

A.A. in the North San Diego County

As remembered from June 1958

By: John F.

Sobriety Date: 21 June 1958

The first A.A. meeting I attended in the North County was the Monday Night Oceanside Mens Closed Meeting, which met in Carlsbad, CA at Simmy's Sign Shop at the corner of Elm and Old 101.

My first A.A. meeting was on the Sunday before at the Pathfinders in San Diego.

Meetings available in North County in 1958 were evening meetings at 8:00 pm.

➤ Monday	Mens Closed	Carlsbad
➤ Tuesday	Open	Fallbrook
➤ Tuesday	Open	Escondido
➤ Tuesday	Women Closed	Carlsbad
➤ Wednesday	Open	Rancho Santa Fe
➤ Thursday	Open**	Vista
➤ Friday	Open	Oceanside

** Indicates the Mother Group of North County as related to me by one of the members Fred Mc.

Dick R. who moved up from San Diego brought A.A. to Vista. He started a meeting in the Woman's Club on Thursdays. The year I don't not remember.

Jim W from Fallbrook according to Fred got tired of the drive from Fallbrook to Vista, started a meeting there in Fallbrook. For many years, Jim was a guiding light of AA in Fallbrook.

Rancho Santa Fe met at the Inn. No knowledge on who started or how. Good meeting.

Oceanside. Met in the Knights of Pithias Hall at the corner of Tremont and Mission. In 1958 it was under the firm control of

Carl J. who owned the woodworking shop next to the hall. Carl was Mr. AA of the North County at that time. If someone in the North County called for help in the North County, the call was given to Carl who would find a member nearest to make the call or go himself.

Monday Night Mens Closed met in Simmy's Sign Shop on the corner of Elm and 101, across from the twin chickens. Most men from the North County came here to talk serious about AA. Simmy had about 13 years in those days; this was a real old timer. I did not see anyone get a 20-year cake until 1961; Lucky Lucky (Oceanside) was the man.

As you can see, it was impossible to make a meeting every day of the week in the North County. We had to go down to San Diego or north to Laguna Beach in order to make 90 meetings in 90 days.

In about 1961, a man named Stan started a Saturday night meeting in Oceanside in a school.

I believe the Sunday night meeting started in the school on Cassidy.

Our first Alano Club was on South Hill Street; beside Pernicarnos Restaurant...Bill B. was a driving force behind this endeavor. The club then moved to larger facilities on Oceanside Blvd. Later to its present site by the Mission.

At this time Norm and Chuck were handling H & I. We had a group of men going to the honor camp out of Chino in back of Rainbow. Norm, Dick O and myself would normally go every Wednesday. Later Vista took on the Honor Camp at Warner Hot Springs. Carl J. got the military to agree to a meeting at the hospital at Camp Pendleton on Monday nights in 1963.