



The Nightcap

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NO. 1

THE HAVEN: A NEW HOME

The Haven has moved. At the end of a side street that runs off of Zarzamora on San Antonio's southwest side, in a neighborhood where freeways and freight trains overpower sleepy streets lined with friendly wood-frame houses, men are getting another chance at life.

The Haven is a loosely-structured halfway house and drying-out place for recovering alcoholics. Alcoholics Anonymous is the primary recovery tool. The Haven is supported by contributions from individuals and receives no government assistance.

The sturdy two-story rock building at 1000 Harriman that is the Haven's new home was built as a convent for nuns serving the neighborhood's St. John Berchman parish. Later, it was a home for runaway boys. But for the past couple of years the building had been boarded up and abandoned, left to the ravages of vandals and neglect. Through a little finagling and perhaps some Divine Intervention, the Haven managed to lease the old structure from the city for \$1 per year.

"And they don't interfere with the running of the Haven at all," a board member said emphatically.

A benefactor had allowed the group to lease the Haven's old location at 1640 W. Woodlawn at a nominal sum. Founded there in 1972, the facility housed 15 men.

The Haven's board received word last June that the rent was being raised astronomically, "to an amount we could not afford at all," said Charlotte M., treasurer of the Haven's board.

Scurrying to find another building, the board turned up the possibility of the old convent on Harriman. At first there were obstacles. Some people felt that the recovering alcoholics would not be welcome in the neighborhood.

There would be children nearby, the undecided complained.

"Children? Oh, we love children. They won't bother us at all," Charlotte replied, smiling sweetly.

Canvassing of neighbors and discussing the Haven's goals with members of the parish church finally turned the objections into wholehearted support of the Haven and its mission.

When the issue of leasing the building came up before City Council, "all we had to do was get up and say thank you," Charlotte said.

Then the real work began. Within 21 days the forlorn ruin had been transformed into a homey lodging place. Board members, along with Haven residents, did all the work, using materials donated from private companies. Wires had been pulled out of the walls, every single one of the 65 window panes had been broken. Today the Haven contains cheerful, cavernous living and dining quarters downstairs; the upstairs is a labyrinth of cozy bedrooms, baths and hallways. There is room for 23 men.

"Some of the men who worked long and hard on this are out drinking again, and I know God is watching over them," Charlotte said. On the other hand are the Haven success stories. "They are running all over town, staying sober, helping others, and leading productive lives."

AA MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE HAVEN AT 8:15 TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS AND 5 P.M. SUNDAYS.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LOCAL

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING, January 10, 1984, at the Central Service Office, 103 Renner. 7 p. m.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE COMMITTEE (GSR) meeting will be held at Club 12 at 7 p.m. January 15.

THE HIGHLAND GROUP invites all to their 33rd anniversary at Aldersgate Methodist Church, 502 Kayton Ave. at South Palmetto at 8:15 p.m. on January 18.
SPEAKERS: Sunny M., Jim W.
CHAIRMAN: Roy C.

HOSPITAL MEETINGS (JANUARY)

State Hospital (Mon.)...Turning Point
The A.R.C. (Sat.).....Callaghan Rd.
Detox Center (Thurs.)...Victoria M.
Salvation Army (Wed.)...Linda G.
Casa del Sol (Fri.).....Rudy F.

VILLA ROSA MEETINGS (JANUARY)

Jan. 3.....Stepping Stones Group
Jan. 10.....Stepping Stones Group
Jan. 17.....Broadway Group
Jan. 24.....Northwest Group
Jan. 31.....Laurel Heights Group

WEEKEND WINNERS GROUP, 5719 Mobud, will have a covered-dish supper on NEW YEAR'S EVE (Saturday) at 7 p.m., to be followed by a birthday meeting at 8:15 p.m. Open 'til midnight. All those looking for an easier, softer way to stay sober --- this is it!

SAN ANTONIO AREA AA NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE will be at the Convention Center Arena, South Banquet Hall on Saturday. AA Fellowship from 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Walker Colt Band will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets \$12.50 per person in advance, \$15 at the door. All profits to be donated to the San Antonio AA Central Service Office. Ticket information available at Club 12, 344-8981.

CONFERENCE CLIPBOARD

10TH ANNUAL LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY JAMBOREE, Jan. 6,7, and 8, Hilton Hotel, Padre Island, Texas. Write Chairman, Box 5453, Brownsville, TX 78520.

14TH MIDWINTER CONFERENCE, Jan. 13, 14 and 15. Hilton Hotel, Midland, Tex. Write Chairman, 2013 Princeton, Midland, TX 79701

22ND ANNUAL AREA CONFERENCE, January 13, 14, and 15, Galveston Texas. Write Treasurer, Box 253, Galveston, Texas 77550.

3RD ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST ROUND-UP, January 20, 21 and 22, Royal D'Iberville Hotel, Biloxi, Miss. Write Roundup, Box 1502, Gulfport, Miss. 39501.

AA Holiday Menu Items:

- Peace and carrots
 - Eggs-sperience omelet
 - Honesty hominy
 - Keep-it-simple stew
 - Into-action prunes
 - Sobriety date bars
 - Sweet surrender succotash
 - Expect a mackerel
 - Black-out peas
 - Cold turkey
 - Chicken-in-an-ask-it-basket
 - Asparagus anonymous
-

The Nightcap is YOUR newsletter. Share your experience, strength, and hope -- and your comments and gripes, too -- by sending a letter or an article to us!

* * * * *

UNOPENED GIFTS

Well, I don't know why I feel funny around this time of year. I guess it's part of my insanity. Who knows? When I was drinking, this was my favorite time to live it up a little and latch on to my very best friend: the bottle.

So I asked my sponsor what the heck was wrong with me. (He knows me like an open book.) I told him how uncomfortable I felt, like I wasn't part of the happy crowd. Like I was isolated and sort of unimportant to anyone. You may know the feeling: Who really wants to be around me? Who needs me?

He looked me straight in the eye and said my problem probably was that I had not opened all my gifts; that some of the things the Higher Power had given me were still unwrapped lying there under the tree of life, just waiting for me to go into action -- to open them up and enjoy them.

"What do you mean?" I asked him.

Again he pinned me with the steely eye. What I needed to do immediately, he said was to do a positive inventory in writing, listing all the positive changes that had occurred in my life

since I stopped drinking and began working the steps. All positive -- nothing negative, he cautioned. Something like counting my blessings but covering other items like new attitudes, new ideas, new behaviors, new friends. Then he told me to compare my new life to the old days and try to appreciate all the gifts I had received.

But he warned me not to just sit still and be grateful, but to put my gratitude into action by sharing the gifts I had with others. Call some beginners, invite them over to my house, and send a "thinking-of-you" card to someone, take someone to lunch, or do some other service work in the group.

He said that if I would only open up all the gifts I had received, I would lose this feeling of uselessness and gain the good feeling that comes from helping another person in our fellowship.

If I want to know friendship, I need to show friendship.

ACTION IS THE MAGIC WORD! I'M GOING TO OPEN UP THOSE GIFTS!

--- Anon.

BIG BOOK BARGAIN!! SOBRIETY SALE!

The price on Big Books has been reduced to \$5 a copy (no tax) at your AA Central Service Office, 103 Renner. We have a new shipment on hand. Come by and invest in sobriety for yourself and for newcomers!

OUR AILING FRIENDS

If you know any of these people, you might take a moment to call and express your concern:

Bob W. Leon W. G.J.V.
Michael C. Charlie C.
Edra F. Dennis B.

- S -- Sober
- E -- Enlightened
- R -- Recovery
- E -- Extends
- N -- New
- I -- Insights
- T -- To
- Y -- You

HEARD AT A MEETING:
Carrying around a resentment is like letting someone occupy space in your head rent-free!

Highlights of CSOC (GSR) MEETING, Dec. 18, 1983:

Bill B., chairman of the administrative board of the Central Service Office, reported that Brenda F. had resigned as executive secretary effective Dec. 16, 1983. An election was held for three CSO board members to replace those whose term of office expired Dec. 31, 1983. The results were as follows:

FRED D. (also elected chairman, CSOC), JIM D. (GSR, Lytle) and JIM A (GSR, Wilford Hall).

ATTENDANCE: Alamo, Broadway, Callaghan, Goliad, Lytle, North San Pedro, Northwest, Serenity, Southwest Loop, Stepping Stones, Summit, Turning Point, Universal City (Sun.), Villa Rosa, Wilford Hall and Windcrest.
(16 out of 64)

Don S. has replaced John R. as the Penal Committee Chairman. Linda G. also resigned as chairman, Hospital and Institutions Committee. We still need chairmen for Public Information, Mailing, and Editorial (Nightcap editor) as well as for Hospital and Institutions committees.

Jack L., alternate area delegate, reported a DCM-GSR workshop will be held in Kerrville on Jan. 28-29, 1983, probably at the Inn of the Hills. The Pre-General Conference Workshop will be in San Antonio on March 31-April 1, location to be announced later. The area conference will be held in Austin this year. The address of the new area treasurer, where groups should mail their AREA CONTRIBUTIONS, was also announced:

SW TEX AREA FUND
RT 2, BOX 10-F
BANDERA, TX 78003

MINI-CONFERENCE COMING UP

San Antonio will host a one-day mini-conference on Saturday, February 4, 1984, at the Convention Center's Fiesta Room (capacity 1,000). Present plans include three out-of-state AA speakers and Robert R. "Smitty" Smith, an Al-Anon, who is the son of AA co-founder Dr. Bob.

Jim W., organizer and coordinator, requests that all the groups get behind this project, support it, talk it up. Invite your out-of-town friends and enemies, and volunteer your group's participation to act as hosts, hostesses, registration desk helpers. Registration will be \$5. You can even buy tickets to give to those who can't afford the cost. More details later. . .

NEW GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

This being the time of year when groups are electing new GSRs and DCMs, please send complete names and addresses of the replacements to Central Service Office. Also, DCMs should send along word of the changes to the AA Area Secretary.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE-SAN ANTONIO, TX
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED
NOV 29 - DEC 27, 1983

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>YTD</u>
4TH Street	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	Park North	\$ -0-	\$ 130.00
Abundance			Reliance	-0-	-0-
Alamo	-0-	160.00	Sahara	-0-	20.00
Alamo Heights	-0-	512.00	Santa Fe	-0-	20.00
Alpha House	25.00	50.00	SASH	-0-	50.00
Audubcn	-0-	-0-	Schertz	-0-	240.00
Bluemel Oaks	-0-	14.50	Serenity	15.00	180.00
Boerne	-0-	80.00	Southwest Loop	15.00	180.00
Broadway	-0-	331.00	Sparrow	-0-	-0-
Callaghan	60.00	500.00	Stepping Stones	-0-	150.00
Coker	-0-	50.00	Summit	-0-	60.00
Colonies North	-0-	1070.00	Sunset	10.00	170.00
Correctional	-0-	-0-	Tejas	-0-	420.00
Downtown	20.00	90.00	Turning Point	-0-	31.01
Eisenhauer	50.00	190.00	Twenty-Four Hour	-0-	70.00
Fort Sam Houston	50.00	600.00	Universal City, Mon	-0-	96.00
Freedom	25.00	175.00	Universal City, Sun	-0-	90.00
Frontier	-0-	10.00	V. A. Hosp	-0-	150.00
Goliad	-0-	345.00	Valley-Hi	25.00	370.00
Group 12	-0-	1800.00	Villa Rosa	-0-	271.00
Grupo Guadalupe	-0-	-0-	Weekend Winners	-0-	-0-
Grupo Unidad	-0-	80.00	Wesley	-0-	20.00
Haven	-0-	200.00	West Ashby	-0-	-0-
Highland	20.00	240.00	Wilford Hall	20.00	190.00
Kingsboro	-0-	25.00	Windcrest	-0-	78.00
Lambda	30.00	164.00	Womens Smokeless	-0-	-0-
Laurel Heights	88.00	328.00	Young People	-0-	93.06
Lytle	-0-	26.00			
Marymont	-0-	160.00			
Mon Nite Men's	-0-	-0-			
New Life	-0-	30.00			
North San Pedro	-0-	250.00			
Northeast	-0-	235.00			
Northwest	77.00	237.00			
Northwood	-0-	425.00			
Oblate	40.00	120.00			
Open Door	-0-	60.00			

AREA

Bandera	-0-	95.00
Cameron-Rockdale	-0-	63.00
Canyon Lake	-0-	40.00
Floresville	-0-	65.00
New Braunfels Home	-0-	15.00
Uvalde	-0-	44.00
Yoakum	-0-	45.00

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS
(Dec 1983)

District 1	\$ 570.00
Area	-0-
Buck-A-Month	120.00
Individual	245.00
*Memorial	100.00
	<u>\$1035.00</u>

*For Harold S.

District 1 Active Groups 64

New Groups Reported 0

Discontinued Groups 0

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand. ----Thomas Carlyle

103 RENNER DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

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103 RENNER
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

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33rd *Anniversary*

THE MEMBERS OF
THE

HIGHLAND GROUP

OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

INVITE YOU TO THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOUNDING OF OUR GROUP TO BE HELD AT

ALDERSGATE METHODIST CHURCH

ROY C., CHAIRMAN

SUNNY M., AND JIM W., GUEST SPEAKERS

AT 502 KAYTON

ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 1984

AT 8:15 P.M.