

February 1952

CALIFORNIA

*DURING THE INTERMISSION BETWEEN THE
CASE HISTORIES OF TWO EARLY SETTLERS*

LOS Angeles and San Francisco are only two of 194 separate California cities that are listed in the 1951 AA Group Directory.

California is the second largest state in area (howdy, Texas!) and second largest in population according to the U.S. Census. According to AA records, California is first in number of groups with 446 listed as of January 1st, 1952, and first in AA population with 14,375.

San Diego's AA Central Office reports more than 1500 members, Santa Monica 275 plus, and Fresno, Richmond and Santa Ana each report 150.

Smallest reported group consists of three members in Blythe California. It's also the newest. A poet named Shelley (not a Native Son) gives a fitting thought for this pygmy among giants . . . "Hail to thee, Blythe spirit!"

A pickle manufacturer once advertised 57 varieties. Since the 1951 Directory listing, exactly 57 new groups have been organized in California with 688 unpickled members.

California claims rightfully the geologic High Bottom championship of the United States with Mount Whitney, 14,500 feet above sea-level. Low Bottom title goes to California's Inyo County with Death Valley 276 feet below the sea. (Whenever you think you're in a depression ask us. Bordering Death Valley on the northeast are the Grapevine Mountains!)



INTERLUDE

*THE GRAPEVINE OFFERS A SNACK BAR OF
STATISTICS, SIDE TRIPS AND SIDELIGHTS . . .*

Everything grows in California's rich and varied soil. Twenty brand new AA groups are on application for listing . . . one the Husband and Wife Group of Oakland. And three special cheers for another newcomer . . . the Helping Hand Group of Encino.

Of old established groups take special note of *Eureka* and its AAs who like what they have found; mark the modesty of *Modesto*; pride with point if you will at *Needles*; observe the open door policy of Los Gatos. No group is listed for *Capistrano* — where apparently the swallows are merely an external problem.

California AA leads the nation in prison groups with 19, nearly 24% of all those in operation, and a good share of hospital groups.

At last year's General Service Conference in New York, AA delegates from California are reported to have shared Florida orange juice with the delegates from that state. AA is truly tolerant and wonderful!

Astronomers have built the world's most important observatories in California because of the clear air and the large number of cloudless nights. Movie fans have also seen the most stars here, and a tourist AA who thought the climate might help him handle "just one drink" also saw stars in pro-and-con-fusion.

To AAs in all of the "Golden State's" 58 counties, a salute from AA everywhere on Size, Sincerity and Sobriety. Now, it's time for the case history from San Francisco . . .

