

The Moving Finger

MCBRIDE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

Vol. III, No. 1-A

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

SPRING, 1987

IT'S BEEN TALKED ABOUT.....since the Alumni's earliest days and now it's going to take place -- **THE FIRST ANNUAL MCBRIDE ALUMNI RETREAT!** All of you should have received the special announcement and registration form but, in case you misplaced it, there are still a couple of days remaining (and, at this writing, a few spots available -- but they're going fast). It's being held from Friday evening, May 22, through Sunday afternoon, May 24. That's Memorial Day weekend, so you'll still have Monday off as a holiday. The fee, including two nights' lodging and all meals, is only \$75.00, and you simply can't beat a bargain like that! Sign-in at the Perpetual Help Retreat House will get underway at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, with a welcome and program overview to be presented by John C. at 5 p.m. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. and from then on through Sunday afternoon, you can count on a solid weekend of good AA, with discussions based on the 12 Steps, special lectures and talks, group get-togethers and times for meditation. Video and audio tapes will also be available for individual use. Fifth Step appointments will be available for those wishing to renew this key element of our recovery program (or, for some, make their first).

IT'S NOT TOO LATE...if you hurry, so get your check for \$75. per person (Because of the nature of the retreat, and the limited space, the weekend is for alums only; no spouses or others.) to John Curtis, 1110 Circle Drive Box 428, Elm Grove, WI 53122. All rooms include private bath but a few are doubles, so there will be some sharing. The site, by the way, is south of Oconomowoc, just off I-94, at 1800 Timber Trail (old Highway 30). Any questions? Give John C. a call at 782-1478. Don't miss this opportunity to renew and restrengthen the spirituality and fellowship that has meant so much to all of us.

ON THE SUBJECT OF "OUTINGS"....Mark your calendars now for the **THIRD ANNUAL MCBRIDE ALUMNI PICNIC** scheduled for **Sunday, August 16, 1987.** We've reserved Kletzsch Park -- the site of last year's successful get-together -- for a repeat performance and we'll also be holding another moving and inspirational renewal program that Sunday morning at McBride. Just like the Alumni Association itself, the event should be bigger and better than ever. Full particulars and details will be mailed out as they take shape. These memorable occasions never fall into place by themselves, however, so your Board is looking for help. Volunteers are needed to organize and coordinate both the renewal breakfast and the picnic activities. How about joining in the fun of putting the big event together and really participating in the camaraderie and McBride's lively spirit? Simply give your name, address and phone number to Dennis D. or one of the other Alumni Directors. Activity suggestions are also welcome.

AND WHO ARE YOUR ALUMNI DIRECTORS?...For those of you who missed last year's annual meeting and announcements, Ken Z. is president; Len W. is vice president/secretary, and Mary Lee G. is treasurer. Chris Z., John C., Natalie Z., Marleen (Molly) S., Dennis D. and Michael K. are directors. Their terms are staggered, so there will be several vacancies to be filled at the 1987 Annual Meeting (held just before the Renewal Breakfast August 16). If you are interested in seeking a position on the Board, have a year of sobriety and can make the regular meetings the last Sunday night of each month, give your name to one of the current directors.

TO EASE COMMUNICATIONS...and to better publicize our Alumni activities and other information, there will soon be an Alumni bulletin board on the McBride Unit devoted to that purpose. Staff is looking for an appropriate spot that's easy to locate. Names and phone numbers of directors and committee members will be posted along with news of upcoming events and other pertinent information. Look for it whenever you're in the area.

INPATIENT RAP SESSIONS...with Alumni members sitting in to share their recovery experience with those just getting started, continue as one of our most important fellowship activities. The rewards are mutual as patients and alums join in meaningful discussion of the real world as seen with the clarity of sobriety. John C. and Mary Lee G. are being assisted by Joe P., Pete S., Bob S., Mary E. and Sarah R. in scheduling alumni participation for the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday raps. More information on the sessions will be posted on the bulletin board.

PICKING UP THE GAUNTLET...that was flamboyantly dropped (after a hesitant hint in The Moving Finger) by the alumni over at Dewey, McBride stalwarts are putting together a flag football team to compete in the first annual Sobriety Bowl. Word has it that a ragtag group of would-be athletes from Dewey have the audacity to take on a polished group of near-professionals (DEFINATELY impaired) from McBride as part of the Dewey Alumni Picnic June 21. Bob S. has modestly agreed to coach our valiant bunch and has promised a victorious outing. It's slated for 1:00 p.m. at Wisconsin Avenue Park, 103rd Street and Wisconsin Avenue. Even if you don't have a scrapbook full of clippings, Bob would be happy to have you try out for his Fearsome McBriders. Let him know what position you excel at, etc. (They could probably use some cheerleaders, too.)

THAT EYE-CATCHING BOOKMARK...that was enclosed with this copy of The Moving Finger is the handiwork of Natalie Z. (with much-appreciated production assistance from Annie Kavinsky in the Milwaukee Psych Public Relations Department). Copies will be given to each new patient on the unit and at the Recovery House as a functional memento of the Alumni Association and its activities. Useful particularly in daily readings books and other recovery literature, they should serve as constant reminders of the importance of ongoing fellowship and contact with fellow members.

TO BE CONTINUED...In order to get this last-minute notice of the retreat into the mail in time for late registration, the first half of THE MOVING FINGER is being rushed into print, with Part II to be published in about three weeks. Watch for it.