

**A.A.
ON THE
NEIGHBOR
ISLANDS**

Hawaii Area
Archives Committee

November 3, 2002

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The Beginnings

Alcoholics Anonymous found its way to the Hawaiian Islands in the wake of World War II. Prior to the outbreak of the war, only a quarter of a million persons populated all of the Islands. In less than three years, the population exceeded one million, more than half of whom were armed forces personnel. Another 100,000 were civilian defense workers brought in from the Mainland. Hawaii's public services were overwhelmed.

Wartime Hawaii was a society of womanless men, whose loneliness in being away from home, and whose fear of the unknown – soon to confront them on other, less hospitable shores – was readily, if only temporarily, assuaged by alcohol. It was inevitable that this flood of humanity would carry many an alcoholic, and soon-to-be alcoholic, to the beaches of Hawaii; but it was equally inevitable that some of these would bring A.A. with them, or would soon seek to create it while here in the islands.

Although the seed of A.A. may have been planted in the Territory of Hawaii earlier, the first sprout was not seen until December of 1943, soon after the American victory on Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands. The first sprout – the South Seas Group – did not long survive, but other seeds sprouted, and one or two were alive each an every year until the mid-1950's when, finally, we Islanders seemed to learn the secret of how to sustain the crop.

In January of 1944, that first Island A.A. group informed the Central Office in New York that it had nine members. Five years later, the group reported that it had grown to 35 members, but according to the records of the New York office, it was still the only A.A. group in Hawaii. Ten years after the founding of the first A.A. group in Hawaii, there were still only four A.A. groups – all on Oahu – consisting of a reported 151 members.

The first evidence of any A.A. activity in Hawaii, other than on the island of Oahu, is found in the 1949 A.A. Directory, published by the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York. That document listed, in Hilo, the South Seas Group #2, which was shown to have four members, with the contact person being Evelyn S., at Room 20, Professional Building. The group was not listed in any subsequent directory. (Evelyn S. was a member of the South Seas Group, in Honolulu. Apparently, she was temporarily working in Hilo and started a meeting while there. Presumably, she stayed only a year in Hilo before returning to Oahu. The fact of her return to Honolulu is verified by her being listed in later A.A. Directories as the contact person for several Honolulu A.A. groups.)

The next attempt at establishing an A.A. group appears to have been made on Molokai, some time during 1949, when a group was listed a "Kalaupapa, Molokai." The entry indicated that it was at the "Leper Colony," and that readers should "Contact (the

group) through Box 459, Grand Central Annex, New York 17." The group appeared in the next three annual editions of the A.A. Directory, but did not appear in subsequent editions until 1976, not even in periods when the Kalaupapa Group was known to exist. The group appears to have been "periodic," rather than "continuous."

The Crescent City Group of Hilo and the Maui Group of Wailuku both made their first appearance in the A.A. Directory of 1956, thus indicating that both groups registered their existence with the General Service Office during 1955. Nevertheless, the Crescent City Group is considered to be the first long-lasting "neighbor island" group. The Hawaii Area Archives contain no evidence to suggest that the Maui Group existed prior to 1955, but there is evidence that the Crescent City Group did come into existence earlier, perhaps as early as the summer of 1953. This "evidence" is found in an article, titled "Hilo Bill W." which appeared in the A.A. Grapevine of December 1957 (Vol.14, No.7), which is quoted below:

Dear Bill W.,

The real reason for this letter is to tell you about your namesake in Hilo, Hawaii. Virginia and I just returned from a trip to the Islands, where a week ago Saturday night we were in Hilo. It was my A.A. birthday and we thought it would be nice to see if we could raise an A.A. quorum for a meeting.

I phoned the police who were at first very non-committal. Finally, a Japanese sergeant took my number and said he'd try to locate an A.A. member for me. Soon he called back and said that if I would phone a certain number and ask for Bill W., I'd be on the right track. My reaction was that A.A. in Hilo was really sub-rosa; that whoever this guy was didn't want the police to know his real name, so he gave me your name to assure me that I had found the right man. But, golly, his real name is Bill W., and the few hours we spent with him assured me that he is well worthy of bearing your name.

Hilo Bill W. owns a small country store a few miles out of town, selling everything from thread to outboard motors—and liquor. While this is his livelihood, his real vocation is writing a daily newspaper column and doing a daily radio newscast. He is a philosopher at heart, has been in the Island thirty years, sober four years, and a real joy to know.

The story of the coming of A.A. to Hilo almost caused Virginia and me to weep. It seems that about four and a half years ago, Bill's Hawaiian wife, despairing for his very life and sanity, wrote to A.A. in Honolulu. Three guys flew to Hilo immediately and carried the message to Bill who wasn't quite ready for it at the time. Six months later he remembered and flew to Honolulu, where he attended a couple of meetings, met some grand people and came home sober—and a crusader.

Hilo Bill knew better than to try to pull 'em off the bar stools, so, though broke he got someone to lend him the use of a small room up two flights of stairs where he could go every Tuesday night. The only trouble was that there was no electricity in the room. Undaunted, Bill took two big candles with him. He got the local newspaper to run a small ad giving the time and place of meeting—every Tuesday evening at 8 P.M. Then he climbed the stairs and waited.

For eight long months Bill W. of Hilo went up those stairs with his book and candles saying a prayer on the way up, "Please, Got, let someone who needs A.A. be here tonight." For eight months he held his meeting alone. Finally, one man came, then a couple more. Now, after four years, the Hilo Group has eleven sober, happy members, and Bill is the happiest guy I event met.

Bud H. San Diego, Calif.

An unsigned monograph in the Hawaii Area Archives, titled "Early Days in A.A. in the Hilo Area," dated May 1985, states that Bill W.'s meetings "were about as anonymous as one could get! There was no phone listing, the meetings were hidden away in a back street in Hilo town, and the only way to find them was to know a member who could give directions. Members who arrived in Hilo from Oahu and were looking for a meeting report that it was a great deal easier to locate and get into a local speakeasy than it was to find their way to Bill's meeting." This may account for the lack of growth in the Crescent City Group, and in A.A. in the Hilo area, over the years. A.A. directories show that the group have 9 members in 1955, and only 5 in 1972, the last year it was listed. Takeo F., probably the first AJA member of A.A. on the Big Island, was one of the group members. The group appears to have disbanded in 1970, as its last listing in the Neighbor Islands Meeting Schedule (prepared by Oahu Intergroup) was in April 1970, by which time there were four other A.A. Groups on the Big Island.

The Maui Group, which also appeared on the A.A. scene in 1955, was listed in the A.A. Directories of 1956 and 1957, with Dr. Maxwell B. being shown as the point of contact for the meeting. These directories showed that the group had six members. Nevertheless, all of these A.A. members on Maui disappeared from G.S.O. records for the next two years. In 1958, a loner – William S. – was recorded as being on Maui. He was listed as a loner the following year, as well; but, in 1960, the Maui Group registered with G.S.O., reporting that it had five members and met in Wailuku on Mondays. The Mynah Bird, then a publication of Oahu Intergroup, printed the following in its March 1964 issue:

"FROM MAUI and the Wailuku Group comes this interesting highlight about Maui A.A....The very first meeting ever to be held on Maui was about 4 years ago. An A.A. member who was traveling the Islands in the course of his regular job invited interested local people to meet at Central Maui Memorial Hospital. There was so much interest at that time that the Kaneohe Marine Air Station flew two Marine Corps members of A.A. over in order that they might tell their stories that night. A period of one year went by before another meeting was to be held again. But from about 10 months ago it was a hit and miss affair. Bob F., 3-1/2 years on the program, was a loner almost, except for visits from other A.A.s. Now the group meets regularly at the Good Shepard Episcopal Church on Thurs., at 8:00 P.M. And radio KNUI will be airing the A.A. meeting tapes that we hear from KNDI very shortly. This has all come about through the dedicated efforts of Pete, Bill, Rowena, Bob and Julie."

Also in 1960, Esther ("Bobbi") C. started the first meeting on Kauai. G.S.O. listed it in the 1961 A.A. Directory as the "Koloa Group," placed it among the Honolulu meetings, and showed that it met on Wednesdays. In the early years, Bobbi regularly told

the story of her heavy drinking which led eventually to her chasing her husband through the cane fields with a machete and, ultimately, led to her commitment to the Kaneohe State Hospital. It was here, from members of the Oahu A.A. Fellowship, that Bobbi received the A.A. message, a copy of the Big Book, and encouragement to plant the seed of A.A. on Kauai. Her story was similar to the story of "Hilo Bill" – she sat in the meeting room, alone, for many months before another person joined her. Yet, only a year later, her group could boast a membership of three, including Shirley B., whose book store, the Book Mark, became a sort of A.A. intergroup office. Attendance was augmented by periodic visits from concerned members of the Oahu Fellowship, especially the Aloha Group, as well as the occasional assignment to the Barking Sands missile launching facility of military personnel, like Randy S., who were sober members of A.A. Soon the group was called the Lihue Open Group and was meeting on Thursday nights, at 7:30, at the Lihue Union Church. A.A. had permanently settled on Kauai.

The second A.A. group formed on the Big Island was the Kailua-Kona Group, which came into being early in 1960. For unknown reasons, A.A. was not exported from Hilo to Kona, even though it had been in Hilo for five or more years. Instead, A.A. came to Kona by way of Honolulu. It came in the person of George A., a retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer, who had been transferred from Honolulu to Kona to become the manager of the Waieka Lodge, as well as assistant manager of the Kona Inn. Relatively new to sobriety, George had received well-meaning advice that he not take the job in Kona since there were no A.A. meetings on that side of the Big Island. Despite certain trepidations, George came to Kona and he quickly set out to resolve the problem of there being no A.A. meetings. The founding of the Kona Group was reported to G.S.O. in 1961.

According to a March 1987 history by Harold B., a long-time A.A. member from the Kona area, George was able to persuade Father Keneally, the Rector of St. Michael's Church, to allow the use of "the old pavilion" for A.A. meetings. Cherie H., likewise a long-time Kona A.A. member, writes that George "sat with the Big Book alone for a long time. Finally, in 1961, Jack M. ('sandal basket Jack') joined him. The meeting was held at Hale Halewai once for a short period of time because the mosquitos were supposedly less numerous there. Every night of the week was tried and Wednesday night was finally settled on."

Jack M., in a 1980 interview, remembered that "George...had a wooden plaque with gold letters on it saying 'A.A.: PHONE-----' which was placed over the registration desk at the Kona Inn." He went on to say: "The thing that helped most in the early days was the frequent visitors, from other islands and from Mainland tours. There were visitors at about half (of) the meetings, and they provided the needed variety and balance essential in keeping local members on the right track."

Jack M., who had gotten sober in Beverly Hills, California in 1953, moved to Kona in early 1961, and he soon found the pavilion and George. Harold B. wrote that "Jack and George between them sat alone or together on 'meeting nights' at St. Michael's. Once in a while a visitor at the Kona Inn would join them. A couple of local residents tried but did not stay."

In May 1961, a group of 67 A.A. members and their wives, from the Los Angeles area, visited Kona and attended the meeting of the Kailua-Kona Group, which was then meeting on Monday nights. The sudden influx of visitors caused George to observe that the Kona Group, on that night, "was the fastest growing group in the Islands." In actual fact, when he registered the group with G.S.O., in 1961, George had indicated that the group had a membership of 3 persons. The following year, the Kona Group was shown to have 7 members; but only 5 members were reported in both 1963 and 1964, as reflected in the A.A. Directory.

Harold B.'s history goes on to report that "toward the start of 1964, Bud T. joined, and shortly the threesome became two when George was returned to Honolulu." Bud T. had been a member of the A.A. tour group, which had visited Kona in May, 1961. His taped reminiscences (made for the Hawaii Area Archives in December, 1984), told that he had fallen in love with the Islands during that trip and had moved to Honolulu four months later, in September 1961. In late 1965, Bud returned to Kona and promptly got very active in A.A. He acknowledged that his aggressiveness and his California origins had upset many A.A. people in Honolulu, who were not quick to see the need for the changes he recommended. This may well have underlain the observation made by Cherie H. that "there were personality clashes...and because of that a second meeting was started...at a home in Kealahou." (Note: Kealahou is spelled as Kealakekua in the original text.)

Jack M. observed that, "There were personality clashes and other problems. At one point a second meeting, by invitation only, was started at Bob D.'s home in Kealahou. Nevertheless, the group continued to grow..." (This "second" meeting in Kona appears not to have been reported either to G.S.O. or to Oahu Intergroup, since it never appeared in the A.A. Directory or in the Neighbor Island Meeting Schedule.)

By January, 1964, A.A. was firmly established on the four major island population centers: the Big Island had two groups, with 10 members, serving both sides of the island; the Valley Isle had one group of 8 members; and the Garden Isle had one group, with 8 members. Oahu had more than two-dozen groups, with a membership of about 300. That month, the Oahu Intergroup newsletter, The Mynah Bird, asked its readers to "let us know those of your members who have 17, 18, 19 or more years of sobriety," saying that it knew of at least two persons on Oahu with 16 or more years. It was only reasonable that there would be more long-term sobriety on Oahu. A.A., after all, had been on Oahu for slightly over 20 years; but the Neighbor Islands were only beginning to reap the benefits of sobriety.

East Hawaii

Whether it was caused by an excessive sense of anonymity, or by some other reason(s), the fact is that less information concerning early A.A. in East Hawaii has found its way into the Hawaii Area Archives than any other area of the Islands, except Molokai and Lanai. The principal sources of information available are (1) the A.A. Directories

(hereafter referred to as AAD), published annually by G.S.O., in New York; (2) Neighbor Island meeting schedules (hereafter referred to as N.I.S.), produced by Oahu Intergroup between October 1962 and July 1975; and (3) a single monograph, unsigned, hand dated May 1985, titled "Early Days in A.A. in the Hilo Area" (hereafter referred to as "A.R." – anonymous reporter).

The secretiveness of early A.A. in the Hilo area is not only affirmed by the "Hilo Bill" story in the Grapevine and by A.R.'s observation, both quoted earlier, but also by the fact that, during the years of the existence of the Crescent City Group, not once did the N.I.S. identify a location for the meetings of the group; only a telephone number was provided. This was not the case for A.A. groups or meetings on any of the other islands, nor was it the case for other or later A.A. groups or meetings in the Hilo area. It must be concluded that this information was not provided by the Crescent City Group for inclusion in the N.I.S., and it can readily be seen that this penchant for anonymity would retard the growth of A.A. in East Hawaii.

Thus it was that it took ten full years for a second A.A. group – the Hilo Group – to be formed in East Hawaii. It met at the HMSA Clinic on Mondays, at 8 P.M. Early members included Roger K., Francis N. and Sara B., later the first director of B.I.C.A. (the Big Island Council on Alcoholism). The exact date of its founding cannot be determined from documents in the Hawaii Area Archives; however, its appearance in the 1966 A.A.D. indicates that it registered with G.S.O. during 1965. It subsequently appeared in the N.I.S. of March 15, 1966.

There is very little information available in the Hawaii Area Archives concerning the early days of the Hilo Group. The group may have had difficulty finding a permanent location, since the 1968 A.A.D. shows that it was located at 357 Ohai Street, Hilo, in 1967, and the 1969 A.A.D. gives its location as 2368 Kalaniana'ole Ave., Hilo, in 1968. Even more confusing in the 1970 A.A.D., which identifies the group as the "Ballard Monday Nite Group." It seems likely that the "Ballard" Group was still the "Hilo Group" since two of the three listed contact persons – Sara B., Francis N. and Harriet T. – were founders of the Hilo Group. Although the A.A.D. for 1971 and 1972 continued to list the Ballard Monday Nite Group, the N.I.S. for April 1970 and July 1970 show the Hilo Group meeting on Monday nights, at 8:00 p.m., at the HMSA Clinic in Hilo.

It does seem apparent that A.A. in Hilo was unsettled in the early seventies: the Crescent City Group appears to have gone out of existence in the early summer of 1970 (it was dropped from the July 1970 N.I.S.), and the Hilo Group seems not to have had a permanent location for much of 1971. Available records suggest that the Hilo Group did not go out of existence during this period; instead, it was probably in the process of finding a new location. Three facts lead to this conclusion: (1) although the Hilo Group is not listed, the July 1971 N.I.S. includes the notation "HILO – Call 323-3282 – Hilo Hospital (Betty)"; (2) the April 1972 N.I.S. shows the Hilo Group meeting on Mondays, at 8:00 p.m., at the Hilo Hospital; and (3) A.R., writing in May of 1985, cites as a source "folks active in the program at that time" (1970-1975) and states that, "In spite of the anonymity and difficulties, Hilo A.A. grew and thrived, and by 1975, quite a respectable

little cluster of sober alcoholics were meeting regularly." This report certainly does not imply any interruption in the availability of A.A. to members in the Hilo area.

As noted, the April 1972 N.I.S. lists the Hilo Group, meeting at Hilo Hospital on Monday Night. The September 1974 N.I.S. has the Hilo Group meeting on Wednesdays and Fridays, a 8 p.m., at 74 Kalo Street, and "Gerry" was listed as the point of contact. The 1975 A.A.D. also conforms that the Hilo Group was alive and apparently well (as of the end of 1974, the group reported that it had 15 members). The group was still shown to be meeting on Wednesdays and Fridays, and Ross W. (959-9046) was listed as the contact person.

A.R. writes that "by 1975...the Big Island Council on Alcoholism had been formed, with Sara B. as its first Director. A.A. relied heavily on the B.I.C.A. (some felt, much too heavily), as A.A. had no telephone facilities at all, and contacts of potential members depended entirely on the phone at the B.I.C.A." (The Hilo experience parallels that of Oahu: prior to the establishment of the Oahu Intergroup, in 1961, referrals to A.A. were largely through the good offices of the Hawaii Council on Alcoholism. Not until 1981 was the Hilo Intergroup formed, with June B. as Central Office Manager.) A Kona A.A. member in the 1970's, Cherie H., remembers that "Central Office was located in Hilo, and calls came in for help. I don't remember the gal's name, but she would contact us (The Beachcombers Group) and we would drive over to the Hilo area to speak in the schools." (One wonders if perhaps it was not Sara B., at the B.I.C.A. who was making the calls.)

A.R. continued: "October of 1975 saw the beginning of the Half-Way House at Hakalau, and Bill McG. brought in Herbert Y. as the first manager of the house. Bill was working for the B.I.C.A. at that time, and the Half-Way House was started with their help and encouragement." The N.I.S. of July 1975 includes this related entry: "Halfway House, Hakalau Village (School Grounds) 12 miles north of Hilo. 935-4927 or 961-6021 (Meetings Sunday, 11 am and Monday, 8 pm)."

According to A.R., "At about this same time, Kenny L., Ross W. and Desmond T. were working with alcoholics in the Corrections facilities. Meetings were held at Kulani Prison, and Kenny L. also did a great deal of work with alcoholics who were confined in Hilo Jail." (The July 1975 N.I.S. lists a prison meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Fridays.)

In his monograph, A.R. reported that, "During 1976, meetings were held at the home of Jerry B., of Kalo Street, on a Wednesday night; there was a Sunday noon meeting at the Half-Way House at Hakalau, and another there on Monday. Some of the A.A. members at that time were Ross W., Johnnv DeC, Herbert Y., Chuck and Carol D., Kenny L., Richard Q., Ward M., Roland E., Roland M., Webb N. and Herb B." The N.I.S. of July 1975 shows that the Kalo St. meetings actually began at least five months before A.R. recalled, and that the meetings were held at 72 Kalo St. not only on Wednesday, but also on Friday, at 8 p.m. The N.I.S. provides directions: "5 miles from Hilo on Volcano Rd. - turn left on Lama," as well as telephone numbers, 935-4927 and 959-6006. The N.I.S. does not ascribe a group name to the Kalo St.

meetings, and it does not separately list the Hilo Group. However, the N.I.S. of September 1974 makes it clear that the Kalo Street meetings (whether at 72 or 74 Kalo St.) were those of the Hilo Group. The N.I.S. also points out that the Hakalau meeting was held at 11 a.m., on Sunday, following a 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. breakfast, presumably prepared by the residents of the Halfway House. (This was probably patterned after the breakfast-meeting combination offered on Oahu at the Hina Mauka facility a few years earlier.)

A.R. credits Ross W. with being "one of those instrumental in starting an Alano Club on Lele St., in Kaumana, in 1976." He writes that, "The club was afterward moved to the old Farria's Gym location on Kam Ave., and continued operations - complete with many growing pains - up to 1981, at which time it was discontinued, as support for the Club had waned. (The existence of the Big Island Alano Club is confirmed by the 1977 A.A.D.; however, the A.A.D. locates the club at 220 Punahale St.) Cherie H., a member of A.A. in Kona at that time, remembers that, "Hilo was the hub of (A.A.) activity in the 70's. There was an upstairs room in a building on the main street that was referred to as the Clubhouse, and meetings were held there. It was opened from early morning until late evening so that people had a place to "hang out."

Finally, A.R. tells us that "Thelma U. (who worked for B.I.C.A., as well as being very active in A.A.) started the first Women's Stag meeting, which was held on Thursday night at the Holy Apostle's Episcopal Church, on Kapiolani St. This meeting numbered Shirley S., Hilloa and Laverne L. among the early members. (The 1977 A.A.D. lists Hilda R. as yet another early member.)

As can be seen, there was very slow growth in A.A. in the Hilo area over a period of almost 20 years - there was only one group in 1955, with 5 members, and, by 1974, there was still only one group, albeit with 28 members. Then, in the middle of the decade, just as the Hawaii-wide Fellowship was about to create an Area A.A. structure, there was a sudden and significant growth in A.A. in the East Hawaii district. In addition to those groups and meetings described above, the N.I.S. of July 1975 lists a Downtown Group, with a closed meeting at the Elks Club, on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m. Thus, it would appear that by the middle of the seventies, there were at least five A.A. groups, holding eight meetings each week. There seems to have been a meeting every day, except Saturday, and the meetings were not limited to Hilo Town proper, but were being held in the surrounding area as well.

West Hawaii

As we have seen, the Kona Group came into being early in 1960, meeting at St. Michael's Pavilion on Mondays, at 8 p.m. By 1963, the meeting day had

changed to Tuesday and, during mid-1965, the Group met on Friday nights, still at the pavilion. Jack M., in his 1984 interview, reported that, "People came and went in the local group. One of the early members was a musician at the Steak House. The first woman member to get sober was Dorsey V., who left for the Mainland after a few months, and returned (still sober) after several years. Bud T. was a regular for quite awhile, then he moved to the Mainland. George A. left here and went back to Honolulu. After a while there he got drunk, then got sober again and eventually died at Tripler of cancer."

Jack explained that, "The Group began to change in character in the mid-sixties with the advent of the flower children and the drug culture. One of the leaders of this segment of the AA population in the sixties was Flo-Bird, who developed a devoted following among these young people. She started several 'Beachcombers Spiritual Progress' groups in various places, including Kona." Expanding on this matter in January, 1984, Cherie H. wrote that, "Flobird was my mother and I was one of the 'flower children' - there was lots of controversy back then because of the drug addicts attending meetings. Even if they DID have alcohol as a problem also, many AA members resented their presence, and because of that another meeting was started for 'REAL alcoholics only' at someone's house. There were many people against Flobird and her flock at that time."

That meeting for "real alcoholics" was probably the meeting at Bob D.'s home in Kealakekua, to which Jack M. and Cherie H. have already made reference (on page 4, supra). Since no further reference to that meeting is found in the Hawaii Area Archives, it must be presumed that the Arlington Keahou Mauka Group was the first long-lasting West Hawaii group to come after the Kona Group.

Bud T. had returned to Kona in late 1965. He had previously known Jack M. in Los Angeles, where both had been members of the Arlington Group; and he had known Bill P., now a Kona resident, through meetings in Honolulu. Sometime during 1966, with the help of these two men, Bud started a Wednesday night "tape meeting" in his home. This meeting was not listed in the Neighbor Island Schedule (N.I.S.) of March 15, 1966, but it was listed in the A.A. Directory (A.A.D.) of 1967, indicating that it came into existence before the end of 1967. In his December 1984 interview, Bud recalled that he had arranged for Betty's Answering Service to receive A.A. help calls, and had placed an A.A. "advertisement" in the local newspaper. He also reported that he had made contact with Judge Bob Lyle of the Kailua-Kona District Court, had briefed Judge Lyle on the A.A. program, had taken him to a few A.A. meetings (for informational purposes), and was then having potential A.A. members referred to him by Judge Lyle. From a reported membership of 3 in its first year (A.A.D., 1967), the Arlington Group grew to 15 members by 1972, its last year (A.A.D., 1973). Bob V., a mainland visitor to Kona (and to the Kona Group) in 1964, moved to Kona in 1967, and became very active in both the Arlington Group and the Kona Group, being especially well respected for his tireless Twelve Step work.

The Arlington Group soon was too large for Bud's home, and it began to meet at St. Michael's Catholic Church, still on Wednesday nights (N.I.S., April 1970).

Harold B., in his March, 1987, history, wrote that Jack M., Bob V. and Bud T. were "all strong personalities, and all by-the-book A.A.'s (who) were the foundation of West Hawaii A.A." Nevertheless, he also wrote that one of them had "rigid doctrinaire attitudes" which caused newcomers to "soon want to start 'other' meetings." He went on to say that these were started "at Hale Halewai, Captain Cook Courthouse and various churches (but) none remained as such." Other available records refer to "personality clashes" (which were certainly not unique to Kailua-Kona), but otherwise, they merely dispassionately record the brief existence of the Captain Cook Group, meeting on Mondays, at 8 p.m., at the Courthouse (N.I.S., April 1970; Jack G. and Janice C. were members); the somewhat-longer-lasting Mauna Kea Group, which came into being in Kamuela in mid-1970, met in the old Kawaihae School during much of 1971 (N.I.S., July and December 1971) and early 1972 (N.I.S., April 1972), and was not thereafter listed in any available source document. Likewise, the Imiola Group met in the Imiola Congregational Church in Kamuela on Thursday nights (N.I.S. of July 1971 thru April 1972), but seems not to have survived beyond 1972. Too, the Kona Women's Stag Group appeared in the N.I.S. of December 1971 and April 1972 ("Call Dorsey V., 329-1585"), but not thereafter. Thus, available records do not confirm Harold B.'s assertions, but neither do they refute them.

Bud T. left the Islands in the Fall of 1971, moving to Newport Beach, California. Soon thereafter, the Arlington Group was absorbed by the Kona Group. By the end of 1972, the Group had become the Kailua-Kona Group, and it had added a Sunday night meeting (A.A.D., 1973). The N.I.S. of September 1974 shows only the Wednesday, Friday and Sunday meetings of the Kailua-Kona Group and a meeting at the Central Union Church, in Kealakekua, on Tuesday night, at 8 p.m.. Harold B. has written that, after Bud T's departure, "the meetings were more or less reduced to the old pavilion." Harold was not far off the mark: the July 1975 N.I.S. lists only those same four meetings, which had appeared in the September 1974 N.I.S.

Cherie H., who arrived in Kona in 1970, remembers these things about the Kailua-Kona Group at that time:

"a. Sometimes it was only 3 people: Myself, Bob V. and another person. Bob would talk for 25 minutes. At that time I wasn't much better. Sometimes there were a lot of people (10-12) when all of Flobird's gang would attend and visitors would come. I remember one night sitting on the walk way of the pavilion with candle light - I guess the electricity went out."

"b. It never started on time. It was VERY laid back."

"c. There was one meeting, and then two meetings per week. I drove to Hilo once a week for a meeting."

Cherie also recalled that, "There was a meeting up mauka in Kealakekua in the early 70's. I believe it was on Tuesday nights and was held at a church. There were 5-10 people that attended. John H. and Bob V. were some of the early

members. I quit smoking in 1973 and I remember a lady named Helen - very new - I had to reassure her (that) sobriety was not bad. I was just crazy from not smoking."

On June 27, 1973, Dorsey V., of Honaunau, who started the short-lived Kona Women's Group, and who was very active in A.A. on the Big Island, responded to a letter from the Oahu Central Office, in Honolulu, inviting East Hawaii participation in the Oahu Intergroup, and providing copies of Oahu Intergroup minutes and financial reports. The letter said: "Sorry I've taken so long to answer your letter. I passed on copies to the other Big Island groups. There are 7 on this island & as far as I know, I'm the only one elected for the Kailua Kona, Wed., Fri. group. The two groups are combined with Jack as Treas., Bev for coffee maker & me, G.S.O. rep. Sure hope I can make it to Honolulu once in a while to meet you and vote, etc. We come over in Nov. every year for the conference. It will be an 'extra fun' to come sometime for a meeting."

"I'm busy studying the manual (A.A. Service Manual [?]) & trying to do my best informing the members here of what goes on. We have a bunch of new ones & it's a rewarding experience each time they get the message."

As we have seen, A.A. in West Hawaii had grown from just one person, sitting at the St. Michael's Church Pavilion in 1960, to two groups, having four weekly meetings, with 15-20 members, by 1975. The Fellowship was not huge, and it was not even closely connected to A.A. in East Hawaii, let alone to A.A. on Oahu, but it was dedicated. Kona was growing, and it was inevitable that A.A. in Kona would grow apace, on that firm foundation.

Kauai

As noted, on page 3, above, the Lihue Open Group was begun by Esther ("Bobbi") C, in 1960, soon after her return to the Garden Isle, following her discharge from the Kaneohe State Hospital, on Oahu. Bobbi must have been a veritable dynamo, because, in her first year of sobriety, she not only had established an A.A. group with at least three members, but she had also created a Kauai Intergroup (or, at least, a telephone answering service) to serve alcoholics on Kauai. This Intergroup was listed in the A.A. Directory (A.A.D.) of 1962 as being at Mahelona Hospital, in Kapaa (Telephone 65-631), and it continued to be listed in the A.A.D., or in the Neighbor Island Schedule (N.I.S.) thereafter, thus verifying the "continuousness" of the intergroup structure. (Alice C, who was 10 years sober when she moved to Kauai, in 1968, remembers it, then, as being a little less than an answering service. She remembers one nurse ("Leatrice") who would take A.A. help calls, and forward the messages; but, she recalls that the rest of the hospital staff was, at best, somewhat begrudging - "Only occasionally did A.A. get the referral. It was very unsatisfactory.")

Apparently, the Kauai Intergroup soon became better organized, even publishing its own newsletter; the Oahu Intergroup meeting minutes of January 31,

1973, state: "A copy of an Intergroup Newsletter was received from Bill R., Kauai." In respect to an intergroup structure, Kauai was many years ahead of the other Neighbor Islands, and was only a year or two behind Oahu A.A., which had somehow managed to function for more than 15 years without an intergroup organization.

The 1966 A.A.D. listed a "loner," Lybrand S., in Waimea, but no A.A. group was to be formed in Waimea for many years. The honor of being the second A.A. group on Kauai fell to the St. Michael's Group, a closed meeting, held on Monday, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, on Hardy Street, in Lihue (N.I.S., March 15, 1966). (From that early date, to the present, Kauai evening meetings have mostly begun at 7:30 p.m., half an hour earlier than the usual starting time for A.A. meetings on any of the other Hawaiian Islands. Alice C. notes that meetings were started at 7:30 "because the roads were totally deserted by 8:30. Everything was shut down by then, except for 'The Jetty,' in Nawiliwili, which stayed open, and peddled booze, until 4:00 a.m.")

The St. Michael's Group retained its name (as well as its meeting place, day and time) for almost 10 years before changing its name to the Lihue Closed Group, thereby separating it from any suggestion of being allied with, or sponsored by, St. Michael's Church (A.A.D., 1976).

The Kauai Fellowship seems, from early in its history, to have placed more emphasis on a group's location, or upon its type, than upon its name. Indeed, when the Kauai Intergroup began producing its own meeting schedules (K.I.S.), on or before June 6, 1978, its first several schedules made no reference whatever to the name of any group. They cited only the location of the meeting place and, sometimes, the type of meeting. (This practice makes it a challenge for the archivist to trace group histories, but it does seem to be a bit more "user friendly.") In addition to Bobbi C. and Shirley B., Alice C, Marcy G., Ed C, Frank G., Jean P., Dave B., Essie C. and Dan C. were among the early attendees of the St. Michael's Group. Alice C. doesn't remember the creation of the first closed meeting as being the Kauai Fellowship's response to any perceived "threat" from the drug culture (as it was in West Hawaii); instead, Alice remembers it as an ohana-like effort on the part of the Kauai Fellowship to protect the anonymity of one of its members, the scion of a very prominent Kauai Family.

The Westside Group was the next A.A. group to be formed on Kauai, this during 1967, as it was first listed in the 1968 A.A.D. The group met on Wednesdays in Eleele (although the contact persons, Barbara D. and the ubiquitous Esther C, were both Koloa residents). This group seems not to have caught on in Eleele; it was listed as inactive in the 1969 A.A.D., and it did not reappear until late-1972, when it began to meet on Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m., at the Old Japanese School, in Koloa (A.A.D., 1973 and N.I.S., September 1974 and July 1975), and later, at the Koloa Community Center, on Weli Weli Street, still on Tuesday evenings. This time, Ed C. and Dan C. were listed as the contact persons, and the group continued to operate on that day and time, at that location, well into the eighties (K.I.S., September 1983).

In 1969, the Mahelona Hospital Group was formed (A.A.D., 1970). The meeting was held at the hospital on Wednesday nights ("Use side door;" N.I.S., July 1970), at 7 p.m., and was open to all who wished to attend. Marcy G. (from Hanalei) and Frank G. (from Kapaa) were early leaders of the group. The group became the Mahelona-Kapaa Group during 1972 (A.A.D., 1973) when it moved to the Kapaa Recreation Center, where it continued to meet on Wednesday, but now at 7:30 p.m. Frank G. remained actively involved in the group, as did Alice C. and Neal C. The group functioned independent of Mahelona Hospital and Serenity House through at least July 1975 (N.I.S.), but seems to have been absorbed by Serenity House by year-end. The 1976 and 1977 A.A.D. show that the group could be contacted "c/o Serenity House (245-4914)," after which there is no reference to the group as an on-going entity.

Responding to repeated requests that they start a meeting on the North Shore, Alice and Bob C. began a meeting in their home, on Haena Point, in late 1969 or early 1970. The meeting was held on Friday night, at 7:30 p.m. In addition to Alice and Bob, Marcy G. and Don C. were regular attendees. Don H. often drove all the way from Waimea to attend the meeting. Alice has no recollection of giving the meeting a name, and was surprised that it appeared in the April 1970 N.I.S. as the North Shore Group-Hanalei. The meeting wasn't easy to find, but she remembers an instance when Spence D., a local boy who was living in Los Angeles, and had just come home for a visit, stopped in Tahiti Nui, then the only bar in Hanalei (there were 3 churches in the town), to pick up the local news and gossip. While there, the bartender happily told him about the new A.A. meeting at Alice and Bob's house. Being a sober member of A.A., himself, Spence followed the bartender's directions and attended the meeting.

Within a few months of starting the North Shore meeting, it was moved to St. William's Church, in Hanalei. Since Haena Point was several miles beyond Hanalei, the new location made it easier to attend, especially for the tourists. Alice remembers that the meeting was held in the small room where the priests put on their robes, and she recalled that, "We'd often have to pick up their wine bottles and glasses before we could start our meeting." The meeting was always small, but its survival was complicated by Bob C.'s difficulty in staying sober, and Alice's moving out of the Hanalei area. Thus, the meeting soon passed from the scene. (Nine years later, Alice and Bebe S., started yet another North Shore group, the North Shore Aloha Group. This time, the meeting was held on Monday nights; but it was still held in Alice's beach home, which, by 1981, was located in Anini.

A Gropers Group briefly appeared on the scene, beginning in 1972. Art F. was one of the prime movers in its creation, initially as the Kapaa Group. It met on Sunday, commencing at 11:15 a.m. (N.I.S., April 1972). (One can wonder if Art was a former Oahu resident, and A.A. member, because the day and time for the meeting were new to Kauai, but were identical to the Aloha Sunday Group, in Honolulu, which is now (in 2002) the oldest continuously meeting A.A. group in the Islands.) Soon thereafter, the Kapaa Group was re-named the "Gropers Group" (which a person with the identical first and last names had served, on Oahu, during 1970, as its Intergroup Representative). The (Kauai) Gropers Group appears in the 1973-1977

A.A.D.; but it is shown in the September 1974 and July 1975 N.I.S. without a name ("Serenity House, Art F., 822-3092") and, by 1978, it had become just another meeting of the Serenity House. Even its unique starting time of 11:15 a.m. had been changed - it now had a common, on-the-hour starting time, at 10 a.m.

By the middle of the seventies, A.A. on Kauai was very stable. There were at least four A.A. groups and a treatment facility which, between them, held seven A.A. meetings, one for each day of the week. Not a cloud was on the Kauai A.A. horizon; the hurricanes were in the distant future.

Maui

As we have seen on pages two and three, above, A.A. was first recorded on Maui, in 1955, but did not take root until 1960, when the Wailuku-Maui Group came into existence. Its early members included Bill and Dorothy (called "Pete") S., Rowena ("Ro") P., Bob F., the first AJA member on Maui, and Julie. By 1963, that group was the same, in most particulars, as it is today, nearly 40 years later: then it was an open meeting, with five members, meeting on Thursday night, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, in Wailuku, at 8 p.m.; now (in 2002), it is merely the Wailuku Group; it is a closed meeting, having 10 times as many members, and it meets at 7:30 pm., but it still meets at the Church of the Good Shepherd, at Main & Church Streets, in Wailuku, on Thursday nights, and it serves as a symbol of the stability and steady growth of the A.A. Fellowship on the Valley Isle.

The Wailuku-Maui Group was the only A.A. group on the island for about five years. The Hawaii Area Archives do not reveal where the group held its first meetings. The A.A.D. and N.I.S. inform us only that the meetings were held on Mondays, at 8 p.m.; any additional information was obtainable by calling Bill or "Pete" S. (at 782-513) or Bob F. (at 7-2525). It may be that the group met at the home of one of its members; that would seem possible since group membership was small, being reported (in the A.A.D.) as five in 1960 and 1961, but only 3 in 1962.

The May, 1963, issue of the Mynah Bird, the Oahu Intergroup newsletter, contained the following report:

"Your reporter had the good fortune of being able to talk with Pete...the other evening about AA on our neighbor island of Maui. We are pleased to inform our readers that there are about six members active on the Island as of now. Pete mentioned that a new Thursday group is being formed and will be in operation very shortly. It seems as though the 'attraction' of AA rather than the 'promotion' is paying off for Pete who has been virtually a 'loner' since moving to Maui. When the pressure got too great from people asking her to 'Have a drink,' 'What's the matter,' 'Why don't you drink with us' etc., Pete merely told them why and mentioned AA. As a result the score is now, one Maui pigeon sober for three months, several others nibbling and ground work laid for a new regular A A group!"

Later on, in the same newsletter, the readers were told that the Wailuku Group was now holding open meetings at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku, at 8:00 p.m., on Thursdays. The group was to remain at this location until July 1970, when it began a 14 or 15-year interlude at the Wailuku Health Center, only to return to the Church of the Good Shepherd in the mid-eighties.

The April 1964 Mynah Bird reported that—

"Word has been received from John D., Box 457, Makawao, Maui, about a new group that has been formed at the State Prison Camp on the Valley Island. This is another of the miracles of our fellowship of A. A. All of this came about because of the purchase of a Big Book at our 2nd Hawaii State Convention which was sent over to Maui and the Prison Camp for use of an inmate there. This has resulted in the establishment of regular meetings at the Camp and gives the Island of Maui two A.A. Groups now."

Because there is no further record of this "Prison Camp Group," it must be assumed that it did not last, and that it was not until the Lahaina Group was formed that Maui had its second A.A. Group. The Lahaina Group first appeared in the N.I.S. on March 15, 1966, and it continued to appear in meeting schedules, as an independent group, for nine years before it combined with the Lahaina Whalers Group, losing its separate identity. The Lahaina Group met at Holy Innocents Church, on Front Street, on Mondays, at 8 p.m. Its earliest members included Eben P. and Tom N. (In the G.S.O.-produced A.A. Directories, or A.A.D.'s, the group was identified as the Lahaina Alumnae Group, while in the N.I.S., prepared by Oahu Intergroup, it was simply the Lahaina Group. The A.A.D. of 1973 finally dropped "Alumnae" from the group name.)

The Lahaina Whalers Group appears in the N.I.S. of April 1970, which is the next available N.I.S. in the Hawaii Area Archives. The Group may have been founded even earlier, but it first appears in the Archives in the Oahu Intergroup financial statement, dated August 27, 1969, showing a \$5.00 contribution from the Lahaina Whalers Group. (Maui, at that time, did not have its own intergroup.) The group met at 8 p.m., on Saturdays, in the school building at the rear of the Lahaina Methodist Church, on Front Street. Early members of this group included Al M. and Kim S. As was mentioned, the Whalers Group combined with the earlier-formed Lahaina Group and, as the Lahaina Whalers Group, it continues to serve the A.A. community of Maui, as well as many visitors to the island, more than three decades later.

The fourth A.A. group to be formed on Maui did not appear in any available N.I.S. until September, 1974, but it is known to have existed at least 19 months earlier. On February 16, 1973, Bud C. of Lahaina, wrote a letter to Oahu Intergroup, responding to an invitation for the Lahaina A.A. Groups to participate in the Oahu Intergroup meetings:

"There are four groups on Maui - one in Wailuku, one in Kihei and two in Lahaina (the Lahaina and Whaler's Groups). If we are to follow the GSO recommendation for counting members, the bulk of Maui AA's should be listed with the Wailuku and Kihei groups, while both Lahaina groups combined have a total membership of THREE! There's Shirley I., Bill C. and myself Period. We haven't figured out yet whether the Lahaina Group has two members and the Whaler's one, or vice versa, or is it maybe three-to-nothing either way?"

"We seldom have a meeting with fewer than a half-dozen visitors from the other groups, of course, and often we have a sizable visitation from the Kaanapali Hotels. But if anybody is interested in a firm, legitimate head count, the facts are those in the preceding paragraph."

"All of which is a long way around to the conclusion that all the offices that exist in the Lahaina Group are held by Shirley, and all in the Whalers Group by myself— secretary, treasurer, representative, what-have-you. (Bill's business trips prevent him from holding any office on a regular basis.)"

"So that's the West Maui story. Thank you for the invitation to attend your Intergroup meetings. I'm planning a business trip to Honolulu sometime in April and perhaps can pay a visit."

The new group in Kihei was identified as the Kihei Beach Group, meeting on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m., in the beachside building at the rear of St. Theresa's Church, at Kihei Road and Lipoa Street (N.I.S., September 1974). Before the year had ended, the Kihei Beach Group had started a second meeting, this on Sunday evening (A.A.D., 1975). The meeting was held at the same location as the Tuesday meeting, and started at 8 p.m. also. It is the Sunday meeting which seems to have survived and which continues to serve the A.A. community on Maui, albeit at a different time and location than in 1974. Undoubtedly, many of the Lahaina A.A. members were involved in the creation of the group (since the 1975 A.A.D. shows that the group already had 10 members by the end of 1974); however, only Mary B.'s name is offered by the A.A.D. as a contact person and, it is presumed, as a founding member.

1974 marked other significant growth in A.A. on Maui. Of special significance is the establishment of the Maui Intergroup. The Hawaii Area Archives reveal nothing concerning the events which led to the founding of the Maui Intergroup. Not even the date is known with any certainty. (Had Maui Intergroup existed on February 16, 1973, Bud C. would surely have mentioned it in his letter to Oahu Intergroup, op. cit. That the Intergroup was not mentioned by Bud seems to indicate that it did not exist at that time. Thus, it can be concluded that the Maui Intergroup came into being sometime after February, 1973, and before September, 1974, when it was listed in the N.I.S.) We do not even know the location of the first central office; the N.I.S. told us only the following:

"P.O. Box 309, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793, 24 hours, call 244-9673"

Subsequently, we learn from the 1975 A.A.D. that Ann F. was the contact person (central office manager?) for Maui Intergroup.

In addition to the establishment of the Maui Intergroup, the N.I.S. of September, 1974, lists four new groups/meetings:

Paia Speakers Meeting; Sunday; 8 p.m.; Makawao Union Church, Baldwin Avenue.

Paia Step Study; Wednesday; 8 p.m.; Makawao Union Church; Baldwin Avenue.

Beginners Group; Thursday; 7 p.m.; Wailuku Health Center; 121 Mahalani at Kaahumanu. (EN: The meeting immediately preceded the meeting of the Wailuku Group, at 7:30 p.m., at the same location.)

Turning Point Group; Friday; 8 p.m.; Church of the Good Shepherd; Main & Church. (EN: Ann F. and Carlos A. were listed as contact persons in the 1975 A.A.D.)

Mid-1975 found the Valley Isle with seven A.A. groups, holding nine meetings per week, with at least one meeting each day of the week. The N.I.S. of July 1975 - the last Neighbor Island meeting schedule issued by Oahu Intergroup - listed the groups, as follows:

Kihei Beach Group, meeting on Sunday and Tuesday, at 8 p.m., at St. Theresa Church (Beachside Building), Kihei Road & Lipoa Street, Kihei.

Kihei Women's Stag, Brown Bagger, meeting on Wednesday, at 12:30 p.m., at Kalama Park Pavilion, Kihei.

Lahaina Men's Stag Group, meeting on Wednesday, at 11:30 a.m. (Call answering service for location.)

Lahaina Whalers Group, meeting on Monday and Saturday, at 8 p.m., at Holy Innocents Church, Front Street, Lahaina.

Makawao Group, meeting on Sunday, at 8 p.m. (Check with answering service for location.)

Turning Point Group, meeting on Friday, at 8 p.m., at Church of the Good Shepherd, Main and Church Streets, Wailuku.

Wailuku Group, meeting on Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., at the Wailuku Health Center, 121 Mahalani and Kaahumanu.

Lanai and Molokai

As was noted on page 1, above, there is a record of an attempt, in 1949-1952, to establish an A. A. meeting on Molokai. There is no subsequent mention of an A. A. group or meeting, or even of an A. A. Loner on Molokai in any of the documents contained in the Hawaii Area Archives until 1975. In that year, a loner, Walter H., whose mailing address was "Kalaupapa Settlement, Molokai 96742," registered with G.S.O., and was included in the 1976 A.A Directory. The listing was not repeated in the following year.

The Hawaii Area Archives contain no reference, whatever, to A.A. on Lanai up to 1975. Like its neighbor, Molokai, Lanai's time would come later.

The Next Stage

The middle-Seventies have been chosen as the point to close this section of this brief history of A.A. on the Neighbor Islands. This time seems to mark the end of Hawaii's period of "flying blind." Each of the major centers of A.A. in Hawaii had created an intergroup organization (or a rudimentary equivalent) to serve their own needs; no longer did they have to rely on the Oahu Intergroup for such services.

By this time, there were five A.A. groups in East Hawaii, two groups in West Hawaii, four groups on Kauai and seven groups on Maui - 18 Neighbor Island groups, involving, perhaps, as many as 150 alcoholics in various stages of recovery. That the A.A. membership represented only a tiny percentage of the potential members on those islands was evident. Nevertheless, the requisite people and the enthusiasm were in place to support dynamic growth in the near future. All that was lacking was the service structure essential to support that growth.

Hawaii's Delegate to the General Service Conference in New York was Harry L. On April 30, 1975, at a meeting of the Oahu Intergroup (which had elected him to his position), Harry made a proposal which would ultimately result in the creation of the needed service structure. The history of the Hawaii Area organization will be presented in a subsequent section of this general history; however, Harry's bench-mark proposal so greatly affected the development of A.A. on the Neighbor Islands that it is quoted here, just as it appeared in the Oahu Intergroup meeting minutes:

"Harry L. presented the following proposal for representatives to take back to their respective groups:

"The State of Hawaii to form a General Service Organization as suggested by GSO. Oahu would be broken into 4 districts, Leeward, Honolulu, Diamond Head and Windward, each outer island forming a district.

"Each district would hold monthly meetings with representatives within their own districts and quarterly meetings and workshops would be held with representatives from all districts.

"The name "Intergroup" would be changed to AA General Services of Hawaii.

"The existing officers would remain as is until Oct. 1976."

In the first section of this general history of A.A. in Hawaii, titled "A.A. on Oahu; The First Twenty Years, 1943-1962," the concluding paragraphs reported on the first of the Hawaii A.A. conferences. The last two sentences stated that, "The event was an overwhelming success and it marked the end of the infancy period of A.A.'s growth on Oahu. A.A. was truly coming of age on our island paradise."

Perhaps 1975 did not mark the end of the infancy period of A.A.'s growth on the Neighbor Islands, but it does seem to have marked the beginning of the end of that infancy. Bolstered, perhaps, by an increased "sense of belonging" that came with the creation of the Hawaii Area structure, freed from any perception of subordination to Oahu A.A., A.A. on the Neighbor Islands had an explosive growth in the next few years: a Big Island meeting schedule of January 1982 lists 8 groups or meetings on the Hilo side, and 11 groups or meetings on the Kona side. A Kauai meeting schedule, from February 1983, shows 9 groups or meetings on the Garden Isle. The Valley Isle showed the most growth; the Maui meeting schedule, dated January 14, 1982 lists 23 groups or meetings, more than a three-fold increase since 1975. A.A. on the Neighbor Islands was most certainly coming of age.