



# Good News



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## BOOZERS RUB ELBOWS WITH "INFORMED DRUNKS" Thumb-Nail Sketch Of Vallejo Conference

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

The annual Northern California summer conference of AA at Vallejo the first weekend of June was one helluva temptation for some 1400 ex-drunks—but not one of them "defected." There on the second floor of the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium was a real bar—loaded with booze. But Joe the bartender didn't peddle much beer or whiskey—7-Up, Coke, Fresca, Sprite and Pepsi Cola was the order of the day—and night.

### Plans For Fall Formulated By NCC Committee

The Central Committee of N.C.C. held its quarterly planning session in Stockton Alano Club, Saturday, June 25.

Secretary Bill G. presided, assisted by Bertha B. for coastal groups and Vern McM., Gridley for the interior groups.

Principal order of business was program arrangements for the Chico Conference to be held October 1-2 in the Chico State College Halls.

A meeting will be held in Chico on Sunday, July 17, when all local Chico Conference committees will be formulated and swing into action.

A list of possible speakers was submitted for consideration and action by the Secretary. General Service announced plans for a showing of the film "Bill's Story" at Chico if suitable arrangements can be made.

The matter of conference mailings was discussed, as well as a number of other matters including future bids for conferences to be submitted to the Central Committee for investigation and consideration prior to submission to the full Council Meetings at the conferences.

It was suggested that quarter-cards be supplied for postings at group meetings as well as AA Clubs and gathering places.

A few of the Auditorium's regular customers wondered if their drinking routine would be affected by the fact that an AA conference was being held in a building that certainly has been the scene of many wild veterans' conventions. Assured that we're not blue noozes, they drank as usual—and before the

weekend was over many of us non-drinkers were socializing with the drinkers just as we did in the days of elbow bending.

#### SOFT STUFF

There were the usual dirty jokes, rolling for drinks and the friendly atmosphere that all of us once knew in bars the length and breadth of the land. Except that this time we drank soft stuff. It's fun watching another guy get drunk and seeing how stupid you once looked yourself.

The speakers were terrific; the beautiful home made cakes, coffee and other goodies provided by our Vallejo hosts were tops, as usual; and dancing Saturday night to Rollin W.'s "Hepcats" was one of the highlights.

#### JAMMED HALL

The conference opened Friday evening, June 3, with a bang-up "kickoff" meeting, with the speaker Paul G., Mill Valley. Saturday, registration opened in the morning and then things started to roll.

By late Saturday afternoon, all hands had checked in. Various groups assembled for dinner and old relations were renewed. At 8:30 there was the Big Open Public Meeting and the Main Auditorium was jammed to capacity. Many standees were out in the hallway and others heard the proceedings down in the ground floor coffee room via public address.

Sam P., of San Francisco, was chairman. The invocation was by the Rev. Albert Colbourne, Episco-

(Continued on page 2)

### Midtown Group Quits; Thursday Beginners Move

Midtown Group—one of the oldest groups in the city—dating back to the old original San Francisco Fellowship — has disbanded.

Moving into Midtown's hall at 1755 Clay (parish hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church) is the Thursday Beginners' that formerly met at 261 Fell Street.

St. Luke's parish hall is also the meeting place of the Monday Beginners' and the Saturday Night Group.

News that Midtown has been discontinued will dismay many hundreds of San Franciscans who found sobriety—and kept it—at this longtime AA unit. It is hoped that its discontinuance is temporary, and will be re-organized.

The Spring 1967 Annual Conference will be held in Richmond March 4-5. Bids for all conferences thereafter are open to interested Cities.

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pal Church, Vallejo. Mayor Florence Douglas extended Vallejo's official welcome; Arnold R., San Francisco, read the Fifth Chapter and Ony M., Point Richmond, read the Traditions.

#### GUN SLINGER

The guest speaker was a knockout. He was Dick W. of Van Nuys, a television and movie personality. This guy was good. Period. Exclamation point.

Among other things he was a gun addict. When he drank he got the urge to pull a trigger. He thought nothing of trying to skin a director's ear with a blast from a horse pistol and once did it.

"The next time," he told his director, with whom he was arguing, "I won't knick your ear, you lousy so-and-so, I'll drill you between the eyes."

Another time he was playing Indian. He garbed himself only in a pair of tight pants, mocassins and nothing else except a brace of pistols on each hip. He was shooting up the trees and everything in sight on his estate when the cops moved in.

#### SHARP SHOOTERS

Dick said he stood there—each hand on a pistol ready to outdraw even Paladin himself. A dozen cops surrounded him.

"Come on Fuzz,—one move and I'll draw," Dick said.

The cops conned him out of it. Dick gave up his arsenal.

"You know," he said. "These guys weren't kidding. If I'd started to draw they had half dozen sharpshooters in the bushes—each with

a gun trained on my heart. They weren't kidding. I'd been giving them a bad time for God knows how long. This time they were prepared to drill me if I made one false move because, drunk as I was, I could still shoot good and I could have hit one of their guys."

#### "GOOD STUFF"

Dick told how he came to join AA. He noticed that around his bars certain members of the fraternity seemed to have joined another club. When he dropped, for the first time in several months, into a certain hangout and asked for a certain drinking companion he was told the gentleman had joined AA. Dick decided this was pretty good stuff.

"That name intrigued me . . . Alcoholics Anonymous," Dick said. "I'd been looking for a place I could drink quietly. After all, I'm not boasting. I was a public figure. People would point me out as Dick W., that TV guy, in various bars. I wanted some privacy.

"So, I figured I'd be a real host. I got a jug of I. W. Harper and showed up at this A.A. club one night. Politely, I was informed of the purpose. "I was disillusioned. So I left."

#### END OF LINE

But the day came when Dick, like so many of us, realized the time had come when he needed help. He got the message and joined up.

Like so many of us, he now finds life is so beautiful.

It isn't? Well, I'm writing this in the living room of a beautiful

## S.F. Central Open Meetings

Central All Groups Open Meeting, sponsored by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, lists speakers for July meetings at 240 Golden Gate Avenue in downtown San Francisco:

**FRIDAY, JULY 1**—Ron B., Pleasant Hills, and Alice S., First Step Home.

**FRIDAY, JULY 8**—Floyd B. Roseville.

**FRIDAY, JULY 15**—Bobbie H., 12 Step Study Group, and Dick O'L., Mill Valley Group.

**FRIDAY, JULY 22**—Curt R., Gratitude Group, and Mary Jane B., San Rafael Group.

**FRIDAY, JULY 29**—Dr. Alfred Auerback, M.D., "Friend of the Alcoholic, and Erica San Carlos Group.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.; the Coffee Bar at 7:30 p.m., and the meeting—open to the public—starts at 8:30 p.m.

new apartment in Alameda. Over my shoulder I can turn around and see the bay with a beautiful beach extending out from our lawn. In front, is a private swimming pool.

Bob W., who's going to abandon his career as an aeronautical engineer to become a field worker for the state in the field of Alcoholism, and I rented it only last night. We've left the Henry Ohlhoff House because we figure it's time we struck out on our own. We're mature men—divorced. We're happy.

### *14th Anniversary Meeting*

## SURF GROUP - RON W. FRESNO

**GUEST SPEAKER — TERRIFIC !**

**Monday, July 18 — 8:30-9:30 P.M.**

**Buffet Supper at 9:30 P.M. til ? ?**

All contributions from this meeting have been ear-marked for the benefit of the Central Office of S.F. Inter-County Fellowship to help defray expenses.

**Surf Group Social Hall of Community Church 34th Ave. & Noriega**

## Clinton Duffy To Speak Here

Clinton T. Duffy, San Quentin's former warden, noted penologist and author, will be guest speaker at the Court School on Alcoholism Prevention, 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco.

The court school is sponsored by the S.F. Council on Alcoholism, in conjunction with the San Francisco Police Department. Open to the public each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., it is an educational course relating to the prevention of alcoholism.

## New Alameda Group Founded

A new group in Alameda, the Unity Group, meets each Tuesday in the McKinley Hall at Buena Vista and Walnut, Alameda.

Meetings in July will be devoted to discussion of traditions. Chairmen will be Nick, Al B., Frank M., and Helen K.

Nick is from the Broadway Studio Group; Al B. is from the Island Fellowship; and the last two are members of the Unity Group. Tom L. is secretary, telephone 522-2697.

## MONDAY BEGINNERS

The Program Committee of the Monday Beginners' Meetings for July have named the following speakers:

**MONDAY, JULY 4**—Speaker is Helen C., Daly City Group.

**MONDAY, JULY 11**—Roger J., Marin Stag Group, will speak.

**MONDAY, JULY 18**—Kathy S., Friendly Circle Group has the podium.

**MONDAY, JULY 25**—Hannibal W., Panhandle Group, will speak.

Members of the committee are: Rosemary T., Bob K., Jack G., and Frances G. Meetings are held at 1755 Clay Street and commence at 8:30 p.m.

## Serenity Prayer in Finnish Language To Peninsula Group

The Friday Night Fireside Group of San Mateo Fellowship was presented with a Finnish AA banner — a Viking ship in bright blue on a white field — the AA motto embossed in blue. At the same ceremonies held last month, Eddie N., San Mateo and Peninsula Fellowship, was presented with a framed copy of the Serenity Prayer in Finnish language.

### Industrial Club To Hold Election of Trustee Board

The annual election of the Board of Trustees of the Industrial Club of S.F. is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 11, at the Industrial Club, 3198 16th Street.

The Board consists of 11 members elected for one year terms.

## S.F. Alano Club July Programs

The S.F. Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, at the Gateway to San Francisco's famed Chinatown, offers an excellent entertainment fare for July.

**SATURDAY, JULY 2**—Independence Day Dance, featuring the "Jumpin' Jacks".

**SATURDAY, JULY 16**—Anniversary Open House highlighted by an Anniversary Dance. Music is by the "Jumpin' Jacks".

**SUNDAY, JULY 17**—A Buffet will be served from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Open House all day.

**SATURDAY, JULY 30**—AA Birthday Dance. This is the popular affair when all AA's whose birthday (AA — not natal birthday) is observed and celebrated with the recognition such birthdays deserve.

At most of these functions — the dances, particularly — door prizes are awarded. But whatever the occasion, good, wholesome fun and fellowship is guaranteed.

The presentation was made by Ursko N., and Victor A. ("To Finland With Love" pair) at inspiring ceremonies at the Fireside Group. Eddie is Ursko's sponsor, and he, in turn is Victor's sponsor and translator, since Victor speaks no English.

### BOOK TRANSLATION

Ursko is to Finland's A.A. what Bill W. is to the thousands of grateful recovering alcoholics in the United States. He carried the message, through correspondence and in person, back to his fatherland after finding his sobriety in California some 16 years ago. Part of this large scale twelve step call was his translation of the Big Book of A.A., one chapter each month, which he sent off to the new groups in Helsinki.

They used these as their guide for meetings and for learning the principles of the fellowship. Ursko noted that the task was made doubly difficult by the absence of Finnish words for "hangover" — "slip" — and other terms all too familiar to most of us!

### BORROWED FUNDS

A few years ago Ursko borrowed funds to finance a trip to Finland because he was alarmed over the prospect of the Finnish Government proposal to take over the program of A.A.

He worked diligently and unselfishly with both groups to permanently safeguard the traditions of A.A. in Europe.

It was in gratitude and love that Victor and his delightful wife (who was promptly nicknamed "Vodka", since her name is difficult to pronounce in English) came from their country to ours. Thus is the work of the Fellowship being carried on throughout the world.

# Press Club Group—Is It “In” or “Far Out”?

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

The Press Club of San Francisco AA group, which meets each Tuesday night, is an unusual member of the Northern California Fellowship. It has a garrulous secretary who was elected to that position a year ago in order to shut him up! The name of the secretary is Gene H., a robust, bald-headed retired seaman and jack-of-all trades. At 69, 225 pounds strong and six feet high, Gene still is as vigorous—mentally and physically—as he was way in the early 20's when he was welterweight champion of the famed San Francisco Olympic Club.

It spawned such later ring greats as one-time light-heavyweight champion Bob McAllister, California Joe Lynch, Fred Appostoli, and Frankie Malone.

But first, a little about the group itself.

## DEAD FOUNDERS

In 1947, two veteran newspapermen whom this writer knew personally and who are now dead, decided there was need for a group at which professional men might sit down and discuss their common problem—how to stay sober. They were sports writer Roy Cummings, of the old Call-Bulletin, and Jack Hanley, who then was a lobbyist for the rice industries in Sacramento. They formed the group when the Press Club was down at its old Powell Street address just below Sutter Street across from the Sir Francis Drake Hotel

It was an immediate success. The word went out that this was a real men's meeting. Not a place for beginners, but for men of better than average intelligence who wanted intelligent discussion. This is not to say that these men felt themselves better than their fellow AA members.

## FORMAT CHANGED

It was just that they had reached the point where they could dispense with the usual AA meeting formula and get right to business. There was—and this still holds true—not any reading of the traditional Third or Fifth Chapters of the Big Book; no reading of the preamble; yes, not even the Lord's Prayer or the Serenity Prayer. These men didn't need these “pitches.” They knew them by heart. They wanted a full hour for discussion only.

I know this is true because the other night I attended a meeting at the new Press Club up on Post Street.

## RANDOM TOPICS

Gene H. opened the meeting by saying “Gentlemen, good evening.” That's all. Larry S. was the chairman for the night—picked at random by Gene from among the members. We discussed psychiatry in relation to helping a man control his drinking habits.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner group in the dining room. I was Gene's guest and I had an excellent dinner for \$2.65. If you are interested, show up at 7 p.m. any Tuesday, ask for the AA table, sit down, introduce yourself, eat, and join the meeting at 8:15. The club provides a private meeting room upstairs. The night I attended it was held in The City Room, a moderately sized room decorated with pictures of famous San Francisco newspapermen and their papers.

## ATTENDANCE DROPS

Our meeting ended exactly at 9:15 p.m. Gene looked at his watch and said “Gentlemen, three minutes to go.” With a minute to go, the hat was passed. No pitch was necessary. We all knew why the hat went around. We contributed what we could afford. At 9:15 p.m., the chairman stood up and said:

“Gentlemen, see you next week.”

At the moment, the Press Club meetings are not drawing many visitors. It's summer and a lot of people are out of town. In the past—and the Press Club AA members hope that this again will become the trend—these meetings were the first place most out of town professional men headed for—there have been prominent doctors, members of the various alcoholic research groups in the East like Rutgers University and the Rockefeller Foundation, lawyers, judges, newspapermen, etc. in attendance over the years since the group was formed. They're starting to come back again as word filters out over

the California borders that the Press Club group is as interesting and informal as ever.

## STROKE SUFFERED

Gene H. himself is a story by itself. In 1963, while serving as a “wiper” aboard the S.S. North Field in the Gulf of Aden he suffered a stroke—the result of too much drinking. Gene had been a heavy but controlled drinker for 49 years, except on those occasions when he was readying for an important business or athletic event such as a boxing match, swimming race, important business conference or a lecture (he was a businessman and went to sea only on such occasions when he wanted to see the world). At such times, Gene could go without a drink for as long as the occasion warranted it. But, the overall pattern was to drink almost daily. The inroads of alcohol finally took their insidious toll and he was stricken.

## CONTROL GONE

Gene didn't know it but at that time he no longer was a controlled drinker—he was at the “invisible line” which marks the alcoholic from the social drinker. At that time, a half-pint a day was all Gene could handle before he became intoxicated.

He survived the stroke and returned to San Francisco. There, a friend in the Public Defender's office who, because of her profession, knew something about the disease called Alcoholism. She was Molly Minudri. She convinced Gene to take the cure at Mendocino. He took his last drink—a double shot and a beer—on June 11, 1963 and entered the institution located up near Ukiah. He came out and found AA.

## 959 SPEAKERS

To this date, he has heard 959 speakers (he keeps a daily log of his meetings) at meetings spread

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## Emissary Center For "Drying Out" Opens in S.F. August 1

In a residence at 1624 Noriega Street, in San Francisco, is a center where, beginning about August 1, persons who are "not quite sober" may be brought for the purpose of "drying out."

The Emissary Club started at 430 Haight Street, moved to Leavenworth Street for a short time, then Boyd and Beverly L., managers and moving spirits, moved to the Noriega Street address to continue their work.

### DISCUSSION GROUPS

Emissary Center was incorporated on May 23rd, and will continue to have a meeting place for the two groups, Bell Tower Group Sunday Evenings and the Explorers Group Wednesday evenings, both at 8:30 p.m. and both strictly discussion groups, exploring every facet of AA including the "way outs".

### NOT A.A. CLUB

Manager Boyd emphasized that this will be a Service Center, and definitely NOT an AA Club. Resumes outlining the various services which they plan to make available will be mailed out about the end of the month to all agencies on alcoholism and all members of both teleservice and the H. & I. Committee.

## Florence of Graton Finds AA Friends

Before she and her husband, Clem moved to Graton, near Sebastopol, Florence M., was a member of Sunset Group, S.F.

Recently she spent a weekend at Clear Lake Highlands and was dismayed to find vacationers occupied almost solely with drinking. But she probed around and found a few AA members at the vacation resort.

From then on Florence spent a wonderful weekend, sober, restful, contented.

She also reports that a new group has been formed at Clear Lake Highlands. It meets every Tuesday night at the Methodist Church and is "open".

### SUPPORT ASKED

All members of the Emissaries and all others interested in furthering this fine effort are invited to visit 1624 Noriega Street, see for themselves what is being done, and lend their support.

Telephone Boyd or Beverly, 731-9736, any day between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

## Peninsula All Groups Meeting

Following is the Speaking Roster for the month of July scheduled by Peninsula All Groups:

**SATURDAY, JULY 2**—Speaker is Johnny H., Sacramento; host group is the Redwood City Stag Group.

**SATURDAY, JULY 9**—Ellen R., San Bruno Group is speaker; hosting is the Redwood City Thursday Group.

**SATURDAY, JULY 16**—A special memorial for the late Jack Irving. Speaker is Chuck C., Laguna Beach;

**SATURDAY, JULY 23**—Estelle R., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, will speak; hosting, Daly City Group.

**SATURDAY, JULY 30**—Roger W., Central All Groups, is speaker; the Palo Alto Thursday Group will act as hosts.

Peninsula All Groups meets in the recreation room of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Baldwin Avenue and El Camino Real, San Mateo. Meetings commence at 8:30 p.m.

## Vallejo Winds Up With \$500 Surplus

Jack P., North Hollywood, substituting for Norman A., Monrovia, received a standing ovation Sunday afternoon when he closed the Conference with a story about an Indian who finally "made it."

Registrations numbered in excess of 640; 160 gallons of coffee was consumed; Vallejo drew attendance of some 1400—on par with much larger cities—and may have set a standard for excellence.

## Panel 1 Sets A Pre-Assembly For Saturday, August 6

A highly important meeting of all group representatives of the General Service Committee of Coastal Panel 1, has been scheduled for Saturday, August 6, at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, starting at noon.

This is the first annual pre-Assembly Meeting of all group representatives, committee members, and area chairmen within eight areas embracing 56 districts that makes up Panel One. It includes all groups taking in Santa Cruz and Santa Benito Counties in the south, to Humboldt and Del Norte Counties to the north.

Jim A., General Service Secretary, Panel 1, said, "it is essential that every group sends a G.S. representative to participate in this meeting. Each group should have a voice in the Panel's decisions and Committee Members are urged to inform groups of this important meeting."

The Program is, as follows:

**Noon to 1:00 p.m.**—Registration and Buffet.

**1:00-1:15 p.m.**—Roll Call — Area Chairmen — D.C.M.'s.

**1:15-2:00 p.m.**—Proposal to be acted upon:

(a) Delegates expenses to N.Y.

(b) Should a chairman be added to the three offices of No. Calif. Coastal Panel One?

**2:00-2:15 p.m.**—Coffee Break.

**2:15-3:00 p.m.**—Proposal C and D.

(c) Should No. Calif. be divided into 3 Panels? Possibly splitting Panel One to make 2 panels?

(d) Discussion concerning selection of new committee from odd-number districts to serve for a two-year term, 1967-68.

These meetings afford an opportunity for groups serving together through an exchange of ideas and suggestions to better carry the Message to sick alcoholics that still suffer, Jim A. said.

Moreover, the Conference wound up with about \$500.00 in the black.

## Bill's Own Story

The New York office of AA frequently get letters asking about the color-sound movie of Bill and Lois shown in Toronto.

It is a 60-minute (two-reels) 16 MM film, professionally produced, with Bill and Lois telling of his last drinking days, his and Dr. Bob's recovery, and their decision to share this miracle with other alcoholics.

Only AA meetings may have this film. It is not for screening outside the Fellowship. Prints are rented at \$35.00 per week, plus shipping cost to next point.

Number of prints are limited and must be scheduled in advance. Order them from the General Service Office, Box 459 Grand Central Station, New York, 10017.

**In memory of Jack Irving, Chuck C., Laguna Beach, will be guest speaker July 16, at Peninsula All-Groups. See details elsewhere, this edition.**

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from Fresno to Santa Rosa. Name a group in that area, and Gene's probably been there. He tried a number of groups but didn't like them. He wanted a place he could sit down and talk man-to-man with men, so he found the Press Club group 2½ years ago. He's been there ever since, thanks to the late, great Jack Irving, secretary of the Central Office, who took Gene as his guest. Jack considered the Press Club Group his own home group and he was a frequent visitor.

### LIP IS ZIPPED

Gene made good. But he couldn't shut up. He is the first to admit it. He talked too much—and still does. But he likes to talk because he thinks ours is a great program. But there came a time when the Press Club group felt that Gene should be honored and thus they could get a word in edgewise themselves. A year ago, they elected each month as secretary any member who was having a drinking problem. They figured that by giving him responsibility, he would thus quit drinking. They abandoned that practice, when it became difficult

## AA News from Santa Clara County

Tony R., one of our local speakers, gave an amusing and inspiring message to those who attended the June 11 All Groups meeting at the Alano Club. These meetings are sponsored by the Santa Clara Inter-groups Council and hosted each month by a different AA Group.

The Saturday, July 9 ALL GROUPS MEETING will be hosted by the YOUNG PEOPLES GROUPS, Alano Club, and will feature HARRIET H., San Francisco, as the speaker for the evening.

Santa Clara Valley AA Picnic will be held at Warm Springs, Hidden Valley Ranch, Saturday, August 13 this year. Glenn and Betty H. have taken on the job of coordinating the affair and it promises to be a "GOOD" one. Date for the picnic falls on the regular All Groups meeting date and the Wednesday Night CUPERTINO GROUPS have volunteered to host the A.A. meeting at the picnic. They have asked "ALBAM" C., North Hollywood to be the speaker. Details as to time, cost, etc. will be quoted next month in this paper. Keep the date in mind and plan to join your fellow members at the annual A.A. get-together.

Our Valley celebrated its 25th Anniversary in the month of June. Los Gatos Friday night meeting held a big Anniversary party June 3 and featuring Al C., Herman K., each with 25 years, and many others with 20 years or more on the program.

How about this? The BINGO \$500.00 Jackpot at the Alano Club has not yet (of now) been won—over four months—believe it or not—every other week an additional number is being added—thereby giving more of a chance for some lucky person to win. Suspense is really building up—why not give it a whirl yourself?

To Whom it may concern: To those interested in subscribing to this publication you may do so by phoning Carolynn G., at 286-2895. She has been appointed the official representative here in the Valley. If you have any publishable news she will be glad to take the information and send it in to San Francisco for you.

Jane C., Central Office Secretary, will go on vacation in July. This is news because it is the first time in three years she has been able to do so. Jane has given unstintingly of her time and energy, never missing a day except for the leave of absence in 1965 for major surgery. A more deserving person could not be found.

The New Fellowship at 299 No. First St., has produced a remarkable record since its opening several months ago. Twenty men are claimed to have received their sobriety since their first visit to the Fellowship. Press S., Board Chairman, says they are in pretty good condition but could "sure stand some contributions and some volunteer help—especially women to act as hostesses in the afternoons and evenings." This type of undertaking deserves our attention — remember "We are Responsible."

to find members who were having that problem. So Gene was elected because:

1. As secretary he would have an opportunity to say a few words of welcome and introduce the night's speaker.

2. Thus, as just a regular member under a chairman, he could be told—and made to—shut up when he got out of hand.

He's done good so far for a year and he'll hold the job as long as he behaves.

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## AA Picnic Date

Sunday, August 28 is the Big Day. That's the date for the big outing and picnic sponsored by the Northern California Council of AA.

It'll be held at Blackberry Farm, 21975 San Fernando Avenue, Cupertino. The hard-working picnic committee has ambitious plans afoot. Already it has a barbecue setup, games, a baseball game, golf tournament, and bingo in the mixer.

Swimming in two outdoor pools; ample parking; plenty of tables under cool overhanging trees; and lots of barbecue pits for those that want to broil their own steaks or ribs, are available.

Admission for adults, \$1.50; children, 75c.

## Sacramento Plans Picnic August 28

"By The Way" official publication of Central California Fellowship, announces in its June issue that the Fellowship's annual picnic will be held Sunday, August 28, at Elk Grove Park.

Mary and Roger, co-chairman of the Program & Entertainment Committee said "mark this date on your calendar—we plan a day of real AA enjoyment".

Full plans about this big outing will be published in the July edition of "By The Way", they promised.

Contributions from Surf Group's 14th Anniversary Meeting, July 18, will be donated to the Central Office, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship. See details, elsewhere, this edition.

## H & I BROAD-SIDES

By Bill S., general chairman, Hospital and Institution Committee, NCC

**WE JUST HAD ONE** of the best summer conference in Vallejo that we have had for a long time. The 10:30 meeting of H & I was well attended and Bill Pate Chaplain of Santa Clara Correctional Facility gave a very fine talk. Pres. S. our regional chairman of San Jose is to be congratulated on setting such a fine program.

**AREA 9 HAS ELECTED** Bob D., of Fresno, as their new Area-Chairman. Area 8 has elected Ron G., of Modesto, as their Area-Chairman.

On Sunday, it was unfortunate that both Soledad and Duel Vocational Institution had their annual conference. It was a big decision to know which one to attend.

**ON SUNDAY JUNE 12**, the H & I office equipment was moved from San Francisco to Sacramento with the help of Leonard L., our librarian and Dick H., one of our hard working H & I members so our new schedules will be out between July 1 and 15.

**THE HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION** committee received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Folsom AA Group, this in addition to the plaque presented to the committee at San Quentin from the Department of Corrections creates a problem of where to display them — I hope, like many other problems, with patience we will have the solution.

**DOES YOUR GROUP HAVE A PINK CAN?**

### Stockton Midtown Holding a Potluck Dinner on July 2nd

Holding a potluck is not exactly big news since the midtown Group of Stockton holds one of these popular affairs on the first Saturday of every month. But the Midtown secretary thought a reminder was in order, and at 6:30, Saturday, July 2, a potluck meeting is scheduled.

On Saturday, July 23 (not a potluck night) speaker for this speaker meeting is Hazel L., Vallejo. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. at Midtown's meeting place, 248 East Poplar, corner of San Joaquin, Stockton.

### THURS. BEGINNERS

Thursday Beginners Meetings, starting at 8:30 p.m. at 1755 Clay Street, has slated the following speakers for July:

**THURSDAY, JULY 7**—Dotty R., Surf Group.

**THURSDAY, JULY 14**—Jim O'T., Panhandle Group.

**THURSDAY, JULY 21**—Rosemary T., Monday Beginners.

**THURSDAY, JULY 28**—Joe K., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

Members of the Program Committee are Fred R., Bobbie D., Bob W., and Aletha Mc.

*In Memory of Jack Irving*  
**CHUCK C., LAGUNA BEACH GROUP**

**WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER AT**

**Peninsula All-Groups Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 16 - at 8:30 P.M.**

**Recreation Room, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**BALDWIN AVENUE, and EL CAMINO REAL, SAN MATEO**

## News From the Monterey Peninsula

### WATSONVILLE

Jim R., San Jose, was a recent visitor at the Thursday Nite Beginners. He was very much surprised at the attendance. Only 45 this night.

Emma M. had the pleasure of entertaining Ed H., and wife (he's our N.Y. delegate) before they attended a recent Watsonville Meeting where Ed reported on his New York Conference Trip.

Monterey Groups are starting to rack their brains for new meeting places. A year from now they'll have to vacate. Reason: the block is being bulldozed. A large building, big enough to hold meetings and house an Alano Club is being sought.

Harold and Virginia attended the Vallejo Conference along with 1400 others, and had a wonderful time.

Nick and Virginia, Oakland, have been frequent visitors here. Nick recently retired from Standard Oil and bought a cabin at nearby Capitola.

Arrangements are being planned for the Tri-County Speakers' Meeting in July. Expected to keynote the affair — Harriet H., Central Secretary, S.F., Inter-County Fellowship.

Lon V., Saturday Night chairman underwent surgery and will be laid up for a spell. Harold J. has taken over his AA duties, pending what is hoped to be a speedy recovery.

### SANTA CRUZ

At the Scotts Valley Star Lodge Meeting three birthdays were recently celebrated — Bill, Jim, and Esther.

Art made a recent trip to Reno where he indulged in a few Handle Pulls. Came away with a few tokens—a pair of ladies nylons—which suspiciously indicates the Cal-Neva Club.

Jim McS's definition of booze (who recently spoke here) "anything coming out of a bottle is 'drunkable'".

At a recent Surprise Drawing, Tom of Santa Cruz won a prize—a sweat shirt lettered in front

"Nobody Told Me To Drink—I Flew" At the same affair Bill of Santa Cruz and Bill of Monterey each won a Big Book; Jo of Salinas, the 24 Hour Book.

Sid F. and Marie W. still going to the Ben Lomond Youth Camp on the second Tuesday of every month. They'd like to have a half-dozen others attend.

Meetings at The Cottage—Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday—are well attended. Fridays the gang go to Santa Cruz County Hospital.

Harry B. recently lost a decision to a Skilsaw and is minus a finger. For a newcomer it may have been a fine excuse to drown his "sorrow" in booze. Not Harry. He has too much AA "insurance" behind him.

### PACIFIC GROVE

Mila S., Tri-County secretary (and work horse) had an accident; broke her hand and unable to attend the recent business meeting at Santa Cruz.

Beacon House reports everything is in Ship Shape, and with the willing and able help of Cleo, Pete, John, Lou, the executive secretary, meetings at the Memorial Group are still held at 8:00 p.m. each Sunday.

### SALINAS

Lou C., Beacon House, recently chaired an Alano Club meeting and was surprised at the quality and organizational intelligence demonstrated. Said he, "these Alanos are having some mighty good speakers, and us alcoholics had better watch out".

Herb S. and Pat S., Watsonville, were recent guest speakers at the Sunday 11:00 a.m. meeting.

Ralph completed two large tables for the hall. The decorating committee has done a remarkable job of cleaning and renovating the furniture.

Edna, Sunday secretary, is visiting her 80 year-old mother in Florida. And Jay recently enjoyed a visit from his brother who's at Washington State.

## Redding Plans 16th Birthday

A big program, celebrating the founding of the Redding Group, up in the Shasta-Cascade Wonderlands, is underway.

The affair takes place Saturday, July 16, with Jim M., Carmichael, and a Trustee of the General Service Board, N.Y., scheduled for the keynote talk.

Ed S., Redding's secretary, also slyly points out to Bay Area fishermen, "our lake and streams are cold and teeming with trout, bass and Kamloops. So plan to spend a day or more at the 'head of the valley' and include Saturday, July 16."

Good idea?

## Soledad Inmates Talk "With Sense" About AA Program

The Annual Open House held by the A.A. group at Soledad State Prison on Sunday, June 19, was quite a successful meeting, according to Herb S., GOOD NEWS reporter from Watsonville.

Attendance of outside guests was not quite as large as last year, probably due to the fact that no women visitors were allowed this year. Groups in Oakland, Hayward and Watsonville were well represented, and many others travelled quite a distance to attend.

Bud C., Hayward, past chairman, Hospitals and Institutions Committee, was one of the outside speakers. Bud's talk was much appreciated.

A number of inmate speakers made fine, interesting talks, displaying a depth of feeling and sincerity in and for the AA program and way of life.

## APTOS

Stag Eleven Meetings are temporarily discontinued until mid-July. Earl H. is on vacation in Southern Calif., where he first found AA some 18 years ago.