Good News

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ONE MAN'S INTERNATIONAL

Sitting in the vast concrete cavern of the Rivergate Convention Center on the banks of the Mississippi the night of July 3rd brought home the reality of the International Convention in New Orleans. AA's costumed in rainbow-colored plumes parading to the accompaniment of authentic New Orleans Jazz kicked off the event in rare fashion. it was worth the trip to see Cec C., trustee, in a mink bikini!) Afterwards, strolling up Canal Street in the warm night air with wall to wall AA's generated the feeling that this was going to be some weekend.

Next morning meetings, panels, workships began all over the city-in the supercooled Superdome, at the Marriott, the Hyatt Regency, and in small quaint hotels in the French Quarter. The Superdome: an arena the size of four football fields, 27 stories high (temperature must be controlled, otherwise it starts to rain inside). Meetings were on the 4th level, and the corridors evoked visions of Star Trek's "Enterprise". And coffee, coffee everywhere. Somebody really carried that message! Hotel bars and some jazz joints on Bourbon Street were converted into ice-cream parlors and served soft drinks (who ever heard of a strawberry dacquiri without booze?)

The weather was HOT, but not too uncomfortable. A lot of cutoff jeans, skimpy halters and bare midriffs - but that yellow badge (the passport to all meetings) always was visible.

The arena and tiers began to fill as early as 5:30 pm Friday for the Big Meeting. By 8:00 pm some 25,000 sober alcoholocs were raring to go, and were brought to their feet by the presentation of flags of all nations respresented at the Con entation . The Speakers: Black Shadrack, from Soweto in So. Africa - Margaret C. (Mass.) cool and collected - Sandy B. (Wash., D.C.) a sometime comic. Who could ask for more?

ONE MAN'S INTERNATIONAL continued.....

Saturday - More of the same, topped by the Big Show that night at which all performers were flabbergasted by countless standing ovations. And the Sunday spiritual meeting, solemn and thoughtful - with a surprise! There on the platform were Lois W. and Bob S., Dr. Bob's son.

And a typical, but serious happening: The Marathon Meeting began at 8 AM Friday morning with the lighting of a candle, and continued without interruption until Sunday morning. Friday afternoon a drunk approached some AA's on the street, asking about their yellow badges. When the AA's explained, the drunk said he wanted to stop drinking, he was whisked into the marathon meetings, and on Sunday morning at the spiritual meeting, appeared on state, with two days sobriety, to state, "My name is Pete, and I'm an alcoholic" - and blew out the marathon candle!

New Orleans will never be the same. Nor will Pete!

Dean K. - Oakland, CA.

A drunk staggered into a bar shouting "Happy New Year, everybody!" The fellow closest to him, said, "You turkey, it's the middle of May." The bewildered drunk looked at him and cried, "Oh, my gosh. My wife is going to kill me. I've never been this late before."

New Life News - Canon City, Co.

PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM

The Second Pacific Regional Forum has been scheduled the weekend of Sept. 26, 27, 28, 1980 at the Ramada Inn East, Phoenix, Arizona. This is an event where trustees, current Conference Delegates, representatives of GSO, the Grapevine, and members of the General Service Board are afforded a special opportunity for direct communication and personal contact with the service people in a given region (and any other AA member) who want to come. Forums are intended simply as sharing sessions and the reports cover that sharing. In no sense do they affect the role of the annual General Service Conference, which remains, the decision making body in AA. Forums air many feelings, voice many opinions, answer many questions, and make many suggestions- but no decisions.

Registration will begin at 2PM Friday, Sept. 26, and the final session will close at Noon on Sunday, Sept. 28th. There is no registration fee for this weekend. Registration forms and reservations forms are available from your General Service Representative or Area Delegate. They are to be filled out and returned so as to arrive at GSO no later than Sept. 5th, 1980.

If you wish to stay at the Ramada Inn East, both registration and hotel reservations forms should be returned to GSO. Room rates quoted are $28 single occupancy, $32 double occupancy, plus 5% tax. Please include one night's deposit to guarantee room (make check payable to Ramada Inn East and GSO will forward along with the reservation form).

If you mail the forms after Sept. 5, please send the room reservation card and deposit directly to the Ramada Inn East, 3801 E. Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ 85003. If you are unable to plan so far in advance, you will be most welcome and will be registered on the spot - and a room undoubtedly can be found for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!

HOW TO SPOT 'EM AT A GLANCE

Or
The Progressive Recovery & Sobriety Syndrome Measurement Scale

Alcoholism is a progressive disease. As we all know; one day you isn't and the next day YOU IS! How long it takes you to find out and accept that YOU IS, is another story. It's simply a case of; Like it or not, once you're caught, your'e caught, and, all your vain attempts to change it will only be for naught.

It appears to me that sobriety is a progressive way of life for the alcoholic as he begins to Trudge his Joyful way along the Happy Road of Destiny. Yea, over the years the Eager Elders, the Bleeding Deacons, the Wise Ones and the Garrulous Gurus of Groups have had a most secret scale by which they measured the Progressvve Recovery and Degree of Sobriety of their Fellow Trudgers.

During those early days of my most tender footed and tremulous trudging, I would develop resentments when 2,3 or more of the aforementioned Custodians of our Correlated Conscienceness drew together in a corner and looked over we fledgling trudgers. They would chortle, chuckle, laugh and yea, even guffaw at we who were progressing so rapidly (we thought); slowly (they knew) in the various lanes of Great Freeway and Trudging Turnpike of Freedom, Independence and Liberty. I now know; on good authority; that they had the Recovery and Sobriety Measurement Scale. It was based on non-scientific data, adulterated fact and fantasy, and pure conjecture.

It was only recently that a fading, worn and smudged copy - apparently from the original - came into my possession. I pass it on in the memory of those "Valiant VicTors" who experienced it, observed it, lived it and compiled it. They, who laughed about it; used it with humor and good will ... and ... above all else... They did not take themselves too seriously nor the rest of us TOO DAMN SERIOUSLY !!!

Sam E. - Napa

(For THE SCALE - See Page 5)

THE SCALE

One Month (30 days) - Riding a cloud across the sky with pie in his eye.

Three Months and 90 meetings more or less - A genius is emerging and he begins writing a better book.

Six Months- The human sponge is beginning to dry out.

Nine Months- Astute Pontification begins, Dictums and Dogmas come forth on what and how to do it.

One Year - Becomes a Winner; Really Smooth !! Has graduated cum laude - or - becomes a Bouncer, then a Coaster. Bounces to the Bar, then Coasts back into a bathrobe.

Two Years - The Sun Rises !! Realizes he doesn't really know a damn thing about AA or himself and starts looking for the marbles he lose along the way.

Three Years - Surf's Up!! And he really begins ! then Chaos sets in! He becomes a member of the AA Chinese Fire Drill Team.

Four Years - Chaos has settled into confusion and he commences to be able to spply reason and logic.

Five Years - The Dawning and New Awakening!! He realizes - Really - for the first time; Conciously and with clarity, how much better and sober he is getting.

Seven Years - He knows he is physically sober and healthy. Ready to do - like AA's always do - He looks for something BIG TO DO, like starting an Original, New and Creative AA group - or finding an elephant to wash.

Ten Years - Mental Independence sets in - He's learned to control his thoughts, his words and his actions. It's like "Look Mom - No Hands" !!

Twelve Years - O Spiritual Freedom at Last !! His eagle flies free! Now, if he's done his work in the XII steps well, he knows and he knows he knows. He knows intuitively how to handle any situation which used to baffle him. He realizes and knows that his particular Higher Power is doing for him what he could not do for himself - and - he Laughs and Laughs and Laughs and Laughs !! And his laughter joins with the laughter of those who have gone before and beyond !!

Sam E. - Napa

BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD

Most of us do not even begin to comprehend how really sick we have been until we have been sober in the AA program for a number of years. Then we can look back and realize how we have narrowly escaped the Grim Reaper: Totalling cars and walking away unscathed; insane experiments with combinations of tranquilizers, sedatives, hard drugs and booze; varied unexplainable accidents, which should have been fatal. Each of us could recount numerous incidents, where probably we would have died - But for the Grace of God. When we review our pasts, we truly can identify the unsound passion we had for self-desrruction. Life is like w lking through the snow - each step shows. Each of these incidents was absolutely necessary to push us ahead on our long journey to Alcoholics Anonymous. By God's Grace we survived and arrived at the door which opens on a new journey to a better life. Then "To be or not to be" no longer is the question; the question is "How to be?"

But the Grace of God does not stop here. It does not take much strength to do things, but it takes a great strength to know what to do. The Grace of God will inspire us to see ourselves, all people, all of life with a new vision. It will enable us to express our talents and abilities - show the truth of our being, the purpose in living. It will show us how to be a source of help to others. By the Grace of God there is an appointed time to be born and to die, but the time between the two is of great importance - Use it wisely. If we try to encompass all of life at once, we spread ourselves too thinly. We must learn to let life enfold us and then take not what we want, but what we need from it; thus it is possible to co-exist within the AA program and to practice these principles in all our affairs. Remember, what we do today will determine what we will be tomorrow. Making amends for the life we lived can be found only in the life we now express.

It is a genuinely humbling experience to realize the more we know, the more we understand how little we know. There is an ultimate promise in Chapter 11 of the Big Book: " God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. Ask him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick. The answers will come, if your own house is in order."

Philosophies and promises which we would never experience - But for the Grace of God!

Dean K. - Oakland CA.

Willingness without action is fantasy

Anonymous

ARCHIVES PROJECT

Early in 1979, at the instigation of the Conference Delegate, CNCA formed an Archives Project, under the chairmanship of Jim A., Past - Delegate, San Francisco. Experience gained in furthering this Project has buttressed the original belief that one of the ways to assure the future of AA is to nurture its past. The primary purpose of the Archives of course, remains to carry the message of hope to the suffering alcoholic. Members of the Archives Committee have found, within the context of the whole range of AA services, renewal of their sense of purpose by attempting to collect and preserve the meaningful heritage of our past.

The task presented the committee has been a challenge. Most original old-timers are gone by now, and memories of those remaining sometimes fail. Much interesting data has been unearthed; and the entire Project is one of serendipity. For example: the first San Francisco AA Group was sponsored by a non-alcoholic landlady in the Haight - Ashbury; the first active AA member in the East Bay was not a man (as long believed), but a lady living in Berkeley; nearly all AA Groups in outlying towns (Santa Ro , Sacramento, Fresno, Vallejo, etc.) were started by members of the original Oakland Group.

CNCA Archives now has established an office at the Alano Club, 414 Grant Ave., San Francisco. Members are Jim A., Chairman; Dean K., Oakland; Marilyn W., San Mateo; Merle G., Millbrae; Ed B., San Jose; Homer D., San Leandro; Sam C., Eureka. To protect anonymity and confidentiality, the committee has established a policy that for the present, all data and material gathered and on file may be viewed at the Archives office only when a committee member is present. Committee members are available to speak at your AA Group, if so requested.

The Committee invites any and all of you to participate with them - to the extent practical and desirable - in gathering copies of your own community's AA memorabilia, which will make your own town's or group's history file more complete and where those interested may gain a broader appreciation of the whole of AA history.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

August 2nd	Mini - Conference Contra Costa District 800 C.N.C.A. 11:00 AM "Service Center At Work" Eleanor H. - Eastbay Fellowship 12:30 Lunch 1:30 PM "AA At Work" Bill G. - Fairfield 3:15 PM Speaker, Russ M. - San Francisco
August 2nd	Sixth Annual Alateen Mini-Conference Los Altos Unity Methodist Church (See June-July Issue for details)
August 6th	33rd Anniversary of the San Carlos Awareness Group Wed 8:30 PM Speaker - Dr. Gill - Mill Valley
August 16th	Delta Intergroup - All Groups Family Picnic Games, Prizes, Fellowship Hot Dogs and Punch Furnished Bring your favorite dish - eat at 2:00 PM Oak Grove Park, I5 and 8 Mile Road - Stockton 1PM - 8 PM
August 15, 16, 17	13th Annual 22nd District Convention "Fellowship of Love" Cal Poly; Student Union Bldg., San Luis Obispo, CA
August 17th	Annual Central Office Picnic (Redding) Bovan's Ranch - Shingletown Potluck - Hamburgers and Hot Dogs Coffee and Cold Drinks served.
August 31st	Unity Picnic (Intergroup of Alameda & Santa Clara Counties (see article following)
August 22, 23, 24	4th Annual AA High Sierra Campout Pine Glen Campground Mammoth Lakes, CA For info - Ted 714-3189 Suzanne 714-6497 (Mono County)

UNITY PICNIC

Plans are underway for the annual Unity Picnic, sponsored by the Intergroups of Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. Once again this event will be held at Hidden Valley Ranch, in the Warm Springs area of Alameda County, on Sunday, August 31, 1980. Gates will be open at 10:00 a.m. and activities will continue until sundown.

This year the over-all chairman is Pete M., of Fremont. He will be assisted by George C., of Oakland (East Bay Intergroup), Dan B., Pleasanton (Valley Service Center) and Bill D., Santa Clara (San Jose Intergroup). Each Intergroup is taking responsibility for certain phases of activities, as follows: East Bay - Children's and Adult's Games; San Jose - Bingo Game; Valley - Flyers and Publicity; and Fremont - Raffles. East Bay Intergroup will donate the gate prize and Valley Service Center, a color television - both to be allotted in the raffles to be held at the Picnic.

There will be live entertainment during the day and evening. An AA speaker, to be announced, will be featured in the afternoon.

This is the BIG summer event in the East and South Bay areas, and has proven increasingly popular. Mark your calendar to attend, and bring your family.for an all - day event. Tickets now are on sale at each of the Central Offices, and the Fellowship Centers in Alameda County at a discount.

Ticket sales at the gate on August 31 will go for full price.

Sailor: "I can't marry you because we have nothing in common. You don't even know the difference between port and starboard."

Clara: "Couldn't I find out from the label on the bottle?"

Sobriety News
Ontario, Canada

NCC CORNER

It is always a joy to observe Host Committees working during the months preceeding "their" NCC Conference. Indecision, apprehension follow right thru to the end. And as always, when we let go, "it happens". The excitement of these committees, their enthusiasm, laughter, the hard work, sore feet, nervous tension headaches. The pride of a job well done comes to a reality. The sharing of Connie W., Host Chairlady of the Registration Committee in San Jose, "The thrill of becoming involved was a spiritual experience." Nuf said: Thanks again to Sam W. and Mike E., Co-Host Chairmen and all their committee.

Sacramento is our Annual Fall Conference, Oct. 10-12, 1980. The Host Chairman, John T., reports the committee Chairpeople are ready for volunteers. Delegates, this is your chance to be involved first hand. Expose our new people to the attraction of our Fellowship.

The two Assistant Secretarys, Stan K., Sacramento, CA., from the Interior Area and Frank D., Pinole, CA., from the Coastal Area were approved by the Council in San Jose.

We welcome Gloria P. as our new Good News Editor. Our gratitude and thanks to Jo Anne P. for a job well done. Jo Anne, you stepped in when we needed you and served us well. We will miss your touch.

And

Dedicated to ALL NCC Conference Host Committees past and future

Everything cometh to he who waiteth,
So Long as he who waiteth
Worketh like hell while he waiteth.....!

With AA love,

Merilyn W., NCC Secretary

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Received along with subscriptions -

"Good Luck, Gloria, for 16 years I've enjoyed GOOD NEWS."
Lucille W. - Reno, Nev.

"I do want you to know how much I appreciate you and your staff's devotion in getting out a real 4 star edition each month. You are right "It's getting better all the time."
Ruth D. - Pittsburgh, CA.

"It's Good News to hear GOOD NEWS is still in business. The Midtown Group of Stockton has a new General Secty and a new Steering Committee. Hope we can get some reporters going for you."
Bill S. - Stockton, CA.

"I keep learning new things all the time and this news letter is too good to pass up."
Ann O'C. - S.F., CA. (A new subscriber - welcome Ann)

The material published in GOOD NEWS represents the experience and opinions of AAs and other interested in the field of alcoholism. Opinions expressed herein are not intended to represent the opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous, nor does publication of any information imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or the GOOD NEWS.

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But the Melody
Lingers On !

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