

# 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 area groups.

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## THE SERENITY PRAYER ... it's origin is traced

From the March, 1955 issue of The Night Cap... "There is so much misinformation still adhered to in the ranks of local A.A. members concerning our serenity prayer that we thought it would be timely to reprint the following from the January 1950, issue of the Grapevine:

\* \* \* Its origin is traced \* \* \*

At long last the mystery of the Serenity Prayer has been solved.

We have learned who wrote it, when it was written and how it came to the attention of the early members of A.A. We have learned, too, how it was originally written, a bit of information which should lay to rest all arguments as to which is the correct quotation.

The timeless little prayer has been credited to almost every theologian, philosopher and saint known to man. The most popular opinion on its authorship favors St. Francis of Assisi.

It was actually written by Dr. Reinhold Neibuhr of the Union Theological Seminary, New York city, in about 1932, as the ending to a longer prayer. In 1934, the doctor's friend and neighbor, Dr. Howard Robbins, asked permission to use that part of the longer prayer in a compilation he was making at the time. It was published in that year in Dr. Robbins' book of prayer.

Dr. Neibuhr says: "Of course, it may have been spooking around for years, even centuries, but I don't think so, I honestly believe that I wrote it myself".

It came to the attention of an early member of A.A. in 1939. He read it in  
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## I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere,  
reaches out for help, I want  
the hand of A.A. always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible.



## EXTENSION OF TWELFTH STEP WORK

"In all public relationships, A.A.'s sole objective is to help the still suffering alcoholic. We believe that our experience should be made available fully to all who express sincere interest." In 1956, the General Service Conference felt that this statement expressed A.A.'s public information policy. A.A.'s generally agreed that the right kind of public information program is essential to our growth and to the extension of Twelfth Step work. (From G.S.O. 1972 issue of A.A. Public Information Manual).

If you would like to help with Twelfth Step Calls on referrals from the Central Service Office or help on the Public Information Committee program, call the Secretary and ask that your name be put on the roster.

## IN MEMORIAM

Sue H., Former member of A.A. here passed away in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 22, 1972.

Jerome J. who passed away July 1, 1972.

THE SERENITY PRAYER

... it's origin is traced  
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an obituary appearing in the New York Times. He liked it so much he brought it to the little office on Vesey Street for Bill W. to read. When Bill and the staff read the little prayer, they felt that it particularly suited the needs of A.A. Cards were printed and passed around. Thus the simple little prayer became an integral part of the A.A. movement.

Today it is in the pockets of thousands of A.A.s. It is framed and placed on the walls of A.A. meeting rooms throughout the world. It appears monthly on the back cover of the Grapevine and every now and then someone tells us we have quoted it incorrectly. We have. As it appears in the Grapevine, it reads:

God grant me the serenity

To accept things I cannot change,

Courage to change things I can

And wisdom to know the difference.

Many tell us it should read:

God grant me the serenity

To accept the things I cannot change;

The courage to change the things I can;

And the wisdom to know the difference.

The way it was originally written by Dr. Niebuhr is as follows:

God give me the serenity to accept

Things which cannot be changed;

Give me courage to change things

which must be changed;

And the wisdom to distinguish one from  
the other.

Dr. Niebuhr doesn't seem to mind that his prayer is incorrectly quoted \* \* \* a comma \* \* \* a preposition \* \* \* even several verbs \* \* \* the meaning and the message remain intact. "In fact, says the good doctor, "in some respects I believe your way is better."

And...this is how it reads now on the wallet card containing the Serenity Prayer, The 12 Steps of A.A. and The 12 Traditions of A.A.:

God grant me the serenity to accept

the things I cannot change,

courage to change the things I can,

and wisdom to know the difference.

NOTE TO GROUP SECRETARIES

All G.S.O. stocked pamphlets are available in the Central Service Office for cost plus 1¢. This is a service to groups provided by the Central Service Office and the 1¢ helps defray costs of literature mailed to students, professional persons, etc. Literature helps carry the message, too, and groups can select as few or as many copies as they wish and have an assortment of literature available to meet the needs of their members. Also, the Central Service Office will exchange overstocks of pamphlets with groups to enable groups to maintain an assortment of literature. A few of the newer pamphlets available are: A Brief Guide to A.A., The Co-Founders of A.A., Cooperation But Not Affiliation, Lets Be Friendly With Our Friends, The Twelve Traditions Illustrated, Why Alcoholics Anonymous is Anonymous.

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Meeting is to be held Sunday, August 13th at Club 12, 7:00 P.M.

MONTHLY INTERGROUP MEETING

Homer R., Convention Speaker and one of the finest, from Houston, Texas will be here as speaker for the meeting to be held at Club 12, August 13th, 8:15 P.M. Vic E. will chair the meeting.

KLRN-TV CHANNEL 9 - SPECIAL PROGRAM

Southwest Texas Educational Television Council in Austin, Texas advises by letter dated July 20, 1972 addressed to the Members of Alcoholics Anonymous that KLRN-TV will present an hour long special, "Tiger by the Tail", Friday, August 25th at 7:30 P.M. on Channel 9. They say, "As you probably know, the National Council on Alcoholism estimates that there are between 6½ and 9 million alcoholics in America. Alcoholism is said to be the fourth major killer in the country. They further say the special stresses that alcoholism should be treated as an illness rather than as a criminal offense and hope it proves of interest.

AL-ANON, ALATEENGRATITUDE TO A. A.  
by Mayme H.

Al-Anons and Alateens still feeling aglow from the fellowship, genuine love, and many gems of wisdom gathered for our treasure chest at the 27th Annual State A.A. Convention, wish to express our gratitude to A.A. Reflecting back to the not too long ago when we were allowed only to stay in the back room and make coffee, how grateful we are today to be a part of the beautiful family of A.A., sharing The 12 Steps and The 12 Traditions and your Conventions. May The Higher Power, our God as we understand Him, make us worthy by granting us the "WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE".. To be a part of A.A. is the greatest gift you could share with us. Our hearts overflow with GRATITUDE.

MEETING CHANGE SCHEDULE

Revised Meeting Directory dated May 1972 is available from Groups or the Central Service Office and is changed as follows:

Ft. Sam Houston Group. Meetings are held at 8:15 P.M. Both A.A. and Al-Anon.

Welcome Group. Open Discussion type meetings, Friday, 8:15 P.M. Birthday Night last Friday in the month, Open Meeting.

DALLAS CELEBRATES FIRST LONE STAR ROUNDUP

August 18 through 20, 1972 for A.A.'s, Al-Anons and Alateens. Registration & Dance \$5.00. A.A. Speakers from Calif., Canada, Texas, Miss. Al-Anon and Alateen Speakers. Make reservations directly to: NorthPark Inn, 9300 N. Central Exp., Dallas, Texas, 75231, phone 363-2431, AC214. Register or Write to: Lone Star Roundup, 6131 Luther Ln., Room 240, Dallas, Tex., 75225. Sponsored by Preston Group.

HOSTS FOR FRONTIER GROUP MEETINGS

Ft. Sam Houston Group will host September Saturday Night Open Speaker Meetings of the Frontier Group, held at 8:15 P.M. at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center on Southton Rd. Barefoot Group is current host - month of August.

HAPPENINGS HERE  
by Beth J.KERRVILLE GROUP TWENTY-TWO!!!!!!

The Kerrville Group will celebrate its 22nd Birthday Saturday, August 5th at the Golden Ox Restaurant (private dining room). The time is 7:00; the tickets are \$2.50 per person; the Speaker is Roy G. from Austin. You may get tickets by writing the Group Secretary, P.O. Box 426, Kerrville, Texas, 78028 or by calling Carolyn C. at 367-5769 in Ingram, Texas. Should you want to make a weekend of it, there are two good Motels, the Ramada Inn 896-1511 or the Sunday House 896-1313. COME and bring the whole Family!!!!

A KERRVILLE GROUP FLASHBACK

The Kerrville Group of A.A. was organized August 4, 1950 at the home of John and Virginia L. Joe and Harriet C. and Jim S. from Alamo Heights Group were there to help. The first meeting was held the next night. Charter members were Joe and Mary Jo G., R.H.P., Ann and Frank H., and Herman M. The Group met in private homes until 1952 when the meetings were moved to the Legion Hut. In 1955 the Group found a place to call its own in the back of the building where the Chatterbox Restaurant is now located.

In its young years the Group was faced with many problems among them and probably the most bizarre was that of the member who opened a half-way house and began to advertise. He had hand bills printed, which he stuck under doors, advertising A.A. and inviting anyone with a drinking problem to a chicken dinner. At a drive-in movie during the intermission he grabbed the microphone and gave a spill about A.A. including names of its members. At the half-way house itself he used an Aladdin's lamp in which he put a copy of the 12 steps, so that they might be steamed into the atmosphere.

The Kerrville Group despite its difficulties, has been active since its inception in 1950. It has fluctuated in membership from a few to about 25, but however few or many, it has been ever mindful of the primary purpose of

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HAPPENINGS HERE

by Beth J.

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all A.A. groups, 'to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.' Thanks to Carolyn C. for sending this information.

CONFERENCE PURPOSE

Aside from all the good A.A. sharing sessions, speakers, and fun-fellowship, the Conference which is held yearly has another purpose. It provides a business meeting for G.S.R.'s, and anyone else interested, to discuss Area problems which include district and group problems. Every other year the big business is to elect a new Delegate and Area Conference officers. This is not election year; it will be in '73; however there are always difficulties to be ironed out, and there is a need for communication within the Conference. So it is important that every group be represented by its G.S.R. or alternate. The more group participation, the more sharing of experience, hope and strength for us all and the more complete the Conference. As an A.A. member, I am accustomed to sharing on a one to one basis or a one to group basis; this is my responsibility and my privilege, but my responsibility does not end here, for I am a member of a larger A.A. Fellowship, and to it too I am responsible.

FALL CONFERENCE

The Southwest Texas A.A. Conference will be held in Brownsville on October 27, 28 and 29th. Seventeen Valley Groups will be the hosts. The Conference will be at the Fort Brown Hotel. The Saturday Al-Anon luncheon meeting (with speaker) will have as its theme 'hands across the border' and will be in Mexico. There will be free bus service and guides to show you around. The afternoon will be free for shopping and sight-seeing. This - just a sample of what will be in store for you at the Conference!!! More information later, meanwhile, put the Conference on your calendar!

DOWN MEXICO WAY

There are two new A.A. Groups in Monterrey! Welcome to the Fellowship, Amigos. We look  
(Continued following Column)

HAPPENINGS HERE

by Beth J.

(Continued from preceeding column)

forward to meeting you and sharing our experience, hope and strength. The thought comes to mind that there are no language barriers in A.A., because ours is a language of the heart. No hablo Espanol. I don't speak English. No le hace or so what difference does it make. I know you anyway!  
Grupo Americano  
Hidalgo PTE #748, Monterrey  
Meetings: Mon., Wed. & Fri. at 8:30  
Al-Anon meetings

Grupo Regiomontano - a bi-lingual group  
Salon Don Bosce O Campo y Dr. Coss, Monterrey  
Meetings: Thurs. & Sat. at 8:30  
Al-Anon meetings

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING AND DANCEA.A. AROUND THE WORLDIN HONOR OF OUR CO-FOUNDER BILL W.

Will be held Saturday, October 7th, 1972, 7:00 P.M. at the New York Hilton Hotel, 6th Ave. & 53rd St., New York City. Sponsored by the Dinner Committee: Intergroup Association of A.A. of N.Y. Featuring five-minute speakers from eight different countries. Dancing to Lester Lanin's Orchestra from 10 P.M. to 1 A.M. Tickets \$16.00 per person including gratuities. Order a single ticket, a pair, or a table for 10 people (Balcony 8). Checks to be payable to "Intergroup Dinner Committee and mailed to 24 East 22nd Street, New York, N.Y., 10010. Phone (212) GR3-3628. Flier says "The first 500 tickets purchased will be a drawing for the best located tables; the second 500, for the second best tables; subsequent reservations assigned as received. Tickets will be mailed after the drawing, in early Aug.; later reservations, as promptly as possible. Those received after October 1st must be picked up at Intergroup Association or the Dinner Committee Room, Hotel New York Hilton, the day of the dinner. Because of required seating guarantees, no refunds or cancellations can be assured.

TRIANGLE GROUP - WACO CELEBRATESFOURTH BIRTHDAY

Flier says, "Tha' Whole Day", Sunday, Aug. 27th at 3709 Franklin, Waco, Texas. Joe DeW. Speaker from Chattanooga, Tenn. at 5 P.M.