



Good News



APRIL,
1967

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SALINAS STARTS AN ALANO CLUB

AA members in the Salinas-Monterey area have organized and founded a new Alano Club, according to a report from Herb S., GOOD NEWS correspondent for the Monterey Peninsula.

He said the new clubhouse, located at 14 Wood Street, Salinas, emerged from a meeting held March 18 and organized by a group consisting of Gill C., Bob H., John R., Phil O., and Don C.

At the meeting, Herb said, charter memberships and pledges were obtained which led to a lawyer-member petitioning the State of California for a non-profit corporation permit.

The clubhouse on Wood Street will have ample space for general meetings, dances, coffee bar, card rooms, and general assembly area.

A meeting has been scheduled for the near future to select a five-man Board of Directors which will be drawn from the charter membership list.

Our correspondent said local business and civic leaders are enthusiastic in their support of the clubhouse and the AA membership of the Monterey Peninsula say it is "something that's been needed for a long time".

AA members and Alanons will be urged to participate in the club's activities, Herb said. To be eligible for membership, an applicant must show at least 30 days of sobriety.

A club manager is expected to be hired who will oversee club activities and direct various projects such as bingo, dances, social events, picnics, etc.

The club is expected to serve the interests of AA and Alanon members in surrounding communities

Celebration Marks Two Decades For North Sacramento

"Twenty Years In Business".

On Saturday, May 20, North Sacramento Fellowship commemorates its 20th Anniversary with a lively affair scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. with a "get acquainted hour".

The birthday party will be held at the Hagginwood Park Clubhouse, 3271 Marysville Boulevard, North Sacramento.

From the very start, coffee will be served. At 8:00 p.m. an Open Speaker Meeting will be held. The identity of the guest speaker is unresolved at this date, and will be announced later, Nina M., secretary, said.

She said there will be plenty of cake and coffee following the speaker plus some real arm's-length AA. Everyone is invited to participate in some of North Sacramento's hospitality. (And it's widely known).

Eastbay Planning "Riot of Spring"

Riots in spring conjures up some sort of a civil rights march or sit-in or a march on the Naval Supply Depot or some other disturbance.

Belay it! This "Riot of Spring" is a nice, harmonious, fun-filled social event sponsored by the East Bay Fellowship. It will be held Saturday, May 20, starting at 7:30.

Included is a buffet dinner, a floor show and dancing to the music of Howard's Orchestra. Tariff is \$3.00 per person, and will be held at APUMEC Hall, 3256 East 14th Street, Oakland. Everyone's welcome!

S.F. All Groups Name Speakers

The Friday meetings sponsored by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship at 240 Golden Gate Avenue at 8:30 p.m. are scheduled for this month, as follows:

FRIDAY, APRIL 7—Joe B., Napa Study Group and Ann B., Book Group, share the Speaker's podium. Harold D., chairman.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14—Dolores S., West Portal Group, is first speaker; Harry G., Berkeley Group, will speak the second half; Sam P., will chair the meeting.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21—Paul B., Santa Rosa Group divides the speaking program with Si P., Monday Beginners'. Veronica S. is chairman.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28—Ted K., Calgary, Canada, is guest speaker for the evening. Chairing the session is Marialice M.

This meeting is "open" and the public invited. Comfortable accommodations include padded seats, air conditioning, good acoustics and fine P.A. system. Parking available around corner at nominal rates.

New Secretary for San Mateo Groups

By unanimous vote, the committee of delegates to the San Mateo County Fellowship, selected Josephine L., affiliated with the Half Moon Bay Group, as the Fellowship's secretary.

Her appointment to the post followed the board meeting held February 26. The new secretary participated in the formation of the Half Moon Bay Group, some three years ago, and has done major 12 Step work in Half Moon and other areas.

"Open House" At Soledad

(By Bud C., Hayward Group)

The gathering this year will be held Sunday, April 30 in the North Facility Gymnasium. The meeting will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. and will conclude promptly at 3:30 p.m.

All guests are requested to be in the North Facility Foyer between 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served during this period. A buffet luncheon will be served at 12 noon.

As a matter of courtesy. All members planning to attend this celebration will please write to:

B. J. Gerbrandt, Lieutenant,
Correctional Training Facility,
North

P.O. Box No. 2530,
Soledad, California 93960

All members who have numbers will please forward your "Jacket" in order that clearance may be arranged prior to April 30th.

People planning to attend may, or may not, receive an official letter of invitation from Soledad. Men with numbers must have this communication. However, men who have no record will be cleared at the gate. If you don't have a number, and you don't receive a letter, come along and make a worthwhile 12 Step call.

You will have an opportunity to hear, and meet, Superintendent Fitzharris. You will hear the stories of six of the "Student Body", plus the "MC's" and six speakers from the alleged free world. You will like what you see, hear, and especially what you will be served to eat.

We call to your attention, a fact. Whether or not you are a member of The Nor. Cal. Hospital & Institution Committee, you are more than welcome.

We desperately need people to cover assignments, and we believe that your attendance at such an affairs as this could, we hope, make you interested enough in this work that you will become active.

It really is a great feeling to be

able to help a little.

Contact the people in your respective groups, make up a car load, give or take a few, write to Lieutenant Gerbrandt, and let's all enjoy a day of Fellowship, and I repeat, GOOD FOOD.

San Francisco To Host Conference June 10th and 11th

The June Conference sponsored by the Northern California Council of AA will be held in San Francisco Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11, Bertha B., assistant secretary, NCC, announced.

Except for dancing which will be held at the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, all meetings will be conducted at Nourse Auditorium, Hayes and Franklin Streets.

The Central Committee of NCC; committees from H & I, General Service, Alanon, and Alateen met March 19 in San Jose to set preliminary plans. There will be two Open Speaker Meetings Saturday night and Sunday afternoon; General Service, Hospital & Institution, Alateen and Alanon workshops; dancing and door prizes.

Keynote speakers will be announced in the May edition of GOOD NEWS.

SAN BRUNO MONDAY

The Monday Group of San Bruno, meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the Volunteer Fire Hall, 618 San Mateo Avenue, San Bruno, has scheduled these speakers for April:

MONDAY, APRIL 3—Paul H., Richmond Group.

MONDAY, APRIL 10—Pat M., San Pablo.

MONDAY, APRIL 17—Mary E., Stepping Stone.

MONDAY, APRIL 24—Florette P., Gratitude Group.

New Sebastopol Recovery House

Under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. D. Stiving, a new recovery house, "Apple Acres" has opened in Sebastopol at 802 High School Road.

The objectives of the institution are to operate a Recovery House and to help alcoholics attain and maintain sobriety. There are no restrictions as to race or creed.

Apple Acres is a boarding Recovery House owned and operated by a man and wife, both who are alcoholics. It has the best and newest facilities for the purpose it was established. Twelve guests can be accommodated at one time.

Rates are \$153.50 per month—payable in advance—and patients must (a) have a desire to be helped, (b) a willingness to cooperate with others with a standard program for recovery.

Apple Acres program consists of group and occupational therapy; recreational facilities; personal counseling; tapes on alcoholism; AA meetings every Sunday; and the cooperation of outside medical help.

The Ambassadors

The Ambassadors which meet in the downstairs auditorium of St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, has programmed the following speakers for this month:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 — Jack M., S.F. Fellowship.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12—Ed S., Pacifica Coastside Group.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19—Chuck W., Santa Rosa.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26—Jim G., High Noon Group.

The Ambassadors meetings start at 8:30 p.m.

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, we want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE.

Tri-County Inter-Group Meeting Set

The Tri-County Inter-Group Speakers Meeting sponsored by the groups of the Monterey Peninsula area is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29.

The important meeting will be held in the Church of the Assumption, 100 Salinas Road in Watsonville.

Principal speaker is Hank P. from Gardena, Calif., who comes to the meeting with a highly-rated reputation for his ability to "carry the message". Many members of the Tri-County organization will remember him from his appearance in Watsonville in 1963.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Virginia, formerly of Salinas, who make the visit to her old stamping grounds as an occasion to celebrate her 5th AA birthday among old friends.

Cake, coffee and arms-length AA will be served following the meeting.

3rd Birthday For Southern Alameda AA Service Center

Southern Alameda County Service Center is celebrating its Third Anniversary, Saturday, April 8, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 22737 Main Street, Hayward.

Dick Mc., chairman, said the birthday affair starts at 6:00 p.m. with a buffet dinner which will be followed by a public meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Guest speakers are Walter O'K., from Hollywood who is well known to hundreds of Bay Area AA members for his many appearances at major AA functions; and the Reverend Pritchard, a distinguished member of the clergy and a non-alcoholic.

Following the "open" meeting which the general public is invited, a dance will be held. Tariff is \$2.00 per person.

Annual Two-Day Meeting Set For ARA April 29-30

April will be a eventful month at ARA's First Step Home, 1035 Haight Street, San Francisco.

A two-day Annual Open House on Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30, will celebrate ten years of operation at the Haight Street address. A bingo party and dance Saturday Night and a public meeting Sunday afternoon, April 30th at three o'clock will highlight the weekend event.

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Association will be held Wednesday, April 12 at 8:00 p.m. The election of seven members of the Board of Directors, and annual reports will be the main features of this meeting, to be followed by a social hour. All members are urged to attend.

Monday Beginners

The following speakers will appear during April at the Monday Beginners Group:

APRIL 3—Eric E., 35 and Under Group.

APRIL 10—Betty H., The Ambassadors.

APRIL 17—Jim G., High Noon Group.

APRIL 24—John G., Telegraph Hill Group.

Meetings start at 8:30 p.m. at 1755 Clay Street, between Polk Street and Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco.

Peninsula All Groups Roster

The Peninsula All-Groups program for this month is, as follows:

SATURDAY, APRIL 1—Speaker is "Cap" K., member of the Saturday Serenity Group.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8—"Doc" R., Modesto Group, will speak.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15—Kay G., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, will be speaker.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22—Frank B., Saturday Nite Open Group, will make "pitch".

SATURDAY, APRIL 29—Tom C., Parkside Group, is guest speaker.

Peninsula All-Groups meetings start at 8:30 p.m. and are held in the Recreation Room of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Baldwin Avenue and El Camino Real, San Mateo.

Thursday Beginners

The Thursday Beginners' Group, meeting at 8:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1755 Clay Street, San Francisco, has set this speaker agenda:

APRIL 6—Fred R., The Ambassadors.

APRIL 13—Betty H., also of the Ambassadors.

APRIL 20—Bob A., Sunday Breakfast Group.

APRIL 27—Ila W., Fireside Group.

FOUR NEW TAPES READY FOR GROUPS

Four outstanding tape speeches have been added to the Tape Library recently.

Dr. Earl M.	Richmond 3-4-67
Father Ernie B.	Richmond 3-3-67
Floyd B.	Modesto 7-16-66
Eneas "Red" K.	Modesto 3-11-67

These may be ordered from the Northern California Tape Library, two speeches per reel for a contribution of \$7.00. All 4 for \$14.00.

Make check to: William H. Mitchell

2103 Miller Avenue Send orders to same address
Modesto, California 95351

News From The Monterey Peninsula

By Herb S. — Watsonville Group

SANTA CRUZ

Chuck C., Laguna Beach, was guest speaker at the Tri-County Speaker Meeting held in Santa Cruz, Saturday, February 25. The church on High Street was JAM-MED. Not even standing room. John G., chairman of the big event led off with introductions; Hunter read the Fifth Chapter; and Jerry of Ben Lomond recited the Twelve Traditions. Then Chuck took over as only the man from Laguna Beach can—and from then on his keen insight of the Program, his humor, good sense and innate wisdom completely captivated the huge audience.

A General Service Meeting was held Sunday, February 26, at "The Cottage". Herb S., chairman for Area One, opened the meeting and then turned it over to the assembled representatives and district committeemen for discussion and action. Many good points were dressed up and adopted to help this area futherance of better General Service.

SALINAS

A General Service Meeting will be held Sunday, April 2 at the AA meeting hall, 137 Monterey Street. All GS representatives and district committeemen are urged to attend and "bring along an interested friend".

North Salinas Group is a new AA unit that's been recently organized. An "open" meeting, it meets at 8:15 p.m. every Tuesday at the Alcoholic Center, 984 Lupin Street. The welcome mat is out.

A new meeting hall is being sought for all the Salinas groups. The site is just about to be selected but the exact location — since there are several under consideration — is yet to be determined.

The next Tri-County Speaker Meeting has been set for Saturday, April 29, in Watsonville. Tryge R., speaker chairman, said

Hank P., Gardena, Calif., will be guest speaker (see detailed story elsewhere in GOOD NEWS)

A number of members are forming a group to open a new Alano Club for the Salinas area (this item will be found in detail elsewhere in GOOD NEWS)

MONTEREY

A delegation from this community traveled to the Richmond Conference March 4-5. They came away highly impressed with auditorium features; its size, acoustics, stage area—all things that are meaningful for Monterey AA members. One of these days they must find adequate headquarters to house their own activities — and some of the features at Richmond (reduced, of course) provided ideas and thoughts for future building operations.

One thing they all agreed upon: Dr. Earle M. could do his "blackboard" talk in a barn and still be great.

Mila S. attended a meeting in Salinas along with Truman and others.

Virginia and Harold K. attended the NCC meeting at the Alano Club, San Jose.

WATSONVILLE

To help boost attendance and generally assist Hollister's new meeting, Tom M., Bob P., Fern Q., Jarvis and Stella McG., and Virginia from Aromas have been giving the Hollister group a helping hand. This is "Responsibility" in action.

Herb B., visiting in New Orleans, sent a postcard saying he attends meetings with Bill F. (a one-time resident of Watsonville) but says he's getting homesick.

Mrs. "Pat" S., chairman-delegate to N.Y. attended our Speakers Meeting held March 11. She gave a brief "pitch".

Bob B., celebrating his 6th AA Birthday, was greeted with a cake and the plaudits of the group. He

also was chairman of the meeting. "Pat" B., elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Watsonville Groups, succeeds Tom M., who has faithfully fulfilled a two-year term.

CARMEL

Willard and Pinky were at the Richmond Conference. They report meetings in Carmel going well with fair sprinkling of newcomers who mingle with old-timers and get into some great discussions.

Out in Carmel Valley meetings continue to draw excellent crowds. Visitors are urged to participate in the new meeting place located in the Village Cafe, Valley Center, Carmel Valley. It meets each Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

APTOS

"Stag Eleven" are still held at the home of Earl H. Meetings held at 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, continues to draw an active bunch who are presently working on Step Eleven. They miss Herb B. who's away for awhile in New Orleans.

HOLLISTER-

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

On Washington's Birthday, the new Hollister-San Juan Bautista Group officially opened for business. It was well attended and got off to a running start. Known as the "Hollister Open Door Group", it elected Ron to lead the group as its first secretary. Ron will be aided by his wife, Josie. Both come from the S.F. Bay area and have been on the Program some six years. For an area that has not had an AA meeting in years, the "Hollister Open Door Group" is a bonanza. Meetings will be held at 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Sacred Heart School library on College Street, Hollister.

Portland Intergroup

The Annual Banquet of the Portland Intergroup takes place at the Congress Hotel, Portland, Saturday, May 24.

The one-day affair will be highlighted by guest speaker Dr. Hal S. from San Diego.

AA News *from Santa Clara County*

Pat S., our newly elected New York delegate was guest speaker at the ALL GROUPS MEETING on Feb. 11. She gave an inspiring message, telling how through the working of the A.A. Program she was able to "grow" to the point where she was able to take the responsibility of being our delegate. The Monday Santa Clara Group hosted the meeting.

Trinity Family Group will host the ALL GROUPS MEETING on April 8, and will hold the meeting in their regular meeting room at Trinity Episcopal Church, Second and St. John's St. in downtown San Jose, at 8:00 p.m. FATHER JOE C., of Sacramento will be the speaker of the evening.

Members of the Fellowship of A.A. in the Santa Clara Valley wish to extend their congratulations and best wishes to Bill C. and Suzanne S. on their marriage that took place Friday, March 17, at Unity Church in San Jose.

The DOWNTOWN FELLOWSHIP at Julian and So. First in San Jose celebrated their first anniversary on March 19th with open house and special speakers.

We are sorry to report that a number of our good A.A. members are ill and hospitalized. We feel sure most of them would like to hear from friends. They are: Lee K. at Stanford-Palo Alto Hospital; Virginia M. at Stanford-Palo Alto Hospital; Mickey P. at Kaiser Hospital, Oakland; "Big Lee" B. at O'Connor Hospital, San Jose; and Kirk S., Santa Cruz Hospital.

The weekly dances to live music have been proving a big success at the Alano Club. You owe it to yourself to go out and join the fun...The 3rd Saturday Pot-Luck Suppers are getting bigger and bigger and better and better—plan to join us some 3rd Saturday.

H & I BROAD-SIDES

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

The next General Meeting of H & I Committee will be held in Sacramento May 20 at St. Lukes Church, 26th and Capitol Avenue from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This will be the election of General Chairman for the next two years.

The Folsom Conference will be Saturday night, May 20. The Conference committee of the Folsom Group wants you all to know they are furnishing all refreshments. This is their party.

Sierra Conservation Center at Jamestown announced their Conference will be held Sunday, April 2.

Tom E., our hard-working co-chairman of Area 9 is in the Agnes Hospital in Fresno.

Attention all members: Again may we remind you no individual member has the authority to discuss or suggest change of policy with any head of institution or hospital.

Ask your Group Secretary about H & I committee work.

New Fellowship In El Cerrito

In mid-January, El Cerrito Fellowship opened its doors for the first time amid a certain amount of understandable apprehension on the part of its founders. Would it Click or Flop?

Beyond the wildest dreams of its organizers, El Cerrito Fellowship "caught on" immediately. In the first 30 days of operation, more than 600 attended regular meetings at its new club located at 11224 San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito.

According to Lee C., publicity chairman, and Barbara A., secretary, the clubhouse offers cheery fellowship in an atmosphere of hospitality every day of the week from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

They said that a crew of volunteers "bartenders" (we have FAITH) serve coffee and cake along with the hospitality and fellowship and have a sympathetic ear for those that have a tale to tell.

Meetings are held every night of week with Tuesday reserved for a study group that "zeros in" on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions . . . a good time to bring "babies" or those "not so sure". Saturday is Speakers' Night.

Schedule for April has been listed as follows:

SATURDAY, APRIL 1—Ann B., Corte Madera is the speaker.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8—Speaker will be Joe B. from Napa.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15—Walt D., Santa Rosa, will make the "pitch".

SATURDAY, APRIL 22—Harry I., Island Fellowship of Alameda will speak.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29—Ray D., Orinda, will be on the Speakers' Dais.

Interested groups wishing to form Alanon or Alateen are invited to contact Barbara A., secretary, 232-9397. The welcome mat is out to all AA members and their families and friends to visit the newest Fellowship in San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship.

How Should Courts Treat Alcoholics?

(By James Jackson Kilpatrick)
(Courtesy of Chit-Chat)

Mr. Justice Fortas came up the other day with a short dissenting opinion that spoke eloquently, if not intentionally, of the gulf that divides the activists from the conservatives on the highest court in our land. The case was *Budd vs. California*, in which Thomas F. Budd, a 56-year-old Oakland Janitor and one-time caddy, sought a review of his conviction in the Oakland Municipal Court on a charge of being drunk in the public view. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case, but Fortas, joined by Mr. Justice Douglas, dissented.

The facts were not in dispute. Budd was arrested at 24th and Telegraph Streets in Oakland about 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 23, 1964, just as he was about to pass out in a parked car. His sole defense before Trial Judge Zook Sutton, was that he was a confirmed alcoholic. Two medical witnesses testified to that effect. In their view, Budd's involuntary compulsion to buy beer and to get drunk was "completely outside his control." Budd's attorney introduced evidence that the defendant had been convicted on drunk charges 21 times in the past 10 years. They argued that such manifest alcoholism is a disease, not a crime, and should be handled by civil commitment for medical treatment rather than a fine or commitment to jail.

Judge Sutton was not inclined to make legal history. He found the defendant guilty, imposed a fine of \$22 or two days in jail, and asked a rhetorical question: "If the defendant had been found guilty, would the same purported defense of chronic alcoholism apply with equal force to a situation of drunk driving?" When the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court the week of October 17 by the habeas corpus route, Mr. Justice Fortas bought the defendant's argument in toto. Four years ago, he observed, in another California case, the high

court ruled that addiction to narcotics is not a crime, but a disease. Is not the same thing true of addiction to alcohol? Is it not "cruel and unusual punishment," under the 8th Amendment, to sentence a sick man to jail, just for being sick?

"The record and the medical literature admonish us," said Fortas, "that punishment of alcoholics does society no good. It can be applauded only by the uninformed or the sadistic. It is neither a deterrent nor a cure for those afflicted. On the contrary, as testified here, it is not only ineffective, but 'particularly antitherapeutic, because it increases the feelings of worthlessness that all alcoholics have.'

Our morality does not permit us to punish for illness, Fortas added. "We do not impose punishment for involuntary conduct, whether the lack of volition results from 'insanity,' addiction to narcotics or from other illness. The use of the crude and formidable weapon of criminal punishment of the alcoholic is neither seemly nor civilized."

Viewed wholly on its merits, there probably is much to be said for the Fortas view. An appalling six million Americans reportedly are alcoholics—800,000 of them in California alone. More than 1.5 million arrests for drunkenness are made each year. Every police reporter is familiar with the dreary parade of chronic drunks from tavern to jail and back to the tavern again. Imprisonment accomplishes nothing.

Yet even the most compassionate judge has an obligation to remember that it is a constitution he is engaged in construing. Is a two-day jail sentence on a drunk charge both "cruel" and also "unusual"? Patently, no. It may be cruel, if Fortas' reasoning is accepted, but it is not unusual, and the constitutional prohibition demands both characteristics.

There is also the practical ques-

tion of what local trial courts could do with thousands of alcoholics if the Budd defense were approved by the high court. Send them to mental institutions? But mental institutions are not well equipped to care for them either. As California's attorney general observed in opposing certiorari, rehabilitation programs for alcoholics are "largely unknown, untried, unfunded and consist more of future promise than present reality." And how far would judicial activists go in acquitting men for "involuntary" acts resulting from "disease"? Suppose Budd had stolen the beer? Could he be prosecuted for theft? Suppose an alcoholic robbed a man to get money to buy liquor? Is this not a crime?

As motor vehicle records demonstrate, some drivers are obsessed with speed; it is perhaps a sickness with them. Are they to be set free or committed to mental institutions? What of the rapist, driven by dark compulsions? What of the psychopath who molests children? Theories of crime and punishment are not immutable; they must constantly be refined. But our society is governed by legislatures as well as judges. Before judicial activists rewrite the Constitution to their own views of psychiatry and medicine, the people, through their legislatures, should have a chance to write some law by themselves.

Azure Acres Group

Meetings at Azure Acres, Sebastopol, are held each Sunday at 3:00 p.m. The schedule for April is: April 2, Howard C., Hayward, is speaker; April 9, Herb S., Watsonville, will speak; Gene B., Fremont Group, is slated for April 16; Ken O., S.F., speaks April 23; and on Sunday, April 30, Dr. S. U. Miller will lead a panel discussion.

PEARLY GATES

Well doctor, was the operation a success?

Who's a doctor? I'm St. Peter!

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Vol. X April, 1967 No. 5

Susanville Set For Conservation Center Conference

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Alcoholics Anonymous Fellowship Conservation Center, Susanville, Calif., has been programmed.

The agenda is as follows:

Date of Conference is Saturday, May 27.

Starting time is 1:30 p.m.

Conference will conclude with a dinner served in the institution dining room from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Accommodations limited to 150 outside members and guests. Diners will be guests of the institution.

Admission is by invitation only and may be obtained by writing the AA Fellowship, California Conservation Center, Box 790, Susanville, Calif.

Visitors and guests must arrange schedules to insure their being admitted to the institution prior to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 27.

This condition is a "must".

MEMORY GROUP

The Memory Group, meeting at 1364 Valencia Street, San Francisco, lists these Wednesday meetings in April:

April 5, Frank B., Maritime Group; April 12, Judy C., Mission Day Group; April 19, Sam P., Friendly Circle Group; and April 26, Archie McC., Mission Group.

Ben Lomond's Fireside Group

(By Bill S., Editor)

One of the founders and "elder statesmen" of the Sunset Group, San Francisco, pulled up stakes about 15 years ago and settled down in Felton, a small summer resort community hidden among the pines and Sequoias of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

To us newcomers on the Program, Charley R., a lawyer and insurance broker, in the early days of Sunset Group back in 1946-49 was a bulwark of strength and a rock of Gibraltar in terms of AA knowledge and lore. He was kindly, patient, and possessed a remarkable understanding of the bewildering morass of misconceptions about the alcoholic and alcoholism that clogged the newcomer's mind.

These, he patiently unclogged citing chapter and verse found in the Big Book coupled with an uncanny sense of making the Program believable and workable for the forlorn and largely hopeless characters that desperately clung to the Program out of sheer faith and desperation.

Those days seem far away but the memory of Charley R., is vivid, sharp and real as if he was still with Sunset. In fact, to this day, during discussions at Sunset, it is not unusual to hear someone remark, "Charley R. suggested this or that or this what Charley said, etc".

I guess what I'm trying to say is that somewhere down among the murmuring pines of Santa Cruz—and very close to Felton is the Fireside Group of Ben Lomond. And if the Fireside Group can locate Charley and induce him to make a "pitch" at one of their meetings on Tuesdays at 8:15 p.m., half of Sunset Group would make the trek to Ben Lomond just for the privilege of hearing good old Charley make a talk.

Fireside meets every Tuesday in the Wee Kirk Church hall in Ben Lomond and merely the idea of

"Barney" Dead

This eulogy or obituary should have appeared a long time ago, because "Barney" B., Marysville, died last December.

But his death graphically points up a basic truth found in Chapter Five, "that if you want what we have and are willing to go to any lengths to get it, etc.

Barney founded AA in Marysville after drinking up a lucrative cab business. That was about 1949. He and his family moved to Ukiah. In 1952 he had a three-day slip.

He re-affiliated with AA and thereafter became exceedingly active and for 14½ years was a good AA member and a useful citizen of the community.

Not only did he diligently work for AA in Ukiah but found time to do good works in Reno, Fresno and in Santa Rosa—where he died.

Barney was willing to go to any length—and also points up another fact: don't be in too big a hurry to sell a slippee short.

April Dances at S.F. Alano Club

April Fool's Day will be observed by the S.F. Alano Club with a dance on Saturday, April 1, starting at 8:00 p.m. The "Jumpin' Jacks" provide the music.

A Mid-Month Dance is scheduled for Saturday, April 15; and an AA Birthday Dance is slated for Saturday, April 29. This is the popular dance and impromptu party when all members whose AA birthday occurs in April is celebrated.

The "Jumpin' Jacks" will be on deck for the dances April 1 & 15.

attending a meeting in a Wee Kirk is almost enough to intrigue anyone's imagination.

So, even if Fireside can't locate Charley, Fireside invites everyone to visit their Wee Kirk hangout and have a warming cup of good coffee with about 20 AA members that make up Fireside Group—and breathe the fresh air of balsam pines.

Good News From Fresno Area

(By Mary Pat A., Fresno Area Correspondent)

Following his Standing Room only appearance at Santa Cruz last month, Chuck C., Laguna Beach, swept listeners off their feet with one of his dynamic "pitches" at the Friday Night Village Group on March 24. Newcomers and old-timers were deeply impressed.

A lively new Alateen Group has been underway in Fresno for the past month under the guidance of Gayle D. One of its goals will be active participation in the upcoming Fall Conference slated for Fresno in October, this year. The Alateens meet at 7:30 p.m. each Friday and will be grateful for morale assistance, suggestions, and "we're behind you" support from all the groups. It meets at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, in the Alano Club, corner of T and Tulare Streets.

About two dozen Fresnoans trekked to Richmond for the Conference and were amply repaid by listening to Dr. Earle's superb talk. It also permitted us time to visit Eunice S., Walnut Creek, who we like to claim as "our own" since she started the Program with us in Fresno. We miss her very much.

SICK CALL—Jack E., confined to St. Agnes Hospital is doing fine; Sadie M., we understand, is convalescing nicely; Opal B., who underwent surgery, is up and about. All of which proves that "us alcoholics are tough—and can take it".

The Alano Club is going great! Officers for the current term are: Carroll B., president; Max Mc., treasurer; Mary H., secretary; Dick Mc., director of memberships. Other directors are Mike W., John T., Howard T.

On Easter the Alano Club had a dinner—ham and yams—after which a "White Elephant Auction" was held. Then bingo, door prizes, raffle and dancing. Proceeds go to the building fund which is going along fine.

Fresno Central Service Officers for 1967 are: Jess F., president; Grace A., secretary and Mary J.,

Father Jim at Avenue Alanon

Featured speaker at the monthly Open Meeting sponsored by the Avenue Alanon Group, slated for 8:15 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, will be Father Jim of San Francisco, Helen T. chairman, said.

Avenue Alanon Group meets weekly on Wednesday in the downstairs auditorium of St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue. Following Father Jim's talk, a brief question-and-answer period will be held.

treasurer.

Joe F. is reopening the Saturday Night St. Johns Group. Popular demand caused the reformation and we're all proud as Lucifer that Joe's back on the job.

The Night Owls is a brand new group that meets every Thursday at 1:30 in the afternoon to take care of the needs of men and women that work at night.

Hank W. recently celebrated his 17th AA Birthday and everyone is showering him with compliments.

The regular Monthly Inter-Group Meeting will be hosted by Fresno General Service. Highlight of the affair will be showing of the sound and color film "Bills Own Story".

Florence and Dick W. came up from Van Nuys to speak at our Monthly Inter-Group Meeting. Before meeting some 25 members met at the Perry Boys Smorgasbord for dinner. Dick and Flo did a wonderful job husband-and-wife "pitch".

Another husband-and-wife team, Gil and Lona from Los Angeles, gave a wonderful talk at the Fri-

New Group Starts At Graton, Calif.

Florence M., formerly of Sunset Group, San Francisco, has started another group. Since she and her husband Clem, left the City by the Golden Gate, Florence started a group in Sebastopol — and now The Graton Fellowship — in Graton, a few miles from Sebastopol on the way to the Russian River country.

The new group meets at 8:00 p.m. every Thursday at Oak Grove School in southeast Graton about 3 miles north of Sebastopol. For further data, phone 823-2503.

Plenty of homemade cake, good coffee and loads of arms-length AA at every meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Lady's Stag Group Started in Ukiah

In AA, there's hardly anything NEW under the sun. But once in a while something DIFFERENT occurs.

In Ukiah, Calif., a Lady's Stag Group has gotten underway. It meets once each month—the first Wednesday of every month — at 8:30 p.m.

Meeting place is at the home of Jennie P., 1371 Beacon Way, Ukiah. The phone is 462-5862. GOOD NEWS joins others who will undoubtedly be wishing The Lady's Stag Group godspeed and success.

Oakland Alano Speaker Meeting

Speaker for the Last Friday of the Month Meeting, sponsored by the Oakland Alano Club, will be Carl W. from the Husband and Wife Group.

The meeting is set for 8:00 p.m., Friday, April 28, at the Alano Clubhouse, 319-14th Street, Hazel, the secretary, said.

day Night Village Group. Having shared 14 years of happy sobriety, inspired the audience immensely.