



# Good News



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

DECEMBER  
1964

## Clinic Chief Will Speak at 240 G.G. Avenue

Dr. Frederick Hudson, M.D., chief of the Presbyterian Hospital Detoxification Clinic, will be the non-alcoholic speaker at a Central AllGroups meeting sponsored by S. F. Inter-County Fellowship, at the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

**Friday, Dec. 4**—Lyle C., San Anselmo Group and Dr. Gil A., S. F. Inter-County Fellowship, will share the Speaking Rostrum. Barbara B. is chairman.

**Friday, Dec. 11** — Dr. Frederick Hudson, M.D., Presbyterian Detoxification Clinic; and Joe C., Parkside Group.

**Friday, Dec. 18**— Jim and Evelyn McD., Sunset Group, will do a husband-and-wife speaking stint. The pair are "old-timers" in Sunset. Jim is a co-founder of Sunset and a 20-year veteran in AA. Florette P. will introduce the husband-wife team.

**Friday, Dec. 25** — The Christmas Day program will feature Tom and I. Sullivan of the Woodland (Calif) Group. Walt W. will make the introductions.

Dr. Hudson is expected to explain the workings of the Detoxification Clinic and its close relationship with AA.

The "Showcase" meetings held at 240 Golden Gate Avenue are noted throughout the West as one of the finest AA meeting places. It has fine acoustics, padded seats, air conditioning, an excellent PA system, and boasts an elevator to the Third Floor meeting hall.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Coffee bar is open before and after meetings. Meetings start promptly at 8:30. It is an open public meeting and everyone is invited to attend.

## Alano Club Sets Gala Xmas and New Year's Programs

Members of the Program Committee of San Francisco's Alano Club are making plans for Yuletide and New Year holidays. The Club, located at 414 Grant Avenue at the "entrance to San Francisco's famed Chinatown" has become known to travelling AA's from all over the U. S. as *The Place to Go in S. F. . . .* and rendezvous where old acquaintances gather.

Here's what the Program Committee has planned for December, according to "Bus" D., chairman:

**SATURDAY, DEC. 5** - "First of the Month Dance". A wheel of a party with prizes, door prizes and dancing to the tuneful "Jumpin' Jacks".

**SATURDAY, DEC. 19** - Pre-Christmas Dance. Lots of prizes, and door prizes. An evening of real, holiday fellowship and fun with the "Jumpin' Jacks" providing danceable tunes.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 25** - Christmas Day "Open House". Buffet luncheon served all day from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00

**SATURDAY, DEC. 26** - December AA Birthday Party and Dance. This is the popular affair when all members whose AA birthday falls in December are honored with appropriate ceremonies. A dance is one of the highlights. Coffee and cake is served.

**THURSDAY, DEC. - 31** This is the Big One. A gala New Years Eve Party! Complete with dance and buffet dinner. Funny hats, noise-makers, balloons, serpentine, Hawaiian leis and all the accoutrements for a great Big Swingin' New Years party. Hall decorations are lovely and the "Jumpin' Jacks" have a medley of music to dance to and welcome in 1965 — But, BIG!

## New Group At Weed

AA members visiting in the Weed Calif. area are cordially invited to attend a new Weed group that was recently established. Roy A., secretary said the newly founded unit meets every Wednesday, at 8:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church.

## Surf Group Plans Christmas Party

A Yuletide Party will be held by the Surf Group of San Francisco on Monday, December 14 at 8:30 p.m.

The affair will be held in the Social Hall of the Community Church, 34th Avenue and Noriega Street. Coffee will be served from 7:30 p.m. and a buffet following the meeting.

Harriet H., assistant secretary, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship will be chairman for the evening and Jim M., Marin Stag Group, the principal speaker.

## A New Chairman for Area 10, H & I Named

Clem B., Arcata Group, was selected Chairman of Area 10 of the Hospital and Institution Committee, taking over the responsibilities of that office held by "Little Joe" Egan who passed away October 31. Area 10 covers Humboldt and Del Norte counties, and includes the Humboldt County jail dormitories for both men and women, and the Preston Adler and High Rock State conservation camps.

The new chairman is not new to H&I work, having come to this area about a year ago from the Coos Bay area. He has taken an active interest in this type of AA activity throughout his several years of sobriety.

## GIRLIE-GIRLIE SHOW FEATURES 3rd SATURDAY GROUP IN SACTO

By Don L., Carmichael

Breaking with a long-established precedent, the Third Saturday Public Speakers Group of Sacramento, will present an "All-girl show" with one notable exception, the non-alcoholic companion speaker.

The December 19 meeting will be hosted by the Wednesday Women's Group of Sacramento which meets at 12:30 P.M., each Wednesday at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2100 Mission Avenue in Carmichael. The host group provides the M.C., a member to read the A Prayer, another to read the 12 Steps and fourth member to read the Traditions. Thus, four females will grace the rostrum at the December meeting.

### ZOE TO SPEAK

With this, the Speakers Group has obtained as their guest A.A. speaker, for the first time in the Central California Fellowship, Zoe (pronounced Zoh-ee) P., a 20-year member of A.A. who is proclaimed in the Los Angeles area as the finest female orator in Southern California. Zoe is an executive in a large public relations firm and delivers her powerful message with polish, good humor and wonderful zeal for the fellowship.

An established policy for Unity by the Third Saturday Speakers Group is that of inviting an Alanon Group to serve refreshments. Good hot coffee and an array of donuts will be served by the North Area Alanon Family Group. The North Area Alanon Group meets each Mon. at 8 P.M. at the Unity Church, 4554 North Street in Carmichael.

### PUBLIC DEFENDER

The one exception to the all-female cast is Peter Mering, a member of the staff of the Sacramento County Public Defender. Mr. Mering, a young attorney, has had considerable experience with the problem drinker—the REAL problem drinker, both as a Deputy Public Defender and as a former Deputy District Attorney in Sacramento County. It was through these officers that "Pete" became interested in alcoholism and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, and in his words, "I've put them in the bucket in one job; and now work like mad trying to keep them out".

### "MY OLD FRIENDS"

Mering stated he looks forward to seeing "some of my old friends".

It promises to be a real fine "Evening of A.A. Listening Pleasure",

Saturday, December 19, at 8 P.M. at the Labor Center, 2525 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento. The Third Saturday Public Speakers Group invites you all to attend this meeting and show the women-folk we love their brand of A.A., too.

## ARA HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY XMAS TREE BENEFIT DEC. 12

The Annual ARA holiday bingo and dancing party for the benefit of the First Step Home Christmas Fund will be held on Saturday, December 12 at The Home, 1035 Haight Street, San Francisco.

The fun will start with a free bingo game at eight o'clock. "Sarge", the incomparable bingo caller, will give away many fine prizes.

Dancing to the music of Johnny and Freddie and Les and Rollin (and friends) will start at about nine thirty, with MC 'Mike' handling the festivities.

There will be a free door prize; 'Chick' will serve a buffet supper starting right after the bingo; coffee at all times, and miscellaneous entertainment.

An anticipated donation of \$1.00 per person toward the Christmas Fund will entitle the donor to participate in a drawing for a \$25.00 merchandise order and a \$5.00 turkey order. All are invited.

## ELECTION

Ed. H. Pittsburg, Calif., was elected Chairman-Delegate of Coastal Panel One, Northern California General Service Committee.

Jim A., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, was elected Secretary; and Bill A., San Jose, was elevated to the post of Treasurer.

The election was the highlight of an Assembly held Saturday, November 28, at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium in Oakland, California.

Bill G., outgoing Chairman-Delegate will write a detailed report on the Assembly in the next issue of GOOD NEWS.

## ZELLA De MELLO

SANTA CRUZ—Zella K. De Mello, 71, former resident of San Jose, died in a Santa Cruz hospital Tuesday, November 3.

Mrs De Mello had lived at 2372 Walnut Grove Avenue, San Jose, for 11 years until she and her husband, Jules, moved to a Santa Cruz retirement home a month ago. She had lived in the state for the past 41 years. She was a member of OES Chapter 59, Napa.

Other survivors include a son, George Harris of Chicago, and a step-daughter, Mrs. Agnes Henderson of Santa Clara.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Chapel of the John E. Dowdle Mortuary. Interment will be at Oak Hill Cemetery.

## Grupo Progreso

Grupo Progreso conducts all meetings in the Spanish language. It meets each Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. in the small meeting room attached to Christ Lutheran Church, 340 Irving Street, near 5th Avenue, San Francisco.

The new all-Spanish unit was established in the Sunset District to accommodate the growing number of Spanish families that have settled in the area, that have asked for AA's help, the secretary of the new group said.

For an ideal Xmas Gift. 12 issues of GOOD NEWS costs \$1.20.

## Peninsula All Groups Elect Clay K., Secy

The moment the man was elected, he was given a job. That's the AA Way. Clay K., new secretary of the Peninsula All Groups was given a unanimous nod of approval by the electorate, and Joe B., elected assistant secretary. And, outgoing secretary John K. was given an ovation and a warm Well Done.

Then Clay was set to work mobilizing a speakers' roster for December. He did well. He came up with the following:

**Saturday, Dec. 5**—Charlie R., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship and Peninsula All Groups, is the speaker; hosting is the San Bruno Monday Group.

**Saturday, Dec. 12**—Eanas (Red) K., S. F. Inter-County Fellowship, is the speaker. Host group is Redwood City Monday Group.

**Saturday, Dec. 19** — Speaker is Margaret D., Palo Alto. The Sunday Nite Group of Brisbane will do hosting honors.

**Saturday, Dec. 26**—Harriet H., assistant secretary of the central office, S. F. Inter-County Fellowship will do the speaking chore while Wednesday Group of Palo Alto does the hosting.

Peninsula All Groups meets each Saturday in the beautiful auditorium of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, corner of El Camino Real and Baldwin Avenue in San Mateo, Calif.

Meeting starts at 8:30 p.m. and excellent coffee is brewed before and after every gathering with lots of arms-length AA.

## New Vallejo Group

Parkside Group, a new AA unit in Vallejo, Calif., conducts an open meeting every Friday at 8:30 p.m. in the parish house of the Friendly Baptist Church, 1838 Carolina Street.

Primarily an All-Negro group, it nevertheless welcomes all persons to attend their meetings regardless of race, color, or creed.

## EUREKA HONES UP CARVING KNIFE FOR TURKEY SPREAD

Another Yuletide is fast approaching, twenty-four hours at a time. All over the Christian world thousands of ex-drunks are joining with their "civilian" contemporaries in preparation for an annual season of joyousness, and reaffirmation of their faith in a Higher Power.

And it will be no different for A.A. members in the California north coast area, as big plans materialized at a recent intercounty fellowship meeting for the 1964 Christmas Dinner and meeting to be held Sunday, December 13 at the Eureka veterans memorial building, 1020 H Stret.

### SAINT MICK

"Brownie," of the Rio Dell group, who has all the physical attributes, sans white whiskers, of a real live Santa Claus, will again be general Chairman, and ably assisted by "Blackie" of the Arcata group as head man of the culinary responsibilities.

### SPIKED PUNCH

A social hour, "spiked" (we used to like that word) with an appetizer of hot cranberry-apple punch, will bring the members their guests together at 5:00 p.m. "Come and get it" will be sounded an hour later.

During and following the dinner, a full course turkey affair, a variety of entertainment is planned, topped off with a good old fashioned community sing of the better known Christmas carols.

### PANEL MEETING

And of course as always, an AA meeting will take up at 8:00 p.m. This will be a panel type meeting with the participants representing the various groups in the area. Dottie H. of the Tradition Group will chair this portion of the evening.

Other committee chairman selected include: "Brownie"-tickets; George W. and Jim D.-cleanup; Joe S. and Marvin N.-decorations; Win S.-entertainment; and Mercedes G.-hostess.

### EVERYONE INVITED

The Humbolt-Del Norte fellowship extends a most hearty welcome to all AA members from everywhere. Anyone planning on being in or near Eureka on the above date will find it most rewarding to include this annual AA activity in their plans for that day.

## "LITTLE JOE"

Many of us were shocked and saddened by the passing of "Little Joe E." of Eureka. Of course, we don't stop to realize that there must have been an urgent need for the services of Joe, or our Creator would never have taken him by the hand to lead him home.

"Little Joe" is best known for his activity in the Hospital and Institution Committee and has given the better part of his life in sobriety to helping others who were less fortunate. Too, Joe was closely associated with the Central Committee in the Eureka-Fortuna area and will be long remembered by all.

Joe is survived by Florence, his widow, who is also active in AA affairs and who, we believe, was the greatest single force in taking a man of small stature and making him into a really BIG MAN.

So-long, Joe.

—Bud C., Hayward.

## Anniversary For Sonoma Stag Group

December marks the First Anniversary of Sonoma County Stag Group.

Twelve months ago, the flourishing AA group was started by Jim C., Ed H., Bud T., and Frank T.

It meets every Monday at 8:30 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church in Rohnert Park.

Rohnert Park is a relatively new, thriving community near Cotati, Cal.

Dwight W. is presently serving as secretary of the Stags.

Give yourself a practical Christmas Gift. Twelve months of GOOD NEWS costs \$1.20.

# THE SECRETARY REPORTS

Quite some time has elapsed since your secretary of the Northern California Council has written a report for GOOD NEWS. This should be done and henceforth will be done more often.

I would like to discuss the annual Fall Conference in Fresno. This Conference was held on October 3-4. It is true that this was two months ago but it is felt that certain things should be brought to the attention of all AA members concerning this a future Conferences.

## WELL DONE

Thanks should be publicly given to the Fresno Host Committee for their excellent cooperation and handling of all the Conference matters. Esther, Joe and Jess were around whenever they were needed and it was one of the smoothest running Conferences that have ever been held. Max and Mary are to be congratulated also for the business-like manner in which they handled their individual committees. That Conference had the fellowship and warmth that every Conference should have and I am sure that everyone left with a wonderful feeling. Thanks again Fresno Host Committee.

## POOR ATTENDANCE

There was one disappointing factor about the Fresno Conference, however. The attendance was well below what had been anticipated and well below what should it have been. The Conference held in Fresno in March of 1955 had it least three or four times as many people as were present in October. Your Secretary has given this much thought and he asks your help in making any suggestions that you might have that would make the Conferences more enticing and induce more members to attend. What do we need? More meetings, less meetings, more discussion meeting, more panel meetings?

## SOLUTION NEEDED

Just what can we do program-wise to improve our Conferences to the point that all members will have the desire to attend. It may be that we, as individuals, and groups are not talking up the Conferences, that we are not "selling" them as we should. These Conferences are actually AA meetings on a regionwide basis. Why should our attendance at AA meetings fall off. We have more members now than we had in 1955. Why do we have a smaller attendance.

It can be understood why the attendance was small for instance in Dunsuir at the northern extremity of our area and in the least populated area. Fresno, though, in the southern extremity is in a fairly high populated area, yet there were not many more members in Fresno than in Dunsuir.

The Council is financially, in the worst condition that it has been in for quite some time. This is not a great worry but it is food for thought. The Northern California Council is one of our most important entities in this area. NCC formed the basis for the first General Service Meeting, the first Northern California Hospital Committee as well as forming the basic structure of AlaNon.

## NEXT NCC IN MARCH

The Northern California Council of AA IS and ALWAYS will be the most important service body in Northern California. NCC needs and deserves your fullest support.

Our next conference will be the Eighteenth Annual Conference of NCC. It will be held in San Jose on March 6-7, 1965. More will be forth-coming on that. Let's all make plans now to attend the Annual Conference in San Jose and make this the biggest and best ever.

Your Secretary,

Stan

## "Good Neighbor Sam" Does Good in Santa Rosa

Sam De L. accepted the appointment of acting as GOOD NEWS representative for the Santa Rosa area October 28.

Since that date, Sam has been a very busy citizen in behalf of GOOD NEWS — another "Good Neighbor, Sam", in fact, Without knocking himself out, Sam turned in:

12 new individual subscriptions  
One group subscription for ten copies

One group subscription for five copies

Additionally, Sam turned in various useable news items which appear elsewhere in this edition.

## Two Responsible Men Badly Needed

Two San Francisco men that have one hour per month to give are urgently needed as contact chairmen of the Hospital and Institution Committee.

Here's what the job entails: On the 1st and 4th Wednesdays of each month, a man is needed for one hour 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. to visit Psycho Ward 94 San Francisco General Hospital, 22nd Street and Potrero Avenue.

Two other fellows are already covering the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays. So, if there is some bored person who'd like to devote an hour a month to a worthy rewarding cause phone Bob, M., c/o AA Industrial Club, 16th & Gurrero St. UN 1-3676.

## Calistoga Joins

The popular resort town of Calistoga (Calif.) is now on the "AA map".

Effective, Monday, November 23 a new group was established. It meets every Monday at 8:15 in the Library Building, Blodgett Hall, Myrtle & Lincoln Avenue, Calistoga. Location is one block off highway 29 south of Calistoga's busines district.

Founders of the new group are five old-time AA members, mostly from St. Helena, who now reside in Calistoga.

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### Who Is Editor?

Members of AA are cautioned to observe anonymity, particularly at the level of press, radio, and TV. However a GOOD NEWS subscriber recently wrote requesting answers to two questions. Said he: "Who is the editor?" Also, "Since GOOD NEWS is an AA activity, I'm wondering if your paper ever puts out a financial statement? I don't remember ever seeing one. Do you agree that people in AA like to know what happens to their money?"

At the risk of breaking anonymity but fervently hoping that such recklessness will induce a flow of badly needed news items from places as Fresno, Stockton, Sacramento, Monterey, Eureka, Alameda County and in fact, everywhere, the editor is William J. (Bill) Scanlon, 405 Lakeshire Drive, Daly City, Calif.

Question Two is a horror Story and GOOD NEWS has a policy of keeping 'em to a minimum. However, Rollin W., promises to get out a statement after the New Year. He's business manager of the paper. But, be warned-it may prove to be a Alfred Hitchcock, financially speaking. Oh, yes. Neither the editor or Rollin receive a red penny of GOOD NEWS income. We get our rewards in helping to "carry the Message" via GOOD NEWS. It's a lot better than mere money, too. (The Editor)

### Anderson Succumbs

"Andy" Anderson, long-time member of AA and active in the affairs of the San Francisco Alano Club, died after a brief period of illness. He was widely known in Bay Area AA affairs and will be sorely missed. His good deeds were many.

## H&I BROAD-SIDES

"First things first" some new members for the "Big Meeting" that to my knowledge weren't planning on attending at the present time, though when the call came, they went. First there was little Joe E. from Eureka, a dedicated worker in hospital and institution work. Also the Area Chairman for the past two years until he was asked to resign by the committee up in Eureka though the H. & I. committee was unaware of this action until at the conference recently held in Fresno, Bill S. of Eureka told me of their action. But I'll always remember "Little Joe" as a sincere worker willing to go to any lengths to "carry the message".

### NO JOB TOO BIG

He traveled many miles during the many years of his sobriety in thinking and telling his fellow alcoholic "what he used to be like, what happened and what he is like today." Then there was Myrtle of San Jose another faithful worker over the years, that was so full of enthusiasm in discussing the details for the coming conference to be held in San Jose next March. And now she too, is gone. Which reminds me of the little lesson in the little "Twenty-four Hour a Day" book, "Am I living today as though it was my last day on earth? And I know that I am not.

### COMPLETE RECOVERY

Rosalie R. Secretary for the hospital and institution committee was unable to attend the conference recently held in Fresno. She too was ill and ended up in the hospital though she is home and feeling much better and gradually catching up with her correspondence. I talked to her on the telephone and she is feeling much better and should make a complete recovery provided she follows the doctor's advice.

### PINK CANS NEEDED

She also told me that the receipts for contributions from the pink cans are now in the mail so any group secretary that hasn't received theirs, please let her know. Also a little note to all area chairman that if they haven't sent in their schedules please do so as the time is real late for this and we except to have the schedules completed and ready for distribution at the General Meeting of Hospital and Institution committee held in San Jose come January. Which reminds me of what fine people we in A.A. are and it is when someone is in trouble or becomes ill that these fine qualities come out without any other motive than just trying to help (without being found out) I learned this when Rosalie Became ill and she had to go to the hospital.

### HELP OFFERED

I think everyone remembers Millie B. former secretary of the H. & I. committee who worked many hours putting the yearly schedules out for us. I received a letter from her offering to help out with the schedules if she could help this year which I think is a wonderful offer and I talked this matter over with Rosalie and sent Millie a letter on to her and through this column the whole committee wants to thank Millie for her kindness and thoughtfulness in wanting to help.

### YULETIDE GREETINGS

Christmas time is fast approaching and everyone will be sending greetings to one another and I think I should in behalf of the H. & I. committee send our very best greetings to the "Good News" for a job well done. To our fine editor Bill S. who has been most kind in helping to edit this column over the months. Then there is that lovable and faithful worker Roland W. who makes us ever conscious of the need for helping support the Good News by news items and subscriptions. To these fine people the Hospital and Institution committee send their seasons greetings for a job well done.

## Passing of Two Eureka Members Re-Affirms Need of Steady Faith

By Win S., Eureka Fellowship

"And 'to accept the things I cannot change'".

Little does one realize that it sometimes takes a great deal of faith in a Higher Power, and all of the spiritual strength that can be mustered together after six short years in the program, to cope with some crises which are, in fact, only a part of our every day living. This was brought home to me quite forcibly during the past ten days.

It began on Sunday morning, October 25, when I received word that a member whom I had sponsored four years ago had passed away during the preceding night. Why, I first asked myself, had this to happen?

### HARD TO KNOW

A man a few years my elder, George came to the A.A. program in about the same physical, mental and spiritual shape as did I; tongue in cheek, skeptical and quite controversial. But because of this self-identity, I became quite interested in his progress. George was a hard person to understand, in that he rarely showed any over enthusiasm about being sober. Even after sharing the table with him on his first and second birthdays, I failed to detect much in the way of progress.

### CONTROVERSIAL TYPE

George wasn't the type to engage in many of the local AA activities, but he always seems to manage to pose an argumentative question at many of the meetings I attended. At first his attitude actually "bugged" me, but I later found much food for thought in his inspired discussions.

### CHARACTER REVEALED

The day after George's death, his only son came to my office and asked if I would act as a casket bearer at the funeral. "You'll never be able to realize how grateful to the AA program I am", he said. "It was only during the last four years of his life that I really came to know my dad'. Yes, George had made great progress on the program, even though I didn't see very much of it.

And then, on the evening of Saturday, October 31, at the Eureka Alano Club Halloween party a phone call advised all of us that "Little Joe" had just died.

### "JUNGLE" FUGITIVE

"Little Joe," who would have started his seventh year of sobriety on this December 12, was wholly dif-

ferent from George. His story was that of a life on skid road and in the jungles, of canned heat and muskioddle and rub-a-dub, of stint in jails in many places on charges of being a common drunk-nothing else, except, possibly, for heisting an occasional jug of cheap tokay.

It didn't take many months of meetings before it became very apparent that Joe had acquired something he had never known before, and that he wanted to so desperately give it away to his "buddies" who were still going the same route he had been able to get off of. Hospital and Institution work became an obsession with him, and up until fairly recently, he had served as area chairman for the four institutional facilities in this area.

### NOT EGG-HEAD

Joe's meager education and lack of experience in the more "worldly" affairs were no obstacles in the pattern of life he had mapped out for himself. What he lacked in word expression, although his slow and deliberate delivery very rarely went without attention, was more than compensated for by the deep expressions of his heart. On the first working day after his death, I had inquiries from many of Joe's "buddies" "what happened"?

### NO PRICE TAG

And, again, I asked that same question of myself.

But I can think more plainly now. It is God's will, not mine, that has been done. So I thank Him now for having allowed me to walk side by side with George and "Little Joe" what they gave to me can never be replaced or given a price tag.

## Toronto Tour Faces Trouble

Unless 170 reservations, accompanied by a minimum deposit of \$30.00 for each reservation, are made on or before December 12, this year, the Toronto Chartered Plane Project will fall flat on its face.

This dire announcement was jointly made yesterday by Jim A., San Francisco, and Cliff J., Sacramento, co-chairmen, Toronto Chartered Plane Committee.

The whole project may have to be cancelled, they said, because reservations are so slow coming in.

There is no doubt there are plenty of members who will want to fly to Canada for the International AA Convention taking place in Toronto July 2, 3 and 4, 1965. But, the Committeemen said, there are not sufficient reservations on hand to meet the December 12 deadline.

Contract for the charter plane must be signed on or before December 15 and a deposit of \$2,865 made at the time of signing. The charter plane company stipulates that it must be guaranteed 170 reservations.

### COLLAPSE FEARED

GOOD NEWS goes to press before the results of the Oakland meeting of November 28, are known. But since only 10 reservations were garnered at the Sacramento meeting of November 14, it is obvious that Oakland and all the rest of Northern California must respond or the Toronto Tour will collapse.

Roundtrip costs \$171.50 per person. This includes one meal going, and one meal on the return flight. The fare includes transportation to and from the Toronto Airport.

Reservations at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, will be available to all passengers on the Toronto Chartered Plane Tour but it is emphasized that the plane fare does not include hotel room costs. Hotel room is an added expense.

### DEADLINE

The Committee is up against a (Continued next page)

## S.F. INTER-COUNTY BANQUET MAKES NEWS: IT MADE PROFIT

By Jack I., Central Secretary

This is the final report on the 1964 Banquet.

All things considered—illnesses which interfered with the program—the Banquet was a success.

The speaker, John A., recruited on extremely short notice apparently pleased the crowd, judging from the applause.

Publicity-wise, we had an excellent story in the Chronicle by one of the staff writers and our three press releases received wide distribution in the Northern California area. "Red" Kane performed impressively. Thomas Mellon, Chief Administrative Officer, delivered a warm welcoming address.

The only negative aspect was the size of the Garden Court, no longer large enough to accommodate all our people. We had to return \$450.00 actual cash received for ticket orders we could not fill; an unknown number of people phoned in for tickets, which were not available.

We will no doubt be able to arrange for facilities in the San Francisco Hilton next year. Theirs is the largest room in town; they can accommodate up to 2,000. We will not need this much space, but we could use 1250-1300 seats.

Of special interest, perhaps, was the statement in the Chronicle that ours is now the largest annual private banquet in San Francisco.

Our pre-banquet estimate was that we would profit by \$481.00. Actual net profit was \$681.86. Prebanquet budget: (exclusive of dinners) \$1285.00. Actual expense: \$1158.10.

Serving on the Banquet Committee were Millie B., Barbara B., Irene B., John F., Harriett H., Beverly L., Florette P., Sam P., Eanas K., and Bill S., editor, GOOD NEWS.

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simple problem of arithmetic: It must have a guarantee of 170 passengers — each of whom must pay a deposit of \$30.00 — by December 12. Balance must be paid on or before May 1, 1965.

Should it become necessary to cancel the project, all checks will be returned, uncashed, to the makers of the checks, shortly after December 15.

### Sonoma County To Be Feted Dec. 19

The Saturday Night Family Group will host the Sonoma County Inter-County Open Meeting, Saturday, December 19.

The important all-county affair will be held at the Congregational Church, corner of Silva and Humbolt Streets, Santa Rosa.

Eanas "Red" K. S.F. Inter-County Fellowship will be guest speaker.

GOOD NEWS is a swell Xmas Gift. A years subscription costs \$1.20

### Peninsula All Groups Sets Gala New Year Shindig

From the southern tip of the peninsula to its northernmost extremity all members of the Peninsula All Groups are making elaborate plans to "ring out the Old-Bring in the New."

The gala party is set for Thursday, December 31, from 7:00 p.m. 'til ? in the lovely auditorium of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Balwin Avenue and El Camino Real San Mateo, Calif.

Turkeys—hams—salads — cakes coffee and punch (?) by the keg or barrel is on the menu along with dancing, games and prizes.

### MISSION TRIANGLE GROUP RE-LOCATES

Mision Triangle Group, formerly at St. John's Church 15th & Julian has permanently established at 1364 Valencia St. San Francisco, Carol G. secretary, said.

### How'ja Like To Spend Xmas & New Year in Court?

Well, that's what some guys and gals in Santa Rosa are planning. Yep, Christmas and New Year group meetings in a judge's court.

But they've been doing it for a long time. And, Hizzoner don't mind one bit. In fact, he let's em.

Before we all get the Vapors, or something, the San Rafael Court House Group have arranged to hold its open Christmas and New Year meetings in the chamber of Judge Thomas in the San Rafael Court House, Fourth and 'E' Streets, Frank N., announced.

The group meets every Thursday in the Court House, he said.

### Concord Fellowship Schedules Meetings.

AA's thriving Concord Fellowship has scheduled another popular Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner for Saturday, December 5. The secretary also said that Concord member, Ken B. is in Martinez County Hospital, Ward D., showing improvement, but not yet out of danger. Speakers for the month, are:

**Friday, Dec. 4**—Harriet H., assistant secretary, Central Office, S. F. Inter-County Fellowship.

**Friday, Dec. 11**—Fred S., Encino, California, Group.

**Friday, Dec. 18**—Art D., Stockton Group.

No speaker is scheduled for Christmas, Friday, December 25, but a regular Open Meeting will be held, the secretary said.

Concord Fellowship meets at 8:00 p.m. at 2841 Willow Pass Road, Concord, Calif.

### Old Group Re-Named

Huntington Park is the new name for an old group. Formerly known as the "Fouth Step & Beyond" Group, it now meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Guild Room of Grace Cathedral, Taylor and California Street, San Francisco.

## THIS IS AA . . . ?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualifications for membership is that they can't hold their liquor and don't want to learn how.

It has no rules, dues or fees, nor anything else that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings the speaker starts on one subject and winds up talking about something entirely different and concludes by saying he doesn't know anything about the program except that it works.

The groups are always broke, yet always seem to have money to carry on. They are always losing members but seem to grow. They claim AA is a selfish program but always seem to be doing something for others.

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts, and pronouncements which everyone blithely ignores. Members who disagree with anything are privileged to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as though nothing happened and greeted accordingly.

Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born

and survive magnificently. Nothing in AA is according to Hoyle. How can it survive?

Perhaps it's because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves. God made man. He made laughter, too. Perhaps He is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things right no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe He is pleased, not with our perfection, but with our sincerity. Maybe He is pleased, not with our try to be nobody but ourselves. We don't know how it works but it does and members keep receiving their dividend checks from their AA investments.

It is smart to be sober. It is much easier, my friends, to STAY sober than to GET sober.

(Anonymous)

## Topic For Next Group Discussion

- 1—What is the basic purpose of the Group?
  - 2—What MORE can the Group do to carry the message?
  - 3—Considering the number of alcoholics in our community, are we reaching enough people?
  - 4—What has the Group done lately to bring the A.A. to the attention of physicians, judges, clergymen, and others who can be helpful in reaching those who need A.A.?
  - 5—Is the Group attracting only a certain kind of alcoholic or are we getting a good cross-section of our community?
  - 6—Do new members stick with us, or does turnover seem excessive?
  - 7—How effective is our sponsorship? How can it be improved?
  - 8—Has everything practical been done to provide an attractive meeting place?
  - 9—Has enough effort been made to explain to all members the need and value of kitchen and housekeeping work and other services to the Group?
  - 10—Is adequate opportunity given to all members to speak and participate in other Group activities?
  - 11—Are Group officers picked with care and consideration on the basis that officership is a great responsibility and opportunity for Twelfth Step Work?
  - 12—Does the Group carry its fair share of the job of helping Inter-Group? The Grapevine? G.S.O. Institutional Groups?
  - 13—Do we give all members their fair chance of keeping informed about the whole of A.A.—Recovery, Unity and Service?
- You'll probably want to add questions of your own.

## Recommended Term For Group Leaders

"Less than six months is too short—anything longer than a year is too long."

This was the general consensus of the Secretaries' Meeting that took place during the Fresno Conference concerning the length of time Group Secretaries should remain "in office" as leaders of AA groups.

After considerable debate, the most favored idea:

The group elects an assistant-secretary for six months. When the secretary's term is up, the group does not elect a new secretary. The assistant automatically becomes secretary.

But a new assistant is elected. This makes for a year term: six months as assistant, and six months a secretary. Thus, the secretary does not take office without knowledge of his duties.

## Rings and Tokens

In Tampico, Mexico, any member who brings in 12 new ones that stay sober gets a ring from the group. And in San Diego (Calif.) the Central Office furnishes Serenity Prayer tokens which any San Diego group may award to new members that remain sober for three months.

"It encourages people to join a group," Johnny M., central office secretary, reported in the July-August issue of the AA Exchange Bulletin.

