



# Good News



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## EDITORIAL

You may have seen some "old-timers" shrug their shoulders when they hear the bad news about Good News -- that we're in the red, printing costs have soared, subscribers forget to pay or renew, etc., etc. "Same old story," they'll tell you. "That little paper's been about to go under for years and years. But it hasn't, yet."

Well, there may be some "yets" for your AA newspaper just as realistically as there may be some for many of us, personally! Honestly, folks, your relatively new staff here at Good News is NOT "crying wolf!" this time. Read these facts and judge for yourself:

At the Open Meeting of the Northern California Conference at Oakland June 14, I made a report of the gloomy financial picture of Good News. Our bank account contained \$236.94. Our outstanding bills were \$363.73. In other words, if all of the bank account were spent on these bills, \$126.79 would still remain unpaid. Our expenses -- printing, envelopes, postage -- amount to about \$350.00 each month. As you can see, as of June 14, this issue was not paid for, and there was no money to apply to our outstanding bills! People at the conference did help out our situation by purchasing a total of 20 subscriptions.

For some time, Good News has been dependent for its existence on substantial subsidizing by the Northern California Council. (A note-worthy exception to this was the first quarter of this year, when the paper showed a profit of \$50.59.) We, of the staff, feel we are at a turning point. Soon, the paper should be able to pay its own way. This opinion is shared by Anne S., NCC Secretary. Certainly, we don't want to keep "shaking the can" for money for Good News. We want to be self-supporting.

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## An Interview With Elise Willson by Pat M.

After she spoke at the H&I Open Meeting at the Oakland Conference Saturday afternoon, June 14th, Elise Willson promised to meet me for a chat at the Good News table outside. It took her nearly half an hour to get out of the auditorium, where she was surrounded by AA members who had their own questions. As she neared the table where I waited, two earnest Alateen girls stopped her again. She listened attentively and replied in the same sweetly serious manner that had characterized her talk as the meeting's non-AA guest speaker.

The Alateen girls said they really liked what Elise had said about the plight of the helpless children of alcoholics, and they wanted to know how they could give their support to the California Women's Commission on Alcoholism, Elise's current project. Ms. Willson had time to tell them what they wanted to know, and time for some friendly words with an AA lady who wanted to tell Elise how she, too, had suffered from paralysis in her youth.

With equal patience, she answered my questions and made me feel as if I'd known her for years.

What is her Commission doing about alcoholism among women in prisons? Nothing much, yet. Plans are delayed until government funding comes through. How did she become involved in this organization? It all began with her last assignment as Administrator of Northern California's Alcoholism agency, just before her retirement from government work.

At that time, she was engaged in a study of alcoholism among minorities. After that assignment, she went into her present work as a volunteer. Now, she

*(Continued on page 8)*

## NCC Summer Meeting Set for July 13

On Sunday, July 13th, there will be a special meeting of the Northern California Council members to select the speakers for the next Conference, to be held in Sacramento.

Members will meet at 11a.m., at Conference Center 14th and K Sts., Sacramento. This meeting was voted on at the Oakland Conference, so that NCC members would have a chance to compare notes on suggested speakers, after the Denver Conference.

## 23rd Anniversary of Surf Group

Paul G. of Mill Valley will be the guest speaker at the 23rd Anniversary of the Surf Group to be held on Tuesday, July 22. Andy C. of Parkside Group, will chair, and Mary P., Surf Group, will read the 5th Chapter.

The event will be held at the Lutheran Church, 20th Ave., at Quintara St., San Francisco.

Coffee will be served at 7:30. The meeting begins at 8:30, and will be followed by a lavish buffet.

## Our Apologies To Dimond Link

In the June Good News we really goofed, and wish to extend our apologies to the Dimond Link Group for the erroneous information on page one.

The Dimond Link Group meets every MONDAY evening at 8:00 p.m. at St. Stephan's Methodist Church, 13th Ave. and Park Blvd., Oakland.

The meetings are closed speaker-discussion meetings, with the exception of the last meeting of the month, which is an open speaker meeting.

Speaker for the open meeting on Monday, July 28th, will be Jenny C. of the Island Fellowship, Alameda.



## The Link California Northern Coastal Area of General Service

Last month, lamentably, there was not sufficient space to report in any depth on the Post Conference Assembly at Konocti in May, although the purpose of the assembly did get adequate coverage. That, of course, was the Delegate's report. Somehow, George D. made the Conference in New York sound so interesting that many members are already looking forward to next year's assembly.

This was the third consecutive year that the assembly has been held at the Konocti Harbor Inn at Clear Lake. The format is well established, although certainly not rigidly so, and attendance is growing. Perhaps someday, by simple mathematical progression, there will be little need to file a report, most members having witnessed the proceedings.

The principal speaker this year was Lorraine C. of Greenbrae out of Miami and other points East, who disappointed no one. The opening service meeting with Burbank's Jim R. as speaker, the Night Owl meeting chaired by Roger C. of Alameda, and the finale spiritual meeting with Sam C. of Eureka moderating were all well up to the high standards set by earlier years.

The major change this year was in the treatment of the workshops. Choosing the workshop to attend has always been a source of minor frustration to many members. To minimize the pot luck aspect, moderators of the workshops gave their presentations to the full assembly. Following the workshop, a pre-appointed reporter gave a summation to the assembly.

Lois J. of San Rafael presented the topic: 'AA and Community Relations', and the summation was made by Sam W. of Sunnyvale who reported that his workshop group stressed the importance of brevity in making factual reports (one and a half minutes being enough for most of them), and emphasized the role of our Traditions, which should be fully understood and adhered to by anyone who is in contact with the public on the behalf of AA.

'Let's Be Friendly With Ourselves' was both moderated and reported on by Bob M. of San Mateo. San Francisco Central Office Secretary. Paul G., used a similar theme in a newsletter last Fall in which he stressed the importance of greeters at meetings and the establishment of a feeling of warmth and welcome for the newcomer. In addition, the panel pondered the problem of duplication of effort encountered because of the number of service organizations which cover the same territory or, at least, overlap in their jurisdiction - such as Central Service/Central Office/General Service. It was agreed that each has its own function, but that there is sometimes a breakdown in communication between them.

The problem of communications was raised again when Jack G. of San Francisco presented the topic, 'Is GSO Listening?'. Bill S. of San Mateo summed up the problem which all General Service people encounter from time to time. The suspicion recurs that they (in New York) don't know what we (on the Coast) find problematic. The workshop panel decided that workers in the provinces are not really orphans, and as long as we handle the workload from here, and let them know what we are doing, there should no longer be any great problem. An important part of the local workload is establishing that ethereal something called 'group conscience', and because the GSR so often assumes the position of an unwelcome appendage, discouragement is often a problem. Here again, the weapons include brevity and knowledge of the Steps and Traditions, and the Concepts.

The final workshop subject called "Analyzing Two-Hatters" was moderated by Ethelyn R. of Santa Clara. Following Delegate George D., Roger C. said his workshop also preferred the term "Member in the Field" to "Two-Hatter."

Another facet this group made clear is that the temptation to replace The Program with The Job is not as great as it may seem, because the member in the field, if he's doing his job well, will need The Program all the more, and Al-Anon doesn't hurt either!

Ralph L.

## The Pitch

The Northern Interior Area has been given a bonus with the addition of a Summer Assembly, thanks to District 217 DCM Robert S., and the Davis Groups who are helping him. Cooperating in the effort are the General Service Districts in Sacramento and vicinity.

The agenda topics include Building a Service Structure, PI-SPC, and Who What Makes A good Area Officer. All three topics could consume a Good share of the day, as each one is important to the growth and health of the General Service functions. In November, new area officers will be elected, and this workshop should help us gain some insight into what will be necessary for a good working committee.

Sobriety, of course, is the first ingredient necessary for accepting responsibility in AA. It underwrites the rest of the qualities so necessary to carrying the message of the Steps, the Traditions, and the Concepts.

Although we sometimes hear around the tables, that to become Delegate, you must climb the 'career' ladder from GSR to DCM, then on to Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, Alternate and then Delegate, nothing in our guidelines, Traditions, AA Service Handbook, nor all the other material borne out of experience says that this is so. But all of it strongly suggests that, along with lengthy sobriety, there must be a willingness to forego personal desires in favor of serving the committee - and thus, the individuals and groups. There must also be some available personal time and money to devote to travel, and sleepless nights, and busy weekends.

Most of all, each trusted servant in the General Service structure, must consider himself a continuing link between individual members, groups, assemblies, conferences, and any of the functions which keep the Traditions and Steps alive, and carry on the legacies so generously entrusted to us by our founders.

Give some thought to which one in your group could become the kind of trusted servant we need to carry on the work of the Interior Area.

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**"Live and Let Live!"**



### Peninsula All Groups

The first speaker of the month of July at Peninsula All Groups, on Saturday, July 5, will be Bob O. of Sunnyvale. The host group will be Helping Hand, Daly City. Peninsula All Groups meets Saturdays at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Auditorium, El Camino Real and Baldwin Ave., San Mateo. Time is 8:30 p.m. Doors will open at 7:30.

Other speakers and host groups for the month will be:

July 12 - Jack H., San Jose: Burlingame Serenity.

July 19 - George T. ("Model T"), Modesto; S.M.R.C. Redwood City.

July 26 - Leah T., Los Alto; Menlo Park Friday.

Coffee and arms-length before and after the meeting.

### Petaluma Potluck

There will be a potluck dinner at the Petaluma Alano Club, 151 Copeland Ave., Saturday, July 26.

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker meeting at 8:30 p.m.

### Myrtle Town Alumni AA Anniversary in Eureka

The 4th Anniversary of the Myrtle Town Alumni Closed AA Group will be held in the Eureka High School Cafeteria at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 19.

The public is invited to hear Gene D. of Calistoga, who is the group's sponsor, give a special talk.

Invitations have been sent to local doctors, ministers and law enforcement personnel, in the hope that this type of meeting will be helpful to local people who are dealing with the problem drinker.

AA members are urged to bring a guest, especially anyone with a personal or family drinking problem.

### Hole In The Ground Group Picnic

On Sunday, July 27, in Southgate, California, there will be a free AA family picnic, sponsored by the Hole-In-The-Ground AA Group of Huntington Park, California.

There will be games, baseball and a potluck. Everybody is welcome!

### Eureka Alano Club Moves

On July 1, the Eureka Alano Club will move to its new location 302 4th St., Eureka, 2nd floor.

This club is dedicated primarily to helping the alcoholic maintain sobriety, and provide a program of social activities for AA club members and their friends.

The following meetings will be held at the new club:

Wednesday Matinee. . .12:00 noon

Wednesday Night. . .8:00 p.m.

Friday Night. . .8:00 p.m.

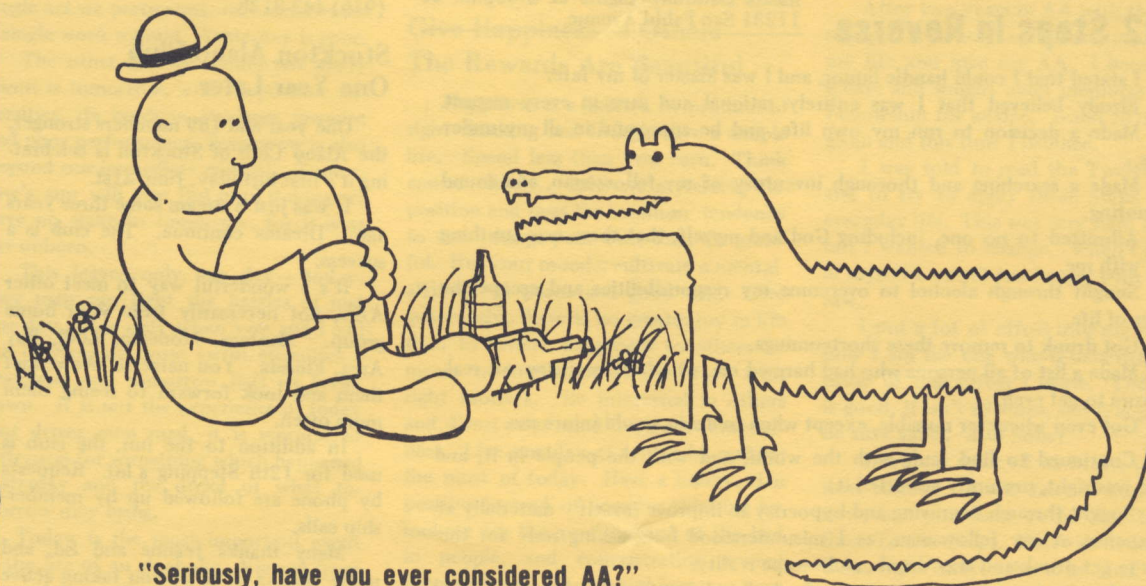
Sunday Night. . .7:00 p.m;

### Rummage Sale at S.F. Alano Club

There will be a rummage sale at San Francisco's Alano Club on Saturday, July 19, from noon until 5 p.m., and Sunday, July 20, from 1:30 until 5 p.m.

Donations of useful and clean items are badly needed. These items can be dropped off at the Club, 414 Grant Ave., any day between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. If pickup is necessary call 415/781-0951.

# CROC



"Seriously, have you ever considered AA?"



## Alateen Mini Conference

There will be an Alateen Mini Conference Saturday, August 9th, at St. Timothy's 2094 Grant Rd., Mountain View.

The conference will start with registration at 10:00 a.m. and run 'til 5 p.m. There will be a bring-your-own-fixin's picnic lunch in the park behind the church.

Workshops, meetings and speakers are planned. The conference is open to anyone interested in Alateen throughout the Bay area. The program will be the first of its kind in Northern California.

## Gregorio Bill Passes Senate

Public drunkenness would cease to be a crime in California on Jan. 1, 1979, under legislation that has passed the state Senate.

The bill by Senator Arlen Gregorio (Dem.-San Mateo) was sent to the Assembly on a vote of 27 to 3 Thursday, June 12.

The measure would allow counties to maintain 48 hour evaluation and treatment facilities for any drunk who represents 'a danger to himself or others.'

## The 12 Steps In Reverse

1. I stated that I could handle liquor, and I was Master of my fate.
2. Firmly believed that I was entirely rational and sane in every respect.
3. Made a decision to run my own life, and be successful in all my undertakings.
4. Made a searching and thorough inventory of my fellow-man, and found him wanting.
5. Admitted to no one, including God and myself, that there was anything wrong with me.
6. Sought through alcohol to overcome my responsibilities and escape the realities of life.
7. Got drunk to remove these shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons who had harmed me, whether imaginary or real, and swore to get even.
9. Got even whenever possible, except when to do so would injure me.
10. Continued to find fault with the world, and with the people in it, and when I was right, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through conniving and hypocrisy to improve myself materially at the expense of my fellow-man, as I misunderstood him, asking only for the means to get drunk and stay drunk, and escape reality.
12. After having a complete moral, physical and financial breakdown, I tried to drag those who were near and dear to me down to my level, and to practice these reasonings in all my affairs.

## Special Election

Alternate Delegate Bob H. of San Jose was obliged to resign last month because of an unforeseen increase in business pressures. At a special election held at the regular monthly Area meeting in Oakland of California Northern Coastal Area of General Service on June 19. Chairman Dean K. of Oakland was chosen to replace him. Paul V. of Santa Clara was selected to fill the Chairman's position vacated by Dean, and Jack G. of San Francisco became the new Secretary to replace Paul.

As Chairman, Dean ordinarily conducts the monthly meetings of CNCA, but, as he was running for an office, Delegate George D. of Tiburon acted as Chairman. Former Delegate Merle G. of Millbrae and Jim A. of San Francisco conducted the actual election which followed Third Legacy procedures, requiring a two-thirds vote.

Advance notification produced a record turnout of 60 members, 51 of whom were qualified as General Service Representatives and District Committee Members to vote.

## El Cerrito Chalk Talk

At its July 26 meeting, the El Cerrito Fellowship will present the film "Chalk Talk" by Father Martin. Also, this will be birthday night. El Cerrito Fellowship meets Saturday nights at 8:30p.m. at 11231 San Pablo Avenue.

## Northern Interior Area

### Summer Assembly

The Northern Interior Area will have a Summer Assembly in Davis on July 19, combined with Delegates Night.

District 217 DCM Robert S., assisted by the Davis AA Groups, and in cooperation with other General Service Districts in the Woodland, Sacramento, East Yolo area, has included an all-day session along with their invitation to Jack B. to make his General Service Conference Report.

Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall, 415 2nd St. After a noon break for lunch, workshops will begin at 1:00 p.m., lasting approximately an hour and 10 minutes, with 10 minute breaks between. Subjects to be included on the agenda are 'Building a Service Structure', Naydene B. Modesto as moderator; and 'Who/What Makes A Good Area Officer?' Catherine S., Stock-moderator.

A catered, home-cooked Italian dinner is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$4.00 per person. There will be a speaker meeting following the dinner at 8:00 p.m.

Reservations may be made by contacting Robert W. in Davis at (916) 756-8538, or by calling Central Office at (916) 443-8138.

## Stockton Alano Club

### One Year Later

One year and 189 members stronger, the Alano Club of Stockton is celebrating it's first birthday, June 21st.

It was just a dream some three years ago. Dreams continue. The club is a success.

It's a wonderful way to meet other AA's, not necessarily from your home group. Manteca, Modesto, Lodi, Bay Area, Florida. You name it. We've met them and look forward to seeing them more often.

In addition to the fun, the club is used for 12th Stepping a lot. Requests by phone are followed up by membership calls.

Many thanks Jeanne and Ed, and many thanks to all of you taking active parts. We need you.

Olive G.



## Santa Clara County News

Many of us will be just settling down to our San Jose AA, after our wonderful trip to Denver, when it will be time for another All-Groups meeting. The July meeting will be hosted by the Alano Club Saturday night Group, on July 12th at 8:15 p.m. Their guest speaker is Leon C. of this area. The club is located at 1122 Fair Ave., San Jose. After the meeting there will be a dance, so plan to stay and visit with your friends.

The format of the Secretary's meeting will be changed, starting with the meeting Wednesday, July 30, at 400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell. It will be known as Unity Meeting and will be open to all AA members. At this meeting the business of the groups and activities of AA in Santa Clara will be discussed.

### Why Do We Live "A Day At A Time?"

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is yesterday with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring it back. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow, with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise. But until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves only one day - today. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those awful eternities - yesterday and tomorrow that we break down. It is not the experience of today that drives men mad, it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow may bring.

Today is the most important event in the life of an alcoholic. Viewed from any other position, life becomes the intolerable burden which often leads to alcohol.

No one would be expected to carry a piece of lumber 365 feet long all at one time. Still there are times when the individual is criticized for being unable to carry a year of life all at one time. Cut into one-foot lengths, the lumber becomes an easy matter to move. Confined to a daily process of 24 hours at a time, life becomes individual in size.

That is why AA members insist on taking their drinking problem and life in general "just 24 hours at a time". Sobriety for today. Not the cold impassable brick wall of "never again". That's far too large a dose for alcoholics in

Anyone can stay sober for 24 hours. One day! If you can stay sober for 24 hours - you can follow the AA program for the rest of your life.

The AA program is not easy, not a cure-all for those who wish to be social drinkers or for weekend celebrators, nor is it to be had merely for the asking. It is a down-to-earth program designed by and for alcoholics.

If you are sincerely desirous of obtaining sobriety to the exclusion of all other wishes or ideas and are fully willing to follow this program without exception, you have written your own guarantee for sobriety.

From "Chit Chat"

### Give Happiness to Others -- The Rewards Are Beautiful

Happiness is a habit; a by-product of right thinking and living. Live a simple life. Spend less than you earn. Think constructively. Cultivate a yielding disposition and resist the common tendency to want things your own way. Be grateful. Rul your moods; cultivate a mental attitude of peace and good will. Give generously; there is no greater joy in life than to render happiness to others by means of intelligent giving. Work with right motives. Be interested in others and divert your mind from self-centeredness. Live one day at a time by making the most of today. Have a hobby. Do positive instead of negative thinking by looking for the good instead of the bad in people, and concentrating several times a day on the many things you have to be thankful for.

From By the Way

## Change

I well remember my early days in Alcoholics Anonymous. Members would say, "Never mind; given time, you'll change".

At that time my main concern was to stay away from one drink for one day at a time. And that was all. I was probably known as a "one-stepper".

I didn't drink and I thought that was all I had to do. I didn't change. In my work I was the same guy, only I wasn't drinking. My language was woe-full; even from top tables at AA meetings, my language was out of order. But I didn't know any better. People in AA would advise me but, big headed as I was, I wouldn't listen. I used to remark from top tables that I was here to stop drinking and not to stop swearing.

I was a lot sicker than I thought. It took a long time before I realised there must be something better than the life I was leading. I was active in AA and a member of a good strong group. How the men and women in that group put up with me, I'll never know. I was a loud-mouth; I would be laughing, joking and playing the fool. People must have thought I was a head-case and at that particular time I think I was; but I was not drinking.

After two years in AA with the same old performances a flatness came into my life and into my AA. I became insecure and sought older members in the Fellowship for advice. Good advice was given and this time I listened.

I was told to read the Twelve Steps and to try to apply these Steps to my everyday life. This was very hard for me, but I wanted to change. When I looked at myself I wasn't too happy with what I saw.

I put a lot of effort into my AA and now I am the one who is benefitting because of that effort I made. Today life is good, it isn't all roses, but it is good to be alive again. And Sober.

There are some of us in AA who are slow starters. I was one. I know that now; but you have to be able to face these Twelve Steps. Don't go diving into them right away, take it in small doses,

The Roundabout, Scotland



## Games People Play In AA

### DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF

In this game, an AA member accepts a responsibility, such as a chairmanship; then he circles around the group until he can drop it behind some unsuspecting person he hopes will pick it up. Thereupon, he runs away very fast and stays out of sight until the game is over.

### HIDE AND SEEK

This game can be played by either a doubting new member or a complacent old one. On meeting nights, he hides in his home, with the lights dimmed and the phone unanswered, or in a movie or some other good place. The object of the game is for his sponsor or an old AA friend to find him in time for the meeting. However, if he can stay hidden on enough occasions, he wins the right to take a drink.

### PINNING THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY

This pastime is best demonstrated by those who are just recovering from a slip, as they make blind stabs at pinning down the cause of their relapse. They are usually far wide of the mark and end up with their excuse dangling from an ear or a hoof.

### BLIND MAN'S BUFF

This is a good game for the unwilling, antagonistic newcomer. On meeting nights he blinds his eyes to the Twelve Steps and deafens his ears to what is being discussed. He then gropes around in an apparent search for sobriety. Naturally, he can't win the game, but he does get the booby prize; the opportunity to go back to his favorite saloon and ridicule AA.

### TAG

This tricky game is played when a sick alcoholic phones a member for help, or a local intergroup or central office relays the plea. The main rule is that the person called does not make the visit himself (because of a sore finger or something), but phones another member and tags him with the job. That one, in turn, tags another, and this continues until someone is unable to pass the buck. That makes him IT and he has to make the Twelfth Step call.

### A TISKET - A TASKET

Here is a simple game, suitable for any AA occasion when those present are invited to drop a cash donation into a handy container. The player simply keeps a tight grip on his wallet as he murmurs to himself 'A tisket, a tasket, I don't see the money basket', or 'I'm saving for my casket' or any other witty couplet. The dividends thus accumulated may eventually buy him a case of booze.

Secretary's Newsletter  
Paul G., San Francisco

## Eighth Annual 22nd District Convention

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 25, 26, 27 will be the dates for the eighth annual 22nd district of AA Convention.

Held in the Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, California, there will be marathon meetings, an open meeting Friday evening, Al-Anon and Alateen programs, and a steak Barbecue on Saturday.

Registration for the convention is \$1.00; Al-Anon luncheon is \$4.00; steak barbecue \$5.00. For registration and hotel/motel information, write to 22nd District Convention, 1418 Los Osos Rd., Los Osos, CA 93402.

## Valley Service Center Unity Picnic

There will be an all day family affair at Turtle Rock Ranch, Mt. Diablo, CA, Sunday, July 20. A speaker meeting is planned for 3 p.m., with Jack and Shirley G. from San Francisco.

Bring your own food -- the barbeque grill will be lit and ready! There'll be swimming, games, horseshoes. \$1.00 per person, \$3.00 per family. You all come!

## Santa Rosa Picnic Campout

On Saturday, July 26, there will be a family style outing at Spring Lake in Santa Rosa.

Bring your own food and join in the fun. Dinner will be from 6 to 6:30 p.m., followed by an AA meeting at 7:30.

For further information call Jan P. (707) 542-1880.

## Sausalito Gratitude Group's 14th Anniversary

The Gratitude Group of Sausalito celebrated its 14th anniversary, Tuesday, June 3, at the Christ Episcopal Church.

More than 200 shared the delicious potluck buffet, which was contributed by group members as well as guests from other groups in the Bay Area. Lynn H. and Pauline H. organized and directed the many willing chefs and "KP" volunteers. Guests were seated at tables bedecked with fresh Spring greenery, in the Campbell Memorial Hall auditorium. Peggy C. was in charge of the lovely table arrangements.

Dan B., Secretary, introduced Florette P., whose opening comments have become a custom at the Gratitude Group's anniversaries. Then, the audience was treated to a hilarious revue, written and directed by Bruce J., with John D. as pianist.

The various skits and spoofs included scenes at an old-fashioned sanitarium for "dipsomaniacs," a bedside dialogue between a hung-over drunk and a tall pink rabbit, and several comical and witty solos, monologues and vaudeville-style song-and-dance routines. The original lyrics, parodies of hit show tunes, were titled, "It's Today" (Opening and Finale), "The Bad Old Days," "My Geographical," "Miss Otis Regrets," "I Went to a Marvelous Meeting," "Do I hear a Waltz," and "We Taught Him Everything He Knows," sung and tap-danced by "The Bleeding Deacons." Pam H. got a big ovation with her own composition, "Easy Does It."

Belly-laughs were earned by all the cast, who were Nancy P., Jim A., David W., Barbara H., Lois F., Bob A., Dan B., Peg C., George D., Jim G., Libby B., La Vonne B., Katie M., George P., Bruce J., Pauline H., Pam H., and Betty B.

Many guests commented that such an evening of merriment would not have been possible in those "Bad Old Days", before they came to AA. This spirit was perhaps typified by the George Herbert (1620 A.D.) quotation on the invitations: "Thou that has given so much to us, give one thing more: a grateful heart."



# Good News

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## EDITORIAL

*(Continued from page 1)*

Both the staff and many members of the fellowship, both in and out of NCC, feel that if AA members in Northern California want a newspaper, they should give it the support it needs. This involves a substantial increase in subscriptions, particularly individual ones.

Bob H., Assistant Secretary, Interior, came up with a novel idea. If you're already a subscriber, how about giving a subscription to someone you're sponsoring? You can even make it an "anonymous" gift. Several people at the conference took Bob's advice.

After the meeting, one of my friends in the fellowship came up to me and grabbed my arm. "Can you beat that!" he said. "I started over to the Good News table to buy a subscription for a young man I'm sponsoring. And there he was buying one of his own!"

Beginning with this issue, NCC Zone Chairmen will receive five complimentary copies each month, with the urgent request to sell our paper to individuals and groups in their zones. (By "our paper" I mean the fellowship's and Northern California Council's!)

San Francisco's Central Office is including a copy of this issue with the monthly announcements that go to each group secretary. Subscriptions to Good

News will be on sale in Denver.

If each and every one of our subscribers will also take the responsibility for selling just one new subscription, Good News will at last be in the black. Use the form on page 8. That's all it will take for us to have the "prudent reserve" necessary for a sound business venture. How about it?

Ed C., Editor  
and Business Manager

coholics because they can't identify with speakers who consistently use the portmanteau "we"?

Yours in sobriety,  
Elmer O., San Francisco

## Deadline the 15th

A deadline means just that! The Good News deadline is the 15th of every month. Any mail received in the Central Office after 5 p.m. on the 15th cannot be included in the next issue, nor can any news be telephoned in after that time.

## SF Intercounty Fellowship Election

On Wednesday, July 9, the annual meeting of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held at 8:15 p.m. on the third floor of the San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant Ave.

At this meeting, two delegates will be selected to represent odd-numbered zones for the next two years. Also, delegates will be selected for zones 4,6 and 8, which have had recent resignations.

Each and every group is urged by the Central Service Committee to have a member at this meeting.

## Friday Central All Groups

Jane R. of the Wednesday New Life Group, San Francisco, will be the first speaker of the month, July 4, at San Francisco Inter-county Fellowship Friday Night All Groups. Host group will be Park-Presidio.

As reported last month, All Groups is now meeting at the San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant Ave., at 8:30 p.m.

Other speakers and host groups for the month will be:

July 11 -- Travis P., Belvedere-Tiburon; Sunday Wawona.

July 18 -- Gene D., Calistoga; Stonestown

July 25 -- Paul G., Mill Valley; Brisbane Breakfast

Come early and bring a friend. Coffee and arms-length AA before and after the meeting.

## Letter to the Editor

Sirs (and Mesdames and Ms):

I have a problem and I am not sure how I can handle it. It is a resentment about a certain procedure I hear of in AA meetings, a certain kind of usage which strictly turns me off.

When I hear a speaker saying, "We alcoholics tend to. . . .," I cease to listen. For example, if the speaker talks about tending to be a perfectionist, a pathological liar, a thief, predicating the adjective with "tend to be a," and insofar as I did not tend to be a perfectionist, a pathological liar, a thief, I wonder what effect this may have on the newcomer who may not have tended to have been a perfectionist, a pathological liar, or whatever.

Recently when I confronted a program person with this, he replied, "Well, that's the way the book puts it." I responded that he wasn't the book.

Sometimes I feel like raising my hand, interrupting the speaker and telling him (or her) that I don't tend to be such and such, but that would be rude behavior at its simplest level. When I give my own pitch, I begin by saying that I speak only for myself, and avoid any such references to "we as alcoholics," kinds of statements.

What do you suggest? How many newcomers are turned off by statements from misguided alcoholics who insist on using "we" instead of "I"? How many newcomers decide that they are not al-



(Continued from page 1)

feels she has more time to devote to what has become her main concern, alcoholism as it affects women.

Not being an alcoholic herself, how did she become such a strong supporter and advocate of AA? "I believe in AA because it *works!*" was her emphatic answer. She added that for all she knew, she might have been an alcoholic herself except for circumstances.

She was a young adult during prohibition days, and had her fling at "speak easy" drinking. Then, she developed paralysis (one leg is still affected) and physicians forbade her to drink. The cause of her affliction was never found, but she suspects it was alcohol.

Although she had early ambitions to be an actress, and went to New York to study drama, Elise gravitated towards working with the handicapped as a natural outgrowth of her own disability. Her college work was done in sociology and education. She worked briefly in Speech Pathology, and then with other physical handicaps. After she joined the Department of Education's Rehabilitation program, her interests became more focused on alcoholism and its related problems.

One of her fondest memories is that of attending the very first AA meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She cherishes the love and warmth of AA people she has met in many places, and when she speaks at AA meetings she always asks the audience to give her that same "Hi, Elise!" greeting they give to members.

She recalls hearing compliments about her brother, a doctor in Southern California. Colleagues told her, "We always refer alcoholic patients to him. He seems to help them more than anyone else." She asked him his "secret" and he said, "I send them to AA. Then, if they want any of our services they are welcome to them. But AA is the first and best treatment."

In her recent government work with minorities, Elise visited an Indian reservation and observed a "sweat hut" ceremony for alcoholic tribesmen. In effect, this is an Indian "de-tox" procedure. Drunks are shut up in a hut which is heated with steaming coals. On this occasion a medicine man made a special visit from a far-away tribe to perform the

## SAN FRANCISCO ALANO CLUB Chinatown Gate

414 GRANT AVENUE, near Bush Street

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

## SATURDAY, JULY 5

DANCE - Music on Tapes - 9 p.m. to 12 p.m. - FREE  
Come and bring a friend - Join in the fun.

## SATURDAY, JULY 12

YOUNG PEOPLES ROCK DANCE Live music by the "SEAFOOD"  
10:00 p.m. to 1 a.m. . . . . Donation \$2.00

## SATURDAY, JULY 19

DANCE - Music on Tapes - 9 p.m. to 12 p.m. - FREE Come and bring a friend.

## SATURDAY, JULY 26

BIRTHDAY DANCE - to music on Tapes. No donation. This is on the house.  
Have a birthday in July or know someone who does? Come and share with us.

The Alano Club is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. Closing time Fri. & Sat. Midnight. AA meetings daily.

ceremony. Somewhat similarly to civilization's de-tox centers, "alumni" of the sweat hut return every year. Elise said the younger, Americanized Indians told her that Indians, like all alcoholics, need more education about alcoholism as a disease. This is one of the functions she hopes her new commission will be able to provide once it gets the funding she is seeking.

One of the areas Elise feels needs more concentrated effort is the campaign to remove the stigma of alcoholism, especially among women. She says that that although Women's Lib has done

much to give women the courage to speak out about their problems, there are still thousands who fear extreme social criticism if they even admit they drink at all - much less that they are alcoholics. And so their problem is compounded by the dishonesty many of us know only too well if we were "closet drinkers."

In her quiet yet determined way, Elise Willson has already contributed uncounted help to alcoholics and to AA. She and other dedicated women like her offer hope of a better life to women everywhere in the future.

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