

AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

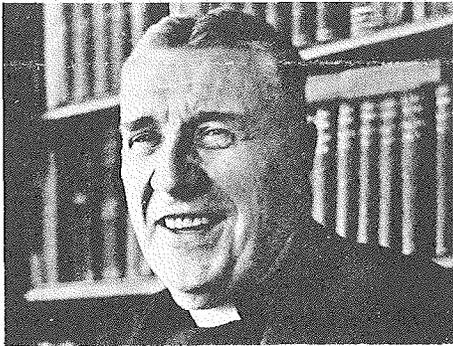
Volume 7

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Number 1

January, 1962

A. A. GROUP HONORS DR. SAM



"This is Sam Shoemaker, the Episcopal clergyman whose teaching inspired the co-founders and early members of A.A. It was from him that Dr. Bob and Bill in the beginning absorbed most of the principles that were afterward embodied in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous." (from the book, "A.A. Comes of Age," available from G.S.O. and listed on the form enclosed with this bulletin.)

On December 5, 1961, the East Liberty A.A. Group, in Pittsburgh, Pa., which holds its meetings at the Calvary Episcopal Church, put on a banquet in honor of Dr. Sam Shoemaker. Dr. Sam is now retiring from active ministry at this church. The banquet was a sell-out. The principal speaker was Red D., from Talbot City, Md. The following message from Bill W. was read:

"The streams of understanding and love that were gathered together by God in 1935 to create A.A. will always be the source of our infinite wonder, inspiration and gratitude.

"Some may say, 'But Sam is not a stream, he is just a great man!' But we of A.A. know better. We know that he is both. More than twenty-five years ago, he channeled to the few of us who then saw and heard him, the message, the understanding, the loving concern, and therefore the Grace that enabled our small band and all the countless thousands who followed afterward to walk in the Consciousness of God -- to live and to love again, as never before.

"On this memorable occasion, we of A.A. want Sam to know, as perhaps he has never known, the depth of our affection and of our eternal thanks that our Master did appoint him to minister to us when A.A. was very young and, with unsurpassed devotion, ever since."

NEW ORDER FORM - With this bulletin we are enclosing our new form for ordering literature. It carries three new items: a Public Information Kit, and two pamphlets, "A Clergyman Asks about A.A.," and "Background Information on the Fellowship of A.A."

A REMINDER - TAPE FOR LOAN

Tape recordings of two Catholic Hour radio programs (made in 1960) are available at G.S.O. for loan to any group. Both programs are on one tape. (We have eight copies.) The March 20, 1960, broadcast features two speakers: Marty Mann of the National Council on Alcoholism and one of the G.S.O. staff members. The March 27 program presents the stories of Tom and Jane, both A.A. members.

We will be glad to send tapes overseas if English-speaking groups want to borrow them. The recordings are on magnetic recording tape (1/4 in. x 1200 ft.) on 7 in. reel, and at 3-3/4 speed. More than a hundred groups have heard these tapes. If your group would like to borrow one, just let us know.

TRUSTEES TO MEET

The regular quarterly meeting of the General Service Board of A.A. will be held January 29, 1962, in New York City. A.A. Area Trustees, Pat C. (Minnesota), Dave B. (Quebec), and Tom S. (Florida) will arrive in time to attend the meeting of the Policy Committee on January 28th. The General Service Board meets four times a year on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO G.S.O. from
SPECIAL A.A. MEETINGS and A.A. COMMITTEES

10/19/61 12/15/61

CALIFORNIA	Santa Monica-10th Annual Southern California Conference	\$2,106.14
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Cosmopolitan, New Hampshire & Mid-East Group	166.50
FLORIDA	Alabama-Northwest Florida State Convention	638.50
GEORGIA	Eighth Georgia State Conference	152.48
LOUISIANA	New Orleans - (Open Meetings)	21.00
MAINE	District One	10.00
MICHIGAN	9th Michigan State Conference	150.00
MINNESOTA	St. Paul - Gratitude Day Banquet South Minnesota Conference	79.03 75.00
NEBRASKA	Various Groups In Nebraska	50.00
NEW HAMPSHIRE	District 1 - Open Meetings	59.31
NEW JERSEY	All State Convention New Jersey State Convention 2nd Panel	4.00 24.00 10.00
OHIO	Northeastern Ohio General Service Committee	134.37
PENNSYLVANIA	Area 4 Eastern Pennsylvania	12.87
SOUTH CAROLINA	Southeastern Conference	500.00
VIRGINIA	Virginia State Committee	100.00
WASHINGTON	All Spokane Groups Seattle-14th Annual Pacific Northwest AA Conference	160.65 200.00
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Victoria - Old Timers Meeting	38.40
NEW BRUNSWICK	Saint John -- AA Meetings & AA Committees	50.35
ONTARIO	Oshawa - Breakfast Club East Toronto Mens Meeting	16.40 32.37
QUEBEC	Special Collection From Montreal	57.60

CENTRAL OFFICE SECRETARIES GET TOGETHER

The sixth meeting of Central Office Secretaries on the Pacific Coast will be held this coming March in Modesto, Calif. It is scheduled for the Friday before the Northern California Conference so secretaries can participate in N. C. C. activities on Saturday and Sunday. Those attending will be Doc, Portland; Ken, Seattle; Jack, San Francisco; Eleanor, Oakland; Ruth, Sacramento; John, Long Beach; Sybil, Los Angeles; John, San Diego.

Sybil, of the Los Angeles Central Office, was the first secretary to this conference. She recently wrote us: "The Pacific Coast Central Office Secretaries' Conference was started with the thought that our working procedures and experience would be worth sharing. Our first meeting was held in Sacramento in 1958. We exchanged ideas for four hours. The minutes were transcribed and mailed to those present for further study. Each year we elect a different chairman and secretary and each year we meet with more enthusiasm. Our service committees (or office managers) have always recommended that our expenses be paid, and it has become traditional that we be allotted the time and money to attend these affairs.

"At the International Convention in Long Beach (1960) we held a special meeting where it was a pleasure to have Midge from Boston and Doris and Adelyne from New York sit with us. It is our hope that one day a great many other central offices will send their secretaries to meet with us."

AFRIKAANSE TRANSLATION

The A. A. Service and Information Committee for Southern Africa has sent us a copy of their new A. A. book. Translated into Afrikaanse, the book combines the first eleven chapters and thirteen stories from the A. A. Big Book with Bill's essays on the Traditions from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," and some excerpts from "A. A. Comes of Age."

This project was first approved by the A. A. members attending the South African A. A. Conference in 1959. It was financed by special contributions from some of the A. A. groups in South Africa. Permission to translate and publish material from our Conference-approved books was granted by the General Service Board of A. A.

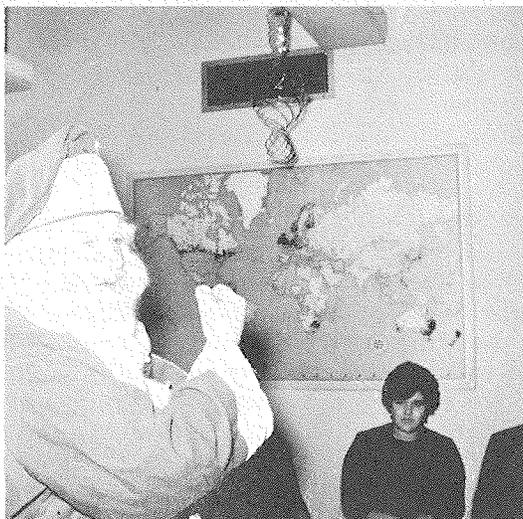
The Afrikaanse book can be ordered from A. A., Posbus 2134, Pretoria, Transvaal, U. of S. A.

FROM THE A. A. GRAPEVINE - The G. V. wishes to express gratitude to its readers for making 1961 the best year in its history. We feel confident that during the coming twelve months readers will continue to enjoy the warmth of A. A. experience in the G. V. pages. The Staff, Editorial Board Members and Directors all join in wishing a HAPPY NEW YEAR to A. A.'s everywhere.

DOCTORS IN A. A.

The International Doctors in A. A. will hold their 1962 meeting at The Holiday Inn, in Moline, Ill., this coming July 20-22. Doctors in A. A. are invited to keep in touch with one another through the Secretary of the International Doctors in A. A. Group. If interested, write G. S. O. and we'll forward your letter to Luke R., the Secretary.

CHRISTMAS AT G. S. O.



The offices at General Service were gay with Christmas cards from all over the world. Messages of joy and friendship from A. A.'s brought us the Christmas spirit weeks before the day itself arrived.

Our Christmas party was held on Friday, December 22nd, in our conference room which overlooks the United Nations building. We gathered together - G. S. O. and G. V. personnel and volunteers to sing carols and wait the customary arrival of our office Santa (Al Cryan, our non-alcoholic Shipping Department head.) As you can see from the snapshot, he made it. In the background is our world map with a pin marking each city that has an A. A. group or loner.

Christmas 1961 has passed into history, but warm feelings of fellowship are in our hearts as we wish our A. A. friends throughout the world a serene and sober 1962.

SWAP TAPES, ANYBODY?

From Shawlands, Nottingham Road, Natal, South Africa, V. C. writes:

"I am a member of the A. A. Group in Maritzburg which is 40 miles from here. As a result, I am virtually a 'loner,' getting to meetings only once a week and rarely seeing other members in between.

"I have a tape recorder which has four speeds - 1-7/8, 3-3/4, and 7-1/2, with four-track sound. The machine, of course, can take ordinary two track. Do you have the addresses of any other A. A. members in the U. S. or other English-speaking countries who would be willing to swap tapes with me?"

(G. S. O. sent V. C. a list of members who collect and exchange tapes. But we thought others might enjoy swapping tapes with him too. If so, let us know and we'll send you his address.)