



# Good News



NOVEMBER,  
1971

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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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No. 11

## NORTH COASTAL AREA G.S.R. TO MEET IN SAN MATEO NOVEMBER 21st

The General Service Fall Assembly of the California Northern Coastal Area will be held Saturday, November 20, at the College of San Mateo, 1700 Hillsdale Boulevard.

Sessions will begin at 11:30 a.m., with registration continuing until 1 o'clock, followed by an afternoon "kick-off" meet at 1:30. Merle G., Millbrae, will chair. Jane T., San Jose, will give the 12 Concepts. George G., Pacific Region Trustee, will speak.

The afternoon session, starting at 3:00 p.m. will consist of a challenge panel. Chuck S., Rio Dell, will moderate the questions and answers.

Following a buffet supper between 5 and 6:30 o'clock, there will be seven buzz sessions.

The 8:30 open public meeting will be chaired by Dorothy McD., Salinas, and the speaker will be Allen McG., Encino.

Dancing will follow at 10:30, as will a 11:00 to midnight Participation Meeting on "Communication". George B., San Jose, will chair.

For full details of the program, see page . . .

Nature has given us  
two ears,  
two eyes,  
and but one tongue,  
to the end that we  
should hear and see  
more than we speak.  
Socrates

## CHICO GROUP WILL HOLD ANNUAL MEET

The Chico Tradition Group will host the monthly Northern California Intergroup A.A. meeting on Saturday, November 20, at 8 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 290 East Washington Street in Chico.

The Northern California Intergroup is composed of A.A. groups from Yuba City and Marysville north to Mount Shasta. The communities of Northern California are widely separated, and the Intergroup Meeting provides an opportunity to experience unity and fellowship on the area level during the months when there is not a conference.

## WOODLAND ALANO CLUB OPENS DOORS

The Woodland, California, newly founded Alano Club at 301 Cleveland Street will open its doors to the community at large for a housewarming party on Sunday, November 14.

The open house, from 12 noon until 5 p.m., will be preceded by the Sunday morning continental breakfast and regular meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous at 10 a.m.

The opening of the club marks the 25th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in this community. For the past 25 years, meetings had been at St. Luke's Episcopal Church here.

## Public Questions On A.A. To Be Answered At Cathedral Meet

Last year's widely acclaimed "A.A.—Today", fashioned to acquaint the general public with the workings, principles and traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, will be repeated in '72.

The day long session of workshop panels, sponsored by San Francisco District General Service Representatives, will be held at Saint Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, January 8.

The meeting will be called "A.A.—'72" and will follow the same format as last January 9th meeting, which attracted some 1,600 persons, both A.A. members and the public.

Preliminary plans, according to Leo L., chairman of the GSR "A.A.—'72, call for workshop sessions and A.A. and Health, A.A. and the Law, A.A. and the Employee, A.A. and the Family, A.A. and Young People, A.A. and Social Service and A.A., The Spiritual Path.

The meeting will open at noon with coffee in the large Hospitality Room. At 1 p.m., welcome and opening remarks will be given by an A.A. member and a friend of A.A.

(Continued on page 8)

The Merit Group, Oakland East Bay Fellowship, will celebrate its month of traditions and gratitude month with its annual public speaker meeting November 23, at the First Congregational Church, 24th and Harrison Streets, Oakland. The time is 8:15 p.m. The speaker will be Truman S., Glen Ellen, Calif.



## Washington State Is Good Example of How Alcoholic is Hurt

Summing up the past year's efforts in attacking problems involving alcohol abuse, the Seattle-King County Commission on Alcoholism bestowed some deserved bouquets.

The commission noted, for example, passage of federal legislation providing up to \$200,000 in grants to help combat alcoholism in this state and the 1971 Legislature's appropriation of an additional \$500,000 to support the alcoholism section of the State Department of Social and Health Services.

But the commission's annual report also observed accurately that the level of financial commitment to effective treatment and rehabilitation work remains far below what will be needed to get a "handle" on the alcoholism problem.

The commission long has argued that since the state markets through its liquor monopoly the products that lend themselves to abuse, the state and federal governments should allocate larger shares of liquor-tax receipts to alcoholism programs.

Federal liquor-tax collections in this state average \$72 million annually while the state collects an additional \$60 million, the commission said.

Yet the state continues to deny funds for alcoholism care to public-assistance recipients and only modest sums are allocated in city and county budgets for such activities as the detoxification services at the Seattle Treatment Center.

In short, while there have been some small advances, they are only token in terms of the vast effort that remains to be made.

Continued indifference and inadequate financial support can only mean increased human suffering and economic waste.

## CONTRIBUTORS! PLEASE NOTE!

Copy for Good News is due on the 20th of the month.

That is our deadline!

Copy received after the 20th stands a very good risk of not appearing in Good News.

Cooperation by contributors would be appreciated.

We hate to leave good news out of Good News!

### What?

Sometimes, Good News receives letters that even an Alcoholic would find difficult to understand.

Take the following one, for instance:

Dear Sirs:

Would appreciate it very much if you would send me some information or literature that you have available on arthritis.

Thank You

## SAN JOSE AREA NEWS

The newly formed Big Book Group, meeting every Monday, has really caught on. Meeting place is 400 West Campbell Avenue. The time is 8 p.m.

A.A.'s basic text is read, studied by newcomers and old timers alike.

The General Service Committee and the Intergroup Council will jointly host the All Groups meeting November 13 at 8 p.m. at the Alano Club, 1122 Fair Avenue. With November as Tradition Month, three speakers will speak on the Twelve Traditions and the Third Legacy.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the organization committee for the Annual New Year's Eve Party at City College. Contact June at Central Office. Phone 297-3555.

## "Drunk is a Drunk" Story Pleases A Georgian Alcoholic

Editors like letters, and Good News received one following the October issue that pleased us mightily. It reads as follows:

"I'm still enjoying my Good News subscription I began after getting a copy in Miami last year. The 'after enjoying' means that I cannot enjoy Good News to its fullest because I am so envious of it.

"It is one of my ambitions to have such a newsy and first-class paper in the Metropolitan Atlanta area.

"As of now, we don't have anything like Good News. There is a little publication put out from the State Assembly Office in Macon but, because of the distance from Seattle, I assume the local groups don't participate too much.

"...Would you give us a few publication details — like the number of copies produced, cost of print, etc. Also, do you own the press? What kind is it? Just anything you could tell me without too much trouble would be very much appreciated.

"I loved the little article, 'A Drunk is a Drunk is a Drunk.' I have copied it to send to a few people who seem to dote on 'studies'. If we could only have a wee portion of the Federal monies wasted on studies we could have a detox or half-way house in every city in the U.S. already in operation.

"Your reply regarding a few small particulars about Good News would be much appreciated."

Sincerely in A.A.,

Geneva B.

Doctor Earl M. will speak at the 22nd Anniversary of the Peninsula All Groups Saturday, November 13, at 8:30 p.m. at the San Mateo Junior College, 1700 West Hillsdale Boulevard, San Mateo.



## POP WINE FOR THE PEPSI GENERATION

The developing palate of the young for sweet "pop" wines is too new a phenomenon to have been explored by sociologists. They know it exists, that it flowered perceptibly on American beaches and at hard rock festivals this summer. And some are beginning to be concerned.

Not so the young people.

Stretched out on their beach towels, they passed bottles of Ripple and Boone's Farm Strawberry Hill back and forth the way they used to pass Pepsi.

And everywhere they went they left behind a glittering array of long-necked green bottles, the kind the previous generation emptied at home and fitted out with candles for "cafe" rooms.

Last year in the United States,

"pop" wine sales totaled 15 million cases, grossing \$190 million. By 1975, trade sources say, sales will zoom to 30 million cases or more, a total skillfully nurtured by an industry focusing straight at the young.

The most popular tastes seem to be Boone's Farm and Ripple, both easily available in supermarkets to those over 21. Most of the pops are carbonated with fruit or cola flavors and catchy names: Zapple (apple and cinnamon); Boone's Farm Apple or Strawberry Hill (apple wine or apple wine and strawberry); Ripple (grape wine and tropical fruits); Annie Green Springs (a grape rose); Key Largo (orange, papaya and fruit extracts); Spanada (grape) and three wines named

sequentiality I (lemon-lime), Love (fruity), You (citrus-cola flavor).

Although you have to be 21 to buy wine in most states, and although the wine industry's publicists never-endingly repeat that they are appealing to mature adults, young Americans are drinking the pops. Their friends buy it. Or their mothers.

One woman said of her 19-year-old's taste for wine: "I don't seem to mind buying it so much as I did beer. Somehow, it doesn't look as serious."

Paul K. Rowan, former chairman of the department of sociology at California State College in Los Angeles, said that wine is a way by which many young people resolve identity crises.

### NOVEMBER 21st MEETING TO DISCUSS CHANGE IN NCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

A special meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 21, 1971, at 11:30 a.m. in the San Jose Alano Club, 1122 Fair Avenue, to discuss a proposal introduced at the NCC Central Committee meeting October 3rd, in the same Club, concerning a possible change in the structure of the Central Conference Committee.

In recent years it has been suggested, from time to time, that while NCC has done a good job in maintaining the Conferences, perhaps the time has come to consider some change, some new structure of the Central Committee to include members representing the H & I Committee, the two Northern California General Service Areas, Good News and the Tape Library, all Central Office Secretaries, and other interested members.

The subject was discussed at some length at the October 3rd meeting, with several longtime active members participating. Bill G., who has served as both Council

Secretary and General Service Delegate, outlined the proposals which were endorsed by a majority of the members present, and he was selected as Interim Chairman, to arrange for the special meeting and to publicize it so that all interested members may have an opportunity to share in the decision.

Any proposed change in the Northern California Conference picture will require the approval of The Fellowship, and must be presented to the NCC membership at the March, 1972 Conference in San Jose.

It is hoped that all interested members will attend the meeting in San Jose on November 21st, 11:30 a.m. at 1122 Fair Avenue. This will be a most important meeting. Plan to attend!

The Contra Costa Breakfast Club meeting announces the following speakers for November:

November 7, Tom B., Greenbrae; 14, Robbie D., San Francisco; 21, Bill Mac, Orinda, and 28, Doctor Gil A., San Francisco.

### Pacific Assembly Is In Paso, Washington

The Fifth Annual Pacific A.A. Assembly, considered the most outstanding annual event in the Pacific Region, will be held March 4, 5 and 6 in Pasco, Washington.

George G., Arizona, new trustee, and at least eleven of the Area Delegates will attend the sessions, which will be at the Red Lion Motor Inn on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Registration fee for the assembly is \$5, and all planning to attend should register early by contacting Shorty H., 105 So. Williams, Kennewick, Washington 99336.

The Women's Rehabilitation Association of San Mateo County will hold its Second Annual Benefit Building Fund Program on Thursday, November 18 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, Redwood City.

Guest speaker will be Walter O'K., stage, radio and television personality. The public is invited.



# H & I BROADSIDES

By KIM M., General Chairman

## Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee

"These are the times that try men's souls." Somebody said that a long time ago, but he could be talking about H & I problems today. Everyone is familiar with the riots and uprisings that have closed several state prisons and even some county jails to A.A. visitors. It is a very serious situation; but I think even more serious is the illogical, bigotted and dogmatic attitude of some hospital staffs, public health officials and individual doctors who refuse to recognize the alcoholic as a sick person who may be in critical need of medical help.

Several cases have come to my attention recently where alcoholics on the verge of DT's—one in alcoholic convulsions—were refused the emergency treatment they so badly needed. A.A. as such cannot intervene in these cases; they are being followed up by other agencies. But we must keep in mind that what is badly needed is education; there is much that can be done within our traditions.

The Hospital & Institution Committee has the unique opportunity to carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic who is confined. And through this service to our fellow sufferers, we reach custodial and administrative personnel who are impressed by our dedication and our honesty. Moreover, they have seen for themselves that among prison parolees the percentage of recidivism for those who are A.A. members is only a fraction of the general average. They have learned that A.A. groups and individuals are trustworthy and they admire our devotion to our ideals. Hard-core criminals who come back as respected citizens after a period of A.A. sobriety on the outside are proof not only that the alcoholic can be saved but that he is worth saving.

It is paradoxical that, although the American Medical Association proclaimed some time ago that alcoholism was a disease, the medical profession has lagged far behind the legal community in accepting that as a working hypothesis. Hospital facilities for alcoholics are being curtailed rather than expanded, whereas enlightened jurists are encouraging court schools, probation under A.A. auspices and group therapy for parolees. Of course, this may be based largely on plain economics; but the same criterion can be applied to medical treatment, particularly if advantage is taken of available paramedical assistance. The drunk who is refused critical medical help will become a public charge in some other way — in jail at some considerable cost to the taxpayer or in an insane asylum at a much higher price.

But human suffering cannot be reduced to dollars and cents. We go into hospitals and institutions to share our strength and our hope with the alcoholic inmates and to show them by our own example that it is possible through A.A. to arrest this disease and to lead useful and rewarding lives without alcohol.

Vaya con Dios.

## SAN FRANCISCO ALL GROUPS PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

### DATE SPEAKER(S)

- 5—Elaine W.—Daly City
- Clifford S.—S.F. F'ship
- 12—Nadine S.—Corte Madera
- Bob B.—Redwood City
- 19—Roger O'D.—S.F. F'ship
- 26—Jen McK.—Brisbane

### HOST GROUP

- New Life Saturday
- San Rafael Tues. Womens
- Saturday Nite Discussion
- (not yet confirmed; if unable to get host grp to serve, the All Gps committee will act as hosts; will let you know as soon as we know)

"I asked for strength that I might believe; I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey . . . I asked help that I might do great things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things . . . Then I asked for riches that I might be happy; but was given poverty, that I might be wise . . . I asked for power; that I might have the praise of men, but was given weakness, that I might feel the necessity of God . . . I received nothing that I had asked for, but everything I had hoped for! Almost, despite myself, the unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed!"

(Via . . . CHIT-CHAT)

## HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS FINANCIAL REPORT For Nine Months Period

Ending 9-30-71

### DONATIONS

Bay Area—2-5-6-7	2557.20
Coastal—1-10-11	479.38
Inland North 3-4-12-13-14	2121.39
Inland South 8-9	665.58
	<hr/>
	5823.55
Balance Jan. 1, 1971	1750.00
	<hr/>
	\$7573.55

### DISBURSEMENTS

Compensating Bank Bal.	700.00
Literature	3907.66
Printing & Supplies	357.30
Northern Calif. Council	25.00
Stamps & P.O. Box	169.60
Reserve for Literature	500.00
Miscellaneous	433.54
Telephone	252.47
Reserve for Schedules	350.00
For Speakers etc.	240.00
	<hr/>
	6935.57

Cash Balance Oct. 1, 1971	637.98
	<hr/>
	7573.55

A.A. lost a devoted member on October 9th when Bob S. passed away. He was for a long time H & I Chairman for Area 5, Oakland.



## DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they  
sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging  
seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the  
debts are high,  
When care is pressing you down  
a bit —  
Rest if you must, but don't you  
quit.  
Life is queer with its twists and  
turns,  
As every one of us sometimes  
learns,  
And many a fellow turns about  
When he might have won had he  
stuck it out.  
Don't give up though the pace  
seems slow—  
You may succeed with another  
blow.  
Often the goal is nearer than  
It seems to a faint and faltering  
man;  
Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the  
victor's cup;  
And he learned too late when the  
night came down,  
How close he was to the golden  
crown.  
Success is failure turned inside  
out—  
The silver tint of the clouds of  
doubt,  
And you can never tell how close  
you are,  
It may be near when it seems afar;  
So stick to the fight when you're  
hardest hit,—  
It's when things seem worst that  
you mustn't quit.

Author Unknown

**News Stories and Feature  
Stories for  
GOOD NEWS  
are gladly accepted**

—  
**Have a Good Day  
—The Editor**

Tickets to the annual San Francisco Intercounty Fellowship Banquet are still available, Roger O'D, chairman, announced.

The traditional affairs is being held in the Gold Ballroom of the Palace Hotel on Nov. 6.

Call the Central Office, 982-4473, for tickets.

## Wisdom Passed On About Alano Clubs

There are seven reasons why Alano Clubs should be supported:

1. The Alano Club is not "part of A.A.," but neither are Alanon or Alateens. But Alano Clubs are ardent supporters of both.

2. The Alano Club is not a "12th Step House"—however, it is an instrument of much twelfth step work.

3. One rarely visits the Alano Club during the daylight hours, but then, some of us are fortunate—we have a job, a family, a home and a host of friends, all of which fill many of our daily hours.

4. The Alano Club offers a variety of social experiences — all without the serving of intoxicating beverages. It is difficult for us, sober alcoholics, to find such an experience elsewhere.

5. Although not a "part of A.A.," the Alano Club hosts many A.A. meetings a week, and, in addition, special groups and committees meet there. It is truly a hub of A.A. activity.

6. To our mind, the Alano Club is inevitably bound to the A.A. program. That is why we should wholeheartedly support our Alano Club. We should be proud of it.

7. Our A.A. program cannot grow without new members, and neither can our Alano Club. If you are like many of us, joining the Alano Club is more an expression of gratitude for A.A. and all correlated activities than a decision based on how much you can pay per month for membership.

**Make Good News**

**GOOD NEWS**

**for**

**CHRISTMAS**

**Give A Subscription**

**WHAT BETTER**

**GIFT?**

**FOR SOMEONE**

**YOU LOVE!**

**OR SOMEONE WHO**

**MIGHT NEED**

**HELP!**

**Good News Helps**

**Everyone**

**even YOU!**

The Annual Eureka Alano Club Thanksgiving Party will be held at the club, 1500 N. 4th Street, on November 28th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



## THE PITCH

In a lecture delivered by William James at Harvard University in 1898, he began his address as follows:

"It is a matter unfortunately too often seen in history to call for much remark, that when a living want of mankind has got itself officially protected and organized in an institution, one of the things which the institution most surely tends to do is to stand in the way of natural gratification of the want itself. We see this in laws and courts of justice; we see it in ecclesiasticisms; we see it in academies of the fine arts, in the medical and other professions, and we even see it in the universities themselves.

"Too often do the placeholders of such institutions frustrate the spiritual purpose to which they were appointed to minister, by the technical light which soon becomes the only light in which they seem able to see the purpose, and the narrow way which is the only way in which they can work in its service."

In the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* there is a footnote in Chapters II, IV and V referring the reader to Appendix II, which explains the terms "spiritual experience" and "spiritual awakening", based on William James' book *Varieties of Religious Experience*. Apparently many of the psychological and philosophical ideas in our "Big Book" were derived from ideas developed by James, a distinguished philosopher-psychologist.

It would seem likely that Bill W. would find himself in agreement with James on ideas such as those stated in paragraphs 2 and 3. Not wishing to see A.A. become institutionalized and organized as have so many other spiritual movements, was no doubt his compelling reason for our Twelve Traditions. Tradition Nine states: "A.A. as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards directly responsi-

## Calif. North. Coastal Area of General Service

### ANNUAL FALL ASSEMBLY

College of San Mateo, 1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, Ca.

Saturday, November 20, 1971

### PROGRAM

- 11:30-1:00—Registration  
 1:30 —Afternoon Kickoff Session  
     Chairman—Merle G., Millbrae  
     12 Concepts—Jane T., San Jose  
     Speaker—George G., Pacific Region Trustee, Sedona, Arizona  
 2:45-3:00—Coffee Break  
 3:00-4:00—Challenge Panel  
     Moderator—Chuck R., Rio Dell  
     Questions—Betty D., Daly City  
                 Florence M., Graton  
                 Doug C., San Francisco  
                 Gerald L., Hayward  
     Answers—George G., Sedona, Arizona  
                 Jim A., San Francisco  
                 Ed B., San Jose  
                 Bill G., San Francisco  
 5:00-6:30—Buffet Supper  
 7:00-7:50—Buzz Sessions  
     1. Why Isn't A.A. Growing in My Area?—Sam C., Eureka  
     2. Club Problems in A.A.—Ken M., Napa  
     3. How Are Groups Fully Self-Supporting?—Paul V., Santa  
     4. What Can We Do To Stir Up New Interest In Our Fellowship?—Dean K., Oakland  
     5. Should We Drop Anonymity Within the Fellowship? — George D., Tiburon  
     6. Tradition 10—What Does It Really Mean? — Agnes B., San Francisco.  
     7. Should A.A. Meetings Handle Literature Other Than Our Own?—Don P., Burlingame  
 8:30 —Open Public Meeting  
     Chairman—Dorothy McD., Salinas  
     Chapter 5—Mary C., Pacifica  
     Traditions—Ty C., Carmel  
     Speaker—Allen McG., Encino  
 10:30 —Dance to the music of "The Group"—Door Prizes  
 11:00 to  
 12 midnight — Participation Meeting—"Communication" — Chairman, George B., San Jose.

ble to those they serve." To this end, the structure of the General Service Conference was developed by Bill W., Bernard Smith and others, to safeguard A.A. from struggle for power and prestige. As Smith points out, the Conference is a "practical instrument for preserving, enhancing, and administering this great Third Legacy of Service" so that "Alcoholics Anonymous alone may be the ultimate repository of its own

Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its Services."

If individual A.A. members and groups are informed about how we function as a loosely structured society, then and then only can we remain "a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service—a true fellowship."

Alternate Delegate  
 Calif. No. Interior Area  
 General Service





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Leo L.—Editor

Doug C.—Business Manager

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VOL. XV November, 1971 No. 11

## FRANK S.

(LITTLE FRANKIE)

"If Frankie can do it, you can do it, too." These are the words that have encouraged many people in meetings both "inside" and "outside" to stay sober.

Almost 9 years ago, Frankie found his "A.A. Family—all his Sisters and Brothers", as he called them, at the Downtown Fellowship in San Jose. In fact, he was the Downtown Fellowship's first recovered alcoholic to make it.

When he came to us, he was doing a life stretch, 90 to 120 days at a time in the Santa Clara County jail, just outside of San Jose. He'd get out after breakfast and be back in by dinner time.

Frankie couldn't read, but by attending meetings and working with other suffering alcoholics and just listening, he absorbed and learned and gained a happy sobriety.

All was not roses for Frankie—he had many problems, but Frankie worked hard for the program—making coffee, cleaning up, running meetings, doing H & I and GSR work, doing the chores for A.A. social functions, etc.; any kind of work, you name it, and Frankie did it if he could.

Every conference, Frankie was there to carry the message and renew friendships with those he'd met in his A.A. travels. He was one of the few who were requested to come to Folsom and Soledad, because the men could identify

### INCOME:

#### REGISTRATION:

Pre-Conference .....	\$ 121.00	
Conference registration .....	437.00	
	\$ 558.00	\$ 558.00

#### COLLECTIONS:

Saturday 8:30 P.M. ....	\$ 371.32	
Sunday 1:00 P.M. ....	256.46	
	\$ 627.78	\$ 627.78

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Banquet .....	\$ 760.00	
Snack Bar .....	522.74	
Raffle .....	374.00	
Literature .....	23.60	
Donations .....	50.00	
	\$1,730.34	\$1,730.34
		\$2,916.12

#### EXPENSES:

N.C.C. Sect. & Conference Committee .....	\$ 155.73	
Speakers .....	237.78	
Banquet .....	638.40	
Snack Bar .....	456.06	
Fresno Convention Center .....	384.50	
Printing .....	322.35	
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company .....	98.92	
Mailing .....	47.51	
Raffle .....	52.00	
Literature .....	76.70	
Dance Band .....	185.00	
Flowers .....	29.40	
Tapes .....	11.00	
	\$2,695.35	\$2,722.37
Public Relation .....	27.02	

\$2,722.37 193.75 Gain

Respectfully Submitted,  
Max L. McD.,  
Secretary, N.C.C.

with him, they said.

It isn't known just how many "babies" Frankie had, because he didn't brag about it, but it is known that there were a great many in the bay area. Many of them, after being released from prison came to Frankie, who showed them the way to a happy

sobriety — if they wanted it.

Frankie passed away Friday, October 8 at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, after suffering for quite a while with a terminal disease. He will be greatly missed by all of us—but remember, "IF FRANKIE COULD DO IT, YOU CAN DO IT, TOO".



## THE LINK

(Northern California Coastal Area,  
General Service)

By this time all General Service Representatives should have received Group Registration cards to be submitted for the Spring 1972 World Directory. GSR's or Groups which have not received the Registration Card should contact immediately their District Committee Member, who has a supply of registration cards for this purpose. Deadline date for returning these cards to General Service Office is December 1, 1971. A reading of the current 1971 World Directory makes it plain that many groups are not registered properly with General Service Office, and that other Groups no longer active continue to be listed. This is your opportunity to mail in complete and proper information for the 1972 Directory. Recall: "When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am Responsible."

—oOo—

Traditionally November is "Gratitude Month". Many Groups this month will devote one or more meetings to discussion of the "12 Traditions". A lack of Unity sometimes becomes apparent in a district or an area, and when this occurs an analysis of the situation nearly always reflects an ignorance or disregard of the "12 Traditions". When an alcoholic applies the "12 Steps" of recovery to his personal life, his **disintegration** stops and his **unification** begins. The Power which now holds him together in one piece overcomes those forces which had torn him apart.

Exactly the same principle applies to each A.A. Group and to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole through application of the "12 Traditions". So long as the ties which bind us together prove far stronger than those forces which would divide us if they could, all will be well. We shall be secure as a movement; our essential Unity will

remain a certainty. Once again, "This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. Unity depends our lives and the lives of those to come". Perhaps expressions of gratitude are best made through a fulfillment of responsibility. Think about it.

—oOo—

Plans are complete for the General Service Fall Assembly at the Student Center, South Cafeteria, College of San Mateo, 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, Saturday, November 20, 1971. See this issue of Good News for complete details.

—oOo—

Agnes B., District Committee Member Chairman, San Francisco, announces that General Service Representatives and Groups in that District are planning ahead for their second public information meeting, "A.A.—'72". This will be similar to the eminently successful service meeting held in January, 1971 in that city. "A.A.—'72" will be held January 8, 1971, again at St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco. Watch for further details.

—oOo—

**ASILOMAR ASSEMBLY:** Jack G., General Chairman, announces there will be a pre-registration table at the San Mateo General Service Assembly November 20 for accommodation of those members and their families who wish to register early for this 1972 event. Or if you're not able to be at San Mateo, write Asilomar Assembly, P.O. Box 31192, San Francisco, CA 94131.

—oOo—

Jim A., Delegate, revealed some interesting figures recently compiled for study purposes. California, Northern Coastal Area comprises 21,525 square miles (including 16 counties), with a population of 5,137,545 serviced by 500-plus Groups. Quite an area of responsibility, Jim!

—oOo—

Suggested topics for discussion at the November Area Committee

## "AA-'72"

(continued from page 1)

A coffee break will follow, with the panel workshops starting at 2:15.

The panel sessions, all in separate rooms, will close at 4 o'clock. At 4:15, panel session discussions will be summarized by the workshop leaders and an A.A. chairman at a second general meeting in the Cathedral's main auditorium.

Following the panel discussion summarization, there will be a dinner break. (No food will be served in the Cathedral)

The closing meeting will begin at 8:30.

At last year's meeting, approximately 600 attended the opening meeting and the panel workshops, a very large number of them non-members of A.A. More than 1,000 attended the evening meeting.

## SACRAMENTO!

CALIFORNIA NORTHERN INTERIOR AREA, GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13—SACRAMENTO LABOR CENTER, AGENDA AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS.

### AGENDA:

11:00 A.M.—Registration, Elsie Farrell, Secretary.

12 Noon—Open Meeting — Serenity Prayer—12 Traditions.

Secretary's Report—Elsie Farrell  
Treasurer's Report—Bill Smith  
Delegates Report—Bob Bernelle  
Review of election procedures

1:15-1:30 P.M.—Districts caucus for purpose of electing District Committee Member.

1:30-1:45 P.M.—Coffee break.

1:45 P.M.—Convene for purpose of election.

meeting: "Is communication throughout A.A. improving or declining? Why?" "What can be done to make District meetings more attractive?" If you have any ideas on these subjects, let your DCM know. Remember, the answer to "Who the hell runs A.A.?" is "You".