

December 1947

Prison Group a Year Old

From Salt Lake City, Utah

The first anniversary meeting of the Golden Key Chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous proved strange, surprising and interesting.

Strange because the 50 members of the Golden Key Group are inmates of the Utah State Prison, and it was there in the prison's old, second-story chapel the members assembled. It was surprising because of all places where sincerity would be so seldom expected, there it prevailed. Interesting because it produced true stories of men who ignored pride and pretense in realizing and confessing their shortcomings. They discovered that in being unlike the man who measures success in worldly attainments, they asserted an even greater strength in being humble.

Of 13 guests invited, ten were fellow-members of the A.A. brotherhood from Salt Lake City and Ogden and three were state officials, Warden John E. Harris, Deputy Warden Van Fleet and Dr. Leslie D. Burbridge, a member of the Utah State Board of Corrections.

The officials, before attending the meeting, had gone over figures which showed that out of the 15 A.A. members paroled from the institution since the Chapter had been formed, none had violated the conditions of their parole agreements. In leaving the meeting, they probably had evidence less tangible but more convincing than that which can be printed. - W.W.