



Good News



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A PLEA FOR HELP

Editors note: For most of the past year, we have been publishing some answers to questions regarding 12 Step work, the idea being that answering some questions on 12 Stepping might help to encourage more people to volunteer. The response we have gotten to our invitation to send questions hardly dignifies the word "trickle", which would indicate that all of our readers know all about 12 Stepping. So if you know so much about it, why aren't you volunteering? There is plenty of need, as Corrine M. points out below.

She writes:

I am writing a cry for help. The Bay Area 12 Step worker list is in sad shape. Many people are no longer interested or have moved. Some have left AA or (Heaven Bless them) passed away. Without the 12 Step worker who is willing, we are helpless. The people who call for help are sometimes lost.

We need AA members to fill out the yellow 12 Step information form and send it into our Central Office. This is the only way your Teleservice workers can call you to help the sick alcoholic.

If you are already on the list and have made any changes in your life, such as phone number and address, please notify our Central Office. We are attempting to revise the 12 Step list, so any information is welcome.

To our dependable workers, many, many thanks, and please stick with us.

Sincerely yours,
Corrine M.,
Teleservice Chairwoman

Drunkenness is nothing else but a voluntary madness.

Seneca

26th Anniversary For Old-Time S.F. Group

The South of Market Group, one of San Francisco's oldest AA groups, will celebrate its 26th Birthday with an open meeting and buffet on January 26, at 1175 Howard Street.

Paul G., San Francisco Intercounty secretary and one of the original members of the group, will chair the event, which will be from 2 to 4 p.m.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Satchel Paige once gave a bit of advice which it would be well to repeat as we head into the new year.

Said the sage Mr. Paige: "Never let your head hang down. Never give up and sit down and grieve. Find another way. And don't prey when it rains, if you don't prey when the sun shines."

We hope the sun will shine for you most of this new year. Not all of it, of course, since the rain, clouds and occasional storms are as much a part of life as the sunshine. But most of it.

May 1974 bring you all the sobriety, growth, happiness and peace you are able to handle.

Group Delegates Meet

The San Francisco Intercounty Central Service Committee will hold its semi annual Group Delegate meeting at the San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, at 8:15 p.m., Wednesday, January 9.

The meeting would normally be held on January 2, but the committee feared an attendance fall off due to proximity to the holidays.

Harvie E. Keynotes Alumni Groups Fifth

Harvie E., popular Woodland based AA speaker, and co-winner of the 1973 Yolo County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award, will keynote the Fifth Anniversary meeting and Buffet of the San Francisco Alumni group, 8:30 Wednesday, January 16, at the Lutheran Church, 33rd Avenue and Ulloa.

The lavish buffet and gallons of coffee will follow the meeting.

Harvie and his wife, Estelle, were presented with Liberty Bell Award last June in recognition of their services to the community, particularly in alcoholism work.

He is a member of the Yolo County Health Planning and Youth Activity committee, as well as other civic groups.

Gene D. To Help Sinbar Celebrate

Gene D. popular AA speaker and Calistoga "dry out" facility proprietor, will be guest speaker at the first anniversary celebration of the Sinbar group, 8 p.m., Sunday, January 6, at Saint Finnbar Church Hall, 415 Edna Street, San Francisco.

As befits any one year old's birthday, the refreshments will be ice cream and cake (with lots of coffee on the side, of course).

Fresno Roundup

The second annual Fresno Round-up of Young People in AA will be held February 1-3, at the Sheraton Inn, Freeway 99 at the Clinton Overpass, Fresno.

To obtain special Round-up rate reservations, arrangements must be made no later than two weeks prior to Feb. 1. Write or call Sheraton Inn, 2550 W. Clinton Avenue, Fresno, 93728, phone: (209) 486-3000.

THE LINK

(General Service, California
North Coastal Area)

In recent issues, this column has tried to eliminate some of the mystery with which many AA members (including oldtimers) seem to regard the General Service Organization. GSO is simply the third legacy of service — the giant twelfth step. It is the guardian of the twelve traditions which are to the survival of AA what the twelve steps are to the survival of the individual.

In the early years of AA what are now the functions of General Service were the functions of Dr. Bob and Bill W., our founders, who were helped by a few oldtimers and some non-alcoholic friends. As AA grew, so did these functions, and it was no longer practical to simply phone or send a letter to Bill or Bob with whatever problem happened to come up. Then, too, they realized that — although sober — they wouldn't live forever, and that some sort of organization would have to be formed which would link all groups together and which would provide the unity needed to assure that AA would be the same all over no matter how large or far-flung it became. That was a decision made over twenty years ago, during which time our founders did die and the General Service structure grew in pace with the growth of AA itself.

At this point someone is apt to ask what these functions are, and claim that all there is to AA is staying sober and going to meetings — which is pretty good for starts. But with changing times and the remarkable growth of AA, so grow the problems. Examples of these include what to do about taping of meetings (there were no tapes in 1937), how to handle the obstreperous drunk, what stand do we take on methods of recovery which are not AA oriented, or how do we prevent anonymity breaks at the media level. These sorts of questions, and this is only a sampling, are discussed each April at the General Service Conference in New York by delegates from all areas. Prior to that, General Service Representatives meet with the Area Delegate (ours is Merle G.) at a pre-conference assembly which is to

be held this year on April 6th at St. Mark's Hall in Santa Clara. At this assembly, GSR's bring with them the conscience of their groups. After the New York Conference, GSR's meet again with the Delegate at a post-conference assembly where they learn first-hand about what happened in New York. That assembly will be held this year at the

(continued on page 8)

Charles Summers

Charles (Saigon Charlie) Summers, a member of the Marin Stag Group, died Saturday, December 1, 1973. A very meaningful and emotion packed AA meeting was held for him by the Marin Stag Group before burial Tuesday, December 4.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

By HELEN J.

That's right. Your reporter's last initial has changed from P. to J. I got married Thanksgiving time in Las Vegas.

Activities are humming here in the Santa Clara County area with the holidays upon us. The 60 hour marathon of AA meetings around the clock started on December 23, with Ole O. as kickoff speaker. Of course, the New Year's Dance sponsored by the Intergroup Council is important too. Last month I wrote it up in detail. This time, I am just saying "I'll see you at Camden High, Union and Camden Avenues, at 7 p.m. in time for the buffet supper."

Our Alano Club, 1122 Fair Avenue, is having a party for all the children, Saturday afternoon, 1 to 4 p.m. There will be Santa Claus, games and a good time for all the kiddies.

Following the annual New Year's Dance will be the important First AA meeting of the year (at 1 a.m.). Be sure to enjoy the steak and eggs breakfast before or during the meeting at the Alano Club.

Moving on to January, the monthly all groups meeting will be Saturday, January 12, 8:15 p.m. The host group will be the Intergroup Council and Pat W., from Redwood City will be the guest speaker.

REMINDER

Bob S., popular Huntington Park AA speaker with a background of some 30 years of drinking and alcoholism recovery work, will help the Daly City group salute its eleventh anniversary, and honor the January AA birthdays of its members at a buffet meeting, 8:30 p.m., Jan. 9, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 60 Wellington Avenue.

Neil C., will chair the meeting, with Father Mullen, pastor of the church, delivering the invocation.

There will be coffee and Arms Length from 7:30 p.m.

Peninsula All Groups

Following is the speaker and host group schedule for the January Peninsula All Groups gatherings.

Jan. 5—Arnold L., San Francisco Friendship; Westlake Discussion.

Jan. 12—Gene D., Calistoga; Palo Alto Fireside.

Jan. 19—Dr. Gil A., San Francisco Friendship; Burlingame Wednesday.

Jan. 26—Cleo C., Redwood City; Menlo Park Friday.

All meetings are Saturdays at 8:30 at St. Matthews Church auditorium, Baldwin and El Camino, San Mateo. Doors open at 7:30. Coffee and Arms Length before and after meetings.

JUST FOR THE BOOKS

San Francisco

New — Wed., noon (o), STEP DISCUSSION, 1364 Valencia St.

Changed — Mon., SAN FRANCISCO BOOK GROUP now meets at 3 p.m.

Pescadero

New — Sun., 8 p.m. (c) — SUNDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION, 385 Stage Road.

Daly City

Moved — Tues., 8:30 p.m. — WESTLAKE TUESDAY DISCUSSION, to Fernando Rivera School, 149 Lake Merced Blvd.

Fri., 8 p.m. — WESTLAKE FRIDAY DISCUSSION (formerly Lady of Mercy group), to Recreation Building across from Fernando Rivera School.

Lower Lake

Change — LOWER LAKE group now meets at 7 p.m.

Friday All Groups

Here is the Friday All Groups schedule of Guest Speakers and Host Groups for January.

Meetings will be held at the Star King Room of the Unitarian Church, Geary and Franklin Streets, San Francisco, until another meeting place can be arranged.

Jan. 4—Charlie R., Panhandle; San Rafael Saturday Nite.

Jan. 11—Robbie D., Panhandle; Belvedere-Tiburon.

Jan. 18—George S., San Rafael; AA for Hope.

Jan. 25—Ray C., San Francisco Fellowship; San Rafael Book.

The Dead Soldier

By A Man Alone

As I look back o're my life,
at the soldiers I have killed.
I see it written upon their face;
NOT TO BE REFILLED.
All the things I found inside;
These cylinders of glass.
The hurt and longing they contained;
how long it took to pass.
I have given careful thought,
to all the men we looze.
As day by day they're led astray;
on the battlefield of booze.
As keg by keg and rank by rank,
the opposing soldiers fall.
I know I must give up, or die.
This demon alcohol.
ama

By permission of the author

THANKS

Just a note to do the one thing we usually don't have space to do throughout the rest of the year — say thanks for the help you have given GOOD NEWS in the past, and will be able to give in the coming year. For without your help, there would be no GOOD NEWS.

Having said this, we must add a new kind of call for help. Is there anyone out there who has a talent for cartooning? We need some original cartoons and line drawings. If you have the talent and are looking for a place to show-off your work (strictly for free, of course), here is your chance to put your talent to use for a good cause.

Drop us a line in care of Rm. 84, 166 Geary Street, San Francisco.

THE PITCH

By Jack B., Area Chairman

California Northern Interior Area of General Service

Responsibility — Our expression of gratitude — the theme of the 1973 General Service Conference, points up our direction and obligation to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

One of this year's General Service Conference agenda topics was what is unique about AA? There are many answers to this question. But in thinking on this subject one thought comes to mind. This writer is deeply grateful to

JOHN L.

those men who have passed along the answers we need so that we might survive in Alcoholics Anonymous — so that we might further serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

A lot of mental horsepower has been generated and expended — to define what is unique about AA — I personally would like to submit that what is unique in our society is our obedience to the Traditions — other than that I don't see what we have going for us that is so unusual. We have proven once again that by spiritual means large numbers of drunks can recover — but the Washingtonians proved that, and the Oxford Group proved that. Churches right now are proving it every day, so what do we have that is really unusual, what do we have that is really unique — I think that it is our obedience to the Traditions — it is even more unique, in that we chose voluntarily to submit ourselves to these restraints. The Twelve Traditions are not a bunch of things that were set up by them and handed down to us saying this is what you are going to do — or else. The Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous are a re-counting of all the mistakes that almost tore our Fellowship to bits, and we voluntarily accept these restraints — I believe that this is what is truly unique in Alcoholics Anonymous.

When speaking about the Traditions — we are speaking about the thing that means our life or death — I cannot live without AA — you cannot live without AA — yet you and I are AA — we have to be, in spite of ourselves, responsible for us! — In spite of me I have to be responsible and responsibility is what the Traditions are about.

Why the Traditions? Simply to provide us a manner and a direction so that our society can survive — and if our society survives — we are going to live — and if we live — we

That the late John L. Sullivan, known as the "Boston Strong Boy" won the world heavyweight title (bare knuckles) from Paddy Ryan in 1882 and lost it ten years later to "Gentleman Jim" Corbett (gloves). What counts here is that in the interim John L. trained alrgely on whiskey. Corbett was no man-milling puncher, but soon saw that John's alcohol saturated frame was slow moving and could be worn down until any punch would finish him. Afterwards John said "so help me God, I'll never touch another drop." As with many another drinker, John's reform did not prove permanent — he was soon back on the bottle. Meanwhile Corbett lost the title belt to "Ruby Robert" Fitzsimmons of England and Australia. Wanting another go at the title John issued a challenge only to have Fitz laugh at him and others laughed too. Though his ego was severely damaged John then got the idea. Too late for the heavyweight championship and too early for AA he really reformed and became a temperance crusader.

Pipe Line

ART D.

Art D., 23 year AA veteran who, with his wife, Addie, owned the Warm Springs Health Resort at Hidden Valley Ranch, died December 12, following a long illness.

Art was active in AA work in the Hayward, Sacramento and Stockton areas, and had served with Hospitals and Institutions and General Service committees before opening the drying out facility in Fremont.

In addition to his wife, Art is survived by two sons and a daughter.

(See Pitch Page 8)

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HOW TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE

1. Speak to People. There is nothing so nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at People. It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 14 to smile.
3. Call People by Name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
4. Be Friendly and Helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be Cordial. Speak and act as if everything you did were a genuine pleasure.
6. Be Genuinely Interested in People. You can learn to like everybody if you try.
7. Be Generous with Praise. Be cautious with criticism.
8. Be Considerate with the Feelings of Others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be Thoughtful of the Opinion of Others. There are always three sides to a controversy — yours, the other fellow's, and the right one.
10. Be Alert to Give Service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

In Our Case It Pays Not To Advertise!

We have all been subject to the power of advertising. Many have found that life has been made easier by some of the products now on the market; but to get the benefits of these, they have to be tried and assessed. AA has been tried and tested and the results have been astonishing for the alcoholic. His becoming able to live without alcohol, seemingly impossible at one time, is now a reality. Manufacturers have to advertise to sell their products, and they use all kinds of gimmicks to get their message across to the public. AA has nothing to sell; but to the alcoholic it does have something to offer, with no need for gimmicks. What its members offer is proof that what they have does work. No sales promotions, no free gifts, just a simple program, 12 Steps to a better and easier way of living, one day at a time. Hundreds of thousands of alcoholics can testify that what man had done, man can do. Maybe not on his own, but quite certainly with the help of a Power greater than himself, the God of his own understanding. AA does not advertise or "promote" itself, but it does attract those with a drinking problem who really want to solve it. To see a helpless and hopeless drunk, a human being written off, now restored to decent living, able to take his place in society, is one of the greatest gifts one could wish for. Money or power cannot always bring happiness. What better joy could one get out of life than to help to restore a fellow alcoholic to real living again? By giving, we receive and by helping another we are strengthening ourselves and our own sobriety.

From: The Road Back — Dublin, Ireland
via Secretary's News Letter (S.F.)

NEWCOMERS MEETINGS

MONDAY BEGINNERS

Speaker Meeting

with Questions and Answers

Both meetings at 1755 Clay Street, San Francisco, between Polk Street and Van Ness Avenue.

Time: 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY BEGINNERS

Speaker Meeting

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Ed. note: This arrived too late for the December issue, but we thought you would still enjoy it.

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring — except for our louse.

He'd hidden his bottle, heaven knows where, and was determined to find it — he didn't care.

The presents were wrapped and the stockings were hung, the children in bed, the Carols were sung.

Our friend crawled around on his hands and his knees, looking and muttering an occasional PLEASE!

Through the train set, the doll house and even the tree; he ripped and he searched with only this plea;

God, please help me I'm hurting and suffering so, just give me a hint which way I should go.

He opened a box with a big book inside, and Lo & Behold his eyes became wide. For there was his answer, an end to his strife, neatly placed by an Al-Anon wife.

This poem could go on, but needless to say, he'd found his answer in much the same way that some of us do

THE WAY IS AA.

Marsha M.

in THE BRACER — Reno, Nevada

BLOOD BANK

Old balance		60 units
Donations	6	
Used by AA	2	
*Expired	4	
Present balance		60 units

*Gift — Ft. Miley Hospital

BILLY SUNDAY

The Reverend Billy Sunday, the most relentless enemy demon rum ever had in this country, started as an outfielder for the Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1880's. We would like to report that he was a star, but his lifetime batting average of 248 and his low home-run percentage hardly bear that out. He attributed the defeat of Germany in World War I to the large quantity of beer consumed there. Still, truth compels us to say that the United States, England and France consumed their share then too.

A HAPPY MAN

If you observe a really happy man you will find him building a boat, writing a symphony, educating his son, growing double dahlias in his garden, or looking for dinosaur eggs in the Gobi desert. He will not be searching for happiness as if it were a collar button that has rolled under the dresser. He will not be striving for it as a goal in itself. He will have become aware that he is happy in the course of living life twenty-four crowded hours of the day.

From: The Reviver

I'm Fine

There's nothing whatever the matter with me,
I'm just as healthy as can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
Ane when I talk I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I have arch supports for both my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleeplessness I have night after night
And in the morning I'm just a sight.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I think my liver is out of whack,
And a terrible pain is in my back.
My hearing is poor, my sight is dim
Most everything seems to be out of trim.
The doctor says my days are few,
Fro every week he finds something new.
And the way I stagger sure is a crime
I'm likely to drop most any time.
I jump like mad at the drop of a pin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
The moral is, as this tale unfolds,
That for you and me, who are growing old,
It's better to say "I'm fine," with a grin,
'Cause 'twill surely help "the shape you're in."

Submitted — Dixie
via "Path Finder"

The 12 Steps In Reverse

1. I stated that I could handle liquor, and I was Master of my fate.
2. Firmly believed that I was entirely rational and sane in every respect.
3. Made a decision to run my own life, and be successful in all my undertakings.
4. Made a searching and thorough inventory of my fellow-man, and found him wanting.
5. Admitted to no one, including God and myself, that there was anything wrong with me.
6. Sought through alcohol to overcome my responsibilities and escape the realities of life.
7. Got drunk to remove these shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons who had harmed me, whether imaginary or real, and swore to get even.
9. Got even whenever possible, except when to do so would injure me.
10. Continued to find fault with the world, and with the people in it, and when I was right, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through conniving and hypocrisy to improve myself materially at the expense of my fellow-man, as I misunderstood him, asking only for the means to get drunk and stay drunk, and escape reality.
12. After having a complete moral, physical and financial breakdown, I tried to drag those who were near and dear to me down to my level, and to practice these reasonings in all my affairs.

LET'S TALK ABOUT GROUP SECRETARIES

Please accept this as a suggestion — but an important one. When it comes time to "elect" — "sandbag" — "select" (however your group does it) a new GROUP SECRETARY — please give this action sober and careful thought. In the first place, let us all remember that to be asked to be a Group Secretary is an HONOR. You are in effect saying to this person, "We respect you, we trust you, and we feel that you have the interest of our Group at heart, so we are asking you to be of 'love and service' to the Group by accepting the secretaryship.

Please do not take the attitude that your Group Secretary is really not very important to your group. Do not try to drop the job on a well intentioned newcomer to AA who accepts through ignorance of the requirements for a group secretary, or accepts so that he or she may continue an "ego trip" that they should be attempting to end. And never appoint a "slipper" newly re-recovered to this position of trust because, as I have so often heard, "It will be good for him." To do this says that you do not value your Group or the help it has been to you over the months or even years. What your Group always needs is a Secretary who will be good for the Group, who will take his job seriously, who will arrange for chairmen and speakers in advance of the meeting night — who will see that the coffee and refreshments are at hand, who will in fact show his gratitude by doing the best possible job he can.

I hope this doesn't sound "preachy", but I have seen a lot of great Groups go down the "drain of neglect" over the years for the reason that no one cared enough to see to it that there was a devoted and trustworthy Secretary for the Group.

And of course, this doesn't apply to YOUR GROUP ... but if it does be your Group's conscience in this area.

The husband was enjoying his pipe and reading the evening newspaper. His wife who was working on a crossword puzzle suddenly yelled "Henry, What is a female sheep?" "Ewe," replied her husband. And — THAT'S how the fight began!

The sober old-timer asked a man who'd had a slip what was wrong. "I'm in agony. I've been drinking. I think I'm dying." The old-timer said, "It could be worse." When the sufferer cried out "HOW?" The old-timer replied, "It could have been me."

FOUND: NEW TYPE OF ADDICT

Compared with the attention being paid to alcoholism, very little is being done to halt the rapid rise of football "addiction" in this country.

Many Americans persist in the naive notion that football addiction is just another bad habit, such as chewing gum or cracking your knuckles. Consequently there is no great public demand for counter-measures.

Yet it is becoming increasingly clear that in terms of wasted lives and broken homes, football addicition now probably ranks as our No. 1 social problem.

"Heathcliff is like a zombie during the weekends," the wife of one football addict told me. "He just sits there vegetating in front of the television while crabgrass over-runs the patio and paint flakes off the carport.

"I've tried to get professional help, but nothing seems to do any good. I don't know how much longer we can go on this way."

"Most guys don't realize how easily they can get hooked," an ex-addict says. "They think they can watch an occasional college game without becoming addicted. Then the next thing they know, they're watching doubleheaders every Sunday, plus Monday nights, plus post-game and pre-game shows and filmed highlights of the previous week's games."

However, when I asked an official at the Justice Department whether any Governmental action was planned, he was dubious: "The only way to deal with a situation like this is to strike at the pushers — that is, the television net-works. But as long as they are protected by the "free press" provisions in the Constitution, our hands are tied."

Is there anything that you as an individual citizen can do to show your concern? Yes. You can memorize the "five warning signs of football addiction":

Watching more than one game within an eight hour period.

Watching games alone.

Staying up past your usual bedtime to watch a game.

Refusing to stop watching long enough to join the family at mealtime.

Buying an extra TV set so you can watch two games simultaneously.

Silver Dollar

When God measures man, He puts the tape around his heart, not his head!

WHOOOPS

Contrary to what may have been printed in our December issue, Merle G. is a delegate sans "vice", and Ann S. shall be printed for evermore as "Ann S." The goof was strictly our fault, caused by the rush of deadlines. Sorry.

Once during prohibition I was forced to live for days on nothing but food and water.

W.C. Fields

He who takes,
But never gives;
May last for years,
But never lives.

Contra Costa Service Center

HIGHLIGHTS IN GROUP CHANGES:

The Concord Fellowship has moved recently to a new location at the corner of Solano Way and Eastgate. This is a residence adjacent to the parking area of the ESTATES SHOPPING CENTER and rather than use the street number as the address, to avoid over parking on Eastgate, it is urged that members and visitors use the shopping parking area and come into the Fellowship through the gate in the back of the new location. Come and see this fine new home for the Fellowship.

CONCORD ORIGINAL: This old Group has reactivated at the same location on Willow Pass Road, #3039, and in the Hall behind the 1st Christian Church. These will be "Closed" meetings at 8:30 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. Old and new friends are welcome.

The West Pittsburg A.A., and Al-Anon Groups have moved to Pittsburg in the Columbia Circle at the Concerted Service Bldg. One can enter the Circle about a half block to the right from a gas station on Harbor Ave., coming away from the frontage road alongside the Freeway. Whew!!!

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THE STEPPER

A short while ago, our old gray headed 12 stepper had a few words to say about financial help to persons upon whom you make calls. We thought you would be interested in some words on the same subject from Ed B. in the Ohio Intergroup New.

"STEP TWELVE: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs. It does not mean (as the result of these Steps we carry the alcoholic and supply him with all the necessities of life).

Yet there are many good men and women in AA who think that they must carry the alcoholic and provide him or her with shelter, clothing, food and transportation. This generosity by some of our good members attracts many professional panhandlers who prey on the generosity of the member with the open purse, but when the purse is empty they move on to other territories. The sad part is that the professional panhandler makes it hard for the honest person who wants to stop drinking and needs some financial help. Sometimes those honest men and women are denied financial help which they need to carry them over the poverty hump because they are put in the same class with the free-loader.

Every man and woman who really wants help with their drinking problem should not be denied help. After a long drink bout some of them are destituted and need some financial and material help and if it is possible they should be helped to meet their immediate obligations.

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H and I BroadSides

By Jerry G., General Chairman

Hospital and Institutions Committee of Northern California

It's the beginning of a New Year. I'm kinda glad the hustle and bustle of the Holidays are over, I enjoy them, just glad they don't last any longer.

Now that the past year is over and I look back I have to be grateful for that year of sobriety, that there is such a program of AA and that the different services within AA were formed to keep members like myself active to maintain my sobriety. I was listening to a fellow called Balckie (an old timer in one of my home groups) I never knew he was active in H & I and out of the blue in his talk he told of being at the first meeting that formed H & I Committee as it is now today. He told of the many points of discussion, that meeting was at the San Jose Conference in 1953. I'm awfully glad there were guys like Blackie who helped form this committee.

As we look at the past year we have seen a lot of changes, the closing of hospitals, the beginnings of many smaller detoxification centers where meetings are held that take a lot of time and effort on the part of H & I members that give of their time. We also have seen a lot of new faces in H & I work which is so very important. As we look into 1974 one day at a time, we see some immediate changes, one being our Northern California General Meeting which is normally held on Sunday will be held on Saturday due to

Notes From The Field

San Francisco Bureau of Alcoholism will initiate a 30 bed non-medical detoxification program in January, with fifteen beds at each of two local agencies.

These are the Salvation Army Harbor Lights Mission, between Mission and Folsom Streets; and the Mission Unity Center, 695 S. Van Ness Avenue. Call before going down.

St. Vincent de Paul Church has agreed to take over about 50 percent of the financing of the Mission Alcoholism Center, thus allowing the Center to stay open.

A group headed by Gov. John C. West of South Carolina has begun seeking ways to stop alcoholism abuse, particularly by young people, according to an Associated Press story published in the December 19 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle.

AP says the project is sponsored by the Education Commission of the States, with financial backing from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The California Bureau of Alcohol Program Management is setting up a statewide toll free phone line for 24-hour-a-day handling of questions and referrals on alcoholism, according to a letter to the San Francisco Intercounty AA office from bureau director Loren Archer.

the energy situation. We have some goals we would like to achieve, one being the smooth publication of the 1974 and 1975 pink books, it's possible with the cooperation of the area chairman (That's a clue to the Chairman to be prepared). Secondly, to have the 3rd annual Statewide Conference bigger and better than the Bakersfield Conference which was fantastic... It will be held in Fresno this year.

The abolishment of "Blacknights" (No shows at H & I Meetings) I think we all know the damage the "Blacknight" gives to AA for every blacknight there is a blackeye for AA. I think we should remember "We are responsible."

The Ability of the H & I Committee, General Service, and NCC to work together for the betterment of AA.

Last but certainly not least, to be able to carry the message to the alcoholic who is confined.

In closing I hope you will attend the H & I General Meeting January 19, 1974 in Monterey. Address to be announced at a later date.

Here's wishing you a successful and sober New Year.

"Just what good have you done for humanity?" asked the judge before passing sentence on the pick-pocket.

"Well," replied the confirmed criminal thoughtfully, "I've kept three or four detectives working regularly."

STEPPER from page 7

However, the new man or woman should not test the bonds of friendship by pulling on the reins just to see how much strain they will stand. Sometimes when a person tries to milk his friends for everything they have, the milk of human kindness may go sour.

Perhaps the greatest damage a person can do to a new man's faith is to milk him dry and then forget him, and this has happened to many honest men and women. There are some men and women who want to jump from rags to riches through their benefactor's purse. So they borrow the new man's pot to cook his goose. They move from one group to another looking for a soft-touch, and unfortunately they find one or more in every group. After they milk their new friends dry, they move to another group to exploit new victims.

Most men and women who come into AA are honest working people who have many financial obligations of their own and they cannot afford to carry the financial load of others without depriving their own family of some necessities of life. It is only a selfish person who will ask another person to deprive his family of meat and potatoes and provide him with caviar. Our primary purpose is, to stay sober and carry the message to other alcoholics, we are not asked to take over his obligations.

Most men and women who call for help with their drinking problem have used alcohol and their friends as a crutch because they could not stand on their own two feet and face reality. So instead of taking over the alcoholic's obligations, we should take the crutch away from him and teach him how to stand on his own feet and face life's problems squarely. Every problem that confronts us is a challenge, both physical and mental and by overcoming our problems, we stimulate our thinking and we rise above our weakness. The glorious achievement of many alcoholic men and women has resulted from courageous battling against hampering circumstance."

—Edward B., Akron Ohio
in Intergroup News

SAN FRANCISCO ALANO CLUB

414 GRANT AVENUE, near Bush Street

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

DANCES—PARTIES—GAMES—PRIZES—FRIVOLITY

FUN—FELLOWSHIP

Donation—\$1.25

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 —

NO DANCE — BUT COME IN AND ENJOY YOURSELF ANYWAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 —

Mid-month dance — come and cut a rug to the tunes of Bill Gryder's Velvet Four — fine prizes round out the evening. Top this off with AA Fellowship and what more can you ask!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 —

AA Birthday dance — share the excitement of AA Birthdays with your fellow AA friends — Fine records — and Cake — and Coffee.

WE'LL BE THERE TO GIVE YOU A WARM WELCOME!

PITCH (from Page 3)

are going to learn to love one another, out of the growth — the spiritual growth the Traditions give us, we learn to love one another — and when we love one another we learn to serve — when we serve we guarantee that AA will be here in the future to carry out its mission in carrying the message to those Alcoholics yet to come — to those yet unborn.

Unity Pledge

"This we owe to AA's future. To place our common welfare first; To keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."

EDITOR'S NOTE

Though it has nothing to do with alcoholism, we couldn't resist passing along this passage from the San Francisco Chronicle printing of a Washington Post story on Dec. 1. Sic:

"Senator Kennedy's Senate office, as well as a special office that has been set up in Boston to handle the mail, will be given to needy children before Teddy ever sees them."

We wouldn't want to beat a needy kid out of an office or two fellows, but we know some needy adults who will take any buildings you've got to spare, even if Teddy puts dibs on them. Are any of the Senate Buildings available?

LINK from page 2

Konocti Harbor Inn in Lake County on May 4 and 5. It is again strongly emphasized that the pre and post conference assemblies are open to all AA members. They accomplish a great deal, they are an excellent opportunity to meet AA members from other areas and to experience new facets of AA, and they are packed with the fun and fellowship that we are all re-discovering as sober individuals.

The AA Service Manual discusses the functions of General Service, as well as its history and aims, in much greater depth. Familiarity with the information in this manual is essential to all GSR's; it is also recommended reading for every AA member. It can be obtained through GSR's or from Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 10017. The new Revised edition is now available. It can also be bought at the book counter at any assembly, and it costs only one dollar.

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