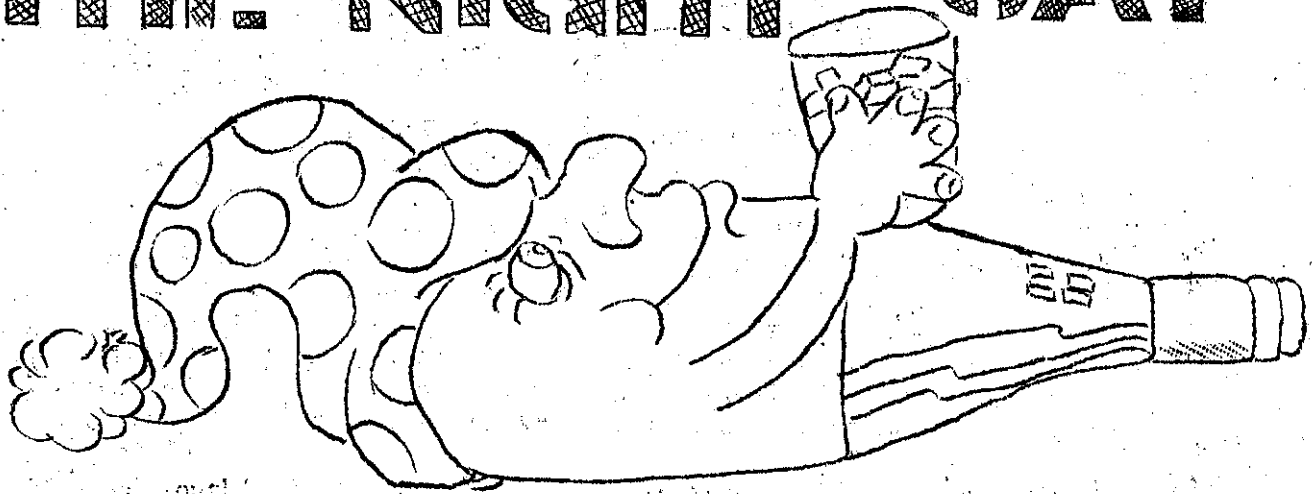


THE NIGHT CAP



Published monthly by the San Antonio Central Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in the interest of greater unity of members in local and Southwest Texas groups.

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VOLUME THREE

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33 YEARS OF AA IN SAN ANTONIO

In March, 1941 The Rev. Everett H. Jones, then Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church was one of the thousands who read the Jack Alexander article: "Alcoholics Anonymous - Freed Slaves of Drink, Now They Free Others" appearing in the SATURDAY EVENING POST. At that time he was working with two alcoholics, both members of his congregation. Through the article he learned that Houston had a group and determined that he would seek more information about the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the feasibility of founding a group in San Antonio.

Within days he was scheduled for a week of Lenten preaching at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, and he located the AA telephone number and asked that a representative of the group visit him at his hotel. He was so impressed with his visitor that he asked him to accompany him on his return to San Antonio, and called ahead to arrange for a small group of interested persons to meet with the two of them at St. Marks' on the Sunday afternoon following their arrival.

Unfortunately the good priest was preoccupied with affairs that had piled up in his absence and had to let his new friend entertain himself for the day intervening. That gentleman had formerly been a newspaper reporter in this city and met with several of his old cronies who dined - and wined - him so excessively that he was scarcely in condition to be of any help to the tiny group of hopeful San Antonians. Indeed, it was they who helped him by bundling him aboard the first bus headed back toward Houston!

Undaunted, the little band took stock of the situation, decided they were still very much intrigued by the thought of bringing Alcoholics Anonymous to the San Antonio Area and resolved to send one of the alcoholic men with whom Father Jones had been working to Houston for a week. There, he was to attend meetings, talk with the members and bring back all the available literature.

When he returned to report his encounter with Houston AA's the fledgling-San Antonioites responded by forming their own group and holding weekly meetings in the Rector's study at St. Marks'. They were aided in these pioneer efforts by

(Continued on Page Two)

33 YEARS OF AA IN SAN ANTONIO (Continued from Page One)

the Rev. Joseph L. Brown, Jr., then the assistant rector of St. Marks', and now the rector of the Church of the Reconciliation, San Antonio.

The group put the usual ad in one of the local papers, "If you want to drink that's your business. If you don't want to drink that's our business"; and included their telephone number. They obtained a few recruits and struggled along through the year until December 7th - but after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of World War 2 their members scattered and this small but promising beginning came to an end.

However, the seed of hope had been planted and in April, 1945 a group of people who knew of this first attempt urged Jones, who by now had been consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas (and headquartered in San Antonio to make another effort to bring AA to San Antonio - and it was this "Second Coming" that was to prove successful!

Esther E., who had been a strong AA member in Houston, and was then living in Dallas was contacted and she graciously agreed to help, spending several days and speaking at several meetings. From that date to this AA has had continuous existence in the San Antonio area.

For many years, until her death, Esther joined the San Antonio celebration of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous, as did the Bishop, who though he is now retired and on a restricted schedule still finds time to meet occasionally with his many AA friends. A strong bond developed between the Bishop who is many times referred to as "Our Honorary Alcoholic" and his beloved children about whom he has been heard to say, "Alcoholics are just like everybody else - but they're so much more so!"

From 1945 to 1947 AA met on the lower floor of an old building that had formerly been a grocery store at the corner of Fourth and Taylor Streets. Though the accommodations were less than luxurious the members were delighted with their first permanent home. The group was called the Old 4th Street AA Group. Later they signaled that they were "coming up in the world" by moving to a 2nd floor location on West Commerce Street across from the First National Bank.

In 1949 the Central Office was opened in the Travis Building operating on a daily basis with a full time secretary. Though the Office was moved in 1971 to its present location in the Lexington Building no interruption of service has occurred since its inception.

By the 1950's the AA Auxilliary (forerunner of the Alanon Family Groups) was an active and dedicated influence in the AA community. Publication of THE NIGHT CAP began in 1950 and it flourished for a time but was "put to bed" in 1954. Not until 1972 was it revived when the then secretary of the Central Service Office felt the need for an area-wide publication and "drafted" one of her AA friends to be its editor. It serves as an "Open Forum", or "town meeting" allowing all members of the area to communicate with one another.

1978 Meeting Directories published in February show 46 Groups within the Metropolitan Area holding one or more weekly meetings and 2 Groups in Universal City.

From a handful of people who wouldn't give up - to 48 active Groups in every part of the city; from the grocery store where members drank their coffee from tin cups after bailing it from a bucket that sat on a one-burner gas plate - to meetings in hospitals, half-way houses, clubs, Governmental and Civic organization meeting rooms, and in churches of every denomination - to a diversity of meetings

(Continued on Page Three)

33 YEARS OF AA IN SAN ANTONIO

(Continued from Page Two)

from manor "Speaker's Meetings" at conferences and conventions to intimate "Discussion Groups" prepared especially for the "Beginner" or specifically directed to the woman alcoholic, the young person . . . the chair of recovery has expanded from a few fragile links to a life-line forged in steel extended to the "still suffering alcoholic", and those closest to him or her.

Every member of AA in San Antonio can be proud to celebrate 33 years of accomplishment, vitality and growth!

The 33rd Anniversary of AA in San Antonio will be the occasion of a dinner meeting to be held April 8th at the Arden Grove Party House, 102 9th Street. A coffee hour beginning at 6:30 p.m. will precede the dinner and a lively "Speaker's Meeting" will follow. Kate R. will recall the early days of AA in the area for us, and John M., Austin, will be our guest speaker for the evening. The Rev. Cliff Waller will give the Invocation.

Tickets (\$7.50 per person) are now on sale and can be obtained from your Group secretary or CSR. A limited number will be available at the door prior to the dinner. Let's all join in making this the most festive night of the year for every member of AA in San Antonio!

CELEBRATE LIFE AND LOVE, GROWING AND LEARNING, PLAYING AND SHARING, AND BEING
* * * * * HAPPY! * * * * *

PIC: 2/15/78 - 3/15/78

John H. has had to keep hopping to fill school engagements this past month and says he'd be delighted to hear from any of you who'd enjoy making a presentation.

Vangie H. spoke to a class at Wheatly High, and DuWayne F. enjoyed being the guest of South Side High School classes.

"Blackie" C. spoke for young people at John Jay High School during "Career Day". Tommie D. addressed a class at Ed White Middle School.

Sean O'M. visited the SAC (at Lackland) campus, and Elizabeth K. spoke to St. Mary's University students. Joan B. and Bill M. shared their experiences with a group at Southwest School of Medical Assistants. Joan was also the guest of the Inspiration Alanon Group at Club 12.

and I am able to see how maybe I was a bit out of ture with things.

Recently, I received a folder from the General Service Office, talking about giving a 1¢ a day (or Something) - and the thought immediately went through my head - "all these people think about is enriching their coffers". Then I said (to myself) - "listen to you" - in the bars I was the last of the big Spenders! Put it on my tab" was my favorite expression! I'd rather not mention how much money I spent that way.

Once, when I was still married (before sobriety), I went on a trip to Acapulco by myself and spent about \$600. The day after I got home my wife and I went shopping and she wanted to buy a baby-bottle warmer which cost \$3.99. I yelled "listen -do you really think this is necessary?" We didn't buy it and she was a little upset . . .

PUT IT ON MY TAB!

Every now and then I have the realization that my old ideas were inaccurate at best
(Continued in Column Two)

So now I get this thing from GSO - and - find out I'm still a little crazy.
(Continued on Page four)

I'm told I can be a great help to the Central service Office by giving just a "Buck - A - Month". Can you believe that? I can also give more if I want (I understand they sometimes run pretty tight), but all they're asking for is a "Buck - A - Month" - and I gave it - but you know, when I did I didn't seem to have nearly the enthusiasm I used to have when I'd say, "put it on my tab!"

- Anonymous -

WELL, BUST MAH BRITCHES!

AA in San Antonio has been growing, and growing - and growing - and schave the demands on your Central Service Office. More demands meant more diversified services - which meant additional equipment - larger supplies of literature -- and a more complete stock of jewelry and momentos. . . . just like AA we grew, and out: "lik' to bust our britches!"

To accomodate our growth (both now and in the future) we're increasing our office space, by adding another room to the suite.

We're expanding to give you expanded coverage - both today - and tomorrow.

STAT'S: 2/15/78 - 3/15/78

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| AA | 104 |
| Alanon | 26 |
| Student | 4 |
| PIC | 9 |
| Information | 76 |

HOSPITAL ZONE:

Groups responsible for taking meetings to the Villa Rosa Groups' Tuesday night "Open Speakers' Meeting" during the month of April are:

April 4th & 18th - The Haven

April 11th & 25th - The Audubon
* * * * *

Groups responsible for taking meetings to the Sally Groups' Wednesday Night "Open Speakers' Meeting" (7:30 p.m.) are:

April 5th & 12th - The Frontier

April 19th & 26th - Universal City
* * * * *

The Park North Group holds "Open Discussion Meetings" every Friday evening at 8 p.m. in the basement cafeteria of Park North General Hospital. 4330 Vance Jackson.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS:

The Administrative Board of the Central Service Office will meet Tuesday, April 4th at 7 p.m. in the Central Service Office
* * * * *

The C.S.O.C. and District 1 meetings will be held on Sunday, April 9th at 7 p.m. in Club 12, 102 Thames Blvd.
* * * * *

The Goliad Group, 537 Avondale, will hold its regular monthly barbeque, Sunday, April 16th at 6 p.m. followed by an "Open Speakers' Meeting" at 7:30.

All other Sunday meetings are held at the usual time of 8:15 p.m.
* * * * *

Group 12 will hold its monthly dinner and games night on Saturday, April 29th at 7 p.m.
* * * * *

The 24 Hour Service Group, 1203 Fredricksburg, will hold its regular monthly dinner on Sunday, April 30th at 1 p.m.

Mouth-watering beef shish-kabobs will be the star of this months' menu!

ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS:

New Women's Group -- Closed Discussion Meeting at 8:15 every Monday at Club 12.
* * * * *

The Goliad Group has added an "Open Step Meeting" to its roster of Manday Meetings. This one meets at 8:15 p.m.

An "Open Discussion Meeting" has also been added to the Goliad schedule: Friday evening at 8:15 p.m.
* * * * *

Oops! Sorry 'bout that. In compiling the new area directories we inadvertently left out one of the 24 Hour Service Groups' finest meetings. The Saturday Night "Open Speakers' Meeting" is still held at 10:15 p.m.

* * * * *

The STARR (South Texas Area Round Robin) Meeting which formerly met on the 2nd Sunday of each month directly following the C.S.O.C. Meeting has been discontinued.

* * * * *

The Lambda Group (gay) is now inactive, as is the V.A.Hospital Groups' Thursday Night "Open Speakers' Meeting".

IN MEMORIUM:

The beloved parents of Jim W. - March, 1978
The Central Service Office would like to thank all those who have made memorials. These gifts are deeply appreciated and will enable AA to further carry the message.

TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WE EXTEND SINCERE SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS THAT THEIR BEREAVEMENT MAY BE TEMPERED BY REFLECTIVE THOUGHTS UPON THE HAPPINESS

* * * * * SHARED * * * * *

!SINCERE THANKS?

"Gentle Ben" A. and Elva A. are taking this opportunity to thank the many friends who joined them in celebrating their marriage at the El Tropicana Motor Inn in January.

Thanks too, for the many beautiful and useful gifts - they will be enjoyed for many years to come--and each use will recall the joy of that happy occasion!

TO LOVE SOMEONE IS TO ALWAYS SHOW THEM

* * *NEW WAYS TO GROW * * * * *

CONFERENCE NEWS:

The 13th Annual Pre-General Service Conference Workshop will be held April 1st and 2nd at the Holiday Inn, Victoria, Texas.

This is a working conference for every Member of the Southwest Texas Area. All groups should be represented by their GSR'S or Alternates and secretaries.

The Pre-Conference Workshop is held every year at this time in order that the delegate may have in-put from all groups before attending the General Service Conference in new York.

In order to be properly represented we must have an informed delegate.

There is no registration fee for the conference itself. An "Early Bird Meeting" will be held on Friday, March 31st, and Conference registration will begin at 9 a.m. the following day.

For room reservations write direct to:

Holiday Inn
2705 E. Houston Highway
Victoria, Texas

AROUND THE AREA:

The Mary Mont-Group will celebrate their 3rd Anniversary with an "Open Speakers" Meeting" and Open House on Tuesday, April 25th at 8:15 p.m.

The Group meets in the Annex Building behind the Church of the Reconciliation and they invite all area AA's to join them for their 3rd "Birthday"!

FINANCIAL CENTER
SAN ANTONIO
CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE
RECEIVED MARCH 15, 1978

| <u>GROUP</u> | <u>MAR.</u> | <u>TO DATE</u> | <u>GROUP</u> | <u>MAR.</u> | <u>TO DATE</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Alamo Heights | 15.00 | 45.00 | Open Door | 0 | 30.00 |
| Audubon | 0 | 0 | Park North | 10.00 | 30.00 |
| Brees | 0 | 0 | Reality | 5.00 | 15.00 |
| Broadway | 0 | 35.00 | Reliance | 20.00 | 60.00 |
| Downtown | 0 | 20.00 | Sally | 0 | 0 |
| First Step | 0 | 0 | SASH | 0 | 10.00 |
| Ft. Sam Houston | 20.00 | 80.00 | Santa Fe | 0 | 30.00 |
| Frontier | 0 | 40.00 | Sahara | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Goliad | 0 | 15.00 | St. Agnes | 0 | 10.00 |
| Group 12 | 50.00 | 100.00 | Serenity | 10.00 | 30.00 |
| Grupo Del Sol | 0 | 0 | Sharing | 0 | 0 |
| Grupo Esperanza | 0 | 0 | Spiritual Life | 0 | 0 |
| Grupo Unidad | 0 | 30.00 | Stepping Stones | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| Harmony | 0 | 0 | Sunset | 55.00 | 85.00 |
| Highlands | 60.00 | 80.00 | The Haven | 0 | 15.00 |
| Hope | 14.00 | 14.00 | 24 Hour | 10.00 | 20.00 |
| Kelly AFB | 0 | 35.00 | Universal | 0 | 0 |
| Laurel Heights | 15.00 | 45.00 | Valley Hi | 0 | 0 |
| Marymont | 25.00 | 25.00 | Villa Rosa | 0 | 50.00 |
| Northeast | 0 | 20.00 | Wesley | 0 | 15.00 |
| N. San Pedro | 10.00 | 40.00 | Windcrest | 0 | 0 |
| Northwest | 20.00 | 60.00 | | | |
| Northwood | 0 | 90.00 | | | |

AREA

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|
| Bandera | 0 | 0 | Women's Serenity | 0 | 20.00 |
| Bridge (N.B.) | 0 | 20.00 | Lytle | 0 | 8.00 |
| Canyon Lake | 0 | 0 | New Braunfels | 0 | 10.00 |
| Floresville | 5.00 | 15.00 | Pearsall | 10.00 | 25.00 |
| Hill Country Group | 0 | 0 | Seguin | 0 | 0 |
| Kerrville | 0 | 20.00 | | | |

Memorials

Dollie E. 10.00

Contributions

Teddy L. 25.00

BUCK-A-MONTH CONTRIBUTION FORM
DETACH AND MAIL

Central Service Office - 109 Lexington Ave., Suite 215, San Antonio, Texas 78205
Please enter my contribution to the BUCK-A-MONTH for _____ months. Donation
is enclosed on the basis of \$1.00 per month.

NAME _____ STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____