



Good News



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

FEBRUARY
1965

18th Annual Spring Conference Is Set For San Jose, March 6-7

The Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous will conduct its Eighteenth Annual Spring Conference in the Civic Auditorium, San Jose, Calif., Saturday and Sunday, March 6-7. Keynote speakers will be Jack B. well known radio and TV personality and Zoe P., veteran member of AA and for many years an active worker in Southern California.

Stan W., Secretary of NCC, said Chriss C. has accepted the important post of Chairman of the San Jose Host Committee and has already marshalled a very strong corps of active committee men and women.

As an indication that Chris has gotten the preliminaries well in hand and the Conference air-borne he announced the two-day affair will be kicked-off with a pre-Conference meeting on Friday, March 5, at 8:00 p.m. This "early bird" meeting he said, will be held in the San Jose Alano Club 1122 Fair Avenue, San Jose.

HAM AND EGGS

From that point onward, he added, "activity will reign at all hours until the Conference adjourns on Sunday at 2:30 p.m."

To emphasize that he was in dead earnest, Chris announced that an Annual Breakfast will be held in Civic Auditorium at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, March 7. Members of AA who have ever attended other Conference Breakfasts will recall them as happy, memory-filled affairs.

TOASTMISTRESS

A sumptuous menu is planned and the cost is \$1.75 per person. Elsewhere in this edition of GOOD NEWS is a Breakfast Reservation Blank. Wise convention-goers will make reservations immediately and mail them to the address indicated on the form. The number of tickets will be limited and they'll be issued on a First Come — First Served basis, Chris said. None will be accepted after March 1. An added Breakfast

feature: Myrtle V., Sacramento, will be Toastmistress.

BUSY SCHEDULE

In addition the Hospital and Institution — General Service Committee — The Alanon — and Alateens, will all conduct workshops, special sessions, business forums. All over the Civic Auditorium one group or another will be conducting outstanding programs.

On Saturday night after the huge Open Public Meeting — one of the real highlights of the Conference, another feature occurs: The Big AA Dance. At this affair business is forgotten and the evening is given over to gaiety and fun.

Registration Forms for the Conference will also be found elsewhere in this edition of GOOD NEWS. Stan W. and Chris C. jointly chorused, "Use 'em now! You'll be glad you did."

Napa Fellowship Speakers Named

A pair of top-notch speakers will be featured during February at Napa Fellowship meetings, Orpha M., secretary announced.

On Tuesday, February 2, Jack I., Central Secretary, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship guest speaker. On Tuesday, February 16, Paul G., Marin County, will be on the speaker's dais.

Meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. at the Alano Club, 1200 Jefferson Street, Napa, California.

Peninsula All Group Speakers

Speakers for the month of February were announced by Don M., program chairman, of Peninsula All Groups. Speakers and their respective host groups, are as follows:

Saturday, Feb. 6—Speaker is Cal D., South San Francisco Group. Hosting the meeting will be the Daly City Group.

Saturday, Feb. 13—Gene G., South San Francisco Group will have the speaking assignment; Palo Alto Thursday Group will be hosts.

Saturday, Feb. 20—Speaker is Helen C., Westlake Group with South San Francisco Group doing hosting honors.

Sat. Feb. 27 — Speaker has not been definitely set, and will be announced later.

Peninsula All Groups meets each Saturday at 830 p.m. in the lovely auditorium of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, corner of Baldwin and El Camino Real, San Mateo, Calif.

Flippin Honored at San Quentin

The 2nd Anniversary meeting of the Robert B. Flippin Memorial Group was held Saturday, January 23, at San Quentin Penitentiary.

The world remembers the AA Group at San Quentin for two principal reasons. One, it was the first penal group on Earth and is by far, the largest group in any Institution. Secondly, it commemorates the late Bob Flippin, who along with former Warden, Clinton Duffy, started the first AA penal group in 1942.

This San Quentin Group led to the formation of AA units in most state and federal penitentiaries throughout the U.S.

Plan Afoot to Give NCC More Zest and Life

Plans were mapped by the Northern California Council of AA to "generate more enthusiasm and thereby bring about better attendance at future NCC Conferences."

At a meeting held Sunday, January 10, at the San Jose Alano Club, reasons for attendance falloff was debated and preliminary plans for the Spring NCC Conference, slated for March 6-7, in San Jose, were blue-printed.

Delegates attending the Alano Club session were in agreement that NCC had been "somewhat at a standstill for several months." Appointed assistant secretaries to give the next Conference a blood transfusion or perhaps, a shot in the arm, were Bill G. and Cliff J.

ZONING PLAN

They were assigned the duty of dividing Northern California into zones. Strategy of this move is to split the northern part of the state into 12 zones with an equal number of Council Chairmen.

Zones will then be further divided into districts — depending on the number of groups involved — and will be represented by a District Council Chairman. For good coverage each Zone Council Chairman should have an alternate. To complete this "line of communication" the planners suggested that each group should have two delegates to NCC.

STRUCTURE OUTLINE

When this structure is completed, information pertaining to the Council will be mailed to Zone Council Chairmen for distribution to Group Delegates. The latter couriers in the chain would then make it their business to make suitable announcements at their own meetings.

"Hopefully," the planners said, "This should make for more enthusiasm and better attendance at each future conference."

Primary purpose of NCC, they said, is to offer an opportunity for ex-

New Director for Alcoholic Study Group Has Been Named

NEW BRUNSWICK, Jan. 13 — Dr. Milton Maxwell has been appointed professor of sociology in the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies and executive director of the Rutgers Summer School of Alcohol Studies.

Dr. Maxwell, now a professor at Washington State University, will assume his new post in July. He succeeds Raymond McCarthy, who died last June.

He will be responsible for planning and administering the operations of the Summer School of Alcohol Studies. Dr. Maxwell will continue his research on alcoholism in industry and on Alcoholics Anonymous. He has been on the faculty of Washington State at Pullman, Wash., since 1945 and has taught or done research at the University of Washing-

ton, in Seattle, the Universities of Texas, Utah, North Dakota and South Carolina, Yale University and at Rutgers.

He is co-author of the text "introductory Sociology," now in its sixth edition with J. B. Lippincott Co. Among his many articles on alcohol which have appeared in various professional journals are "Drinking Behavior in the State of Washington" and "Early identification of Problem Drinkers in Industry."

Dr. Maxwell is a fellow of the American Sociological Association and a member of the Pacific Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the American Association of University Professors.

GOOD NEWS is in a BAD WAY

A couple of months back, one of our good friends stated that since members were paying their good money for GOOD NEWS they were entitled to some figures. We promised 'em. Here they are. Item One: GOOD NEWS IS BROKE. Has been for a long time, but struggled along. Owing the printer a month or two; trying our best to increase our Paid Subscription list for enough funds to carry the "nut" (fixed monthly expense) and pick up the back debt; fighting tooth and nail to avoid the only obvious answer: increase the subscription price to 15 cents a copy,

change of ideas and suggestions among groups, and to stage conferences in various towns and cities for the purpose of acquainting the general public about the aims and purposes of AA.

"Combo" is Planned

Any musical members of S.F. Inter County Fellowship, interested in forming a small combo to play at AA functions on the Peninsula, please call Don M., FI 1-8612. Presently needed are hornmen, bass, and drums.

or \$1.80 per year.

For the January issue we had 1542
Paid Subscribers, gross...\$154.20

The H & I Committtee paid
(at \$50.00 per quarter)..... 16.67
Total Monthly Income \$170.87

EXPENSES:

Printing costs	\$137.50
Mailing Permit	6.75
Group (bulk) Mail	13.00
Envelopes, bill heads	10.00
Mailing List (postage)	8.00
Stamps & misc.	2.50

TOTAL EXPENSE \$177.75

MYRTLE MOURNED

Everyone knew Myrtle N — or it seemed that way in SF Inter-County Fellowship — largely because she did, or said something that was good, to most everyone she met

She was house mother at Stepping Stones House, San Francisco, when she passed away in December. A heart attack did it

She was one of the real old-timers of AA in San Francisco and served Fellowship in many capacities —

Toronto Flight Will Jet With 100-If The "Dough" Comes In

The question arises: Are you, or are you not going to Toronto? If you're not, there are no problems. If, on the other hand, you are going the next question is—how? It is almost a foregone conclusion that air travel is least expensive, most comfortable, and by far, the fastest way of reaching Canada.

Auto? Sure, if you have lots of time. Steamer? Great, if you have lots of time — and lots of money.

Money? Well you can take the least expensive, most comfortable, and fastest mode of travel to the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous taking place in Toronto, Canada July 2, 3, and 4, this year—with very little money.

MONEY NEEDED

If you have 30 bucks to make a deposit — or "down payment" you're in like Flynn. You have a reservation nailed down for the Toronto flight. But you must agree to come up with the balance of \$141.50 by Friday, March 26.

That's the only "must"! You must have the balance in the hands of the Charter Flight Committee by Friday, March 26.

ALTERNATE PLAN

Trans International Airlines who agreed to furnish a plane or planes, has also agreed to accept a \$1500.00 deposit with various possible alternatives. Trans International stated that if enough reservations are obtained to warrant a DC-8 Jet, it will furnish this type of plane provided a Jet is available at the agreed deadline with sufficient guaranteed reservations.

CONSTELLATION MAYBE

The Charter Committee also said the return will be made on July 5 rather than the Fourth of July, as originally planned. All this depends on how rapidly the Flight Committee is assured of guaranteed reservations. (Remember that word, "guaranteed.")

KEY IS "MONEY"

Speed in nailing down reservations is the key to the entire flight plan. Difference in cost between Jet and Constellation is slight, but if the

Volunteers Are Needed for Job at SF Hospital

Freeway Group—the unit that's been doing wonderful work among patients in the TB Ward of San Francisco General Hospital—need some volunteers.

Don't be alarmed. Patients are all arrested cases of tuberculosis and are not "carriers" of the disease. Freeway Group needs as many volunteers as possible to talk to patients confined to the TB Ward. If you want to help "carry the message" 'phone Cora or Jim at GA 1-1854 or meet the group at S.F. General Hospital, 22nd and Portrero Avenue, San Francisco. It meets every Saturday at 5:00 p.m. in the TB Ward.

later plane is used, the price will be reduced.

If necessity demands the Committee said, the entire flight plan can be cancelled on, or before April 1, and a full refund of all monies paid Trans International, will be made to the Committee. Refunded money will then be distributed, in full, to reservation purchasers.

TAKE-OFF DATE

Trip leaves, and returns to Oakland Airport. It leaves the Eastbay city on July 1. Cost of ticket includes one meal each way, bus transportation to and from Toronto Airport, and participation in the Northern California Hospitality Room. It does not include hotel reservation. This is extra.

Address mail to Charter Plane Committee of AA, room 84, 166 Geary Street, San Francisco, 8.

Guys and Gals Start a Group

A new group has been established in Fresno and dubs themselves the Guys and Gals Group.

It meets every Friday at 8:30 p.m. at College Community Congregational Church, 743 East Shaw, Fresno, Calif. All meetings are held in the front hall of the church building with the exception of the last Friday of the month which is held in the rear of the building.

On the second Friday of each month a half-hour business meeting is held prior to the regular meeting.

Mary P., secretary of Guys and Gals Group said, "We extend a cordial welcome to everyone to visit us and I can assure them of a warm hand-shake and plenty of good AA."

MIGHTY IS THE PEN!

Rollin, business manager, GOOD NEWS, received the following on January 13:

"We have seen many editions of your publication GOOD NEWS that have been brought to our office by Bill S. and really enjoy the little newspaper very much. Enclosed is my check for \$4.80. Please send subscriptions to the following four persons."

This sort of letter is commonplace in our Biz Office. Only difference, this letter came from CLEVELAND, OHIO. The addresses listed are all AA members residing in Cleveland. First time in GOOD NEWS history we ever got a "batch" From outside California.

Bill S., formerly of San Francisco, designed the AA cuts that you see on the front page of GOOD NEWS. Bill still remains a staunch booster for the City by the Golden Gate and S.F. Fellowship.

Death on Sabbath

Hall H, old-time member of the Mission, the Mission-Amazon and other local AA units, died suddenly on Sunday, January 17. A heart attack apparently was the cause of his demise.

Hundreds Mourn "Plain Bill" a Noted Editor

William V. was born March 26, 1881. He died in Roseville, December 18, 1964, aged 83.

In 1951 he visited Folsom Prison and was profoundly shocked to note that inmates had nothing to read in their cells. Returning home he bought a mimeograph machine and sufficient equipment to start the Roseville Letter Shop.

His first job was to get out 2,000 pamphlets which he titled "Just Plain Bill." These he distributed free to prisons. In 1958, he went to a commercial printer and had 50,000 pamphlets printed and retitled, "Around the Clock With AA." He paid for the entire job out of his own pocket. He got the inspiration for the title from a patent medicine ad that boasted, "be healthy around the clock."

"Just Plain Bill" as he liked to be known, was one of the founders of the Roseville 340 Group and also a co-founder of the Citrus Heights Group.

A graduate mechanical engineer, he is survived by a wife, Roma, whom he married in 1906. Together they attended AA, and Roma, 80 still attends. After Bill's funeral, his widow asked GOOD NEWS to thank everyone in AA for helping Bill and her in finding such a wonderful way of life.

HAROLD M. DIES

A flash from the Sacramento office of the Central California Fellowship reported the sudden death of Harold M., Thursday, January 21.

Harold was secretary, Interior Panel Two, General Service Committee, and for many years a dedicated and active member of AA in the Sacramento area.

At press time, GOOD NEWS was unable to obtain details of this good member's passing.

HELP WANTED Secretary

(Male or Female)

FOR THE HOSPITAL AND
INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

HOURS: Your convenience.

SALARY: One of the highest paid in satisfaction of a dedicated job well done. The compensation is commensurate with the feeling of fulfilling a great need.

Giving service, in this way, to the alcoholic who is confined, is one of the best known hi-ways to a long, continuous, happy sobriety.

DO YOU QUALIFY:

For further information contact Rosalie — UN 1-3061 or YU 2-4473.

P.S. This service can be performed in conjunction with regular employment.

"Positive and negative thought rules the world for good or ill."

Annual Breakfast Will Be Feature of S. J. Conference

Romantists say, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." Napoleon said: "An army travels on its stomach."

Chris C., chairman, Host Committee, 18th Annual Conference of NCC, March 6-7, in San Jose said:

"We're planning a breakfast for Sunday, March 7, at 8:30 a.m. that'll knock your eyes out, and better yet, Myrtle V., Sacramento, has been selected as Toastmistress."

Tickets will be reserved on a First Come — First Served basis. None will be accepted after March 1. Elsewhere in this edition of GOOD NEWS is a Breakfast Reservation Form. Clip it, and mail, pronto!

DATE: Sunday, March 7.

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Civic Auditorium, San Jose.

TARIFF: \$1.75 per person (which includes tax and tip)

Please mail this order, with your check to:

Treasurer, NCC Breakfast

Stan Wilsey, 110 Toyon Drive, Fairfax, California

Check enclosed for \$.....

Send Tickets @\$1.75 each for Annual Breakfast

(Name)

(Address)

(Town)

(Group)

(Please do not write below)

Date..... Mailed.....

Ticket No..... Order No.....

Good News

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Another Big Feed Planned by Concord

Concord Fellowship has a new secretary, Marvadene F. She announced that the next regular monthly dinner has been set for Saturday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. The new secretary also listed speakers for the month. They are:

Friday, Feb. 5—Margaret M., Vallejo Fellowship.

Friday, Feb. 12—Pat from San Pablo Friendly Fellowship.

Friday, Feb. 19—Hazel L., Vallejo Fellowship.

Friday, Feb. 26—Joe B., Napa Fellowship.

Concord Fellowship meets at 2841 Willow Pass Road, Concord, Calif.

YOUR SECRETARY REPORTS

The Central Committee of Northern California Council of AA met in the Alano Club in San Jose, Sunday, January 10. Nearly one hundred members and committee members attended. This was one of the largest gatherings of its kind in the history of NCC.

The secretary reported that the Council is broke. In fact there are a few unpaid accounts. It is anticipated the deficit can be wiped out following the San Jose Conference in March. The Conference which is to be held in the Civic Auditorium in San Jose on March 6-7 is the Eighteenth Annual Conference of NCC. Chriss C., chairman of the San Jose Host Committee, reported progress on all committees; that record attendance is anticipated at the Conference. Conference plans will be found elsewhere in GOOD NEWS as well as Registration forms and Breakfast Ticket orders.

Bill G. and Cliff J., Associate Secretaries, reported on the progress that has been made in setting up the new Zones of the Council and the enthusiasm that had been received in meetings wherever "Zoning" was outlined.

The Council organization will revert to Zone Chairmen and Alternates, Area Chairmen and Alternates, as well as two delegates from each Group. This is explained elsewhere in GOOD NEWS. It is anticipated that progress will be complete to the point that it will be possible in the near future to fill all positions, other than the temporary ones now appointed, by an election.

The tentative program for the San Jose Conference was set up and it is anticipated that the program may be complete before this issue of GOOD NEWS goes to press. The secretary announced that two outstanding speakers have been obtained for the San Jose Conference. One of the keynote speakers is a well known Radio and TV personality.

Enthusiasm generated by the meeting was indeed gratifying. If all the members present were to go back to their areas and groups and generate the same feeling that was felt at this meeting NCC would get the biggest boost of its history. Every area of Northern California was well represented except those areas that were devastated by recent winter storms.

Let's all plan on attending the 18th Annual Conference in San Jose on March 6-7. It's going to be a great one.

STAN W., NCC Secretary

REGISTRATION \$1⁰⁰

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF AA

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CIVIC AUDITORIUM, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 6 - 7, 1965

Enclosed is \$..... for Registrations to 18th Annual Conference

Name.....
(Show additional names on back) (Please Print)

Town..... Address.....

GROUP..... ZONE..... District.....

Mail with remittance to: Treasurer, NCC, 166 Geary Street, Room 84, San Francisco 8, California. If you wish to be on Council Mailing list, please check ☐. Register Early—Your Badge will be waiting for you at Conference.

"Jews, Catholics are Heaviest Drinkers", says Rutgers Survey

GOOD NEWS does not necessarily agree with the finding of this survey, nor does it strenuously disagree. It is believed that the sampling of 1515 persons may not accurately portray a true U.S. picture. But we publish it for the thought-stimulation it may produce and a possible subject for a group discussion topic.—EDITOR

Some 80 million adult Americans probably toasted the New Year with an alcoholic beverage.

The first scientific investigation since 1946 of the nation's drinking patterns, reported in the current issue of the Rutgers Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, indicates that 71 per cent of all American adults drink. Only 10 per cent of those who drink, however, have experienced trouble due to drinking.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The study was done by Dr. Harold A. Mulford of the University of Iowa with the cooperation of the National Opinion Research Center. The Quarterly Journal is a publication of the Center of Alcohol Studies of Rutgers, the State University.

The estimate of the number of drinkers in various segments of the American population was based on interviews with 1515 persons, chosen by sampling procedures to accurately portray the United States population aged 21 years and over.

The study says: "Consistent with the finding of previous studies, the prevalence of drinkers is highest among men, those aged 21 to 39 years, the better educated, those living in the larger cities, Jews, Catholics and Lutherans, the unmarried and those in higher income brackets and in the upper occupational status groups."

Comparing the new results with those of the 1964 study, the Mulford report says "the trend has been toward an increase in the prevalence of drinkers." In 1946, 65 per cent of the American population drank. Men's drinking rates went up four per cent in the 18 year interval, while women's drinking rates went up seven per cent.

PERCENTAGE BREAK-DOWN

Among the major findings of the Mulford report are:

The Mid-Atlantic states have the heaviest preponderance of drinkers — 88 per cent of the adults in this area drink, as compared to a low of 33 per cent in the area consisting

of Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Seventy nine per cent of all American men drink, as compared to 63 per cent of the women.

Seventy-nine per cent of those aged 21-39 drink, while among persons 60 and over, 56 per cent drink.

The more education a person has the more likely it is that he drinks. Eighty nine per cent of those with a college education drink, as compared to 46 per cent of those with less than a grade-school education.

In cities of 500,000 population and over, 76 per cent of the inhabitants drink, while in villages under 2,500 in population 60 per cent of the residents drink.

Jews and Catholics had the heaviest percentage of drinkers, 90 and 89 per cent, respectively. The lowest drinking rate was found among the Baptists — 48 per cent.

The higher the annual salary he earns, the more likely it is that a person will drink. Eighty-seven per cent of those earning annually \$10,000 and over drink, as compared to 54 per cent of those earning under \$3,000.

HIGH-TONE IMBIBERS

When grouped by occupation, persons in the higher status categories were more likely to be drinkers. One hundred per cent of the small sample of dentists, lawyers, judges and physicians in the study drink, as do 87 per cent of the college professors, scientists and engineers. The lowest rate of drinking in an occupational category was among

"BLACKIE" MOURNED

"He was a beloved member of the Ambassador and the Friendly Circle Groups." This was the sincere sentiment expressed by mourning members of these groups and hundreds of AA's throughout the Bay Region when they learned of the death of "Blackie" S.

"Blackie" passed away on Tuesday, January 5, with funeral services held from Halstead's in San Francisco. At graveside services held at Sutter City, the Fifth Chapter from Alcoholics Anonymous was recited by members of the Marysville, Calif. Group. A heart attack was given as the cause of this good AA's death, "who never said no to a Twelve Step or any other matter that would help a suffering alcoholic."

farmers, carpenters and painters. Sixty-seven per cent of the latter category reported that they drank.

The basic question in the survey was "Do you ever have occasion to use alcoholic beverages, such as liquor, wine or beer, or are you a total abstainer?"

WHO ARE "HEAVIEST?"

The Mulford study also tried to discover the numbers of heavy or problem drinkers. Heavy drinkers were defined as those who consumed three or more drinks two or more times a week. Problem drinkers were those who reported having had trouble with their wife, police, employer or health because of drinking.

There was a 25 per cent overlap between the 11 per cent of the drinkers in the sample who reported themselves as heavy drinkers, and the 10 per cent who said they had had trouble due to drinking.

"The major portion of the nation's adults are either abstainers or have such a low consumption level that they can hardly contribute to the alcoholism problem," the study says.

Heavy drinkers were concentrated among males, the college educated, the cities, the above \$5,000 income group and the unmarried. Among the religious categories the Protestants who did not specify a denomination have the highest rate of heavy drinkers, while the Methodists Baptists and Jews stand out with low rates.

H&I BROAD-SIDES

By Walter Mc C., chairman, Hospital and Institution

Preston S., chairman, Area 7, was host to the General Hospital and Institution meeting held last month, Jan. 17th at the Alamo Club in San Jose. He did a masterful job seeing that everyone's coffee cup was kept full, and this is no small chore. Thanks again to all the many people that helped out to make this meeting a pleasant visit for the visiting members and their friends of the Hospital and Institution Committee. The 1965 schedules were issued to the Area Chairman of the 14 areas and any contact chairman who did not attend the meeting in San Jose, make sure you contact your area chairman and receive your 1965 H. & I. schedule.

A Dedicated Person

Most of you will recall that Rosalie R. (Secretary of the H. & I. Committee.) became ill just before the Fresno Conference in Oct. 1964 and was unable to attend the conference due to a heart condition. She was in the hospital for several weeks and since then at the doctors advice she had to give up working for a living, and financially, very few people can afford this luxury. But she stayed on as secretary and prepared the 1965 schedules, typing the copy from the area chairmen, running the mimeograph machine, proof reading, and a million other chores that go to make up the contents of the 1965 schedules.

Letter of Resignation

She spent many hours each week for the past few months in her garage preparing these schedules. This is real dedication, especially after all the effort she put forth as secretary to receive a letter that as of now she is resigning. How can you thank a person like this with mere words because it is the secretary that really keeps the lines of communication open through correspondence to the area chairman, contact chairman and writing many other letters and keeping the H. & I. schedules up to date. So this means we have to look for another secretary with all the many qualifications needed. Have you any suggestions?

Job is Open

Please let me know or at least if you are interested talk it over with Rosalie and get the high lights of the many duties. I know that Rosalie would like to stay on but it really is too much for her and one of the nice parts of this story is that the doctor is allowing her to return to work. This shows progress from her illness. I know that as chairman I'll miss her and her many talents in organizing and setting up agenda for the different meetings of H. & I.

Enthusiasm Recalled

The N.C.C. Conference to be held in San Jose, come March, should prove exciting with its new programming, and perhaps this is what the conferences have needed. Especially when we recall how colorful was the enthusiasm of attending a conference when Basil was the guiding genius and everyone was a part of the working force. I recall what my sponsor once told me when I was secretary of a group and I cried on his shoulder because my feelings had been hurt. Quote "Remember I am an AA member first and a secretary afterwards!" If I am a good AA member first I can't help being a good secretary. At least I have always remembered what he told me but some times I wonder if I practice it . . . so comes the conference at San Jose with a new program and after learning of the new agenda, I had to take time out and think these new ideas over.

Interest Sinks

First the past conferences were going to pot and everyone was losing interest in them to some degree. At least the N.C.C. Delegates are making an effort to stimulate a new interest in our conferences. For myself I am willing to keep an open mind.

GOOD SPEAKERS AT "SHOWCASE"

Seven good AA speakers will be heard during the month of February at the Central All-Groups Open Meetings, held every Friday at 8:30 p.m. at the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, in downtown San Francisco.

The Program Chairman announced this speaking roster:

Friday, Feb. 5—Speakers are George B., Book Group; and Fred F., Telegraph Hill Group.

Friday, Feb. 12—Glen C., San Jose, will have the speaker's dais to himself.

Friday, Feb. 19—Joe H. from Brighton, Mass., is slated for one speaking chore; Ray H., Marin Breakfast Group, will do the other half.

Friday, Feb. 26—Ed McL., Monday Beginners'; and Walt V., also from Monday Beginners' will share speaking honors.

Host group for February is Uptown Group. Chairmen are Barbara B., Sam P., Walt W., and John F. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and so does the Coffee Bar.

8th Birthday for the Paradise Group

The Paradise Family Group of Paradise (Calif.) celebrates its Eighth Anniversary in conjunction with the Monthly InterGroup meeting, Saturday, February 20, at 8:00 p.m.

Pat S., secretary, said the gala affair will be held in the Intermediate School, 550 Pearson Road, Paradise. Guest speaker is Jim A., West Covina, formerly of Chico Group and active in Southern California AA affairs.

Bob C. and Lou H. founding members, will be present.

Group Secretaries

This notice is directed to the attention of all Group Secretaries: Please mail funds in the Pink Cans—and do it today, please—to: Hospital and Institution Committee, P. O. Box 4042, San Francisco, Calif.

New Approach to "What Causes Drinking" Now Being Examined

NEW BRUNSWICK, Jan 4 — A new way of looking at the question of why people drink is suggested in an article by Rutgers sociologist Harold Fallding in the winter edition of the *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*.

According to Mark Keller, editor of the journal, Dr. Fallding has developed a new approach to the study of drinking causes.

"We have for decades been engaged in a fruitless debate between the 'wets' and the 'drys,' but Dr. Fallding's article takes a new tack. He suggests that drinking is not intrinsically either harmful or beneficial, but becomes one or the other in relationship to the social conditions within the community in which the drinking occurs," Keller says.

BASIC TYPES

Dr. Fallding, an Australian who is currently visiting associate professor of sociology at the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies describes four basic types of drinking, one of which has a useful social function and three of which do not.

The first type of drinking, which Dr. Fallding calls "benign," he labels as "ornamental, community-symbolic drinking." In this kind of drinking he says, the drinking acts simply as a symbol of the already existing sense of kinship and community between the persons who drink.

"The alcohol is not needed to generate any relationship, but to express the preexisting solidarity generated by trust," Fallding writes.

He comments that this kind of drinking probably "still occurs in pockets at social gatherings amongst ourselves, but its rarity may perhaps be taken for a sign of the eclipse of community amongst us."

"SLIDING IN"

The second kind of drinking which Dr. Fallding describes is "Facilitation drinking." This he defines as drinking to facilitate the person's integration into a society with which he still identifies — using alcohol to make it easier to become part of the group.

Fallding comments that many people sanction this kind of drinking.

"While the drinking may well break down one's reserve and coldness, or soften one's bereavement or

Chinese Costume Ball at SF Alano Club February 20

1965 is the "Year of the Snake" a very fine year in the Chinese calendar. So what's more appropriate than to celebrate the event? That's what the San Francisco Alano Club will do Saturday, February 20, when it pitches a Chinese New Year Dance and Costume Ball.

Dig out those beautiful, unique Oriental costumes and win costume prizes. Door prizes, too. And dance to the music of the "Jump-in' Jacks."

Saturday, February 27, is February AA Birthday celebration when all AA's whose birthday occurs in this month are suitably honored.

S.F. Alano Club is located at 414 Grant Avenue in downtown San Francisco at the gateway to the City's famed Chinatown.

humiliation, or make one feel a man, it does so only very temporarily and it can at the same time release hostile and other impulses which create trouble," he comments.

"One has to leave oneself wide open; to get what one wants from the drinking he must accept the risk of getting things he does not want besides. Made an habitual crutch, it is a vicious block to help and growth."

"BLOCKING OUT"

The third type of drinking, Fallding labels "assuagement drinking." This he describes as the sort of drinking done by a person who has no sense of belonging in any community and who, to fill the resulting void, has abandoned himself to some

sort of immediate gratification such as liquor. The need to drink stems from a need to "block out the awareness that one is out of society: the compulsion for it stems, presumably, from the unrelievable emptiness."

Fallding suggests that "the peculiar glazed encounter at cocktail parties of strangers, rivals, enemies, deceivers" falls into the category of assuagement drinking.

SKID ROWGUES

The fourth category set up by the Australian sociologist is "retaliation drinking." He describes this as occurring when "the person exploits the incapacitating power of alcohol in order to make himself a passenger on the system. He cultivates habitual intoxication to make himself a burden." Skid row types are an extreme example of retaliation drinkers.

Fallding writes that "somewhat iceberg-like, drinking has three submerged negative possibilities for the one positive." He says that when a society lacks a feeling of genuine community, ornamental drinking is likely to disappear and be replaced by the three negative kinds of drinking. Under these conditions, temperance movements are likely to turn into abstinence movements.

Fallding concludes that "meaningful rather than moderate drinking is what may be needed for safe drinking."

Sunday Breakfast Group Schedule

Speakers from Telegraph Hill Group "dominate" the February speaking roster of the Sunday Breakfast Group, Bill P., program chairman, announces. He listed them, as follows:

Sunday, Feb. 7—Silas P., Telegraph Hill Group.

Sunday, Feb. 14—Eric E. Telegraph Hill Group.

Sunday, Feb. 21—Carlos S., Telegraph Hill Group.

Sunday, Feb. 28—John S., San Francisco Fellowship.

The Sunday Breakfast Group meets at 12:30 p.m. at the S. F. Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, in downtown San Francisco.