



Good News



NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
1977

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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous **ISSUE NO. 11-12**

Cooperation with the Professional Community (Concluded)

As we have seen from the preceding articles, Cooperation with the Professional Community encompasses many phases of public relations. One Conference Delegate in Northern California was asked to express his thoughts on particular areas of challenge today in CPC work. This delegate's **opinions** follow.

More and more courts and probation officers are "sentencing" persons to A.A. and requiring a signed record of attendance at A.A. meetings. A Senate bill has been signed by the governor and may require referrals to A.A. A state office is considering a task force report recommending referrals to A.A., Al-Anon and Alateen. The trend would seem to be, increasingly, referral to A.A. by outside agencies. To avoid flooding A.A. Groups with great numbers of newcomers, some of whom may be hostile, it might be well to consider channeling such individuals through A.A. CPC Committees. By meeting and cooperating with such "other agencies", CPC Committees might be able to arrange informational meetings about A.A. (not A.A. meetings) at an outside facility, where it could be explained what A.A. is and is not, what A.A. does and does not do. At such meetings about A.A., individuals referred could be urged to join regular A.A. Groups of their own choice.

For some years the so-called "public meeting" has been considered a primary avenue to attract professionals to A.A. Programs have usually included selected non-A.A. professional speakers and A.A. speakers. However, while such meetings sponsored by CPC Committees usually are well attended by A.A. members, they are not attended by professionals, or the "public". Experience in some areas has shown that rather than asking the professionals to come to A.A., CPC Committees should seek out the professionals through personal contact.

In the past some central offices or answering services have refused to accept telephone referrals to

A.A. by second parties, such as doctors, probation officers, the clergy and such, on the theory that we respond to calls only if the alcoholic calls, himself. The 27th General Service Conference approved and issued a policy statement that "In the spirit of cooperation, we respond to all calls for help with information about A.A., whether the call comes from the alcoholic or from the professional who is calling for his patient or client. As members of A.A., it is our responsibility to try to carry our message of recovery wherever we can". This definitely falls within the matter of education through the CPC Committee.

More and more new members are arriving at the doors of the A.A. Group with some exposure to A.A., through detox facilities, rehab or halfway houses, hospital programs, alcoholism counseling and so on. Sometimes it is obvious that such new members have a distorted view of A.A., and some older A.A. members seem to resent relating to such individuals. Again, the 27th General Service Conference stated that we "Recognize the necessity of meeting the new member where he presently is, listen to him, try to determine what he really knows about the A.A. program". CPC members could lead the way in carrying the message of what A.A. is and is not to the facilities (not already serviced by the H&I Committee) from which these new members come; and particularly in educating A.A. members.

The 27th General Service Conference made the specific recommendations to (1) Sponsor your doctor, (2) Sponsor your clergyman, (3) Sponsor your employer. These are actions that each of us can take.

Bill W. summed it up in the 11th Concept, where he said in part "...To reach more alcoholics, it will be necessary that understanding of A.A. and public good will go on growing everywhere. We need to be on even better terms with medicine, religion, employers, governments, courts, prisons, mental hospitals, and all those conducting enterprises in the alcoholism field. . .".

HAPPINESS IS CONTAGIOUS...BE A CARRIER!

TRUSTEE-NOMINEES

The Northern Coastal and Northern Interior General Service Areas have elected Trustee-Nominees for Regional Trustee (Pacific Region) at their recent fall assemblies. The trustee-nominee from CNCA has been named as George D. Tiburon. The nominee from CNIA chosen is Jack B. (Modesto). At the General Service Conference in April 1978 these names will be submitted, along with nominees from the other eleven areas in the Pacific Region, and the election of a new Class B regional trustee will be held at that time. This is to succeed Stan W. Fairfas, who will rotate out at the April Conference.

Class B (Regional) Trustees serve a four-year term. They are required to attend quarterly meetings of the General Service Board, which take place on the 5th Monday following the close of a calendar quarter and take at least three days each. The quarterly meeting in April and the General Service Conference add up to another eight days. Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses.

Although a regional trustee is elected from a specific region, it should be recognized that he serve the entire Fellowship, rather than a geographical area.

NEW SECRETARY

At the October meeting of the Northern Coastal Area Committee, election was held to replace Harriette T. Martinez, who resigned as area recording secretary. The new area recording secretary is Joy N. Oakland, who was elected by acclamation.

FUNDAMENTALS

The "Big Book" tells us that when we get disgusted with meetings and get tired of hearing talk of others in the group, to look within ourselves, that probably there is something wrong with our thinking rather than that the group is wrong.

Group meetings do tend to stagnate at times, and the group can examine its group conscience just as the individual must on many occasions. Hilarious antics in pre-AA days are screamingly funny, psychiatric reactions of the alcoholic are interesting, arguments on religion are worthwhile, social service discussions have their place. But they don't fit into AA meetings.

Our primary purpose is to get sober and stay sober. We do this through our book of experience. Deviate for long from this fundamental course of action and experience shows that group unrest starts to grow.

The longer one is in AA the more he appreciates the value of fundamentals. No finer meeting can be enjoyed than that devoted to basic AA concepts.

— Here's How, Chicago, Ill.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
AN UNGRATEFUL PERSON IS LIKE A HOG UNDER
A TREE EATING ACORNS . . . never looking up to see
where they came from.

**SOME PEOPLE GRUMBLE BECAUSE THE ROSES HAVE THORNS.
WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT THE THORNS HAVE ROSES.**

Delegates Meet at Conference

An unscheduled event at the NCC Fall Conference in Santa Rosa Saturday, October 22, was a meeting of all five Conference Delegates from California. It was felt a meeting of the delegates was necessary for discussion of pending legislation in California concerning alcohol-related offenses and possible resulting effects on Alcoholics Anonymous within the state. In attendance were Dean K., Northern Coastal Area; Marge K., Northern Interior Area; Jerry F., delegate, and Goldene H., delegate-elect; Mid-Southern Area and Dick S., Southern Area. While there presently appears to be no direct effect on A.A. statewide, the consensus of the meeting was that Area and District Committees on Cooperation with the Professional Community should be organized and made operable to meet any future challenges.

Also under consideration by the group of delegates was the proposed Regional Forum, sponsored by the Pacific Region of the General Service Conference, tentatively to be held at Sacramento in September 1978. Joining in this discussion was Jim D., delegate from Nevada.

This is the first meeting of all five California delegates since the General Service Conference at New York in April of this year. The next regularly scheduled meeting of this group will be in March 1978 at the Pacific Regional Service Assembly to be held at Kaneohe, Hawaii.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GRAPEVINE — NOV. 1977

Every November, the Grapevine brings together a collection of "classic" articles, reprints from past years that we believe AAs new to the program shouldn't miss. We put it together with love, and we send it to you in the conviction that insights from the past are as valuable today as they were thirty, or fifteen, or five years ago.

Words from Our Founders

We're privileged to start out this issue with an editorial by Dr. Bob, whose writings are rare, and more precious because of that. His short article, "On Cultivating Tolerance," speaks to us today, as it did to members in July 1944. Following this is Bill W.'s "Let's Keep It Simple. . .but How?" Written on July 1960, it asks a question some AAs today are asking: How does our worldwide structure contribute to individual sobriety?

H & I BROADSIDE

PINK CAN -Several members of the H&I committee have recently been approached by some group secretaries and concerned members regarding the Pink Can contributions and how they are to be handled. Also, the continual questions - what is the money used for and how is it disbursed.

First of all, all funds derived from the Pink Can program are what individual A.A. members are contributing to the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee for the purchase of A.A. literature.

The money dropped into the Pink Can does not go to the central offices, the local H&I service committee, or the A.A. group.

It is used almost entirely by the general H&I committee to purchase A.A. approved literature which the H&I committee distributes to the various hospitals and institutions the committee is privileged to serve. The literature is for the guys and gals who are confined and cannot get to an outside A.A. meeting.

The A.A. group secretary or treasurer merely takes the money out of the can ever so often and then writes a check or sends a money order to the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee in San Francisco. The mailing address is right on the label of the can.

A great many of those confined have expressed their thanks to all of you who are responsible for the literature, through your contributions to the Pink Can program, and we pass these thanks on to you here. The H&I committee would also like to pass along our thankfulness as well. All of us who are associated with this program sincerely appreciate the wonderful cooperation of all the A.A. groups.

A footnote to the above - Tradition seven reminds us that every A.A. group ought to be fully self supporting. This goes for all local H&I area committees as well as A.A. groups. All the local committees are self supporting and get no part of the Pink Can monies.

GSO - A note from our General Service Office in New York: "When G.S.O. receives a request from an A.A. member who is confined and is interested in sharing experience, strength, and hope with an "outside" A.A., we pass along the "insider's" name to one of 60 who participate in our INSTITUTIONS CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE. During the past few months, we have had many responses from in-

siders who want to carry the message by mail, and they continually indicate to us how rewarding this experience is."

If any of our readers are interested in carrying the message by mail, through I.C.S., just drop G.S.O. a line using the address below.

Also, for all those institutions committeemen who are not receiving the Institutional Bulletin, which comes out of our G.S.O. three times a year, send a note to G.S.O. and have them put you on the mailing list. The bulletin is free to all active H&I members throughout the fellowship. The bulletin is very informative on H&I experience and activities throughout the fellowship. The bulletin is very informative on H&I experience and activities throughout the A.A. world. The mailing address is:

General Service Office
Attn: Institutions Secretary
P.O. Box 4-5-9
Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10017

Finally - as this edition of Good News goes into circulation, Christmas will soon be with us. The H&I committee and your writer would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our readers a sober and joyful holiday season.

It is also a time when your reporter takes some extra time to try and show a little more gratitude for our sobriety and this wonderful way of life... to contemplate how gracious God has been to us for the many opportunities and blessings since coming to the fellowship and sobering up. And this is not because we had any of these things coming... or because we have earned any of them... or even because we sought them out... it is solely because of his grace. The power of God in A.A. is sharing our sobriety with another alcoholic. It is a reflection of His power, love, and way of life - as best we can humbly express it in all our affairs. Merry Christmas!

- Jack W.

I MUST REMEMBER THAT I CAN ACHIEVE ONLY THAT WHICH I HAVE THE COURAGE TO BEGIN, AND THE FAITH TO BELIEVE THAT I HAVE THE ABILITY TO ENDURE.

**BEND YOUR KNEES BEFORE
YOU BEND YOUR ELBOW.**

SPEAKER MEETINGS

In-Between Fellowship - 4710 E. 14th St., Oakland, Fridays - 8:15 - Dec. 2 - Herman B. (S.F.) - Dec. 9 - Bonnie L. (Berkeley) - Dec. 16 - Lee W. (Concord) - Dec. 23 - "Chalk Talk" - Dec. 30 - Ozzie O. (Moraga)

Island Fellowship - 1828 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, Saturdays - 8:30 - Dec. 3 - Sully S. (Blackboard Talk) (Los Altos) - Dec. 10 - Bertha B. (Walnut Creek) - Dec. 17 - Charlie S. (San Mateo) - Dec. 24 - Merry Christmas (Discussion Meeting) - Dec. 31 - Happy New Year (Discussion Meeting)

Mountain Vista Farm, 3020 Warm Springs Rd., Glen Ellen - Fridays - 8:30 - Dec. 2 - Jack B. (Marin County) - Dec. 9 - Lowell A. (San Rafael) - Dec. 16 - Bruce B. (Concord) - Dec. 23 - to be announced - Dec. 30 - to be announced

Rap At Noon - 319 - 14th St., Oakland, 2nd Monday of the month - 12 noon - Dec. 12 - Carmen DesBoine (Kaiser Aluminum)

Azure Acres Fellowship - 2264 Greenhill Rd., Sebastopol, Sunday - 3:00 - Dec. 11 - Panel Discussion (Buffet following). This panel discussion will feature representatives of youth, the medical field, the family, industry and treatment facilities.

**BY THE YARD, LIFE IS HARD...BY THE INCH
LIFE'S A CINCH.**

Alameda Womens' Group

In Alameda - First Presbyterian Church, 20001 Santa Clara Ave. It's an open meeting and will function on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Al-Anon ladies welcome, and the last Tuesday of the month will be reserved as a speaker meeting and for birthdays.

CCFAA - SACRAMENTO:

Yes!!! Plan now for our "Big New Years Eve. Party". Plans are underway for a New Year's Dinner, also a late lunch. We need plenty of help. Call (916) 452-1784 or Central Office (916) 443-8318 if you want to be on the committee.

Modesto 12 x 12 Fellowship Group:

We have meetings seven nites a week 8 to 9:30, Tues. Evening is our study nite, Sunday Eve. is Spanish speaking meeting, Sunday afternoon 4 to 5 pm meeting. Our birthday nite is the fourth Friday of each month. Our address is 1807 G. Street, Modesto.

Peninsula All Groups - St. Matthews Church, Baldwin and El Camino, San Mateo

Dec. 3 - Chick G. (Thurs. Beginners) - Dec. 10 - Laverne G. (Thurs. Beginners), Dec. 17 - Bob B. (San Carlos Wed.), Dec. 24 - Alkathon Machinist Hall, Dec. 31 - Alkathon.

Thursday Beginners - St. Lukes Church, 1755 Clay St., San Francisco -

Dec. 1 - Marian K. (Woodland), Dec. 8 - George D. (Tiburon), Dec. 15 - Robbie D. (San Francisco) Dec. 22 - Gene D. (Calistoga), Dec. 29 - Silas P. (San Francisco)

Marathons - El Cerrito Fellowship - 11231 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

Starting Christmas Eve at 8:30 p.m., a Marathon, round the clock until 10 p.m. Christmas Day. There will be two speakers: Midnight and 2 p.m. Christmas Day. The other hours will be Discussion Meetings. Breakfast at 9 a.m. and Pot Luck Buffet at 3:30 p.m. Please join us for a Sober and a Merry Christmas!

The Myrtdale Groups of A.A.

Dec. 4, 3:30 pm - Calistoga Fairgrounds (Calistoga) Speaker, Ben W. (London, England)

Christmas and New Years Parties and Alkathons are taking place all over Northern California. If you don't see one listed in GN for your area, check with your group or Central Office for Sober Holiday Festivities nearest you.

Daly City Al-Anon

An Al-Anon Christmas Pot Luck Buffet will be held on Dec. 10th, 6:30 p.m. A meeting at 8:00 will feature three speakers - AA - Al-Anon and Alateen. The place is Hope Luthern Church, 55 San Fernando Way, Daly City. Boutique and Raffles.

Alkathons - Peninsula All Groups

Christmas Eve, thru Christmas Day - 150 South St., San Mateo, The Machinists Hall - Kickoff speaker - Paul G. (Mill Valley) - Dec. 24th, 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 31, Alkathon thru New Years Day - Same place as above - kickoff speaker New Years Eve, 8:30 - John F. (San Carlos).

New Fellowship

Union City, United Youth Center Building - 33201 Railroad Ave., Union City, Monday and Wednesday Open at 8:00 pm.

The Menlo Park Step Study Group - Tuesday's, 8:30 PM, 440 Ravenswood, Apt. 1, Menlo Park.

NEWS FROM NEW YORK

When I first arrived, there was a wonderful message from Paul G. describing G.S.O. as a "lawn in the crab grass of New York." I must admit that there have been moments when it has seemed that way. However, as the song goes - it is indeed "a helluva town" and except for some relatively minor annoyances, (which are a wonderful test of my tolerance and ability to "turn it over") I like it.

You're no doubt much more interested in hearing about G.S.O. Approximately 1,300 visitors a year come to G.S.O. and the Grapevine and the tour usually starts in the Mail Room on the 14th floor - after being greeted by a receptionist on the sixth floor. A handful of non-alcoholic employees sort and handle anywhere between 600 - 1,100 pieces of mail which arrive daily. Almost the same amount leaves on a daily basis, too, so as you might imagine - it's a busy place. However, visitors are amazed that in spite of all the activity, there is a genuine sense of joy and calm. (That feeling exists throughout as there seems to be a real sense of appreciation for A.A. among all the employees.)

Then down to the 8th floor where the tour goes to the Shipping Department. Again we find non-A.A. employees packing and handling a large room full of literature representing 26 different languages.

Also on the 8th floor are the Archives - a major highlight of the tour. Nell Wing, a vivacious non-alcoholic who has worked at G.S.O. since 1948, has the responsibility of sorting, cataloging and storing the many treasures from A.A.'s early days which arrive daily. She served as Bill W.'s secretary the last 20 years of his life, so she herself is a wonderful resource. She is assisted by a lovely A.A. member - Harriette.

We have a wonderful pool of non-A.A. stenographers - several of whom are bi-lingual - and without them it would be very difficult for us to do our work. The matter of record-keeping and accounting for a Fellowship of over a million members boggles my mind and I'm constantly amazed at how well it's handled. We are still in the process of computerizing records and accounting. This has been a difficult transition but we will soon be able to offer much faster service to A.A. groups and members.

The Grapevine staff is in the same building, but on the 5th floor. We see one another at staff meetings and at the weekly A.A. meeting that is held here.

On the sixth floor (where I work) the visitor meets the members of the staff.

In addition to two managers and an Administrative Assistant, there are ten of us who serve on the staff. We each have several assignments. My functional assignment is Assistant Group Services Coordinator which means I have the responsibility for production and distribution of seven G.S.O. bulletins, - Box 4-5-9, (English, French and Spanish), PI/CPC, Loners/Internationalist-Meeting, Quarterly Reports, Institutions and About A.A. Updating of old pamphlets, preparation of new pamphlets, preparation of filmstrips and any other Audio/Visual materials we might develop are also my responsibility. I serve as secretary for the Trustees' and Conference Literature Committees.

Each staff member also has a correspondence assignment. My region is Northeastern U.S. which means that I reply to any correspondence from that section of the country. Replying to the letters is frequently quite challenging. Many of the letters are asking for a "ruling" or decision about a group problem, and that simply can't be done - nor should it be. We can and do offer suggestions based on the traditions and concepts of A.A. and we can share the collective experiences of many thousands of A.A. groups who have shared with G.S.O. over the years.

The staff assignments vary, but in my opinion, are all interesting - Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Institutions, Correctional Facilities, Group Services, Conference, Overseas, Spanish and Staff Coordinator. We practice the principle of rotation and change jobs and offices every two years.

Lois F.
General Service Staff
(Former Northern Coastal
Area Chairperson)

BLESSED IS HE WHO WILL WORK ENTHUSIASTICALLY AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF WHICH HE REALLY WANTED TO BE A CHAIRMAN.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Surf Group

Christmas Party on Dec. 6, 8:30 p.m. The Speaker is Paula B. (Windsor Wed. Nite Group). After the meeting there will be plenty of hot coffee and many Christmas "Goodies". Join us at the Lutheran Church, 20th Ave. and Quintara St., San Francisco!

Alano Club of Contra Costa — 84 Broadway, Richmond

On the first Sunday of each month, a potluck dinner is held at the Alano Club. A warm invitation is extended to all. Next Potluck will be on Dec. 4th from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Alano Club is having a New Years Eve Party beginning at 8 p.m. on Dec. 31st. The fun will include a dance with live music. The bar will be open with food and drinks and other items for your pleasure. Make plans now to join us in seeing the Old Year out and the New Year in. For more info call 232-9743. Hope to see you.

Hazel K.

Friday All Groups - Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco

Dec. 2 — Ray F., Dec. 9 — Rod H., Dec. 16 — Art C., Dec. 23 — Claude K., Dec. 30 — Margaret J.

Bumper sticker seen at the last NCCAA Conference — "The nut behind the wheel is Sober"

On Dec. 10, these films will be shown: *Guidelines For Helping Alcoholics* — Father Martin presents his 8 guidelines. A serious film presented in a humorous fashion that dramatically points out the need for all people to help in dealing with alcoholism.

99 Bottles of Beer — Explores the feelings and attitudes of young alcoholics by relating the stories of some young alcoholics.

Thursday Night Men's Group: Our group, one of the oldest in Sacramento, is a step discussion group and if you like this approach to the AA program you are cordially invited to attend our meetings held every Thursday evening beginning at 8:00 pm. Our address is 2620 Capitol Ave. in the meeting room of Trinity Cathedral Church. We would like to see you there to participate in good down to earth AA.

The Professionals Have Moved

This group has moved from Oakland to Faith Lutheran Church (rear) at 100 Hacienda, San Lorenzo. They now meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 8:00 pm. This is a closed meeting for alcoholics who are working on volunteering in the field of alcoholism. Come and share your hopes, strengths and experience.

New Group:

Sunday Afternoon Group, will meet at 5809 Gibbons Drive at 2:30 pm. Burnie R. will be the secretary. All are welcome, Carmichael, Calif.

Davis Group:

First Saturday of the Month Speaker Meeting will be at St. Martins Episcopal Church, Sycamore & Hawthorne in Davis at 8:00 pm.

Lathrop Group:

Potluck at 1:00 pm. and the speaker at 2:00 pm on the 4th Sunday of every month at the regular Sunday afternoon AA meeting at the 120 Alano Club, 1911 E. Hwy 120, Lathrop, CA.

A Century of Living Proof

December has been proclaimed Real Winners Month by the Wednesday Afternoon Matinee Group. Chairpersons scheduled for these excellent open discussion meetings represent an accumulative total of something like 100 years of sobriety and AA involvement! Dec. 7 — "Creme Sherry" Charlie R. (20 + years), Dec. 14 — "Winette" Paula B. (24 + years), Dec. 21 — "Big Book" Ted F. (Eons and Eons), Dec. 28 — "Mostly" Jack H. (24 + years). 1:30 to 3 p.m. - Fireside Rm., Presbyterian Church, Pacific and Spring Streets, Santa Rosa

"AA AT A GLANCE"

A single-sheet flier called "AA At a Glance" has now been published by AA World Services. This piece of literature is particularly for the use of local and Area Public Information Committees, to be distributed at schools or other non-AA organizations where AA members may be asked to speak. The cost is a penny a piece. However, local and area PI Chairmen will be furnished a supply of this single-sheet flier free, upon request to General Service Office, New York City.

CNIA FALL ASSEMBLY

The General Service Fall Assembly was held on November 19th at the Covell Hotel in Modesto. The purpose was to elect new officers for the 1978-1979 term. Officers elected by the Third Legacy procedure were: Trustee Nominee - Jack B. (Modesto), Delegate - Annette F. (Fresno), Alternate Delegate - Joe. B. (Marysville), Area Chairperson - Ed K. (Sacramento), Area Secretary - Naydene B. (Modesto), Area Treasurer - Doc C. (Redding).

New officers will meet with out going officers on December 4 at the East Yolo Fellowship, 824 Merkley Avenue, West Sacramento.

At this assembly, the Northern Interior Area voted unanimously to support the Pacific Regional Forum. This forum will be attended by AA members from the nine Western States including Alaska and Hawaii and will be held at the Convention Center in Downtown Sacramento, September 15, 16, 17, 1978. Participating will be selected staff members from the General Service Office, members of the General Service Board and various class A and class B Trustees. The Forum will be unstructured and will consist primarily of one to one sharing. This event is underwritten by the General Service Board.

The speaker featured at the assembly was Hal C. (Chula Vista).

TREE TRIMMING PARTY

On Friday, December 10, 10 p.m., there will be a tree trimming party at the Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Avenue, San Rafael. Bring goodies, chips, dips, sandwiches, desserts, etc., and your best Yule Spirit and we'll have a festive occasion in preparation for the arrival of the jocund fellow with the white beard and funny red suit.

TWELVE TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS

1. Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season.
2. Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.
3. Keep your A.A. telephone list handy.
4. Find out about special holiday parties.
5. Skip any drinking occasions you are nervous about.
6. If you have to go to a drinking party, keep some candy handy.
7. Don't think you have to stay late.
8. Go to church, any church.
9. Don't sit around brooding.
10. Don't start now, getting worked up over holiday temptations.
11. Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy.
12. "Having had a"

(From "The Hummer")

"We stumble not on mountains tall,
But molehills cause us all to fall.
We miss the boulders and the rocks,
But grains of sand are stumbling blocks.
A thoughtless word — a tiny thing
Can often cause a might sting.
A seed of kindness, if lovingly sown,
Though small, can be a stepping stone.
So here's the lesson for us all.
On little things we rise or fall.

The Co-Ordinator—San Diego

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No doubt you are wondering what happened to the November issue of Good News. To keep it simple ...not enough news on time and your editor ran out of time to track down the news.

Please help us by sending your news in by the 15th of each month (earlier if possible) for the following month!

In the NCC Open Meeting at the conference in Santa Rosa, I asked for help. The GN staff was overwhelmed with your response of new subscriptions. Thanks to all of you for your help, support, words of encouragement and confidence. You are all such beautiful people!

Beginning next month, Jean S. (Modesto) will act as co-editor of GN, coordinating news from the California Northern Interior Area. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated Jean! We hope this will make Good News an even greater and more effective means of communication for the entire Northern Coastal Area.

Hope all of you had a sober and beautiful Thanksgiving. We alcoholics who have AA and God (as we understand Him) truly have much to be grateful for! The GN staff wishes you a very Sober Merry Christmas and a very Sober Happy New Year!

In AA Love, Dorothy L.

IF YOU WANT TO RUN SOMEONES LIFE, BUY A GOLDFISH!

CNiA

The Northern Calif. Interior Area General Service Committee held a committee meeting Oct. 1, 1977 at the Tracy Inn, Tracy, Calif. The attendance was small, 6 Districts out of 19 answered roll call (DCM's where are you?). We did have a good turn out of G.S.R.'s and visitor's (interested A.A. members). We reviewed election procedures for election of Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Note: All G.S.R.'s read your pamphlet on Building A Service Structure, also your service manual. John & Grady M. Santa Cruz, Calif. were the speakers at Saturday nights meeting hosted by the Tracy Fellowship. They gave a "great" one two pitch on how the program of A.A. works.

- Bill S

H & I BROADSIDE

On occasion, some of us on the Hospital and Institution committee have wondered, if it is worth the effort to keep going into the various facilities to carry the message and whether or not we are doing any good.

A few points come forth that serve as reminders to those of us that do institutional service work as to why we carry the mesage and how we do it.

As representatives of the H&I service committee, we are privileged to do this work because it is good for our sobriety.

As messengers of Alcoholics Anonymous, we share our experience, strength, and hope with those confined, that something we might say or do, by our being there, may be instrumental in their seeking sobriety through our way of life once released.

As members of the fellowship, we present to the world a living example that A.A. does work and is reliable as a community resource.

Furthermore, we ought not fret or become discouraged because we don't seem to be "Converting" any new drunks to the AA program.

We are not in any position to judge the motives or sincerity of those confined. Only a power much greater than ourselves can do this. The important thing for us to remember is that we care enough to uphold the commitment that has been made.

If we truly feel grateful for this gift of sobriety, and are members of the H&I committee, we have a spiritual obligation to share our recovery with those who have not yet found the way.

As messengers of the fellowship we can only plant the seed. It is not for us to question when or where it will bloom. It is God's responsibility to cultivate and nurture this tiny object. With His love and care, and in His time and place, it will blossom.

Sometimes though, we are privileged to be a witness to the power of God as he works his will in a human being. We watch seemingly hopeless life move from darkness into light; from fear and hate into courage and compassion - and all the time - we can only stand awe and feel utterly insignificant.

Yet when God touches our hearts in a way that only he can do, we begin to realize that maybe - just maybe - we might have played some small part in the creation of a new life.

- Jack W



Season's Greetings



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