

Merry Christmas!

EASY
DOES
IT

Good News

FIRST
THINGS
FIRST

Vol. VII
No. 4

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

DECEMBER
1958

COAST PANEL HOLDS GENERAL SERVICE ELECTION ON DEC. 7

The eighth year of the life of AAs Third Legacy—the General Service Conference—is drawing to a close.

Four years of a trial period—1951-52-53-54—and four more years—1955-56-57-58—in which AA as a whole met its responsibility to carry on the services for suffering alcoholics established and supervised for so long by our co-founders, Bill W. and the late Doctor Bob.

In that period the awareness of the membership of the true worth and significance of General Service has grown slowly. Northern California has been no slower, perhaps, than the rest of the country in recognizing that the Third Legacy is as much a part of "good" AA as the First Step for Recovery.

ELECTION DECEMBER 7

The Coastal Panel of Northern California will have an opportunity Sunday, December 7, to reveal the growth of its awareness, if any. On that date, General Service Representatives of the 193 known groups in the panel have been called to meet to elect a General Service Committee of eighteen members for 1959 and 1960, and from that number to choose a chairman-delegate, a treasurer-alternate, and a secretary-alternate.

The meeting will be called at 10:30 a.m. at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, by Paul G. of Mill Valley, the retiring chairman-delegate. The panel is divided into

Free List . . .

The complimentary list for copies of GOOD NEWS has been cancelled by vote of the Central Committee of the Northern California Council of AA, publisher of this monthly paper.

eighteen districts, each of which will name a committeeman. The call for the meeting was signed by Paul G., Lloyd S. of San Jose, treasurer, and Florette P. of Sausalito, secretary.

LEGACY OF SERVICE

Their call said:

"The strength and growth of Alcoholics Anonymous Groups all over the world is the heritage of our Third Legacy of SERVICE. The linking together of the Groups by participation in General Service provides the bond that makes AA the world-wide force for good that it is.

"Each of us has come to learn that alone we were defeated but that once we became part of our group we began to share in the strength, hope, and experience that the other members of the group brought to it. And so it is when we link our groups together with the General Service chain.

"Our group is as strong and healthy as the individuals in the group make it. Our district is as effective as the groups in the District make it, and our panel in the General

(Continued on page 2)

NCC Central Committee Votes to Hold Annual Breakfast in Stockton

Maintaining its record of fulfilling its obligations to the utmost, the Central Committee of the Northern California Council held another rousing meeting in the San Francisco AA Fellowship Center Sunday, October 26.

It was the last meeting of the committee as now constituted, as a new committee will be named by group delegates in Stockton next March. Twenty representatives or alternates were present, representing seventeen of the twenty-two council districts. Members of committees and visiting AAs swelled the attendance to fifty.

Under the chairmanship of the secretary, Basil G., the committee acted on several items of business, including decisions to hold the annual breakfast in Stockton Sunday, March 8, 1959, and to eliminate the free list in mailings of GOOD NEWS.

DEFICIT AT UKIAH

A decline in the average attendance and support led to a small deficit in the expense of the NCC sessions held in Ukiah the first week in October. The secretary's report revealed expenses exceeded the revenue by \$166.27. Details are given in a financial statement printed on another page of this issue.

Plans went ahead for the twelfth annual conference to be held in Stockton March 7 and 8, 1959. The committee confirmed plans for the annual breakfast to be held in the Stockton Municipal Auditorium Sunday morning, March 8. The cost will be \$2 per plate. Paula B. of Ukiah was elected as mistress of ceremonies for the breakfast.

The secretary reported Earl R., Chicago attorney, had accepted the

(Continued on page 6)

Ann
Harris

Ann
Harris

Coastal Panel to Pick General Service Group At Election Dec. 7

(Continued from page 1)

Service Conference can only be as vigorous and representative as the districts make it.

"So - come and share - this is Twelfth Step activity in the world-wide program.

"PAUL, FLORETTE, LLOYD".

PROGRAM SET

Chairman Paul will open the meeting at 10:30 a.m. At 11 o'clock the delegates will be addressed by Jack I., Central Secretary of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship. A coffee-break will be called at 11:30, and at 11:45 the representatives will elect their district committeemen, and then their chairman-delegate, treasurer and secretary.

At 12:45 p.m., a drawing will be held for three prizes—the AA books "Alcoholics Anonymous," "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and "AA Comes of Age"—which will go to the representatives holding the winning tickets. Adjournment will be taken at 1 p.m.

EXPENSE MONEY

Each group representative is asked to attend prepared to pay into the General Service Committee treasurer, the \$5 requested from each group to pay the committees expenses for the two years.

Notices of the meeting contained a questionnaire, which each group was asked to fill out and return at once by mail.

All AAs are invited to attend the meeting. Only recognized group representatives will be entitled to vote, however.

New Vallejo Group Holds Sunday Breakfast Meet

Leo C. and his wife of Vallejo, while on vacation, had the opportunity to visit AA in Salt Lake City . . . Bill C. of Vallejo is recovering from injuries incurred in an auto wreck . . . broken ribs and a general banging around . . . but his injuries can't keep him from AA meetings.

Our hats are off to our AA chef, Bob B., who cooks the Sunday morning breakfasts at the new group at 820. Marin Street . . . an AA meeting is conducted at the breakfast table at 11:30 a.m.—HAZEL L.

Interpretations of Characteristics Found in Twelve Steps of Recovery

AA's good friend and NCC guest speaker, Mrs. Adela Rogers St. Johns, gave her own list of the characteristics she found in each of the Twelve Steps of Recovery, when she spoke before the NCC in Sacramento. Since then, numerous groups have made her list the subject of discussion and several have developed their own interpretations. Among these is the Lakeshore Group of Oakland. Here are the two lists.

Adela Rogers St. Johns		Lakeshore Group	
Truth	Step 1.	Truth, Admission.	
Faith	Step 2.	Courage, Humility.	
Activity	Step 3.	Faith, Honesty.	
Courage	Step 4.	Decision, Submission, Surrender, Wisdom, Humility.	
Integrity, Trustworthiness	Step 5.	Courage, Honesty (without pride), Humility.	
Willingness	Step 6.	Integrity, Truth, Humility, Activity.	
Humility	Step 7.	Willingness, Surrender.	
Love	Step 8.	Humility, Hope, Willingness.	
Self-discipline	Step 9.	Love, Willingness, Action.	
Steadfastness	Step 10.	Discipline, Action, Courage, Wisdom, Discretion.	
Unity	Step 11.	Steadfastness, Courage, Perseverance, Humility.	
Service	Step 12.	Faith, Humility, Concentration.	
		Service, Action, Love, Compassion, Perseverance, Charity, Selflessness, Generosity.	

Inspiring Birthday Event Held by Agnews AA Group

One hundred twenty-five patients, plus more than fifty visiting AAs, joined hands to conduct an inspiring anniversary meeting at the Agnews State Hospital Sunday, November 16.

It was the fourteenth anniversary of the founding of the Agnews AA group. Peninsula AAs were the original sponsors of the group, and in recent years they have been joined by members from San Francisco, all functioning under the banner of the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee.

As this year's birthday fell on the regular meeting night of the San Francisco group, that city provided the program, with AA talks by Barbara B. and Jack I., under the chairmanship of Harriet H.

Bill G., general chairman of the H. & I., committee, met in Sacramento last month with Gordon F., area chairman; Ruth G., Central California Fellowship secretary, and Bud T., spokesman for the Folsom prison group.

Regular meetings have been revived in Sacramento County Jail

No. 1, with upward of 100 present every Saturday afternoon. The Shasta County Jail project at Redding also has been revived.

Hazel L. of Vallejo has introduced a new project by calling at the Napa State Hospital's receiving ward every Thursday night and escorting the new girl patients to the inside AA meeting. She says: "They love it, and so do I."

Area chairmen and all their committee members will meet early in February in San Jose. Details will be announced next month.

Indians Can't Attend, But Contribute to NCC

Two American Indian alcoholics could not attend the NCC sessions at Ukiah, but they supported it by sending in \$4 for four tickets.

They are Harold C., who has been sober in AA more than two years, and Art R., whom he has sponsored.

They expressed their gratitude to AA and Harold's sponsor, Max S., for the new lives they have found.

SHOULD AA CHANGE SETUP OF GENERAL SERVICE BOARD?

Groups Asked to Voice Opinions on Question

Though the question of a change in the setup of trustees of the General Service Board of AA is not on the agenda for the election meeting of the Coast Panel in San Francisco December 7, it is possible the matter may come up for preliminary discussion.

It is possible the group representatives may be asked to take the question back to their groups and ask for instructions before the next meeting in March, at which time the new chairman-delegate could be instructed how to vote on the question. In a letter to all groups, the General Service Conference secretary, Eve M., writes:

"The question is — should we change the ratio of Trustees between non-alcoholics and alcoholics on the General Service Board of AA. The Board now consists of eight non-alcoholic Trustees and seven alcoholic Trustees.

"This question has been under consideration since the first General Service Conference in 1951. But no specific action was ever taken until last April when the Delegates of the Eighth General Service Conference approved in principle a new proposal.

"The new proposal would provide for an equalized Board of nine non-alcoholic and nine alcoholic Trustees. After discussion, the delegates voted to bring this proposal before the full body of AA. Then, guided by AA opinion, the proposal is to be acted upon by the 1959 Conference next April.

"At its meetings on October 27, the Board of Trustees chose not to poll its members on this question in order not to influence in any way the discussion and wishes of AA membership.

"A pro and con list which has been approved by the Board is attached. This list summarizes Conference discussion."

... Jack I. was guest speaker at a British Columbia AA Conference and flew to Vancouver to fulfill the engagement ... Doc D., Oregon State AA Secretary, visited in S.F. in November and attended a Central meeting ...

Scattered Shots... Fired From Here and There...

A number of changes have taken place at the Henry Ohloff Hostel of the Episcopal Church in San Francisco. The Rev. Alan Hamrickhouse has been appointed acting director, to serve until a permanent director is found to succeed Al McV., resigned ... Erik is now the house manager ...

Jeanie S. of San Francisco and LaJolla returned south after attending the annual San Francisco AA banquet, and attended the anniversary banquet of San Diego AA on November 8 ... featured at the latter banquet were a number of members with eighteen or more years of continuous sobriety, including Jim B., one of the "first 100", who was responsible for the insertion of the clause, "as we understood Him," in the Third and Eleventh Steps of the AA program for recovery ...

Ted F., of Millbrae, formerly of San Francisco, who was stricken ill with a heart attack at the San Francisco banquet, was driven to the Millbrae Hospital by his wife ... he has now recovered and is back in circulation in the Millbrae Group ...

VERY MUCH ON JOB

Reports to the contrary, the Quiet Hour Group of Oakland is very much alive and hitting the ball ... the group, which holds open meetings, has its headquarters at 1733 Arlington Avenue, El Cerrito ... information regarding the group may be obtained from Esther N. at TE 5-3369, or Jean K., at LA 4-1856.

A special Thanksgiving event for the Monterey Peninsula was conducted by the Seaside Group on November 22 ... Lloyd S. of San Jose was guest speaker ... Manly D. of Pacific Grove, who recently was treated for impaired vision in one eye, is now able to spend a few hours a day in his office in Monterey ... Bill and Marian McN. of Carmel have recovered from recent illness ...

Stan and LaVonne H. of the Terra Linda Group were guest speakers at the San Francisco Surf Group November 17 ... the San Francisco Golden Gate Group, recently re-

vived, will observe Old-Timers Night December 9 at the Highlanders Club, 3691 Mission Street ... Paul G. of Mill Valley will speak, and Fred K. will be chairman.

NEW MIRALOMA GROUP

A new closed discussion meeting has been established in San Francisco under the name of the Miraloma Group ... it meets every Tuesday night at the home of its first secretary, George Y., 275 Bella Vista ... the Sunnyvale Family Group, which meets Tuesday nights at the Adair School, 8080 W. McKinley, Sunnyvale, and the Sonoma Group, which meets Thursday nights at the Sonoma Improvement Club in Fetters Hot Springs, have joined the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship ...

The Brisbane Group has adopted the name Brisbane 7:30 Sunday Night Open Group ... it has changed its meeting place from the school to the Brisbane Recreation Hall, which is reached by turning right at Dick's Towers thence up the hill to the hall ... Dan R., long time member of the San Francisco Fellowship, who is widely known in Northern California, has returned from St. Louis, Mo., where he spent the last eight months on business and pleasure ... he visited many Mid-Eastern AA groups ... Dan is a former manager of the S. F. Alano Club.

S. F. Fellowship Starts Regular Series of Dances

Despite other AA activities on the same night, cold weather and a short advance notice, the first of a series of dances sponsored by the San Francisco Fellowship attracted more than 200 dancers to California Hall, San Francisco, the night of Saturday, November 15.

John M. and Buz D., members of the committee in charge, said a number of things were learned through the event. First, another hall will be sought for the next dance. Second, coffee "and" will be provided. In the face of the difficulties and the weather, the affair was considered a success.

Hank G. of N.Y. Office to Speak in S. F.; Dr. Bowman and Wm. Lawson Also Scheduled

December will be a banner program month for the San Francisco Tri-County Fellowship's Central Meetings, which are held Friday nights at 240 Golden Gate Avenue.

The first Friday, December 5, will be featured by a talk by William B. Lawson, associate warden of Folsom State Prison. On the program with him will be Millie G. of Redding, who started in AA in Marin County in 1953, and spent the next four years in Frankfort, Germany, where she was active in the AA of the armed services. She served as secretary of the German AA Council. Before going abroad, she was the first secretary of the Novato Group in February, 1954.

N.Y. MANAGER HERE

Hank G., manager of the General Service Office of AA in New York, will be guest speaker December 12. He will be here in connection with planning for the Long Beach convention in 1960.

On the program with him will be L.H. (Duke) of Brisbane, who was introduced to AA in the Los Angeles area and has been carrying the message in this district for several years.

Dr. Karl Bowman, who was unable to keep an engagement to speak in November, has sent word that he can make it on December 19. He is director-emeritus of the Langley Porter Clinic and one of the country's foremost authorities on alcoholism.

On the program with him will be Kay G. of the Fillmore Group.

POST-CHRISTMAS

The day after Christmas, December 26, will see two widely known AAs giving their message. They will be Mildred H., secretary of the Surf Group and also active in the Park-Presidio and other groups, and Art R. of Pedro Valley, who is identified principally with groups down the peninsula.

The November meetings featured splendid AA programs with good speakers, and had an unusual attraction in presentation of a skit about AA by six members of the Ala-Teen Group of San Jose. On the program with them were the parents of two of the girls, Edna and Bill P.

Dog-Gone!!

A Berkeley Northbrae Group member, trying to maintain AA anonymity at a gathering in a friend's house, adopted an age-old expedient when he was served beer by his host.

Instead of saying he didn't drink, he accepted the beer and surreptitiously poured it a bit at a time into a flower pot standing near his chair.

All went well until he missed the pot with one pouring, and the beer trickled to the floor. The hostess saw it and exclaimed:

"Darn that pup!"

She grabbed the dog, rubbed his nose in the beer and tossed it outdoors.

Central Calif. Groups To Hold New Years Party

The Central California Fellowship of AA will hold its annual New Year's Eve party in Sacramento December 31, and it is expected that AAs and their families from all over the valley and mountains will attend as usual. The committee will furnish noisemakers, novelties, coffee and food, and door prizes. An orchestra will furnish music for dancing.

The Sacramento Alano Club held open house and served a Thanksgiving dinner on that holiday. And that night many groups of the area held meetings of thanksgiving and gratitude.

The Woodland Group heard a man-and-wife speaking team from Sacramento on November 20. They were Nellie C., Alanon, and Maurice C., an AA.

The Citrus Heights Group heard talks on Traditions and gratitude November 12. Leona K., Nadine D. and Tim H. discussed the Twelve Points of Tradition, and Warren I. talked on gratitude.

Cliff J. and Al O'M., co-chairmen of the Central California Fellowship have issued a special appeal for financial support for the Central Office. Only twenty-one groups of the thirty-four in the Fellowship contributed toward its support last month.—RUTH G.

Martinez Club Draws Many New AA Prospects

Many new faces are appearing at 707 Howard Street, Martinez, the quarters of the Alono Club of Contra Costa County.

They also are appearing at the closed meeting being held in the club on Wednesdays and at the open meetings being held on Fridays.

Elva K. urges members to call at the Psychiatric Ward of the County Hospital where they will always find a cooperative welcome night or day from Mrs. Maxine Johnson, R.N., in charge of this service of the hospital. Many confused Alcoholics are admitted there regularly, squirrel-cage and all, and it is an ideal place to carry the healing message of AA, reports Elva.

Always glad to see AA birthdays roll around, Martinez AA celebrated recently with Art I., eight years; Darrel H., one year (Darrel is secretary of the group), and George B., two years. This inspires the entire group as it is living proof that one day at a time adds up.

Larry K., on guitar, Darrel H. on saxophone and violin, and Palmer D. on piano have been amusing themselves of late at the club, combining their musical efforts with answering the phone for calls for help.

Though it is not expected that they will give the name bands any competition, these "pea-pickers" do manage to make a lot of noise and keep each other sober.

The club recently was pleased to have Merle J. of the Havenscott Group, Oakland, for its chairman at a closed meeting.

Tiny H. is at the club daily answering the phone and performing various other services appreciated by the entire group.—E.P.D.

Open House and Supper Planned Christmas Day

The annual Christmas buffet supper will be served and open house will be held at the San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, on Christmas Day. The open house will be held from 3 to 7 p.m., during which the supper will be served without charge to members and visitors.

Thousand AAs and Friends Pack Peacock Court; Fifty-six Cities Represented at Banquet

The good old Mark Hopkins, perched atop San Francisco's Nob Hill, rocked in a gale of sober laughter, reeked with the odor of coffee and soft drink and ruminated over the awesome spectacle of a thousand lushes enjoying themselves without alcohol.

The occasion was the fourth annual banquet of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship, which now has become more of a Northern California event, and which was held Saturday night, October 25, in the Peacock Court of the world-famous hotel.

TERRIFIC EVENT

The least that can be said about it is that it was terrific. While the recovered alks and their families jammed Peacock Court to the hilt, the non-alcoholic officials who were present as guests meditated over the miracles they were beholding.

High spot of the evening was the AA talk given by Col. Pappy B., retired Marine Corps flying ace and a member of the Burbank Group of AA. The master of ceremonies was Paul G. of Mill Valley. Dinner music was by the Anson Weeks Orchestra.

A list of the fifty-six cities represented indicates the wide area aspect that the event as developed. Banqueters came from Reno, Santa Monica and LaJolla. From far up in the redwoods came members from Eureka, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, St. Helena, Napa, Sebastopol and Petaluma.

REDDING ON NORTH

And the northern reaches of the State sent representatives from Redding, Chico, Sacramento, Rio Vista, Dixon, Vacaville and Woodland. From way down in the San Joaquin came AAs of Fresno, Hanford and Modesto, while Monterey and Ben Lomond sent delegates from that area.

Across the bay, Oakland, Alameda, San Lorenzo, Berkeley and Hayward were represented, while from their hinterland came AAs of Lafayette, Concord, Vallejo and Richmond.

The peninsula contributions were from San Jose, Los Gatos, Redwood City, Palo Alto, San Mateo, Sunnyvale, San Carlos, Santa Clara, Daly City, Colma, South San Francisco, Menlo Park, Burlingame and Pacific Manor.

Almost every city in Marin Coun-

AA for Tahoe

Marge and Poncho W., who for years have carried the message in different parts of Northern California, are now seeing to it that alks in the Lake Tahoe region can find their weekly meeting with its vital balm.

Formerly of Santa Rosa and Sonoma, they are now living at Meyers, a small town at the top of the Sierra Nevada and six miles from Lake Tahoe. Marge has been elected secretary of the South Shore Group, which meets three nights a week at the Presbyterian Church at Tahoe Valley.

Closed meetings are held Monday and Wednesday nights and open meetings Saturday nights at 8 o'clock. Any visitors having difficulty in locating the Presbyterian Church can telephone KImball 4-2376. The address of the group is Meyers, Calif.

Mello-Daires Schedule Holiday Season Dances

The Mello-Daires, dance band composed of AAs, will have the following schedule this month:

December 6—San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue.

December 13—Los Gatos, for the annual Christmas party of the Los Gatos Group and vicinity.

December 20—Alameda Fellowship, 2323A Santa Clara Avenue.

December 31—San Francisco Alano Club New Year's Eve party.

Inquiries regarding the orchestra may be directed to its manager, Paul (Buz) Doane, 1360 Clayton Street, San Francisco 17; telephone KL 2-2885.

ty was on hand—San Rafael, San Anselmo, Novato, Larkspur, Corte Madera, Tiburon, Belvedere, Ross, Mill Valley and Sausalito.

Co-chairmen of the banquet committee were Bill S. and Jack I. Other members were: Estelle R., South San Francisco; Earle M., Mill Valley; Stan W., Fairfax; John F. San Carlos; Evelyn McD., Avicé A., Florette P., Barbara B., Katie D. and Harriet H. of San Francisco.

Sunday Breakfast Group Hosts Visiting 'Teams'

To revive interest in the Marin Sunday Breakfast Group, which for years has been an off-and-on favorite of scores of Bay area AAs, a new policy has been inaugurated with three principal points. The King Cotton Drive-In, at the southern entrance to San Rafael, is still the meeting place.

First, the meetings now start at 12:30 p.m., to avoid conflict with Sunday morning church or Sunday morning dates with Morpheus. Those attending may have breakfast together at 11:30 a.m. or may show up just in time for the meeting.

Second, three short talks of less than ten minutes each now spark the discussion that follows.

Third, "teams" of two to three speakers from a different group each Sunday are being featured. Thus variety is afforded the members of the Breakfast Group, and visitors are given the chance to make one of those away-from-home trips so relished by AAs.

The King Cotton Drive-In is on the side road paralleling the Redwood Highway, and is reached through the turnoff for the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. The drive-in provides a private room for the breakfasters and the meeting.

Group secretaries are asked not to write for invitations to send "teams", but to pick a date and telephone Eleanor F., at Edgewater 2-3800, when they plan to attend.

1959 Will Be Greeted At S. F. Alano Club

AAs of San Francisco and vicinity will be given the chance to "whoop it up" on coffee and soft drinks when 1958 bows out and 1959 emerges.

The Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, plans its annual New Year's Eve party, and just to give a "shot" to the spirit of the occasion, it will provide the usual supply of noisemakers, appropriate hats and refreshments.

In addition to dance music by the Mello-Daires, a floor show will be presented during the evening. Ice cream, cake and coffee will be served, and door prizes will be presented.

Music for dancing will continue as far into the morning of January 1 as the celebrants care to stick

NCC Central Committee Cancels News Free List

(Continued from page 1)

invitation to be the guest speaker at Stockton. He also reported plans already were underway for the mid-year council in Visalia next June, and that George S. of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, had accepted the committee's invitation to be the Visalia guest speaker.

FREE LIST CANCELED

Following a report by Rollin W., circulation manager of GOOD NEWS, the committee voted to discontinue the practice of giving free subscription to General Service group representatives. This was made necessary by the increased cost of publication.

It was felt by the committee that GOOD NEWS should be self-supporting, and that complimentary copies should be sent only on an exchange basis, to non-AA friends and to hospitals and institutions.

Present for the committee were: Bill W., Sacramento; Bill E., Woodland; Buede S., Jim A., Ethel T., Walter S. and Bob O. SF.; Hazel L. Vallejo; Gordon D., San Rosa; John McN., Ross; Leo M., Fort Bragg; Stan G., Fresno; Bill B., San Jose; Harold B., Santa Clara; Maggie P. and Ben Y., Oakland; Truett L., Albany; Dayton J., Oakland; Bob M., Redwood City, and Gil C., Salinas.

Duane R. represented General Services, Nellie C. was present for the Al-Anon Groups, Harriet H. for the I & H Committee, and O.K.P. and Rollin W. for Good News.

Bill S. and Bill E. of Stockton were present for the Stockton conference committee, and Paula B. for the Ukiah conference committee.

L.A. Man Guest Speaker At Eastbay Open Meeting

The regular open public meeting of the Eastbay Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held Wednesday, December 10, at 8:15 p.m. at Ebel Hall, 1440 Harrison Street, Oakland.

Paul Van H. of the Pasadena Home Group will be guest speaker. He was a featured speaker at the recent Southern California Conference.

The College Bay Group of Berkeley will be the host group, and Jean Y. will act as chairman.

NCC FINANCIAL REPORT

1958 FALL CONFERENCE

UKIAH, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 4 and 5, 1958

CASH RECEIPTS:

Contribution tickets	\$ 517.00
Saturday night contribution	240.00
Sunday afternoon contribution	183.28
Bingo game	133.00
Coffee and snack bar	198.31
Coke bar	113.00
Al-Anon Contribution	25.00
I & H Committee contribution	23.62

TOTAL \$ 1,433.21

CASH DISBURSEMENTS:

Fair Grounds expense:	
Rental	\$ 250.00
Cleanup service	36.00
Insurance	36.96
The Mello-Daires, dance orchestra	135.00
Coffee and snack bar supplies	419.16
Coke bar supplies	45.54
Speakers' expenses	121.97
Contribution ticket prizes	97.50
Dinner for county and city guests	87.50
Printing tickets, announcements, and programs	102.40
Mailing expense	25.32
Badges and ribbons	83.46
Decorations	40.31
Conference committee's expenses	81.48
Secretary's conference expenses	36.88

TOTAL \$ 1,599.48

CONFERENCE DEFICIT: \$ 166.27

Meeting in Prison Camp Revived at Fort Bragg

The AA Group at the Parlin Forks Prison Camp, near Fort Bragg, has resumed meetings, now that the forest fire season is over. Because of the prevalence of fires beginning early in the summer, all meetings had to be suspended.

On the revival of the meetings, the twenty-two members present decided to discuss each of the Twelve Steps of Recovery one at a time. The First Step was taken up with Tom H. as chairman. In the discussion, Mike R., Edmund M. and Mike B. explained their ideas for applying the step even while in an institution.

The group meets at the camp each Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock. Any male AA who happens to be in the vicinity will be welcomed. For information regarding the meeting, telephone YO 4-4012 in Fort Bragg.

The Fort Bragg area meeting for November was held Saturday night,

November 15, with Jack I. of San Francisco as guest speaker. Jim G. of Fort Bragg was chairman, and the invocation was given by the Rev. Mr. Larson of the Fort Bragg Episcopal Church. Jack spoke on "AA Traditions."

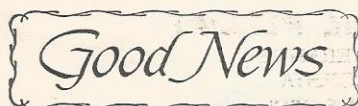
Forty members and their families were present. Some came from as far away as Garberville and Eureka. A turkey and ham supper was served.—LEO M.

Wisconsin Loner Keeps In Touch with AA Here

Art H., who found AA in this area and for two years was a regular attendant at sessions of the Northern California Council, is now in Kohler Wis., where he considers himself an AA loner.

He observed his second anniversary of continuous sobriety on October 14.

Writing to GOOD NEWS, he said he wanted to renew his subscription so he could keep in touch with his AA friends in Northern California.



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Merry Christmas . . .

Northern California AA has just passed through a period in which special emphasis was placed on gratitude, service and traditions.

Not that a special period of time should be set aside for application of those principles, because they should be part of the daily program of living, but because we humans occasionally need a shot in the arm to prompt us to do what we should do without prompting.

A poll of Northern California groups to determine what they did in recognition of AA's wide-world services—its world Twelfth Step work—is not possible, but reports from here and there indicate there was some response to the pleas for support of the General Service Office and the various central offices.

Those groups that did not respond, still have until the last week in December to get under the wire for 1958. Christmas would be a good time. Many AAs will send their birthday checks to New York this month. Others will follow the suggestion of the Sunnyvale group that we all send Christmas cards to Bill and Lois, enclosing a buck for general services.

Once again we have a period of time for which it should not be necessary to give special emphasis. Once again we are humans, and have to be needled to snap us out of our indifference to others.

So may the light of the Christmas spirit be reflected with a sparkle in your hearts, your minds, your faces, your words and your deeds.

Merry Christmas!

Your Secretary Reports:

You will find in this issue our report on the finances of the conference at Ukiah last October, and you will note that we wound up with a financial shortage in an amount which is rather surprising. Part of this was due to the unexpectedly poor attendance, and part was due to the sudden failure of the groups in the Council in supporting the conference financially. However, AA-wise, the conference was a success, and the City of Ukiah gained an even better understanding of AA.

We take this opportunity to thank the groups which did contribute generously by taking all of the contribution tickets sent to them, as many of them have in the past.

LIST OF GROUPS

Among those fine groups are the Lakeshore Group, in Oakland, the Ocean Avenue Family Group, in San Francisco, the Hayward Group, Citrus Heights Group, Eureka Municipal Group, Twin Cities Group in Fairfield.

Fort Bragg Group, Hanford Friday Night and Central Valley Groups, Merced Group, Mill Valley Group, Novato Group; the Quiet Hour, Sunday Discussion, and McFarland Groups in Oakland; the Redding Group, 37th and Roosevelt Group in Richmond.

Thursday Night Mens' Group and Creekside Groups in Sacramento, the Downtown and Sunset Groups in San Francisco, the Hi-Nooners in San Jose, the Serenity and Family Groups in Santa Rosa, the Sonora Group, Stockton Pacific Mens' Group, Tiburon-Belvedere Group, Ukiah Group, Vallejo Beginners Group, and the Alameda Island Group.

SPECIAL MENTION

Then there is the Alameda Fellowship, which has been an inspiration to us throughout our service, by its steadfast financial support of our conferences as well as by the attendance of its members and its help in other ways. This group is followed closely by Group 3 in Sacramento.

We know that the example set by these groups cannot help but inspire other groups to follow that example, and to help carry the message

as is done by our conferences. Our sincerest thanks to all those groups, and to the many individual members of AA who have contributed so regularly to the conference fund.

We are turning our attention now to the next annual conference, which will be held in Stockton on March 7 and 8, 1959. This will be a wonderful AA event, with two days of AA programs which should live long in our memories. It is not too soon to make plans right now to meet with all of us at that conference.

DIRECTORY HELD

May we remind you again that less than one-half of our groups have returned the forms sent to them asking for current data as to their meeting times and places and latest mailing addresses.

Until we receive a better response from our groups we cannot issue a revised group directory, which has been requested by many. Your help on this will be greatly appreciated.

This being the December issue of GOOD NEWS, we wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the new year bring to you even greater peace and happiness of spirit in having accepted the AA way of life as your own.

Sincerely yours in service,

Basil G., Secretary.

Lakeshore Group Backs Northern Cal. AA Paper

Lakeshore Group No. 20 of Oakland, responding to a plea made at the Ukiah NCC by Rollin W., business manager of GOOD NEWS, went all out for Northern California's monthly AA paper.

At its meeting November 6, nine new individual subscriptions were taken out by members of the group, one subscription was renewed and the group subscribed for three copies a month.

For good measure the group added a \$5 subscription to the fund to send GOOD NEWS to institutions. It all was covered by an \$18 check sent by the secretary, Maggie P.

Marge Mc. and Rudy W. of the Napa Group have been snared by Cupid and are now receiving congratulations from their many friends

Panel Discussion Held At Nalano Anniversary

The Sacramento Nalano Group observed its ninth anniversary with a panel discussion by guests distinguished in their respective fields. The meeting was held Tuesday night, November 11, at 1755 34th Street, Sacramento.

Members of the panel were:

Dr. Richard Finner, psychiatrist and director of the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center; Dr. William Ballou, physician; Fred Olson, personnel counselor at McClellan Field, and Floyd Bowers, attorney.

The meeting was well attended, with more than 125 AA members, Alanon members and interested friends and relatives present.

All four panel participants stressed the importance of proper cooperation by the non-alcoholic member of the family. It was emphasized that it was important not to be a leaning post or a crutch for the alcoholic, but to be able to give love, affection and understanding.

Homemade cakes and coffee were served after the meeting and everyone stayed around and visited which is always a good sign.—Rae B.

Redding Groups Assist At TV Program on AA

The progressive Redding Groups, which will host the October, 1959, sessions of the Northern California Council, have just taken part in another project that will help to make their area AA-conscious.

They took part in a program produced Sunday afternoon, October 19, on Station KVIP, Channel 7, Redding, known as "The Town Crier." A TV script obtained from the General Service Office in New York was used and strictly adhered to. Jane and John, members of the group, were in the cast, but they remained anonymous throughout, with their backs to the camera.

The program is sponsored as a public service by Sherman Fulkerth, of the Redding firm of Linn & Fulkerth, funeral directors.

According to the Redding secretary, Rickey S., Station KVIP reaches a large area, extending from Chico on the south to the Oregon line on the north. He believes thousands of viewers witnessed this demonstration of carrying the message.

AA Groups of Northern California... Their Profiles...

GOOD NEWS presents herewith one of what it hopes will become a continuing series of profiles of the individual groups of Northern California... So send in a little story on your group... The profiles will be printed in the order of their receipt and as space permits.

COAST FREE GROUP

Some AAs who live down the coast from San Francisco got together some months ago and decided they should have a group of their own nearer home, instead of traveling to San Francisco for their meetings.

So they formed the Coast Free Family Group, centered in the communities that recently merged to become the town of Pacifica. But what of a meeting place? None was readily available, so they decided to build their own.

They selected the unfinished garage at the home of Warren W., 1167 Escalera Avenue, Linda Mar. Warren, Stan K. and Bob K., the latter now of the Petaluma Group, worked every weekend and many nights for three months to finish the interior of the garage into a comfortable meeting room. Two San Francisco plumbers, Howard and Bob, went down on weekends to put in the plumbing for the do-it-yourself AAs.

The group meets each Wednesday night, and varies its programs with discussions and speaking.

MARIN NEWCOMERS

The Marin Newcomers Group, which meets each Monday night in the Community Church, Throckmorton and Olive, Mill Valley, would like to extend to each GOOD NEWS reader a cordial invitation to attend our meetings.

We stick to a discussion of the 12 steps and try to get anyone present into the act. In addition to lots of good AA, we offer lots of good coffee served in carafes at the tables—a ventilating system that lets everyone smoke up a fog without the usual smarting eyes—a most pleasant meeting room—the best looking secretary in the Bay Area (Hands off, she's married)—and after the meeting "yakking" that goes on until...

No one will be asked to wash a dish or cup—clean an ashtray—or do anything except engage in the basic kind of AA that everyone enjoys and that is so helpful to a new person.

We guarantee a genuine AA LIFT without a LETDOWN of good fellowship, high spirits and beginners enthusiasm.—A. NONNY MOUSE.

Granville Dorman Returns to Otis Street Clinic To Work Among Children Developing Into Alkis

Eighty-five percent of the alcoholic patients who have passed through the San Francisco Adult Guidance Center also known as the Otis Street Clinic—began their drinking at the average age of fifteen years.

What happened in their lives to prompt this pattern? And what can be done to thwart it if and when it is seen developing?

These are the questions involved in a new project of the clinic.

Granville P. Dorman, formerly with the clinic, has returned to it under a special grant of funds from the Division of Alcoholic Rehabilitation, State Department of Public Health.

His work is under the direction of the clinic's director, Dr. Frederick Boyse, and in cooperation with research work undertaken by Staff Member James Jones.

Through such listening posts as the Youth Guidance Center and other authorities generally, Mr. Dorman hopes to be guided to juveniles in trouble who seem to be developing an alcoholic problem.

While his primary motive will be to attempt to help the individual youth, he also will be seeking information on the causes behind the pattern—what are these kids thinking about, how can they be educated to an awareness of the perils of alcoholism, what has happened in their families, are their parents alcoholics?

All these questions and more, it is hoped, will add knowledge to the fund being collected in many research centers in the country. Meanwhile, it is hoped, some youths may be spared the travail of an alcoholic life through the Guidance Center's efforts.