

# THE NIGHTCAP

APR

SAN ANTONIO  
AA

12

35TH ANNIVERSARY

VOLUME EIGHT

APRIL 1980

NUMBER FOUR

## A HISTORY OF SAN ANTONIO AA SINCE 1941

In 1941, a San Antonio Episcopal Priest read the now famous Jack Alexander Article\* and thus was planted the seed for the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Alamo City, 35 years ago.

The Rev. Everett H. Jones, "our honorary alcoholic", as he affectionately came to be called by San Antonio's early AA members, was Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church in 1941, when he worked with a small group of ex-problem drinkers to bring AA to San Antonio for the first time ever.

Although the initial attempt to establish a group here was not successful, their efforts led to the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio four years later, on Apr. 12, 1945.

During those pioneering days, the disease Alcoholism had not yet been given its name by the American Medical Association. Anyone who drank to excess, then, was considered to be an outcast of society, with about the same social status as a Leper exiled to a First Century cave in the wilderness.

Jones must have puzzled over naming it, too, having worked with two problem drinkers for some time, both members of his congregation. But he learned from the Alexander piece that Houston had an AA Group. Here was help only a relatively short motor trip away.

### ARDEN GROVE PARTY HOUSE IS SCENE OF 35TH SA AA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION APRIL 12

On the evening of April 12, an overflow crowd of grateful alcoholics is expected to gather at the Arden Grove Party House, 102 9th Street, to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of AA in San Antonio.

Guest speaker for this gala annual social will be Jim W. Charles K. will chair the meeting that will be in keeping with the event. Both participants are well-known in San Antonio AA.

Pre-dining fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a steak dinner at 7, the meeting at 8 and after-meeting fellowship at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

The Central Service Office will receive after-expenses-proceeds from a raffle during which valuable prizes will be awarded.

The accompanying history briefly outlines the story of AA in San Antonio, its start and its growth here, since its premature beginning in 1941.

It was Easter time 1941, and Jones was scheduled for a week of Lenten preaching in the Bayou City. He determined to get more information about the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous, that was claiming a fifty percent recovery rate among its members initially, and another twenty five percent after a couple of slips.

He located the Houston AA telephone number and called for a representative to meet him at the Rice Hotel upon his arrival in Houston.

Jones was quite impressed with his visitor's frankness, as he had introduced himself as, "I'm George, an ex-drunk". So the Reverend invited him to come to San Antonio to meet with the group at St. Mark's church.

Back in San Antonio, while the good priest was digging away at a backlog of details that had piled up in his absence, George, unbeknownst to the minister, was being wined and dined by some of his former San Antonio newspaper cronies. (See HISTORY Page 2)

## HAPPINESS MUST CATCH YOU

Its been said that everything has already been put into words at one time or another in one way or another. So the best we can hope for is to arrange the same words in a different way.

An elderly woman expressed her truist philosophy, distilled from 75 years of life's experiences, in her own unique way in a recent letter to Ann Landers.

"Dear Ann Landers: \* \* \*

So many people think they would be happy if only life's circumstances were changed; if they had a different job, if they had married someone else or if they had never married.

They are convinced total contentment would be theirs if only they had a better education, if they lived elsewhere, or could make more money. They are wrong.

I like the story of the unhappy king who was told that he would find happiness by wearing the shirt of the poorest man in the kingdom.

When he discovered the poorest man in the kingdom, he was surprised to find the man was cheerful and had no shirt at all. N.E.O. of Newark".

"Dear Newark: I have observed through the years that happiness comes to people who are too busy to seek it. Happiness cannot be captured and kept under a glass bell.

It is a state of mind that must come as the result of other things. Happiness must catch YOU. You cannot catch IT".

So on to lighter things - At a California disco: "If you aren't aching somewhere you're not doing it right". Reader's Digest.

THE NIGHTCAP is published monthly by the Central Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in the interest of greater unity of members in local and Southwest Area Groups. Address all communications to the Nightcap, Lexington Building, 109 Lexington Avenue, Suite 215, San Antonio, Texas, 78205

The deadline for articles to be published in the Nightcap is twentieth day of the month preceding publication. Mail to the Central Service Office, above address.

## (HISTORY Cont'd)

Before you could say 'King For a Day' George was bundled aboard a bus headed back to Houston, taking with him any hopes for a meeting.

But the San Antonio group, although disappointed, were more determined than ever. They sent one of Father Jones' "pigeons" to Houston for a week of orientation.

He attended meetings and came back with the meagre amount of AA literature available at that time, including a Dig Book. San Antonio AA had something concrete to go on at last.

The embryonic group held weekly meetings in the Assistant Rector's study at St. Mark's and waited for the telephone calls they expected to receive in reply to an advertisement they had inserted in one of the San Antonio papers. The ad read, "if you want to drink, that's your business - if you want to quit that's our business".

The notice drew a few sufferers and the group struggled along until the bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7. Then faced with the acute problems of a nation at war the group disbanded when its members scattered. A small but hopeful beginning had ended.

But the germ of Alcoholics Anonymous had been nurtured with this abortive beginning. Four years later, Apr. 12, 1945, a group of ex-tiplers again called upon Reverend Jones, who was now Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas headquartered in San Antonio.

The Bishop responded with his characteristic energy. This time the effort was successful.

It had become obvious that AA experience was needed. So one of the first moves the group made was to contact Ester E. formerly a strong, active member of the Houston group, and now living in Dallas. Taking the "I am Responsible" slogan to heart, Ester agreed to help get San Antonio AA out of limbo.

(See HISTORY Page 3)

## FRONTIER GROUP TO SPONSOR EASTER MEETING

A sunrise Easter meeting will be sponsored by the Frontier Group at the ARC on Southton Road, at 8 a.m. Easter Sunday Apr. 6. Hank N. and Fred H. Will talk.

## From the Editorial Side

The Alcoholics Anonymous way of life is achieved on a permanent basis only through a workable, common sense regimen of faith and action.

Faith - believing and following the Twelve Steps, and action - taking positive steps to make ourselves winners.

A parallel to the AA way may be found in any worthwhile human undertaking. Both the roots of AA and of other success formulas are planted in universal truths--tried and proved practices and beliefs that produce positive results, often in the face of impossible odds.

These truths never change nor get out of date. They are the bedrock of any creditable lifestyle.

Take the case of coach Herb Brooks and his U. S. Hockey team that recently won the gold medal in the XIII Winter Olympic Games. Very few of the experts gave them even an outside chance to whip the Russians, much less to win the whole prize. Yet win they did because Brooks and his players were men of faith and action.

Like us alcoholics Brooks paid his dues in adversity only to achieve success. Twenty years ago as a player he was cut from the 1960 Olympic Gold medal hockey squad, but came back as a coach in 1980 to win perhaps his greatest victory ever.

Ribbed for his constant use of "clichés", Brooks, before the pivotal Soviet game came up with a poignant, five-sentence message for his team:

"You are born to be a player. You are meant to be here. This moment is yours. You're meant to be here at this time. Let's have the poise and possession of the puck".

"Let's have the poise and possession of the puck". Brooks was saying, of course, that "if you expect to win don't fold under pressure and if you have the puck for more minutes than the Russians they won't outscore you". Pure realism born of hard training, faith and action.

Knowing his players, the coach used the other four sentences to tell them what they already believed they were and what they proved themselves to be--the world's best.

Clichés? When Brooks delivered those five sentences in the dressing room before taking the ice to meet the Soviets, he was convinced that what he said to his players was true. His players were convinced as well.

Tough, competent All-America goal tender, Jim Craig, said it when queried about his team's coming from behind in four of the six contests they played on the way to their Olympic triumph:

"We were able to do it because Coach Brooks worked us so hard". Through faith and action they won at Lake Placid. Their victory was the way it was meant to be in the time and place because they made it so.

We've often heard it said: "I don't know how the program works but it works".

Here's one proven way it works: by getting down to these basics - having faith in a Higher Power, by attending meetings regularly, by working the Twelve Steps one day at a time, and by giving it away to keep it through Twelve Step work.

Here is a verified success formula that parallels the faith and action recipe with which Brooks produced his Gold Medal winners.

For AA's winners the perceptible, touchable "fringe" benefits of the AA program only come after dedicated faith and action have had their reward in contented, serene sobriety--our most precious, indispensable asset.

Floyd Y. -

## (HISTORY Cont'd)

In its early going, the San Antonio Group leaned heavily on her knowledge and knowhow. And until her death, The "Mother of San Antonio AA" regularly attended the annual Anniversary celebration here.

A strong bond developed between Bishop Jones, (now retired) and his "beloved children". He often has been heard to say, "Alcoholics are just like everyone else - only they're so much more so".

In the latter part of 1945, the fledgling  
(See HISTORY Page 5)

SANTA FE GROUP ANNIVERSARY IS APRIL 29

It's anniversary time once again for the Santa Fe Bi-lingual group, 1108 Brunswick. The group will celebrate its eleventh birthday with dinner and music and of course an AA meeting, at 7 p.m. Tues. Apr. 29.

Chairman for the occasion will be Rudy S.F. The speaker will be announced.

MARYMONT GROUP CELEBRATES 5TH BIRTHDAY

Also celebrating another birthday, its fifth, is the Marymont Group on its regular meeting night, Apr. 29, at 8:15 p.m. at the annex building in the rear of the Episcopal church, 8900 Starcrest.

LONGVIEW IS HOST TO EAST TEXAS ROUNDUP

Friendly Longview, Texas is host to the 11th Annual East Texas Roundup at the Holiday Inn, Longview, Fri. Sat. and Sun., Apr. 11, 12 and 13.

With the promise of "East Texas Fellowship and Hospitality", East Texas AA invites all AA's and Alanons to the Thursday Apr. 10, 10 p.m. Early Bird Meeting that promises to get the Roundup underway with an exciting start. Speaker and chairman will be in the hospitality room to greet early comers.

Make reservations directly to Holiday Inn, I-20 and Estes Parkway, Longview, Texas, 75602 and register or write to East Texas Roundup, P.O. Box 2082, Longview, Texas, 75606.

TICKLERS FROM THE EDITORIAL VIEW

This little dipperful sounds like its fresh from the Old Hogakum Bucket. Still, we got a chuckle out of it and hope you will too.

There's (\$) inflation and then there's inflation---

It seems that a newcomer with about a month's sobriety and no sponsor took to the speaker's stand without undue urging, and talked for forty minutes.

When he finished he leaned over the lectern and confidently asked,

"Now, are there any questions?"

Anon

Never be haughty to the humble and never be humble to the haughty. Reader's Digest.

REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS (That need support).

Villa Rosa AA Group. - Open Speaker's and discussion meetings, Tues. 8:15 p.m. Groups responsible for meetings for the month of April are:

Young People's Group, Speaker	April 1
Audobon Group, discussion,	April 8
Wesley Group, speaker's	April 15
Group 12, discussion	April 22
Highlands Group, speaker's	April 29

Sally AA Group. - Open speaker's meeting Wed. 8:15 p.m. 1324 S. Flores. Groups responsible for meetings for April are:

Goliad Group	April 2
Goliad Group	April 9
Marymont Group	April 16
Northeast Group	April 23
Northwest Group	April 30

The Haven AA Group. - Three meetings weekly. Open discussion 8:15 p.m. Tues, Open speaker's 8:15 p.m. Saturday and Open speaker's 5 p.m. Sunday. 1640 W. Woodlawn.

Young People's Group. - Open discussion meeting, Wed. 235 W. Histletoe, 8-9:30 pm. Sun. Open participation 8-9:30 p.m. at Downtown Group, 110 McCullough basement entrance. (Please note Wed. meeting change)

PIC ACTIVITIES FROM FEB. 15 - MAR. 15

Feb. 18 - St. Gerards HS, PTC, Jo Ann S.  
 Feb. 19 - Marymont Girl's Sch, Bill S.  
 Feb. 20 - Adult Probation Dept. John H.  
 Feb. 22 - John Peace Middle Sch. Tommie D.  
 Feb. 26 - Meadow Valley Elem. Sch. Edye O.  
 Mar. 6 - Adult Probation Dept. John H.  
 Mar. 10 - Pryor Youth Home George B.  
 Mar. 11 - Ursuline Academy, PTC, Bill S.  
 Mar. 12 - Lee HS, Mary J. Mc D. Jo Ann S. Education for Handicapped.  
 Mar. 13 - San Antonio Coll. Class Tchrs. Handicapped. Carl C.  
 Mar. 15 - Convention Center, FHA Group, Joe G.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth, mother of Beth J. March 24  
 To the family and friends we extend sincere sympathy and our prayers that bereavement may be tempered by reflective though upon the happiness shared.

What others think about you is never as important as what you think about them.  
 Stools and Bottles.

SASH AA GROUP HONORS EX-PATIENTS

The San Antonio State Hospital AA Group will honor its ex-patients at its second annual homecoming Apr. 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the SASH auditorium.

A reception is to follow a talk by Charlie A. of Corpus Christi.

GSR'S AND CSOC MEMBERS TO MEET APRIL 13

General Service Representatives and Central Service Office Committee members will meet at 7 p.m. Sun. Apr. 13 at Club 12,

The Administrative Board will not meet.

(HISTORY Cont'd)

ling group left the Rector's study and moved to its first independent home on the lower floor of an old building that had once been a grocery store at Fourth and Taylor streets. San Antonio AA stood on its own uncertain feet at last.

In 1947 the group moved again this time downtown to a second floor location across from the First National Bank on West Commerce street.

In the unique, amoeba-like way that AA has of growing, the Commerce Street Group divided into two - forming the Sahara Club, which moved to Navarro street, and Group 12 which moved out off of Josephine. The Highlands Group formed in 1951. SA AA was off and running and its remarkable growth has continued over the past 35 years.

The 1980 meeting directory lists fifty two groups in San Antonio. Outside the city meetings are held in almost any direction you can point: in Kerrville, Fredericksburg, Floresville, Lockhart, Pearsall, Hondo, Pleasanton, to name a few.

The Central Service Office opened, with a full-time secretary in 1949 in the Travis Building downtown. In 1971 it moved to its present location at 109 Lexington Avenue.

Alcoholics Anonymous Auxilliary, forerunner of the Alanon Family Groups, became an active and dedicated influence in the San Antonio AA community in the 1950's.

The first edition of The Nightcap was published and distributed in San Antonio in 1950 and continued until 1954 when for anonymous reasons it was discontinued. It was revived in 1972 and has continued uninterrupted in its aim--the promotion of unity of members in local and Southwest Texas area Groups.

NEW MEMBER TALKATHON ON AT GROUP 12

New-member Group 12 Talkathons are being held at Club 12 the first and third Saturdays monthly at 8:15 p.m.

The only requirement for participation is a desire to start talking.

The purpose of these talkathons is to acquaint new AA's with the use of the microphone and podium.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE STATS 2-15 - 3-15

AA	263
Alanon	39
Information	190
Students	9
Public Information	26

Today the Nightcap reaches more than 200 groups in the Southwest Texas area and is mailed to that many more Buck-A-month members.

Not many remain from the original Group that sat in the Assistant Rector's study and the ramshackle grocery store building, where they dipped their coffee from a bucket heated on a single burner hot plate, that served as a stove, while they shared their experience, strength and hope with each other, and tried to sober up drunks, in an effort to stay sober.

Surely these meetings were First Century faith carried on in a humble twentieth Century setting.

And the people who carry the message today, in the traditional way, are just as dedicated and just as enthusiastic as were Bishop Jones, Ester E. and the others

Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio will be grateful and humble for the opportunities it has had to be responsible to sick alcoholics through thirty five years of service, when its members join hands at the 1980 Anniversary Celebration April 12, at the Arden Grove Party House. \*(Available at CSO in pamphlet form).

GROUP BARBECUES AND DINNERS

- Group 12. - Last Saturday, 7 p.m. dinner, games. Second Saturday, covered dish supper, 7 p.m.
- Goliad Group. - Third Sunday barbecue, 6 p.m. Also a movie.
- Twenty Four Hour Service Group. - Last Sunday, dinner, 1 p.m.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE - SAN ANTONIO

RECEIVED MARCH 17, 1980

<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	Park North (W)	0	45.00
Audubon	0	0	Park North (F)	0	80.00
Broadway	15.00	105.00	Randolph Fellowship	0	10.00
Callaghan	25.00	75.00	Reality	5.00	5.00
Colonies North	0	125.00	Reliance	0	0
Downtown	0	0	Sahara	0	0
Eisenhauer Step	0	5.00	SASH	0	5.00
First Step	0	30.00	Santa Fe	0	0
Ft. Sam Houston	0	75.00	Serenity	0	30.00
Frontier	0	20.00	Southwest Loop	0	50.00
Goliad	15.00	15.00	Spiritual Life	0	0
Group 12	125.00	425.00	Stepping Stones	0	80.00
Grupo Del Sol	0	0	Sunrise	0	0
Grupo Unidad	0	10.00	Sunset	15.00	60.00
Highlands	20.00	80.00	Tejas	65.00	65.00
Hope	0	0	The Haven	0	40.00
Kingsboro	0	0	Triangle	0	0
Lambda	5.00	15.00	24 Hour	0	0
Laurel Heights	15.00	50.00	Universal City	60.00	60.00
Marymont	25.00	25.00	VA Hospital	0	0
Northeast	15.00	45.00	Valley Hi	40.00	60.00
N. San Pedro	20.00	80.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	75.00
Northwest	0	40.00	Wesley	0	6.00
Northwood	100.00	100.00	Wilford Hall	0	0
Open Door	0	0	Windcrest	15.00	45.00
			Young People	15.00	15.00

25 Groups ..... \$701.00  
 Buck-A-Month ..... \$ 72.00

AREA

Brazos Valley	15.00	15.00	Lytle	0	0
Bridge (N.B.)	0	0	New Braunfels	0	0
Cameron Group	8.00	8.00	Pearsall	0	0
Canyon Lake	10.00	10.00	Pleasanton	0	0
Floresville	0	15.00	Seguin	0	0
Hill Country Grp.	0	0	Women's Serenity		
Fredericksburg	0	0	(Kerrville)	0	0
Kerrville	0	0	Rockdale Group	8.00	8.00
Kerrville-Big Book	25.00	25.00			

MEMORIALS

Roger & Joan W. for Cecil Mc Clister  
 John C. for Mother-in-Law

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Orville M.  
 Mike D.  
 Claire & Norm C.

BUCK-A-MONTH CONTRIBUTION FORM

Central Service Office - 109 Lexington Ave., Suite 215, San Antonio, Tx. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

71D