

NIGHT CAP

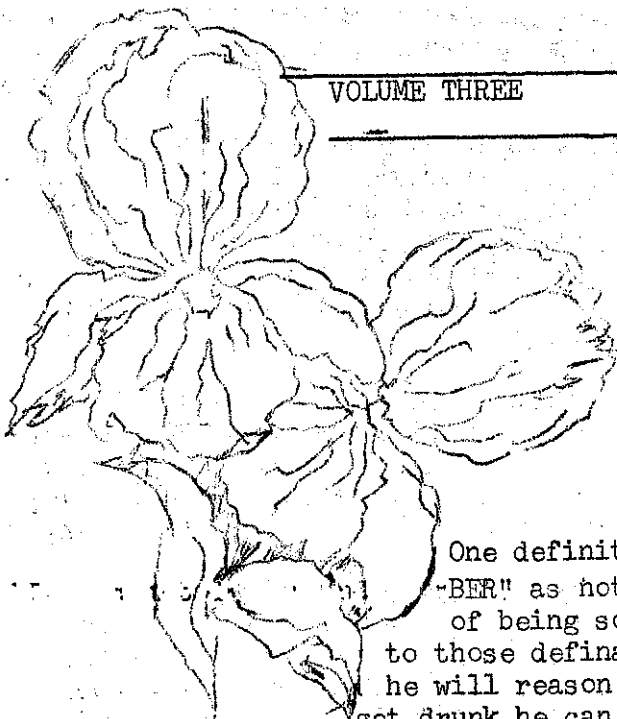
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Central Service Office of Alcoholics
Anonymous in the interest of greater
unity in local and Southwest Texas
Area groups.

Address all communications to :
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VOLUME THREE

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NUMBER THIRTY SIX



THE WINTER IS PAST,

THE SNOW WILL SOON BE GONE,

FLOWERS APPEAR ON THE EARTH,

THE TIME OF SINGING HAS COME.

SOBRIETY

One definition in the dictionary defines the word "SOB-
BER" as not drunk; and sobriety as the state or quality
of being sober. Any rationalizing alcoholic can latch on
to those definitions as a valid authority for drinking. For
he will reason logically, that just as long as he does not
get drunk he can still partake once in awhile. However, we
prefer the AA definition of sobriety - TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

Sobriety is sanity; sobriety is character; sobriety is emotional stability;
sobriety is order; and unless we develop our spiritual lives, eventually we will
return to drinking, and all the rewards will be washed away in a flood of alcohol
leaving only chaos and misery as our lot once again.

Sobriety in AA only begins when the alcoholic stops drinking. Sobriety in AA is
a state of mind and a way of life without alcohol or the need of it. There is
no such thing as being a little bit alcoholic, anymore than a woman being a
little bit pregnant. Neither is it possible to live the AA way of life and drink -
if you are alcoholic. Therefore, you as an alcoholic (or "problem drinker" if
you shrink from being classed as alcoholic) are powerless over alcohol. This means
literally, that the alcoholic or problem drinker cannot safely use alcohol in
any form, nor is there any hope that he will ever be able to do so. If he truly
seeks a happy, carefree, respectable life he must accept this tenet, or reject
any chance for sobriety.

Alcohol is "cunning, powerful and baffling" in the way it effects the alcoholic,
particularly in the early stages of alcoholism. It leaves no visible scars, no
withered limbs or deformities; all its insidious damage is done within the person -
on his mind, his body, his moral principals, his character, and self respect.
Insidiously, alcohol smothers mental anguish, a consideration for the rights of
others, sense of shame, responsibility and spiritual values. Fear and loneliness
are his ultimate reward. But stubbornly and furiously he resists friendly advice
that alcohol might be the cause of his troubles and that he is drinking too much,
or that he should cut down.

(CONT'D. ON PAGE TWO)

SOBRIETY (CON'TD. FROM PAGE ONE)

How familiar is the answer given by many alcoholics who refuse to recognize their problem, " I can quit anytime I want to. I don't need your advice, certainly I don't need AA."

Our 1st Step Spells out the only sane answer, "WE ADMIT WE ARE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL AND THAT OUR LIVES ARE UNMANAGEABLE." To Assure success in combating this damnable destroyer of all sorts of people - brilliant or simple, rich or poor, man or woman - as well as their families and their long suffering friends means, "THAT WE CAN'T DRINK - PERIOD".

-FRED M. -

HE HAS CHANGED OUR DARK NIGHT
INTO A SUNRISE OF JOY!

32nd ANNIVERSARY OF AA IN SAN ANTONIO

Thirty-two years ago the first Group of Alcoholics Anonymous was established in San Antonio.

In 1941, Rt. Rev. Everett H. Jones, a retired Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, then rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, through an advertisement in the local newspaper advised that he had information for anyone who had a drinking problem and wished to do something about it. He was joined in this pioneer work by the Rev. Joseph Brown, the current rector of the Episcopal Church of the Reconciliation and Ester Elisardi, deeseases, of Dallas.

Preliminary meetings were held from 1941 through 1944 at St. Marks, and on April 11th, 1945 the 1st AA group was formed. They held these meetings in the Rev. Jones study and subsequently moved the meeting place to an old grocery store at 4th and Taylor Streets. They adopted the name of

the Old 4th Street AA Group and later moved to a second floor office on West Commerce Street, adjacent to the Old Frost National Bank.

The San Antonio Central Service Office opened its doors in the Travis Building in 1949. Operated full time with a paid secretary and moved to the present location at 109 Lexington in 1971.

AA in San Antonio has grown in these 32 years until the program is now active in local institutions and hospitals, several Treatment Centers; we now have 41 active groups in Metropolitan San Antonio and 2 in Universal City.

It is estimated that there are some 1000 members of Alcoholics Anonymous active in this area trying to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

An Anniversary celebration party sponsored by the Central Service Office and hosted by all the AA Groups in San Antonio will be held April 1st, 1977 in the First Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m., good fellowship and refreshments for all, followed by a meeting. The speaker for the occasion will be Modina R. ("Big Mo.") of Dallas who will have an excellant "message".

Mark your calenday and lets see each and everyone of you to help celebrate this 32nd Anniversary of AA in San Antonio. Tickets are available through your GSR, and at Club 12, 24 Hour Group and the Central Service Office.

WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE
ALLELUIA IS OUR SONG

IN MEMORIUM:

Merle Powell, February, 1977

Gertrude Behanna, December, 1976

IN MEMORIUM: (CONT'D)

A GOODBYE FOR GERT

"Come out and see what's left of me," said the husky voice at the other end of the phone. "Stay about an hour. An hour is all I can take of you," she chuckled. The whiskey tenor voice was that of Gertrude Behanna, 81. Gert, writing under the pen name of Elizabeth Burne, told her story of three marriages, alcoholism, attempted suicide, and her conversion in the book, The Late Liz.

She made her witness personally to thousands of Floridians on several visits to the diocese during the 1960s/

I was on my way back from a meeting of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. I had an hour in San Antonio, Texas, before plane time. It was a good but short hour. "Gert weighed 104 pounds. Her hair was still conveniently short and only showing flecks of gray." I don't have to fuss over it that way."

God doesn't ask you to bear too much at one time. He says, "Hold off on the arthritis for awhile; we've got to let her take care of her eyes." We reminisced about her visits to Florida.

Her son, The Rev. Bard Smith, teaches at Carlton College in Minnesota, and she was moving there to live with him.

The taxi arrived. We hugged each other. We both knew, but didn't say, that our paths might not cross again. We said a prayer together and hugged again. Of such is the communion of Saints.

- Robert M. G. Libby, Chaplain, Jacksonville (Fla.) Episcopal High School - (Excerpted from the January, 1976 issue of The Florida Episcopalian)

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS WE EXTEND SINCERE SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS THAT THEIR BEREAVMENT MAY BE TEMPERED BY REFLECTIVE THOUGHTS UPON THE HAPPINESS SHARED.

STAT'S: (2/10/77 - 3/14/77)

AA - 72

Alanon - 14

Information - 69

PIG - 9

Students - 8

BIG BOOKS

At last! The "big Books" have arrived. Beth J. says she has an abundant supply to fill all back orders, and plenty for your current needs as well.

She is also well stocked with "Twenty Four Hour" books. Keep that in mind when you are considering a gift for a new person.

Drop into your Central Office for coffee, a chat and some browsing through the fine selection of books. And don't forget the Central Office also carries a full line of jewelry, lighters, cards - and just about everything you, or your group might need.

EASTER IS THE PROMISE OF LOVE
BLOOMING LIKE SPRING'S FIRST FLOWERS

AROUND THE AREA:

Merger: The Harmony and Harmonia Groups have merged, and will continue to meet on Fridays at 8:15 p.m., 2208N. Zaramora.

* * * * *

The Park North Group is now holding "Open Discussion" meetings every Friday from 8 - 9 p.m. in the basement cafeteria of Park North Hospital. Dee S. has been named GSR, and Mary Lou G. is secretary of the group. Come on out and join this new group for a fine free-wheeling evening of good talk and fellowship!

* * * * *

How about a helping hand? Your presence is very welcome at the Sally Group's meetings, Wednesday evenings at 8:15 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Salvation Army, 1324 S. Flores.

And how about bringing yourself and three or four friends along to the Woodlawn Heights Group's meetings on Wednesday evenings, also. The time is 8:15 p.m. at the Residential Treatment Unit, 3551 Culebra. How about a break in the old routine - get out and give these groups a try!

* * * * *

Even exercise is more fun with a friend! Better yet - a bunch of friends. Marion H. and Geri McC. are interested in forming a group - and they'd love to have YOU! So Come on - pull out your ponies and warm-up suit and give the girls a call. Geri's number is 822 - 7070, and Marion can be reached at: 655 - 9659 (after 5 p.m.)

And remember, gentlemen you are definitely invited, too - couple a' months from now you could be lookin' like Sylvester Stallone! (Could Happen . . .)

* * * * *

Regular Monthly Events:

The Administrative Board of the Central Service Office will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday the 5th of April in the Central Service Office.

* * * * *

there will be NO meeting of the C.S.C.C. in April (Have a Happy Easter!)

The Goliad Group will hold its regular monthly barbeque April 17th at 6 p.m. An "Open Speakers!" meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. All other Meetings are held at the regular time of 8:15 p.m.

The 24 Hour Service Club will hold its regular monthly dinner on Sunday the 24th of April at 1 p.m. The Club is located at 1203 Fredricksburg Road.

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS BREAK FORTH INTO
CRIES OF JOY!

COMMITTEE MEMBER WORKSHOP

The Southwest Texas Area District Committee Member Workshop, with the Seguin Groups as host, was held February 26th-27th, 1977 at the Seguin Travel Agency Meeting Rooms. Alice W. and her committee of Shirley G., Jim R. and Mary C. are to be commended for the excellent planning and arrangement of details for the Workshop.

In attendance were 10 District Committee members, and 4 alternates, 13 General Service Representatives and alternates, 5 Officers and 10 AA members.

Detailed reports of the Area Committees functions were given. Committees reporting were Public Information, Institutions, Hospitals, Prisons and Editorial. The reports indicate a healthy growth and expansion of activity in the Area.

Before closing the Saturday afternoon session, a presentation of "intergroup", its functions, services and needs was given. The Area Chairman gave an interpretation of the "Concepts."

(CONT'D ON PAGE FIVE)

COMMITTEE MEMBER WORKSHOP (CONT'D FROM PAGE FOUR)

Sunday morning was devoted to Committee members holding session on: "The District to the Group", "The District to the Area Conference", "The District to the General Service Conference". After the Delegate's session, a spirited sharing session closed the Workshop.

- Margaret H. -

EASTER BLESSINGS - MAY THE NEW-BORN BRING YOU HOPE AND JOY!



BE ANELF

TO YOURSELF!

Subscribe to "The Night Cap"

9th * * * TAC * * * 9th

The 9th Texas Alateen Conference will once again be held at the Highland lakes Baptist Encampment on the shores of Lake Travis - just outside of Austin - April 15th -19th.

All Texas Alateens are invited to share in this warm and enthusiastic weekend. Alateens who have already attended TAC agree its a unique experience, and newcomers will find an atmosphere of love and caring that's very special! This is a don't miss!

A registration fee of \$22.50 per person covers all meals and sleeping accomodations. Make checks payable to: Texas Alateen Conference and turn them into your group secretary or sponsor.

WHO IS WELCOME AT OPEN AA MEETINGS?

Student nurses at a university hospital were told to visit AA meetings. They got in touch and were assured they would be welcome at one group's open meeting.

When they arrived, however, some local members didn't like it and asked the young women to leave. They said their meeting had just been declared "closed."

You can imagine the nurses feelings and their opinion of AA.

In another state, students of alcoholism were allowed to stay at an open meeting, but some of the members were unhappy. "Open " meetings, they said, means open to Alanon members only.

"The AA Group" pamphlet says open meetings are "for anyone interested."

Among types of meetings, it also lists " Open Discussion ", noting that "Non-alcoholics may attend and participate in the discussion."

Many AA's active in committees on public information or co-operation with the professional community believe that an excellant way to familiarize professionals and others with our program is to encourage them to see it in action - by attending open meetings.

How does your group feel about Open meetings?

EASTER TOUCHES EARTH WITH HEAVEN

FINANCIAL CORNER
 CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE
 1977

RECEIVED MARCH 15, 1977
 SAN ANTONIO

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	15.00	45.00	Northwood	-0-	45.00
Audubon	10.00	30.00	Reality	-0-	-0-
Breeze	20.00	30.00	Reliance	-0-	20.00
Broadway	10.00	30.00	Sally	-0-	-0-
Downtown	10.00	10.00	SASH	5.00	10.00
First Step	-0-	-0-	Santa Fe	-0-	-0-
Ft. Sam Houston	20.00	40.00	St. Agnes	-0-	-0-
Frontier	20.00	60.00	Serenity	10.00	30.00
Goliad	-0-	41.00	Sharing	-0-	-0-
Group 12	200.00	200.00	Step. Stones	75.00	75.00
Grupo Del Sol	-0-	-0-	Sunset	-0-	30.00
Grupo Esperanza	-0-	3.00	Trinity	-0-	10.00
Grupo Unidad	7.50	7.50	The Haven	20.00	20.00
Harmony of Harmonia	10.00	10.00	24 Hour	10.00	30.00
Highlands	20.00	60.00	Universal City	-0-	-0-
Hope	-0-	-0-	Valley Hi	15.00	30.00
Laurel Hts.	15.00	45.00	VA Hospital	20.00	30.00
Mary Mont	-0-	25.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	75.00
Northeast	-0-	20.00	Wesley	-0-	-0-
No. San Pedro	-0-	20.00	Windcrest	-0-	60.00
Northwest	25.00	75.00	Woodlawn Hts.	-0-	-0-

AREA

Boerne	-0-	-0-	Men's Stag (Kerrville)	-0-	10.00
Bridge (N. Braunfels)	10.00	30.00	Women's Serv. (Kerr)	10.00	30.00
Floresville	5.00	15.00	Luling	2.00	13.00
Kerrville	20.00	20.00	Seguin	5.00	15.00

Central Service Office - 109 Lexington Ave., Suite 215 - San Antonio, Texas
 78205

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Donation is enclosed on the basis of \$1.00 per month.

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 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP NO _____

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