



Good News



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1962

1200 ATTEND TURLOCK SESSIONS

By Bill S., editor, GOOD NEWS

Incomplete attendance tabulation estimates some 1200 dedicated members of Alcoholics Anonymous and its affiliates, The Alanons and Alateens attended the Spring Meeting — Sometime referred to as the "Almond Blossom" Conference" — of the Northern California Council of AA — at Stanislaus County District Fairgrounds, Turlock, Calif., Saturday and Sunday, March 3-4.

In addition to AA and Alanon members accompanied by kith or kin who came solely to "take in" an AA conference, on hand were scores of delegates, representatives, and reporters (new name for district delegates, I think) most of whom were designated or assigned to one or more major functions taking place all over the fairgrounds — workshops, GSO, H & I, etc. — during the two-day session. The place was jumping!

Turlock in Tizzy

Like the Seven Year Locusts that descended upon Egypt, the AA hosts that catapulted into Turlock threw the community into a mild tizzy. Motels and eating places were taxed to capacity and those without reservations found they had to find billets in Modesto — a dozen miles away.

At Paul's Motel, Turlock, which was fairly bulging with AA "brass," a tipsy, lonesome drummer seeking a boon companion to share a jug would have found himself face-to-face with an AA gathering of some sort had he knocked on any door. Gad, what a fate!

Another example of how completely AA impressed itself upon the town is exemplified by the following: in trying to locate the Sunday Morning Breakfast at the War Memorial Building on Canal Drive, a guy drove into a Union Oil Station at 7:45 a.m. The attendant didn't even approach the car with the usual "filler up?" From the grease rack he yelled, "go down to Joe's Hamburger Stand, turn left, and go about
(Continued on page 8)

JURIST TO SPEAK AT "BIG MEET"

The line-up of our own AA talent and so-called "outside" speakers for the month of March at the "Big" Meeting, sponsored by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, is to say the least, stellar.

Myrl G., program chairman, has, at long last, "captured" Captain George W. Duplain, director, Men's Social Center of the Salvation Army, for one speaker, and Superior Judge John B. Molinari, for another. Here's the March lash-up:

FRIDAY, MAR. 2, AT 8:15 p.m.—

Katy B., Alameda Group; and Captain George Duplain, Salvation Army. Bill R. is chairman.

FRIDAY, MAR. 9, at 8:15 p.m.—

Bud C., chairman, H & I Committee of the Northern California Council of AA; Preston B., Park-Presidio Group. Dorothy L. is chairman.

FRIDAY, MAR. 16, at 8:15 p.m.—

Dan B., San Anselmo Group; Judge John B. Molinari, Superior Court of S. F. County. Walter W. is chairman.

FRIDAY, MAR. 23, at 8:15 p.m.—

Marc A., Mill Valley Group; Dr. Les C., Vallejo and Glen Ellen Groups. John F. is chairman.

FRIDAY, MAR. 30, at 8:15 p.m.—

Virginia and Chuck K., San Pablo Group. Barbara B. is chairman.

The plush meeting place at the Building Service Center, at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, receives continuing praise from AA's and guests who have visited it since the entire floor has been remodeled and refurbished. Comfortable seats, good lighting, better acoustics, kitchen facilities, also elevator service to the meeting floor makes it one of the best meeting areas in America.

Industrial Club To Pitch St. Pat's Corn Beef Party

In honor of the Patron Saint of Ireland, The Industrial Club of AA is making elaborate plans for its Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance, set for Saturday, March 17, at 3198 16th Street, San Francisco.

Dancing, to the music of Pete's Combo, commences at 8:30 p.m., and a grand corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served at 10:00 p.m.

Further, plans are afoot to hold a non-world's championship Domino Tournament during the month of May, and entries will be accepted by the Domino committee at the St. Paddy's Day party.

Singles and doubles players from all over the Bay Area are being sought for the contest, Gerry O'C., Domino Tourney chairman, announced. And, he is trying to recruit the two dentists who recently won the World's Championship to enter the Industrial Club's contest.

Mrs. Mike S. Dies

Relatives and friends of Mrs. Mike S., are mourning her passing during the latter part of February. She went to the "Big Meeting" following a long illness.

Nevada Group To Sponsor a Special Meet

The 12x12 Group of Sparks, Nevada is planning a meeting which it will sponsor in the Garden Room of the Riverside Hotel, Reno, Saturday, April 28, at 8:00 P.M.

The Sparks committee emphasizes that this is more than an AA meeting. It is designed with the express idea of telling key public officials of Reno, Carson City, Sparks and surrounding communities "How It Works."

To do the job, Sparks has the cooperation of the Institutional Group of Long Beach, Calif., who will journey to the "Biggest Little City in the World" for the important gathering.

Additionally, successful AA's from institutional environment — both mental and penal — will recite how the AA program aided and abetted recovery from the affliction of compulsive drinking, and in some cases, narcotics.

Myrtle S., a loveable lady with 17 years of AA background will accompany the Long Beach travelers.

The Sparks committee spokesman said the Reno meeting will be approximately three hours long but would be broken with a 30-minute coffee break after the first 90 minutes.

AA members in the Bay Area are cordially invited to attend.

90 Minute Group Names Moderators

The Ninety Minute Beginners' program for the month of March has been set with the naming of four moderators for the four Wednesday meetings. Red K. will moderate the Wednesday, March 7 meeting; Mike J. will do the honors on Wednesday, March 14; Wilma P. will be moderator at the Wednesday, March 21 gathering, and on March 28, Arnold R. will be the pace-maker.

The group meets each Wednesday at the Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco. Meetings are for 90 minutes—6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

DAN RINER DEAD 5 Meetings Set By Beginners

As it must to all people, death came last month to an old San Francisco AA member, Dan Riner. More than a decade ago, Dan started the bingo games at the Alano Club when it was located at 111 O'Farrell Street. Dan managed the Club in those days and oldtimers will remember with a note of nostalgia how Dan, seated in a comfortable wicker arm chair, would greet old members and newcomers as they emerged from the elevators.

For those whose memories need a jogging, the Club at 111 O'Farrell had a "snooty" entrance through the art salon of the Society of Western Artists with a hundred or more good canvasses hung in delightful profusion.

On the second floor, Dr. Dan Custer maintained his religious headquarters from whence he'd sally forth on Sunday mornings to preach before the audiences at the nearby Curran Theatre.

Upstairs, Dan Riner was preaching a type of Gospel that more often than not retrieved booze-broken men and women back into the fold of respectability—so that they could rejoice the ranks of upright Mankind.

Dan passed away in St. Louis on the banks of the Fathers of Waters. Which, in itself is appropriate. Dan always preferred a water chaser in pre-AA days.

Speaking of water, there'll be a lot of damp eyes when this is read.

Kay M. is Mourned

Scores of friends in and out of AA circles were saddened to learn of the death of Kay M., a faithful and active member of Midway-South San Francisco Group. Kay died during February after an extended illness and surgery.

She was noted in the Northern Peninsula area for the great 12th Step work she performed.

Picnic Set for Adobe Creek Lodge

The 1962 Annual AA Picnic Committee has again selected Adobe Creek Lodge for the site of this year's picnic, Bus D., picnic chairman, announced. Date for the outing has not been definitely set but in all probability it will be Sunday, August 5.

Thursday Beginners' Meetings for the month of March, lists five meetings, Ray D., chairman, announces. Here's the lineup:

THURS., MARCH 1 — Harry A., Los Altos, will speak; Rosemary B., is chairman.

THURS., MARCH 8 — Speaker to be announced; Bill R., chairman.

THURS., MARCH 15 — Jack M., speaker; Florence S., chairman.

THURS., MARCH 22 — Jack O'T., speaker; Ray D., chairman.

THURS., MARCH 29 — Dr. Pat G., speaker; Rosemary B., chairman.

All meetings at this Beginners' group start at 8:15 p.m. Coffee, cake, and arms-length AA before and after each meeting. It meets at 261 Fell Street, between Franklin and Gough Streets.

Alateens Hold Turlock Session

Wayne K., secretary, Alateens United, told a group attending the Turlock conference the background story of how his organization was founded.

He said that Alateens United of Hayward (Calif.) was started under the sponsorship of Erma and Brownie at the Alano Club, Hayward in February, 1961.

At their first meeting only four members were present. They now have grown to 10, Wayne said. Most of their meetings are of the discussion type where various aspects of the Twelve Steps, Serenity Prayer and oftentimes, their own personal problems are discussed.

The Alateens have held joint meetings with AA and Alanon groups. At these meetings the audience ask questions and the Alateens answer them to the best of their ability, Wayne said.

On several occasions, the Alateens have appeared before AA and Alanon groups in the role of guest speakers. The Hayward group have assisted other interested youngsters how to form their own Alateen groups patterned on methods which experience has shown the Hayward group how to function.

Vallejo Lists Jack I. for St. Patrick's Talk

The above head may be misleading. Jack I., secretary, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, is scheduled to give an AA pitch on St. Patrick's Day at Vallejo. He will not tell how St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland, drove the snakes from Erin's shores sometime around 458 A.D., almost 1500 years ago.

Seeing snakes and stomping on the pesky reptiles is an old and familiar experience for many guys and gals before they became members of AA—but that's history, too, for them. Let the wrigglers lie.

Here's the Saturday Open Meeting slate for March, according to Hazel L., Vallejo chairman:

SAT., MARCH 3 — Bennie D., Redwood City

SAT., MARCH 10 — Ernie B., Petaluma

SAT., MARCH 17 — Jack I., S.F. Inter-County Fellowship secretary

SAT., MARCH 24 — Jim M., Sacramento with Stan W., Fairfax, serving as chairman

SAT., MARCH 31 — Opal B., Richmond. All meetings open at 8:30 p.m. to permit out-of-towners to attend.

Hazel said that every third Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. an Open Question & Answer Meeting is now being held. The new innovation is becoming quite popular as is Vallejo's unique Hot Luncheon Meetings held every Thursday at noontime.

Vallejo has been chosen for the Fall Meeting of the NCC and already the groups are "tooling up" for the October conference.

1st Birthday For Friendly Circle

The Sunday Night Friendly Circle Group will celebrate its First Anniversary Sunday, March 11, at 8:00 p.m. in the Green Room of St. Mary's Cathedral, Van Ness Avenue and O'Farrell Street.

Joe C. is chairman of the birthday party; Helen Mc L. will read Chapter Five, "How it Works," and Sam P. will make the principal talk.

A buffet will be served following the meeting. Everyone is invited.

N.C.C. SUMMER CONFERENCE

San Francisco — In June

San Francisco was chosen at the Turlock Conference as the site for the Summer Conference of NCC of AA. The two-day session will probably be held jointly at the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue for executive committee gatherings, and at Nourse Auditorium, for open public meetings. Nourse holds 1200-1500 persons.

A Host Committee meeting will be held at the Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, Sunday March 11, at 2:00 p.m.

A NCC Committee Meeting to shape up the Summer Conference will be held at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Sunday March 18, at 2:00 p.m. to set the actual conference date.

Westlake Starts Beginners Group

Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. a Beginners Class is being conducted by the Westlake Group of AA. Tuesday is Westlake's regular meeting night but the Beginners does not interfere with the regular meeting.

It starts at 7:30 p.m., running until 8:15 p.m. The Beginners are then invited to remain for the regular session which starts at 8:30 p.m. This innovation will be continued so long as sufficient newcomers into AA warrants the Beginner instruction, Westlake's chairman said.

Westlake Group is in Daly City and the meeting place is at Baptist Church Hall (rear entrance) Elmwood and Southgate.

A coffee break separates the two sessions.

Eastbay Alano Club Open House

A two-day Open House and "get together" will be held by the Eastbay Alano Club of Oakland, Saturday and Sunday, April 8-9, at the clubhouse, 319 Fourteenth Street, Oakland.

Many of the original founders and oldtime members of Eastbay AA will be on hand for the celebration. One of the highlights of the two-day affair will be a colorful dance scheduled for Saturday night from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.

"By The Inch"

Alice G., our pixyish correspondent in Hemet, Calif., sends along this cryptic thought-provoker:

Life is hard,
Taken by the yard.
By the Inch,
It's a Cinch!

11th Mid-Winter Stampede Held in Greeley, Colo.

A heavy snow storm failed to chill the ardor of a record-breaking AA crowd attending the 11th Annual Mid-Winter Stampede held in Greeley, Colo., February 16, 17 and 18.

In addition to great numbers from Colorado, members came from as far away as Texas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Kansas.

George G., General Service Delegate from the Chicago area was the keynote speaker at the Saturday, February 17, gathering, and Stan W., Fairfax, Calif., was principal speaker at the Sunday closing session.

Highlight of the Stampede occurred at a Saturday night ceremony featuring "burning of the mortgage" rites. Mortgage was on the group's clubhouse which has had a colorful history. It was built in 21 days and had its Grand Opening September 21, 1951.

At that time, there were only 19 members in the group. Today it numbers 35-40.

Vallejo is Site of NCC Fall Conference

Vallejo—"where civic pride is justified"—will be the locale of the 1962 Fall Conference of the Northern California Council of AA. It will be held in October at a date yet to be set.

Hazel L., chairman of the Vallejo groups who will host the conference, is already making elaborate plans for the Fall session.

AT TURLOCK

INTER-GROUP SECRETARIES' MEETING CLARIFIES ISSUES

One of the major meetings held at the Turlock NCC Conference was the Pacific Coast Inter-Group Secretaries' Meeting which was attended by eight inter-group secretaries from Seattle to San Diego. Only the Vancouver, B.C., secretary was unable to attend. Those present were Vern H., Seattle; "Doc" D., Portland; Ruth G., Sacramento; Elanor H., Oakland; Sybil W., Los Angeles; Johnnie M., Long Beach, and Jack I., San Francisco, who served as chairman.

Some 300 persons in the Main Auditorium heard these serious matters discussed and clarified:

- 1) **Insufficient financial support from groups, locally and nationally.**
- 2) **Membership turnover — people "passing through AA"**
- 3) **Group secretary's term of office.**
- 4) **Assistant-secretary idea.**
- 5) **Permanent mailing address idea (P.O. Box, etc.)**
- 6) **Communications received by the Secretary of the group for transmittal to the group.**

Here is how many of these vexing questions were answered by those in a position best situated by experience and know-how to evaluate them.

In opening the meeting the chairman quoted from the Traditions "Our leaders are but trusted servants" and that the obligation of the servants is to serve. The group secretary he said, has a tremendous opportunity for service; the best service humanly possible. "Bill W. has often said 'The good is often the enemy of the best,'" the chairman stated.

It was noted that the Pacific Coast Inter-Group Offices serve a combined total of approximately 800 groups — which is about the same total of the groups in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, combined.

At times people ask why it is necessary to support a local inter-group office, when we have the General Service office in New York, Jack said. He answered this with a de-

tailed explanation. To begin with, there is no conflict or duplication of effort. Generally speaking the General Service Office is primarily concerned with A.A. affairs.

Jack referred to the annual report which revealed that some 68% of our states (more than two-thirds) have 100 groups or less and that 21 of the states (almost 50%) have 50 groups or less. It requires a large Metropolitan City and suburbs adjoining cities within a radius of 100 to 150 miles, with a large A.A. population in order to properly support an Inter-group or central office. Obviously in many, many areas there are nowhere near enough groups to supply this support. Hence, the chairman said, all this local work has to be borne by the General Service Office, in addition to its other work load. Jack mentioned the fact that the New York Inter-Group office was located on 39th Street, just a few blocks from the General Service office. About 15 miles away, over in Newark, the New Jersey central office serviced the groups in that state. The New York Inter-group is of service to all the groups, not only in the five boroughs of New York City, but all the way out to the end of Long Island and up to Bridgeport, Conn.

Overhead Reduced

Areas which support local Central Offices are making a tremendous contribution to General Services, in the sense that reduction in overhead is tantamount to defraying the cost of increased overhead.

In addition, the local offices can quickly supply our books and literature, thus relieving General Serv-

ices of the burden of filling many small orders. San Francisco, he said, purchases \$600-\$700 worth of books and literature monthly; one order, one shipment, one transaction. Some 75 to 80 requests from the groups for books and literature are received monthly by the Central Office. Were it not for the local office, these orders would be handled by New York and instead of one order, they would have to handle 75 to 80 orders. This was presented as just one example of relieving the burden on New York.

Prior to the discussion of these matters, the chairman announced that anyone present could direct any question to the Inter-Group Secretaries, or direct them to anyone in the audience who might be prompted to reply.

Discussion Recorded

The following is a brief resume of the six points listed above. Anyone interested in a complete report may obtain a tape recording of the meeting from the N.C.C. Tape Library.

Money is "essential and indispensable". . . we cannot maintain the General Service Office and the Inter-Group Office without it. The combined income of our membership is astronomical; without sobriety we would not have the income; and without A.A. we would not have sobriety.

Despite these facts, we are failing to contribute the infinitesimal percentage of our income necessary to the proper support of these facilities. This is nothing new — it has been this way since the inception of our Society. Why? The chairman attributed it to the seeming reluctance of the group secretary or the meeting chairman to ask for the money that is needed. Baskets are passed at many meetings, he said, without a word about what the reason is; sometimes one receives the impression that the group leader watches for an opportunity when no one is looking, to start the basket around; sometimes it is passed around almost apologetically; sometimes surreptitiously.

Inasmuch as we speak of our program as a "program of honesty" (which, of course, it is) why do we treat this matter as we do? Is it honest to imply we do not need money, when as a matter of fact, we do? If we didn't need money, and implied we did, would that be

honest? In both instances, the answer is a loud, resounding NO!

Mention "no dues or fees," he said, but inform the members, briefly, honestly, straightforwardly, of the need an dwhy, and alcoholics always respond.

Because of this treating the matter of money in A.A. reluctantly, a short "definition" will be made available to all the groups in California, Washington and Oregon in the near future. This will be somewhat similar in form to the "Grapevine Definition of A.A." which is currently read at most groups.

We take justifiable pride in our traditions of self-support. "We are self-supporting, declining outside contributions." We say we are — but are we?

Secretary's Duty

Many new people come to A.A., attend meetings for a while, then they drop out. Many of us say "Well, they weren't ready." But, how do we know they weren't ready? They were ready enough to contact A.A. in the first place; ready enough to attend SOME meetings. The Group secretaries were urged to give serious consideration to this problem. Maybe, the chairman said, we are failing to be sufficiently attractive. Maybe there is a great lack of Intelligent Sponsorship. Maybe too little attention is given the new member in those critical early weeks. Maybe the group secretary does not make the necessary effort to find a compatible sponsor for the newcomer.

A few concrete suggestions were made, chief of which was the idea of securing the new persons name and phone number at the first meeting, and then calling him on the phone the first time he is absent, saying in effect, "We missed you." At the time we come to A.A. most of us haven't been missed — we've been told to get lost! Jack said that he knew, from personal experience, that this simple gesture can produce fantastic results.

Tenure of Office

Secretary's term. We have no rules in A.A., consequently, we are only making suggestions for the good of our Society. It was the opinion of many members, and all the Inter-group secretaries concurred, that the minimum should be six months, and

12 months would be better. With a term of less than six months, the average group secretary accepts the job as a sort of chore. He is supposed to get the coffee made and purchase the doughnuts and lay out the literature, prior to the meeting each night. And he (or she) can't be blamed, especially as the secretary is very likely a new member.

It takes a couple of months (or at least a month to six weeks) to become acquainted with the job. And, with a three-month term, it is all over just as the new secretary is beginning to learn the ropes.

Assistant Secretary Idea

Terms of six months to a year also reduce the work incident to the proper maintenance of mailing list, twelfth step work lists, etc., etc.

Emphasized also was the fact that — as our First Tradition states — "Our common welfare comes first" and that sometimes a person is appointed secretary because "It will help him." But if this individual help for one is at the expense of hurting many (the group) it is hardly to be commended. The job of Group Secretary is tremendously important and ought not to be treated lightly.

This is the idea of a group appointing an assistant-secretary as well as the secretary. When the secretary's term expires, the assistant automatically becomes the secretary, and a new assistant secretary is appointed. This has proved an excellent idea where it has been tried — the reasons are obvious.

Permanent mailing address for the group. This also simplifies the mailing list. If it was in effect nationally, the work of the General Service would be greatly reduced. The most practical method is to rent a post office box and have all mail addressed that way. This system will not work well, however, unless the group secretary (or his agent) calls at the post office at least once a week, prior to the weekly meeting night.

"Weak Link"

Communications directed to the group are merely addressed to the secretary, so that the secretary can bring these communications to the attention of the group. Some secretaries seem to think these are personal communications; some forget

to bring them to the meeting; others, who do bring them, merely say something to the effect that "some communications have been received from (New York) The Central Office and they are on the literature table if anyone is interested in them," etc., etc. How can we expect people to be interested in something they know nothing about?

Negligence Cited

These communications (bulletins, reports, notices) are prepared, stencils are cut, they're ground out on a mimeograph machine, folded, inserted in envelopes, stamped and mailed, at considerable expense. Then, when the negligent secretary leaves them home, or deposits them on the table where the pamphlets are displayed, the whole operation is practically a total loss. A total loss because one member (secretary) neglects to do his job.

Emphasis was laid on the fact that as secretaries we do not have the right to act as "censors" and to decide what the group should know about and what it does not need to know about. The efficient group secretary will, prior to the meeting, make a digest of the content of the communication and present it to the group. Several such items can be handled easily within a time lapse of two minutes. Then, after delivering the report in abbreviated form, we can say "If you are interested" . . . etc., etc.

Organization Need

Finally, Jack said, he knew of only one way to answer the member who deplores all this "organization," and that is by asking whether or not meetings should start on time; coffee brewed; literature available; leaders for meetings (or speakers) contacted; things run smoothly.

If the answer is "Yes," then we must have "organization." Very often people who criticize "organization" complain the loudest if anything goes wrong.

These points were discussed and many questions relating to group secretary's problems were asked from the floor. Questions were still coming up at 6 o'clock, at which time the meeting was scheduled to close to give the members time for dinner.

South of the Border

CARDINAL OF MEXICO OKAYS AA

A powerful shot-in-the-arm was injected into the Alcoholics Anonymous movement in Mexico when on January 20, Jose Cardinal Garibi, Archbishop of Guadalajara, put his stamp of approval on AA with the following letter which is printed in Spanish with accompanying translation:

(Spanish)

A Quien Corresponda:

Por medio de la presente manifiesto, que por los informes que he tenido, se que la Asociacion "Alcoholicos Anonimos" es una organizacion digna de recomendarse.

En vista de lo anterior, y como se me pi de, la recomiendo confiadamente sea un instrumento de mejoramiento de la vida social cristiana.

Guadalajara, 16 de enero de 1962.
Jose Card. Garibi
Arz. de Guadalajara

(English)

To Whom it May Concern:

By means of the present (letter) I declare, that through the information that I have had, the association "Alcoholics Anonymous" is an organization worthy of being recommended.

In view of the foregoing, and since it has been asked of me, I recommend it, expecting (or "hoping") confidently that it will be an instrument of the social Christian life.

Guadalajara, 16 January 1962.
Jose Cardinal Garibi
Archbishop of Guadalajara

Sunday Morning Breakfast Group

"Good food for the Body—Good food for Thought" is the slogan of the S.F. San Francisco-Marin County Breakfast Group which each Sunday at 11:30 a.m. has breakfast at the Edgewater Inn, Corte Madera Shopping Center, Marin County.

Following breakfast, a full-fledged AA meeting is held from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the same Inn.

Scheduled for March are these stellar speakers: **March 4—Lorie S., Bevedere-Tiburón Group;** **March 11 Harvey W., San Jose Group;** **March 18—Bill G., San Rafael Group;** and on **March 25—Lloyd S., San Jose Group.**

March is usually a cold, blustery month anywhere in California, but one can fun-in-the-sun most any other month following the Sunday Morning Breakfast Group meetings. They have a fine swimming pool. Visitors can make an all-day holiday of it. Bring your family and friends.

JUST ASKING

Wouldn't this world be better off
If all folks we meet could say;
I know something good about you
Then treat us just that way.

We've Made It! A Break-Through

In the beginning (AA in Brooklyn, for instance) bedraggled, down-and-outers were happy to meet in someone's bare kitchen, seated on stools when there weren't enough chairs.

Now, we've hit the jackpot! AA in the Eastbay conducts meetings in BANKS. Yep, banks with money, negotiable bonds and stuff lying around in vaults.

The San Lorenzo Alanon Group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Monday in the offices of the Security Savings and Loan Association, Hesperian and Pasco Grande, in Oakland, Calif. The Berkeley Wednesday Night Group meets in the same loan office, Wednesdays, at 8:15 p.m.

And, if that's not enough to curl your hair, the Albany AA Group meets in the Albany office of the same savings and loan Association.

(Rumor hath it that members seeking Albany's meeting place with only a street address to guide them have turned away feeling there must be a mistake—AA in a BANK??)

Redding Invites Motoring Members To Chew-N-Chat

This year, hundreds of AA members will be heading for the Seattle Worlds Fair and returning from it.

Enroute, along Highway 99, is Redding. And members of Redding AA have issued a cordial invitation to stop a while and "rest our weary bones" whether going to, or coming from, Seattle.

Or, they point out, maybe its only a trip to Shasta Dam—or fishing.

Redding's AA secretary suggests, "Redding might be a good place to break your trip for the night. And, if you do, drop by and visit with us. We'll be glad to see all of you."

Redding Group meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 p.m. at Sequoia Elementary School. The hour-long meeting is following by coffee and doughnuts.

Their meeting place is easy to find. If you're going south on Highway 99, turn left at Placer Street. If heading north, turn right. Placer Street is midway in Redding.

After making the turn off 99, drive several blocks and then down a rather steep hill. Placer Street dead-ends at the school.

If visitors happen to be in town when a meeting isn't scheduled, call CHestnut 1-2123. Its an Answering Service and one of Redding's members will return the call, forthwith.

They'll get together—hold an impromptu meeting—and chat over a cup of coffee somewhere in town.

Remember Redding if you're travelling north on Highway 99.

Retreads Sked

The Retreads, an AA group that meets at the Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, have a motto, "We Need Each Other." The Retreads meet each Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Club. Scheduled for March are the following speakers:

March 1 — Blackie S.; March 8—John M.; March 15 — Virginia C.; March 22 — "Morago Joe"; and on March 29 — "Red" K.

Thinkers are coming to believe that the slogan "We Need Each Other" extends far beyond the realm of AA—to everyone, everywhere.

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Avenue Alanons To Have Q and A Meet

A panel of four—two alcoholics and two non-alcoholics—will feature a Question and Answer session at the Avenue Alanon meeting, Wednesday, March 21, at 8:30 p.m., at St. Boniface Church auditorium, 133 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Murrel S., Avenue Alanon secretary, said the Q and A meeting will be featured by written questions from the floor which will be discussed and answered by the panelists.

She said this method of bringing out questions that both alcoholics and non-alcoholics seem to want answered has proven popular and helpful for Alanon members and guests.

Travelling Panel

An AA Travelling Team consisting of a four-member panel is again available for groups within a 35-mile radius of San Francisco, Stan V., panel chairman, announced last week.

Stan, a member of S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, said three members including himself travel from group to group whenever called upon. A fourth panelist is chosen by the group visited.

Primary purpose of the Travelling Panel is to give assistance to groups who may wish to pep up meetings with "outside" talent. Invitations should be sent to The Travelling Panel, c/o Industrial Club, 3198 16th Street, San Francisco, Calif. The phone is UN 1-3676.

At least two weeks advance notice should be given.

H. & I. Broad-Sides

We would like to take a little space this month to do a little "back-patting" and, if anyone has a pat coming and it doesn't appear here, please remind us and we'll give you two pats in the next issue.

First, we'd like to sincerely compliment Area Four for the job that they are doing. The H. & I. Meeting on Sunday morning, February 18, was one of great interest. It would be impossible to single out individuals in this area but, as a team effort, they are second to none.

Area Three has long been one of our most difficult problems in our effort to be of service to all facilities, however; many inquiries have been coming in from Chico, Redding, Orland, and other points in recent weeks indicating a real interest in the H. & I. work. We had a chance to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Ed S. of Chico at Sacramento and it is our hope that people will contact Ed and help with setting up a workable area committee. Thanks too, for information received from Gail D. of Orland and Buddie R. of Chico. These efforts and attitudes are a real force in getting a team on the field.

Area Six. Ernie B. has been doing an excellent job for almost two years in this area and we regret that his tour of duty is coming to a close. Of course, there will be someone elected by this area committee to step in to fill this assignment and we have every reason to believe that things will get better and better. Dios Los Bendigo.

Area Five. Quite a lot of activity. Meetings are really going good at

the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital and they have a fine friend in the person of Dr. Concannon, Chief Psychiatrist at this facility. A room has been arranged for the exclusive use of this group and further, they will have a tape recorder and will be requesting tapes from our library for meetings other than the open public affairs. This is wonderful. Too, the Veterans Hospital at Livermore is getting more active and they are having good attendance from both inside and outside. A lot of thanks to Jess P. of Livermore for a concerted effort in this direction.

Area One. Leo M. of Fort Bragg, Area Chairman. We understand through the grape vine that things are being well covered in this area. We were privileged to visit with the Fright Night Tradition Group in Santa Rosa last Friday evening and, in the process, we had a chance to visit with many old friends that are active in H. & I. work. We can always use a lot of help and are more than anxious to see new faces. Why don'tcha contact Leo at Post Office Box 706, Ft. Bragg, California?

We know that the editor will probably delete a lot of this chit-chat but, speaking to the committee, we would SUGGEST, INSIST, and IMPLORE that all people associated with the H. & I. Committee subscribe to GOOD NEWS and, after placing your subscription, when the GOOD NEWS arrives, READ IT! We would like to repeat, THIS IS OUR PUBLICATION AND WE ARE REMISS IF WE DON'T SUPPORT IT.

Two Fun Nights At Alano Club

March used to be a grim month; beware the Ides of March and the Federal Income Tax Return. That's all changed. The Feds changed the grab-bag day to April, and the Alano Club throws its big affairs during the month named for the God of War.

On Saturday, March 10, a gala St. Patrick's Day Dance has been set with all the greenery and Gaelic charm of an Emerald Isle. Freddy Sales Orchestra will play a medley

of tunes that will make a Leprechaun shed down tears of delight. And, of course, Freddy will play some Twist music, (for those who want the poison stuff).

Then, on Saturday, March 24, Joe's "Jumpin' Jacks" are scheduled for a dance and funfest. Affairs at the Alano Club are designed to give enjoyment and fellowship to all—the young—the old—married or single—the lonely—the unhappy—Everyone!

Address of the San Francisco Alano Club is 414 Grant Avenue, corner of Bush Street in downtown S.F. Dancing starts at 9:00 p.m., but the doors are open most all day long.

TURLOCK MEET

(Continued from page 1)

three blocks." He wasn't annoyed. Just doing a routine job after a dozen AA's asked the same directions.

Secretaries Meet

One of the major meetings opening the first days business was the Pacific Coast Inter-Group Secretaries' at which Jack I., San Francisco Central Secretary, served as chairman. Six pertinent points were developed mostly for the guidance of Group Secretaries. This meeting is thoroughly reported elsewhere in this issue of GOOD NEWS and is worthy of every member's persual and study.

"Lone Star" Joe

At the Big Open AA Meeting on Saturday night, there was a Superior Judge, clergymen, and a raft of other dignitaries and AA functionaries. Easily the stellar performer was Joe L., a drawlin' lad from Tyler, Texas, whose story-telling talent, manner of delivery, and choice of language (mostly dry cleaned) was largely unfamiliar in the Golden State — and mostly unheard of in the Turlock-Modesto area.

Joe was introduced by Harold "Kingfish" W., Conference chairman. Thereafter, in a special and unusual usage of the English language, the "Lone Star" speaker generated waves of guffaws that seemed to bulge the walls at times and caused some restiveness among a small herd of white-faced heifers corralled nearby.

Soul in Torment

To him, psychiatrists were a form of life that one found beneath flat rocks or lurking about abandoned, weed-grown latrines. Joe recalled with fitting drollery, several experiences — rather escapades — with one head-shrinker to whom he referred as a "frustrated piano tuner" because of his routine practice involving the use of a little rubber mallet to test Joe's knee reflexes. In other of his saga, he described another psychiatrist as suffering from "ambulatory schizophrenia." Despite his running skirmishes with members of this worthy profession which extended from Sacramento to East Texas, the audience quickly sensed that behind this facade of glib of spoofing was a tormented soul scarred by pain and suffering.

This, Joe revealed before his 45 minute talk ended. He received a standing ovation.

Ham and Eggs

The big Sunday Breakfast at the War Memorial Building on Canal Street, Turlock, drew some 300 patrons. This, in itself, is worth travelling a few miles to see. Witness, if you will, a horde of hungry people wolfing down plates of ham, sausage and eggs. A few years ago, even the odor of cooking food was enough to cause retching at 8:00 a.m. Jack I., San Francisco, was chairman.

All day Sunday, the welkin rang with numerous workshops, committees and sub-committees, meeting hither an yon. The H & I, the Alateans and Alanons, GSO, Coastal and Interior Panel meetings.

In an election to determine who would serve as secretary of the Northern California Council for the next two years, brisk balloting ensued. It narrowed down to Errol W. of San Mateo and Stan W. of Fairfax. Errol won, but by unanimous approval our Fairfax candidate was named assistant Secretary.

A resolution was also adopted by the NCC which calls for this action: When a new Trustee is named to the General Service Board, New York City, GSO will be requested to consider selecting such a board member from the State of California.

Malibu Speaker

In true AA style, the conference galloped to a close with a welter of quick meetings to thrash out last-minute proposals; select a site for the next Conference (San Francisco) and other important affairs.

At 2:15 p.m. the tinal Open-To-The-Public Meeting was held with Larry T., of Malibu, holding down the Guest Speaker spot. Larry was introduced by Stan W., Fairfax, meeting chairman. Invocation was offered by Reverend Jerry Skillcorn, Episcopal Church, Turlock; Mayor Qual Norton of Turlock, delivered an address of welcome; Chester J., Turlock, read Chapter Five; Ed K., Turlock, recited the Twelve Traditions, and the Benediction was said by Reverend Orn Geiger, pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Turlock. The guest delivered a magnificent talk and the happy, tired crowd adjourned the conference.

Donations Eases AA Blood Bank

The S.F. Fellowship Central Service Committee's Blood Bank account, which was sorely in need of blood to replenish its reserves when February GOOD NEWS went to press, is in slightly better shape this month, according to Red J., Blood Bank chairman.

"The 19 pints we had in early January have grown to 24, as of February 15, thanks to a very few withdrawals. This, however, is still below our minimum safe reserve of 30 pints, and donations are urgently requested. A single serious emergency could wipe out such a small reserve in a few days—or a few hours. In the case of a severe accident involving several members—and such things do happen," Red said.

Exchange Program

Arrangements are in progress to set up a workable exchange program for the whole area, so members can give locally and have the blood available for the entire Fellowship. This is presently possible in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Anyone interested in helping with the Blood Bank Committee is asked to write to Red in care of the S.F. Central Office, 166 Geary Street, Room 79.

Book Available

Any AA member needing blood for himself or his family may obtain it by simply phoning the Central Office. Any member wishing to donate may do so at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank in San Francisco, or at their local Blood Bank, if elsewhere. Please emphasize it is to be credited to the AA account.

Calling Radio Hams

From Luke H., on the S.S. Achilles: "My call letters for my amateur radio station are W4C1A/MM and for anyone who wants a contact, I am usually around 21318 KC from 2000 to 21000 Greenwich Mean time and on 7028 KC CW from 0400 to 0500 Greenwich Mean time.