

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

august
1982

NEWSLETTER OF INTERGROUP OF WESTERN NORTH
CAROLINA, 107 PARKWAY OFFICE BUILDING,
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28801*** PHONE 704-254-8539

FIRST: APOLOGIES FOR THE LATENESS.

Ye editor was called to another city for AA related
matters that makes this the latest edition, yet.

AA AA AA AA AA AA AA

GSR'S AND PI'S REGULAR MEETING

August 15, Sunday before the convention.

Time: 2:00 PM, at the Allen Center, Asheville
DON'T FORGET THE CONVENTION AT WINSTON-SALEM, AUG.

20, 21, 22, Hyatt House, and Conv. Center.

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Intergroup Monthly Meeting:

Following GSR, Meeting, Aug. 15, Time 3:00PM
Y'all COME & Bring a FRIEND, Our friends need to know
TOO!!!!!!

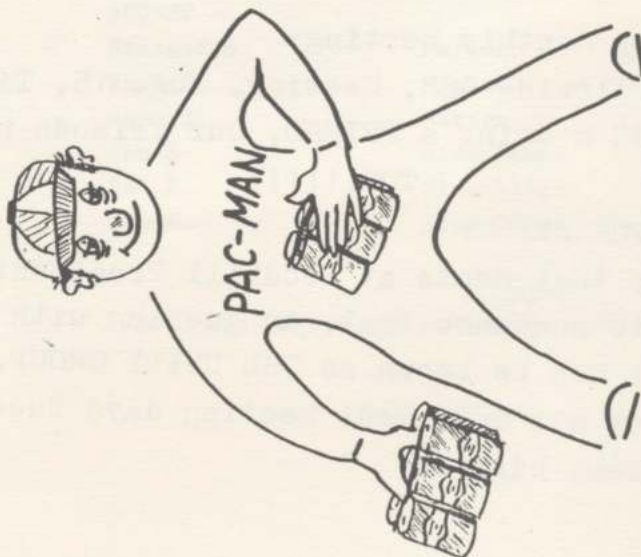
GROUP INFORMATION:

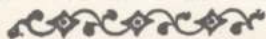
The group that meets at Woodhill Treatment Center would
like us to announce that, in keeping with the traditions
they will now be known as THE UNITY GROUP. Thanks for
keeping us all informed! Meeting days Tuesday, Thursday,
and Saturday Nights.

EDITOR'S CORNER

This month there is a thought pressing that seems to need some clarification. Recently the book "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck has had some currency in the fellowship with many good effects for those who have read it. There is, however, one concept in the book which has come to my attention as one that can confuse many of us without some very careful reading. In researching and re-studying the concept of "playing God" as Dr. Peck presents it, there seems to be no confusion for me between it and the concepts presented in the fellowship, except for the choice of words, and I have concluded that Dr. Peck was most deliberate in his choice of words with the purpose of making me think. In explaining his choice of words, or at least reconciling his choice with what is the currency of the fellowship to which I owe my life, I brought in another concept that helped. That was the concept of "playing at God(hood)" and my conception is that the second form is where I try to tell God what His business is, or what He should want, while the first form--"playing God" as a good or valid purpose--is for me to do the best that I am able to do to serve in agency as a servant of God; to do what I am given to do in any given situation in such a way as to bring the greatest glory and service to Him.

EN ROUTE... To "Stonato"
By Bill D., Tanglewood





It All Adds Up

When I stepped inside a store in a Nevada town, I gaped at the walls and ceilings. They were literally covered with money fastened there with thumbtacks — many one-dollar bills, some fives, and even a ten-dollar bill.

"What's the idea?" I asked the owner.

He laughed. "It's something we've done for several years. Anytime someone feels he can spare it, he tacks up a dollar or two, and by the end of the year it gets to be quite a sum. Then we take it down and see that all the poor kids and all the old folks have a wonderful party."

— Patricia Klein

A three-year-old had been elected president of a local group of somewhat older boys. A father asked one member why the boys had elected such a small youngster.

"Well, Dad," the boy explained, "Billy couldn't be secretary because he can't read. We couldn't make him treasurer because he can't count. He's too little to throw anyone out, so we couldn't elect him sergeant-at-arms. And we knew he'd feel badly unless we elected him to something, so we made him president."

Sunshine Magazine

Closing the Door

DID YOU EVER GET the feeling that you personally are holding the whole world together, that if you relax for a minute everything will go flying off into space?

Take the other night. I felt a draft, traced it and found the back door open. I was about to shut it, when I noticed that the outside light was on. The light revealed that the twin cellar doors were also open. I went outside and when I bent down to close the doors, I saw that one of the children had left a basement light on.

When I clattered down the steps to put out the light, I noticed that my cellar workroom light was also on. I walked back to get that one and discovered that a clock I was working on had stopped. I got it started, then found a puddle of water on the floor. I wiped it up, and on my way out I found that a dripping overhead

faucet was the source of the water.

I tightened the wheel, but the drip persisted. I traced the water line back to the nearest cut-off valve, closed it, and then replaced the washer on the faucet. I managed at the same time to open a small cut on my finger. I went back to the workroom for an adhesive strip. There was one left. I applied it, and then went upstairs and brought new adhesive patches down to the cellar for future emergencies.

I wasn't through yet. While in the bathroom I had noticed we were out of toilet paper, so I trudged up to the second-floor linen closet and dug out a roll. I was crossing the kitchen with the toilet paper when my wife asked, "Where have you been all evening?"

"Closing the back door," I explained.

—Arthur Roth in East Hampton, N.Y., *Star*

KEEP YOUR FEARS to yourself, but share your courage. —Robert Louis Stevenson

A PESSIMIST? That's a person who has been intimately acquainted with an optimist. —Elbert Hubbard

REALLY we create nothing. We merely plagiarize nature. —Jean Baitaillon

ONE VOLUNTEER is better than ten forced men. —African proverb

Some Stories

If you've ever had an insurance claim, you've probably had to summarize on a short form exactly what happened. Every once in a while, a real jewel of an explanation comes across an adjuster's desk. The following are actual claims that were reported to insurance companies. These were first reported in the *Toronto News* on July 15, 1977:



- Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I didn't have.
- The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention.
- I thought my window was down, but found it was up when I put my hand through it.
- I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.

I Give Up!



THIS AND THAT

—Strictly Personal

Know-Thyself Paradox

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Surely the oldest, and perhaps the most familiar, of all sayings in any language is the ancient injunction of Socrates: "Know thyself." Almost everyone agrees on its importance, and many have tried to follow it — but with results that are more often disappointing than satisfying.

The failures come from a profound misunderstanding of the way to go about this process. For there is a paradox at the heart of the human situation, and it is this: *we can only know ourselves through knowing others, and we can only know others through knowing ourselves.*

In order to know oneself, no amount of introspection or self-examination will suffice. You can analyze yourself for weeks, or meditate for months, and you will not get an inch further — any more than you can smell your own breath or laugh when you tickle yourself.

You must first be open to the other person before you catch a glimmering of yourself. Our self-reflection in a mirror does not tell us what we are like; only our reflection in other people. We are essentially social creatures, and our personality resides in *association*, not in isolation.

As Buber insists, *meeting* is the ground of our humanity, and a sense of the other must precede any real sense of the self. People who feel isolated and alienated and at odds with themselves have somehow not learned to meet the other on even

ground, to engage in dialog, to accept the other as being as real as oneself.

It is a remarkable fact of psychology that the people who are most "sensitive" about themselves are generally the most insensitive about other people; those whose feelings are most easily hurt are usually unaware of the feelings they evoke in others.

The second half of the paradox is that, conversely, the only way we can truly understand others is by self-recognition. We cannot decipher them from the outside, as it were, but only by being able to identify with their passions and responses; by recognizing our own defects and deceptions and distortions of reality. (This helps make us, at the same time, more perceptive about their motives and more sympathetic toward their needs.)

Nothing is really personal that is not first *interpersonal*, beginning with the infant's shock of separation from the umbilical cord. What we know about ourselves comes only from the outside, and is interpreted by the kind of experiences we have had; and what we know about others comes only from analogy with our own network of feelings.

"Know thyself" has done as much harm as good down the ages, and possibly more, as long as people construed it in a narrow, individualistic sense. It is worth recalling that Socrates spent his days in the *agora*, discussing life with all manner of men, rather than retreating to a cave to scratch his psychic sores.

MY PLEA

The Gift of Life is today
I'll remember as I Pray..

Help me face what's ahead
Loss of Serenity I dread.

Sometimes I come to the conclusion
That it's all just an illusion.

But, it has so much appeal
It's got to be something real.

When Cravings too much to bear
I'll call a friend to share.

I hope to never slip again
Through prayer I'm sure I'll win.

In my failures I've to learn
There's help if I'll only turn.

Not as a plant but as a seed
Accept my faults, admit my needs.

For surrender, as you can see
Is the true path to SERENITY.

(Thanks to "Phyllis" Woodhill Group)

God, make me what you want
me to be all day long
Help me to say what I should say
To do what I should do
To be what I should be
And to thank you for making me
feel this way right now.



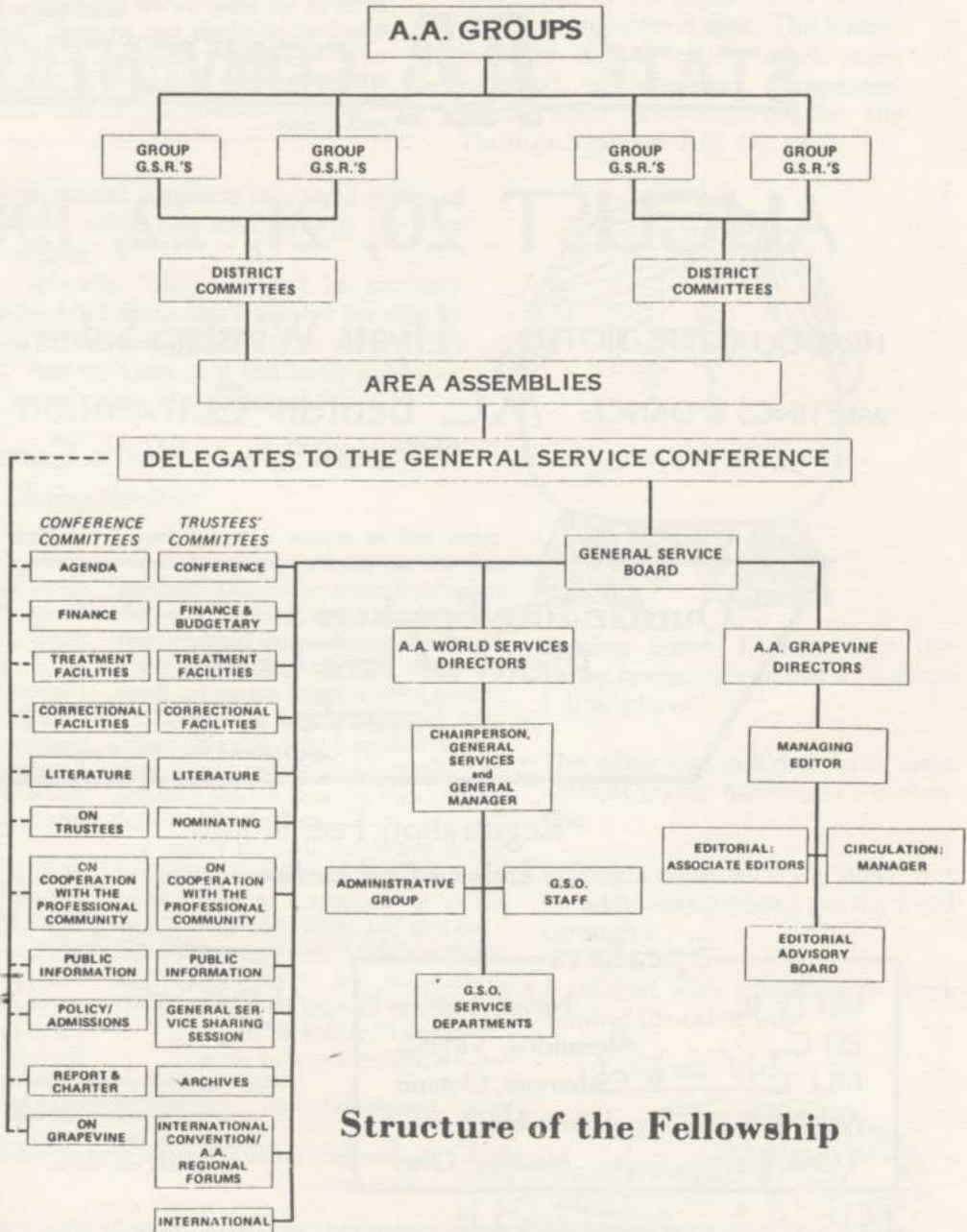
Thank you, dear God
For all you have given me
For all you have taken away from me
For all you have left me.

FROM

HERE TO YON!

by HUGH C.

The Conference plan, or, as it is sometimes known, the Third Legacy plan, was originally set up in 1950 by Bill W. and Doctor Bob. It was confirmed in 1955 in St. Louis on the occasion of the Second International Convention. Bill W. took great pains to explain that the plan was purely suggestive and traditional, not a body of rules or laws. But it has served the Fellowship well since 1955 and no doubt will continue to do so into the foreseeable future.



Structure of the Fellowship

35th Annual

NORTH CAROLINA / BERMUDA

STATE **AA** CONVENTION

AUGUST 20, 21, 22, 1982

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: Hyatt Winston-Salem

MEETINGS & DANCE: M.C. Benton Convention Center
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Outstanding Speakers
Plenty of Free Coffee
Saturday Night Dance
JOE HARPER AND THE ESQUIRES

Registration Fee \$10.00
See Enclosed Card for Room Rates

Speakers

BETTY B. Novelty, Ohio
ED C. Alexandria, Virginia
BILL C. St. Catharines, Ontario
MARIE S. Hilton Head, S.C.
TOM B. Novelty, Ohio

REGISTER NOW!

CONVENTION MAILING ADDRESS:

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN
P.O. BOX 18412
RALEIGH, N.C. 27619

THIS IS YOUR CONVENTION—SUPPORT IT!
RESERVATION CARDS AT INTERGROUP OFFICE.

INTERGROUP MEETING JULY 16, 1982

The regular monthly meeting of the WNC Intergroup opened Sunday July 18, 1982 at 3:10 PM with the Serenity Prayer. Hugh C. presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and approved as read. Ted F. read the financial report. He reported a balance of \$552.53 on hand on June 30, 1982, approved as read. He pointed out we again have dropped in our contributions. The Chairman asked for suggestions how we can bring this to the attention of everyone. Discussion followed with a recommendation to have a letter in the Mountain Doins pertaining to this.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Chairman, Hugh C., Vice Chairman, Ted F., and Trustee Jean W., have been entered in our official records as approved.

2. Typewriter has been repaired at a cost of \$40.00

3. It was again pointed out the importance of each group representative to take reports back to the home group/

NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman passed around a card pertaining to AA friend and phone number. Discussion followed whether Intergroup should have these printed and sell them. Jack M., said that the Acceptance Group has ordered these and will sell them. Bill J., moved we table this until next month.

Motion was made to have a petty cash fund of \$25.00 to cover the cost of coffee and misc. office supplies

It was noted the Intergroup Co-ordinators were excused to-day. Roy I Treas., was also excused.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:PM with the Lords Prayer. The next meeting will be held August 15th at 3:PM in the Mustard Seed Club Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Curry W., Secretary



As I go to my meeting and try to be open-minded and listen, I some times get lost. I found a piece in one of our old Grapevines from Scotland that explained it to me the best yet; so I'm going to share it with my brothers and sisters in A. A.

"In promulgating your esoteric cogitations, or articulating your superficial sentimentalities and amicable, philosophical or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your conversational communications possess a clarified conciseness, a compact comprehensibleness, coalescent consistency, and a concatenated cogency. Eschew all conglomerations of flutulent garrulity, jejune babblement and asinine affectations. Let your extemporaneous descantings and unmediated expatiations have intelligibility and veracious vivacity, without rhodomontade or thrasonical bombast. Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous prolixity, psittaceous vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity, and vaniloquent vapidty. Shun double-entendres, prurient jocosity and pestiferous profanity, obscure or apparent.

"In other words, talk plainly, briefly, naturally, sensibly, truthfully, purely. Keep from 'slang'; don't put on airs; say what you mean; mean what you say. And don't use big words!!!"

Love in the Fellowship.

Frank Rice, Alternate State Delegate

(copied from The Georgia Message of A.A.)

Hi!



GV



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BELATED FOR JUNE

Don R
Audrey H

BREVARD 21
Haw Creek 1

JULY

Mike O'G
Bud M
Ed W
Gladys W
Rebecca T
Fred R
John L
Eva P
Charles P
Gertrude H
Virgie R
Clyde G
Curry W
Sandi T

Marshall 4
Cullowee 3
Sylva 12
Black Mtn BBG 1
Black Mtn BBG 1
Blue Ridge 8
Blue Ridge 12
Blue Ridge 4
Blue Ridge 3
Blue Ridge 3
Blue Ridge 14
Brevard 1
Victoria 3
Murphy 2

Mary M
Fred S
Jenny S
Judy H
Kyle B
Fred C
Keith S

Murphy 3
Murphy 1
Murphy 4
Waynesville Grace 1
Waynesville Grace 4
Waynesville Grace 4
Waynesville Grace 5

AUGUST

Richard S
Paul P
Gene B
Jan B
Dot P
Bob L

Marion 3
Marion 3
Marion 1
Acceptance 1
Blue Ridge 12
Blue Ridge 2

TOTAL 137 YEARS

OF SOBER HAPPY LIVING*****MAN THAT'S LIVING!!!