



# Good News



Vol. IX  
No. 8

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

APRIL  
1961

## 1500 Attend San Jose Conference

### OK POSEY DIES IN SANTA ROSA

Oliver Kendall Posey, dedicated member of the Fellowship of AA for 19 years, is gone from our sight and hearing into the Big Meeting.

A sad group of about fifty men and women met on Saturday, February 18, at the Eggan and Lance mortuary Chapel in Santa Rosa for the funeral services, which were as brief and simple as O.K. himself would have wished.

The Rev. William M. Bowen of the Presbyterian Church of the Roses officiated. Floral tributes filled all one end of the chapel.

### Alanon Meet in San Jose Plan to Send Rep. to N.Y.

The Alanon group held a total of five meetings during the San Jose Conference. Because Montgomery Hall was not available, their meetings were held in the Sparton Room of the Hotel St. Claire.

Because of illness Rae B., Sacramento, Secretary, could not be there, and Dorothy W., Fairfax, the alternate, presided at the business meeting, 3:15 p.m. Saturday, when the new officers elected were:

John C., San Jose, Secretary; Alternate, Murrel S., San Francisco; Esther M., Ft. Bragg, Treasurer; Alternate, Wanda C.

At a meeting of General Service committeemen, the groups were asked to contribute to a fund to send a delegate to the conference in New York. Funds should be sent to Jane Walker, Space 19, 13102 Partridge, Garden Grove, California.

The Saturday Afternoon open meeting, Mary S., San Jose, Chairman, had twelve speakers who talked on the 12 steps and 12 rewards.

On Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, Donnalie of Sacramento, Chairman, three speakers spoke on the subject, "Three recoveries through AA and Alanon." An impromptu meeting at 1:15 p.m. was voted a great success.

The groups heard a letter of thanks from Rae B. which was read by Donnalie, who accepted, for Rae, a corsage from the groups in appreciation of her two years of service as Secretary of Alanon in Northern California.

O. K. Posey was born in Rushville, Indiana, 70 years ago and educated there and in Indianapolis, the state capital, where he broke into the newspaper business. He was a reporter, copy reader and/or editor of daily newspapers from coast to coast in a career that spanned half a century.

On the West Coast, he worked in 1910 on the old San Francisco Sun, later on the Call-Bulletin and other northern California papers including the Sacramento Bee. In the East, he worked in New York, Newark, and Philadelphia.

When he came into AA, he turned away from the daily newspaper grind because he wanted more time to devote to the Fellowship. He worked for Ad Litho Press in San

(Continued on page 3)

### 700 At Annual Breakfast! Workshops & AA Meetings Make Full 2 Day Program

Northern California Council's 14th Annual Conference, held in San Jose March 4 - 5, had many added attractions over and above the customary agenda of past conferences. The nearly 1500 members who attended the two day event, including Alanons, Alateens and visitors, had not one but two and sometimes three committee meetings, workshops and/or AA meetings to choose from, and nearly all were well attended.

The agenda, for the first time at any N.C.C. conference, scheduled the first meetings, Group Secretaries and an AA Discussion, for 9:30 Saturday morning, and all through the two days there was a continuous line of workshops in addition to the usual events of other conferences.

The Hospitals & Institutions meeting at 1:30 Saturday afternoon, Chairman, Ethel C., Santa Clara, provided two fine talks. Bob Flippin, sponsor of the San Quentin Prison AA Group, an old and understanding friend, made one of his best talks. Always an interesting speaker, he said in part, "AA is the finest program that we extend . . . it's voluntary nature particularly appeals to men who are captive in other aspects of their lives."

Bob M. of Los Angeles told the story of what he used to be like and what happened. What he is like today was very apparent in his manner and radiant smile.

The Sunday morning H & I meeting heard Conrad, now of the Napa Group, tell his story for the first time 'outside'. The simplicity with which he spoke, and his very sincere manner, served to further em-

(Continued on page 2)

980 Thornton Way  
San Jose 28, Calif.

GOOD NEWS  
Gentlemen:

I am a member of the San Jose Alateen group.

In order that we may communicate with other groups in the California area, I suggest that you publish an announcement asking all groups to submit their address to your office. Perhaps in some future issue, you can print a directory for all groups to use.

My address is printed at the top of this page and may be used as a start in this plan.

Yours sincerely,  
RON R.

## General Service Meeting Debates Cheap Edition Of Big Book at San Jose

(Continued from page 1)

phases the miracle of AA. Chairman of this meeting was Jane D., Sunnyvale.

The General Services meeting Saturday afternoon at 3:45 discussed the oft discussed subject of publication of a cheaper edition of the Big Book and, while they voted to retain the present edition, they did not vote out the possibility of a cheaper edition AS WELL. The subject will continue to be discussed, no doubt, for a long time yet.

It was also disclosed by Stan W., Fairfax, one of the four panelists for the meeting, that the suggested state-wide conference had been tabled for this year. It is still being considered as a possibility for summer, 1962, and will probably be handled by General Service.

Panel 1 General Service Chairman-Delegate Lloyd S., Santa Clara, presided at this meeting, and the other three panelists, besides Stan W., were Bertha W., Chairman-Delegate of Panel 2, and two ex-chairmen, Paul G., Mill Valley, and Nick N., Oakland.

### EBBY TELLS HIS STORY

The Saturday Night Open Meeting Chaired by Nick McK., heard Ebby T., Bill's sponsor and now from Dallas, Texas, tell his story. He had been especially requested to tell the events of his own early life which led up to meeting Bill, and some of the details of AA's first struggles, and he did just that, in an interesting and informative way.

Ebby said that, although he was able to carry the message of AA to Bill, and knew the principles of that program of sobriety, he was not able for many years, to apply these principles to himself.

Mayor Paul Moore of San Jose was unable to be present at the meeting but he greeted the gathering by remote control and loud speaker.

The music and dancing which always follows the Saturday Night meeting was enjoyed by a large group, while in Dunne Hall, at 10 o'clock, an AA meeting was led by Sgt. Frank S. of San Francisco.

### ANNUAL BREAKFAST AT

#### ST. CLAIRE

The Sunday Morning breakfast is always one of the principal features

(Continued on page 4)

## World Directory Will Be Ready May 1 General Service New Address In N. Y.

AA's General Service Office and the AA Grapevine have moved into new quarters at 305 East 45th Street, New York City, just a 'stone's throw' they say, from the United Nations' building.

### Easter Breakfast Served By Island Fellowship

The Island Fellowship of Alameda was well represented at the San Jose Conference. Approximately 30 members and Alanons enjoyed the various meetings, the fellowship and fun, and the Sunday morning breakfast.

Traditionally, the Island Fellowship serves an Easter Morning Breakfast which this year will be from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m. at the Center, 1828 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda( Easter Sunday Morning, April 2, 1961.

Following the breakfast an open discussion meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Speakers scheduled for the Saturday night open meetings during April are from the Sacramento and Fresno areas, San Francisco and San Mateo.

The new offices occupy the entire 18th floor. All AA members, their families and friends, are cordially invited to visit the staff and new quarters any day, Monday through Friday.

The Annual World Directory will be ready for distribution by the end of April. Two directories, listing AA groups in Prisons and Hospitals, are now available.

The 1961 General Service Conference will convene at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, April 19th and run through the 23rd. The General Service Board has recommended to the Conference Committee on Admissions that "officially named AA representatives of Foreign Countries, where AA is operating, be invited to participate in the Conference as Corresponding Members, with the privilege of the floor but without vote."

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Groups are asked to send in dates, etc. on Special Events)

- Apr 8th (Sat.) Oakland Group A7A Old Timers' Meeting, 8 p.m. 416 - 7th Street, Oakland, California.
- Apr. 15th (Sat.) Sonoma County Intergroup meeting, 8:00 p.m. High School Auditorium, Santa Rosa, California.  
Contra Costa County quarterly meet, 8:30 p.m. Electrical Workers' Union Hall, Pacheco, California.  
S.F. Alano Club Dancing Party, 9:00 p.m. 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, California.
- Apr. 19th (Wed.) East Bay Fellowship Public Meeting, 8:00 p.m. Oakland Auditorium, Little Theatre.  
Avenue Alanon Group Monthly Open Meeting, 133 Golden Gate Ave., S.F. (St. Boniface) GUEST SPEAKERS: Gordon and Priscilla, L.A.
- Apr. 22nd (Sat.) Mendocino & Lake County Inter-group Meeting sponsored by the Fort Bragg Groups. First Presbyterian Church Social Hall, Pine and Main Streets, Fort Bragg, California.
- Apr. 28th (Fri.) S.F. Inter-County Fellowship First Annual OLD TIMERS' NIGHT, 8:30 p.m., 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California.  
S.F. Alano Club, AA Birthday Party, 10 p.m., 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, California.
- Apr. 29th (Sat.) Monterey Area Inter-group Meeting, 8:30 p.m. Portugese Hall, Santa Cruz, California.  
Group A7A semi-annual benefit dance, Erwin Taylor Memorial Hall, 1527 East 14th Street, Oakland, California.

## Peninsula Alano Club Is Officially Open February 15

On Sunday, February 15th, the new Peninsula Alano Club was born at 180 South Boulevard, San Mateo; "officially opened" says acting secretary Mary Ellen M. in a letter to GOOD NEWS.

Through the 100% cooperation of all the San Mateo Peninsula groups from San Bruno to Palo Alto it was really a 'Grand Opening' of a grand project. "Cakes, plates of sandwiches and contributions flowed in that day as on an endless belt," says Mary Ellen.

The new Alano Club is open from 11 am. to 11 pm. daily. The daily guest list in the first month of operation averaged 32. Membership dues are \$2.00 a month. They are planning luncheons, pot-luck suppers and Summer Bar-B-Q's for the future. The Club is entirely manned by volunteer help.

## Continued from Page 1

Francisco in various capacities, including managerial chores in two departments, but at the time of his death, he was on the staff of the Santa Rosa Herald.

These are the bare facts of a life that became immeasurably enriched—even as yours and mine—when he "came to believe", and thereafter gave himself whole-heartedly to the Fellowship.

OK was the founder of GOOD NEWS, AA's only newspaper, while he was secretary of the San Francisco Fellowship. He was active for many years in the Northern California Council, in various positions of trust and responsibility, including the Secretary. While he was secretary, the Council took over sponsorship of GOOD NEWS from the San Francisco Fellowship. He was also secretary-manager of the first Alano Club, when its quarters were upstairs at 143 Bush Street, San Francisco, California.

He was not the first named, but he was actually the first to serve Northern California as delegate to New York in the beginning days of the Third Legacy in 1950.

Few are the groups in this area where he had not made a pitch; probably there are no institutions in Northern California where he had not appeared as chairman or speaker. The number of committees of which he had been chairman or

## SUMMER CONFERENCE IN SANTA ROSA MAY 27-28 NO 1961 STATE MEET -- OPTIONAL REGISTRATION

Many suggestions were received and subjects discussed at the business meeting of group delegates to the Northern California Council Conference at San Jose, held Sunday morning, March 5th, with Assistant Secretary Errol W. presiding. Briefly, the various subjects were:

The state-wide conference will not be held this year. It seemed to be the opinion of most of the delegates that NCC should hold a Summer Conference, and Jim L., Santa Rosa, offered an invitation to hold a Conference in that city in June.

(Editor's Note: The meeting will be the last week-end in May).

It was stated that the registration fee is a contribution; that anyone can attend the conferences without payment of the fee.

Bill K. stated it is imperative that each group have a Post Office Box

which will not change with each change of group secretaries. He also gave notice of a meeting of District Representatives to be held in San Francisco on Sunday, March 26th.

Paula B., Santa Rosa, suggested that more Delegate Meetings be held; at least once every six weeks. No action was taken on the matter.

Bill W., Sacramento, suggested that GOOD NEWS devote one page to conferences, and Rollin W., GOOD NEWS Business Manager, said that GOOD NEWS should be utilized to publicize all Council and AA matters; that it could be the best means of communication for all purposes. It was also noted that many groups do not subscribe to GOOD NEWS; that delegates urge each group to subscribe.

General Service is revising their district set-up and NCC might very well follow their example so as to coincide with them.

Bill K. agreed to mail minutes of each meeting to all Delegates and Alternates, and he noted that Delegates should inform all new secretaries on NCC functions and procedures.

Ron R., 980 Thornton Way, San Jose 28, spoke for the Alateens, asking for information and help in the formation of a working organization such as the Alanons. He explained the help this section could give to the youth faced with an alcoholic problem in the home. It was suggested that an Alateen program be set up for the Santa Rosa Conference.

Errol W. closed the meeting with a short summary of what had been discussed, observing that a pamphlet containing an organizational chart and an explanation of NCC, GS and H. & I. should be prepared and given to each new secretary, and that it would be a good idea for each district to hold Secretaries Meetings at regular intervals.

### AA En Espanol Habla

El Grupo Americano por este medio abre sus puertas, para ayudar a aquellos que sufren el problema alcoholico.

A todos los de habla espanola que tengan dificultades con el Ingles, nuestro Grupo tiene sus reuniones todos los Sabados a las 8:30 p.m.

Seran bien venidos a nuestro seno los que busquen solucionar su problema.

Si Ud, se encuentra enfermo, no vacile en llamarnos para prestarle la ayuda que necesite, a UN 1-3676 Industrial Club, 3198 16th St., San Francisco, California, entre las 10 a.m. a 11 p.m.

Atentamente,  
GRUPO LATINO  
AMERICANO

member, the total time he had devoted to Twelfth Step activity of one sort or another, are simply beyond calculation.

So we met in Santa Rosa to honor the memory of O. K. Posey and then went our separate ways, back into lives that will be a little empty without him and far richer because of him.

O. K. Posey was a member of the Press and Union League Club of San Francisco and the Newspaper Guild.

Survivors include his widow, Katherine Winters Posey; two daughters, Lavon Herrick and Joan Lantz of San Francisco; two sisters, Lucy P. Booth of Santa Rosa and Eleanor Ewing of Princeton, N.J., and four grandchildren.

## S.F. Area H. & I. Meeting

A meeting of the San Francisco Area Hospital and Institutions Committee was held Thursday evening, March 30, at The Alano Club in San Francisco. Represented at this meeting, in addition to the San Francisco groups, were Marin County groups and a number of groups from the San Mateo Peninsula area. Meetings of this group are held the last Thursday of each month.

Many subjects were discussed relative to the various meetings sponsored by the H. & I. Committee, as well as the coming big meeting to be held in Sacramento on Saturday, May 13th, when all area workers, chairmen and members interested in this work are expected to attend.

## San Jose Conference

(Continued from page 2)

of the Annual Conferences, and in San Jose about 700 people attended the Annual affair served in the Empire Room of the St. Claire Hotel.

Conference Chairman Max S. of Santa Clara acted as Master of Ceremonies, calling on many from all parts of the state. The scrambled eggs, in fact the whole breakfast including the service were good, as well as the singing of popular songs, led by an accordion, and the stories told by speakers.

meeting of group delegates of the Northern California Council which followed the breakfast are covered elsewhere in this issue of GOOD NEWS. The delegates' meeting was held in a room too small to accommodate all who wished to attend, and it was decided and agreed that in future conferences there would be no conflicting events scheduled during the business meetings of General Service, Hospitals & Institutions Committee and the Sunday morning business meeting of Northern California Council. Rollin W. explained the difference between the Council and G. S.

### FATHER JIM G. SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Father Jim G., San Francisco, set his audience at ease seconds after he started his talk Sunday afternoon at the closing session of the conference. With easy warmth he at once made it clear that he was not only a man of the cloth but a full fledged alcoholic as well. He gave his listen-

## NEW HUMBOLDT-DEL NORTE GROUP COMPLETES FORMATION AT EUREKA MEETING MARCH 11th

The newly formed Humboldt-Del Norte Central Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous held their first session on Saturday, March 11, in Eureka. Thirty-four representatives and/or alternates from twelve groups of the fifteen in the area were present.

Win S., Chairman, opened the meeting with a suggested theme: "We have AA because we asked for it."

## 500 At Sacramento Dinner Meeting & Dance Mar. 19

Nearly 500 people attended one of the most successful events in the history of the Sacramento Central California Fellowship on Saturday Night, March 19, according to Bus D. whose Mello-daires played for the dancing.

The occasion was a dinner meeting and dance held at the Labor Center on Stockton Boulevard. Dinner was served cafeteria style and consisted of turkey, ham and everything that goes with.

After dinner Eddie C. of the Burbank Group was guest speaker at an AA meeting, perhaps the biggest and best ever to be held in the area. His talk thrilled all who heard him.

Better than 300 guests stayed for the dancing which ran until nearly one o'clock, and the late snack left from dinner. The food was GOOD.

ers a glimpse of the latter years of his drinking; the troubles and confusion that eventually led to his attendance at an AA meeting in Montecito with his sponsor, Jim F. of Santa Barbara. He said that the 12 steps of AA lead to a fulfillment of the higher yearnings of man.

The Alateen groups held an interesting discussion which, while not on the program, is certainly worthy of mention. The rising interest in this phase of our program holds great future promise.

There were quite a few visitors from outside Northern California who attended the conference, notably 'Doc' D. from Portland, Oregon, (he brought his own rain with him) Gertrude and Hugh of South San Gabriel and twenty or more other Southern California members, including Roz B. and Elsiefaye M.

The summer conference will be held in Santa Rosa the last weekend in May because no halls could be found for any time in June; dates May 27 - 28.

Approval was given a steering committee, composed of: Marshall S., Brookings Group; Shirley D., Fortuna Group; William L., Arcata No. 1 Group; William C., Crescent City Thursday Group; Chuck P., Eureka Traditional Group; Bee F., Eureka No. 1 Municipal Group; and Bob P., Eureka Sunday Morning Group.

Because of the geographical separation of the Humboldt and Del Norte population centers it was agreed that most committees will require co-chairmen. The chairman was authorized to appoint co-chairmen for a 12th step committee and to compile an inexpensive 'first call' pamphlet for use by the committee. An inter-group visitation and transportation committee was also authorized.

A Public Attraction committee, co-chaired by "Scottie" T. of Crescent City and Bea C. of Eureka, was approved and the General Service P.I.C. packet was furnished these co-chairmen.

Secretary Bea P. was instructed to compile a comprehensive group meeting directory for distribution to all groups, other fellowships, N.C.C. and G.S.

Joe E. and "Blackie" B., H and I co-chairmen, and other members who attended, reported on the San Jose Conference.

The next meeting of the Central Committee will be at the call of Chairman Win S. The Humboldt - Del Norte Fellowship includes groups from Garberville, Fortuna, Eureka, Arcata, Salyer, Crescent City, Brookings and Gold Beach.

## Bob Tuttle Dies in Santa Cruz-Watsonville Member

Bob Tuttle, former secretary of the Watsonville Group, active in the Soledad Prison work and well known in the Fresno Area as well, died in Santa Cruz on February 6th. He was 41 years old and came into AA in Taft, California, in 1954. His body was left to Stanford Hospital.

## Oakland Group A7A Benefit Dance April 29

Oakland's Group A7A, the 'skid-row' group at 416 - 7th Street, will hold its Spring (semi-annual) Benefit Dance on Saturday Night, April 29, at Erwin Taylor Memorial Hall, 1527 East 14th Street, in Oakland, California. Music will be furnished by The Mello-daires, AA dance band managed by Bus D.

A7A holds two of these benefit dances each year, spring and fall, to raise funds for their rehabilitation work and club expenses. They always stage fine parties, with food and fun galore, and hope to receive the help and support of all AA members.

## "OK Was My Sponsor"

There was a name-plate on his desk which read "O. K. Posey" and I watched and listened carefully while he answered three or four telephone calls, apparently from people who wanted some sort of help.

Nothing in his appearance or manner gave me a clue to the fact that I was looking at one of the great men of our time: A dedicated member — even in 1951 an old-timer — of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It was only a very few minutes before he got to me — who also needed help desperately — but while waiting I talked briefly and very shakily with Carlos who told me, in the accents of Spain, "Don't worry, Keed. You gonna be all right when OK speaks."

O. K. Posey's first question, I know now, was the \$64,000 question: "So you've heard Alcoholics Anonymous might help you. Do you really feel that you need some sort of help? Have you had enough?"

Did I need help? I felt that I was the most hopelessly needy person on earth.

The details don't matter. He asked other questions, and eventually I found myself at 12th Step House, where I shook it out (eventually) and came up somewhat in the world by getting a job as a counter supply "boy" with Foster's. (Well, don't laugh at the "boy". I was only 47, then).

But OK said "first things first" and he said, "We do this just one

## S.F. FIRST ANNUAL "OLD-TIMERS" NIGHT FIRST MEMBERS WILL TELL HISTORY OF GROUP

The First Annual Old-Timers' Night of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship, to which the Big Meeting of Friday, April 28, will be devoted, as announced in GOOD NEWS last month, will have as participants about six of the first members of AA in San Francisco, according to Ray H. of the Pacific Heights Group. Chairman of the affair and himself one of the very first (third) members (1941). Ray supplied the following details:

John C. (1939) now of Los Gatos; first Secretary of the original San Francisco Group.

Fred K. (1939) of Novato and Daly City; presently Secretary of the Novato Group.

Bob G. (1941) of San Francisco; first full time paid Secretary of the San Francisco Fellowship, now on special alcoholic assignment for the City & County of San Francisco.

Tommy G. (1943) now Glen Ellen, California, started the first neighborhood Group, the Mission Group.

In addition to the above Ray hopes to have two charming ladies; Ann N., the first part-time paid secretary, now living in Marin County, and Louise MacL., also of Marin County and who is given credit for being the sponsor of Marin County AA.

These members, and perhaps a couple of others, will tell of the woes of the first group and secretary, of the impact of the Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander which appeared in 1942, and of the formation of the first prison AA group at San Quentin, as well as many other interesting developments of past years.

## Monterey Peninsula AA's To Hear 'Chuck' C. Apr. 29

The Monterey Peninsula groups hold their monthly all-groups meetings on the last Saturday of each month, says secretary Lee F.

On March 25th the meeting was held at the Fairgrounds in Monterey with Kent T. as guest speaker. Refreshments and a dance followed the meeting, the music being furnished by "a nice little outfit" from Fort Ord. Lee says this band will be a regular feature of all Monterey Bay Intergroup meetings.

Speaker for the next meeting, April 29th, to be held at the C. P. D. E.S. (Portugese Hall) in Santa Cruz, will be Chuck C., well known member from Southern California. Refreshments and dancing after the meeting, as usual. Starting time, 8:30 p.m.

## Contributions Swell Posey Memorial Fund

Spurred on by the San Francisco Avenue Alanon Group's contribution which started the OK Posey Memorial Fund, a number of other contributions have been received, some by name and some anonymous.

The Surf Group sent \$5.00; Leo M., Fort Bragg, \$5.00; Rockridge Group, Oakland, \$6.00, and \$1.00 anonymous.

Jack G., Gay Aradians, Monterey, \$20.00 with instructions to send a few copies to a number of small groups not now subscribing to GOOD NEWS.

The idea of GOOD NEWS as a living memorial has apparently taken hold, as many new subscriptions were received at San Jose and they continue to come in, both individual and groups.

What finer gesture could be made than to make GOOD NEWS a real big success? It was OK's baby! Have YOU subscribed yet?

day at a time," and he said, "You've got no problems for a good life except alcohol. Solve that and you can handle anything you want to handle."

He said a lot of things, but those are the things I remember, because he made me believe them.

It wasn't his words so much as his quiet, driving, utter sincerity.

He shocked me. He joked about talking with the "little people". He laughed when he said he, too, had come into AA from Skid Road.

When I left his office, shaking still but a far more sober man than I had been an hour before, I knew I was not alone; nor would be again, really.

For I had a brother whose last name I had already forgotten, but whose initials I could remember.

OK.

Everything was going to be OK.

For OK himself had said it.

TOM B., Napa

## S.F. Big Meeting Program Wm. B. Lawson on April 21

Wm. B. Lawson, former Associate Warden of Folsom Prison and presently a member of the California Adult Authority, will address the Big Meeting of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship on Friday, April 21, 1961, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. With him on the same program will be Bennie D., Redwood City, member of the Peninsula Groups.

The following week, April 28, will be First Annual Old-Timers Night, covered elsewhere in this issue.

A special feature of the meeting for April 14th will be a film, "David — The Profile of a Problem Drinker", produced in Canada and loaned by the Pacific Telephone Company through the courtesy of Dr. C. C. Greene, Jr., Dr. A. Edward Percy (Dr. Ed) of the Napa Group, will speak prior to the running of the film.

On April 7th the speakers will be Barbara B., Lafayette - Walnut Creek Group, and Glenn G., Santa Clara Fellowship, Campbell, California.

## St. Patrick's Day in S.F. Industrial Club Dinner

St. Patrick and his day got the full treatment from the Irish members and their friends in San Francisco. A number of events were staged by the various Clubs, notably the Alano and Industrial Clubs.

On Friday, the 17th (of Ireland) the Industrial Club served a real Irish Turkey (Corned beef and cabbage) dinner to better than 130 people. They had well over 100 pounds of corned beef, but had to serve bacon and eggs to the last few diners.

A dance to the music of Pete's Combo, with door prizes and a raffle, wound up a very successful evening, attended by over 170 members and friends.

The Alano Club served an Irish Stew dinner from 3 - 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 19th, which was very well attended, and held a belated St. Patrick's Dance, to the music of the Mello-daires, on Saturday Night, March 26th.

Stunts and hilarity, bingo dances, refreshments and fun made this affair something to be remembered.

## INDUSTRY'S APPROACH TO ALCOHOLIC PROBLEM SUBJECT OF DOCTOR'S TALK AT S.F. MEETING

Dr. Clyde C. Greene, Jr., General Medical Director of Pacific Telephone Company, spoke at the Big All-Groups meeting of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship on Friday, March 17, 1961. His subject was "An Industry's Approach to the Problem of Alcoholism."

In his talk Dr. Greene reviewed the feeling on the subject prior to 1935; that uncontrolled drinking was considered almost exclusively to be an example of moral defect and individual perversity.

## A.R.A. First Step Home Open House April 29-30

Alcoholics Rehabilitation Association of San Francisco will hold open house April 29-30 at their First Step Home, 1035 Haight Street, commemorating not only seven years since the association was founded in May, 1954, but also four years since the present Home was occupied about May 1, 1957.

The First Step Home will be open to the public Saturday afternoon and evening and all day Sunday.

A dancing party with a live, 4 piece band, and bingo from 8-9 p.m. preceding the dance, will feature the Saturday night festivities. The affair is free, there will be a door prize and all are invited. Refreshments will be available at all times.

The Sunday feature will be an informal meeting at 3 p.m. when the Trustees, Directors and Officers of A.R.A. will be introduced, as well as a number of distinguished guests.

Judge Gerald S. Levin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will make a short address. Rollin Wheeler, A.R.A. President, will act as Chairman of the meeting.

The winners in the Annual Raffle sponsored by The First Step Club will be drawn after the meeting. Tickets are distributed in advance, and are available from members of A.R.A. and the various AA Clubs; contribution, 50c each.

## Birthday Party for Sunset Group

The Sunset Group of San Francisco is celebrating its fifteenth birthday on Thursday evening, April 27th. Many of the original members are still around and active and will be present for the birthday observances. Roland W. and Jack I. have been asked to speak.

"An exception," he said, "was Dr. Thomas Trotter of Edinburgh who wrote these words in 1804: 'I consider drunkenness, strictly speaking, to be a disease; produced by a remote cause, giving birth to actions and movements in a living body, that disorder the functions of health. It is to be remembered that a bodily infirmity is not the only thing to be corrected. The habit of drunkenness is a disease of the mind.'" "This concept, however, received little recognition until after 1935."

Dr. Green quoted the practical working industrial definition of his Company, "Alcoholism is a behavior disorder brought about through uncontrolled or excessive drinking of alcoholic beverages to an extent that interferes with a drinker's ability to work efficiently." The basis of their program is a set of seven principles. The two most important are a positive statement of policy and early recognition and rehabilitation without providing actual treatment. This practical approach, however, uses all available methods of treatment, including Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Company believes that about 50% of the employees recognized as alcoholics are being rehabilitated, and that their program is an effective tool for helping not only the alcoholic employees but also their communities and the Company. They feel they are really doing something about their share of industry's "billion dollar hangover."

## First Marin Co. Alateen Group Meets Thursdays

Marin County's first Alateen group has been started!

Meeting at the Courthouse — 4th Street, San Francisco — at 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, and known as the Courthouse Alateen Group, the second meeting had an attendance of 12 teenagers and 2 Al-Anon members.

## Good News

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

Address all letters to **GOOD NEWS**  
166 Geary Street, Room 79  
San Francisco 8, California  
Subscription Price — \$1.20 per year



Vol. IX April 1961 No. 8

### Australia Convention In Sydney at Easter Time

The second All-Australian AA Convention will meet in Sydney this Easter.

The first convention was held at Melbourne in January 1959, when resolutions were passed that brought the Australian Service Conference into being. All States have now endorsed the establishment of A.S.C. and have appointed representatives.

A.S.C. will hold a nation-wide convention every other year. Its objectives: to pool Australian resources for AA literature; to foster public relations activities at the national level; to help new Australian members; to take up other matters that may be submitted by the States.

Despite the difficulties attending establishment of any new body, the Conference has made real progress and the Easter Convention will be a big step forward.

### S.F. 35 and Under Group Changes Time and Place

The '35 and Under' Group of the San Francisco Fellowship has changed both its meeting place and night according to a notice sent GOOD NEWS by Secretary Eddie M.

They have moved from The Progressive Club on Friday night to the St. Francis of Assisi Church at the corner of Vallejo Street and Columbus Avenue, meeting now on Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m.

There has also been a change in format, to a speaker and discussion type meeting, drawing on local and out-of-town speakers within this age group. This is a fine chance for the younger members.

## YOUR SECRETARY REPORTS:

To co-chairmen Max S., Santa Clara, and Jack H., San Jose, go champion medals, First Class, for the wonderful Conference they planned and produced, to equal the best conference yet. Thank you, Max and Jack, for a fine job well done.

Each and every member of the Santa Clara Fellowship, who worked so devotedly, merit the undying gratitude of AA for this tremendous hospitality. Thank you all who made this conference possible.

As it must in all such conferences, a few things did not go as planned. These happened, but all affected rose to the change, and the results were the more rewarding for the positive attitude.

What many may have missed, in the excitement, was the nursery. These cute small fry (under good supervision) meant that their parents were participating in conference activities.

Also, through the group contributions, many temporarily "low of funds" AA friends — most of them new or recent 'graduates' from the bottle, were able to meet and talk with you. Your sincere handclasp, smile and word of encouragement, will work still more miracles for AA in days ahead.

Many new things — good things — are happening in Alanons' progress. A good example from Alateens will soon warm your heart as you gain in knowledge. Be sure to hear Ron R., San Jose. This young man is a real gem. All of this and more you will read elsewhere in GOOD NEWS.

San Jose will long live in our hearts for its warmth and good fellowship. We are all grateful for the rich experience.

Sincerely,  
BILL K.

P.S. — Have you checked to make sure your own group (several) subscriptions have been sent to Rollin W.? He would appreciate your help and your news. Let's back this work in every way.

### Well Known Blind Member Einer Hanson Dies Mar. 11

One of the best-known speakers in Northern California, Einar R. Hanson of Stockton, passed away on Saturday, March 11th. He was 50 years old and died unexpectedly of a heart attack.

Einer was blinded at the age of 15 years by a dynamite cap explosion. He was an active member of AA for many years, and made numerous inspiring AA talks in San Francisco and the Bay Area during the past years.

Famous for his "I can see as much out of the back of my head as I can from the front" he received national recognition for his work not only with the blind, but the otherwise handicapped as well.

He was at one time supervisor of services for the blind for his home state of Utah before becoming rehabilitation counselor for the blind with the California Vocational Rehabilitation service in Sacramento, California.

He is survived by his wife Alice who, in his own words, was to him, "God's vision and perception transmitted into the mind of a man whose physical vision had been taken away." The Roseville Group sent her a beautiful letter of tribute which was read as a part of the

### PARADISE PATER

Just four short years ago, Bob C. and Lou H. started the group and their enthusiasm kept it alive during the "lean" years. During the past two years, our group has been blessed with a continual flow of new members. May we always be mindful that this was all made possible by our affiliation with General Service, Northern California Council, Central California Fellowship and individual groups and members from the surrounding territory.

March 3rd was a happy occasion in Paradise. Toni J. and Ted A. both became yearlings on that date. Toni was recently selected for group secretary with Ted as her able assistant. From their very first meeting, these two learned that "ACTION" is the magic word; they never say "no" when its AA.

Evidently Toni didn't say "no" when it came to Ted either. Saturday, March 11th, 3:30 p.m., Toni and Ted were married in the home of their sponsors, Pat and Dolores S. A reception was held in their honor at their sponsors home, 621 Castle Drive, Paradise, from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, March 19th. (This is AA??)

No doubt many words of praise will be written about the recent NCC conference in San Jose. May

(Continued on page 8)

## Contra Costa Fellowship Quarterly Meeting April 1

The Fourth quarterly public meeting of Contra Costa County Groups will be held on April 15th at the Electrical Workers Union Hall in Pacheco. This meeting is designed as a public information meeting.

The hall will be open at noon, with meetings of Al-Anon, Alateen and AA throughout the afternoon, followed in the evening at 8:30 with a speaker meeting at conference level.

A meeting of group delegates (and anyone else interested) will be held for the purpose of hearing the East Bay Intergroup representative explain the workings of the intergroup office and the services available to the groups in Contra Costa County.

There are eight groups in Contra Costa County District 8-A at the present time. Three previous meetings have been held in the County; at Martinez, San Pablo and Pittsburg.

## Mello-Daires' April Dates

The Mellodaires, AA's own dance orchestra, resplendent in their flashy new outfits, will play for five dances during the month of April. Two of these engagements are in the nature of 'special events'.

On Saturday, April 22nd, they will play at The Highlanders' Club, 3691 Mission Street in San Francisco. The Club is under new management, and it is their hope that this event will rejuvenate interest in Club activities and the groups which meet there.

The following Saturday, April 29th, will find them playing for the semi-annual benefit dance for Oakland's Group Seven. This dance will be held at the Erwin Taylor Memorial Hall, 1527 East 14th Street.

The complete schedule follows:

April 1—Five Cities Fellowship, 37320 Mission Boulevard, Niles, California.

April 8—San Jose Alano Club, 1139 Minnesota Street, San Jose.

April 15—San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

April 22—Highlanders' Club 3691 Mission Street, San Francisco.

April 29—Oakland Group Seven Semi-Annual Benefit Dance, Erwin Taylor Memorial Hall, 1527 East 14th

## St. Helena Group Kept Alive by Joe and John

"The St. Helena Group was formed nine years ago and, as many small towns, has had to struggle to keep going. But all during this period the two stalwarts, Joe and John, have faithfully maintained the meetings. Sometimes the membership will drop to two and then jump to eight or ten. We know that attendance by members from other groups will help a lot.

St. Helena is located in the beautiful Napa Valley. Why not give yourself a treat someday. Take a leisurely drive, have a good meal at any one of the numerous fine eating places in the Valley and attend the Meeting after.

Time: 8:30 P.M. every Thursday night.

Place: Presbyterian Church, Spring St., 3 blocks west of Highway."

JOE F., Secretary.

## East Bay Fellowship Notes

The first Quarterly Intergroup Public Meeting of the Eastbay Fellowship commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of AA in this area, will be held in the Oakland Auditorium Little Theatre on April 19th. The program will include Mayor Rishell of Oakland, Dr. Philp, Chief, Division of Alcoholic Rehabilitation, California State Department of Public Health, and Cliff W. of Whittier, California, one of the finest AA speakers in the country.

Group A7A will hold an Old-Timers meeting on April 8th at 8:00 p.m. . . . social hour following the meeting . . . so that everyone who is or has been associated with this vital effort to offer AA in a "skid-row" location can hold a reunion. If every well-dressed, prosperous, sober "graduate" of this group shows up, the place will be packed . . . A7A is also planning a Spring Dance in pril.

Street, Oakland, California.

Band Manager Bus D., 1568 - 18th Avenue, San Francisco, asks that anyone wanting to engage the band should contact him at least two months in advance. The above is a new address for him; so far no new phone has been given him; see next month's GOOD NEWS.

## Yuba City Group Adds Friday Night Meeting

The Yuba City group started a Friday night closed meeting on February 17th. This makes four meetings weekly; Monday night (closed), Wednesday night (open), Friday as above and Saturday night (open).

All meetings are held in The First Methodist Church, 607 'B' Street, at 8 o'clock. On the first and third Wednesdays they have either a tape recording or a speaker meeting.

The group staged a ham and sweet potato dinner before the meeting on Wednesday, February 15th according to Bill M., Publicity Secretary of the Yuba City Group. Bill writes, "I for one really enjoyed both the dinner and the meeting afterward."

## 'Chuck' C. in Santa Rosa

"The Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship invites all to hear Chuck C. of Los Angeles speak at an open meeting to be held at 8:00 P.M., Saturday, April 15th, 1961 at the High School Auditorium, Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Calif.

An Open House will be held after the meeting, at Harmony Hall, 830 5th St., Santa Rosa.

## Franklin C. Lanning Dead

Franklin C. Lanning, a regular attendant of both the Palo Alto and Menlo Park Groups, passed away in Palo Alto on Friday, March 10th. He was buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery. He was 46 years old.

Frank leaves a wife, Anne, who has gone with him through all his illness, attended the meetings with him and become very friendly and popular with the many members who admired her devotion to him. Their sympathy and ours go out to her in her hour of sorrow.

(Continued from page 7)  
we add these comments. The workshops and special meetings were both interesting and informative, may this trend continue in future conferences.

We cordially invite all members of AA and Al-Anons to visit us in Paradise Avenue, especially Thursdays, 8:00 P.M., Odd Fellows Hall, Elliott Road.

PAT S.