

BOX 4-5-9

1980
General Service
Conference Issue

Theme: *Participation: The Key to Recovery*

Vol. 25, No. 3

June-July 1980

30th Conference Probes Procedures for Approval of A.A. Literature and Finds No Change Is Needed

Alcoholics Anonymous literature published by A.A. World Services, Inc., will still be "Conference-approved" by tested methods used over many years for our books, booklets, and pamphlets, the 1980 Conference decided.

Also, Guidelines and other such service materials from the General Service Office—used chiefly to answer questions asked over and over—will continue to be produced without undergoing the long and often difficult procedure needed for Conference approval.

Members further voted Conference approval for a group of 11 existing leaflets and flyers, which have already gained acceptance by the Fellowship. This will be indicated by adding the circle-and-triangle symbol and the line "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature" to each item

the next time that a reprinting is ordered.

These are the chief effects of a Conference Advisory Action taken at New York's Hotel Roosevelt after a year-long study by the Literature Task Force and lengthy discussion by the Conference members: 91 area delegates; trustees; A.A.W.S. and Grapevine corporate directors; and the G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs.

The 30th annual meeting of the General Service Conference of A.A. (U.S. and Canada), held April 20-26, began with a keynote address, "Participation: The Key to Recovery," by retiring trustee Cecil ("Cec") C., Prince Albert, Sask.

In workshops, committee meetings, committee and staff reports, discussions, regional lunches, Ask-It Basket periods, and formal
(continued on p. 8)

A.A.
CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE
AND OTHER SERVICE MATERIALS

How to Use This Catalog and Order Form

This catalog lists all A.A. Conference-approved literature and other A.A. service material.

Books, booklets, and pamphlets are listed on pages 2, 3, and 4. For your convenience, they are separated according to your interest.

All other materials are listed under "Special items and audiovisual materials" in the back of the catalog.

Four Trustees Selected

William E. Flynn, M.D. (nonalcoholic), of McLean, Va., and three A.A. members were named by the 30th Conference as new members of the General Service Board, and formally elected at its legally required annual meeting April 26.

Assistant professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., William Flynn is the university's director of studies in alcohol and drug abuse. His professional interests include work in alcoholism through the District of Columbia Medical Society and the Washington Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and as a consultant for alcoholism programs.

The board's new West Central U.S. regional trustee is M. T. (Bud) G., Fargo, N.Dak., who succeeds Don N., Moorhead, Minn. A Panel
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Class A trustee William E. Flynn, M.D.

Conference Assesses Its Own Structure

"How Well Is Our Conference Structure Working?" was the topic of an innovative session at the 1980 Conference, where Conference members got together to share opinions on three recurring questions.

Presentations at the 1979 Conference sparked interest in pursuing the first two issues: the possibility that 75% of the total vote should be in the hands of delegates (the percentage is now about 66-2/3), and the role and method of selection of general service ("in town") trustees.

The third question, which has come up from the time the Conference began, was: Should a delegate's term be three years instead of two?

Like most sharing sessions, this one was not intended to bring forth any formal action. But it did underline the spirit of mutual trust among all participants — delegates, trustees, staff, and corporate directors — that was a striking feature of this year's Conference.
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A.A. Film Available For Public Showings

The 30th Conference has approved our film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View" for general release. This means G.S.O. can lease available prints to church groups, service luncheon clubs, schools, P.T.A.'s, and any social or health organizations that express interest.

By an overwhelming majority, Conference members voted that the film's use of photos of our late co-founders, Bill W. and Dr. Bob S., does not violate our Eleventh Tradition of anonymity in the public media. (Surviving family members gave permission for the full public identification of both co-founders upon their decease. Dr. Bob died in 1950; Bill, in 1971.)

No sequence shows the face of any living A.A.

In approving the film, the 1979 Conference had recommended release to the general public as the last step in a schedule of gradual distribution. One experimental local telecast was authorized; this took place in Fargo, N.Dak., and was well received.

Reports From G.S.O., the

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General Service Board

Broad view inspires optimism on A.A.'s future

Trustees' report: Despite challenges facing A.A., I am optimistic about our future, because of our unique problem-solving assets: our Steps, Traditions, and service structure, underscored by the Concepts.

Every working day this past year, our General Service Office (G.S.O.) added an average of 15 new groups to its lists for the U.S. and Canada, where listed groups at the beginning of 1980 totaled about 26,000.

Demand for our literature is at a new high. We sent out over 310,000 copies of the Big Book in 1979, 25.8% more than in 1978—which had been 25% more than in 1977.

Contributions have also been increasing, in both number of groups giving and total amount. With this improving support, it was possible to cut prices again in February.

Good thinking has come from the General Service Sharing Sessions.

Regional Forums continue to provide personal contact and two-way communication between A.A.'s in a region and representatives of G.S.O., the board, and the Grapevine. Every Forum has ended with increased trust.

A.A. overseas must be experienced to be understood. Since visiting Iceland a year ago to share in the 25th anniversary of A.A.'s beginning there, I have been intensely interested in that fascinating land. In a population of only 250,000, they have over 50 groups, have organized many services, and will send delegates to the 1980 World Service Meeting.

In the U.S. and Canada, we have nearly 900 French- and over 300 Spanish-speaking groups. G.S.O. has made considerable effort to provide the same services to these as to English-speaking groups. G.S.R. and Conference kits are now provided in French; a Spanish handbook for new groups and literature discount package have been introduced.

Work has gone forward on A.A.'s 45th Anniversary Year Convention in New Orleans, where the biography of Dr. Bob will be introduced.

Milton A. Maxwell, Ph.D.
(nonalcoholic), chairperson

A.A. World Services, Inc.

Contribution rise reduces literature prices

Directors' report: Some actions we took in 1979 were:

- Arranging a Chicago warehouse operation to serve the Midwest better.
 - Approving expenditure of \$2,000 for a filmstrip for the Archives Committee.
 - Sending Beth K. and Mary Ellen W., as her interpreter, to a zonal service meeting in Colombia. This resulted from a recommendation of the 1978 World Service Meeting that nations get together in years between W.S.M.'s, to discuss common problems and help nations not sufficiently developed to send W.S.M. representatives.
 - Approving four points to clarify A.A.W.S. reprint policy on A.A. copyrighted material.
 - Authorizing transfer of \$324,000 to the board to cover 1978 operating deficits. Surplus cash (in excess of basic operating requirements) of \$365,000 was transferred to the Reserve Fund.
 - Agreeing, because of increased group contributions, to grant a 6% reduction within the Fellowship on all literature orders of \$25 or more, as of February 1, 1980.
 - Sending a letter on book sales by central office (C.O.'s) and intergroups to outside agencies. We explained that if these offices supply A.A. literature in large quantity to outside agencies at or below group prices, our price structure will have to be reexamined.
 - Setting the price of \$25 for the tape version of the Big Book. We also sought legal counsel on royalties and were advised that tapes were not covered in the contract (between Bill W. and the board), so there is no legal obligation. However, a moral obligation seems to exist. Lois W. was consulted, and will forgo royalties for one year, then review the matter.
 - Transferring reprint permissions to the new Australian General Service Board. We also provided them with a year's supply of literature at inventory value totaling \$11,400, which they will repay.
 - Helping the Tokyo Literature Committee finance printing of 2,000 copies of the Big Book in Japanese.
- Publishing sales for 1979 reached a total of \$3,274,500, an increase of \$577,800 over 1978. To help defray costs of other services that contributions could not meet, A.A.W.S. transferred approximately \$360,000 to the General Fund.
- Distribution of books, pamphlets, and miscellaneous items in 1979 reached 6,609,000 units. Free literature sent to service groups and others amounted to 724,000 pieces; inventory value, \$42,500.

Martin L., chairperson

Archives

New filmstrip makes A.A. history visible

Trustees' committee: A half-hour tape, "Voices of Our Co-Founders," was prepared by the Archives Department for distribution by A.A.W.S. It features: two of Dr. Bob's talks—Cleveland (1950) and Detroit (1948); and Bill W. reading parts of Chapter Five of the Big Book (1963), discussing the Legacies (1951), and talking at the New York Intergroup dinner (1963).

Confidentiality of Conference tapes was reaffirmed. No retaping will be permitted.

"Markings on the Journey," a filmstrip on the historical development of A.A., using material from the archives, has been prepared for submission to the 1980 Conference.

Fernand I., chairperson



Design for frame to be used at opening of filmstrip "Markings on the Journey."

Staff report: Over 1,300 visitors toured G.S.O. in 1979; another 385 came on one day! The tour now encompasses all departments; many more archives items are available for viewing.

Over 100 of Bill W.'s talks have been retaped onto a standard format. We continue to seek copies from other collections.

We have seven scrapbooks of news clippings, 1939-47, restored by encapsulation; an eighth is in preparation; two more will be completed by the end of 1980.

As a service to areas starting archival centers, we have prepared a handbook of experience. We are corresponding with centers in 30 states, Canadian provinces, and overseas countries.

Our oral-history project grew; we added over 30 tapes, and two tape collections were donated by local A.A.'s.

Many early members and nonalcoholic friends of A.A. have taken leave of us in the past year: Sackville M. in Ireland; Jack MacG. in Scotland; Cebra G., long a resident of France; Ernie G., early Toledo member; Henrietta Seiberling; Archibald Roosevelt; Austin MacCormick; and Niles

General Service Board, and Trustees' Committees

P., former trustee, who had also worked at G.S.O.
Nell Wing (nonalcoholic), archivist

Conference

'What's on Your Mind?' session suggested for 1981

Trustees' committee: Evaluations of the Conference questionnaire and the post-Conference sharing session at G.S.O. were reviewed. All topics submitted for Conference consideration were reviewed and referred to a Conference committee or scheduled for a presentation/discussion, a workshop, or the Ask-It Basket. A list of Conference members to participate in sessions of those types was drawn up and approved.

Some items suggested repeatedly involve Conference structure, so the sharing session this year will be "How Well Is Our Conference Structure Working?" If a clear sense of the session indicates action should be taken, the item(s) will be referred to the proper 1981 Conference committee. No Advisory Action to change the structure will be made in 1980.

We also discussed scheduling "What's on Your Mind?" sessions for 1981 and reducing Ask-It Basket time. This has been referred to the Conference Agenda Committee.

George D., chairperson

Staff report: The Conference assumes the leadership once held by our founders and, through its structure, carries the message. A policy-making body, it expresses the group conscience of A.A.

The Conference coordinator is a contact among all Conference members and all those serving on area committees. We now have on our mailing list: 770 past delegates, 2,025 D.C.M.'s, 90 area chairpersons, 86 area secretaries, and 76 area treasurers.

We receive minutes of assemblies and area committee meetings, which are helpful to the G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs.

All A.A.'s are encouraged to send suggestions for the Conference agenda. These are presented to the trustees' Conference and Conference Agenda Committees for approval, then shared in the *Quarterly Report*, Box 4-5-9, and the preliminary agenda mailed to delegates.

The Conference coordinator collects items for the theme and agenda; serves as secretary of the Conference Agenda and trustees' Conference Committees; handles advance correspondence with delegates; works with the general manager, the office manager, and the staff to plan and coordinate the Conference; schedules and routes all material for Conference Manuals, Early Bird Box 4-5-9, and



the *Final Conference Report*; prepares Advisory Actions and summaries of Ask-It Basket questions; and reviews all communications from area committees and D.C.M.'s.
Sarah P.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Groups urged to welcome treatment 'graduates'

Trustees' committee: We put on two workshops at the 1979 annual Forum of the National Council on Alcoholism; one was "For A.A. Members Working in the Alcoholism Field"; the other, "How A.A. Cooperates With Medical and Nursing Schools." At the Association of Labor Management Administrators and Counselors on Alcoholism Conference, our chairperson presented "A.A.—Complementary or Competitive with Occupational Program Consultants?" A member of this committee represented the board of trustees at the World Health Organization's Expert Committee on Problems Related to Alcohol Consumption.

After reviewing the pamphlet "A.A. and the Alcoholic Employee," the committee agreed it should be discontinued. We made recommendations for our newsletter *About A.A.* The committee agreed to urge A.A. members to accept people from treatment centers into A.A. groups. We recommended a Box 4-5-9 story on the need for C.P.C. work, which appeared in the February-March 1980 issue.

The International Convention will include a C.P.C. workshop, with successful local

C.P.C. committee members sharing experiences.

Gordon Patrick (nonalcoholic), chairperson

Staff report: Staff, committee, and board members participated in 12 meetings of national or regional organizations in 1979. Our professional exhibit was shown at 23; as a result, we received 1,916 requests for information, and there was a significant increase in the mailing list.

A paper on "Suggestions for Working With the Hearing-Impaired Alcoholic" was sent to about 85 agencies for the deaf that had indicated interest.

Our new pamphlet "Time to Start Living" was sent to the National Council on the Aging, the H.E.W. Administration on Aging, the N.C.A. Blue Ribbon Study Commission on Alcoholism and the Aging, and the National Clearinghouse on Alcohol Information.

As recommended by the 1979 Conference, the film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View" is now being distributed to those with an expressed direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic.

Lois F.

Correctional Facilities

More Twelfth Step visits and letters needed

Trustees' committee: We reviewed the Institutions Discount Packages and added "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," "A.A. at a Glance," and "Where Do I Go From Here?" to each. We recommended an introductory discount price for "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," to make it more available to "inside" groups.

We recommended a film or filmstrip showing how the A.A. service structure may be used to encourage "outside" members to do Twelfth Step work in correctional facilities.

We are having a joint meeting with the Committee on Treatment Facilities on the goals of the *Institutions Bulletin* and ideas for its improvement.

The advisability of local areas' separating institutions committees into two committees—on correctional facilities and on treatment facilities—was discussed, along with the group autonomy involved in such a decision. Areas that have two such committees have an additional way to get A.A. members involved in service work.

W. J. Estelle Jr. (nonalcoholic), chairperson

Staff report: Copies of "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" were mailed with the October *Institutions Bulletin*.

We need more participation in the Institu-

tions Correspondence Service. Suggestions included an article in *Box 4-5-9*, contacts with prerelease sponsors, and an increase in correctional facilities workshops.

The film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View" is now available to correctional facilities, free. Because of problems with customs, film prints for Canadian facilities are handled by Association Industrial Films of Toronto, Ont.

We have conducted a mail survey of 25 institutions in the U.S. and Canada where there have been A.A. groups. This was done to obtain a history of such groups for our archives.

Curtis M.

Finance

Good news—A.A. growth; bad news—inflation

Trustees' committee: Contributions from groups and members in 1979 were \$158,200 over 1978, a 14.6% gain. Even the percentage of groups contributing showed a gain. This allowed a further reduction in the cost of literature to the Fellowship. If we can get more groups to join us in our efforts to broaden the base of group support, there could be further reductions.

The year's literature sales, \$3,262,800, increased \$566,000 (21%) over 1978. Total G.S.O. income, representing publishing gross profit, contributions from groups and A.A. members, and interest generated by cash flow, totaled \$23,500—about the same as 1978 and on target budget-wise. G.S.O. expenses for 1979 increased by \$219,200 (8.5%), because of inflation and growth of the Fellowship.

The operating deficit of the General Fund, representing a contribution shortfall, plus other expenses, was met by the net income from publishing, \$849,700, leaving a net G.S.O. income of \$585,500, compared with \$344,600 for 1978. After satisfying operating requirements, the balance was transferred to the Reserve Fund.

We reviewed and approved the 1980 G.S.O. budget. Sales income, adjusted to reflect the 6% discount effective February 1, has been budgeted to show a 9% increase; contributions, a 10% increase; and total G.S.O. income from all operations, a 6.3% increase. Expenses are projected to be over 1979 by 17.5%; however, adjusting the figures to eliminate nonrecurring items reduces the increase to 12.9%.

Income from Grapevine operations totaled \$689,100, an increase of \$80,800 over 1978 and \$34,200 over budget. Inflated printing and operating costs increased expenses by \$136,300 and put them \$77,200 over budget. Instead of the budgeted net income of \$4,000 for 1979, there was a \$39,000 loss. Interest on the investment of deferred subscription income was transferred from the Reserve Fund to offset that loss.

We approved the 1980 Grapevine budget, including a \$1.00 per year subscription-price increase (effective June 1), which is expected to offset a deficit of \$47,400 and, instead, to result in a net income of \$9,600.

*Frank Smeal (nonalcoholic),
chairperson, board treasurer*

General Service Sharing Session

Anonymity, self-support, C.P.C. examined

Trustees' report: This is a forum for all trustees, directors, committee people, and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members to discuss A.A. matters of general concern.

Anonymity was one subject for discussion. It concerns us all, puzzles many of us, and raises many questions. Our consensus was to try to move away from technicalities and legalistic approaches, and emphasize the concept of anonymity and reasons for it. No specific direction was given on in-house audiovisual material. Some felt that there was no breach of the Tradition (either technically or spiritually) when A.A. members appear on such programs for in-house use. Others advocated the strictest possible adherence to the Traditions at all times.

We also considered "Self-Support—What Does It Mean?" Presentations were given on overall policy, on A.A.-related expenses of regional trustees, and on group self-support. There seem to be no hard-and-fast rules. Everyone agreed groups ought to be self-supporting, but some groups meet in facilities that cannot accept rent. In this case, it was suggested, the group could make a contribution. Should group funds be used to support drunk farms? This is not in keeping with Tradition Six, it was pointed out. However, A.A. members *as individuals* may offer any support they choose.

We addressed bridging the gap between the alcoholism treatment facility and A.A. One treatment facility has a committee of graduates active in A.A. They meet with the center staff, "sponsor" staff members, show our film "A.A.—An Inside View," take staff to open A.A. meetings, and provide examples of the First and Second Steps. In many areas, the situation is more complicated. Some hostility still exists toward professionals.

The following were suggested: (1) Sponsor your doctor; (2) sponsor a counselor; (3) invite professionals to A.A. meetings; (4) establish local C.P.C. committees; (5) explain the difference between cooperation and affiliation; (6) keep an open mind; (7) talk about interim sponsorship at meetings; (8) hold open A.A. meetings in treatment facilities; (9) include graduates on C.P.C. committees; (10) do not give advice on medication; (11) sponsor young people into C.P.C. work. Our literature was cited as an effective tool. C.P.C. is a means of fulfilling our primary purpose and is not contrary to our Traditions.

Don N., chairperson



Group services coordinator

Equal services regardless of tongues

Staff report: This coordinator supervises production of all service material, updating of Guidelines and listings, New Group Handbooks, literature displays, G.S.R. Kits, and other material.

New groups in the U.S. and Canada receive free a handbook, a G.S.R. Kit, literature, *Box 4-5-9*, and the appropriate A.A. directory. We have similar services for French- and Spanish-speaking groups in the U.S. and Canada.

About 55,000 copies of *Box 4-5-9* are mailed bimonthly, 44,000 in English, the balance in French and Spanish. As editor, the service coordinator gathers material for each issue (two months in advance).

Two 16mm color films, "Bill's Own Story" and "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions," are distributed to regular groups at \$35 per week; use is free for A.A. groups in institutions. Two filmstrips, "P.O. Box 459" and "Circles of Love and Service," cost \$6.50 each.

Vincina M.

International

A.A. travelers can help spread the message

Trustees' committee: This committee explores ways to assist the growth of A.A. worldwide.

We set up a questionnaire for A.A.'s visiting overseas countries, so they can forward up-to-date information to us.

We suggested the *International A.A. Directory* say, "Information about A.A. is available at American embassies."

Also, a booth at our International Convention could gather information about overseas A.A. We may distribute the *International A.A. Directory* there.

We discussed how we can help small areas (having groups or Loners only) translate and reproduce A.A. literature, e.g., in Swahili, Arabic, Persian, and Greek.

We discussed the relationship of central offices/intergroups to national service structures overseas, and suggested it be included

on the agenda of the 1980 World Service Meeting. Regarding a recommendation from the 1978 W.S.M. that the meeting be restructured in order to better fulfill its objective, we feel that regional service meetings between W.S.M.'s should be encouraged.
Virginia H., chairperson

**International Convention/
 A.A. Regional Forums**

**Speeding Convention plans;
 new Forum ideas**

Trustees' committee:

International Convention—We recommended additional workshop topics: "Archives," "Deaf Alcoholics," and "How A.A. Members Cooperate With Medical and Nursing Schools."

A Superdome section will be roped off for deaf alcoholics, so Big Meetings may be signed for them.

A booth will assist Conventioneers who do not speak English.

Sponsors of the Gay Hospitality Center at the Convention were requested not to schedule events at times competing with the Convention program.

A luncheon will be held for past and present World Service Meeting delegates.

Here are the plans for state, provincial, and regional alkathons:

- Alkathons of states and provinces with one, two, or three area delegates will last 90 minutes; of those with four, two hours; of California, with five, two and a half hours.
- If there is more than one delegate, each chooses one speaker from the area, and the delegates then determine which speaker will chair. If there is one delegate, he or she selects two speakers and a chairperson.
- Regional trustees each select three speakers from the region for the two-hour regional alkathons, and the trustee will preside.
- All speakers must be registered for the Convention.

The 1980 Conference Committee on International Conventions will reconsider the recommendation that simultaneous translations be provided free of charge.

Regional Forums—Since 1975, 14 Regional Forums have been held. Since the 1979 Conference, three regions have hosted Forums, and Alaska has held a mini-forum.

For improving future Forums, we have recommended that: participants be informed of issues and problems within A.A.; workshop moderators be responsible for keeping discussion productive; and the staff secretary work closely with regional trustee and delegates on Forum agenda.

Box 4-5-9 keeps the Fellowship informed of upcoming Regional Forums.
Cec C., chairperson

Staff reports:

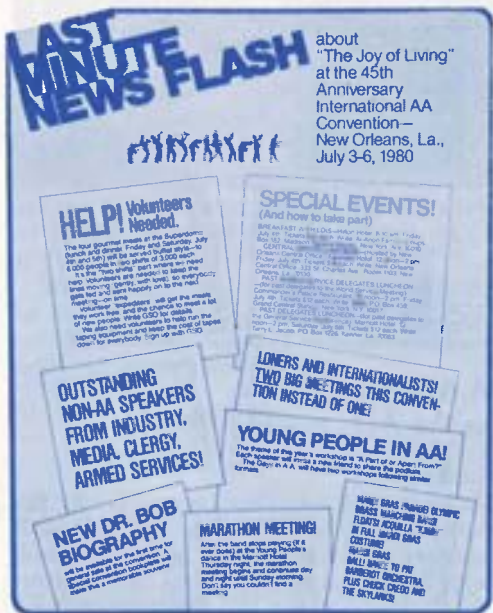
International Convention—A.A.'s 45th anniversary year will be celebrated at our International Convention in New Orleans, July 3-6.

The theme is "The Joy of Living." A.A.'s from more than 30 countries will attend.

By March, we had received over 15,000 advance registrations. Housing becomes increasingly scarce, but some dormitory rooms may be left at Loyola.

Major events will be in the Superdome arena; panels and workshops, in meeting rooms in the four Superdome quadrants; alkathons, in hotel ballrooms. Advance programs will be mailed in May.

Thursday evening, July 3, the welcoming Mardi Gras Ball will be in the Rivergate Convention Center; the Crawfish Crawl (for young people), at the Marriott Hotel. Free shuttle-bus service will be provided from and to all participating hotels on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.



Advance program forecasts Convention excitement.

Al-Anon will sell "Lois Remembers" at the Superdome. A.A.W.S. will introduce Dr. Bob's biography, "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers." The Grapevine booth will give the memorial issues for Dr. Bob and Bill W. as a bonus with each subscription ordered.
Betty L.

A.A. Regional Forums—Plans for the second and third rounds of Forums are now under way. Forums are held on invitation of the region, and plans are made with the regional trustee, delegates from the region, and the G.S.O. staff. Board personnel attending Forums have included trustees, G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members, and an A.A.W.S. director. Expenses of board personnel are paid by the board; those of region service people, by either the individuals or the area committees.

The coordinator plans meetings with the regional trustee, delegates, and the G.S.O. general manager; makes arrangements with the host-city contact, hotel, and host city; arranges travel and hotels for board personnel; handles mailings to delegates (asking for suggestions), G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, area committee officers, past/present delegates and

trustees, and central offices; and is responsible for displays of literature and service material.

Any A.A. member may attend the Forums.
Vincina M.

Internationalists, Loners, LIMs

**Sudden growth in
 long-distance sharing**

Staff report: Our Internationalists' membership grows aboard ships all over the world, from 590 a year ago to 800 as of March 1, 1980. These A.A.'s have started many groups in ports and 19 on their ships.

Loner membership also has grown, from 482 a year ago to 760 as of March 1, including members who speak English, Spanish, French, and German. Loners are A.A. members unable to attend meetings because there are no groups nearby. They are encouraged to start groups when they meet other alcoholics. Until then, Loners stay sober through reading A.A. literature and sharing via correspondence and tapes.

Each new Internationalist and new Loner receives a literature package, the alternating bimonthly bulletins *Loners-Internationalists Meeting* and *Box 4-5-9*, a list of Loners and Internationalists, and a Grapevine subscription order form. A Loner receives the A.A. directory in which he or she will be listed; an Internationalist, all four directories.

Housebound A.A.'s are called LIMs; we have over 30 on the G.S.O. mailing list. They also receive *L.I.M.* and the Loner list, so they may share by correspondence.

Our Loner Sponsors, now numbering 1,250 — 250 more than a year ago — like to correspond and share their experience, strength, hope, and group activities with Lone Members.

Recently, the Belgian-Flemish Loner-Sponsor Group wrote G.S.O., "We are looking out for Flemish and Dutch Loners all over the world, so we have regular written contact with them."

Lyla B.

Literature

**Dr. Bob biography about
 to go on the press**

Trustees' committee: Since the 1979 Conference, we have worked on the following:

- "Time to Start Living" — stories of those who came to A.A. in their later years—was completed in December; by March 1, 31,000 had been sold. It was also printed in large type for those with vision problems.
- The book "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers" is in production at this time. The Bill W. biography should be completed in 1981.
- "A Newcomer Asks," pamphlet recently approved by the Great Britain Conference,

has been adapted to our needs and is now in the hands of the Conference Literature Committee.

- As suggested by the 1979 Conference, improvements in our film "Alcoholics Anonymous — An Inside View" were made, and 250 prints of the film were obtained.

- Tapes of the Big Book were completed in December; 121 had been sold by March 1.

- For "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, we approved new copy based on Conference recommendations against (1) listing alcohol-and-pill and family groups and (2) naming a group after a person or a facility.

Samuel S., chairperson

Staff report: The literature coordinator works with editors on updating and revising old pamphlets and with writers, artists, editors, and printers in the preparation of new pamphlets, displays, leaflets, and other service material. She is also involved with the production of audiovisual materials.

Special projects included working with experts from the National Association of the Deaf, which is presently reviewing some of our recovery pamphlets to suggest how they can be made more meaningful to the hearing-impaired alcoholic.

We have eight periodical bulletins with a combined circulation of 76,172, as follows: *Box 4-5-9* (English), 44,372; *Box 4-5-9* (French), 1,900 (now translated and printed by the French Literature Service in Montreal, in cooperation with this office); *Box 4-5-9* (Spanish), 9,700; *Loners-Internationalists Meeting*, 2,800; *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*, 2,750; *Institutions Bulletin*, 5,350; *Quarterly Report*, 3,900; and *About A.A.*, 5,400.

Helen T.

Nominating

Election procedure for trustees restudied

Trustees' committee: The 1979 Conference asked us to review the method of electing trustees-at-large—U.S. and Canada. A subcommittee was formed and recommended no change in procedure at this time, but suggested reconsideration after the election of the trustee-at-large—U.S. in 1981.

We discussed the nomination speeches for regional trustee and trustee-at-large candidates given by delegates at the Conference. It was agreed that oral nominations are helpful to voters. Many delegates simply read from the résumé sheet; we recommended that they give additional information. We also agreed that the speech be confined to two minutes.

The committee felt that, in the spirit of rotation, retired G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members would not be eligible for nomination as trustees or as A.A.W.S. or Grapevine directors.

Milton Maxwell's term as Class A trustee expires in 1980. But, according to board by-

laws, he is eligible to continue as chairperson for six successive one-year terms. It is our earnest wish that he continue. Milton stated that he would serve one more year and then inform the board of his plans.

Edward S., chairperson



*Site of 1980 World Service Meeting:
Harrison Conference Center, Glen Cove, N.Y.*

Overseas, World Service Meeting

A.A.'s draw closer as the A.A. world widens

Staff report:

Overseas—A.A. membership exceeds 360,000, with more than 14,000 groups. The staff member on this assignment now corresponds with 26 general service offices and literature distribution centers in foreign countries. Groups and individuals there are encouraged to correspond with their own G.S.O.'s. A.A. and its services are growing in Spanish-speaking countries.

To protect A.A.'s copyright, careful consideration is given to granting reprint permissions within the Fellowship. No permission is needed simply to *translate* Conference-approved literature. But before *printing* a translation begins, G.S.O. explores the way it will be financed and distributed, and it is then presented to A.A.W.S. for permission to reprint.

Some highlights: Australia's G.S.O. will publish four A.A. pamphlets in Serbo-Croatian and Greek and some in Latvian; Italian A.A.'s have translated the Big Book into their tongue; the Big Book in Japanese is available through G.S.O. and the service office in Tokyo; in 1979, Iceland and Spain completed national structures and now have General Service Boards and Offices; A.A.'s in Taiwan have started to translate the Big Book into Chinese; and the 1980 *International A.A. Directory* (outside U.S. and Canada) is now available.

World Service Meeting—Nineteen countries and 35 delegates will participate in the Sixth W.S.M., June 27-30, 1980, at the Harrison

Conference Center, Glen Cove, N.Y. The biennial meeting alternates its sites between the U.S. and overseas. Countries attending in 1980 will bid to host the 1982 meeting.

Following a suggestion from the Fifth W.S.M. to have interim service meetings, there were two in 1979: European, in London, England; and Latin American, in Bogota, Colombia.

Beth K.

Public Information

New TV spots, new workbook aid P.I. efforts

Trustees' committee: Among our activities in the past year were the following:

- A news release on the two-millionth copy of the Big Book, given to then H.E.W. Secretary Joseph Califano by Lois W., was sent to wire services and networks.

- Our pamphlets "Understanding Anonymity" and "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" were changed to reflect the 1978 Conference opinion that most A.A.'s speaking at non-A.A. meetings use first name only.

- A memo on anonymity was mailed to more than 465 newspapers and radio and TV stations. An anonymity letter went to over 5,000 treatment centers and agencies.

- We have produced five new TV spots. Four are 30 seconds; the fifth, one minute. We plan to release three this spring and two later, to keep our product fresh for broadcasters. One new spot has a Spanish sound track; another, printed subtitles for the deaf. Comparable radio spots are being developed.

- We prepared a proposed flyer (similar to "A.A. at a Glance") for young people of ten to 18, to be submitted to the Conference P.I. Committee.

Another survey of the Fellowship in the U.S. and Canada will be conducted this year. These surveys, made every three years since 1968, answer basic questions about A.A. and provide valuable membership information.

Jerry D., chairperson

Staff report: In 1979, our new P.I. Workbook went to 375 P.I. committee chairpersons, free.

The *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*, mailed three times a year, shows how local P.I.C.'s carry the message.

We distributed over 100 TV spots and almost 100 radio tapes to local committees. Their reports indicate that over 1,000,000 people were made aware of A.A. through P.I. work—speaking in schools, churches, and public meetings and to professional organizations. Over 250,000 copies of "A.A. at a Glance" went out for non-A.A. meetings.

It takes three of us to cover P.I. work at G.S.O. In 1979, we answered close to 10,000 requests for information about A.A. from students, teachers, nurses, doctors, members of the clergy, family members, and public media. We received almost 5,000 newspaper

stories about A.A. We provided information about A.A. (based on the 1977 survey) to many publications, such as *McCall's*, *International Scholastic Magazine*, and *Good Housekeeping*.

We wrote some 200 letters to delegates about anonymity breaks in their areas. Several major breaks caused concern within the Fellowship.
Susan D.

Staff coordinator

Staff activity links G.S.O. with local A.A.

Staff report: Eleven A.A.'s are G.S.O. staff members. Each has a specific assignment; some assignments are combined; and some involve preparing special bulletins.

Basic staff responsibility is correspondence—in 1979, over 20,000 letters were answered individually. Most staff members handle group mail from a specific region.

The staff receives invitations to local A.A. get-togethers, which let us meet A.A.'s all over the U.S. and Canada and gain information on local activities, to be shared with other groups.

In 1979, more than 1,320 visitors from all over the world came to G.S.O. Each may

tour G.S.O. and the Grapevine, and we learn about A.A. in the visitor's hometown or country.

Weekly staff meetings, conducted by the coordinator, help us seek better ways of serving A.A. groups and members.

The staff coordinator maintains a calendar of staff vacations and trips, so the office will be covered at all times.
Phyllis M.

Treatment Facilities

Year's work focuses on 'bridging the gap'

Trustees' committee: Since the 29th Conference, we have discussed ways to help alcoholics bridge the gap from treatment facilities into "outside" A.A. groups; also, ways to handle communication problems between A.A.'s and hospital administrators. The paper "Bridging the Gap," by John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., was submitted to a medical journal, and we recommended sending a letter incorporating its ideas to administrators of treatment facilities.

Ways to increase distribution of Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field will be discussed with our counterpart Conference committee.

Since the new pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Centers" (replacing "A.A. in Hospitals") was available, we felt that new Guidelines on carrying the message into treatment facilities would be unnecessary.

Ruth H., chairperson

Staff report: As of March 1, 1,325 treatment facility groups were listed at G.S.O. They are in that directory and are *not* open to A.A.'s in the community. Institution and treatment facility committee members and other A.A.'s carry the message to them. That figure does not include the many regular groups that simply use meeting space in such facilities and *are* open to community A.A.'s.

The increase in groups over 1979 indicates that more alcoholics are being referred to A.A. by facilities. Correspondence from groups meeting there fills the "in" box of this assignment. Questions most often asked are: How does a group meeting in a facility stay within Traditions? How do these groups set up sponsorship programs to help bridge the gap? How do their members coordinate efforts with local and area H & I or treatment facility committees?

Because correspondence overlapped with C.P.C., the treatment facilities assignment now receives all material dealing with such matters, from either facility administrators or local A.A.'s.
Lyla B.

Reports From the A.A. Grapevine

Circulation keeps rising; costs go up, too

Directors' report: The Grapevine has had a year of growth—and problems stemming from growth. With the December 1979 issue, circulation reached 120,500, 10.8% over 1978. We expect it to be 125,000 by Conference time, a 25% increase in two and a quarter years.

Miscellaneous-items sales in 1979 reached an all-time high—\$122,000, 29% over 1978 and 59% over 1976, the year before the GvR program came into effect. GvRs create more awareness of other GV items available.

New in 1979 were prepaid gift certificates and a fourth printing of the book "A.A. Today." Certificate sales to date are \$6,000; "A.A. Today," \$21,000. Christmas gift subscriptions went over 4,000.

All this required extra personnel and new procedures not anticipated in the budget. Inflation has drastically affected printing and mailing costs. Even with climbing circulation and increases in other sales, the Grapevine showed an operating loss during 1979. So it is necessary to increase subscription prices, effective with the July 1980 issue, to: U.S. and Canada — one year, \$6; two years, \$10; other countries — one year, \$6.50, two years,

\$11. (Subscriptions received by June 1, 1980, will be processed at the current rate.)

Many members have asked for our Dr. Bob and Bill W. memorial issues, and we approved reprinting these two, to be offered as a packet for \$2. Also, a pocket calendar will be offered at \$2.

Edward S., chairperson

Staff report: The Grapevine represents the sober thinking and experience of A.A.'s around the world, from Loners to oldtimers in big-city groups. This past year was the Grapevine's 36th.

We try to cover as much as possible in our articles: on Steps and Traditions; by and for newcomers; by prisoners, teenagers, and housewives; about going fishing sober, going broke, going to meetings, having a spiritual awakening while mowing the lawn, and writing a 90-page gratitude list. We've covered service work from coffee-maker to G.S.R., and the spiritual life from many angles.

Staff members and/or trustees on the Corporate Board attended 11 area functions in 1979. Because of love expressed for the magazine—and often real dependence on it—we have to do the best we can to have the very best issue possible, month after month.
Retha G., managing editor





Familiar sight all through Conference week: the indispensable manual (orange-covered for 1980).

30TH CONFERENCE (continued from p. 1)

presentations, Conference members put in 13-hour days to complete their tasks.

Highlights of Conference proceedings include:

Agenda—recommended that the theme for the 1981 Conference be built around “A.A. Takes Its Inventory—General Service Conference Structure”; and that there be a “What’s on Your Mind?” session for the full Conference.

Cooperation with the Professional Community—recommended in-person A.A. talks rather than videotaping; anonymity Traditions should be maintained on videotape.

Correctional Facilities—recommended emphasizing cooperation with correctional administrations and courts, prerelease sponsorship, and referrals to meetings through local committees.

Grapevine—recommended that groups make every effort to introduce newcomers to the Grapevine as a sobriety tool.

International Convention—reaffirmed the 1979 Conference recommendation that simultaneous translation in French, Spanish, and German be provided free for the Big Meeting and the Spiritual Meeting.

Literature—recommended adoption and adaptation of a pamphlet from Great Britain entitled “A Newcomer Asks”; approved manuscript of book “Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers.”

Policy/Admissions—reaffirmed the importance of the committee system for accomplishing business of the General Service Conference.

Public Information—recommended that the film “A.A.—An Inside View” be released for general distribution.

Report and Charter—recommended that “The A.A. Service Manual” include additional material on the role of the alternate at all levels of service.

Treatment Facilities—encouraged the distribution of Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field in treatment, institutional, and other facilities where they apply.

Trustees—recommended that owners and operators of treatment facilities not be excluded from service on the General Service Board solely because of their occupations, nor retired G.S.O. and GV people solely because of their past staff service.

Archives filmstrip—approved “Markings on the Journey.”

FOUR TRUSTEES SELECTED (continued from p. 1)

26 delegate, Bud was chairperson of the Conference Grapevine Committee and has continued to support our magazine in area service.

Following Cecil C., Prince Albert, Sask., as Western Canada regional trustee is Aime D., Kamloops, B.C. Aime has been active in intergroup work in his province.

When general service trustee Edward S., New York, N.Y., rotates off the board August 1, he will be replaced by Don D., a Grapevine director, also of New York. Don is a member of the Trafalgar Group, in Manhattan.

Groups and Members Spring 1980

	Groups	Members
United States	20,359	387,875
Canada	3,349	56,672
Overseas	14,016	362,772
Treatment facilities	1,156 ¹	23,956 ¹
Correctional facilities	1,084 ¹	35,336 ¹
Lone Members		760
Internationalists		800
	39,964	868,171 ²

1. U.S. and Canada only.

2. Including nonreported members, it is estimated that there are more than 1,000,000 members worldwide.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE (continued from p. 1)

A near-unanimous sense of the meeting favored the present two-thirds delegate majority. Members expressed the conviction that numerical ratios are meaningless; that each Conference member is there to serve the Fellowship as a whole.

Both the functions and the method of selection of “in town” trustees should be left as they are, it was agreed, after a discussion of these trustees’ extensive contributions.

There was unanimous agreement that the principle of rotation can be carried out more effectively with the present two-year delegate term than with a three-year term.

Digest of Agenda

Sunday, April 20

Opening dinner and A.A. meeting

Monday, April 21

Welcome

Roll call of all Conference members

Conference committee chairpersons

Keynote

Area delegate chairperson

General Service Board report

Presentation/discussion: “The Right of Decision”

Members of General Service Board (trustees)

Reports of A.A.W.S., Grapevine, and trustees’ committees

Joint trustees’ and Conference committee meetings

Tour of G.S.O. and Grapevine offices

Preview of new public information TV spots

Film showing and sharing session: “A.A.—An Inside View”

Tuesday, April 22

Literature Task Force report and discussion

Conference committee meetings

World Service Meeting report

Presentation/discussion and workshop: “Reaching the Alcoholic by Working With Nonalcoholics and A.A. Members Working in the Alcoholism Field”

Delegates’ meeting

Wednesday, April 23

Conference committee meetings

Ask-It Basket

Trustee elections

Workshop: “Participation Through Self-Support”

Filmstrip preview: “Markings on the Journey”

Ask-It Basket

Distribution of Conference committee reports

Thursday, April 24

Conference committee reports and discussion

Presentation/discussion: “Participation: Equal Voice—Equal Responsibility”

Report and discussion: “Relocation of the Conference”

International Convention report

Ask-It Basket

Sharing session: “How Well Is Our Conference Structure Working?”

Friday, April 25

Conference committee reports and discussion

Unstructured workshop

Presentation/discussion: “Participation: Service and Recovery”

Saturday, April 26

Closing brunch

Closing talks

Visit to Stepping Stones

Reports on Area Service Highlights: At intervals, Panel 30 delegates shared area experiences.



THE BULLETIN BOARD

June-July 1980

ITEMS AND IDEAS ON AREA GATHERINGS FOR A.A.'S - VIA G.S.O.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- May 29-June 1 - *Palm Springs, California*. Desert Roundup. Write: Roundup Off., P.O. Box 42629, Los Angeles, CA 90065
- May 30-June 1 - *Rome, New York*. 14th Annual East-West Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 30, Rome, NY 13440
- May 30-June 1 - *Bakersfield, California*. Seventh Annual Golden Empire Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3489, Sta. A, Bakersfield, CA 93305
- May 30-June 1 - *Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada*. 14th Annual Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 73, Sta. F, Thunder Bay, Ont.
- May 30-June 1 - *Vernon, British Columbia, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1454, Vernon, B.C. V1T 6N7
- May 30-June 1 - *Castlegar, British Columbia, Canada*. Intergroup Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 205, Robson, B.C. V0G 1X0
- May 30-June 1 - *Jackson, Mississippi*. 34th State Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 3157, Jackson, MS 39207
- May 30-June 1 - *Thompson, Manitoba, Canada*. N. Man. Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 767, Thompson, Man. R8N 1M5
- May 30-June 1 - *Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 15th N.S. Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 461, Bridgewater, N.S. B4V 2X6
- 5-8 - *St. Simon Island, Georgia*. 16th Golden Isles Family Weekend. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 508, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 5-8 - *St. Mary's County, Maryland*. Fifth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 29, Leonardtown, MD 20650
- 5-8 - *Austin, Texas*. 35th Annual State Conv. Write: Reg. Ch., P.O. Box 14992, Austin, TX 78761
- 6-8 - *Norfolk, Nebraska*. 21st State Reunion. Write: Reunion Ch., 304 N. 9th, Norfolk, NE 68701
- 6-8 - *Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*. Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 33, Seaford, DE 19973
- 6-8 - *St. Joseph, New Brunswick*. First Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 191, St. Joseph, N.B. E0A 2Y0
- 6-8 - *Henryville, Pennsylvania*. First Annual N.E. Pa. Women's Weekend of Renewal. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 492, Wilkes Barre, PA 18701
- 6-8 - *San Antonio, Texas*. First Annual Texas Roundup of Young People. Write: A.T.R. Y.P. Ch., 202 Englewood, San Antonio, TX 78213
- 6-8 - *Grand Junction, Colorado*. Summer Assy. Write: Assy. Ch., 362 S. 2nd St., Grand Junction, CO 81501
- 6-8 - *Sedona, Arizona*. 26th Annual Roundup. Write: Gen. Ch., P.O. Box 3070, West Sedona, AZ 86340

- 6-8 - *Missoula, Montana*. Spring Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 3083, Missoula, MT 59806
- 6-8 - *Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada*. Fourth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 5670, Fort McMurray, Alta. T9H 3G6
- 7-8 - *Athabasca, Alberta, Canada*. Second Annual Roundup. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 2244, Athabasca, Alta. T0G 0B0
- 7-8 - *Winchester, Virginia*. 26th Annual Spring Four-State and D.C. Get-Together. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 593, Winchester, VA 22601
- 8 - *Nassau, New York*. Share-a-Day Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 563, Floral Park, NY 11001
- 13-15 - *San Jose, California*. N. Calif. Summer Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108
- 13-15 - *Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 111, Dawson Creek, B.C.
- 13-15 - *Albuquerque, New Mexico*. Area Spring Conv. Write: Reg. Ch., Box 11432, Sta. E, Albuquerque, NM 87192
- 13-14 - *Council Bluffs, Iowa*. Spring Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1635, Council Bluffs, IA 51502
- 13-15 - *Wheeling, West Virginia*. 28th Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 276, Triadelphia, WV 26059
- 14-15 - *Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada*. Fifth Annual Roundup. Write: Reserv. Ch., P.O. Box 1032, Ashcroft, B.C. V0K 1A0
- 20-22 - *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. Young People's Beaver Conf. Write: Ch., 13 Avon La., Ottawa, Ont. K1M 1V1
- 20-22 - *North Conway, New Hampshire*. 15th Annual Area Assy./Conv. Write: Function Com., P.O. Box 4253, Manchester, NH 03108

PLANNING AN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER EVENT?

Please be sure to send your information on August or September events for A.A.'s in time to reach G.S.O. by *June 15*. This is the calendar deadline for the August-September issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed July 15).

Naturally, G.S.O. cannot check on all the information submitted. We must rely on local A.A.'s to describe the events accurately.

CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

June - "Old Myths Die Hard" suggests sharing ways to help newcomers, nonalcoholics close to us, and ourselves to accept alcoholism as an illness; "Learning to Identify" asks us to examine the value of identification in remembering our drinking selves and seeing our sober selves more clearly.

July - Read our co-founders' words in two articles, and discuss the importance of humor in staying sober and enjoying the A.A. life; use the six articles in the "A.A. and Prison" section as a guide in finding what our own group can gain from such twelfth-stepping.

- 20-22 - *Peterborough, Ontario, Canada*. 19th Kawartha Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 647 Cameron St., Peterborough, Ont. K9J 3Z9
- 20-22 - *Fort Nelson, British Columbia, Canada*. Mile 300 Roundup. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 422, Fort Nelson, B.C. V0C 1R0
- 20-22 - *Southern Pines, North Carolina*. Second Annual Sandhills Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 148, Southern Pines, NC 28387
- 20-22 - *Akron, Ohio*. 45th Founders Day Conf. Write: Conf. Com., P.O. Box 12, Akron, OH 44309
- 21 - *North Bay, Ontario, Canada*. 33rd Anniv. Day. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 494, North Bay, Ont.
- 21-22 - *Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Sixth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 2215, Humboldt, Sask. S0K 2A0
- 27-29 - *Ashland, Oregon*. Pac. N.W. Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1971, Grants Pass, OR 97526
- 27-29 - *Parksville, British Columbia, Canada*. Rally. Write: Pub. Ch., 5821 Garden St., Duncan, B.C. V9L 3V8
- 28-29 - *Eaton, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 641, Eaton, Sask. S0L 1A0
- 28-29 - *Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., 351 Reid St., Quesnel, B.C.

(continued)

Flip up this end of page JULY events listed on reverse side

