



# Good News



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

**SEPTEMBER**  
**1961**

## **T. Roosevelt's Son, TV Star to Speak**

### **7th Annual Banquet Tickets Ready**

Some 60 years ago, in 1901, a seven-year-old towhead named Archie moved into the White House, and for the next seven years was a pint-size creator of king-size headlines, breaking up diplomatic receptions by sliding down bannisters, galloping around the Executive Mansion's grounds on his Shetland pony. He made news then as easily as does Caroline Kennedy today.

Today Archibald B. Roosevelt, last surviving son of the late President Teddy Roosevelt, is a busy partner in a Wall Street bond and investment house. He and his wife maintain an apartment in New York City, but a 15-acre estate on Long Island is their real home.

#### **AA Treasurer**

The 67-year-old, six foot veteran of two world wars has varied interests apart from his Wall Street activities. One of them, a non-alcoholic member of the Board of Trustees of the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, New York City, and AA's national treasurer.

Mr. Roosevelt is scheduled to speak at the Seventh Annual Banquet and Ball slated for Saturday, October 28, in the Sheraton Palace Hotel, where the Garden Court, Rose Room, and Concert Room have been engaged to handle a crowd of 1,000 expected diners.

Keynote speaker is a noted radio and TV personality from the Hollywood Group of AA. Dance music will be provided by Anson Weeks.

#### **Dance With Anson**

Tickets at \$7.00 per person are now on sale in a first come—first served basis. They may be had in table "blocks" of ten tickets or singly.

Reservations may be had by sending check or money order made payable to AA Banquet Committee, 166 Geary Street, San Francisco 8. The phone is YU 2-4473.

### **HELP WANTED**

On Page Three, under "Paying 'Penalty' of Generosity" the Industrial Club is making an appeal to members and groups for aid. It is worthy of consideration.

## **AVENUE AL ANON SETS SEPT. "OPEN"**

Another Open Meeting to which AA members, Al Anon members, their families and friends are invited, has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, at 8:30 p.m.

Murrel S., Avenue Alanon chairman, said Ray M., a well known AA member, formerly of South San Francisco, and now active in San Jose, will be guest speaker.

Avenue Al Anon meets at St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. Pending completion of repairs to the church auditorium, the group meets in the church cafeteria.

## **Dandy Xmas Gift**

What can I give a blind member of AA for Christmas?

The General Service Office, New York City, has one good suggestion. How about Alcoholics Anonymous in Braille? Yep, the Big Book can now be "finger read" for blind people.

It's in three volumes — priced at \$7.50. What a priceless gift for a person who's lost the most priceless gift of all — his eyes!

## **Al-Anons Plan Program for NCC Meeting**

Delegates, representatives and members of Al-Anon groups attending the Northern California Council of AA, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8, in Sacramento, will register separately from AA's and have their own specially stamped tickets, it was announced by Donnalie W., Al-Anon chairman, Sacramento Conference.

This decision was made by AA and Al-Anon delegates at a pre-conference meeting. It was felt that Al-Anon should have its own registration and be able to pay its own way, as they have done in the past, the chairman reported. She added "... therefore we will have a different colored registration ticket with "Al-Anon" clearly stamped on them. This will be done to keep them separate from AA's. Registration tickets will be mailed to all Al-Anon Groups and will also be available at the Al-Anon Registration Booth at the opening day of the Northern California Conference."

All Al-Anon members are urged to buy the Registration Tickets with the identifying "Al-Anon" stamped across the face.

Two special meetings will feature the Saturday, October 7, Al-Anon gathering. One, a Group Representative's session, at which Helen B., Redondo Beach, will deliver a report. Helen is California's delegate to Al-Anon's World Service Conference. She will give highlights on what occurred at the first World Service Conference held in New York City, this past April.

(Continued on page 3)



## 12 Persons Fete 190 Years of AA Sobriety

A score of gals and guys gathered around a table at the venerable Pacific Heights AA Group, Saturday, July 5. On it was a birthday cake inscribed "XXII". The Roman numerals had great significance for the person it honored, Fred C.

If not the very first San Francisco member of AA, he was most certainly among its first three members.

Gravely bowing to the happy assemblage, Fred assured all and sundry that the 22 years was done—24 hours at a time—sometimes an hour at a time.

Of the assembled guests, 11 could support Fred's contention with vivid memories. Because all of them could easily be termed the Ancient Ones of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Francisco.

They included Bob C., 15 years; John C., 22 years; Rod M., 11 years (approx.); G. L. Van B., 17 years; Pete B., 20 years; Dan W., 17 years; Dan's wife, Isobel, 10 years; Julian C., 15 years; Lois L., 11 years; Ray H., 18 years; and Horace B., 12 years. Grand Total: 190 years.

In the early days of AA when the "structure" was wobbly to say the least; when the few members were sticking to AA on faith, and faith alone; when literature and organizational procedures were vague, if not unknown—these people stuck together because they could not afford to come unglued.

Patrick Henry or Nathan Hale or one of our Founding Fathers described the AA situation in those early days with, "We hang together—or we hang individually."

AA members 20 years ago hung tightly to each other mostly because they needed one another as a "crutch." They had to have some support—some hope—something! They got it from each other until abundant help came. But it did not arrive for about a decade and mean-

## GSO PLANNING NEW SERVICE FOR BLIND

The General Service Office, New York City, is in touch with blind members who would like to correspond in Braille with other sightless AA's.

If anyone knows of a blind member, please send his, or her, name and address to Ann M., General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York City, 17.

She is coordinating this new service and wants to know what type of material should be sent. Will you, therefore, answer the following questions:

1. Would your friend be interested in corresponding in Braille with other blind members?

2. Would he (or she) like to borrow Braille material, such as article from the Grapevine? Could it be mailed back to GSO a week after receiving it?

3. Would he like to receive an AA Newsletter in Braille?

Your help, suggestions and additional ideas will be welcomed.

## Peninsula Change

Peninsula All-Groups—meeting Saturday, 8:00 p.m. (recreation hall of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, El Camino Real and Baldwin, San Mateo) has changed its format.

Henceforth, each Saturday night meeting will be sponsored by one of the Peninsula groups. New arrangement met with considerable success, the chairman reports.

time these dozen did a Cliff Hanging job.

### Ancient Ones

In paying justifiable homage to Fred C., and the 11 Ancient Ones, six others, unable to attend Fred's party, should not be overlooked nor go unmentioned. Because, they too, were among those who "sweated it out" in those dim days of yesteryear.

These include Don H., Mrs. Robert G., Mr. and Mrs. Al N., Louise Mac L., Margaret L., and Fred W. All of these average about 15 years on the program bringing the Grand Total to a whopping 280 years—had they attended the party.

All Johnny-Come-Lately gals and guys now on the program owe a debt of thanks to these "pioneers." Had they not done the Cliff Hanging act one shudders to think what might have happened.

## Annual AA Picnic Drew More Than 800

A record crowd of 834 AA members, families and friends swarmed into Adobe Creek Lodge, Sunday, August 6, making it by far, the biggest Annual AA Picnic ever sponsored by the S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

A long line of filled cars started arriving at the picnic grounds shortly after 10:00 a.m. and continued well into 2:00 p.m. The cars disgorged a happy crowd of people all bent on having a whee of a day in the sun.

They brought hampers filled with all sorts of picnic lunches. These they spread out on numerous picnic tables beneath overhanging trees. Having arranged things, many hopped into swim suits, play togs, and generally got themselves comfortable for a day of fun and recreation.

They swam, sunned, danced, played ball (Oakland trimmed San Francisco 8-6) and played Bingo.

And they ate, ate and ATE. Not only did they clean up their own copious lunch baskets, but consumed the following:

65 gallons coffee.  
40 cases soda pop.  
40 gallons punch.  
1 gallon mustard.  
1 gallon relish.  
65 pounds hot dogs.  
55 dozen hot dog rolls.

Again, the crowd voted Adobe Creek Lodge an excellent picnic site. For most, the weather was pleasant—not too hot. And, unless something unforeseen occurs to change plans, we'll be seeing the same happy gang next year in the same place.

## Alano Club Dance

Commencing Saturday, September 2, the Alano Club announces that two monthly dances will be held on the first and last Saturdays. The first, a Labor Day Dance will feature an assortment of valuable door prizes. A new 5-piece dance combo will provide danceable tunes.



## 'Big Open' Lists Speakers

The Big Open Meeting sponsored by the Central Office of S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, announced an outstanding speakers' roster for the month of September. The meetings, held every Friday, at 8:15 p.m., at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, has scheduled the following, Myrl G., program chairman, said:

**Sept. 1**—June and Jim R., South San Francisco's Tuesday Downtown Group.

**Sept. 8**—John Mc., San Anselmo Group, and Lynn N., Park Presidio Group.

**Sept. 15**—Charles R., Palo Alto Friday Group, and Dr. L. E. Curtis, M.D., medical director, Standard Oil Company.

**Sept. 22** — "Woody" W., Golden Gate Group, and "Moraga Joe" C., St. Mary's College.

**Sept. 29**—Paula B., Speaker-Discussion Group of Santa Rosa, and Bill H., Young People's Group.

These Open Meetings, known throughout the Fellowship as the "showcase" meetings, have played an important part in attracting hundreds of people into AA for their first contact with the organization.

### More About ALANON PLAN

(Continued from page 1)

On the Saturday agenda is Group Workshop with a panel of five members. Theme of this gathering is "Our Purpose In Al-Anon." Time will be allotted for audience participation. Additionally, the agenda calls for four speakers—two from Al-Anon and two from Alateen groups, speaking on, "What Brought Me To Al-Anon and Alateen," and "What Kept Me In Al-Anon and Alateen."

On Sunday, the second of two featured meetings occurs with Helen and Joe B., of Redondo Beach, on the Speakers Platform. Helen is Al-Anon, Joe is AA. The husband-and-wife team are expected to deliver a message with great impact.

## Paying "Penalty" of Generosity Industrial Club Needs Immediate Help

The Industrial Club opened its doors at its present site, 3198 16th Street, San Francisco, in May, 1956. Since that date, its doors have not been closed to anyone seeking help or assistance. Chartered as a haven for the sick alcoholic providing assistance and recreation for anyone wishing to gain and maintain sobriety, it has done its best to adhere to these principles.

Many thousands of free meals have been served since the inception of serving food three years ago. Along with providing lodging and clothing, the Club has also been instrumental in helping many to obtain gainful employment. For those who are homeless, hungry, hopeless—the concept of the advantages of sobriety and the AA program is, to say the least, a hard, uphill task.

**Record will show that Industrial Club probably receives more Twelve Step calls than most clubs or groups in S.F. Referrals have always been graciously accepted, and promptly acted upon. These unfortunates have been fed, clothed, and financially cared for to the Club's limits.**

The Industrial Club now finds itself on the Horns of a Dilemma. If not broke, it is badly bent, and only because of being TOO GENEROUS. In the words of Roger J. O'D., chairman, The Industrial Club, here's what besets the group:

"Because so many unfortunate alcoholics sent to us for assistance are in no position to repay this help, we now find OURSELVES in financial difficulties. Our Ways and Means Committee is working very diligently to provide methods for additional revenue, but we are also seeking the support of every AA member in this fellowship. Just think what

a catastrophe it would be if these doors had to close forever.

What would happen to these poor unfortunates who come here every day seeking aid? The people responsible for this appeal are all striving to the utmost of their ability to see this movement carried on to a successful conclusion. Mainly because they themselves were also helped by this very same Club. We need support of all kinds.

"We do not think we are belittling ourselves by asking for this support, as we definitely believe that we are all interested in the same purpose. We also believe that this is a chance for many people to become REAL BIG and show what they can do "when the chips are down." We are not asking for a lot, nor are we asking anything for ourselves personally.

"We are just asking that everyone receive the same chance that you did when you came on this program. We are open to suggestions, so please won't you let us hear from you. We have just recently reorganized our entire structure and hope that this is only the beginning of a movement that will carry on over a long period of years. We wish to thank everyone who has helped in the past and hope that we may look forward to receiving their continued support."

\$2.50 Per Person    REGISTRATION CONTRIBUTION    \$2.50 Per Person  
**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL  
 OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
 FALL CONFERENCE  
 Veterans' Memorial Auditorium  
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA — OCTOBER 7-8, 1961**

NAME..... GROUP.....

ADDRESS..... CITY.....

Please send checks or money orders, payable to  
**TREASURER N.C.C.**  
 636 Skyline Drive — Daly City, California



## H. & I. "BROADSIDES"

By BUD C., Chairman

Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee

We would again like to repeat our invitation to attend our Hospital and Institution Committee meeting slated for Sunday, September 10, at 1:00 p.m., at 707 Howard Street, Martinez. The H. and I. agenda for 1962 and appointment of contact chairmanships will be the highlights of the meeting. You, and everyone who thinks they may be interested in this highly absorbing and rewarding AA activity, is cordially welcome.

This writer attended the NCC pre-Conference meeting held at the Press Box of the S.F. Press & Union League Club, Sunday, August 13. Meeting was for the specific purpose of firming up plans for the Fall meeting at Sacramento.

A terrific job is being done by everyone concerned with properly setting up this Conference. Henry F., conference chairman, is a much needed "spark" in AA activities.

### Reverting to Type

It seems we are overlooking many serious matters at some of our meetings. This was no exception. Following are some strictly personal observations which many members will recognize as facts:

**We, of AA, speak of "principles above personalities" and yet, when the chips are down, we revert to character—to type.**

It would be a great step forward if we could refrain from telling each other by inference or innuendo that we are crooks, insincere, and many other defects that we are too quick to see in the other guy but rarely see in ourselves.

### "The Right Way"

I disagree with numerous things regarding the mechanics of operational procedure but, it is a most sincere wish that more of us can accept the proven adage that there are three ways of doing things, "YOUR WAY, MY WAY, AND THE RIGHT WAY."

Actually, this winds up as a plea for all of us, myself in particular, to get behind the people that we have elected and to give them our full cooperation and support.

## New Hope Group

This group has moved to the Industrial Club, 3198 Sixteenth Street, at Guerrero. The meeting night and time remains unchanged.

## NEW GROUP AT PT. RICHMOND

A new AA group was welcomed into Richmond, Calif., when the Pt. Richmond Group held its first meeting, Monday, August 14, in the Community Center at Pt. Richmond.

This makes the third AA group regularly meeting in Richmond. Established because of its particular need (about one-third of all calls coming through the Richmond answering service, come from the Pt. Richmond area) 48 persons attended the inaugural meeting.

### Good Speakers

George R., Richmond, served as chairman which was open to the public as well as AA members. Speakers included Al. B., Oakland central office of the Eastbay Fellowship, and Ed. H. Pittsburg, a member of the General Service Committee, NCC.

Keynote talk was made by Ed. D., Fremont, Calif. A set of AA books was presented to the library adjoining the Community Center where Pt. Richmond Group meets. Donor was Bill A. Richmond.

### Outside Aid

Largely through the efforts of Bill, and his wife, Barbara, with assists from the Richmond Parks and Recreation Department, the Contra Costa Social Service Department and the Probation Department, that the establishment of Pt. Richmond Group was made possible.

Discussion meetings will be held each Monday at 8:30 p.m. An outside speaker or member of the group will address the assemblage on the last Monday of each month.

The new Community Center is located on Washington Avenue, Pt. Richmond.

## Good or Bad

Habit is either the best of servants, or is the worst of enemies.

## Dance Dates

The Mello-Daires has scheduled three dance engagements for September, it was announced by Paul "Bus" D., business manager of the orchestra.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 2—

The annual Labor Day Dance at the Alano Club, 414 Grant Ave., San Francisco.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 9—

San Jose Alano Club, 1139 Minnesota Street, San Jose.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 16—

S.F. Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 23—

Open Date.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 30—

Three Counties Fellowship, Monterey, Calif.

Any AA organization or affiliated group of club who'd like to engage this fine combo for dance or entertainment purposes, please contact "Bus" at 1568 18th Avenue. The phone is OV 1-8601.

## BEWARE

There's a phony roaming the country who's passing himself off as a "staff member of the General Service Office, New York City." He is showing a film about the start of AA. He then asks the groups where he shows the film for a group collection for his so-called "GSO service."

**General Service Office has no such individual on its staff and none touring the country. If the Board has such a member or staffer—he (or she) would be accredited by GSO.**

GSO members and volunteers connected with the General Service Board visit group and area convention as office representative ONLY after arrangements have been made in advance by letter.

Groups in Illinois and Tennessee have already been visited by this imposter. Watch out!

## St. Francis Men

The social hall of the Park-Pre-sidio Methodist Church, Seventh Avenue and Geary Boulevard, is the new location of St. Francis Men's Group. Move is effective immediately.



## WATCH OUT, SON! YOUR MEMORY IS SLIPPING A COG

Sometimes when sobriety has been attained and we have regained many of the material things in life, we tend to forget what we were before we stopped drinking, and what AA has given us. We forget to give credit where credit is due and try to assume that credit ourselves.

A slip is not necessarily fatal, but it can take up back—back to the days before we found AA — physically, spiritually and mentally. When an alcoholic has regained his family and become reasonably financially secure, it is hard for him to believe that he doesn't also have the old "bottle" licked. It would be nice to have a few drinks and — he thinks — now that all his reasons for getting loaded are gone, everything will be all right . . . Watch out, son!

Remember . . . why did you first join AA? What did you have when you came in? What did you get?

Remember . . . statistics prove that there are some alcoholics who may be able to drink for awhile, but sooner or later it catches up with them. Is a few weeks, or maybe months, of social drinking worth losing you family again — your friends — and going back to financial insecurity . . . back . . . back . . . back? Maybe never to recover again? . . . Still want that first drink?

### Reminder

Bill W.'s Anniversary Dinner will be held in New York, Saturday, September 30. Fall vacationers who are including the East Coast on their itineraries this year, may wish to schedule a stopover in Manhattan. Those that have attended Bill's dinners in past years describe them as "unforgettable."

For details write N.Y. Inter-group, 133 East 39th Street, New York City, 16, N.Y.

### "Beginners" Move

The Monday Beginners' Group has moved its meeting place to the church hall at 1755 Clay Street, between Polk Street and Van Ness Avenue.

## EDITORIAL

### Personal Anonymity

*The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, New York City, is mailing this letter headed, "A Note of Appreciation — A Request for Help," to 7,000 members of the press, radio and TV, reminding them that personal anonymity at the public level is of vital importance to members of AA. GSO has reprinted the letter for some AA's who may wish to use it as a guide in their relations with local editors and broadcasters, or as a possible topic for discussion in closed meetings. For those who would like to know more about anonymity, GSO suggests reading "Twelve Steeps and Twelve Traditions" and the pamphlet, "AA Traditions — How it Developed." —Editor.*

Personal anonymity at the public level (in print, on the air, or in films) is of vital importance to members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

That is why we are continuously grateful to our friends of the press, radio-TV and films who, in publicizing our program of recovery from alcoholism, have honored so faithfully our desire for privacy as AA members.

The public is familiar with our tradition of personal anonymity—but it is not always informed as to the reasons for it. . . .

**First, we know from experience that many problem drinkers might hesitate to turn to AA for help if they thought their problem might be discussed publicly, even inadvertently, by others.**

Then, too, we believe that the concept of personal anonymity has a "spiritual" significance for us—that it discourages the drive for personal recognition, power, prestige or profit that has caused difficulties in some older and more mature societies. Much of our relative effectiveness in working with alcoholics might be impaired, we fear, if we sought or accepted public recognition.

While each member of AA is free to make his or her own interpretation of AA tradition, as a society we are committed overwhelmingly to the principle of personal anonymity at the public level. The rare AA "personality anonymity breaks" that do occur these days can usually be traced to one of two causes:

1. An overgenerous friend with a newspaper, magazine or broadcast medium, disciplined to use names in his profession, gives one of our members personal recognition when none is sought.

2. An individual member, for private reasons which may seem to outweigh AA Tradition, deliberately seeks to be identified by same.

That is why, on behalf of AA as a whole, we distribute periodic reminders such as this one, respectfully requesting your continued help.

May we express again our deep gratitude to those friends in Communications through whom so many AA members first learned of the AA program of recovery.

Sincerely,  
Manager, General Services  
(name not for publication)  
(Reprinted from AA Exchange  
Bulletin—NYC)

### H. Ohloff House Changes Format

The H.O.H. Group, meeting in the Henry Ohloff House, 601 Steiner Street, recently changed its format. Meetings will continue to be held Thursdays at 8:00 p.m., but in the future, the first meeting of the month will be an Open Meeting.

Members of AA and friends are welcome to these Open Meetings where outstanding guest speakers will be featured.

All other meetings throughout the month will be closed to everyone excepting residents and former residents of Henry Ohloff House.



# Your Secretary's Report

By BILL K., NCC Secretary

It was our recent experience to go through one of those unpleasant happen-stances which required major surgery and hospitalization. Because of this, and the seemingly long hours of recuperation and enforced immobility, one primary prayer ran constantly through my thoughts, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. . . ." Therefore, I'm grateful and consider myself most fortunate. The workable teachings of AA are limitless and most rewarding.

In some of these moments of quiet reflexion, it is marvelous to have witnessed the growth, enthusiasm, and excellent work of AA, its members and friends. By contrast, it causes concern to note still others who seemingly are incapable of progress.

## "All Are Sober"

Perhaps AA was meant for the "other folks," for their education remains dormant, and their complaints contain the same inconsistencies and regularity of utterance, year-after-year. All are sober, Thank God, and may they continue to be. We have to want this program as well as need it.

**Sacramento Conference, October 7-8, at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, may very well be the largest gathering of Northern California AA's, to date. It certainly will be if all of us put our whole-hearted support behind a great group of AA's in Sacramento who are working toward this end with complete devotion.**

Henry F., conference chairman, promises the best of everything in hospitality, housing, good food, fellowship, friendship, and inspiration. Come to Sacramento determined to learn for the good of your group, and with a determination to "carry the message" with sincerity and effectiveness.

## Registration Forms

Broadsides, registration and contribution forms, programs, and complete data will be reaching you shortly. Please do everything to help make the Fall Sacramento Conference the biggest—and best—ever.

All good wishes to you, always.

## Paste in Hat

Remember — "Nothing is so bad, a drink won't make it worse."

## "Hlala Gahle"

Translated roughly from the Bantu tribe's language, "Hlala Gahle" means, "let us travel together in peace." And that is the theme for the October issue of the Grape Vine, International Number. Place your orders now.

In it are items such as the "loner" from Haiti, and an article about a gal who joined AA in Singapore, moved to Malta and now has a group of two started on that historic island.

Over 300 groups are now participating in the GV Sponsorship Plan. That means 3,600 NEW subscribers a year. That's carrying the message to others.

That's "Hlala Gahle."

## "Catholic Hour" Does AA Re-Run

Mrs. Marty Mann, executive director, National Council on Alcoholism, and Eve, staff member, General Service Office, NYC., were speakers on a re-run of "Alcoholism — The Problem and the Hope" presented on the Catholic Hour radio program, Sunday, August 6. Many heard this dramatic broadcast.

The General Service Office announces it has tape recordings of this program which was originally broadcast March 20, 1960. If a group would like to borrow this tape, write General Service Office of AA, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York City 17, N.Y.

## New Marin Group

The Sunday Night Corte Madera group has been formed in Marin County. This is a new group which plans to hold open, discussion type meetings every Sunday at 8:00 p.m., in the Episcopal Church, Corte Madera, Calif.

## Questions We'd Like To Be Asked (PURLOINED FROM CHIT CHAT VIA ALKY ALLEY)

HE

"How many inches do you want these pants taken in?"

"And what would you say is the secret of your success?"

"Did you know that you look like a mature version of Tony Curtis?"

"May I wait on you, young fellow?"

"Would you like breakfast in bed?"

"Shall I take some off the top?"

"Could I persuade you to take \$75,000.00 in cash for your house?"

"Do you want your change in fifties or hundreds?"

"But how could we run this business if you quit now?"

"Why don't you just forget about mowing the lawn, dear, and just relax and enjoy yourself?"

"Because of your deep insight and keen perception in the matter, may we ask you to handle the negotiations for all of us?"

"May we rename Main Street after you?"

SHE

"Would you like to sit down and watch TV while I do the dishes?"

"If you like it, dear, why don't you just go ahead and buy it?"

"Isn't it wonderful that your children favor you rather than their father?"

"Do you mind telling me who makes your dresses?"

"Would you let me have your fruit cake recipe?"

"How do you manage to do all those things and still look so fresh and lovely in the evening?"

"Why don't you forget about cooking tonight, and let me take you and the children out to dinner?"

"Were you ever a model?"

"Do you realize how fortunate you are not to have to touch up your hair?"

"Haven't you lost some weight?"

"Did your husband buy a mink jacket or coat for you, or was it both?"



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## NEITHER HOPELESS ... NOR WONDERFUL

Maturity is the growing awareness that you are neither wonderful nor hopeless. It has been said to be the making of place between what is and what might be. It isn't a destination. It is a road. It is the moment when you wake up after some grief or staggering blow and think, "I'm going to live after all."

It is the moment when you find out something you have long believed in isn't so, and parting with the old conviction, find that you're still you; the moment you discover somebody can do your job as well as you can, and you go on doing it anyway; the moment you do the thing you've always been afraid of; the moment you realize you are forever alone, but so is everybody else, and so in some way you are more together than ever; and a hundred other moments when you find out who you are. It is letting life happen in its own good order and making the most of what there is.

## Quarterly Meeting

The next Quarterly Secretaries Meeting of S.F. Inter-County Fellowship is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, at 2:00 p.m., at the Press and Union League Club, 555 Post Street, San Francisco.

Jack I., chairman, urged all Fellowship secretaries to attend this important discussion which emphasizes information of great value for the good of the membership. All AA's are cordially invited.

## Great Responsibilities

By JIM McCANN

*In thumbing through some of the very well-written and edited publications issued by U.S. penal institutions, we came across this article in "The Eye Opener" (An Insight on the Inside), published by inmates of McAlester State Penitentiary, Oklahoma. The parallel between McCann's "parole breaker" and our AA "slippees" causes the item to be reprinted in Good News.—Editor.*

Within the next few months, the Christmas season will be upon us. For those on the outside, it will hold a promise of parties, gifts and family gatherings. For those inside the walls, it holds the promise that a few more than usual will have a chance at freedom, while others will spend many more Christmases in prison.

Those that go out should remember that they go out with a greater responsibility than any man who goes out on a regular discharge. The man that goes out on parole or commutation has a great responsibility to himself, his family and his employer. He also has a large responsibility to the men, who someday have a chance themselves at making parole. In his hands, he carries the power to make a parole harder to obtain for every man in here. Through his actions outside, he can make or break the parole system in Oklahoma.

By going out and living up to his parole, he can become, in time, a credit to himself and to society. By the same token, if he goes out, becomes involved in a parole violation, he not only winds up back in the penitentiary, he makes it harder for the man who is trying to get out.

There are many people outside who will help a man become a decent citizen. There are also those who will condemn the whole system because of one parole violator. Get enough of those who would condemn the system working together, and it will be a hard task for any man to make a parole.

So to those who might be lucky enough to be home this Christmas, I can only say one thing and that is, remember, your responsibilities don't end with yourself. There are many men in prison, who need you outside as an example that a parolee can become an asset to society. Do them and yourself a favor, make it, and prove that a man with a parole is worth it.

## THE RIGHT APPROACH

*Probably one of the most vexing problems in "carrying the message", Twelfth Step work, is "The Right Approach". What is the "proper" method of presenting the AA program to a semi-hostile, bewildered people suffering from the disease of alcoholism? It was the writers recent experience to attend a discussion meeting at his own group, wherein this subject was seriously kicked around. This article from the Central Bulletin of Cleveland is reprinted for its obvious value.—Editor.*

"Alcoholics are certainly unpredictable," observed a visitor to our office during the past week. "I simply can't believe," he continued, "that I ever was as 'difficult' as the last two I've been working with! Maybe my approach is wrong, for I simply can't convince them that they're hooked and can't take even one drink!"

"Both, in my book, need the program badly. Both are on probation on drunken driving charges—one of them has lost his job and the other is in danger of losing his.

Both have family trouble and have everything to lose, but . . . they won't admit that they are alcoholics. What am I doing wrong?"

We believe that every member of

AA has experienced the same feeling of frustration. In analyzing our own failures, we reluctantly were

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## Outlaw versus Outlaw

# Oklahoma Prison Stages Rodeo

*By the time this issue of Good News reaches its readers and subscribers, the annual Prison Rodeo held INSIDE the walls of McAlester State Prison, Oklahoma, will be over. The four-day event is undoubtedly as colorful and thrilling as any held at Calgary or Pendleton during Roundup. More important, perhaps, is the rare good humor and tongue-in-cheek wit that sparkles through the inmate-written item.—Editor.*

The 17th Annual Prison Rodeo is less than four weeks away, and already crews are working in preparation for the big four-day event to be held in the Oklahoma State Prison Stadium, August 31st thru September 3, 1961.

Outlaw vs. Outlaw. In true Rodeo spirit, the inmates competing in this show have discarded all care and are out to match wits against the wildest of the arena animals.

Champion inmate cowboys will be presented daily in the wildest of events; saddle bronc riding, bare-back bronc riding, brahma bull riding and other wild adventures. Who knows why these detained Bronc Busters throw caution to the wind and ride like "Fury" through these four great shows?

### Over the Wall

Maybe it is because of a desire to please you, or maybe it is because of a secret hope that some charged "Bronc" will give him an early discharge over the West Wall. The point is, you'll get many a thrill watching these inmate cowboys risk their necks to provide entertainment that all will enjoy, as well as the many professional acts that will be presented for your entertainment during the Prison Rodeo.

Not to be outdone, the largest behind the walls rodeo has resumed preparations for its 17th Annual Show under the capable direction of producer, Jim Shoulers.

### Prize Money

Shoulders, now a rancher in Henryetta, Oklahoma, is the greatest professional cowboy of all time. A consistent winner in professional contests, all Oklahoma is justly proud of Jim Shoulers and we are pleased to be presenting him as Rodeo Producer and Livestock Contractor for this year's 17th Annual Show.

The Oklahoma Prison Rodeo is fully affiliated with the Rodeo Cowboy's Association and all RCA contestants are competing not only for the prize money offered at this

show, but for the points that will be credited toward Individual and All-Around World Championships.

### Cowgirls, Too

Cowboys entered in this show will be competing in three events. These are: Calf Roping, Steer Roping and Steer Wrestling. Cowgirls will be competing in the Barrel Racing events. Contests will be held in each event daily with the finals in all contests on Saturday evening and on Sunday Afternoon.

**Pistol Holliday from Chelton, Texas and the Kajun Kidd, from Teague, Texas will be providing the comic antics of the Brahma bull-fighting Clowns.**

Glamour in the Prison Rodeo Arena will be provided in the form of three nationally known Trick and Fancy Riders, Jannette Plunkett, of Abbott, Texas, Karen Lee Atterberry, Dighton, Kansas and Patty Davis, Larkspur, Colorado. In many states, Rodeo fans have been thrilled by the grace and charm of these three Trick and Fancy riders.

### Calf Roping

At the beginning of each day's show, while the broncs are being saddled, the prime roping calves and steers are being herded into their respective chutes, and contestants are drawing for and taking their places for the big money contests, you will be entertained with the fast paced Rodeo music, provided by the Prison Band. This is all a part of "Rodeo" and no show would be complete without the musical entertainment to be provided by the Prison Band.

## More About RIGHT APPROACH

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forced to admit, that we had become "preacher" (didactic) instead of "advisor." We forgot the condition of mind we were in when we were approached the first time.

### Running Scared

The alcoholic is running scared, running away from facing reality like a cornered rat—sick, bewildered, confused, particularly when it meant being deprived of his only known means of escape from all trouble—alcohol with its guarantee of oblivion.

In our approach now, we soften the pedal on the word "alcoholic." Instead we refer to problem drinkers and their problems. In our first approach we avoid mentioning the name Alcoholics Anonymous. (That word "alcoholic" seems to erect an impenetrable wall). We only emphasize that people become problem drinkers when they become compulsive drinkers and that compulsive drinkers usually wind up as alcoholics. With this approach we have been more successful.

### All Different

We must never forget our own resistance to advice when we first came in. We believe that every candidate is different. Some of them are easily handled, especially those that are in the earlier stages of the disease.

Even these need further attention. These should be warned not to rate themselves as "not as bad" as others whom they have listened to at AA meetings.

"It isn't what you drink or how much you drink that warrants your membership in AA — it's what it does to you that qualifies you for this league!" This remark we sha'n't ever forget. We heard it many years ago at a meeting addressed by irrepressible Dr. C. C. H., of Berea. It eliminated any doubts in our mind that we belonged in this league.

### Poor Advisers

The problem drinker's worst advisers are people who know little or nothing about AA or alcoholism. Among these are friends who rarely drink to excess, relatives who fear the stigma of association with alcoholism, per se, uninformed physicians, ministers, priests, social workers, etc., etc. All advise, just as ours advised us, "Just don't drink so much."