



Good News



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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SATURDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 9-10

San Francisco Selected For NCC Summer Conference

The City by the Golden Gate has been chosen by central committeemen of the Northern California Council of AA as the site of its Summer Conference which will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10.

Date and site was formally selected by some 50 members of the NCC District Delegates' Committee that gathered Sunday, March 11, at 11:00 a.m. in the San Francisco Alano Club.

Presiding were Errol W., and Stan W., recently elected Council Secretary, and Assistant Secretary, respectively. In addition to the San Francisco site, the meeting committeemen also voted to hold the NCC Fall Conference in Vallejo, in October, and gave consideration to holding a Spring Conference in Monterey, Calif., or in the immediate Monterey Peninsula vicinity.

June Plans

To finance the San Francisco conference, delegates voted to retain the \$2.50 voluntary registration contribution. The Secretary expressed hope that realignment of Districts to conform with the new General Service setup, and election of District Delegates would be accomplished at the June Conference.

At a prior meeting held by the NCC San Francisco delegation on Sunday, March 11, Jim A., was elected General Conference Committee Chairman. As "host city" chairman, Jim will have the following Conference aides: Lee A., San Rafael, co-chairman; Walt S., treasurer; Myrtle N. and Bertha B., registrations; Roger W., refreshments; Mark A., entertainment; Arnold R., communications; Red J., sound arrangements; Charles R., publicity; and Jack K., building arrangements.

Business headquarters of the June Summer Conference will be at the
(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)

"150 Years of Sobriety" at Big Meeting

Six old-timers, all original members of AA when the organization first came into being in San Francisco, and totalling some 150 years of sobriety, will headline the April 27 program of the Big Meeting at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Myrl G., program chairman, said the six veterans would each talk about five minutes and answer written questions from the floor on "how to maintain sobriety over the years."

This is one of the stellar programs to be held during the month of April at the newly refurbished meeting place which sports air conditioning, soft seats, improved acoustics, and an elevator to the third floor meeting area. Remainder of the program boasting topnotch talent is as follows:

FRIDAY, APRIL 6—Barbara B., Lafayette-Walnut Creek Group; Fred R. Dickson, Warden, San Quentin Penitentiary.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13—Jimmy N., Azura Acres Group; Dr. David G. Schmidt, chief psychiatrist, Department of Correction, San Quentin Penitentiary.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20 — Jim Mc P., East Oakland Group; Tom C., Medford, Ore.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 — Old Timers' Six "pre-historic" AA veterans will "tell all."

Everyone of these programs should be memorable occasions. All start at 8:15 p.m. They are open to the public. There is no admission fee.

ARA First Step Home to Hold Open House Fete

The Fifth Anniversary of the opening of the First Step Home of the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Association of San Francisco will be celebrated Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29, at 1035 Haight Street, San Francisco.

The two-day ceremonies marks the fifth year of the First Step Home at its present site. Open House will prevail from noon Saturday until Sunday at 10:00 p.m.

A gala party and dance with music by the original members of the first AA orchestra will highlight the Saturday evening program. Games starting at 8:15 p.m. will be followed by dancing.

One important feature of the two-day gathering will be an informal meeting at 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Mayor George Christopher and other city officials have been invited. Additionally, officers, trustees of ARA and the First Step Home will be introduced along with special guests.

Dr. Karl Bowman, noted psychiatrists, and former chief of Langley Porter Clinic, is scheduled to make a brief address.

Refreshments will be served almost continuously during the Anniversary rites and all AA members and their guests are cordially invited.

A wise man once said,
Too soon we grow old then
Too late we grow smart.

Clint Duffy To Speak at Eastbay Meet

Clinton T. Duffy, former warden of San Quentin, will be honored guest and principal speaker at a special open meeting of the East Bay Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Friday, April 6, at 8 p.m. at the Sailboat House on Lake Merritt in Oakland.

Appearing on the platform with him will be Sigrid H., young San Francisco business woman, recovered alcoholic and member of AA. After 40 years of dedicated service in California's correctional system, including 11 years as Warden of San Quentin Penitentiary, Clint Duffy last month stepped into "retirement" from the State Adult Authority.

Lecture Tour

He continues to write and lecture, however, and his services as a consultant on penology have been sought by several foreign countries. He is working closely with the newly-former Clinton Duffy Fellowship that seeks to prevent alcoholic parolees and discharged alcoholic prisoners from lapsing back into criminal habits.

Book Published

His latest book, "88 Men and 2 Women" is to be published by Doubleday in June, and once it is launched, he plans to travel abroad with Mrs. Duffy. Duffy likes to recall that it was he who brought Alcoholics Anonymous to San Quentin almost 20 years ago. It was this action that opened the gates of more than 600 correctional institutions to inmate participation in the benefits of AA.

"The organization is doing a great job in all our California prisons now," he said. "When you consider that 63 per cent of the men committing crimes are either alcoholics or have alcoholic problems, you can understand the importance of AA."

The public is invited to attend this meeting, which will mark the 21st year of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Oakland-East Bay area.

The stone age is from 16 to 60 and the larger the stone the better she will like it. — Telephone Magazine

KFRC Starting 13-Week Series On AA Program

A "bonanza" fell into the lap of S.F. Inter-County Fellowship which could have far-reaching, beneficial results for the sick alcoholic everywhere.

Commencing Friday, April 6, 7:15-7:30 p.m., KFRC will broadcast a 13-week series on how the AA Program works. Although the format has not been completely worked out by KFRC staffers and Jack I's office, it will in all probability follow the interview-type discussion stressing "What I was like before joining AA—What I am like today."

The Public Service program was offered to S.F. Inter-County Fellowship by Al Rocca, general manager, KFRC who became sold on AA when one of his valued executives "got well" via AA.

Members of Bay Area AA groups will be recruited for interviews on the program, Jack I. said. Strict anonymity will be practiced.

Avenue Alanon

A husband-and-wife team will feature the open meeting of the Avenue Alanon Group meeting Wednesday, April 18, at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium of St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue.

Dolores and Tommy H., husband-wife speakers will relate how they work their own AA programs individually, yet combine it with unity. Unity is an all-important factor in marital relationships and a husband and wife team that presents a united front to the world is more apt to successfully cope with it.

A capacity crowd is expected. All AA's, Alanons, relatives and friends are cordially invited.

Travelling Panel

The Industrial Club's "Travelling Panel" will be speakers and honored guests of the Palo Alto Wednesday Fireside Group, Wednesday, April 11, at 8:30 p.m.

The Fireside Group meets at Grace Lutheran Church, Palo Alto, (Calif.) the peninsula town where Stanford University is located.

Prison Warden, Psychiatrist To Speak April 6-13

Warden Fred Dickson of San Quentin will be guest speaker at a meeting sponsored by San Francisco Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, Friday, April 6, at 8:15 p.m. in the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue.

A friend of AA for some 20 years, Warden Dickson will describe the need for the AA program behind prison walls even though inmates do not have access to alcoholic beverages.

Another member of the San Quentin staff, Dr. David G. Schmidt, chief psychiatrist, is scheduled to lecture at the same location one week later on Friday, April 13, at 8:15 p.m.

Six Birthdays

A virtual "deluge" of AA birthdays "renched" the Husband & Wife Group of Oakland, when on Friday, February 23, six AA anniversaries were celebrated in the groups clubhouse, 237 East 14th Street, Oakland.

Those honored were Sybil and Ed B. (each six years); Ken V., also with six years, and Gerald L., one year; and Irene and Earl S., with one year each.

This may be some kind of an AA record for a single group. Since most groups that hold birthday parties for members celebrating birthdays remember them as happy affairs, the Husband & Wife Group have had a ball.

1st Anniversary For Gilroy Unit

The Wednesday Night Group of Gilroy is making elaborate plans to celebrate its First Birthday. The gala affair will be held Saturday, April 14, starting at 8:15 p.m. in the social hall of the Methodist Church. Speakers will be supplied by several San Jose (Calif.) AA groups, Louise M., anniversary chairman, said.

The Methodist Church in Gilroy (Calif.) is located at Fourth and Church Street. Visitors coming by car, should turn off Highway 101 at the Bank of America, then two blocks to the meeting hall.

Downtown AA Group Lists Its Speakers

Well known speakers will highlight the meetings scheduled by the Tuesday Downtown Group during April at its meeting place, 566 Bush Street, San Francisco, it was announced by Red J., program chairman.

Hot on the footsteps of their highly successful Anniversary Open Meeting held April 3, the regular closed meeting of April 10 will feature Charlie R., a well known "old-timer" of San Francisco and the Peninsula.

On April 17, Anne M., San Francisco, will preside at the speaker's table. On April 24, Cliff H., San Jose, and familiar to San Francisco member for his frequent visits and sound AA pitches, will be featured.

Millie B., San Francisco Fellowship, is slated to make one of her excellent talks. Additionally, the meetings will be further enhanced by small group discussions exploring various phases of the AA program.

The Tuesday Downtown Group will continue its traditional policy of awarding poker chips in token of varying lengths of sobriety and will also hold each week, its popular "raffle" for an AA Book as a door prize, Red said.

This is a closed meeting and all AA members are cordially invited to attend.

Yountville Group Will Celebrate

H. Marlowe Link, chaplain, the Veterans Home AA Group at Yountville, announced that a First Anniversary celebration will be held at the lovely Veterans' Home on Sunday, May 6, at 3:30 p.m.

The chaplain said the affair commemorates the reactivation of the Yountville Group and that an interesting program is being planned.

A cordial invitation is extended to Northern California AA members to attend the ceremonies by Chaplain Link. Yountville is a short drive from the City of Napa in the fertile Napa Valley.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA FELLOWSHIP TO STAGE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Central California Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous will celebrate on Saturday, May 12, in commemoration of its Fifth Anniversary. The gala affair will be held in the Bishop Armstrong High School auditorium, located at Sacramento Boulevard and 22nd Avenue, in Sacramento.

Festivities start with a sumptuous repast at 6:30 p.m.

On the generous menu are hors d'ouvres, seafood cocktail, prime ribs au jus, whipped potatoes, fresh garden peas, rolls, butter, cake, ice cream, good coffee, and plenty of cold soft drinks.

Dignitaries

Governor Edmund G. Brown will be introduced at 8:00 p.m. by Walter Mc C., Fifth Anniversary Master of Ceremonies. Walter will also introduce an impressive roster of dignitaries including superior and municipal court judges, the sheriffs of seven counties, and other important heads of community agencies interested in the problem of alcoholism.

The Speaker

Main speaker of the evening will be Dr. Hal S., Fontana, Calif., a practicing physician, who, through addiction to alcohol and barbituates, lost his licence. He regained his license, respectability, a new way of life—through AA. This is the theme he is expected to speak upon.

Dancing will be enjoyed starting at 10:00 p.m. Dick Murray and His Band will provide the dance tunes. His is one of the best orchestras in Sacramento and it promises plenty of rhythm and snap for those that like to "trip the light fantastic."

Postponement

Actually, Central California Fellowship's anniversary occurs in March. This, then, is the second special event marking the occasion. In the Sacramento area, committeemen felt that since AA is a program of sharing, it planned its Fifth Anniversary in May rather than in its true natal month—so as not to conflict with the NCC Conference on March 3-4, in Turlock.

Blowing Lid

Henry F., Anniversary Chairman, and Jim Z., Program and Entertainment Chairman, said the shindig is designed to "blow off the lid—to surpass anything yet held in the Central California area."

All seats are reserved at \$3.50 per person. Reservation deadline is May 2. Each table holds 12 diners, and it is suggested that out-of-town groups get together and reserve a Group Table. Reservations should be mailed to "Reservation Committee," 3228 Broadway, Sacramento 17, California. None will be accepted without a companying check or money order.

Central California Fellowship serves 53 AA groups and six Alanon units. Proceeds of this anniversary shindig will be devoted to the treasury of the Fellowship.

Central California Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous
FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER-MEETING and DANCE
Saturday, May 12th, 1962 — 6:30 P.M.

Name..... Group.....

Address..... City.....

Number of Tickets @ \$3.50 each

Tables for the Dinner seat 12 persons. Reserve a table for your group or your friends. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Your reservation(s) will be confirmed, with Table No.

Make checks or money orders payable to:

RESERVATION COMMITTEE

3228 Broadway, Sacramento 17, Calif.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: May 2, 1962

The Immediate and Ultimate Purpose of Our Traditions

By Dewey S., San Mateo Group

There was a period in the early days of AA when we had just cause to fear that Intolerance, Selfishness and Dissention would destroy AA in its infancy. This unhappy state of affairs gave birth to the idea of formulating a uniform code of standards, or ethics, which later became known as The Twelve Traditions of AA.

Strict adherence to these traditions eventually brought order out of chaos, reduced dissension to a negligible minimum, and established unity, which some thinkers aver is essential to the development and growth of our Fellowship. It is no exaggeration, these same sober-minded thinkers say, that AA owes its very life to the Traditions. So much for the immediate purpose of the Traditions.

Watch and Wait

The ultimate purpose of the Traditions is to perpetuate the AA program as it was intended, and to insure the future of AA for the benefit of the alcoholic of tomorrow. The premium required to keep this insurance in force—is strict adherence to the Twelve Traditions of AA—as a whole.

The writer, aware of the danger which threatened AA, made it a point to watch the development of our Traditions from the night the word was first mentioned until they were formally approved. There are only a few remaining AA's who have any idea of the immense amount of discussion that was required to determine what was good—and what was bad—for AA.

Bill's Notions

Certainly, no document pertaining to AA was ever written with more meticulous and painstaking care. The countless hours of research devoted to making our Traditions foolproof are mute evidence of the importance the pioneers of AA attached to them.

Shortly before our Traditions were formally approved, Bill W. wrote a pamphlet published by Works Publishing, Inc., bearing the title, "AA Tradition." This was later changed

to "AA Traditions and How It Started." The following is an excerpt from the pamphlet's foreword:

"... Meanwhile it will be much appreciated if every AA will read these pieces, giving special attention to the article on Anonymity, recently revised"—Bill. The following statements made by Bill appear on Pages 18, 26, 29, and 30, respectively:

"Of course, no AA need be anonymous to family, friend, and associates. There, disclosure of our real names is right and good."

"As a matter of fact, few of us are anonymous as far as our daily contacts go. We have dropped our anonymity at this level because we think our friends and associates ought to know about AA and what it has done for us. We also wish to lose the fear of admitting that we are alcoholics. Although we request reporters not to reveal our identities, we frequently speak before public and semi-public gatherings under our real names. We wish to impress audiences that our alcoholism is a disease we no longer fear to discuss before anyone."

Non-Alcoholic Spouse

"We use our full names when addressing public or semi-public meetings to impress our audiences that we no longer fear the stigma of alcoholism."

"We ought not disclose ourselves through the media of radio, press, or films. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT WE FEEL WE SHOULD DRAW THE LINE ON ANONYMITY."

Quotation, also from Page 29, Bill warns us that "groups which bar the non-alcoholic spouse from attending their meetings, are apt to become stale and grow slowly, and that custom of restricting the attendance of

the non-alcoholic spouse is "AN UNREASONABLE CAUTION."

"We need always maintain the personal anonymity at the level of radio, press, film." The words used to express the meaning of Tradition Eleven are unmistakably, and unescapably clear, concise, and understandable. The word "always" closes the door to exceptions, and the word "at" designates a specific level where the line of anonymity should be held.

Contradictory Usage

In 1950, Northern California joined the rest of the AA world in approving the Twelve Traditions by unanimous vote. At that time, most of our members were identifying themselves to fellow-members by their first names only, and most of our groups were limiting attendance of non-alcoholic spouses to one meeting per month.

These two customs were established by persons who had never attended an AA meeting; had no experience in AA, whatever; and despite the fact that both customs were in definite violation of Tradition Eleven, a large segment of our membership have followed these customs without change for a 12-year period after the Traditions were

"Unreasonable Caution"

approved. There is nothing on record to indicate that our Fellowship has ever made the least effort to conform to the Traditions—as a whole. Today, at least 30 percent of our membership use only their first names to identify themselves to their fellow-AA's, completely ignoring Bill W's suggestion that "it is right and good" to use our real names for identity. More than a third of our groups turn a deaf ear to Bill's warning that closed groups are apt to "become stage a grow slowly," and also his admonition that "limiting the attendance of of non-alcoholic spouses to one meeting per month is "UNREASONABLE CAUTION."

Of course, there is nothing in the AA book to compel a member to accept Bill W's opinions but who among us is better qualified to counsel and advise us on matters pertaining to AA? And in view of the countless hours he has devoted to insuring the future of AA, who is more deserving of our cooperation in eliminating these old customs which violate the Traditions and retard the progress of AA in this area?

Santa Rosa AA Groups Starts a Breakfast Meet

A "kick-off" meeting held March 11, inaugurated the new Sunday Morning Breakfast Group of Santa Rosa which now will hold its meetings in the Mural Room of the Santa Rosa Hotel, each Sabbath Day, starting at 10:00 a.m. Following breakfast, a speaker-discussion meeting takes place until noon.

For the inaugural meeting, Chuck B., chairman, said 49 persons attended. They heard Kirk S., founder of the San Jose Breakfast Group, give an interpretation of the Three Legacies of AA, Recovery-Unity-Service. Kirk was accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, a staunch Alanon member. She gave her version of the importance of wives sharing their mate's alcoholic problems through membership in Alanon.

Of the 49 who came to the first meeting, 11 came from Carmichael headed by Tom S., secretary, Carmichael Group; four traveled from San Francisco; six from San Jose; and the remainder from in and around Santa Rosa.

Casey and Mary P., who helped start the Santa Rosa Sunday Morning Breakfast unit, said they had lined up a stellar list of speakers who will address the group at subsequent breakfasts.

These are Jack H., San Jose, on March 18; no speaker slated for March 25; Tom S., Carmichael, April 1; Bill Y., Sacramento, April 8; Ray M., South San Francisco, April 15; Easter Sunday, a discussion meet; George and Jerry N., Rancho Cordova, April 29; Grace and "Ole" O., San Jose, May 6; Ed and Leona K., Sacramento, May 13; Tom and Elizabeth C., Sacramento, May 20; and Ray and Beth C., Oakland, May 27.

EDITOR'S EPITAPH

"I suffered so much from printers' errors

That death for men can have no terrors.

No doubt this stone has been been misdated

Oh, how I wish I'd been creamated!"

H & I BROADSIDES

By the H & I Committee Chairman

Believing that good things warrant repetition, we think a little more about the Almond Blossom Conference—through the eyes of H & I—in order.

(1) Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Constance Norton, and to Jack I., for an outstanding approach to the problems of the patient in the hospital. We hope they will again favor us in the not too distant future.

(2) Impressive, too, was the spirited discussions conducted in the Saturday afternoon "institutional workshops" at which Dick D., performed with distinct finesse as moderator. Attendance at this meeting was one of the largest—if not THE largest—turnout it has ever been our good fortune to attend. It was highlighted by numerous pertinent questions that were aired from the floor, clarifying many vexing problems.

(3) We left the Fairgrounds at Turlock with a good feeling; a deep sense of gratitude for having been privileged to take a good look at AA "in action."

H & I has scheduled a get-together in Sacramento on Saturday, May 19, for one of the regular business sessions. Contrary to some erroneous belief, this meeting is open to everyone. Come, bring a friend! Maybe we'll all learn a little more about Service. This meeting, by chance, happens to fall on the same day that Folsom Fellowship conducts its Annual Conference.

It should be a great day.

A Tot of Wine

Do you know? . . .

In Cape Province, South Africa, the Tot System gives the working man a tot of wine as additional, or part payment for his toil.

An A.A. friend, in Paarl, writes: "One of our rich South African

farmers had been paying his laborers their tot with the result that many of them became alcoholics. He decided to rescue them and asked me to talk to them about A.A. which, of course, I was happy to do. Now the farmer has asked me to address the labourers on his brother's farm. This is a real big push for the future."

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"Casablanca" To Be Staged by AA Players May 6

The drama group of the 1464 Club will present a three-act stage play "Casablanca" Sunday, May 6, at 8:30 p.m. at the group's meeting place, 1464 Valencia Street, San Francisco.

Billed as a dramatic triumph of great depth and meaning, the stage presentation will feature some of the best talent in AA circles. The program director promises "glamorous gal, handsome men, lavish costumes.

Door donation is 75 cents.

Mission Hill Cancels Sunday, May 6 Meeting

Mission Hill Group that usually meets at 1464 Valencia Street each Sunday at 8:30 p.m. has cancelled its meeting for this Sunday only in deference to the players of the 1464 Club which is staging "Casablanca" on that date.

Mission Hill has scheduled the following fine speakers for April: April 8—Archie Mc C.; April 15—George T.; April 22—Joe W. On April 29, an Open Discussion session will be held with no guest speaker, Boyd L., chairman, announces.

1464 Club Will Celebrate Its First Birthday

The First Anniversary of the 1464 Club, commemorating a highly successful "first year in business" will be held at the Club's headquarters, 1464 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Sunday, April 15.

An Open House to which all AA's and friends are invited, will be held all day Sunday and highlighted by an entertainment and dance starting at 8:30 p.m.

In addition to the music of the Jumpin-Jacks, a bountiful buffet is planned plus "lotsa extras."

Alano Club To Hold Parties

The San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, will celebrate during the month of April with several dances, and parties.

On Saturday, April 7, a Spring Dance will be held which will feature Joe Lile and His Jumpin' Jacks.

On Saturday, April 21, a Surprise Dance is scheduled. This is strictly a fun affair and again the Jumpin' Jacks will provide the danceable tunes.

Saturday, April 28, an AA Birthday Party and Dance is on the agenda. These are always loads of fun and oftentimes they are the affairs "where the guy or gal who you haven't seen for years" shows up.

Vallejo Mourns Two Members

Gone to the "Big Meeting" are two members of Vallejo Groups. Members are extending sympathies to the kin of Mac P., one of the first

Our Apologies

Inadvertently, two stories were omitted from the March issue of GOOD NEWS. One came from Pat S., secretary, Paradise Family Group, Paradise, Calif., outlining plans for the group's Sixth Anniversary on March 24. Highlight of this important AA function was the appearance of Chuck C., who travelled from Laguna Beach to be guest speaker.

The other news item concerned the Tuesday Downtown Group's list of March speakers and various other activities of this up-and-coming San Francisco Fellowship AA unit.

To our everlasting regret, both items missed publication. The term "Sorry" doesn't adequately express how badly the editor of GOOD NEWS feels.

AA members in Vallejo. Mac was a victim of cancer.

Bennie H., also a Vallejo member, succumbed to a heart attack, Hazel L., Vallejo secretary, reports. Both were devoted adherents to the tenets of AA, and their demise will be felt in the community.

New Tape Recordings

For those who missed the Modesto Turlock Conference March 3 and 4, the main speakers were recorded.

- 1 (A) Joe L. — Tyler Texas
Saucy, scintilating, superb, suspensful humor as only a true son of Texas could tell it. A.A. with the light touch—a joyful tape. Eighty minutes of superb blues chasing.
- 2 (A) Larry T. — Malibu, California
Sober, sincere, serious, thoughtful and thought provoking. an excellent story narrated by a remarkable story teller. There is meat in this one. A fine companion for the above.
- 3 (B) Jules P. — Los Angeles
Recorded January 13, 1962, in Sacramento. Term this tape "How to Overcome Resentments."

Tape Prices

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| A Tapes — 60 minutes or less..... | \$3.50 |
| B Tapes — 61 minutes to 120 minutes..... | 5.50 |
| C Tapes — 120 Minutes to 180 minutes..... | 7.00 |

Note: Two B tapes can be put on one C tape.

Groups or individuals who wish to purchase or get additional tape information, write the following:

Dave Beach
1828 Rosedale Avenue
Oakland 1, California
William H. (Bill) Mitchell
2103 Miller Avenue
Modesto, California

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More About S. F. CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, where registration, refreshments and other activities will take place. Nourse Auditorium, at Hayes and Franklin Street, will be the site of both major Open Public Meetings. The 1850-seat Nourse Auditorium is ideally situated for such an AA gathering. It is close to downtown, bus service, theatres, eating places, and close enough to 240 Golden Gate Avenue to stroll to and from for those that like to walk occasionally.

Activities Set

A major publicity program, headed up by Charles R., is expected to notify all Northern California members of AA of the impending Conference. Locally, a Speakers' Committee, in charge of Jack I., S.F. central secretary, will recruit volunteers to make "the rounds" of groups affiliated with San Francisco Fellowship to "talk up" the conference in the City of St. Francis.

Major meetings including Inter Group Secretaries, Alanon, Alateen, Hospital and Institutions, General Service and a variety of workshops, are planned.

San Carlos Group In New Location

Effective April 11, the San Carlos Group of San Carlo, Calif., moves to a new meeting place in the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, corner of Arroya and Cedar.

Meetings start at 8:30 p.m. and are open-family type. All AA's are welcome to participate.

THE ALKY... IN THE "ONE DRINK" BY "PETER"



S.F. Speakers On Vallejo's Panel

Out-of-town speakers, most of them from San Francisco Fellowship will be featured on the April agenda of the Vallejo Fellowship. Meetings with guest speakers are held at 820 Marin Street, Vallejo, every Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Here's the lineup:

Sat., April 3—Alex Mc C., San Francisco Fellowship; Sat., April 14—Joe C., San Francisco Fellowship; Sat., April 21—Joe B., Azura Acres; Sat., April 28—Hal H., San Francisco Fellowship.

Vallejo is unique inasmuch it holds AA meetings every night excepting Sunday. At noon each Thursday,

an AA meeting is held and the same evening at 8:15 p.m., Alanon holds forth.

It's a busy Fellowship!

I met a stranger in the nite,
Whose lamp had ceased to shine.
I paused a moment with this man,
And lit his lamp from mine.
In the nite a storm came up,
The wind blew about.
And when it finally had calmed
down,
I found my lamp was out.
But back to me that stranger came,
His light still glowing fine.
He had retained that precious light,
And this time, his lamp lit mine.
(from Chit-Chat)

BUS D. HANGS UP BATON

Mellodaires, Famed AA Band Folds; Becomes Several Combos

This article on the Mellodaires is written by Patricia, wife of Bus D., whose noted AA dance band has dispersed after nine and one-half years of dispensing music at scores of AA functions. Patricia, loyal and admiring spouse of her musical mate, presents much historical background to the formation and development of the Mellodaires that will interest many of us who danced to and enjoyed its music—The Editor

History has it that the AA band originated approximately 10 years ago under the name of The Havenscourt Orchestra adopting the "Mellodaires" title four years later. To AA oldtimers it is well recognized that Bus has considered the Mellodaires his composite AA "Baby." AA members have witnessed from the sidelines something like 70 to 80 musicians pass through the Mellodaires; scores picking up life's pieces broken through alcoholism and not only regaining sobriety but reviving a lost talent which had literally rusted along with the discarded trumpet in the attic or, all too often—in a "hock shop."

Needless Criticism

Yes, the Mellodaires has changed faces almost as often as the grains of sand in the ocean and its members comprised of residents throughout the Bay Area; some compelled to travel many miles which prohibited practice sessions. The "Old Master" stood like the Rock of Gibraltar over the years many times facing needless criticism from a few of our less benevolent brother members when a musician got off key. Only he shared the inner knowledge that all too often a band member might well be blowing the dust out of his horn.

Fundless Operation

Though no record of the Band's first four years activity is available, its last six years of operation adhered to well advanced planning of future engagements. Had mere monetary gain been the primary purpose of the Mellodaires, the band could not possibly have met the six-year rigid schedule of continuous weekly engagements at our AA dances as far north as Ukiah; east to Marysville and Sacramento and south to King City. Transportation cost to and from the outlying areas frequently exceeded meager com-

Gal in Every Port

Like sailors who, reputedly, "have girl friends in every port," the gal in this classic bit has friends in every town (along her truck route).

Ennyhew, General Service Office, N.Y., reports it got a request from a group secretary for a copy of the AA World Directory. Seems a gal, who is a lady truck driver, was a patient in New Jersey State Hospital, learned about AA, and took to it like a duck to water.

She drives through eleven towns New York to Florida and then back to Hartford, Conn. She could be held over at any of the eleven towns.

Ergo, she wants the address of AA meeting places in all 11 locations—just in case. Truck drivers, male or female, are noted it seems, for recognizing a possible calamity, before it happens.

penation received and often times presented personal hardships upon band members. This inexplicable "esprit de corps" of the Mellodaires cannot be adequately expressed but is universally understood by AA's.

During this particular six-year period the Mellodaires played every

single Saturday night with only eight exceptions at which times they alternated by filling Friday night engagements.

Mediocrity to Greatness

In addition to regular weekly engagements, the band played for many conferences of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous held in San Mateo, Richmond, Ukiah, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Marysville and others.

The Dixie Land Band has fluctuated from the mediocre to verging on the great, many musicians having once played with big name bands. To believe the Mellodaires has ceased to exist would be paradoxical—there are now in existence several thriving Combos which are offsprings of the Mellodaires. A few of the former members who have become self-sustaining and have established excellent Combos of their own of the very "Danceable-Dance Music," are: Rollin Wheeler (one of the original members), Pete Ratto, Freddie Sales, Bill Abel and Joe Lile's Jumpin Jacks. Verne Olson, a dedicated member to the band for five consecutive years is now playing at Dinner-dance spots and Dana Huff, an excellent pianist, is now in the piano tuning business.

Mission Accomplished

Bus D. feels the ultimate purpose of the Mellodaires has, in great measure, been accomplished and wishes to pay tribute to former Mellodaires everywhere by extending his heartfelt thanks to you in AA and asks that we continue to patronize the above-mentioned Combos when opportunity presents itself.

To Bus D., the AA dynamo, we can only express our gratitude and our awareness of the "man behind the scenes"; the never-failing transportation to long range engagements; the entertainment man at our command with the door prizes, decorations—you name it.

Ready to Book

Bus assures us as he stands with his address book of numerous musicians in his hand—the book earmarked with age plus constant referrals, that he is, nevertheless, always available for booking arrangements for any of the Combos whenever they are solicited; that he plans to furnish entertainment for the San Francisco Alano Club by utilizing the Combos mentioned.