



Good News



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**MAY
1962**

S.F. "Tools Up" for mid-Summer NCC Conference

The San Francisco Host Committee working smoothly with the NCC Convention Committee is making elaborate plans for the Summer Conference of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous taking place in the City By The Golden Gate, Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10.

Although the two principal public meetings will be held at Nourse Auditorium, Hayes and Franklin Street (capacity 1200), registration, and conference headquarters will be at 240 Golden Gate Avenue in the Building Service Center, site of the Friday night Central All-Groups Meetings.

The joint conference committees were able to engage two topnotch heavyweights for the principal speaking chores on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Ben W., Los Angeles Fellowship accepted the Saturday night spot, and Eddie F., San Salvadore Group, is slated to close the conference Saturday afternoon.

Many San Franciscans may not have heard the man from the City of Angels, as our sister-city to the South is often euphemistically known, but the Boston Irishman, Eddie F., is known far and wide throughout the City of St. Francis as the "Troubadour of Page 99."

Most Bay Area AA members are looking forward to hearing the speaker from Los Angeles because in the annals of local AA, the Southland has never "delivered a lemon" and none expect anything but a perfect AA pitch from the dais that Ben W. will hold down on Saturday evening.

The "Troubadour of Page 99" on the other hand, is as well known to

(Continued on page 8)

CARTOONIST

"One picture is worth 10,000 words." We've yearned for a good, able cartoonist that could tell a "word picture" of AA — and finally we have one.

Thanks to Pete R., a member of the Watsonville (Calif.) Group, readers of GOOD NEWS can look forward to seeing and chuckling over Pete's handiwork.

Pete, a talented cartoonist, felt that (1) the "best" AA newspaper in the West rated a good monthly illustration relating the ups and downs of "The Alky" and, (2) Pete, with his particular talents could best "carry the message" through his facile pen.

This, he's done admirably. The staff of GOOD NEWS is eternally grateful to Pete of Watsonville for volunteering his highly valuable services towards making GOOD NEWS a better AA newspaper for its ever-growing subscribers.

Thank You, Pete.

"150 Yearsof AA"

Seven pioneer members of San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship with some 150 years of AA behind them told a capacity audience at the "Big Meeting," held Friday, April 27, at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, how so much AA time is possible to accumulate.

The answer given by each in his or her own way was simplicity itself: "One Day At A Time."

Some of the seven were sort of mid-wives at AA's birth in San Francisco. Several have been consistently on the program for more than 23 years. A glimpse of the past when AA was new in S.F., was obtainable as some of the speakers drew Time's curtain aside as they briefly reminisced.

Anniversary "Hi-Jinks" at Big Meeting

In the Merrie Month of May, trala, when buds burst into flowers and birds burst into song, San Francisco Central All-Groups Meeting (the Big "Showcase" Meeting) will burst out, too, with an anniversary shindig, celebrating its 16th Birthday.

This sedate form of "Hi-Jinks" occurs on Friday, May 11, at 8:30 p.m., in the plush, newly renovated headquarters, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, in downtown San Francisco. A brief run-down on this affair is published elsewhere in this issue of GOOD NEWS. Remainder of month's program is:

FRIDAY, MAY 4—Ruth W., Sonoma Group; ;a;nd; ;D;i;c;k; G., Park Group; and Dick G., Park Presidio Group.

FRIDAY, MAY 11 — Anniversary Party.

FRIDAY, MAY 18 — Dr. Edward P., a member of Napa Group, and affiliated with the Veterans Home at Yountville, Calif. He shares the rostrum with Dr. John R. Philip, chief, Bureau of Alcoholic Rehabilitation, State Department of Public Health, Berkeley.

FRIDAY, MAY 25 — Two members of San Francisco's Serenity House will share their experiences with the audience. One is a medical man, Dr. Gill A. His co-speaker is Jimmy P.

Thanks to a dedicated Program Chairman who "beat the woods" for good speaking talent, inside AA, and from "secular" sources, the Central All-Groups Meeting earned the appellation of The Showcase Meeting of AA in San Francisco.

For 16Y years it has consistently put on excellent programs, attracting thousands of sick, and potentially sick, compulsive drinkers.

Growing Pains Hit Humboldt- Del Norte Area

AA is growing in the Humboldt-Del Norte County areas! Six new groups have sprung up in as many months and attendance at meetings of all groups has shown a definite increase.

Reasons for it is unknown, and they don't care up in the beautiful Redwood Country. They're just darned happy about it.

Most marked progress is in the establishment of the new Associated Serenity House Groups. It all started when a small group of the "less complacent" members decided to do something about the utter lack of the "special" type AA meetings in the area. Scouting around, they found an ideal place to meet, and as a result the "Serenity House" was established. Further, there is now available for everybody these facilities:

1. **TAPE MEETINGS:** (Mondays at 8:00 p.m.) Tape recordings of hundreds of outstanding A.A. Conference speakers, including prominent non-alcoholic friends of our Society as well as members. This meeting is unique in that those who attend select the future tapes to be heard.

2. **THE "UNDER 40" GROUP:** (Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m.) This gathering is designed for the male alcoholic who admits that he is not more than one year older than Jack Benny, and that some of his problems are more easily "dumped" under these circumstances.

3. **WEDNESDAY NIGHT (closed) Women's Group:** (Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.) It is a known fact that the fairer complement of our membership do have problems peculiar only to themselves; it is at this meeting that such difficulties can be brought to light.

4. **THE EUREKA (closed) Group:** (Fridays at 8:00 p.m.) The time and place where alcoholics can absorb an abundance of good, down to earth, arms length A.A.

5. **THE EUREKA Sunday Morning Group:** (Sundays at 10:30 a.m.) This meeting is open to all, and offers an excellent opportunity to

1962 Picnic Set

Remember last year's AA picnic?

Everyone who attended said it was the finest outing they ever experience. The AA Picnic Committee has again selected Adobe Creek Lodge as the site for the '62 affair. It's been set for Sunday, August 5.

Last year, an unofficial tally said 800 attended. This year's nose count should exceed 1,000. That's the goal the Picnic Committee is shooting for.

And why not? There'll be a floor show, dancing, door prizes, ball game, adult games, kiddies' games, swimming in five separate pools—with life guards. Plenty of big, lush shade trees. Ample parking. Plenty of area.

Together

The Husband & Wife Group of the Eastbay Fellowship reports that when Hank K., active AA member in Auburn, Calif., accepted an invitation to be guest speaker at the group's meeting of Friday, March 16, he definitely had "togetherness" in mind.

The group was celebrating the first AA birthday of Ronnie, Hank's son.

satisfy our desire for a truly spiritual understanding of the A.A. Program.

The address is 1800 J Street, Eureka P.O. Box 595.

In addition to the above, a new group sprang up in Garberville. It is serviced by visitation from Eureka, and meets at 8:30 Monday nights at the Presbyterian Church hall. Sponsors of the group are very happy with the close cooperation received from the church pastor.

Members in the Del Norte county area are not to be outdone, either. A new and flourishing all-groups open meeting is held in the Manual Arts building in Crescent City each Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. On the first Sunday of last month a caravan from Humboldt area made the trek northward, and as a result there was a meeting of over 40 members, from as far north as Coos Bay, Grants Pass and Brookings, Oregon.

Former 1464 Club Members In Guadalajara

Juana and Fred H., formerly active in the 1464 Club, All-Spanish Group on Valencia Street, San Francisco, are now residing in Guadalajara, State of Jalisco, Mexico. Their address in Guadalajara is Apdo. 1516.

Juana, who speaks Spanish like a Mexican because she is one, was a colorful and active secretary of the 1464 Club. She and Fred "spark-plugged" the 1464 Club while associated with the organization.

Ex-Oaklander

Fred is celebrating (in April) nine years of happy sobriety. He is a "graduate" of Santa Rita and joined Oakland (Calif.) Group Seven. He was active in the A.7.A. Club of Oakland, the S.F. Industrial Club, but he and his charming Juana "threw their all" into the 1464 Club. The need for an all-Spanish group was great — and still is — in the city's teeming Spanish section.

In 1958, Juana and Fred sneaked away to Mexico for a six-month honeymoon, having their sights on Guadalajara as a site for permanent retirement. To them, it seemed the ideal spot of all the many places they investigated around the globe.

They recently picked up and returned to Guadalajara where they expect to permanently settle.

Recently, GOOD NEWS published an article written by another American in Guadalajara, Harry O., Harry said in effect, "Guadalajara is a Trap for Alcoholics." He supported his statement with much logical evidence.

In a letter written to GOOD NEWS dated April 12, Juana and Fred substantiate Harry's views. The AA "population" of Guadalajara dribbles from a group of ten to oftentimes a "loner."

With the energetic Juana speaking Spanish and knowing AA like a book aided and abetted by her Irish helpmate, many San Franciscans and Oaklanders who know this pair of ardent AA workers, expect the picture to change in Mexico's second largest city.

We'll publish a "progress" report in GOOD NEWS when we again hear from this great team.

PENINSULA JOTTINGS

By John F., San Carlos Group

There is a lot of growth and activities in the Groups on the Peninsula, and the Editor of "GOOD NEWS" would like to hear from them, especially if they change meetings or have an event such as an anniversary, birthday, etc.—the Editor says he has no crystal ball, and depends on news of the groups by writing a letter — so lets share the "GOOD NEWS."

Joe L., S.S.F. off to Boston on a sad note—his sister gravely ill. . . . Hub H., Sec. of San Carlos, in and out of Mills Hosp., in less than a week . . . he left virus at Hospital and back to Group, which has moved to Church of Epiphany, Cedar and Arroya . . . ALANON has started a new Group, same night, same church. . . . Les F., old timer from S.F., and "Doug," one of the "Founders" of the San Carlos Group 16 years ago, reminiscent over coffee about AA in the City, and the first Club on Harlen Place. . . . Joe B., who hosts Luncheon Group at the Gold Platter, El Camino, San Carlos, Thursday 11:30 to 1:30, asks anyone down thataway to join them with good food and conversation, and When Joe pays, we all pay—ask Bill J. or Pete I.

ALL PENINSULA GROUP — Saturday night has been the "Key" to our 1st Tradition—Unity of all the Groups on the Peninsula whom are the "Hosts" on their Saturday night—good speakers and group participation. . . . Many new people attend this Open Meeting for the first time and have an opportunity to meet with members from groups in their area. . . . Dutch S., Sec., has the gratitude of all the groups for his time and effort, which is love and service . . . and how choosy can one get . . . he now serves strong or mild coffee, Sanka or Tea . . . you name it, and Dutch will serve it . . . that is, any of the above variety.

Plans are being made for a large attendance on Saturday, June 23, when Dr. Earl M., Mill Valley, will be speaker. For those that haven't heard Dr. Earl are in for an education on alcoholism from a medical viewpoint from an AA who speaks the language of the heart.

Dewey S. had his 22nd birthday and wanted no cake—he got one anyhow—again declined his Tem-

porary License. . . . Bill K., past Sec. of N.C.C., goes into Sequoia Hospital for surgery, and our hopes and prayers go with him, and courage to his lovely wife, Ruth. . . . Earl C. hits Big Time on radio. . . . Eddie N. still getting the point over to the newcomer of staying away from the first drink at the Friday night San Mateo, and his wife Harriet is in there pitching too. . . . Louise M. going great guns, making woman beautiful with her line. . . . Walt W. of Menlo and Palo Alto seems to always have a beginner in tow, and no doubt brings them to Agnew on Sundays and shows them what can happen.

The Alano Club on South St., San Mateo, invites all to stop in and enjoy coffee and their hospitality, which has been a lifesaver for many during those first days when there is the need for understanding, and the Host at the coffee bar will make you welcome.

There are 21 Groups on the Peninsula, and the above has only scratched the surface—which reminds me that there may be some Groups who do not subscribe or have let their subscriptions run out without renewing. The "theme" of the 25th anniversary at the convention in Long Beach was Communications, and I don't know of a better way for us who are very for-

Leo "Pinch Hits" for Lloyd in NY

Due to circumstances beyond his control, Lloyd S., chairman-delegate of Panel One, Santa Clara, was unable to attend the General Service Conference in New York, April 25-29.

Leo M., Fort Bragg, volunteered to substitute, travelling to Manhattan for the important four-day sessions. Leo was elected treasurer-alternate delegate at the General Service meet held last December in San Francisco. He became a member of Midtown Group of San Francisco in 1946, and for a decade has been prominently active in General Service affairs.

Contacted at his Santa Clara home, Lloyd regretted his inability to attend, but pointing out that he had the pleasure of attending two previous N.Y. gatherings, expressed his gratitude to Leo for making the excursion.

tunate to have our own monthly publication which keeps ALL GROUPS in Northern California better informed than this our GOOD NEWS—so if you want to keep the Editor busy and happy, send in something of interest of your group—and should the subscriptions increase Rollin W. will wear a big smile—so keep them busy and smiling.

REGISTRATION CONTRIBUTION: \$2.50 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SUMMER CONFERENCE

JUNE 9-10, 1962

240 Golden Gate Avenue — San Francisco, California

Name.....

Address.....

Group..... District.....

Mail with remittance to: Treasurer N.C.C.
166 Geary Street, Room 79, San Francisco, Calif.

A SERIOUS LOOK AT

Conferences

In the short time I have been in office I have received a multitude of suggestions. All carried a similar trend and were very much in accord with the ideas that Stan and I have talked about. Following is an outline and some explanation of the general arrangement we believe will make for attractive Conferences:

PROGRAMS

Conferences should be scheduled as early as possible so programs can be prepared, printed and mailed well in advance. We did not have much time to plan the San Francisco Conference but we hope to complete and mail the program this month. We are already working on the Fall Conference to be held in Vallejo.

SPEAKERS

We should be very careful in choosing those who are able to give a message that will help each one of us to stay sober and inform the public of the power of AA to help those who desire sobriety. As chairman of a Speakers Committee I have selected the man I feel best qualified, namely, Jack I.

CHAIRMEN

Those who are to conduct the meetings will be selected for their willingness to follow an outline which will be prepared for each meeting, without a lot of personal comments. Bud C. has said, "a talk is interesting only so long as the posterior will endure it." Why should we bring speakers from distant places and have a chairman who tires the audience before the speaker is called on.

We also feel that all Northern California AA should be active participants. Therefore chairmen will be selected from different areas, so all our territory will be represented.

MEETINGS

We feel that there have been too many late and cancelled meetings. It will be our policy to schedule exact time for meetings—they will start on time even if the chairman is the only one present and end at

the specified hour regardless of whether the business is completed or not. We believe that this might (and we repeat, might) eliminate a lot of unnecessary talking and enable the chairman to get action on vital problems.

Meetings will be limited to a number that will best serve the interest of our members.

We hope that these plans will enable us to give YOU what YOU want in a Conference. Undoubtedly other suggestions will be submitted. If you have anything to offer please let me hear from you.

Hopefully yours,
Your Secretary Errol W.

Please write direct to:
NCC Secretary,
1355 Sebastopol Road
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Bill R., Santa Cruz, Recovers

Numerous AA friends who rallied to the aid of Bill R., who operates Reed's Retreat, Santa Cruz, will be gratified to learn that Bill is well on the road to recovery, following a close brush with the Grim Reaper.

Last January 23, a butane explosion touched off a fire which set fire to Bill's clothing, turning him into a human torch. With third degree burns on 30 percent of his body, attending doctors said his life depended on his being moved to U.C. Hospital.

It at first seemed a losing battle since there were no funds available nor insurance coverage. But many friends in AA, and others who were familiar with Bill's good work, rallied their resources and within a few hours had raised the necessary money for admittance to the hospital.

These same friends worked tirelessly to keep the "Bill Reed Hospital Fund" growing, and to these loyal friends Bill owes his life.

Moreover, the "Retreat" is being operated by friends until Bill is able to resume work.

This is known as "AA in action."

YOUR SECRETARY REPORTS

To all AA members in Northern California, Greetings:

Sorry I did not make the April issue but I had not recovered from my election in time. I want to voice my gratitude to all those who expressed their confidence in me by selecting me as your Secretary for the next two years. I will do my utmost to listen to the "Power Greater Than Myself" in order that we may work harmoniously in promoting the welfare of all AA members.

There is plenty of work to be done but it is too big a job to be handled by a few people. It is up to all of you—if each one will do his share we can make the Northern California Council a vital factor in "carrying the message."

We are nearing the completion of the plan of realignment, dividing Northern California into Districts with sub-divisions known as Areas (the title of the Districts and Areas has not yet been decided) with the necessary Chairman of each factor. We hope this will be approved during the San Francisco Conferences. If approved, we will immediately set up elections in each Area. Won't you please take an active interest in these elections and choose those who will be alert to serve you.

The plans for the San Francisco Conference and future Conferences are outlined in another article "CONFERENCEES."

With a desire to serve,

Errol W. Secretary, NCC of AA

Downtown Group To Review Some AA Marriages

Much discussion—pro and con—whirls around marriages between members of Alcoholics Anonymous. The possibilities of wedded bliss, or lack, thereof, will be aired by an AA group.

Without getting involved in the argument, the Downtown Group will present an interesting sidelight on the matter during their May meetings; for four successive weeks the speaker and chairman at each meeting will be a husband-and-wife team, both A.A. members, and representing some years of successful sobriety and wedded bliss.

On Tuesday, May 8, the speaker will be Marc A. of San Rafael, and chairman Lee A.; on Tuesday, May 15, George and Ann B. of San Anselmo will be speaker and chairman, respectively; Tuesday, May 22, will see Stan B. of San Francisco in the speaker's chair, with Agnes B. as chairman; and will feature Sigrid H. as speaker and Bill H. as chairman.

Meetings are at 566 Bush St., San Francisco, at 8:30 p.m., and are closed meetings, to which all alcoholics are welcome. The speakers are followed by small-group discussions on various phases of the A.A. program.

As a new policy, the Downtown Group will now have coffee available before the meetings, as well as afterward, and the traditional raffle of an A.A. book as a door prize, and the award of poker chips in token of various lengths of sobriety, will be continued.

News from Home of the "Braves"

Rose M., 925 North 13th Street, Milwaukee, in renewing her subscription to GOOD NEWS, had this to say in a note to Rollin W., business manager of the AA publication:

"I had a very nice visit and reunion with Arthur H., of Kohler, two weeks ago. We agree that GOOD NEWS is a 'must' with us, and we both send our love and gratitude across the miles."

And nary a word about the Giant-Braves "beisball" tussle.

H&I BROAD-SIDES

By the H & I Publicity Chairman

In the April issue, we covered the H & I meeting scheduled for May 19 in Sacramento. We wish to repeat in the May issue—this meeting is open to ALL AA MEMBERS, and their friends.

A nagging question keeps cropping up, to wit: What shall we do about AA, and in particular, the Hospital and Institution's relationship with outside agencies, and what is the position of the H & I Committee?

WE HAVE NO POSITION! We do have a copy of the 2nd Edition of the "Big Book." Published in 1955, we find all the answers we need to know clearly printed on pages 563-568, inclusive.

If anyone is interested in further pursuing this topic, we earnestly suggest they write the N.Y. office and request a copy entitled "The Study Committee Report 1960-61" which deals with this matter.

We just happen to like AA, the way it was so graciously given to us, and we sincerely hope that well be able to keep our Amateur Standing

We take this opportunity of welcoming Earl C., chairman, Area six, and Barney P., chairman, Area One, both newly named, who will be responsible for the affairs in these two highly important areas.

Many thanks are hereby extended Ernie B., Area Six, and to Leo M., Area One, for the fine cooperation extended by these valued aides over a long, faithful period.

A most sincere prayer for a speedy and complete recovery is offered for Millie B., secretary-treasurer of the H & I Committee. Millie has just undergone surgery for a second time in recent weeks.

Shaping up nicely is the NCC June Conference in S.F. Various H & I activities will be worth attending. Outstanding speakers chairmen and moderators will make it an all-round, interesting program. We'll have the full agenda in June issue of GOOD NEWS.

"Culley" will be with us at the June 9 session of the NCC Conference. Who's "Culley?" He's quite a guy. Active in institutional work for more than three years, he was Conference chairman of the Southern California Conference held at Santa Monica last October. He just completed a tour of duty as director, Harbor Area, Institutional Committee, wherein he kept the Ball Rolling at many Southern California AA activities. Mark your calendar to meet "Culley" in San Francisco.

20 Attend Area 7 Meet in Santa Rosa

Representatives of General Services of Panel One, Area Seven, congregated at Santa Rosa, Sunday, April 15, meeting at the call of Area Chairman Paula B.

Twenty representatives heard five speakers give brief talks on the theme of the meeting, "Recovery, Unity, and Service." These were Zello de M., San Jose; Harriet H., Bill G., and Rollin W., San Francisco; and Bud C., Hayward.

Leo M., Fort Bragg, gave a short resume of his recent trip to the General Service Conference in New York, and Errol W., NCC Secretary,

"Hard Times" at S.F. Alano Club

Joe Lill's "Jumpin' Jacks" will play the music for a "Hard Times" Dance slated for Saturday, May 5, at 9:00 p.m. at the S.F. Anano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

The same musical aggregation will play at a Surprise Dance in the same club on Saturday, May 19, at 9:00 p.m. New ideas, new gimmicks, lots of prizes and more fun is promised.

On Saturday, May 26, an AA Birthday Party and Dance will be held. Coffee, cake, and a good time.

outlined the forthcoming NCC Conference in San Francisco Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10.

Letter from an AA Mother To Her Teenage Daughter — Also in AA

Permission has been granted by a 19-year-old girl, now a member of S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, to print a letter she received from her mother when the daughter revealed she had joined AA. — Editor

January 29, 1962

My dearest daughter,

Received your letter of the 24th this morning and I'm so terribly, terribly distressed at the trouble you've been having. Not, I'm sure you must know, from the usual mother's reasons—but from my own personal experience in enduring such agony.

If only I could assume your burdens so you'd never have to go through the same! It is very fortunate that you realize at this early age that you need help. Perhaps you can save yourself a lot of grief—it's up to you!

You will hear many older people give leads, etc., and you'll find it difficult in some cases to identify with them. You may be inclined to feel that because of certain circumstances and actions of theirs, that they have a "worse" problem than you.

Believe me, Darling, not one old sot has a worse problem than you. They have only—through the natural progressive course of their disease and the years spent—managed to get into more trouble, and had more heartaches and disappointments. If any of these people (myself included) had recognized their trouble and treated it at age 19, think what they'd have been spared.

Knowing, just knowing at your age is in the nature of a miracle.

There is only one thing that troubles me. In your letter I gather you are worried about the security of your position, etc. It is natural, but—it is **not enough!** You must want to stop! Now I advise you to take a pencil and paper and try some logic. Make a list, "Why" and "Why Not"—that is sort of an eye-opener.

Also fix it firmly in your mind that indulgence is Poison to you. Can't you walk past a bright light that says, "Come in and let me poison you"?

Can't you pass up an opportunity to spoil your youth prematurely,

and to lose your beauty, and your self respect, too? How awful of us to take the fine faculties Nature has given us and deliberately dull our spiritual appetites and judgments and capacity for enjoying the beauty all around us. If we'd only tear the veils from our eyes instead of trying new ones.

Liquor is no release or freedom. Any exhilaration is false, and all too temporary. Liquor is bondage.

Honey, because you don't know yet where you stand in spiritual matters, do not underestimate the value of prayer. It is very valuable, if only that it is a tremendous relief!

Spirituality has nothing to do with theology, and you just keep it simple and don't get entangled in that confusion. Just talk to the force that is present with us all, confide your troubles, and ask for help. It never fails if you bring the right spirit.

Please write more often, and for your own sake and the wonderful future you can have—do the best you can. I love and miss you, and will make my prayers for you very urgent.

Lovingly
Mother

Recuperating

Elsa A., widow of the late Jack A., founder of the Husband & Wife Group of the Eastbay Fellowship, is doing nicely following surgery. She is convalescing at her home. "Get Well" cards will be received at the Group's headquarters, 237 E. 14th Street, Oakland.

Texans Holding 17th Convention at State Capital

Austin, the state capital of the Lone Star State, will be the site of the Seventeenth Annual State Convention of Alcoholics, June 15-17, it was announced yesterday by the Convention Committee handling the three-day event.

Preliminary publicity released states that the following speakers will appear during various parts of the program: Charles L., Washington, D.C.; Eve M., General Services Office, New York; Odell L., Charlotte, N. C.; Emily H., San Antonio, Tex., and Father Tom F., Medford, Mass.

Convention headquarters will be at the Austin Hotel but others such as Driskill and Commodore Perry Hotels, the Villa Capri and Terrace Motor Hotels are recommended.

One of the highlights of the social portion of the convention is a river boat excursion on the stern-wheeler, "Commodore," across Lake Austin for an evening of good AA fellowship and a catfish dinner at Green-shores, a lakeside restaurant.

Vacationing Californians bound east by car may find the AA convention in the Texas city an interesting diversion. Reservations may be had by writing to the Chairman of the 17th Texas AA Convention, 3217 Hampton Road, Austin, 5, Texas.

A convention fee of \$5.00 should accompany reservation. Make checks or money orders payable to Texas State AA 1962 Convention.

New Group Starts In City of Napa

The Wednesday Night Hospitality Group, a new AA unit in Napa, had its initial meeting at the Alano Club, 1200 Jefferson Street, Napa, Calif.

The group is trying a new approach—holding an inter-change of meetings with the St. Helena Group—with the worthy objective of developing closer unity among groups in the Napa Valley area.

As the title implies, the Wednesday Night Hospitality Group gathers each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Napa Alano Club. Meetings are open and the format is the popular general discussion type.

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GSO Chairman To Make State Tour

A swing around the northern section of California will be made by Cliff J., Chairman Delegate of the NCC General Service Committee, it was announced by Arthur D., Alternate Delegate and Treasurer.

Cliff, he said, returned from New York where he attended the annual General Services Office Convention, April 25-29.

In California, Cliff will visit and make a report to the following areas:

Sunday, May 6, at 1:00 p.m.,
Manday's Pancake House, Highway
99, just north of Chico. Sunday, May
13, at 1:00 p.m., 922 N. Hunter
Street, Stockton, and Sunday, May
27, at 1:00 p.m., Group Three, 1755
34th Street, Sacramento.

Cliff has timed his Stockton visit to coincide with Stockton's day for holding its monthly Sunday Morning Breakfast. Breakfast starts at 10:00 a.m. to noon, and it's famous for its steak-and-eggs with buckets of coffee.

The Alternate Delegate said everyone should support GS meetings to show their appreciation to Cliff who has done a remarkable job in already supplying 75% of the panel with a Delegate's Report—prior to the Summer Conference.

G. G. Inactive

Until further notice, Golden Gate Group has become inactive, Frank S., secretary, announced. If, and when, the group reactivates notices will appear in bulletins emanating from the S.F. Central Office and in GOOD NEWS.

Avenue Alanons to Hear Young Couple

Jack and Charlotte, he an AA member, she, a non-alcoholic member of Alanon will be the husband-wife team highlighting the Avenue Alanon Group meeting slated for Wednesday, May 16, at the group's meeting place, 133 Golden Gate Avenue.

The young couple, new in the ranks of AA and Alanon, are also rubbery-legged in the "art" of speaking (as are most of us). But as such, Avenue Alanons look forward to hearing a "fresh" approach to the subject of AA's and Alanons living in harmony and happiness, with the spectre of alcoholism tucked away in the dark corner of the attic.

Avenue Alanon meetings start at 8:30 p.m. Meetings in the auditorium of St. Boniface Church are noted for its arms-length discussions following the formal sessions.

16th BIRTHDAY

Friday, May 11, marks the 16th Anniversary of the Central All-Groups Friday Night Open Meeting, sponsored each Friday by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, at 240 Golden Gate Avenue.

For 16 years this weekly meeting has hardly ever failed to draw crowds less than 100. Attendance has been largely due to the fine selection of AA speakers interspersed with "outside" speaking talent. The combination seems to work exceptionally well for this particular meeting, sometime known as the "Showcase Meeting of AA in San Francisco."

Recently, the building at 240 Golden Gate Avenue underwent extensive repairs and complete renovation. The "Big Open Meeting" now boasts the finest meeting place on the West Coast—with an elevator.

For the Birthday Party the theme "One Step At A Time" has been chosen. Participating will be four Marin County members; four San Mateo County members, and four from S.F. County. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting slated for 8:30 p.m.

Land Office Biz Done by Tapers

Tape recordings of outstanding speeches delivered by AA speakers at recent banquets and conferences are in heavy demand, according to Bill M., Modesto.

Bill said that thanks to publicity given the Tape Library in GOOD NEWS, both he and Dave in Oakland, have been swamped with orders.

Bill said the talks made at Turlock of Joe L. and Larry T. each 90 minute tapes, recorded both sides, and selling at \$7.00 each, are still available. He also said that the talk made by Judge Ray H., at the Sacramento Conference could be taped with that of Joe L., on the reverse side, and specially made at the \$7.00 price.

Those that have heard the Judge and the Tyler, Texas, lad will agree with Bill when he stated "this would be ultimate in AA humor."

AA members throughout California are "taking to tape" in ever-increasing numbers, Bill said. Many letters of appreciation have been received by the two Tape Library men.

Driving to Seattle?

A friendly warning! If anyone is planning to drive to the wonderful World's Fair at Seattle via the Redwood Highway, Route 101, please remember it requires two days and one night (normal highway speed) to reach Portland from the Bay Area.

Since it's dangerous to overdrive—to become exhausted—and court injury or death in a highway smash-up, it is suggested that rather than mar a happy vacation with an accident, Seattle-bound travellers stop off at Eureka or Crescent City.

These are ideal, overnight stopping places. There's plenty of clean, moderately-priced lodgings, fine food, and best of all, an abundance of good AA available.

For descriptive literature, meeting schedules, and other information, write Humboldt-Del Norte Central AA Committee, P. O. Box 751, Eureka, Calif.

MORE ABOUT CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

the San Francisco AA fraternity as the Ferry clock. Thundering mightily on his favored theme, he was wont to cry out to his enthralled audience "everything I need to know is right here" (pointing to Page 99). And even 'tho he has been gone from these parts for many months, having taken up abode in the lush El Salvadorean countryside, there still lingers an awesome quality around the figures "99"—something akin to Red Grange's immortal sweatshirt "77."

The Hospital and Institutional Committee meets at 1:00 p.m. Saturday. Meeting will be highlighted by two speakers. Father Paul Redman of Soledad, Calif., will deliver one talk, and "Culley" of Southern California H & I will deliver talk Number Two.

Also on Saturday is the Central Office Secretaries' Meeting set for 4:45 p.m. Ruth G., of Sacramento will be chairman of this important session.

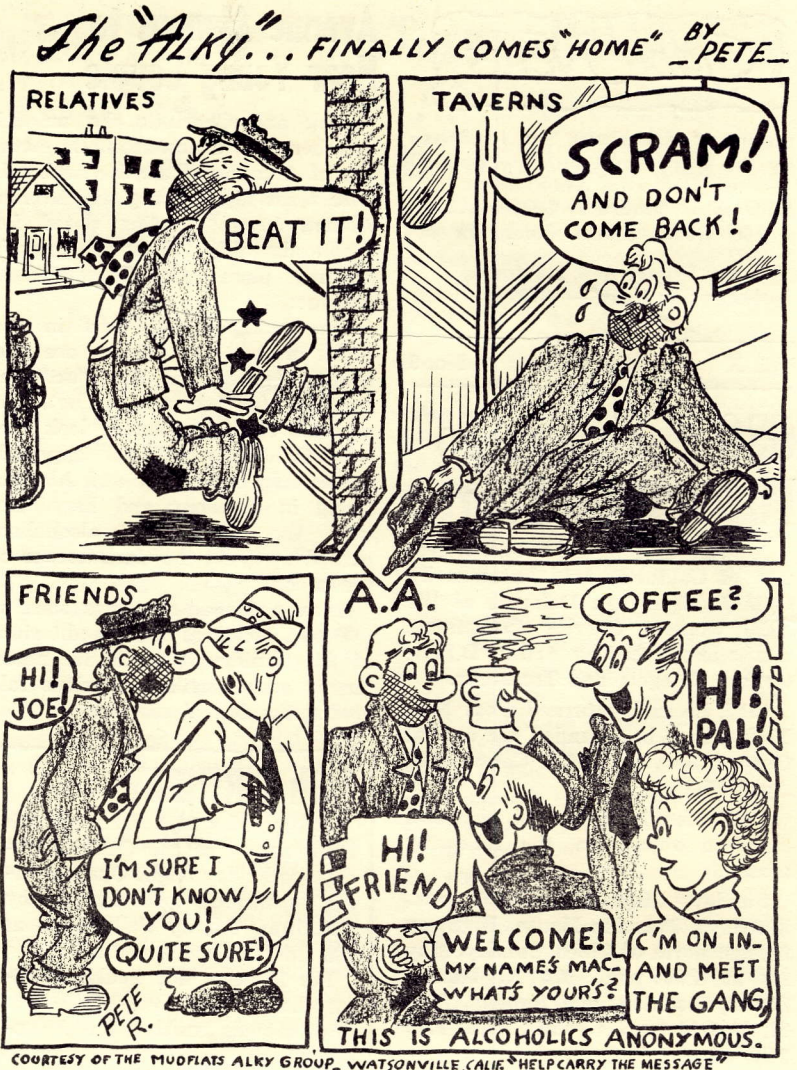
On Saturday at 1:00 p.m. the Alanons will stage their play "Problems on an Alanon" with players from the Marin County Group doing the stage presentation. The Alanons will again meet on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with a Panel Meeting. It will feature Gordon and Priscella from Los Angeles and a group of Northern California Alanons.

The Alateens have scheduled sessions on both Saturday and Sunday. Exact times are unknown but will be published in the Official Program before the Conference opens.

Important business sessions are slated for Sunday with the GSO meeting set for 9:00 a.m., chairmanned by Art D., Sacramento. Feature of this gathering will be a report on the New York General Service Convention of April.

Northern California Council meets Sunday at 10:45 a.m. with much business on its agenda including new area and district set-ups, elections and other pertinent Council matters.

Jim A., chairman of the Host Committee, working with a score of aides has arranged an elaborate sys-



COURTESY OF THE MUDFLATS ALKY GROUP, WATSONVILLE, CALIF. HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE

tem for efficiently handling the expected crowd. Welcoming Committees, Refreshment Hostesses, Coffee Committee (to see that its plentiful and hot) and a Special Committee to direct visitors to restaurants, hotels, sightseeing excursions, etc.

Errol W., NCC Secretary promises that all meeting will start and close on time, stating, "I'll be on hand to see to it."

Two guys met at a bar. "Say," said the first, "what does your wife say when you stay out as late as this?"

"Nothing," replied the other, "I'm not married."

The first fellow pondered that for a moment and said, "Then why do you say out as late as this?"

Omaha Observes 19th Birthday

Omaha Chapter is sponsoring an elaborate Nineteenth Annual Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, May 20, at 1:00 p.m. at the Kiewit Plaza, 36th and Farnam Streets, Omaha, Nebraska.

Tom B., Winnepeg, Canada, will be quest speaker on the splendid program which observes the founding of AA in the State of Nebraska in 1943.

Former Co-ed

He: "Where did you learn to kiss like that?"

She: "I used to blow up footballs."