



Good News



**MARCH,
1966**

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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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"RED CARPET" TREATMENT 2,000 Jammed Sacramento for "Best Ever" Spring Conference

(By Henry S., Henry Ohlhoff House Group, San Francisco)

Sacramento opened its arms and hearts—but not its bottles—to about 2,000 drunks who gathered there Feb. 25-27 for the 19th annual conference of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Capitol City AAers were perfect hosts. They even arranged beautiful sunshine when the forecast had been rain.

The program stated that a "snack bar" would be open at all times in the basement of the huge, red-bricked Memorial Auditorium. They must have depleted the shelves and refrigerators of every delicatessen in the city, for the bar was loaded with coffee and punch urns, cold turkey, roast beef, cold cuts, salads, relishes, cheeses and a variety of cakes. The hosts were given a standing ovation at the closing session for their excellent job.

HUGE AUDIENCE

After a "kick-off" meeting Friday night (see story elsewhere in this issue) and a business session Saturday afternoon, things got rolling Saturday night before a huge audience that half-packed the auditorium from balcony to plush red leatherette floor seats.

The inimitable Red K. of the San Francisco Fellowship was Master of Ceremonies, first introducing Sacramento Mayor Walter Christensen, who, in his welcoming address said:

"I feel the power of prayer and the power of strength of all you people in this room . . . Sincerely, every citizen in the City of Sacramento is proud of all of you . . . I have an alcoholic friend and, to talk to him each morning over coffee before we settle down to business, gives me added strength for the day . . . I love every one of you."

(Continued on page 8)

S.F. All-Groups Meetings Roster

The Central All-Groups Meetings, sponsored by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship each Friday at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, announces the following agenda for the month of March:

Friday, March 4—"Roz" B., Los Angeles, will share the Speakers' Lectern with Art E., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship. Hub H. is chairman.

Friday, March 11—Speakers are Penny H., Monday Beginners' Group and Dick H., the 35-and-Under Group; Betty E., chairman.

Friday, March 18 — Speakers are Robbie D., Panhandle Group; and Roger J. Fairfax Group. Roger O'D, chairman.

Friday, March 25—Jim G., Wednesday High Noon Group; and Pat E., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, will share the Speaker's Dais; Dorothy LeM., chairman.

Meetings start at 8:30 p.m., but the doors open at 7:00, and the Coffee Bar at 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to public in an air-conditioned comfortable hall. Parking at nominal rates are available around corner on Leavenworth Street.

Anniversaries

MEMORY GROUP celebrates its Third Anniversary on Wednesday, March 2, at 8:30 p.m. The affair will be held at 1364 Valencia Street, San Francisco.

MIDTOWN GROUP celebrates its Twentieth Anniversary at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, March 24, at 1755 Clay Street. This address is same location in which Midtown held its first meeting in 1946. One of the oldest AA groups in San Francisco, it was announced by the secretary that speakers will be some "Old" some "New".

Peninsula Sets March Meetings

Peninsula All-Groups Meetings, held every Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the recreation room of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Baldwin Avenue and El Camino Real, San Mateo, announced the following March speaker-agenda:

Saturday, March 5—Speaker is Sylvia W., El Cerrito Group; hosting is the Santa Cruz Avenue Group.

Saturday, March 12—Andrew G. Hanners, director of education, Council on Alcoholic Problems will speak on the topic, "What's All This Fuss About Alcoholism". Hosting is the San Bruno Monday Group.

Saturday, March 19—Pat E., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship; Palo Alto Friday will host.

Saturday, March 26—Paul G., SF-Marin Breakfast Group, will speak; Brisbane Sunday will serve as hosts.

Vallejo Wins the June Conference; Chico is Chosen

The annual summer conference of the Northern California Council of AA will be held June 4-5 at Vallejo.

The fall conference is scheduled for Chico some time in October. Richmond has been selected as the site for the 20th Annual Conference in March, 1967.

Bill G. Heads NCC as Stan W. Steps Down

Bill G., of the Surf Group, San Francisco, was elected secretary of the Northern California Council of AA at the Sacramento Conference by acclamation. He had been the retiring Stan W's assistant for the past 2½ years that Stan had served so well. The conference gave Stan a standing ovation upon his retirement—not from AA but as Secretary.

Most other convention business was of a routine nature.

Improvements in the General Services Offices were discussed along with anonymity. On the latter is was agreed that too much anonymity can be a destructive force.

"We can be so anonymous in withholding our names and phone numbers that the sick people we are trying to reach can't even find us," one speaker pointed out. "A good rule of thumb is don't give another AAer's name or phone to a third party."

Suggestions of an alteration in the preamble to accent "voluntary contributions" and to eliminate "no dues or fees" since the latter is frequently misinterpreted were rejected.

"The fact that there are no set dues or fees is the attraction," one anti-resolution speaker pointed out. "There's no falling behind and being dunned for your debts like in other organizations. Give what you can afford."

A suggestion made some time ago at the Santa Rosa Conference of the advisability of a statewide conference was presented. Stan W. said that the Steering Committee had contacted some 300 people on the subject and the response was negative.

"The idea was favorable but it was pointed out that we'd then have too many conditions to follow. Southern California has the money, talent and politicians," one foe of the resolution said. "We don't want

Alateen Program Helps Youths To Cope with "Alky" Parents

One of the features of the Sacramento Conference was a get-acquainted table in the lobby and an open meeting in the Littel Theater in Memorial Auditorium by the Alateens—teen-agers who have alcoholic parents or relatives.

This is a program that has been going for some time but needs publicity to help it out. These kids are sincere. You should have heard some of them speak.

About 200 adult AAers sat in the theater after their Saturday afternoon open meeting and listened to seven teen age boys and girls talk. The entire show was taped for future use.

"My alcoholic father can now cope with his problem, plus mine, due to this wonderful program of AA," one lad said.

A girl named Skip was MC and said that "before I came into Alateen it was hell . . . dad drank before I was born. I thought alcoholism was a crime. (Skip is about 16.) When I was only nine I joined Alateen. (There is no Alateen minimum age limit; after 18 they can join Alanon or, God forbid, AA.) I didn't like God. I didn't go to Church. Hence I couldn't say—or wasn't interested—in the Serenity Prayer. Both are for kid drinkers or those whose parents drink.

Alateen changed all that. I learned to know that alcoholism is a disease . . . not a crime. That there IS a God. I live in Pleasant Hill; My life is now pleasant.

"By the end of the year we'll have 50 Alateens in my school. Some kids I know drink just to show up their drinking parents. That's wrong. We sell them the Alateen program and try to help straighten them out. One kid even got drunk to show his parents. He wound up falling into a pool one night and drowning. Who'd he show what?"

Another speaker was Dan.

"I was in Alateen in high school," he said. "Then I went to college and got off the program. You know how it is at college. First a beer. Then the booze. Weekends were all partying and drinking. Came Christmas and another guy and I went on a toot. We roamed one end of the state to the other in our drunken escapades. That was too much for me. I rejoined Alateen."

The AAers present gave the kids a rousing hand when asked what they thought of Alateen.

A question and answer period was announced.

There were no hands raised. There was silence. Skip then said: "What no questions?"

One lady AA stood up and paid the prime compliment.

"Skip, you kids have answered all our questions before we even asked them."

to mix with them as once we get in they take over with their power." The resolution was defeated.

A report on GOOD NEWS was made. Stan explained that the publication had tried to be self-supporting but recently was granted a \$300 subsidy.

"That was the first help given to GOOD NEWS," Stan said. "We didn't want to raise the subscription rate. We'd cash in more per subscription but, as old ones expired,

we'd lose more than we gained. In view of the good will and service provided by GOOD NEWS a little subsidy now and then won't hurt. Many free copies are given to hospitals and institutions."

Stan then made a sales pitch for Rollin W., GOOD NEWS business manager . . . groups can get five copies for only 50 cents a month to put on their free literature table. Regular subscriptions are only \$1.20 a year.

Marin Alano Holding "Pot Luck" Dinner

The Marin Alano Club announces a "Pot Luck" Dinner, followed by a Speaker Meeting and terminating with a Bingo Game, is slated for Saturday, March 5, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The affair will be held at the Marin Alano Club, 1405 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo.

For a \$1.00 donation (children under 12 years 75c) you get an entree, salad, dessert, and coffee. This will be followed by a Speaker Meeting, and at 10:00 p.m. a Bingo Game will be held.

All Bay Area AA members, their family, and friends are invited.

Other activities at the Marin Alano Club includes:

SUNDAY NIGHTS — Music and Fun Night.

TUESDAY NIGHTS — Bridge tournaments. Beginners welcomed.

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY NIGHT — Dancing, Refreshment, and a Raffle.

EVERY FIRST SATURDAY NIGHT — "Pot Luck" Dinner, Open AA Meeting, and Bingo.

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT — a closed AA meeting at 8:30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY — A closed AA meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Tradition Group Of Santa Rosa

Speakers for the Santa Rosa Friday Nite Tradition Group for March, are:

FRIDAY, MARCH 4—Carolyn Y., San Rafael Group.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11—Tom M., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18—Bud T., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25—Ruth C., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

Hair Nets No Help

"You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair."

Blaze Burns Out San Pablo Group

The Friendly Fellowship of San Pablo was burned out of its clubhouse at 13857 San Pablo Avenue on Thursday, February 24. A committee was promptly selected at a business meeting held the next night to search for a new location.

Meanwhile all meetings will be held at the Dugout meeting hall, 22nd and Bissell Streets in Richmond. The March monthly dance will be held, but at a location yet to be announced.

"Flu" Almost Stops Committee — Almost

Four of the sixty-eight members of the committee which did such a bang-up job on the Sacramento Conference were sick with the flu, BUT, all four of them arranged for substitutes who reported for duty and worked faithfully.

Such devotion to A.A. and their personal obligations should not go un-noted nor should the work of the General Co-Chairmen Roberta A. and Henry F.

AA News from Santa Clara County

By Carolynn G.

Santa Clara ALL GROUPS meetings are held the second Saturday of every month at 8:15 p.m. at the Alano Club, 1122 Fair Avenue, San Jose. Speaker for Saturday, March 12, is CHARLIE R. A newspaperman Charlie carries a terrific wallop. Meeting will be hosted by the Willowbrook Group. The April 9 meeting will be hosted by the Willowglen Group. Speaker will be Jim M., Carmichael, Pacific Coast Area delegate of the Board of Trustees, New York. Dancing follows each of these big "second Saturday" meetings.

Santa Clara Intergroup Council is now sponsoring Beginners' Classes. First class started Tuesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the Alano Club. Idea has been highly successful in other areas and we are working towards the same success.

The Santa Clara Valley Alano Club, 1122 Fair Avenue, San Jose, is considered one of the finest clubs on the Pacific Coast. It is flourishing under the operation of Ralph A., new manager. A warm welcome awaits any AA (or friend) that wish to stop in for a cup of coffee and an AA talk. Out-of-town visitors are particularly welcome. There is dancing to live music every second and fourth Saturday of the month; a "pot luck" supper and an Alateen Dance every third Saturday; and there is a meeting EVERY NIGHT of the week at the Club—and one at Thursday noon. Bingo every Friday night.

The H & I Women's Jail Committee of AA has a good thing going at Elmwood Rehabilitation Center, near Milpitas. Since its inception February 5, 1964, the fact that not one Committee member has resigned or failed to cover her assignment is solid evidence that rehabilitation work AA-wise is a gratifying and worthwhile experience. Two different members of the Committee of ten meet every Wednesday afternoon with inmates at the Elmwood Rehab Center. Oftimes these meetings bear small resemblance to a regular AA meeting. From the start, it was apparent that an AA meeting—in strictest sense—would be unfeasible due to the fact that relatively few inmates are alcoholic, and many who are alcoholic would hesitate to declare themselves as such, fearing that this admission would constitute another strike against them. So, while the AA meetings, as such, are opened and closed in the traditional AA manner — and the Committee members identify themselves as alcoholics—it might be more accurately described as a lively Group Therapy meeting, with emphasis on the Twelve Steps as the central theme for discussion.

Coastside Group

The Little Brown Church in Pacifica is the meeting place of the Pacifica Coastside Group that meets each Wednesday from 8:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The Little Brown Church is located at San Francisco Boulevard and Salada Avenue. It is a Discussion Meeting. For more data, phone 355-6507 or 355-6250.

Date Change at 1464 Valencia

Effective immediately, the 1464 AA Group, that formerly held meetings on Tuesday, at 1464 Valencia Street, San Francisco, will meet each Monday at 8:30 p.m.

Nine States Will Join Rutgers In June Alcoholism Seminar

NEW BRUNSWICK—The official alcoholism programs of nine Northeastern states will join with two divisions of Rutgers as co-sponsors of a five-day training program in alcohol studies at the State University in June.

The third annual session of the Northeast Institute of Alcohol Studies this year will be sponsored by the state alcoholism program; of Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont as well as by two units of New Jersey's State University,

the Center of Alcohol Studies and the University Extension Division.

LECTURE SERIES

The Institute is designed for persons without previous training or experience in the field of alcohol studies. It consists of a program of lectures in various aspects of alcohol problems and of a series of small group discussion sessions.

The Northeast Institute will be held June 19-24. The Summer School of Alcohol Studies, which is aimed at persons who work professionally with alcohol problems, will be held at Rutgers from June 26-July 15.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Participation in the Northeast Institute will cost \$100 including tuition, room and board. Some scholarships have been made available by governmental and voluntary alcoholism agencies and by church groups. Further information may be secured by writing the Institute at Rutgers in New Brunswick, N.J.

Open Meeting by S.F. Alateens Set

The San Francisco Alateen Group has slated a meeting for 8:00-9:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 16, at the Salvation Army Service Center, 3550 Army Street, between Valencia Street and San Jose Avenue.

The meeting is open to everyone, particularly parents, and children from 12 years old, and up, who may have a drinking problem at home.

For additional data, phone Betty W., UN 1-0258 (Alanon sponsor); Troy R., 681-5722; or Henry H., MO 1-2846 (AA sponsor).

Refreshments will be served.



How Lucky Can You Get...

Instead of a rabbit; out of the hat came the greatest surprise of any Conference "Kick-off" meeting yet, in Sacramento Friday night February 25.

A capacity crowd of 350 persons jammed Memorial Hall of the auditorium for the festivities which preceded the formal opening of the 19th Annual Conference of the Northern California Council the next morning.

The printed program had listed as speaker "A Pleasant Surprise for all!" Upon entering the hall all guests dropped their ticket stubs into the hat, expecting the usual door prizes, such as copies of the "Big Book" or subscriptions to "GOOD NEWS".

Ten "lucky" numbers were drawn, and "lucky" they were—for the audience as well as the winners, because Chairman Leonard L. of North Highlands announced:

"The 'lucky' winners will be speakers of the evening."

It is an AA tradition that newcomers be given a chance to help develop confidence by telling their story—but never before such a large audience; usually only in the confines of their own groups.

Seven winners responded. Five of the "lucky" speakers were veteran AAers; John K. and Bill J. of Sacramento, Paula B., Santa Rosa; Fern from Coulton and Leon R. of San Francisco. But two were newcomers!

Ralph of Alameda had exactly 103 days, 5½ hours of sobriety when he took the rostrum. (He didn't need to refer to a calendar or stopwatch to check his record — he clicked it off in his head. And the other was Josephine who had been dry just 18 days.

They were the hit of the evening. Hardened AA's with years of sobriety termed them two of the best speakers they had ever heard—and they'd heard many speeches in their lives.

Incidentally, a hand also for Conference Chairman Roberta A. The surprise was her idea, and was kept a deep dark secret from almost everyone.

Watsonville Meet

The month-end meeting of the Monterey Peninsula Tri-County AA Groups, (Monterey, Salinas, Wat-

How to Book "Bill's Own Story" Told

The 1966 schedule for Bill's film is being made up now. This 60-minute color movie is Bill's story of his last bout and the beginning of A.A. It is available for regional get-togethers, for city-wide meetings, and for group meetings.

Rental of \$35.00 weekly (plus some shipping cost) is charged to defray part of the cost of the production.

Write General Service Office and give a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of dates.

Napa Fellowship Meetings Slated

Speakers who will appear at March and April meetings at Napa Fellowship Group are herewith listed:

TUESDAY, MARCH 1—Opal and Sam from the San Pablo Friendly Fellowship.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15—Barney D., Santa Rosa Fellowship.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29—Panel of three AA speakers.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5—Bill G., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

Regular meetings are held as follows:

Second and fourth Tuesdays are closed discussion meetings. The Alanon Group meets separately on the same dates. Closed meetings are held each Thursday and open meetings are held every Monday. All meetings at 8:30 p.m.

sonville and Santa Cruz) will be held in Watsonville Saturday night, March 26.

S.F. Alano Club Slates Programs

A dance honoring the patron saint of Ireland has been scheduled by the San Francisco Alano Club as part of its entertainment program for March.

On Saturday, March 5, a dance will be held with the "Jumpin' Jacks" providing the danceable tunes.

On March 19, a St Patrick's Dance is scheduled with a program of fun and entertainment—balloons, funny hats and a Leprechaun or two to provide Gaelic atmosphere.

On Saturday, March 26, the highly popular AA Birthday Dance will be held. This affair honors all AA's whose birthday occurs in March.

The S.F. Alano Club is located at 414 Grant Avenue, at the gateway to the City's famed Chinatown. It is favorite cross-roads meeting place for AA members from all over the U.S.

Island Fellowship Program Scheduled

"March either comes in like a Lion—and goes out like a Lamb"—or vice-versa. In Alameda, the Island Fellowship speaker-program "starts with a roar", Bill W., secretary, announced. Here's March agenda:

Saturday, March 5—All three members of the same family will be at the Speaker's lectern: Bert C., for AA; Ann C., for Alanon; and Mike C., for Alateen.

Saturday, March 12—Ernie B., Park-Presidio Group, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

Saturday, March 19—K. W., Lafayette Group.

Saturday, March 26—Jerry M., San Leandro Group.

Island Fellowship meets at 1828 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda. Meetings commence at 8:30 p.m., followed by refreshments. A raffle for a "Big Book" is held after each meeting. Plenty of free parking.

Good News
166 Geary Street
San Francisco, California 94108
Dear Editor:

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed clipping from the editorial page of our local newspaper, and the little story behind it.

The clipping speaks for itself, except that it does not say that we tried for one year, at every other church in town to find a meeting place.

However, I think that the thing that is interesting is that the editorial was entirely the idea of, and written solely by the editor-owner of the paper, who is Jewish, and a non-alcoholic! Not only that, but he runs a classified ad for us every week, (it is a weekly) free of charge. When we wanted to pay him for it, he refused, saying that it would be his contribution for a "wonderful cause."

Don't you think that he is a pretty special person? His name is Burt Freireich, and he owns the "Sun Citizen".

Say hello to Harriet and all the wonderful AA's there, and my best wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,
Ruth W.,
Sun City, Ariz.

Letter from an Ailing Lady

Last month, GOOD NEWS printed a story about the illness of Bea B., (formerly Bea R., of Watsonville-Salinas area) now a resident of Carson City. Her reply is a warm, human document that tells its own story.—Editor

Dear Rollin:

Please know that I am not as ungrateful as my neglect in answering your letters may indicate. There is no day that I haven't thought of you.

I have been blessed with an avalanche of mail and Good Wishes cards in the last few weeks that I'm bewildered. I didn't even know I knew so many people. In fact, I don't yet know some of them. They come from people who know someone who knows me. It's fantastic!

I couldn't possibly not get well with all the prayers and good thoughts that have been sent out in my behalf. I can't even imagine how the word spread so far and so fast or why in the world some of these people should even have cared.

It is wonderful and a little awesome. I've had mail from Alaska, Hawaii, England, South Africa, and even Singapore—besides all the stacks of mail from California Nevada, and Utah.

How can I ever hope to earn the right to all this love and fellowship? I have been invited to become a member of the Hello World meeting (by mail) group. How come in all my wandering around did I miss hearing about this fantastic form of AA in action? One thing is for sure. There is no way I can—in sanity and honesty—ever look upon this illness as a misfortune.

Doors to friendship and service and love have been opened to me, and I have learned more about love and service and fellowship—in action—in these past seven weeks than I had been really aware of in the past 12 years. May God never let me get well enough to forget this lesson or the debt that I owe to so many. May I never take the smallest part of it for granted.

Wonderful things have come into my life even beyond my powers of imagination. This has truly been an experience I would have not wanted to miss.

Bea B., 413 E. Spear Street, Carson City, Nev.

ROLL OF THE CHURCH

Is a church a place of worship or more than that? Is it also a center for good, reaching out into the community?

Alcoholics Anonymous, in its search for a meeting site 14 months ago, didn't need to wait long for Father Palmer Plourde's answer to these questions. Rejected elsewhere on the basis that "there's no need for an AA chapter in Sun City-Youngtown," the homeless AA took its case to Father Plourde at St. Joachim's Church.

He didn't answer "aye" or "nay." His machine-gun reply was, "When do you want to start?"

True, the local AA chapter isn't large. But its weekly meetings are of vital importance to the alcoholics or former alcoholics who desire and need AA's services.

It is also true that the thought of alcoholics meeting at a church may offend the sensitivities of some who are insensitive to the realities of this disease, but we are not living in the dark ages. Father Plourde didn't even give a second thought to possible objections from his congregants, and as a result we now have a very successful AA chapter well into its second year.

We believe a church should be a bulwark of good in the community, regardless of whether the area involved is socially acceptable to the narrow minded. Furthermore, churches should attempt to ferret out such areas, for those are the ones where often help is most needed, and we can't sweep them under the rug.

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Monday Beginners'

The following speakers will be on the rostrum at the Monday Beginners' Meetings during March, John McC., chairman, announced.

March 7—Speaker is George D., Telegraph Hill Group; chairman, John McC.

March 14—Sam X., a member of the Monday Beginners', will speak; Gene D. is chairman.

March 21—Jim G., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, will speak; Jack G., chairman.

March 28—Rose Anne C., Telegraph Hill Group, speaks. Rosemary T., chairman.

Meetings open at 8:30 p.m. at 1755 Clay Street, San Francisco.

Thursday Beginners'

The Thursday Beginners' Group announces the following agenda for March, Ila W., chairman, announced:

March 3—Speaker is Mary E., Stepping Stone House; Bob W., chairman.

March 10—Arnold R., Central All Groups, will speak; chairman is Aletha McC.

March 17—Speaker is Betty H., Ambassadors; Fred R. will chair the meeting.

March 24—Charlie R., West Portal Group, will make the "pitch"; Ila W., chairman.

March 31—Speaker is O'Day R., Uptown Group; Bob W. is chairman. Meetings open at 8:30 p.m. at 261 Fell Street, San Francisco.

New Sacramento Fellowship Office

New address and phone number of the Central California Fellowship, Sacramento, is 1412 20th Street, Sacramento, 95814, 'phone 443-8138.

March Issue of The Grapevine

These thought-provoking articles and stories will highlight the March issue of The Grapevine. The AA Exchange Bulletin recommends for interesting reading and group discussion.

"Mental Depression—Unnecessary Evil"—especially to help the sober but unhappy member, "Do We Ever Truly Recover?" "Knock and it Shall Be Opened"; "Some Advice I Don't Take"—about suggestions at meetings;

"Basic Facts on Alcohol Education" by nonalcoholic guest author W. P. Shofstall, Ph.D., Dean of Students, Arizona State University, "Want Your Name Up in Lights?" about all those A.A. pins, tokens, rings, emblems, etc.;

"Am I Too Young?" "Self-indulgence vs. Self-destruction" by Per-

cy M. Sessions, A.C.S.W.; "On a November Afternoon" — he went to his first meeting the day President Kennedy died; "Shore Leave" — a sailor reviews the costs, and many more.

"..... except That it works!"

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

It has no rules, dues or any of the things any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings, the speakers start on one subject and end up talking about something entirely different, concluding by saying "I don't know anything about the program except that it works!" (The Silent Rostrum—Houston)



SO WHAT IF IT IS "SLOW POISON" — I'M IN NO HURRY

**FILL UP THE
PINK CANS
KEEP THEM IN FULL VIEW**

"BIGGEST EVER" SACRAMENTO CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

"Thanks, Mr. Mayor, for your insight into what 'earth' people see in us," Red said. Mr. K. then set the tempo of the meeting—friendly, good humor, with a joke that drew roars of laughter.

"You came through," he told the laughing audience. "... beautiful ... beautiful, we laughing again ... most of all at ourselves. We've all suffered tragedies ... we're the butt of our own jokes. And yet we can laugh. Isn't that wonderful?"

12 STEPPER

Speaker of the evening was the Hon. Richard H., a Ventura judge ... an aesthete before he "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." Judge Dick now is an ardent Twelve Step worker and, he explained, "it's an easy job—I have three police forces working for me."

He gave considerable credit for his conversion to God to his wife.

"When I was lord and master of the manor," he said, "there wasn't any of that religious junk around my house ... no praying ... but later I discovered that my wife was a sneak—a sneak prayer. She constantly sneaked in prayers for me—Thank God."

The evening closed with dancing to the music of Gordon Marvin's Orchestra. Proceeds from a raffle—first prize, \$50 and other cash prizes—paid for the music.

MARTY MANN ILL

Sunday morning there was a Group Secretaries Workshop and, as on Saturday, Hospitals and Institutions Workshops. There also was a General Service Open Meeting at which Clyde D., Los Angeles, spoke on his "own process of learning."

Harvey E., of the Woodland Group, MCed the Sunday afternoon closing session. It was, for the moment, something of a disappointment because the well-known Marty M., of New York City, Executive

Director, National Council on Alcoholism was unable to attend as speaker. Her assistant sent a telegram stating that Marty was bedded down—nothing serious—with bronchial pneumonia and an "adamant doctor."

However, disappointment turned quickly into joy, because Marion F., formerly of Los Angeles and now of Marquette, Mich., came through on short notice and delivered a heart-tugging story of a woman's battle against the insidious foe—alcohol.

TRIM BLONDE

You'd hardly thought the trim, blonde figure in sparkling white dress and pearls, was 55 ... that come April 4th she will have en-

over alcohol ... that her life had become unmanageable ...

There was hardly a dry eye in the audience as Marion told how, after she had won her fight, she visited her daughter by a previous marriage (her former husband had custody of the girl) only to discover, after she suddenly disappeared from a New York finishing school, that the youngster was an alcoholic at 17.

"We found her in Baltimore," Marion said. "At first we thought she had been kidnaped. But I knew. She had run because she was afraid of punishment. I recognized myself in my daughter. I said 'she's surfacy' ... surfacy ... she's trying to cover up."

"LIFE IS RICH"

"Later she came out to visit me in Los Angeles. She was still drinking. But He had given me a new life so I could get a job done for him. He let me carry the AA message to my daughter. She's now 31 and has been sober eleven years. I'm now the grandmother of three girls. One is seven. I'm sure she's an alcoholic. (Laughs) ... it takes one to know one.

"I'd like to give you a closing thought: 'Life is so full ... so rich ... so meaningful if you follow the AA program.'"

Meeting adjourned.

Newspaperman Aids GOOD NEWS

Much of the sparkle, human interest, and colorful writing that lights up this edition of GOOD NEWS is the work of Henry S., a resident of Henry Ohlhoff House, San Francisco.

An able newspaperman, Henry volunteered to "cover" the Sacramento NCC Conference. Readers will note a new, light touch—a frothy effervescence—in some of the NCC coverage. This is the work of a professional; work that Henry's long experience and training as a working newspaperman enabled to rap out on his trusty Remington on the kitchen table of the Henry Ohlhoff House.

GOOD NEWS is grateful. This kind of volunteer assistance is invaluable; is seldom offered and almost impossible to obtain.

joyed 16 years of sobriety—"each of those 16 sober years more exciting than the one past—after years of struggling to find herself. It was the story of a woman who'd tried every recourse possible except one—admitting that she was powerless

"Buck" Moore Dies

A legion of AA friends offered sympathy to the family of L.C. "Buck" Moore, who died January 11 in Monterey. His death was ascribed to a coronary occlusion.

Widely known throughout AA circles and particularly in the Monterey Peninsula, Mr. Moore was 51 years of age, and had 16 years on the AA program at the time of his death.

He was interred January 13 in the Catholic Cemetery, Monterey. In addition to his wife, Emma, he is survived by three sons and two daughters.