

Bill W. Speaks In Indianapolis

Indianapolis News June 5, 1951, p.13, c.6.

AA Founder to Address Meeting Here

Hoosier members of Alcoholics Anonymous will gather at Caleb Mills Hall in Shortridge High School Wednesday evening to hear an address by Bill Wilson, New York, the No. 1 AA in America and one of the co-founders of the organization. The meeting also will be open to the public.

Alcoholics Anonymous now has about 100 chapters throughout the state with a membership of approximately 5,000. It will be 11 years old in October. In-

dianapolis, has several chapters as do some of the other larger cities of the state, namely South Bend, Fort Wayne, Evansville and Terre Haute.

Wilson, principal speaker at the Wednesday meeting, is the subject of an interesting chapter in a book entitled, "Alcoholics Anonymous," now in its 12th printing. It records in detail his transition from a hopeless alco-

holic to complete sobriety and his ultimate success in founding the organization which thrives on anonymity.

One of the matters to be discussed at the meeting probably will be the experience of AA groups in some Northern Indiana counties in having alcoholic wards established in county homes and hospitals for the treatment of the more serious cases.

Indianapolis Star June 6, 1951, p.14, c.1.

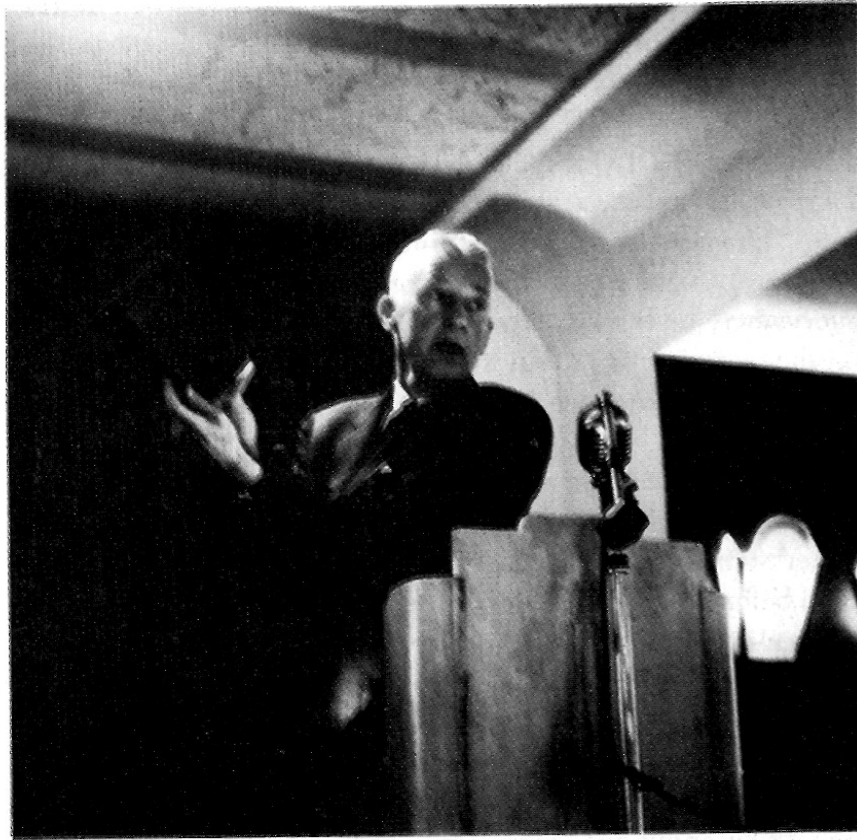
A.A., Saver Of Lives

The founding of Alcoholics Anonymous by two Cleveland men in 1933 has proved to be one of the most inspiring social innovations of the 20th century. In the last 18 years the Clevelanders' great idea has spread throughout the nation. Today there are A.A. chapters in nearly every city and town. Countless thousands of successful citizens owe their happiness and their very lives to A.A.

Tonight at Caleb Mills Hall the public will have an opportunity to learn the inside story of A.A. at the largest meeting the organization has ever held in Indiana. Bill "W", co-founder of the unique, non-profit, non-sectarian fellowship, will tell how it helps people to find a way out of the seemingly hopeless condition known as alcoholism. More than 2,500 Indiana A.A. members, all former excessive drinkers, will attend.

A.A. is not a reform organization. It is unconcerned with prohibition and liquor laws and whether people should or shouldn't drink. An informal, officerless association, it operates on the principle that alcoholism is a disease that can be arrested if the victim really wants it to be arrested. To that end it offers a program of self-help and group-help. This program works. It is open to anybody anywhere who sincerely wants to save himself or herself from problem drinking.

Most Americans, including most of those who enjoy alcoholic beverages, have no need for such a group as A.A. But they owe the fellowship their encouragement and support. It has proved itself a mighty force for good that already has helped 120,000 persons to find their way back from the road to alcoholic ruin. It offers hope to many thousands of others who are, or will be, stumbling down that torturous road.



The featured speaker wherever he went, Bill nearly always told his own story to an eager and tireless audience.

From the book '*PASS IT ON*', page 267.



Postcard dated 1946

Shortridge High School, successor of the old Indianapolis High School located at 34th and Meridian Streets. Enrollment 3,500 pupils, work devoted largely to preparation for college.