



Good News



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PACIFIC NORTH-WEST CONFERENCE

STEP #8 by: Lynn B.

On July 1st, 2nd & 3rd the Pacific North-West Area Conference of A.A. was held in Portland, Ore. It was the 35th year of the conference and the 40th year of A.A. in Portland.

One of the highlights of the conference was a talk given by Bob S., non-alcoholic son of our co-founder.

Happily, there was the usual strong turnout of long-timers. All those with over twenty years' sobriety received a special ribbon to show the newcomers that it does work.

More experience, strength

and hope came from a fine group of speakers, starting with Pat H., Laguna Niguel, CA. on Friday. Saturday's speakers were Mike M., Duluth, Minn., talking like one of "our kind", but, wait, he is a darn good Al-Anon. Following Mike, was Clint H. from Laguna Niguel, CA. to assure us he is one of us... There was also a play, "Lady on the Rocks", and, yes, it does go something like California's own "Saga of Suzy Souse".

Lots of California folks made the trip north.

Making a list of all the people I had harmed was not difficult, as just about all those listed in my 4th step resentment list qualified. But when it came time to be willing to make the amends to them all, I stalled out. "How will I know when I am willing?" was a frequent question of mine. I guess I wanted the voice of God to answer my prayers for willingness and say, "Lynn, go forth and make thine amends!" Well, that didn't happen. What happened was that God put the words into the mouth of an A.A. girlfriend She asked me what step I was on, and I explained I was working on the last half of Step 8, trying to become willing to make amends. She then proceeded to tell me how to get willing. She said, "Take the first name on your list, go to that person and make that amend, and then you will be willing". Well, needless to say, that is not exactly what I wanted to hear, but I did it because this gal had what I wanted. And I found for myself that, in any situation where willingness is needed, if I just go and do it I HAVE THEN BECOME WILLING.

LYNN B.

Reprinted from "LONERS" and "INTERNATIONALIST" JULY-AUGUST 1983.....

CALIFORNIA COASTAL AREA ARCHIVES

Back in the early part of "79" several past delegates got together and formed the California Northern Coastal Archives Committee. This was in keeping with Bill W's expressed wish:... (We are trying) "to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian..." It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion. ...we want to keep on enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come.

Accordingly, plans were
 cont. p.3, col.1

I AM RESPONSIBLE! !!!!!!! WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY? ? ? ? ?

An A.A. group, as such, cannot take on all the personal problems of its members, let alone those of non-alcoholics in the world around us. The A.A. group is not, for example, a mediator of domestic relations, nor does it furnish personal financial aid to anyone. Though a member may sometimes be helped in such matters by his friends in A.A., the primary responsibility for the solution of all his problems of living and growing rests squarely upon the individual himself. Should an A.A. group attempt this sort of help, its

cont. p.3, col.3

"PRESIDENT HONORS"

A.A. received the President's Volunteer Action Award for 1983. William E. Flynn, MD, a non-alcoholic member of A.A.'s Board of Trustees accepted the award presented April 13, at a White House Luncheon.

FROM FAT TO FRAIL

When I was drinking, I had two favorite fantasies. One was that I would be followed around by a large, strong somewhat violent nurse to stop me from drinking too much. That has changed (obviously). I'm married to a small, almost frail and very loving person who occasionally stops me from thinking too much because I have more occasions to listen and learn with her. The other was that there would be published a newspaper with only "good news" in it so I wouldn't have to drink so much (to explain that would take my drunk-a-log). I appreciate what the Fellowship has done for me, and that's not just the old-timers, although they are responsible for so much, a few especially, and personally loved. Let's also hear it for the newcomers whether it be at our meetings or with our publishing....

Thank You
Wil M. Alameda

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Yuba City Group is sponsoring an anniversary celebration of A.A. in Yuba City, Sat., Aug. 27. Pot luck 6:00 P.M. Speakers at 8:00 PM will be Bert & Judy S., Sacramento at St. Isador Church, 222 Clark St., Yuba City, CA.

"Sobriety Fair"

Northern Coastal Area 6, District 08 is having a Sober affair that will include lots of fun, food, panel discussions, and Bill M., Vallejo, CA. as speaker. It will be from 2 to 9 P.M., Aug. 13, 404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA.

"Davis Celebration"

Davis Group is about to celebrate their 17th Anniversary on August 6 at the Davis Veterans Memorial Hall, 14th & B Sts., Davis, CA. "Red" A. will be the speaker. It starts at 6:30 P.M. Pot luck will be served.

**"Central Calif. Fishp"
26th Annual Picnic**

August 14, at Elk Grove Park in Sacramento is the place for food, fun, golf, horse-shoes, A.A., and Al-Anon. Plus there will be a White Elephant Sale. Bring your old, used, salable goodies. No clothes, please.

Don't forget the Sierra Nevada Round-Up August 5, 6, and 7 in Sparks, Nev. at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel.

Linda-Olivehursts 23rd Anniversary is being celebrated July 30, Olivehurst Community Center, 4991 Olivehurst Blvd. The speakers will be Harvey & Estelle E.

The MyrtleTown Survivors in Eureka celebrated their 12th Anniversary July 23, as we were going to Press. Leslie C. of Rohnert Park was the A.A. speaker, and Arlene H. spoke for Al-Anon.

"A SHARING EXPERIENCE"

The San Mateo District 5 General Service Committee is planning a real bang-up day August the 13th. There will be food, fun, films, The 12 Step Play, and lots of good ole A.A. You are asked to bring a dish, of your choice, (especially lots of cookies, cake, etc.) It will be held at the St. Veronica's Church (school cafeteria) 434 Alida Way, So. San Francisco, from 11 to 4 PM.

"A JOKE OR TWO"

B.M. of Kansas tells about two cowboys who drove while drunk and were hospitalized after an auto wreck. The first to regain consciousness told the police, "We were hitting sixty-five MPH down the highway when my buddy hollered, 'Here comes a bridge, you better swing over and let it go by' - and I did".

ON THE TOPIC OF FIRE. . .

D.N. of California sent in a joke about two ole guys from a rural area who drank together, hard and often, at a village tavern. One night one of them didn't show up, and the bartender told the other, "I've got bad news. Last night, your pal got so drunk that when he blew out the candle at bedtime, his breath caught on fire and he exploded".

The other old gent was so shocked that he took an immediate pledge, never to blow out another candle.

THE PINK CAN NEEDS
PENNIES, NICKLES,
DIMES & QUARTERS
ONLY, SUPPORT THOSE
LESS FORTUNATE THAN
US, THOSE CONFINED.

Archives, cont.

formulated, procedures adopted, and activities and acquisitions were under way.

Memorabilia started coming from San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa and elsewhere. A trip to Southern California provided information on how the well-established archives, active in that area, function.

Additional trips were made throughout the area to alert groups, publicize Archives Activities, and find members willing to serve on District Archives Committees. And, of course, to locate and receive any memorabilia that became available.

In the meanwhile the committee met every second month (currently on a monthly basis). The particulars consisted primarily of arranging for old-timers' tapings, setting up methods for the distribution of group history questionnaires, improvising orderly procedures for cataloguing and filing incoming material, etc., etc.

Also, starting in 1980, Archives items have been made available to display at area Assemblies, Unity Day Meetings and other A.A. functions on request. Of particular interest to many were:....

The 1939-40 Ted C.-Bill W. correspondence preceding the first San Francisco A.A. meeting....

The Warden Duffy Pamphlet setting forth the San Quentin version of A.A.'s Twelve Steps,....

An original Saturday Evening Post Magazine containing "The Jack Alexander Article" about A.A. And on the sentimental side, many were touched by group

records of the 40s showing attendance rosters, financial reports, speakers and other data. They all reflected back the realization that we are beneficiaries of those sober alcoholics who kept A.A. alive and available to us in our moments of need, as we, hopefully, do with respect to generations yet to come.

Sadly, but understandably, the Archives items are fragile and cannot withstand handling. For that and security reasons the displays are covered with transparent Mylar. Though viewing is limited, it fortunately is possible still.

All of which helps remind us that our primary purpose remains, to carry the message of hope to the suffering alcoholic. We can never become merely custodians of A.A. history. We can, nevertheless, within the context of a whole range of A.A. services, renew our own sense of purpose by continuing to collect and preserve the rich and meaningful heritage of our past.

More next time.
Inquiries may be addressed to:

C.N.C.A. Archives
P. O. Box 23984
Oakland, CA. 94623

Article by Herb J. . . .

**"THE PITCH"
"FROM THE COAST"**

The CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA monthly business meeting is held the third (3rd) Thursday of each month, at 2258 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA., 8:00 pm-Bjornson Hall. We average 65-70 GSRs, DCMs and Area Officers monthly, and these meetings cover

everything from "unlisted groups to anonymity breaks" and everything in between. During these times of rapid growth and expansion our Fellowship is experiencing "growing pains", but there is a sure-fire cure for these "growing pains"; it's called: Communications, Carrying the Messages of Recovery - Unity - Service, as they are contained in our Basic text, our "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and our Service Manual. "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", the aforementioned ideals and our adherence to them accounts for A.A.'s continued growth and worldwide acceptance." April 13, 1983, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Gratefully in Love and Service - Bill M.
CNCA Delegate

OUR THREE LEGACIES
IF YOU REALLY WANT
TO GROW. IT TAKES
ALL THREE.....
RECOVERY
UNITY
SERVICE

Responsibility, cont.

effectiveness and energies would be hopelessly dissipated. This is why sobriety-freedom from alcohol-through the practice of A.A.'s Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of this cardinal principle. We shall almost certainly collapse and we cannot help anyone."
.....Letter, Bill W. 1966
I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure..which is... TRY TO PLEASE EVERYONE.....

"CONTRA COSTA CORNER"

Hello Friends! Our Service Center located at 180 Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek, CA. is making preparations now for their Anniversary Party to be held in September. More next month on date and times. There are also several good speaker meetings in our County, two of which I will mention. The All Groups Speaker Meeting is on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Glenbrook Intermediate School in Concord and another on the 1st Saturday. The Diablo/Danville Groups Speaker Meeting at 222 W. El Pinado Rd. in Danville. If you wish to know more about great meetings, call our Service Center at 415-939-5371.

More next month with news on our Newcomers meetings and our Grapevine Chairperson.

Sincerely,
Betty H., Contra Costa

"NCC CORNER"

The NCC Fall Conference will be held in Stockton, October 7, 8, 9, 1983. The Host Committee has been meeting, and from all reports, it again looks like another winner. We will have the 12 Traditions Play as one of our workshops. At another workshop, we will be discussing the 4th Step. As noted in Redding, the marathon meetings will be held in Stockton and at future facilities where space is adequate. Stockton will have marathon meetings and Spanish-speaking meeting along with our regular program.

Our featured speakers will

be Ruth S., Hacienda Heights CA. Friday, October 7; Jim W., Ft. Worth, Texas; and John A. of Laguna Beach, CA. Terrific speakers with tremendous messages!!

The combined General Service and Hospital & Institution meeting on Sunday has been working out very well. It was the decision of both committees to establish this combined service meeting with their panels and a question and answer period. Therefore, the 2 entities have united in such a way as to bring the meaning of service as a way of life.

H & I BROADSIDES

The Northern California Council Hospital and Institution Committee met June 26th at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Ross, CA. for their General Meeting and the election of a new General Chairman.

The meeting was opened by the past General Chairman, Jack L., with the standard business of the committee handled in Jack's very precise way. The meeting proceeded "post-haste", followed by a superb luncheon, served by the San Francisco Region Committee people.

After calling the meeting back to order, Jack asked for the format of new policy revisions. Since there are extensive changes proposed in the "Pink Book" of procedures for the H & I Committee, it was the Committee's decision to have the Policy Chairman print the proposed changes and send copies to all Regional and Area Chairpersons. At the next General Meeting, in the fall, the first in-depth study and vote will be taken. Be sure to ask your Area Chairperson to bring it up at your regular Area Meeting.

Electing a General Chairperson in the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee follows the third legacy procedure in the A.A. Service Manual. With the roll taken, only two (2) of the 75 members made themselves available for the office. One withdrew his name. Bill S., Stockton, CA. remained. No nominations were made from the floor. The motion that Bill S. be elected by acclamation was seconded and passed unanimously. Bill will serve for at least two (2) years as General Chairman as he did in 1963-64, passing up the opportunity to serve a second term at that time. The committee can now draw on his experience and move onward.

Looking forward to seeing you at the H & I Booth in Stockton at our next N.C.C.A.A. Conference, October 7, 8 and 9.

By Pat S., Modesto, Ca.

"IN MEMORY OF"

One of the original founders of the North Highland Group, HOWARD W., passed away June 20, 1983. Howard joined A.A. in Oct. 1953, at Group Three in Sacramento. He later helped start the North Highlands Group in 1956. He will be missed.

Every active member of our program leaves a Thumb Print on the shape of A.A. In Hugh C's case, our area will show the imprint of his loving and busy hands in the service of A.A. Hugh C. of Stockton passed away on July 7 in Santa Cruz a town he loved, as he did A.A. We'll all miss him.

"NEED A CHALLENGE. . ?"

This is Good News. The Sacramento area reporter is challenging all the other GOOD NEWS reporters to get 10 (count 'em) subscriptions by the next deadline (8-15-83). Remember the GOOD NEWS carries the message and the subscriptions carry the GOOD NEWS.

If you're in the Sacramento-Elk Grove area on August 14, don't miss CCFAA's Annual Picnic, Bingo, booths, softball and fine A.A. Many thanks to Doc C. for helping Granite Bay LakeSide Group celebrate a fine 5th Anniversary.

Just Plain "Fletch"

Dear Subscribers: It costs approx. \$300.00 to mail everyone just one (1) extra copy of the GOOD NEWS. We've tried in the past to give you 60 to 90 days grace (hoping for your renewal, of course!) but primarily wanting to do the job the Good News is supposed to do - carry the message. In the past 18 months, it's cost approx. \$1,000 over and above what we've taken in to maintain that policy. Obviously, we can no longer do it. Please, we ask you, PLEASE check the TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER OF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL That is your due date.

"GOOD NEWS CORNER"

We hope you're enjoying your GOOD NEWS. We hope to build it back up to what it was, and can still be, with your help. We have H & I writing their "Broadsides" again and hope to get "The Link" from General Services Interior and "The Pitch" from General Services Coastal started again. Our reporters are sending in flyers of coming events and we hope to have them send in articles of interest that they believe are for the good of A.A. as a whole. We suggest the articles be written from their experiences in their own lives, and lives of others in A.A. in their community.

*****NOTE*****

GOOD NEWS presents the experiences of A.A.s and others interested in our program. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement, either by A.A. or the Good News. If you would like to share your viewpoints, please send them to GOOD NEWS P.O. Box 5521, Stockton, California, 95205.....

CORRECTION PLEASE. Last month we listed an article as Alateen Village. It should read:
"ALTUA VILLAGE HAS A SUNDAY OPEN MEETING AT 8 PM LOCATED AT 1240 ALTA MESA RD. IN GALT, CALIF. Sorry folks!

AGAIN WE'RE SORRY.....
Last month we failed to publish two very important articles. While this is being typed the Annual Al-Ateen Conference is being held, and District 32's Annual Summer Delta Inter-Group Speakers Meeting will be July 24, in Tracy, CA. No, we can't make it up, but we will try harder!!

THE BEST WAY TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY, IS TO SAY I'VE GOT RESPONSIBILITY....

CLARIFICATIONS

Last issue, you read "GOOD NEWS GOES MONTHLY". Make that "is going" please. As soon as practically possible is our E.T.A. Synchronizing the whole machine in a new time frame takes more than a little doing. Thanks especially to all our reporters, and also subscribers, for your patience, flexibility and support during the transition.
"Circulation Dept"

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