



Season's Greetings



Good News



DECEMBER,
1969

Published Monthly in San Francisco, California
By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

Vol. XIII
No. 1

Good Crowd at Nourse Hall Assembly DICK W. TALK IMPRESSIVE

The GS assembly at the Nourse Auditorium in San Francisco on November 22nd was quite a success, with many A.A. members and their friends in attendance in addition to about 170 GS group Representatives.

The buffet was excellent, thanks to the many people who contributed the food and served it, and much credit is due Frank B. and his committee for a fine job done on the whole assembly as well.

The afternoon meeting was a sharing session with Bill G., San Francisco, as chairman. Reports given by GS officers and District Chairmen showed fine progress on service programs and activities to date, with a large increase in group representation.

Dick W. from Hollywood made a most impressive talk at the 8:00 p.m. open public meeting, and the dance in the ballroom of the International Center at 50 Oak Street finished a wonderful A.A. day.

Yuba City-Marysville Annual Christmas Party

The 3rd annual Christmas Party of the Yuba City, Linda and Marysville groups will be held Friday, December 19th, at Mid-Valley Savings & Loan, 800 Plumas Street, Yuba City. This is a family frolic!

A pot-luck dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. Turkey and ham will be furnished, with members bringing salads and desserts. Santa Claus will be there to give out the presents.

BILL'S XMAS MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

This is possibly the finest Christmas we have ever known. A.A.'s unexampled progress worldwide, culminating in the recent World Service Meeting, must be counted among the greatest of our blessings in this year, 1969. More than ever before we can truly feel that our A.A. family knows no barrier of distance, custom or language.

It is with deep gratitude and thanksgiving that Lois and I join in sending each of you our warmest holiday greetings.

Ever, Bill.

PENINSULA ALL GROUPS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

A gala New Year's Eve Party, sponsored by the Peninsula All Groups, will be held at St. Matthew's Auditorium, Baldwin & El Camino in San Mateo, with festivities getting under way at 8:00 p.m.

A happy and sober gathering of

EAST BAY FELLOWSHIP NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The Annual New Year's Eve Party of the Oakland East Bay Fellowship will be held in the First Congregational Church Ridenbauch Hall, 2501 Harrison St., at 24th in Oakland.

The celebration will include a buffet dinner, dancing and entertainment and all that goes with New Year's Eve. Anticipated donation \$3.00 per person.

SAN PABLO & EL CERRITO JOINT NEW YEAR'S EVE!

The San Pablo Friendly and El Cerrito Fellowships have arranged a joint New Year's Eve celebration to follow their regularly scheduled meetings Wednesday Eve, December 31st.

The party will be held at the El Cerrito Fellowship, 11225 San Pablo Avenue, because of their larger facilities. A buffet supper and dancing, with the usual New Year's Eve gadgets, will highlight the evening. Everybody is welcome.

A.A. members and their families will bring the New Year in with a bang and a pop, and a rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" according to John F., GOOD NEWS reporter.

Coffee, punch, ham and turkey and all the trimmings will be served, and there will be dancing. There will also be a \$2.00 contribution for party and door prizes.

NEWS OF AA DOINGS IN FRESNO

By GRACE A.

A FRESNO MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

A combination Christmas and New Year's dinner will be served by Howard T., Chef Supreme, at the Alano Club on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1969. This will be a gala affair, with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and an evening of bingo, white elephant sales, raffles and New Year's Eve fun and frolic.

The new Oakhurst Group will host the monthly Inter-group meeting on Saturday, December 13th at 8:30 p.m. in the social hall of St. John's Cathedral. Woody W. will be chairman for this meeting.

The monthly breakfast meeting at the Carousel Restaurant Sunday Morning, December 21st at 10:00 a.m., will have Opal as speaker according to Annette F. and Bob C., co-secretaries of the group.

The Village Group will again present the play "The Twelve Steps" on Friday, December 26th, 8:30 p.m. in the social hall of St. Columbo's Episcopal Church. Carole H. directs this play, and the cast are all local A.A. members.

Annette F. is the new editor of the Pipeline, replacing Neva who, with Bob, has moved to Brawley. These two fine A.A. members will be missed, not only for their service to A.A. but for being true friends to all in need.

Eunice M. was recently elected to the new post of Public Relations Co-ordinator. Her duties include filling all calls for speakers for Schools, Churches and other community organizations.

Teleservice will meet the last Monday of each month at the Alano Club, 7:30 p.m. Dottie B., Chairman, asks that members bring to the meetings whatever information they may have for the next month. If you can't attend please call Dottie. The next meeting is December 29th.

Subscribe to
**GOOD
NEWS**

HARK! THE SIREN WAILS

(A Carol for Drunk Drivers)

God help ye owl-eyed alky men,
let guzzling you dismay.
You're stoned beyond all sanity
on every festive day.
Your brain's blacked out, you're
bleary-eyed, this holiday
you'll rue.
You drunk drivers of delirium,
John Law waits just for you.
Syd. B.

"BY THE WAY" — SACRAMENTO CCFAA

The All-groups speaker meeting at The Labor Center, 2525 Stockton Boulevard, on Saturday, December 13th, will also be in the nature of a Christmas Event according to Patty K., program chairman.

Bea G. from Los Angeles, co-founder of Friendly House, the first recovery house in California for women alcoholics, will be one of two guest speakers, and Judge Earl Warren Jr. will be the non-A.A. speaker.

Contribution Deadline December 31

To be credited properly to your group for 1969, contributions for support of A.A.'s world services must be received by G.S.O. no later than Dec. 31st.

"Box 4-5-9"

XMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE AT INDUSTRIAL CLUB

The Industrial Club at 3198-16th Street in San Francisco will hold Open House **ALL NIGHT** Christmas Eve, to accommodate those who are looking for an 'After Hours' meeting, some place to spend some time, and someone to spend some time with. Meetings, refreshments, old time caroling and dance music will be available.

In addition to Christmas Eve, Industrial Club will also have a Christmas Day dinner, open to all, on Christmas Day.

Anyone wishing to volunteer time or 'goodies' for the Christmas Eve Open House please contact Marcella S. or Roz H. at the Club, 861-3676.

There will be a 'No Host' dinner in honor of Bea at Posey's Cottage, 11th & 'O' Streets, 6:00 p.m. for all who wish to attend. Holiday refreshments, good coffee, etc. will be served after the meeting.

A **Christmas Alcathon** will be held again this year, from 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve, December 24th, to 6:00 p.m. Christmas Day. Continuous 1 hour A.A. meetings will be held, with various groups sponsoring and chairing, at the Sierra Congregational Church, Northrup and Morse Streets.

The Alcathon provides a safeguard, a place where the alcoholic can go at any time during the 24 hour danger period, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and get a meeting. It was a great success last year. Groups wishing to chair and sponsor one or more meetings, call Chairman Jeannie S., 331-7589 or the Central Office.

An All-Roseville Groups combined, Christmas Party and Buffet will be held on Sunday, December 21st, at 107 Main Street, Roseville. A covered dish buffet will be served at 5:00 p.m.

The monthly 3rd Sunday Breakfast meeting will be held at the Camelot Restaurant, 12th and 'E' Streets, December 21st, 9:00 a.m. Get tickets at the Central Office and **EARLY**, as the seating capacity is limited to about 50.

"THE LINK"

Candidate To Be Named At L.A. Airport Dec. 14th

The five California General Service Area delegates will meet at the Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday, December 14th, to name the California candidate for the post of Trustee at Large.

Three names are under consideration; Stan W., Northern California; Chuck C., Central Southern California, and Dan J., Southern California. The name selected will be one of the candidates presented to the A.A. Trustees nominating committee meeting to be held in New York January 15, 1970.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SAN JOSE ACTIVITIES

The third Annual Christmas Marathon at the Downtown Fellowship, 590 South First Street, San Jose, will start at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23rd and run right through to midnight December 26th.

A buffet dinner will be served Christmas Eve, and all through the marathon cookies, coffee and donated 'goodies' will be served.

The Downtown Fellowship holds a bingo game every Saturday Night after the meeting, at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Santa Clara County Inter-group will stage a New Year's Eve Buffet dinner and dance with the theme "The Roaring Twenties" in the Women's Gym of San Jose City College, 2100 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose.

Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. after which there will be dancing, prizes, a show, singing and New Year's fun. Donation \$5.00 per person.

The Trinity Family Group will have a pot-luck dinner on Saturday, December 6, 1969, at Second Street and St. John. Please bring own silver and plates. A meeting will follow dinner.

The San Francisco GS program to put the big book Alcoholics Anonymous in all the libraries has been very successful. With contributions from many members & groups, enough A.A. books have been received to supply all 24 branches in San Francisco.

The committee takes this opportunity to thank everyone for their help, and to say that the next project will be to put the book "A.A. Comes of Age" in all the same libraries.

LLOYD STETSON 1891-1969

Lloyd W. Stetson passed away on Wednesday, November 19th, at his home in Santa Clara, California, at the age of 78 years. He leaves a wife, Jean, and one son, Wesley, a resident of Pleasant Hill, California.

Funeral Services on Saturday, November 22nd, at Dowdle-Emmerson Mortuary in San Jose were attended by an over-flow gathering of about 250 friends. There were 20 Honorary Pall-Bearers and a profusion of floral pieces. The Rev. Edward C. Jennens of Unity Church, San Jose, officiated.

Lloyd had been a very active member of A.A. for many years, serving as Northern California Coastal Area General Service delegate 1959-1961. A large group of his friends gathered at the funeral parlor Friday evening for their final tribute, and his wife Jean expressed this thought at the time.

"He had given so much to so many; now it is returning like a flood in the love and warmth expressed here tonight."

Good News First Class

—mail, that is! If you want to get GOOD NEWS promptly instead of waiting for 3rd class (permit) mail, send in 60c either money or stamps and we will put your name on the First Class Mail list.

FIRST STEP HOME XMAS FUND BENEFIT DANCE DECEMBER 13

The Annual Christmas Holidays Bingo Party, Dance and Buffet, for the benefit of the Christmas Tree Fund of First Step Home will be held Saturday evening, December 13th.

Bingo will start at 8:00 p.m. with dancing at 9:30 p.m. to the music of ARA's own all-member dixie-land band. A fine buffet will be served from 9:30 until ? and these buffets have a reputation!

There is no admission charge, as such, and a door prize will be given. However, this party IS for the benefit of a Christmas Fund, and a donation of \$1.00 per person is anticipated. Donors will be entitled to participate in a drawing for a \$25.00 merchandise order.

First Step Home has forty-five (45) men and women residents right now, and this will be the first sober Christmas in years for more than one of them. The funds raised will be used to make that Christmas a real, Merry one.

There will be a big Christmas Tree at the Home, and on Christmas Eve, gifts in abundance for every resident, providing the funds are available.

Plan to attend; have a good time, and do your bit!

My Buddy, Lushwell, says that he spent all night in a laundromat watching the washers. "The new shows," he complains, "are all lousy this year!"



UKIAH WILL OPEN NEW ALANO CLUB

Ukiah A.A.'s have just opened their Ukiah Alano Club according to word received from Fred P., Secretary-Treasurer.

Located upstairs above 207 South State Street, the Club has a large meeting room, a social room, kitchen and comfort facilities. Membership dues are \$3.00 a month, and in his letter Fred says,

"A club of this kind has been needed in this area for some time and we are starting with faith and small finances, hoping that we will receive enthusiastic support of the sober alcoholics not only in Ukiah, but in the surrounding area."

EUREKA AREA GROUPS XMAS DINNER DEC. 13

The groups in the Eureka area will hold their Annual Christmas Dinner in Fortuna on Saturday, December 13, 1969. This is an inter-group function, with groups from Rio Dell, Fortuna, Arcata, Eureka and Ferndale participating. Fortuna is host group this year, according to Shirley W., Secretary of the Humboldt Central Committee.

Dinner will be served at seven o'clock at Dionnes Restaurant in Fortuna. All A.A. members in the area are urged to attend. Visitors welcome!

FOREST HILLS GROUP 8th BIRTHDAY DEC. 2

Eneas 'Red' K. will be the speaker, with Sam P. as chairman of the 8th Anniversary Meeting of Forest Hills Group on Tuesday, December 2nd.

Forest Hills group meets at 8:30 p.m. in the upstairs hall of St. John's Church, 20 Woodside Avenue near Laguna Honda Boulevard, San Francisco.

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.

THE A.A. WAY

I found myself in a bottomless pit of sorrow and despair,
When a ray of light revealed to me the steps of a winding stair.
In vain I tried to reach those steps; of myself it could not be done.
When I cried for help a voice replied,

"You are standing on STEP NUMBER ONE.

Whose voice it was I could not tell, and I asked "Just who are you?"
The voice came back at once, He said,

"You are standing on STEP NUMBER TWO.

I had found a friend who could help me out, I knew he could set me free
I trusted in Him, whoever He was, and

He led me to STEP NUMBER THREE!

I sat on this step and thought to myself as I never had thought before,
Of my wasted life and the harm I had done;

He showed me to STEP NUMBER FOUR.

Then I said to this friend, "Whoever you are, I'd be better dead than alive
I'm a cheat, a liar, a thief," He said,

"You're standing on STEP NUMBER FIVE."

With you as a friend, a helper and guide, I can rise from this terrible fix
I'll go as you say, if you'll lead the way. He said

"You're on STEP NUMBER SIX!"

I know I'm not worth the help you are giving me, it's like
manna from Heaven.

I'll do my best to mend my ways,

"You're now standing on STEP NUMBER SEVEN!"

"I harmed my wife, my children, my friends; will amend
before it's too late."

Then a voice by my side so gently replied,

"You're standing on STEP NUMBER EIGHT!"

I will make amends wherever I can when the power to do so is mine.
Again the voice, more clear than before,

"You're standing on STEP NUMBER NINE!"

I'll admit I've been wrong, but I want to go right and
stand as a man among men.

Again came the voice of the man of my choice,

"You are standing on STEP NUMBER TEN!"

This man by my side, such a wonderful friend.

He was surely sent from Heaven.

I shall always be thankful for what he has done.

Then He led me to STEP NUMBER ELEVEN.

Then, Lo and Behold! I had reached the top; the day was bright and fair.
And I thought of those I had left behind in the bottomless pit of despair.
The ray of light which came to me and revealed the winding stair,
Came from a torch in the hand of a friend. I must throw my light in there.
I must never forget this wonderful friend in whose joy I now can delve.
He is with me each day — I hear him say,

"You are now on STEP NUMBER TWELVE!"

To steer ourselves clear of this bottomless pit,
where woe and sorrow are rife

There is one sure way, take it day by day, the A.A. way of life.

(The Silent Rostrum)

A.A. MEETING MARATHON A-7-A FELLOWSHIP

1815 JEFFERSON STREET
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

runs from

8 p.m. Friday, December 5th

to

8 p.m. Sunday, December 7th

Continuous meetings

Pot luck supper

Dancing — Entertainment

Phone 444-9302

GIVE GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTMAS

A thoughtful gift for a whole year.

A present every month!

One year \$1.20 — 1st class mail \$1.80

Gift Christmas Card notice mailed!

Subscribe to GOOD NEWS

Bulk Rates: 10c per copy — 10 copies per month \$1.00, etc.

Individual Subscription per year \$1.20

Subscription outside of U.S. \$1.80 per year

Mail Subscription to: GOOD NEWS, 166 Geary Street, Room
84, San Francisco, California 94108

Enclosed find \$..... forcopies of

GOOD NEWS for months to be mailed to the following:

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

NEWS FROM STOCKTON

The Stockton Midtown Fellowship will hold a nine-day continuous Open House starting on Wednesday, December 24th, and running through Thursday, January 1, 1970. They will be open all day, and refreshments will be available.

The monthly pot-luck supper on Saturday, December 6th, will be followed by a meeting at 8:00 p.m. and bingo afterward.

The Open Speaker meeting will be held on Saturday, December 27th, at 8:00 p.m. Bingo always follows this meeting also.

The birthday celebration on Friday, December 19th, will have seven A.A.'s sharing the cake; Bob C., 10 years; Sim N., six; Jim R., four; Ed E., two, and Bob C., Jerry G. and Jo D., all with one year each.

SURF GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY MEETING DEC. 15

The Surf Group, which meets in the Community Church at 34th Avenue & Noriega in San Francisco, will have their Christmas meeting on Monday, December 15 according to Florence S., Program Chairman.

George D. of the Gratitude Group in Sausalito will be Guest Speaker, with Jack H., Palo Alto, visiting chairman. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. Coffee will be served before the meeting, and a delightful buffet supper will follow.

SUNSET ALANON FAMILY OPEN MEETING DEC. 16

The Sunset Alanon Family Group announces a special Open Meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 1969, to be held in the Holy Name Parish Assembly Hall at 39th Avenue and Lawton Street, San Francisco; the time, 8:30 p.m.

This will be their Xmas meeting, with a good speaker and suitable refreshments following the meeting. All are welcome.

3,530 GATHER TO HONOR SOBRIETY

(From the New York Times, Monday, October 13, 1969)

By McCANDLISH PHILLIPS

More than 3,530 alcoholics gathered over the weekend in the New York Hilton for the first international conference that Alcoholics Anonymous has ever held.

If they spoke in several tongues, they shared the language of a common affliction. Among them was the strong bond of fellowship that those who have never struggled up from bottom can only weakly grasp.

Sobriety had been, for most of them, an ordinary fact of existence. Then they had lost it.

"It was just like falling off the edge of a cliff," one woman said. "It happened that fast."

Now that they have it again, they regard it as an incomparable gift.

Delegates from 14 nations met to compare notes on the precious state of sobriety, and to honor a co-founder of the movement, the tall, 74-year-old Vermonter known as Bill W. Struck one day in 1934 by what he called "benign lightning," he had a mystical experience that turned him from drunk to sober, and out of it much of the A.A. process came.

Describing himself as "the world's probably No. 1 drunk," Bill W. remembered with affection a man named Ebbie who one day drove off the road in Vermont across a field, into the side of a farmhouse, through the wall and into the kitchen, where he stopped, "unscathed as usual," looked out the window and said to the housewife cowering in a corner, "How about a cup of coffee?"

'I Got Religion,' He Said

It was Ebbie who had turned up later, strangely sober and "somehow different" in his aspect, and Bill could not figure it out.

"I said, 'What's got into you, Ebbie?'" and Ebbie told him, "I got religion."

Bill had not thought much of that then, but the cold fact was that Ebbie was sober and Bill W.

was drunk. There came a time when, from a bed in a hospital, from a pit of "awful depression," Bill W. took a desperate plunge of faith.

"I cried out like a small child in the dark," he told the hushed delegates. Then there was "an indescribable ecstasy, a feeling of complete liberation, I seemed to be on a mountaintop, a great wind was blowing . . . Was I hallucinating?"

Then the doctor came into his room and said, "Whatever it is,

Jack Irving Reprints

The reprints of Jack Irving's article, "The Responsibilities of a Group Secretary" are now available for those wishing copies. The bulk rate is 50¢ a dozen, but single copies will be sent free to GOOD NEWS subscribers upon request. Address GOOD NEWS, 166 Geary Street, Room 84, San Francisco, Calif. 94108. Remittance must accompany bulk orders; stamps acceptable.

We also have a supply of "Certificate of Appreciation" forms to give to Guest Speakers; available in exactly the same manner as above.

you better hang onto it," and he did and he was sober and he has stayed sober now for 35 years. That is why they were all there in the hotel.

Andries K., a delegate from South Africa, a rotund man of serious mien, stood up and said he had come to honor a man "who heard a voice, and also heard a call, and who went and talked to another man, and that went on until finally another man spoke to me, and tonight I stand before you sober, and for that I am extremely grateful."

The big event had begun with a very small cocktail party. "We

Doctor Calls "Slips" More Normal Than Alcoholic

By DR. WM. D. SILKWORTH

(Continued from November)

The "slip" is a relapse that occurs after the alcoholic has stopped drinking and started on the A.A. program of recovery. "Slips" usually occur in the early stages of the alcoholic's indoctrination before he has had time to learn enough of the A.A. technique and A.A. philosophy to give him solid footing. But "slips" may also occur after an alcoholic has been a member of A.A. for many months, or even several years, and it is in this kind, above all, that one finds a marked similarity between the alcoholic's behavior and "normal" victims of other diseases.

No one is startled by the fact that relapses are not uncommon among arrested tubercular patients. But here is a startling fact—the cause is often the same as the cause which leads to "slips" for the alcoholic. It happens this way.

(To be continued in January)

have civilians, or nonalcoholics, on our board of trustees," one member confided, "and we are not a prohibition organization."

One Way to Look at It

One of the civilians, a dignified and fragile-looking elderly woman, was asked what she thought of that as a kickoff and, raising her glass, she replied that she thought it was "absolutely nuts."

There were clergyman's turned collars everywhere.

"Some are friends of A.A." a man said, "and some are alcoholics. They used to get together and try to do something for themselves, but they couldn't get very far until they became willing to mix with just plain slob."



Published Monthly in San Francisco
By the Northern California Council
of Alcoholics Anonymous
Rollin W., Business Manager
Address all letters to GOOD NEWS
166 Geary Street, Room 84
San Francisco, California 94108
Subscription Price — \$1.20 per year
Outside U.S. \$1.80 per year



VOL. XIII December, 1969 No. 1

MENTAL DIET FOR ALCOHOLICS

(Continued from November)

I know that I cannot do everything I wish to do in 24 hours but, staying sober and working diligently, all things can be handled in due course.

I realize that staying sober is of paramount importance in my life and, that one drink of any form of alcohol including wine or beer, is sufficient to start me on a spree.

I know that in abstaining from liquor, I am not doing something big for society, but only doing that which I ought to do.

I realize that I must not neglect my physical health.

I know that my abnormal drinking has retarded maturity. I realize that what I need is a change of thought. Such change of thought is only a normal perception of values that were distorted during my drinking career.

I realize that it is necessary to abstain from alcohol, however, my ultimate goal is to attain a peace of mind in an active, industrious and constructive life.

Excerpts from book:
The Conquest of Alcohol
Author: Edward J. McGoldrick, Jr.
(founder and director of Bridge House rehabilitation facility for men in New York City for 22 years).

H & I BROADSIDES

By George R., general chairman,
Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee

The regularly scheduled General Meeting of the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee was held at the Tropicana Motel in the San Joaquin Valley city of Fresno on November 9, 1969. Our host, John T., Area 9 Chairman, ably assisted by the Fresno H and I members, secured the meeting room and provided an excellent smorgasbord lunch. They are to be complimented for their excellent hospitality. The morning session was devoted to reports from the various area and regional chairmen, secretary, treasurer and librarian.

The balance of the morning session and the afternoon session were devoted to a discussion of how soon, after release from a prison facility, an ex-inmate should be allowed to participate or lead a meeting in a jail, road camp, or prison facility. An animated discussion followed on both sides of the subject. Many believed that immediate activity was most desirable, both for the ex-inmates progress and also for identifying with the individuals who were still confined. Others adhered to the suggested lengths of sobriety, for persons participating in Hospital and Institution Meetings, set down in the brochure on "How It Works". Consensus of those present was that these suggestions should be followed wherever possible.

Briefly stated, these suggestions were adopted in 1956 and reviewed and reaffirmed again in 1967. They came as a result of many years of "experience" in this type of 12th step work combined with recommendations from Hospital and Institution staff members. **THEY ARE NOT PERSONAL OPINIONS.**

ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION MEETINGS:

A. Length of sobriety—first speaker—one year minimum; second speaker—six months minimum.

The administration feels that a person who has a longer period of sobriety is better able to give information of practical application of the twelve suggested steps and the principles upon which our program of recovery is founded. We realize that in some localities it is not possible to carry this out, but it **SHOULD** be adhered to as closely as possible.

B. Persons who have patients of State Hospitals.

It is advisable that these persons **NOT** be taken back to the hospital from which they were released for at least six months. This preference is due solely to consideration of the possible harm that might be done to the ex-patient and/or the inside group **should** the patient lose control.

C. Hospital and Institution staff opinion is that speaking visitors be limited to two or three. This gives each speaker time to qualify and give constructive comments as to how this program works for him. "DRUNK-O-LOGS" are not sufficient and might even afford source material for rationalization for the patient or inmate.

Tom T. of Los Angeles passed away on Monday, November 17, 1969. Tom was an old friend who was never too busy to speak at our Conferences or at one of our prison facilities. To say the least he will be sadly missed.

Our next General Meeting will be held in Chico on January 25, 1970, at 235 West 5th Street, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Best wishes for a pleasant and thankful holiday season and continued success during the coming year.

Letters To The Editor

Carson City, Nevada
November 10, 1969

Editor of Good News;
166 Geary Street,
San Francisco, California

Here's hoping that you find room in the Good News for this item. I'm sure it will give encouragement to a very new small group of young men a long way from home, and at the same time will give one traveller an opportunity to say thanks to some dedicated albies who made a place for me to find fellowship in a far land.

In a little basement room in the Chapel hall on the U.S. Naval Facility in Naples Italy four or five guys and their lovely wives get together two nights a week to learn the art of living without booze in a land where rumor has it, "the wine flows in all the rivers." Here too these few guys and gals hold out the longest, warmest hand of fellowship this old bleeding deacon has encountered in a good many years of finding warm hands in many places.

Three months ago they were two, and the Book, and the never failing support of the General Service offices in New York.

The secretary, John D. was very surprised and pleased to see on the front page of a recent Good News the announcement of a banquet being held in his old home town of Dunsmuir. He asked that I convey a big hello to all his old buddies from there and to wish them all well until he can get home again.

I want to say here that the copies of Good News I took as an introductory greeting from West Coast A.A.'s were most enthusiastically received and read by all of them.

"Keep up the good work, guys. Your freshness and dedication is an inspiration to anyone who, like me, may find himself in a foreign land and in need of an evening with his kind."

These guys would welcome any

News Events from S.F. Alano Club

By Paul "Bus" D.,

"SEASON'S GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES"

We of the Alano Club, The Board of Directors and Management, extend our sincere wish that you and the ones you love have a wonderful Christmas Season, and that your New Year be filled with Health, Wealth and Happiness. The dates and events below are for you — so — Give us the pleasure of your company, soon and often.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6—FIRST DANCE OF THE MONTH. Dancing to the "DRY NOTES", Our great little combo. Personalized door prizes, just for you.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20—CHRISTMAS DANCE. Our last chance to say Merry Christmas to you at a Dance. Dancing to the "DRY NOTES" of course and great door prizes.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25—A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU. Open house all day. Big open meeting at 12 noon. Christmas Dinner will be served from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. Turkey, ham and all the trimmings. You're all invited.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th—A.A. BIRTHDAY PARTY AND DANCE. Help celebrate all the December A.A. birthdays. Coffee and cake. Dancing to great records.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31—NEW YEAR'S EVE. It's here! The night you've been waiting for all year. We'll have everything to make your night complete, HATS, HORNS, NOISEMAKERS, BALLOONS, SERPENTINE, BLOWOUTS, LEIS FOR THE LADIES — THE WORKS. At 10 p.m. we will serve a buffet luncheon on the mezzanine — BAKED HAM, CHEESE, POTATO CHIPS, OLIVES, PICKLES, CAKE — served till it runs out. Dancing till the Wee hours, to the "DRY NOTES". Door prizes. A gala night for all, for only \$2.00 per head contribution.

**S.F. ALANO CLUB, 414 GRANT AVENUE, CORNER BUSH STREET.
SAN FRANCISCO ALANO CLUB
414 GRANT AVENUE—CORNER BUSH STREET**

letters you might send. They are really going all out to get this group going and growing. They are open to any help and suggestions.

(Signed) Bea B.

Millbrae, Calif.
November 8, 1969

Editor, Good News:

We wish to announce to the GOOD NEWS readers who knew and loved her, the passing of "Cookie" of the Roseville Group.

Our sister Melo passed away in Placerville on Oct. 7th last, after an illness of several months.

She was also well known in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Inverness and to the 49er group in Angels Camp.

(signed)
Jean F.,
Jim S.,
Marie B.

NEWS FROM MODESTO

The Freeway Fellowship recently elected the following officers and delegates: Anna H., Freeway Club Chairman-Treasurer; Derald R. C., General A.A. Secretary and Group Secretary; Levilla P., A.A. Treasurer and NCC Delegate; Jack B., GS Delegate; Evelyn W., Alternate GS Delegate.

The Modesto Altered Attitudes Group recently presented it's first birthday cake to Betty J. on her first anniversary.

This new group, without a permanent place to meet as yet, is already having three meetings a week; Sunday nights at 324 College Ave.; Tuesday and Thursday — 1030 Huntington Drive. Tuesday closed, for alcoholic women.