

1958

Happy New Year

1959

EASY
DOES
IT

Good News

FIRST
THINGS
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1959

TOM J. IS NEW DELEGATE TO GSC

Success Is Menace

Our problem is Success—a heady wine. It may cause us to forget that we are on borrowed time. The wine of forgetfulness may make us dream that AA was OUR success rather than God's will. The very malignancy that tore us apart personally could again commence to rend us as groups.

Many of us think today the main problem of AA is this: How, as a movement, shall we

maintain our humility, and so our unity, in the face of what the world calls a great triumph?

We need only adapt and apply to our group life those principles on which each of us founded his own recovery. If humility can expel the obsession to drink alcohol, then humility can be our antidote for that wine called success. —from an article by Bill W. in the October, 1947, Grapevine.

Coastal Panel Elects Committee for 1959-60; 91 Groups Represented

Tom J., treasurer of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship for several years, was elected chairman-delegate to the General Service Conference from the Coastal Panel for 1959-1960. He is the General Service representative of the Press-Stag Group, and is a former secretary of the San Francisco Downtown Group.

The action was taken at a panel meeting held Sunday, December 7, at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, with ninety-one groups and seventeen of the eighteen districts in the panel represented.

Lloyd S. of Santa Clara was elected treasurer and first alternate delegate, and Thelma H. of Tiburon was elected secretary and second alternate delegate.

These officers were chosen from seventeen committeemen elected by the group representatives of their respective districts.

EUREKA ABSENT

District 10, embracing Eureka and the far northern groups, was not represented and will have to name its committeeman later.

Paul G. of Mill Valley, the outgoing chairman-delegate, conducted the meeting and said his farewell by urging the representatives to support their committeemen and the General Service principle.

Florette P. of Sausalito, outgoing
(Continued on page 2)

First Tradition Vital to Personal Freedom And AA Survival, General Service Panel Is Told

Something always has to come first in every facet of our lives.

Our sobriety must come first in our personal lives—hence the first step of our Twelve Steps for Recovery.

Our fellowship's survival must come first after we have attained sobriety—hence the First Tradition: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

That in substance was the message of a stirring talk on traditions given by Jack I., central secretary of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship, before the Coastal Panel of General Service, meeting in San Francisco December 7.

"I can't come first," Jack said. "My sobriety must come first, and for my sobriety, my AA unity must come first."

"And the greatest teacher in the

world—Experience—has taught us what to do, has given us our Second Legacy, Twelve Points of Tradition."

Less than twenty-four years ago, he said, two men, both failures in material life, met and started what today is recognized by the world as one of the great spiritual movements of all time.

"We alksis can't stand still as individuals," he continued. "We must continue to grow. So must our movement continue to grow or it will vanish. And it can grow only if we stand together, if we follow our traditions, if we work together as alcoholics."

Success is one of the great threats to AA survival, he said, and he quoted from an article by our surviving co-founder, Bill W., which appeared in the October, 1947, Grapevine. Group humility as well

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Coastal Panel Elects Committee for 1959-60

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secretary, conducted the voting, assisted by the Interior Panel's chairman-delegate, Duane R. of Modesto.

The outgoing treasurer, Lloyd S., was named for another term in that office, after he had stated his deep appreciation of the opportunity to serve in some capacity except that of chairman-delegate, which he said he was unable to fulfill.

SERVE TWO YEARS

Paul and Florette pointed out that the representatives and committeemen were chosen to serve full two years, and that if they were unable to continue to serve, they should notify the secretary of the GS committee at once.

The following district committee members were elected:

District 3—Helen B., Park-Presidio Group.

District 4—Tom J., Press-Stag Group.

District 5—Ray M., Golden Gate Group.

District 6—Walt S., Surf Group.

District 7—John M., Valencia Group.

District 8—Hazel L., Vallejo Family and Saturday Night Groups.

District 8A—Jim S., Richmond 180 Group.

District 9—Eleanor S., Petaluma Group.

District 9A—Thelma H., Terra Linda Group.

District 10A—Kenna T., Fort Bragg Group.

District 13—Lloyd S., Santa Clara Family Group.

District 14—Lucille C., Berkeley College Bay Group.

District 15—George I., Oakland Group 13.

District 15A—Bennie K., Island Fellowship Group of Alameda.

District 16—Dayton J., East Oakland Group.

District 17—Bill K., Palo Alto Group.

District 18—Frank F., Salinas Group.

LIST OF GROUPS

In addition to the foregoing committeemen, the following group representatives were present:

District 3—Constance H., Pacific Heights; Clarence S., Van Ness; Brooks McD., Young Peoples.

District 4—Louise W., After Hours; Barbara B., Maritime; Bill M. J., Monday Downtown; John J. O'C., Monday Night; Edward K.Y., South of Market; Andy A., Sunday Morning; Myrl G., Sunday Night Open; Leonard Y., Tuesday Downtown; Red K., Wednesday Beginners.

District 5—Myrtle N., Buena Vista; David G., Fillmore; Percy C., Hilltop; Rsalie N., Women's.

District 6—Avice A., H.O.H. Group; Helen L., Parkside; Mary O., Richmond (S.F.); Bob M., Westlake; Lois G., West Portal.

District 7—David M., American Indian; Hall H., Crocker Amazon; James M., Ocean Avenue; O.K.P., Third Step.

District 8A—Art I., Martinez; King H., Richmond Downtown; George D.R., Richmond 37th & Roosevelt.

District 9—Bill G., Napa; Dick W., Burbank; Charles E.S., Santa Rosa Saturday Night; J. Roz, Sonoma.

District 9A—Betty Jane T., Marin Newcomers; Rolf S., Mill Valley; Denver W., Novato; John McN., San Anselmo; Ila H., San Rafael Courthouse; Tom M.B., San Rafael Saturday Night; Terry H., Tiburon-Belvedere.

District 10A—Leo M., Late Saturday Night Fort Bragg; Lois D., Ukiah.

District 13—Jack W., San Jose Alano; Cliff H., East Side Family; Ivan K., Mountainview Saturday Night; Donald K., Mountainview Sunday Morning; Herman H., San Jose-Santa Clara Breakfast; Zella DeM., St. Marks; William B., Willowbrook; Max S., San Jose Seekers and Trinity Church Group; Buzz N., Santa Clara Monday Night; Marjorie H., High Nooners; Allen S., Saratoga Family; Elbert S., Sunnyvale Family; Grace H., Willow Glen.

District 11—Helen B., Friday Afternoon, Oakland; Barbara B., Lafayette-Walnut Creek; Maggie P., Lakeshore No. 20.

District 15—Joseph M., Oakland Young Peoples.

District 15A—James L., Alameda Fellowship; Cy S., Right Step Group; Cliff M., Oakland Seminary.

District 17—Tom B., Brisbane, San Bruno and South S.F.; Dwight B., Menlo Park; Lila J., Millbrae; Dewey S., San Mateo Monday Night; Bud R., Peninsula All groups; Evelyn P., San Carlos; Charles V., Redwood City.

District 18—Walter W., Gay Aradians; Harry B., Santa Cruz; Robbie R., San Lorenzo Valley.

First Tradition Vital To Our Personal Freedom

(Continued from page 1)

as personal humility is the answer, Bill wrote.

Voicing his own deep gratitude for AA and its Traditions, Jack turned to an address given at the 1955 convention in St. Louis by Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, noted psychiatrist, who said in part:

"I believe there must be meetings like this one to provide the sense of belonging to a big working organization of which each individual who fails to participate in the enterprise of the organization is rendering himself and his group a disservice. He may be keeping himself free of entanglements but he is also keeping the ego unstopped. His chances of remaining sober are not of a high order. He is really going it alone and may be needing another miracle, which may not come off the next time.

"Let me reaffirm my proxy membership in AA . . . I have reached the state of deep conviction in the soundness of the AA process . . . I hope (my observations) will help in making the AA experience not just a miracle but a way of life which is filled with eternal value. AA has done just that for me."

The individual bond of a common understanding is holding "this gang of anarchists together," Jack added, despite the new freedom that sobriety has given them.

He turned to the Twelfth Tradition, in which principles transcend personalities, and closed his talk by quoting the closing sentence of the original long form of the Twelfth Tradition:

"This to the end that our great blessings will never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thoughtful contemplation of Him who presides over us all."

GOOD NEWS Remembered By Placerville Group

Despite the cost of heating and painting its little clubhouse, the Placerville Group has been able to spare a few nickels for its GOOD NEWS subscription. The group, which has been showing a healthy growth, meets in a clubhouse that was donated by the owner for AA use. Muriel H. is secretary of the group.

2000 California AAs Asked to Register Now And Underwrite Cost of 1960 Convention

Two thousand AAs of California will be asked during the next month to register now and pay their registration fees for the 1960 international convention of AA, to be held in Long Beach July 1, 2 and 3, 1960.

This pre-convention registration drive will be conducted to underwrite the cost of the convention at this early date in order to insure its success.

The registration fee will be either \$5 or \$6. A decision in this respect will be made early this month. It will be followed about January 15 by a letter to all AA groups in California. It will be signed by a California convention advisory committee composed of past and present General Service delegates from this state, and will ask the groups to promote the pre-convention registration in their areas.

The foregoing program was discussed in detail by Hank G., chairman of the General Service Office, at a meeting with Northern California General Service delegates, past and present, at the Hotel Whitcomb, San Francisco, on Saturday, December 13. Hank will be chairman of the convention committee, and Hazel R. of the General Service staff will be secretary.

Hank also revealed a few preliminary details of the convention program. Two big night meetings will be held July 1 and 2 at the Memorial Stadium, seven miles out of Long Beach. It seats 12,000. Bill W. will speak at both meetings.

AA workshops will be held during the daytime both days in the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. On Sunday, July 3, five meetings will be held in the Auditorium, all at the spiritual level, and Bill W. will speak for a few minutes at each meeting.

The Lafayette Hotel will be AA convention headquarters. The Wilton Hotel will be the Alanon headquarters. Tentative plans call for an entertainment the night of June 30, which will be entirely in the hands of a local committee of the host area.

Miracle or Paradox? ...

Here's an AA miracle?

Or is it a paradox, which is something that can't be, but is? So hold your hat!

One district in the Coastal General Service Panel thinks enough of the well being of AA as a whole to have all its group representatives meet prior to the panel election December 7.

It is District 6, and six of its representatives met November 28 at 636 Skyline Drive, Daly City, to read and discuss the Third Legacy. Then they selected Walt S. of the Surf Group, an active AA who is General Service minded, to serve as their district committeeman. Besides Walter, the representatives present were:

Avice A. of the HOH Group, Lois G. of West Portal, Bob M. of Westlake, Mary O. of the Richmond (San Francisco) Group, and Joe R. of the Xavier Group. Because of illness, Helen L. of Parkside was unable to attend.

S. F. Fellowship Dance At Calif. Club Jan. 17

The second of a series of monthly dances to be held as benefits for the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship has been set for January 17 in the California Club, 1750 Clay Street.

This is a beautiful facility with comfortable lounges, and the dance committee feels the location will be more attractive to dancers and other AAs who want to help the cause.

John N. and Buz D. of the dance committee announce there will be plenty of coffee. Music will be by the Mello-Daires.

The dance committee also announces that prior to the event at the California Club, a series of dancing classes will be conducted at 9 p.m. Saturday, January 3 and 10 on the fourth floor at 1179 Market Street.

A fee of fifty cents will be charged, which will go into the Fellowship treasury. The instructor will be Jim R., a former professional, once on the Arthur Murray staff of instructors.

Scores Feast and Hear Christmas AA Program

An event that has become an annual feature of AA meetings in San Francisco is the Christmas party and turkey-ham supper of the Ambassadors Group, which was held this year December 17 in St. Boniface Church Auditorium at 133 Golden Gate Avenue.

Four hundred attended. They consumed 200 pounds of turkey, fifty pounds of ham, 100 pounds of potato salad and fifty home-made cakes. Five turkeys, five hams and five cakes were door prizes.

Father Alfred of St. Boniface Church was guest speaker. The AA speakers were Fran B. of the Azure Acres Group of Sebastopol and Tom J. of the Press-Stag Group. Jack I. was chairman.

Santa Rita Will Have Quarterly Open Sessions

For the first time since the inception of the project, open AA meetings will be introduced this month at the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center at the Alameda County Farm, Pleasanton.

The first session will be held at 1:45 p.m. Saturday, January 24. Paul G. of Mill Valley, retiring chairman-delegate of the General Service Committee of the Coastal Panel, will speak.

Outside AA men who plan to attend are requested to meet at the main office of the Center at 1:30 p.m., so the meeting can get underway promptly at 1:45. George I. of the Hospital and Institutions Committee will be chairman.

New S. F. Alanon Group Will Start January 7

A new group for non-alcoholic relatives and friends of AAs will be started in San Francisco Wednesday night, January 7.

It will be known as the Avenue Alanon Group, and it will meet each Wednesday at 8:15 p.m. at St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Ave.

The preliminary details for formation of the group have been attended to by Murrel S., whose husband, Harold, has long been active in AA around the bay and in the Hospital and Institutions Committee.

Redding Groups Talk Traditions and GSC

Redding's groups are becoming more and more Tradition-conscious and General Service-conscious, thanks to several recently developed factors.

During Tradition Month, Jim M., former chairman-delegate of the General Service Committee of the Interior Panel, spoke before both the Redding Group and the Serenity Group on General Service.

Much better understanding of the importance of General Service resulted. Jim has been commuting between Redding and Sacramento temporarily. We'll be sorry when his Redding job is ended.

Stan R. of the Carmichael Group also was a visitor in Redding and spoke before both groups on the Twelve Points of Tradition. In addition, Doctor Tom of Portland, an old AA friend of Millie G.'s, stopped over in Redding to give a good old-fashioned AA pitch.

L.R.S. of Hayfork, who won a Twelve by Twelve book at the NCC in Ukiah, attends Redding meetings when he can make the long jaunt over the mountains. We'll have to tell him he has a book coming. — RICKEY S.

Flying Squad of ARA Receptive to Group Bids

The visiting group or Flying Squad of the ARA Group, the internal closed group of the First Step Home of San Francisco, is going strong, and the participating members are growing more enthusiastic by the week.

So far the group has visited the Golden Gate group at the Highlanders Club on the night of October 28, the new Miraloma Discussion Group on November 11, the Young Peoples' Group; the Hilltop Group at St. Joseph's Hospital, and others.

As many as fifteen members are actively taking part in these visits, and many make other meetings as well.

The group is making plans to go farther afield in the future down the peninsula, to Marin County and to the East Bay.

Chairmen and speakers will be furnished on request sent to Josephine, 1035 Haight Street, San Francisco, or phone her at UNderhill 3-3661.

100 PERCENT AA ROMANCE

The Newlyweds, the Parents, and the Ceremony

Here's an AA wedding that's 100 percent AA all the way around.

The bride and bridegroom belong to the same group, the bride's father and mother were pioneer AAs in their home town, the wedding was held across the street from the Alano Club, the church was crowded pack-jam with AAs and their families.

The young couple—Vi T. and Jack Mc of the Young People's Group of Modesto. They will make their home in nearby Oakdale, but continue activity in

their Modesto group.

The wedding—it occurred December 5 in the Church of the Brethren in Modesto, across the street from the Modesto Alano Club. Its walls groaned with pressure as AAs jammed in to bear witness to this sober romance.

The bride's parents are Ray and Ruth R., now of San Jose, but formerly of Modesto. Ray was among the original members of Modesto Group No. 1, and was the group's first secretary. Ruth was one of the founders of the Modesto Alano Group.

Central Calif. Groups Act to Save AA Office

Eighty-nine AAs of the Central California area met in Sacramento Sunday, December 14, and decided something should be done at once to save the office of the Central California Fellowship in Sacramento.

They adopted a resolution asking the thirty-one groups in the area to return pledges of definite monthly support for the office. It was the sentiment that no estimate could be made of the benefits reaped by the AAs of the area since the opening of the office.

Twenty-eight of the 31 groups in the area were represented by 18 group secretaries and 16 group delegates. In addition, 55 interested AAs who were not group representatives were present. The situation was placed before the meeting by the central secretary, Ruth G.

New Office

The Central Office of the East Bay Fellowship will move into new quarters January 5 at 237 East 14th Street, Oakland.

Members of groups in the Fellowship feel the new office will be a much better facility from which to conduct AA activities than the former quarters.

The telephone number will be the same, TWinoaks 3-4300, and the central secretary, Phoebe R., will be on the job to see that all calls are answered.

Monthly Dance Is Set At Martinez January 10

The Martinez Chapter of AA which meets Wednesday and Friday nights at the Alano Club, 707 Howard Street, in downtown Martinez, is welcoming many new members into the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at each meeting.

Friends of Les M. and Helen are pleased to see them around again. Les and Helen were recently married and established their first home in Reno, but they decided the town was too much of a menace for alkis and returned to Martinez.

The Mello-Daires will again furnish the music for a dance to be held by the Alano club January 10. The usual buffet-type meal and AA fellowship will again prevail.

Cliff B. and wife Alona are recent additions to the Martinez scene. Alona is intensely interested in all phases of AA, and expresses a desire to get active in the Alano group in an effort to understand and help her mate.

Jim and Magee M., both active oldtimers in AA are ever to be seen lending their strength to a newcomer. It's reported wedding bells will peal shortly for Larry K. and Elva K.

Martinez has launched a closed discussion meeting each Sunday from 2 to 3 p.m. in a room of the Alano Club. Non-alcoholics are invited to use the main lounge where TV is available while the meeting is in progress.—E. P. D.

Northern Cal. Learns of AA International From Own Member Who Felt Its Impact

AA International has been knocking at the doors of Northern California in recent months, through the medium of one of its own girls. She is bringing an awareness of the long arm of AA that now stretches out thousands of miles to encircle the globe. Millie G., now of the Redding Group, gave a hint of her story in a few words at the North California Council in Ukiah October 6. She enlarged on the subject of European AA in a talk before the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship's Central meeting in December. Millie was introduced to AA in San Francisco and Mill Valley. She was the first secretary of the Novato Group before her departure for Germany in 1954. She has written some of her impressions for GOOD NEWS as follows:

By MILLIE G.

AA is truly international and is growing all the time. No one need fear to travel in Europe, even though the spirits flow freely, because with a little effort one can find AA members 'most everywhere.

They are happy to see AA visitors and treat them royally. We alcoholics are all the same, whether we be American, English, German or any other nationality. We are of kindred spirits, for which we can all thank God.

STARTED BY GIRL

AA was started in Weisbaden, Germany, by Emily H. more than six years ago. Since that time it has spread to fifteen groups with more than 125 members. That includes the Canadian Army groups and a German group in Munich.

The first European round-up was held at Emily's home over a Labor Day weekend. This year was the sixth. It was held in the American grammar school auditorium in Wiesbaden. I attended two of them but came home before the last one over this past Labor Day.

The Round-up has grown from a few representatives of AA until now members come from Holland, Belgium, England, Ireland, Greece, Norway, Denmark and, this past year, one from Finland.

100 AT BANQUET

In 1957, the first banquet was held in the Kurhaus with great success. More than 100 attended. I hear that it was even greater this year.

An intergroup office was recently established in Frankfurt but I do not know with what success. Volunteers were supposed to man the phone. The intergroup meets every Saturday night in the basement of the sub-area chapel.

To give you an idea of how AA has grown in Germany, I attended my first meeting in a small room over the post bowling alley. Then

Mother Lode....

AA has penetrated at long last into another citadel of John Barleycorn, entrenched in the mountains of California's Mother Lode. A group has just been formed at Jackson, Amador county.

It will meet in the Jackson Boy Scout Hall every other Saturday night. January meetings are set for the 3d, 17th and 31st of the month.

we had to move, and we met a few times in a gasthaus (restaurant and drinking place) and amazed all the German waiters by drinking coffee, which cost around 25 cents a cup. Beer and wine are much, much cheaper.

MOVE TO CHURCH

Shortly after this unsatisfactory arrangement, we met in the church basement.

Germany is an alcoholic's paradise. Imagine getting a big bottle of brew for six cents, with the potency of 20 per cent alcohol. Cognac, which will take the lining off of any self respecting stomach, was extremely cheap, too.

Owing to the rotation of members, it was difficult to tell how many got sober and stayed sober. We also had difficulty in visiting other groups because of the distances between the cities.

Wiesbaden and Frankfurt cooperated with each other very well, and members from the other groups came to the intergroup meetings as much as possible.

At one time, there were only two of us in Frankfurt—two women—and then the group grew again until at the open meetings on Saturday night we would have as many as fifty people.

We were all closely knitted to-

Plenty of Sobriety At Northbrae Yule Feast

Seventy-five AAs and their relatives attended the fifth annual Christmas dinner of the Berkeley Northbrae Group, held December 13 in the Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley.

Forty of the members attending had from eight to seventeen years of continuous sobriety. A candlelight service was conducted in their honor and the assemblage sang Ould Lang Syne.

Santa Claus was present and handed out presents and door prizes. AA women of the group and members of the Alanon cooperated to prepare and serve what was declared a wonderful Christmas dinner.

Father Dick to Speak At East Bay Meeting

Father Dick B., a canon of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, who entered AA through one of the Richmond groups, will speak at the regular open meeting of the East Bay Fellowship, to be held Wednesday night, January 14, at Ebell Hall, 1440 Harrison Street, Oakland.

The Manor Group, which regularly meets each week at Lakeshore Manor, will be the host group, and Jack N., director of the Manor, will be chairman of the meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

gether as AA meant not only our sobriety, but our social life as well. Everyone else seemed to be indulging in the spirits. We had pot luck dinners, big Christmas parties, and New Year's Eve parties, at which we put on a variety show and skits using every bit of available talent. The shows were always great successes.

Everywhere one goes in Europe, practically, he can find AA and immediately have friends of all different nationalities. We made a trip to Norway and when we were in Bergen, Hans H. arranged a special meeting at which we spoke. Though most of the members could not understand English, the message was translated into Norwegian by Hans. It was truly a thrilling experience.

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

Spence S. of San Rafael has recovered from his recent illness and has resumed his activities, albeit with a reduction in weight . . . Robie of Ben Lomond was among the ill members in early December . . . he was treated at the Santa Cruz Hospital . . . Floyd R., Potter Valley's loner, sends holiday greetings to the NCC and all AA friends.

That's the Eastside Family Group, all right, that started the move to send a buck for General Service in a Christmas card to Bill and Lois . . . but it's not from Sunnyvale . . . it's home port is San Jose . . .

Doctor Leo B. of Fresno, who started in AA in Oakland more than fifteen years ago, visited San Francisco in December . . . Floyd and Alice B., pioneer members of the Roseville group, saw AA friends in San Francisco and Sacramento during the month . . .

Duane R., Interior Panel chairman-delegate to the General Service Conference, attended a Central meeting in San Francisco last month . . . his wife, an active Alanon, accompanied him . . . Jack S., who started in San Francisco AA eight or nine years ago, then moved to San Diego, has returned to San Francisco to live and has re-identified himself with AA there . . . the Xavier group of San Francisco, which formerly met at the Catholic Church at Pine and Octavia streets, now meets at St. Mary's Cathedral on Van Ness . . .

Basil G. of Oakland, secretary of the Northern California Council, and his Alanon wife, Susie, went to Stockton last month to meet with the Stockton Conference committee and discuss plans for the annual conference, to be held in Stockton in March.

. . . The Los Gatos Sunday Breakfast Group held an extra-special meeting Sunday, December 14, at the Live Oak Restaurant, to hear Jack I., central secretary at San Francisco . . . Sharon S. was chairman . . . Peninsula AAs mourn the passing of Al P., Palo Alto AA who passed away in December . . . the San Francisco Polk Gulch Group, which started the first Monday in January, 1947, has become inactive . . . it had become a Saturday night

A Bit o' Green....

'Twill be a fine night for the Irish at the Mission Hill Group of San Francisco the night of Sunday, January 4.

The regular meeting held at the Highlanders Club, 3691 Mission Street, will be for the benefit of the San Francisco Central Office. The passing of the hat that evening will go toward the area's Twelfth Step work.

And listen to this program: Chairman, Walter R., speakers, Father John and Red K. All one generation removed from the Ould Sod.

S. F. Industrial Club Celebrates Christmas

The San Francisco Industrial Club at Sixteenth and Guerrero streets was a busy place all day Christmas Day, and scores of AAs from all parts of the city visited the club at some time during the day to share its Christmas spirit.

The club served a Christmas breakfast of ham and eggs or bacon and eggs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Then, starting at 4 p.m. and continuing until 7 p.m., it held open house and served a cold buffet supper with roast beef and baked ham.

The girls of the club, led by Helen K., had the place beautifully decorated in the Christmas motif.

Non-AA of Bakersfield Supports Special Fund

A non-AA who became interested in a copy of GOOD NEWS while visiting her son in a hospital, has joined the ranks of those who wish to send the paper to the hospitals and prisons of the area.

She is Mrs. Tessie W. of Bakersfield, and she has sent a check for \$2 "as a little donation toward keeping it going and to keep it in the hospitals and other places."

discussion group . . . and when the discussion died down, it passed out. The Eureka Alano Club has moved from its former quarters to 401 S St., Eureka.

Speakers for January At S. F. Central Meeting

A galaxy of speakers has been listed for the Central Meeting of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship in January. The meetings are held each Friday night at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. The schedule follows:

January 2—Ruby and Lee M., a man-and-wife team from Oakland's Husband and Wife Group.

January 9—Father John of Serenity House and Mrs. Ruth Cessne, deputy public defender of San Francisco.

January 16—Jim M., oldtime AA of Seattle who now makes his home in Milley Valley, and Einer H., blind AA of Sacramento. The latter is counsellor for the blind for the vocational rehabilitation service of the State Department of Education.

January 23—Barbara B. of the Lafayette-Walnut Creek Group, and Chester A. McPhee, administrative officer for the city and county of San Francisco.

January 30—Polly H. and Maurie S. of the Motion Picture Group of Hollywood.

Dr. Rood Asked to Speak At Annual H. & I. Meet

Dr. R. S. Rood, superintendent and medical director of the Atascadero State Hospital, has been invited to speak at the sixth anniversary meeting of the Northern California Hospital and Institutions Committee to be held Saturday, March 7, in Stockton, in conjunction with the annual conference of the NCC.

Doctor Rood has been a long-time friend of AA's at Mendocino and Napa.

Bill G., general chairman, and other committee members interested, will meet in Sacramento this month with Associate Warden William B. Lawson to discuss further a proposed parole-sponsorship plan for AAs paroled from Folsom State Prison. Warden Lawson met with Bill for several hours when he was in San Francisco in December to speak at a Central Meeting.

Agnews State Hospital AA Group held a lively Christmas party at the time of the weekly AA meeting December 21, holding open house from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

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Your Trustees

Pro

In St. Louis in 1955 AA declared itself "come of age" and assumed full responsibility for the conduct of its affairs. This responsibility should be reflected on the General Service Board.

In the twenty years since the Board was founded our sobriety and stability have been proved.

The present Board setup does not permit adequate area representation. There is room for only three "Area" Trustees on the present Board.

At the first General Service Conference Mr. Bernard Smith, non-alcoholic Chairman of the Board, said the Board could safely be made up entirely of AAs. Other non-AA Trustees agree that a majority of non-AAs is not necessary, nor would there be any hurt feelings if AA so decided.

At the 1958 Conference, Mr. Smith suggested consideration of a shift to a nine-and-nine ratio of Trustees for the following reasons:

- a. The original reasons for a majority of non-alcoholics has virtually disappeared.
- b. The "nons" are usually guided by the judgment of the alcoholic Trustees in matters of AA policy.
- c. Board voting has never been split between AAs and non-AAs.
- d. If an alcoholic minority on the Board was even an indication of any lack of confidence, this is no longer justified, since St. Louis.

e. The present proposal of nine-and-nine would eliminate the old "majority" idea and provide the area opinion of AA which is needed for better administration and policy formation.

After debating Mr. Smith's nine-and-nine proposal, the 1958 Conference voted 65-12 in favor of its consideration.

The Conference would always have the power to reinstate the present ratio if, for any unforeseen reasons, the nine-and-nine proposal does not work.

Con

Knowledge that there has always been a majority of non-alcoholics on the Board has created confidence throughout AA. Change in ratio might weaken this confidence.

When Bill is no longer with us, confidence in the Board will be as important as it was 20 years ago.

The presence of a majority of non-alcoholics on the Board is a symbol of AA humility—that, even in our maturity, we still respect and accept someone else's judgment.

In former times of stress a majority of non-alcoholics helped to stabilize the Board, mediated differences, and protected us against blunders. Why should we lessen this protection, even a little?

A change in ratio would express a lack of gratitude for our non-alcoholic Board members. Why hurt them unnecessarily?

There is no real need for a change. Our General Service Board has worked well for 20 years with a majority of non-alcoholics. Why take a chance?

The "grass roots" apparently see no need for any change in ratio. An informal poll of former GSC Delegates, conducted by an ex-Delegate, showed a 169 to 67 vote against changing.

If more alcoholic Trustees are needed, why not enlarge the Board to include them and additional non-alcoholics to maintain the present majority of one?

There are many organizations and businesses whose Boards include individuals who are not otherwise members or employees.

Trustees

Do you want to change the ratio of alcoholic and non-alcoholic trustees of the General Service Board, or leave it unchanged?

The pros and cons of proposed changes are printed in the adjoining columns. Discuss them in your groups.

Then instruct your General Service representative how to vote at Stockton March 7.

Credit

A famous non-alcoholic surgeon once unknowingly contributed something to the philosophy that many AAs have adopted as part of their AA thinking. This is recalled by the recent death by Dr. Chevalier Jackson of Philadelphia, who won fame by his ability to extract safety pins from the throats of infants. That, of course, was only one of his attainments.

At an NCC meeting in San Jose in 1947, an AA speaker quoted from a magazine interview with Doctor Jackson to illustrate a point. The reporter asked Doctor Jackson:

"Doctor, aren't there any other surgeons capable of performing this marvelous feat of yours?"

Came the AA answer:

"Yes, there are many capable surgeons who could perform this operation, if they didn't care who got the credit."

Alameda Fellowship Incorporates Club; AA Groups to Be Conducted Separately

The Alameda Fellowship of AA, which for years has conducted the activities at 2323A Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, as an association, has decided to conduct its strictly AA affairs separately from the club-like activities, although under the same roof.

To this end, it has decided to shift from the association-type of entity to become a non-profit corporation, with two kinds of membership — Active (alcoholic), and associate (non-alcoholic). Only active members will vote and hold office in the Alameda Fellowship Club, Inc.

They have elected the first Board of directors as follows:

John Mc., president; Norman B., Homer B. and Ben G., vice presidents, and Charles K., secretary-treasurer.

OPEN ALL DAY

The club will be open from 8 a.m. to midnight seven days a week. Louise will be in charge days and Turk nights. Secretary Charles K. will serve on days off and be acting manager for the time being. Social activities of the club for January follow:

January 3, 8 p.m., square dancing for beginners; Hi Fi music.

January 4, cards and Hi Fi music all day.

January 10, 8 p.m., folk dancing and polka, with Hi Fi music.

January 11, cards and Hi Fi music all day.

January 17, 8 p.m., square dancing with Hi Fi music.

January 18, brunch at 9 a.m. and cards and Hi Fi music all day.

January 24, 9 p.m., monthly dance with music by the Mello-Daires.

January 25, cards and Hi Fi music all day.

GROUP MEETINGS

Six AA groups now hold eight meetings each week in the club. The schedule of group meetings follows:

Monday, 8 p.m., Open discussion, Blue Monday Group, Dan D., secretary.

Tuesday, 8 p.m., Closed discussion, Stratrite Group, Ray P., secretary.

Wednesday, 8 p.m., closed discussion, Fellowship Group, John C., secretary.

Wednesday, 8 p.m., Alanons, in

Speakers....

Do you know any AAs who plan to visit Reno on a Saturday night?

If you do, steer them to the Reno all-groups meeting, scheduled for each Saturday night.

And tell them, they'll be wanted as speakers.

Ed N. of the Reno groups was in San Francisco during December seeking speakers for the Reno Saturday night meeting. Volunteers should write the Reno AA, Post Office Box 1188, Reno, Nev., and tell what date they'll be in Reno and that they'll be willing to speak at the Saturday night meeting.

Ed reports greater acceptance of AA by Nevada officials.

New Year Ushered In By Sacramento Groups

As 1958 neared its end, members in Sacramento and vicinity prepared for the annual New Year's Eve celebration set to begin at 7 p.m., December 31 in the Sacramento Labor Center, 2525 Stockton Boulevard. A turkey and ham dinner was arranged, to be followed by the usual dancing, games and a general high time without alcohol.

Group No. 3 held meetings Christmas Eve and Christmas night at its hall, 1755 34th Street.

The Round Table Discussion Group celebrated its first birthday December 15 at Hagginwood School, 1418 Palo Verde. Father Joe C. of Carmichael was the guest speaker.

The North Highlands Group held a panel meeting December 12 at the Fruitvale School on Watt Avenue.—RUTH G.

coffee bar, Lela A., secretary.

Thursday, 1 p.m., Closed discussion, Fellowship Group, John C. secretary.

Thursday, 8 p.m., Right Step Group, Roger H. secretary.

Friday, 8 p.m., open, guest speaker.

Saturday, 2:30 p.m., Family Group, Louise C. secretary.

Sunday, 11 a.m., Bright Star Group.

Monterey Priest Accepts H. O. House Directorship

Rev. Kenneth Sandercook, for the last seven years vicar of St. James Episcopal Church in Monterey, has accepted appointment as priest-director of the Henry Ohloff Hostel at Fell and Steiner Streets, San Francisco.

He was due on January 1 to take over this post, for which he came well equipped. He has been a member of the Monterey Peninsula Committee on Alcoholism, of which Mary Clark is the director. He served as president of the committee for two years. He also has been on the Board of Directors of Beacon House, the new rehabilitation house for alcoholics in Monterey.

While serving in those capacities over the years, it has been his experience to deal with many families and individuals afflicted with alcoholism.

A new church has been built during his incumbency in Monterey, and a rectory and recreation center for the armed forces has been acquired. He has been the official liaison officer for army personnel.

Father Sandecook worked for many years in the Anglican Church in Canada before coming to this area. He is married, and has two sons and two grandchildren.

"Love and Service" was the theme of the Fourth Anniversary party of San Francisco's Saturday Night Group, which meets at Clay street and Van Ness Avenue. New and old members shared in the speaking . . . the hall was filled to capacity . . . a buffet supper was served after the meeting.

From Bill....

Bill W., our surviving co-founder, sent San Francisco AA an autographed copy of "AA Comes of Age," through the agency of Hank G., chairman of the General Service staff in New York, who visited the west coast in December. The autographed inscription reads:

"To all my friends at San Francisco, with this, all my affection and all my congratulations on the vast accomplishment in your area during the year past.

"Bill.
"N. Y., 12-2-58."