | 17              |
| Antigua        | 0               | 10              |
| Barbados       | 2               | 10              |
| Bahamas        | 57              | 21              |
| Cuba           | 53              | 53              |
| Haiti          | 0               | 1               |
| Grenada        | 0               | 10              |
| Jamaica        | 23              | 11              |
| Aruba          | 20              | 54              |
| Curacao        | 15              | 20              |
| Tobago         | 1               | 3               |
| Trinirad       | 483             | 694             |
| St. Croix      | 0               | 1               |
| St. Thomas     | 6               | 24              |
| Mexico         | 126             | 235             |
| Argentina      | 137             | 307             |
| Brazil         | 108             | 485             |
| Chile          | 8               | 8               |
| Columbia       | 355             | 1,016           |
| Paraguay       | 1               | 1               |
| Peru           | 26              | 27              |
| Uruguay        | 20              | 21              |
| Venezuela      | 37              | 44              |
| British Guiana | 14              | 30              |
|                | <b>3,156</b>    | <b>5,690</b>    |

Figures represent a membership increase of 2,535 in one year or a percentage increase of 80 percent. In 1959 the number of groups in the entire area numbered 53, with about 1500 members. In 1962, the number of groups jumped to 152.