

November 1978 Vol. 3 Number 8

Victory! (See attached letter.) On Oct. 14, 1978, President Carter signed the Cranston Bill amending and clarifying Federal law on home made beer and wine. The letter is from Lee Coe, home brewer, author of a home brewing book, and legislative representative for the Home Wine Merchants Association. In the letter which I received earlier this month (Oct.) he credits the Association, and, "one of our legislative representatives," with informing Senator Cranston and "presenting petitions signed by more than 1,000 people," to the Senate sub-Committee on Finance. I believe the new law we enjoy is a direct reflection of Mr. Coe's efforts. In fact, I believe it was Lee who did everything ^{including} appear in front of the sub-Committee himself!

As President of the Maltose Falcons, as well as being a home brewer myself, I would like to personally thank Lee Coe, Senator Alan Cranston, and everyone who signed the petitions and took time to write the sub-Committee Chairman. It was with the help of all the above, but I feel especially Lee's efforts that, "did the job for us."

In celebration, I thought it might be fun to combine an inter-club gathering, brew-in and party, with an invitation to Senator Cranston to attend. If any of the other clubs receiving this newsletter are interested, please contact me and we will see if we can get together.

At the last club meeting we had a very successful beer tasting with Rodney Morris in charge. I was impressed with the variety of import beers that I have never seen before. They were very good for the most part. They were largely Pilsner types, so I entered my home mashed pilsner amidst the commercial ones. It hadn't cleared yet, so unlike my last entry in a tasting, the clarity gave it away as home made. I believe Rodney will be doing the tasting again this month. I think he's bringing English beers, ales, and stouts, so if any of the members have a home brew in these categories, you're welcome to enter them. I happen to know we have some good ones out there, so please bring them!

Aside from the tasting, the meeting was quite successful with good attendance, a very lively atmosphere, and a variety of interesting brews.

At the board meeting two matters of importance to the survival of our club were discussed.

(I) Jim Brenneman, our elected editor, has apparently quit the club. At least no one has seen him, or a newsletter from him recently. Therefore, out of his concern, Merlin picked up the pen again, to the delight of many I'm sure.

However, Merlin has done more for the club than should be expected; serving as president, then board member, then editor. Most recently he was too busy making our new Maltose Falcon T-shirts (see Merlin to purchase) to write this newsletter, so I am writing it. The fact remains though, that we have no editor to write our newsletter.

Please contact me if:

(A) you don't like my dry mode of writing, and have a better way to get the newsletter written.

(B) you think Merlin's newsletters are the best in the west and have an idea how to persuade him to write again.

(C) you think you could write a good newsletter and would be willing to do so.

(D) you think we should hold another nomination and election and forceably elect some poor soul through the use of peer pressure.

(E) you have any better ideas concerning our main artery of communication.

-II-

Concerning food at the meetings.

(A) Sally Trefftzs and Alice Sweat have been in charge of buying and bringing food to the club meetings since I have been a member, and probably longer. They would like to be relieved. I'm told it's simple; "even a man could do it." It involves buying some hamburger meat and hotdogs, some buns and condiments, and bringing them to the meeting to be eaten. Also some ice to keep beer cold. Simple!

(B) Anyone who wants to help our club in this way, please see Sally or Alice, or me. It could be set up on a rotation basis if there is more than one person willing. On a rotation basis with several people, I would be able to do it even with my schedule!

(C) Anyone who likes to cook and has a dish they would enjoy sharing with others, if you keep receipts, you would be reimbursed for the costs of materials. Please bring the recipe also for the members who might want it.

Other than these two problems the club is doing well, so please lend a hand!

Financially we are doing well. We have monies in the treasury which are for use as a club. Please give ideas for activi-

ties. One idea I like is to ask Professor Lewis of U.C. Davis to come down and teach his short course on beer brewing. Before I can ask him, though, I need to know that there is sufficient interest in the club to warrant his time. It would involve a small fee per member to supplement treasury monies for Mr. Lewis's travelling expenses. I think it would be a great boon to our club, as well as to our individual member's knowledge of brewing.

Please contact me about anything concerning our club.
Sincerely, Brent Wilson, 1311 16th st. #A- , Santa Monica,
Calif., 90404. Phone: (213) 829-2140.

*P.S. Next beer club meeting
Sunday, Nov 5th 1978. Brent Wilson*

16 Oct 78: Victory! On Oct 14, President Carter signed the Cranston Bill amending and clarifying Federal law on home-made wine and beer. The new law permits "any adult" to make untaxed wine and beer "for personal or family use and not for sale." A one-person household can make a maximum of 100 gallons of each in a calendar year; a household with more than one member can make a maximum of 200 gallons of each. There is no other restriction for either wine or beer.

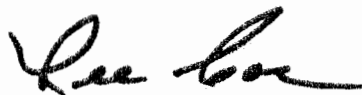
The phrase "any adult" means that state laws determine how old a person must be to be classified as an adult. Some state laws make it 21 years, others 18, still others an age in between.

The new law eliminates the present restriction allowing only a "head of any family" to make wine at home, and eliminates the present requirement that home wine-makers must register. Home brewers never have had to register, and won't have to do so now.

Senator Alan Cranston of California did the job for us. From the Senate floor, he introduced amendments to a very bad bill and got the Senate to approve them--amendments that turned the bad bill into a good one. Later, the House approved the amended bill. Now, the President's signature makes it a law.

It was the Home Wine Merchants Association that brought the matter to Senator Cranston's attention, and organized a letter-and-petition campaign. One of our legislative representatives presented petitions to a subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, petitions signed by more than 1000 people in a couple of months.

The Home Wine Merchants Association has shown that it can be of very real service to its members, and to their customers.



Legislative Representative
840 Delaware Street
Berkeley, CA 94710