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Good News

FIRST
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FIRST

Vol. IV
No. 11

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

JULY
1956

San Mateo Meetings Please Many Members

SANTA ROSA VOTED FALL CONFERENCE

Resolution Is Tabled

The Central Committee of the Northern California Council, meeting in San Francisco on Sunday, June 24th, accepted the invitation of the Santa Rosa Groups and voted to hold the Fall Conference in that City on October 6th and 7th.

The resolution having to do with the possibility of an advisory board to work with the State Alcoholic Rehabilitation Commission, which was presented to the group delegates meeting in San Mateo Sunday morning June 10, and tabled for presentation to the Central Committee, was discussed at some length and it was decided to again table the matter.

The Secretary was instructed to reply to correspondence from the State Commission, requesting the cooperation of the council, as it was felt that some response should be made to the request. As this is a matter of general interest to all members of AA, the full text of the letter follows:

Mr. Robert W. Tuttle, Jr.
Executive Secretary
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Com.,
Sacramento, Calif.
Dear Mr. Tuttle:

As you were advised previously, the Central Committee of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous met in San Francisco on June 24, 1956, and during the course of its deliberations gave thoughtful consideration to the subject of the recent correspondence between the Secretary of the Council and the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the Commission. I am now authorized to advise that the unanimous opinion of the Council is as follows:

In keeping with the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, we may not appoint, request, or otherwise delegate any member of AA to serve

as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Commission, as AA may not lend its name either directly or indirectly to any related facility or outside enterprise. It is for this reason that the Council deferred action on the resolution bearing on its relations with the Commission until such time as it receives a response to a letter to our General Service Headquarters in New York City seeking guidance based on the experience of AA in similar instances throughout the country.

However, as a member of AA, and in my individual capacity only, and

New Group Directory

The new directory of Northern California Groups, corrected to July 1st, is available free, as a service of GOOD NEWS, to any group or member. Send in your order for copies immediately to "Directory", 166 Geary St., #79, San Francisco.

sensing a certain urgency on the part of the Commission to proceed with the tasks assigned to it, I have discussed with some of my friends the part which any of us might take in assisting the Commission as individuals, and not as members of AA, nor in any way speaking for or representing AA. As a result, it seems generally accepted that any member of AA may be of such assistance as a part of his civic responsibilities, providing that he does not relate himself or his services to AA in any way.

Thus, in furtherance of the desire to so be of assistance, I have been permitted by some of my personal friends to advise you that if the Commission believes that they, or any one of them, could be of public service to the Commission,

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3 CONFERENCES VOTED

The Summer Conference of the Northern California Council, held in San Mateo June 9th and 10th, drew a crowd estimated at between 1500 and 2000 and the many meetings thrilled all in attendance, particularly the Peninsula members according to reports from Pat R., Committee chairman.

From the time the first meeting of the Alanon Group convened at 1:30 Saturday Afternoon there was constant activity in the huge Flora Fiesta building which housed the conference. The Institution Committee meeting proved particularly interesting, as did all the meetings of the two day event.

With Dewey S., San Mateo, acting as chairman and Margot D., Fortuna as the speaker, and with a short address of welcome from San Mateo's Mayor Victor G. Bin-sacca, the Saturday Night open meeting was one of the many highlights. After the meeting, AA's own Havenscourt Orchestra played for dancing, door prizes were awarded and a general party spirit prevailed.

DELEGATES MEET SUNDAY

The group delegates and secretaries meeting Sunday Morning at 10, presided over by N.C.C. Secretary Rollin W., San Francisco, voted almost unanimously to reduce the number of conferences from 4 to 3 yearly, eliminating the December meetings.

Following the withdrawal of Myrl G. as a candidate for Secretary for the ensuing two years, Basil G. of Oakland was unanimously elected to succeed Rollin W. whose term of office expired July first.

The retiring Secretary made a short address thanking the delegates for their past support and congratulating them on their choice of his successor, after which the new Secretary, Basil, thanked them for their confidence and expressed

(Continued on page 2)

his appreciation and anticipation of their continued support.

The General Service meeting at 12:30 pm. Sunday, after listening to the reports of the two chairmen-delegates on the New York Annual Meeting, heard Ann MacF. from the New York office tell of the workings of the AA headquarters staff. She told many very interesting facts and incidents which happened in the past in connection with her work as a staff member.

The Sunday Afternoon Meeting, presided over by Edna B., Santa Clara, chairman, heard an address by Paul G., Mill Valley and many expressed their pleasure and satisfaction. Paul spoke at 48 hours notice, replacing Jim M. of Sacramento who had been scheduled for that meeting. Jim was confined to his bed on Thursday and was unable to attend.

This conference, according to all reports, was considered very successful, and the peninsula committee in charge deserves the thanks of the Council. Many forward-looking actions were taken and a lot of good, solid AA was in evidence at all times and in all meetings.

VETERANS HOME GROUP SECOND ANNIVERSARY

The Veterans' Home Group, Yountville, will hold an open meeting on Tuesday, August 7th, 8 pm., commemorating their second anniversary. Arrangements for the event are being made jointly by the outside groups which participate in the conduct of the meetings held at the Home each Sunday Afternoon, and with the full cooperation of the Home Staff.

A feature of the program will be an address by Lt. Colonel J. L. Evans, representing Colonel Dunmire, Commandant, who has announced to both the Staff and Home Members that this affair is open to everybody, and that their presence is desired, according to Group Secretary Paul P.

The Home has about 40 women, in charge of Captain Marion Koenig, who will attend, and an outside woman speaker, Eleanor H. of Oakland, has been arranged for. Basil G., Oakland will also address the meeting, as will one or two group members. The Veterans' Group is sponsored by Chaplain Claude Richmond.

INSTITUTION & HOSPITAL COMMITTEE MEETS AT SAN MATEO—PANEL ADDRESSES SESSION

The Institution and Hospital Committee held three very interesting meetings at San Mateo on Saturday Afternoon, June 9; part of the Summer Conference activity. The two sections met separately at 2, combining at 4 o'clock, with Max S. of San Jose as chairman, to hear Dr. Robert P. Quirmbach, Clinical Director of Agnews State Hospital, who gave a very interesting and informative talk on the alcoholic problem as the doctor so situated comes to know it, and think about it.

PANEL MEETING TESTED

The Institutions meeting at 2 pm. listened to a presentation of a panel program such as is given at San Quentin. A team composed of Jack I., Stan W. and Bill T., San Francisco, and Basil G. of Oakland, together with Robert Flippin, Parole Officer at San Quentin, put on the program presented at the prison once each month. Mr. Flippin told of the reasons for starting this type of meeting, and of the fine success of the idea. The program was so successful that it is planned to again present it to the combined meeting at the conference in Santa Rosa.

HOSPITAL SECTION PLANS

The Hospital Section Meeting at 2 pm. with Estelle R., South San Francisco, chairman, discussed

meeting policies and format as outlined in a letter sent to all chairmen prior to the Conference. A format was adopted, by vote, suggesting the conduct of meetings in order to bring unity and uniformity in groups visiting the hospitals. This matter was discussed at both Stockton and San Jose.

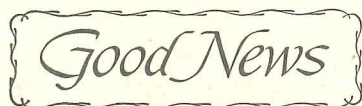
The committee feels that a foundation has been laid for the structure of hospital work. Copies of the suggested format and connected material will be sent to all chairmen in the near future.

Various other smaller meetings were held during the two day session, notably a meeting of chairmen Sunday morning at 9:30. The value of having a conference room available at all times proved itself, according to Chairman Rex.

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

(All groups are asked to send in dates and information on events which should be included in this "Coming Events" Calendar.)

- July 11th (Wed.) S. F. Ambassadors Group 4th ANNIVERSARY Meeting St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue.
- July 27th (Fri.) Alameda Fellowship, 2323A Santa Clara. 6th General Service Conference Report.
- July 29th (Sun.) BAY AREA ANNUAL INTER-FELLOWSHIP PICNIC. East Bay and San Francisco Inter-county Fellowships. Flood Park, between Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Annual Soft-ball Game for Trophy Cup.
- Aug. 7th (Tues.) SECOND ANNIVERSARY OPEN MEETING, 8 pm. Veterans' Home Group, Yountville.
- Aug. 12th (Sun.) Oakland Group "Seven", Annual Picnic Knowland Park, North end of 98th Ave. (Zoological Gardens) Oakland.
- Aug. 24th (Fri.) DEUEL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION, Tracy. Second Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm.
- Sept. 30th (Sun.) SACRAMENTO ALL GROUPS PICNIC, Elk Grove Picnic Grounds (just off Hiway 99) South of Sacramento.
- Oct. 6 - 7 (Sat. - Sun.) FALL CONFERENCE, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL. CIVIC AUDITORIUM, SANTA ROSA.
- Oct. 27th (Sat.) SECOND ANNUAL BANQUET — S. F. Inter-County Fellowship, Sponsor, Sheraton-Palace Hotel.



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"FELLOWSHIP HOUSE" OPENS IN SANTA CRUZ

A new AA Fellowship House has been opened in Santa Cruz, at 827 California Street, sponsored by the West Side Group. It is an outgrowth of a 12th step house and club room started on a rather modest but active scale by the group in August of last year.

The need was so great that further development was a natural growth, and resulted in the opening, about May 1st, of this new AA facility.

Their mission is threefold: to offer physical and mental aid to the alcoholic honestly desiring to stop drinking; to be used as a clubhouse for the area's AA's and a contact point for visiting members and friends.

Jean F. acts as a "nurse in residence," with help as needed from the members of the group. The "House" can sleep ten at present. The West Side Group holds their meeting in the front hall on Mondays; also the Alanon Group at the same time in another room.

Fellowship House is dependent, in part, on contributions, and so is a real AA activity where good coffee and solid AA are always on tap.

(Continued from page 1)
they will be willing to discuss such service with you. For your convenience, the men of whom I speak are the following: George H., Sausalito; Rex N., Berkeley; Nic N., Oakland.

In presenting the names above, I respectfully remind you and all members of the Commission of the AA tradition of anonymity, and I am confident that the anonymity of any one on whom you may call will be respected fully.

Sincerely yours,
BASIL G.,
Secretary, N. C. C. A. A.

GENERAL SERVICE DELEGATES REPORT 6th CONFERENCE TO BIG GROUP AT SAN MATEO

Ann MacF., Guest Speaker

One of the largest General Service gatherings to date heard reports on the 6th Annual Conference, held in New York, from the two Northern California Delegates on Sunday, June 10th, at a meeting in San Mateo in conjunction with the Summer Quarterly Conference of the Northern California Council.

Stan W., Chairman-Delegate of Panel One, asked that the opening Moment of Silence be devoted to past Delegate of Panel two, Vic M., who is in the Veteran's Hospital in Oakland, and paid tribute to all the previous Northern California Chairmen-Delegates; Nic N., Floyd B., OK P., and Vic.

He told of the get-together reception and dinner, and the tour afforded the delegates of the various facilities in New York; Knickerbocker Hospital, the N. Y. Inter-group Office and the 24th Street Clubhouse.

"Doc" Leo B., Panel Two Chairman-Delegate, reported on the proceedings of the conference itself. The most important action taken, he said, was the retention of the present structure of the General Service Board, and he paid tribute, both to the Trustees and to the General Service Headquarters Staff, for the efficiency and devotion shown by them.

Following the Delegates' reports, Guest Speaker Ann MacF., who has been on the New York Headquarters Staff for the past 8 years, and just named as Conference Secretary for the next year, told of the activities of the N. Y. Office. The greater part of her service has been spent in handling the Internationalists, Loners and Foreign Groups.

Ann told of receiving a letter from a man in Switzerland who was asking help for himself. As she was reading the letter she had a phone call from a man who was flying to Switzerland and wanted a contact there. The man in Switzerland was amazed that his request was answered so soon after he had written. He is still on the program.

Further reports on the Sixth General Service Conference will be given at future area meetings. The first such scheduled in the Bay Area will be held at the Alameda Fellowship, 2323A Santa Clara in Alameda on Friday, July 27th.

Very Good News

An envelope containing a check for \$6.00 for a group subscription, 10 copies per month for six months, comes addressed in this manner. Such is one member's opinion.

Does your group subscribe to your AA Newspaper?

OUR JIM

"Dr. Bob who went on before
Needed help with an A.A. chore,
He sought the best that he could find

Of those whom he had left behind;
I'm sure we all agree with him
The best that he could find was
Jim!"

"Jim packed into his A.A. years,
The work of a dozen long careers.
Indeed on the final day of all,
He'd just returned from an A.A.
call;

Only to start a brand new day
With the call which carried him
away."

"In the hearts and minds of men,
Of families restored again,
Of groups he helped to grow more strong,
Of all of those he shared among;
Jim Mullen still lives on today
Nor will he ever go away."

"Our loss is Heaven's gain—
God grant we meet again."

This was written by one whom
he inspired—who loved him and
will keep his memory green.

EDDIE F. (Page 99),
Badge No. 1,
Surf Group.

We Ask You

If you know of anything in the way of meetings or plans other than regular meetings send them in for **Coming Events Calendar**.

SOLEDAD OPEN HOUSE HONORS HOMER THOMAS

Soledad's New Prison Group was host to 215 interested visitors to their semi-annual Open House on Sunday, June 3rd, which was designated "Homer Thomas Day" in honor of, and out of respect for, their late sponsor.

The library was beautiful with floral decorations donated by the Vocational Agriculture Class, who also provided orchid corsages for the ladies.

With the cooperation of Mr. Odell, Supervisor of Prison Education, arrangements were made to tape-record the entire meeting.

After the Invocation by Fr. Conlon, Associate Warden Rouse gave the welcoming address, speaking briefly on the beneficial results of the AA program in the institution.

Alyce Thomas, widow of the late Homer Thomas, was the honored guest. She was introduced by Warden Rouse, and very cordially received by the group to whose program she has contributed so much. The group was especially glad of this opportunity to meet her, as women are seldom allowed, and to pay their respects.

Bill W., Monterey, eulogized Homer and traced the growth and development of the Soledad Prison Group. Due to lack of time speakers were held to a minimum, but it was felt by all that the meeting produced a maximum of good, solid AA; a day and an event to be long remembered.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SF FELLOWSHIP JULY 19

The semi-annual meeting of group delegates of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship will be held at the Press-Union League Club, 555 Post Street, on Thursday, July 19th, in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the Central Service Committee.

New committee delegates will be elected from the even numbered Zones: 2 - 4 - 6 and 8, and the delegates will hear reports from the Committee on matters pertinent to the interests of all groups, particularly the Inter-Fellowship Picnic July 29th and the Annual Banquet to be held at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel October 27th.

Bill and the Conference

For Bill, the Sixth Annual General Service Conference of A.A. was, in many significant ways, another milestone in his long identification with the simple program of recovery from alcoholism.

A decade ago, he had foreseen the imperative necessity of some structure in which A.A. tradition and principle could be safeguarded for future generations. As he has so often remarked, the Conference idea encountered both apathy and resistance when it was first proposed. It required several years before there was sufficient unanimity among the Trustees of the time to assure a five-year trial of Bill's "visionary" plan for better linkage between the Groups and the General Service Board (then known as The Alcoholic Foundation).

In 1951, the first Conference members — relatively inexperienced in movement-wide affairs, untried in their new role of "servants, not legislators," uncertain of the true significance of their historic role—had met in New York City. They demonstrated two things: (1) That there was, in truth, a need for two-way channels of communication between the groups and Service Headquarters, and (2) that the great spiritual bonds which unite A.A.s in an expanding, worldwide Fellowship are stronger than any local, divisive factors that have arisen to this day.

It would be unrealistic to deny that, to a large degree, Bill "carried" that first Conference on his own lanky shoulders. Proud of their role but lacking full confidence in themselves, lacking personal knowledge of Service Headquarters and its personnel, the first Delegates time and again turned to Bill for historical background, for guidance on policy decisions, for clarification of many points.

Yet such is the nature of the man called Bill that it could never be said, or which is more important, felt—that this surviving co-founder of A.A. dominated that first Conference or those others that led up to the drama of St. Louis. Implicit in all his comments was a belief and faith that the collective conscience of A.A., rather than the breadth of experience or the superior insight of any one person, would show AA's how to live and work together and carry their program outward and forward.

The drama of St. Louis was one not often seen in human societies in our time. It was a drama in which Bill went on stage only to cross

Annual Bay Area Picnic Flood Park July 29th

The Annual Bay Area Inter-Fellowship Picnic, sponsored jointly by the East Bay and San Francisco Inter-County Fellowships, will be held on Sunday, July 29th, at Flood Park which is located between Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

The principal feature of the picnic will be the annual soft-ball game, between teams representing the two fellowships, for possession of the trophy cup won the last two years by the East Bay team.

This will be a "bring your own lunch" affair, but coffee, ice-cream, cold drinks, etc., will be served at the park. The committee is planning to serve hot dogs for the benefit of those who are unable to arrange a lunch, and they suggest that those bringing lunches also plan for an extra.

The picnic is free, as are all AA affairs, but contribution tickets to defray the expenses are available at all groups and clubs. A \$50 bill and many other valuable gate prizes will be awarded lucky ticket holders. Tickets are 50c each.

A good time is assured all who attend. There will be many games for both grown-ups and children; dancing and something doing all the time.

over the footlights, stepping down from his untitled role as leader to become one among many members. Behind the drama lay months and years of thought and planning and consultation, crystallized in the "Third Legacy Manual" and its permanent charter for the General Service Conference.

Bill's vision had become a reality. His faith in the collective conscience of A.A. had been justified. And by deliberately turning away from the trappings of responsibility, which in others might have masked the armor of power, he set an example which all will agree should long endure.

In stepping aside as the sponsor and protector of the Conference, how would Bill continue to serve A.A.? What would be his new role in the movement and what purpose would it serve? Indeed, was there to be an appropriate, productive role for a "retired co-founder"? Perhaps these were some of the questions in Bill's mind as the 1956 Conference drew near. Perhaps they were also in the minds of Delegates who had

Groups Affiliate With Intercounty Fellowship

The Central Service Committee of the S. F. Intercounty Fellowship, at a meeting on June 19th, accepted with a warm welcome, applications for affiliation from groups in Glen Ellen, Palo Alto, Petaluma, Burbank-Santa Rosa and the Vallejo Family Group, according to Jack I., Secretary.

"The S. F. Inter-County Fellowship welcomes the opportunity to be of service to any group not now identified with a Central Office," he says. "All books and literature published by AA Publishing Inc., are available."

Any group in the service area can become a member of the Inter-County, by signifying its desire to join. Just as a group is a group of people, an Inter-Group is a group of groups, explains Jack. Financial participation, which is voluntary, is not a condition of membership.

seen or heard of the drama at St. Louis.

In fact, one Delegate to the Sixth Conference asked whether Bill still had "voting status" in the Conference. The answer to this question was easy. The permanent charter of the Conference provides that the surviving co-founder shall continue to be a member of that body.

The answer to the other questions were not so easy to determine. They could not be answered by Bill alone but required confirmation by Delegates themselves. The Conference was no longer "a project of Bill's." It had become a delicate, responsive instrument of A.A. as a whole.

In the Final Edition of the Report of the 1956 Conference, Bill's comments at the closing session Sunday afternoon, will record in his own words his appraisal of his role in this and future meetings of Delegates.

Meanwhile it is not premature to suggest that it is a role determined by the Delegates themselves, even as Bill's role in the first Conference was shaped by the Delegates. There is, however, a readily apparent and significant difference between the two roles. The lack of knowledge of movement-wide A.A. Apparent in the first Conference has been superseded by the broader understanding displayed by Delegates to the Sixth Conference. Uncertainty and timidity have given way, not necessarily to arrogant

Peninsula Women Wins \$50 Bond at San Mateo

A lady, Nona W. of East Palo Alto, won the first prize, a \$50 Defense Bond, in the door prize drawing at San Mateo on Saturday night, June 9th, a feature of the Summer Quarterly Conference of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Two \$25 Bonds, three Big Books and three Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Books, a total of nine prizes, were awarded lucky ticket holders. Other winners and their awards were:

Les M., Garberville, \$25 Bond.
Brooks McD., S.F., \$25 Bond.
Harriett J., S.F., Big Book.
Willie D., Belmont, Big Book.
E. M. N., Irvington, Big Book.
Tom O., Nevada City, 12 Steps.
Basil G., Oakland, 12 Steps.
Lucy D., Burlingame, 12 Steps.

New Group in Carmel Wants Visit Speakers

The Carmel Family Group has announced its existence in a letter to GOOD NEWS. They ask for visitors and visiting speakers, saying that most of their members are very new to AA.

The group meets on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. in the Red Cross Building, 8th and Dolores Street; open. Address, General Delivery, Carmel.

certainty, but at least to a degree of maturity in Third Legacy affairs that was not possible in an earlier day.

In an earlier day, Delegates called upon Bill, frequently and unabashedly, for information.

In the 1956 Conference, Delegates required less information. They were more aware of the purposes and operations of the Conference structure, more willing to try to clarify problems by themselves rather than ask Bill to clarify them. They spoke with an independence and assurance that come from experience. And they spoke often in terms of specific problems for which they sought specific solutions.

Where did Bill fit into this "new" type of Conference, this gathering of men and women to whom he, as a symbol of our earliest members, had bequeathed the Third Legacy of service and responsibility?

(Continued on page 6)

ALANON GROUP MEETS TWICE IN SAN MATEO

The members of the Alanon Family Groups held two meetings in San Mateo, June 9th and 10th, in conjunction with the Summer Conference of the Northern California Council, both of which were well attended.

Saturday afternoon Ann E. of San Mateo made a short welcoming address, following which Chairman Ella C., Sacramento, introduced the guest speaker, Amadeus Tarquinio, of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Social Work, San Jose Office.

Mr. Tarquinio spoke to an enthusiastic audience on the topic, "Alcoholism is a Family Disease." He discussed how best to assist the family of the alcoholic to recover, and his talk was most understanding and realistic.

On Sunday morning a husband and wife team, Ruby and Lee, members of the Family Group, Oakland, spoke on "Teamwork in the Home". They told, from personal experience, how the AA program works individually, helping both the alcoholic and non-alcoholic member of the family to recover.

In the discussions which followed the speakers, many topics were introduced; the effect on the children and the manner of handling the situation; and particularly the idea of teenagers being encouraged to set up their own programs, drawing on the fund of experience of their elders and using that which best fits their own needs. The group felt that this would be a logical expansion of the present spouse program.

Ambassadors Group To Celebrate 4th Year

The Ambassadors Group of San Francisco will celebrate their 4th Anniversary on Wednesday, July 11th, with a buffet supper from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. followed by a meeting, with coffee and doughnuts afterward.

Dr. Earle M., well known AA speaker from Mill Valley, will present his "blackboard" talk at the meeting, which will also hear a short address by Father Alfred of St. Boniface Church. The group meets in the Church Auditorium, 133 Golden Gate Avenue.

East Bay Group '7' Picnic August 12th

Oakland Group '7' will hold their Annual Picnic at Knowland Park, also known as Zoological Gardens, at the north end of 98th Avenue, on Sunday, August 12th, in the tennis court area.

Everything will be free; eats, coffee, cold drinks, games and prizes. Special attention will be given to entertaining the children. Everybody welcome. Members are urged to bring the youngsters.

Bill and the Conference

(Continued from page 5)

Strangely — or perhaps not so strangely — the Delegates instinctively seemed to have assigned to Bill a role that no one else in A.A. can fill so well, a role that, by a curious paradox, may be even more important than that of "co-founder."

It is a role for which there is no resounding title. It's title, if one might be required would be: "The Reminder."

Wise men learn most from their errors and the errors of their fellows. But most men tend to forget their most instructive experience and the memories of some men are short and teach nothing.

It is becoming increasingly common in A.A. to say that our Twelve Traditions reflect our collective experience and summarize those principles which seem most likely to assure survival of our Fellowship. But few in our society can reach back in memory to the actual experiences upon which our Traditions are based; none can do so with the breadth of understanding that is Bill's special gift.

Today, and for many to-days to come, A.A. needs and will need a "Reminder" who can bring alive the instructive memories of our perilous early years, who can recall for us the errors made in human frailty and the errors avoided by happy chance or, as most may prefer to believe, by the help of a benign Providence.

History is elusive memory for the benefit of future generations. The eagerness with which the 1956 Delegates endorsed Bill's preliminary historical project was a symbol of the Fellowship's dependence on Bill as a "Reminder" of our as-yet-unrecorded past.

East Oakland Group Fetes Member's 10th

The East Oakland Group, at their regular meeting Tuesday Evening, June 12th, helped Jeff and Estelle W. celebrate his 10th AA birthday with the presentation of a large birthday cake. A number of their old AA friends attended to offer heartiest congratulations to Jeff, and Estelle came in for her share of their good wishes as well.

While Jeff cut the cake the "gang" sang "Happy Birthday". Coffee was plentiful and arms-length AA as well. Bob E. acted as chairman.

The group celebrated its fourth anniversary on Friday, May 25th, with a pot-luck dinner, entertainment and dance at the Markham School, 73rd and Krause where they meet on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m.

Bob E. acted as Master of Ceremonies for a crowd of about 80 which enjoyed a variety show, and danced to the music of The Havenscourt Orchestra.

Interpretation might be defined as examination of both experience and memory to recall the purposes and motives underlying things written or done in the past. The delegates' dependence on Bill for interpretation of several aspects of the Conference charter was, again, a call upon the services of a "Reminder."

There will undoubtedly be occasions, as was suggested during consideration of the structure of the Board of Trustees, when Delegates and others in positions of service will express their tributes to Bill-the-co-founder and discount his role as Bill-"The Reminder."

Few, least of all Bill, would claim that this is unhealthy for A.A.

Many men have the opportunity or luck to be founder. But not all men have the capacity to continue to serve their fellows as "Reminders," as men who use hindsight to sharpen foresight, who not only learn from experience but can teach from experience, who can preserve the delicate balance between respect for the past and appreciation of current and future needs.

We are thankful that Bill had the luck to be a co-founder of A.A. We are even more grateful that he has the more demanding qualities required for his vitally-important role of "Reminder" in our fortunate Fellowship.

The Evolution of Alcoholics Anonymous

(Continued from last month)

With these two chapters in hand, and without introduction of any kind, Bill went to see the editors of Harper's Publishing Company. Harpers immediately caught fire and offered Bill, on the strength of this one visit, a \$1500 advance payment to finish the book, plus regular author's royalties. Bill said later that he almost succumbed to this offer because that was big money in those days—we were all broke. When Bill returned and reported this offer, Hank said, "If it's worth that much for just two chapters from an unknown author it's worth easily a million to us" and the trio immediately determined that Bill would finish writing the book and our Group would do the publishing.

In August, promotion minded Hank formed our first corporation for handling this book, to be named "100 Men Corporation" and he provided that two thirds of the corporation would belong to him and Bill, the other third to be sold on shares at \$25 par to friends and members. He announced that this third should easily bring us in \$10,000 which was to see us through publication. Our idea at this time was that the book alone would save the drunks in the majority of cases, by self-education.

Then it was decided that there would be some that the book alone would not do the job for, so another corporation was founded at the same time called "The Alcoholic Foundation." The Foundation's function would be the disbursement of funds and the establishment of alcoholic "farms" all over the country. The money for this, of course, we would get after the sale of the first few million books. Then we were faced with the problem of who was to go on this new foundation. At that time, August, 1938, we had only four men dry over a year in New York. These were Bill, Hank, Fitz and Paul Rudell, so to these four Dr. Bob Smith of Akron was added.

During this time of promotion, corporations and other such activities, Bill continued his writing of the book, averaging about a chapter a week. These were made up in triplicates, one copy going to Akron, one to the Clinton Street meetings

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GOOD NEWS

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We hereby subscribe for copies of GOOD NEWS per month.
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Enclosed is our check for \$..... to cover the next months.

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Enclosed find \$1.00 for which mail GOOD NEWS for ten months to the following:

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Address.....
(Make Checks Payable to the Northern California Council of AA)

and the third reserved as an office copy. These chapters, as completed, would be raked and mauled over in the two group meetings, changes were noted in the margins and returned weekly to the Newark office.

About the middle of October, 1938, the manuscript of the book was finished and the personal stories that appear in the AA book, in its present form, were contributed by individual members from Akron and New York. As previously mentioned, the name of the book at this time was "100 Men" and the new corporation had finally raised, through forty-nine members in New York and Akron, about \$3,000.

We then submitted the book to Dr. Yussel, well-known critic of New York University — this was about the 1st of November and he was paid \$300 to edit the book. Practically nothing was done to the personal stories of the individual members and there was less than 20% deletion from the original manuscript. When Yussel returned the book we found our "100 Men Corporation" broke; the \$3,000 gone. The only concrete assets we had besides the manuscript were some blank copper plates to be used in printing. We also found our name "100 Men" inadequate for we had forgotten the ladies and we already had one girl, Florence Rankin, on the ball.

In one of our discussion meetings

at Clinton Street other names were brought up for consideration. Most prominent of these were "This Way Out," "Exit," "The End of the Road" and several others. Finally we hit on our present name. Nobody is too sure exactly where it came from but it is my opinion that it was suggested by one of our newer members, Joe Worden, who had at one time been considered quite a magazine promotion genius, and who had been given credit for starting the New Yorker magazine. Hank and Bill finally decided on the name "Alcoholics Anonymous" in the latter part of November, 1938.

About this time we almost had a disaster in our still wobbly group but it later turned out to be a god-send. Bill and Hank had distributed quite a few copies of the original manuscript to doctors, psychiatrists and ministers to get a last minute reaction. One of these went to Dr. Howard, Chief Psychiatrist for the State of New Jersey. He became greatly interested and enthusiastic, but was highly critical of several things in the book, for after reading it he told us there was entirely too much "Oxfordism" and that it was too demanding. This is where the disaster nearly overtook us, for it nearly threw Bill into a terrific mental uproar to have his "baby" pulled apart by an outside "screw-

(Continued on page 8)

THE MAIL BOX

(Editors Note — From time to time GOOD NEWS receives letters that are worthy of printing. We will try to use discretion in printing any letters. The opinions expressed in these letters are the opinions of the writers and in no way reflect the opinions or policies of the GOOD NEWS Staff.)

Box 127A (Tel.-68M)
Point Arena, Calif.
June 11, 1956.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Wish to inform you of the change of our meeting night to:
Every Wednesday—8 p.m.
Point Arena Civic Club,
Point Arena, California.

Am proud to say that our little group that started with 2 members January 27th, 1956, now has 6 active members.

Group Secretary,
HAROLD J.

P.S. Thanks! Your paper brought us 11 visitors from the Fort Bragg group one night.

A NEW SUBSCRIBER

San Francisco,
June 19, 1956.

Good News:

Thanks for retaining my name on the mailing list for so many months.

Having finally become ashamed of being a free loader, am enclosing a dollar for a subscription.

I might add that the publication is concise, cheerful and helpful in keeping members of the Fellowship posted on what goes on in the world of sobriety.

LE ROY R.

Sacramento Area AA's Fete 15th Anniversary

The Sacramento Area Groups celebrated their 15th Anniversary on Saturday night, June 16th, with an open meeting and party at the Labor Center on Stockton Boulevard. Over 500 people attended the event, which was pronounced a big success, and only a very few had to stand.

Charlie H. acted as chairman, and Ray B. introduced two well known and very popular speakers, Chuck C. of Beverly Hills and Doctor Earle M. of Mill Valley. "Doc" Leo B. of Fresno reported on the condition of Vic M., past chairman-delegate of General Service Panel 2, who is confined to a hospital in Oakland. Refreshments and much arm-length AA completed the festivities which lasted until rather late in the evening.

The Evolution of Alcoholics Anonymous

(Continued from last month)

bal" psychiatrist, who in our opinion knew nothing about alcoholism.

After days of wrangling between Bill, Hank, Fitz, and myself Bill was finally convinced that all positive and "must" statements should be eliminated and in their place to use the word "suggest" and the expression "we found we had to." Another thing changed in this last re-writing was qualifying the word "God" with the phrase "as we understand him." (This was one of the writer's few contributions to the book.) In the final finishing the fellowship angle was enlarged and emphasized. After many arguments and uproars the manuscript was finally finished, complete, in December, 1938. We now had one real problem—no money.

It was about this time that the "100 Men Corporation" was closed out and a new one started named "Works Publishing Company." This name derived from a common expression, used in the group, "It works!!" Those that had stock or interest in the old corporation maintained the same priority in the new one. (Ed. Note: Three years later the original stock subscribers returned all their shares and interest in "Works Publishing Company" to "The Alcoholic Foundation." Today no individual has any financial interest in either the Alcoholic Foundation or in Alcoholics Anonymous.)

Then a new wrinkle was devised by our master-minds—we would make a couple of hundred multilith copies of the finished manuscript and these we would use as a promotion for more stockselling and at the same time to get possible endorsement of well-known people, particularly in the fields of religion and medicine. These copies were distributed to the Works Publishing Company shareholders and possible prospective stockholders. With these multilith copies we sent out a prospectus for our corporation and a note saying that the copy could be purchased for \$3.50 and a copy of the book, if and when printed, would be sent gratis to each purchaser. From this venture, we did get one new stockholder. However, the copies did get into all sections of the country.

One copy created quite an amusing incident, for it got into the

hands of a patient in a psychopathic hospital in California. This man immediately caught fire and religion all in one fell swoop. He wrote and told us about the wonderful release he had from alcohol through our new Alcoholics Anonymous multilith. Of course all of us in New York became highly excited and wires bounced back and forth between us and our new convert regarding this miracle that happened 3,000 miles away.

This man wrote the last personal history in the book while he was still in California, called the "Lone Endeavor". Our New York Groups were so impressed by his recovery that we passed the hat and sent for him to come East as an example. This he did, but when the boys met him at the bus station the delusion faded, for he arrived stone drunk and as far as I know, never came out of it.

The major result of the multilith was our first important endorsement outside of our own group and friends. It came from Dr. Henry Emerson Fosdick, pastor of the Riverside Baptist Church in New York and a nationally-known speaker and writer.

So here we were again, broke, only more so!

Bill came to our rescue, as usual, by floating a \$2,500 loan from Dr. Towne's, who already had a good slice in the original corporation. With the blank copper plates and Dr. Towne's loan, Hank prevailed on the Cornwall Press, in February 1939, to make 8,000 copies for our first edition. The book was purposely made to look bulky for two reasons—to give it an air of intellectual authority and to make it look like a lot for the money. The dust jacket, with its familiar red, black, yellow and white was designed by one of our artist members, Ray Campbell, whose story in the book is called "An Artist's Concept."

Although Cornwall did print 5,000 of these books in April, 1939, they still felt that we were quite short in our down payment and insisted that the books be kept in a bonded warehouse and withdrawn only on the payment of \$2.00 per copy. Our method of distributing the books was to get possibly ten copies out at a time, and the members would individually button-hole libraries, doctors and others for sales. Funds received from these purchases were in turn used to buy additional copies which in their turn were sold in

the same way. About the only bookstore we could interest at the start was Brentano's in New York, who did gamble on a half a dozen copies.

Five of the very first books were presented to Dr. Fishbein, editor of the American Medical Journal to whom Dr. Towne had lauded AA. Dr. Fishbein had promised to give us a real buildup in the Journal but when his review appeared, it merely said that AA was nothing new and had no real significance to the medical profession. So another balloon busted.

In June Bill and Hank decided to try another promotion stunt—this was to put a 2" x 3" advertisement in the New York Times Book Review. This cost us \$250 and I have often wondered where the money came from. We thought we had the real answer to publicity this time, and we all sat back and started guessing and beating among ourselves on the number of requests we would get for our million dollar book. The estimates ranged from 2,000 to 20,000 copies, but we were due for another disappointment, as only two copies of the book were sold in spite of our seven-day free trial offer.

It was about this time that we got our first really active girl member, Marty Mann, who took the AA program while under restraint at Blywood Sanitarium. Marty's efforts on behalf of women alcoholics in the early days were of inestimable value and today she is one of the most indefatigable workers on behalf of AA in the country.

It was also in June of this year that we made our first contact with the Rockefeller Foundation. This was arranged by Bert Taylor, one of the older members, who had known the family for years in a business way. Dr. Richardson, who had long been spiritual advisor for the Rockefeller family, became very interested and friendly and Bill and Hank made frequent visits to him, with Hank on one side asking for financial help and Bill on the other insisting on moral support only. (To be continued next month)

H. W. Haggard M.D. "All drunkenness is not to be forgiven on the basis that alcoholism is an illness—only alcoholism—compulsive drinking—is an illness." ("The Physician and the Alcoholic".) Director, Laboratory of Applied Physiology, Yale University.