A History of Indiana A.A.
The “Trusted Servants” who worked, in service, on this project do not claim to speak for any specific member or group, nor do we infer any representation of A.A., as a whole.

Those who were privileged to assemble the photos and narratives included in this humble effort, would like to respectfully thank all those who previously contributed to the wealth of historical information, on the early years of A.A., which is currently readily available within the Public Domain.

Every effort was been made to maintain the anonymity of all A.A. members, past and present. Fortunately, the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous has made public, many cherished photos and specific information concerning the pioneers and founders of A.A., which often includes first and last names. All such references have been faithfully reproduced and appropriately quoted.

Additionally, several web sites previously published photos and other memorabilia into the Public Domain which also served to augment the images presented herein.

It is hoped that all who view this presentation, will enjoy the story told and that they will receive the information in the spirit of the sharing of A.A.’s “experience, strength and hope,” in which it is provided.

Gratefully, we remain . . . “Trusted Servants”
History of A.A. in Indiana

Map of Indiana groups at Stepping Stones
(Bill W’s Home) In Bedford Hills, New York
Bill W. meets Dr. Bob S. in Akron, Ohio, in May 1935.

Dr. Bob’s last drink on June 10, 1935. (Some say June 17)

This is the date Alcoholics Anonymous marks its Beginnings.
This is what J. D. wrote in his letter to Dean B., (circa 1954) describing his years in Indiana:

“I am the eighth man in A.A. not counting the sponsors, Dr. Bob and Bill. I received my A.A. work in Akron. I joined A.A., then known as the Oxford Group, in October 1936. My wife’s folks live in Evansville and we arrived there on Decoration Day of 1938 and decided to stay.

After obtaining an apartment I started out in search of an alcoholic but met with no success in so far as finding one that wanted to quit drinking. Every Wednesday night the wife and I held a meeting -- just the two of us -- using [the Methodist meditational booklet called the] Upper Room. The wife, who is not an alky, stood solidly back of me and said someday if I kept on trying I would eventually find someone who really wanted toquit drinking.

In October of 1939 I told my story to a Dr. Deker who told me of a very prominent surgeon in town who was definitely an alky. The big A.A. book was being published at that time and Dr. Bob Smith sent me one of the first copies off the press. I immediately read the book although I had personally heard all the stories except four. After reading the book I called this famous surgeon, one Dr. Joe W_____. When I entered his office I said: "I want just two minutes of your time" -- pulling out my watch -- "if after the two minutes are up, if you want to talk longer I shall be glad to do so. If not and you feel so inclined you may toss me out the office."

I talked fast telling as much of my story as I could in two minutes. When the time was up I stopped. He asked me to stay longer. I stayed 30 minutes and left the book. Later he told me he read about half the book. I occasionally called on Dr. Joe. He was a charming individual but I was getting no place, or so I thought.

In the Spring of 1940 (April or May, I believe) I received a call from a prominent businessman from the county jail saying Dr. Joe was there and wanted to see me. I went to the jail and there sat Dr. Joe as if he owned the place. He had been reflecting on what I had said and what he had read in the A.A. book. Dr. Joe being a doctor, this businessman and I decided the thing to do was send him to Akron to meet Dr. Bob. The businessman borrowed $75 for the trip and Dr. Joe was on his way. He returned about ten days later and came to my house and said he had two or three patients who needed help and would I go. Would I go! Wild horses could not keep me away.

We soon had several persons interested and the first regular established A.A. meeting was held in our little four-room house at 420 S. Denby St., Evansville. Our growth was not rapid, but we soon had several that stopped drinking and made good A.A. members. The meeting continued at our home until we could not accommodate more so we moved the meeting place to Dr. Joe’s office. Dr. Joe died and the meeting place was moved to a small room near the Presbyterian Church on Walnut St. “
James D. H.'s Home 420 S. Denby Street
Evansville, Indiana
Material Early Members Would Read

- I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes by Glenn Clark
- The Sermon on the Mount by Emmet Fox
- The Greatest Thing in the World by Henry Drummond
- The Upper Room
“Another of Clarence’s “babies,” was Irwin “Irv” M. Irwin was a salesperson who had lost several accounts due to his drinking. He lived on Eddington Road in Cleveland Heights, (Ohio) Clarence had “pulled” Irv out of a bar at the request of Irv’s wife and had “convinced” him that he “needed to be fixed.” Irv had a difficult time sobering up, but was sold on the idea of A.A. and of helping others.

Irwin sold Venetian Blinds and traveled around the country doing so. Wherever he went, he started A.A. meetings. And Irwin was a high pressure salesperson in and out of A.A. Irwin was Jewish, weighed 250 pounds, and kept slipping back into active alcoholism. Still he was a driving force in the early days of A.A. In the book, “DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers, Bill Wilson is quoted as saying, “The prospect of Irwin as a missionary scared us rather badly.” … Irwin, due to his widespread sales territory received constant lists of inquiries from Ruth Hock at the New York A.A. office. Irwin followed up on them with the same gusto he used in his sales pitches. In a letter to Clarence, dated September 18, 1940, he wrote:

You know that list that Miss Hock sent me from New York. Well I Stuck my neck out, I contacted two men in Indianapolis and they are starting a group there. I contacted four but 2 stuck, the others were a doctor who wouldn’t admit he was alky and another Bozo who could handle it. However I am trying to do my share. I am thankful to providence that I started a few men on the road to health and they are also thankful. That’s what makes me feel good.

Irwin, in his travels, also started groups in Atlanta, Georgia and throughout the South. In a letter, dated March 28, 1942, from Knoxville, Tennessee, Irwin’s wife wrote to Clarence that "Irwin started another club in Charleston, W. Va."… Personal Sponsorship was another hallmark which came out of Cleveland. Each member and prospective member was indoctrinated with the idea of having and then becoming a sponsor. The idea of sponsorship, as A.A. knows it today, originated in Cleveland. A.A. members were taken through the steps by their sponsor after being hospitalized for a short period. On their release, they were then taken to meetings and told they were to carry their message of hope to others as an "avocation" without personal monetary gain.
Irwin M.’s Home 1686 Eddington Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio
Doherty “Dohr” S. was a good Irish Catholic business man from Indianapolis, who had managed to stop drinking and had struggled with his alcoholism since 1936. It is believed that Doherty had seen the *Liberty* and *Plain Dealer*, articles and wrote to The Alcoholic Foundation, Box 657, Church Street Annex Post Office, New York City.

"Inquiries made there are forwarded to a Cleveland banker, who is head of the local Fellowship, or to a former big league ball player who is recruiting officer of the Akron Fellowship, which meets Wednesday evenings in a mansion loaned for the purpose by a non-alcoholic supporter of the movement."

This quotation comes from the first article in the *Plain Dealer*. The banker, probably a bank teller, Bill J. and the ball player is Rollie H.

Irwin M. arrived by September of 1940 to Doherty’s request who bluntly introduced himself:
“I am from Cleveland and I’ve come here to help you get to work.”

“Irv” introduces “Dohr” to James D. H. in Evansville during this period, and J.D. wrote the following of Dohr:

“S______ and I corresponded weekly, often talked on the telephone and were of mutual help. However, the growth of AA in Indiana is due almost entirely to S______. While a few groups in the tri-state area and elsewhere stem from Evansville, S______ is really the boy who put AA on the Indiana map, I have always considered him the number 3 man in AA, a statement I can boldly make after having been closely associated with Dr Bob and Bill Wilson. And there are others, who think the same as I.”

- *Indianapolis marks its beginnings as October 28, 1940. (Neil S. History of Indy)*
In the spring of 1936, Doherty became ill with a damaged liver and had to stop drinking—his life depended on it, but he could not. Consequently, he became a patient at Sacred Heart Hospital in Milwaukee where he spent two years.

From Doherty’s niece Laura
Doherty S. Finds Hope

As the Indiana AA founder, J.D. always gave credit to Doherty for "putting Indiana on the AA map. Now it was time for Indianapolis to grow via the energetic enthusiasm of Irish Catholic business man: Doherty S. His niece, Laura, described him as a devoutly religious family man who was full of fun and steady as a rock. Some of his family & friends never saw him drunk and received news of this illness with stark disbelief.

But in the spring of 1936, Doherty became ill with a damaged liver and had to stop drinking—his life depended on it, but he could not. Consequently, he became a patient at The Menninger Clinic, in Topeka, Kansas; but he left after few months and began compulsive, destructive drinking. Eventually, Doherty became a patient at Sacred Heart Hospital in Milwaukee where he spent two years. He was then released, but only under the care of an attendant. They took residence at the family country place, nicknamed "The Tangle,"

The Liberty magazine article, Alcoholics and God, come off the presses by September 1939. In Cleveland, The Elrick B. Davis Articles from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, appear from October - November 1939.

These articles appeared in the main Cleveland newspaper, just five months after the first A.A. group was formed in Cleveland, OH. The articles resulted in hundreds of calls for help from suffering alcoholics who reached out for the hope that the fledgling Alcoholics Anonymous offered.
Alcoholics Anonymous Makes Its Stand Here

By ERICK B. DAVIS

Mack has been written about. Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization doing great work in reclaiming the habitual drinker. This is the first of a series describing the work the group is doing in Cleveland.

Success

By now it is a rare Cleveland who does not know, or know of, at least one man or woman of high talent whose drinking had become a public scandal, and who suddenly has straightened out “over night,” as the saying goes—the liquor habit licked. Men who have lost $15,000-a-year jobs have them back again. Drinkers who have taken every “cure” available to the most lavish purse, only to take them over again with equally spectacular lack of success, suddenly have become total abstainers, apparently without anything to account for their reform. Yet something must account for the seeming miracle. Something does. Alcoholics Anonymous has reached the town.

Fellowship

Every Thursday evening at the home of some ex-drinker in Cleveland, 40 or 50 former hopeless rummies meet for a social evening during which they buck each other up. Nearly every Saturday evening they and their families have a party—just as gay as any other party held that evening despite the fact that there is nothing alcoholic to drink. From time to time they have a picnic, where everyone has a roaring good time without the aid of even one bottle of beer. Yet these are men and women who, until recently, had scarcely been sober a day for years, and members of their families who all that time had been emotionally distraught, social and economic victims of another’s addiction.

These ex-rummies, as they call themselves, suddenly salvaged from the most socially noscense of fates, are members of the Cleveland Fellowship of an informal society called Alcoholics Anonymous. They are the group which has displaced the old “cure” which was the order of the day, and which has been replaced by a movement of which the members are the only ones who are aware of its existence.

The society maintains a “blind” address: The Alcoholic Foundation, Box 808, Church Street Annex Post-office, New York City. Inquirers made there are forwarded to a Cleveland banker, who is head of the local Fellowship, or to a former big league ball player who is recruiting officer of the Akron Fellowship, which meets Wednesdays in a mansion loaned for that purpose by a non-alcoholic supporter of the movement.

Cured!

The basic point about Alcoholics Anonymous is that it is a fellowship of “cured” alcoholics. And that both old-line medicine and modern psychiatry had agreed on the one point that no alcoholic could be cured. Repeat the astounding fact:

These are cured.

They have cured each other.

They have done it by adopting, with each other’s aid, what they call “a spiritual way of life.”

Incurable” alcoholism is not a moral vice. It is a disease. No dipломatic drinks because he wants to. He drinks because he can’t help drinking.

Prayer

These are the alcoholics that he has yet to cure. Incurable Alcoholics Anonymous, New York City. Cure is impossible until the victim is convinced that nothing that he or she can do can help. He must know that his disease is fatal. He must be convinced that he is hopelessly sick of body, mind, and soul. He must be eager to accept help from any source—even God.

Alcoholics Anonymous has a simple explanation for an alcoholic’s physical disease. It was provided them by the head of one of New York City’s oldest and most famous “cure” sanitariums. The alcoholic is allergic to alcohol. One drink sets up a poison that only more of the poison can assuage. That is why the first drink is the alcoholic cannot stop.

They have a psychiatric theory equally simple and convincing. Only an alcoholic can understand another alcoholic’s mental processes and state. And they have an equally simple, if unorthodox, conception of God.
Dohr’s Letter to Liberty Magazine and Its Response

Liberty Magazine,
122 E. 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

In your issue of Sept. 30th appears an article by Morris Markey, "Alcoholics and God", in which he recommends that interested persons secure a copy of a book entitled "Alcoholics Anonymous", published by the Alcoholic Foundation.

I write to inquire how this may be done, and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience in replying.

My interest is personal, not "professional", and I shall be very grateful to you for giving me the information as promptly as may be.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Doherty

Mr. Doherty

4730 Central Ave.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Oct. 4, 1939

Dear Mr. Doherty:

Thank you for your recent letter to Liberty Magazine regarding the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" which has been forwarded to us for reply.

We are enclosing a mimeographed form letter which explains briefly the background of those people who dub themselves Alcoholics Anonymous, their connection with the Works Publishing Company and the Alcoholic Foundation, and the origin of the book, also a pamphlet describing the book and how it may be secured.

We shall gladly supply any further information you may desire regarding the book or our work and await your reply. Please let us know whether you are interested in meeting any of our members, if so, we will endeavor to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Secretary,
Dear Mr. D:

Due to the vast amount of inquiries from all parts of the country for explicit information regarding Alcoholics Anonymous, The Alcoholic Foundation has recently published a booklet for distribution to all who are interested. It is our hope that this small booklet will enable many who are now suffering the effects of alcoholism, to realize that they too can accomplish recovery if they sincerely desire to do so.

Within the last year a great many men and women have recovered from chronic alcoholism by following the procedure and methods of A.A., until now we number over 500. Whenever possible, these members of Alcoholics Anonymous arrange weekly meetings to extend fellowship, understanding, information and cooperation to still others. There are no dues, no fees, no obligation of any sort whatever connected with these meetings or the personal work done by our members, merely a desire on their part to spread the knowledge of this solution to alcoholism which has been so helpful to us.

We would appreciate an opportunity to correspond with you if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

Secretary

1940 Houston Press Articles
A.A. Booklet
First Edition ‘Big Book’ / A.A. Booklet

Alcoholics Anonymous ‘Big Book’

1943 A.A. Booklet, Published by Works Publishing
Doherty S.’s Home 4750 Central Ave.
Indianapolis, Indiana
Doherty S’s Family’s Country Residence “The Tangle”

House where 1st meetings were held. Located west of Keystone on 106th St. This house has been remodelled. We believe left side of house is original part. (Where chimney is located).
There are several working A.A. members in each of the following cities where meetings are in a get together stage.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
BURLINGTON, VT.
BOSTON, MASS.
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

And following is a list of communities where A.A. work is well established and weekly meetings are held:

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.
SOUTH CAROLINA, N.J.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RICHMOND, VA.
DETOUR, MICHIGAN
JACKSON, MICHIGAN
COLUMBUS, MICHIGAN
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
HOUSTON, TEXAS
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
SALT LAKE, UTAH
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.
EUSTIS, FLORIDA
COLUMBUS, OHIO

The secretary or correspondent of each group has the name and address of at least one member in each of the established groups for the use of travelling or visiting members. However, at the request of many of these groups we ask that the New York office be used as a clearing house for all correspondences since but few local groups are equipped to handle the correspondences now coming to them from so many different directions. We shall gladly give full particulars about any of the listed communities upon request.

We all know that the A.A. solution really works if followed with patience, honesty and sincerity as we sympathize with the new prospect who said he certainly did want to stop drinking but after listening a few minutes to our A.A. story said “Oh that! I tried it for two weeks and it doesn't work”.

We shall appreciate receiving ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc., of general interest for the purpose of this bulletin to relate to the many A.A. groups in a friendly spirit.

So best regards to all and let us hear from you at any and all times.

P.S.
Since it is not possible at the present time for us to furnish enough copies for distribution to every A.A. member, perhaps you will feel it advisable to read this copy aloud at a meeting.
5 Former Alcoholics Offer to Help Imbibers Climb Aboard the "Wagon"

In contrast to those New Year celebrants who tomorrow will hold their aching heads and say "never again," without really meaning it, are five Indianapolis men who in the past said "never again" and are making it stick.

They were once, to use the ordinary phrase for it, "just plain drunks." But now they are strictly former alcoholics and members of "Alcoholics Anonymous." They know that true alcoholism is a disease and they believe that with their background of experience they can help others who want to say "never again."

**Business Executive Member.**

It's a strange sort of organization this "Alcoholic Anonymous." In Indianapolis the group is in embryo stage and thus far there are only five members, at least one of whom is a business executive.

But in Cleveland, O.; New York, Chicago, Detroit, Mich., and several other cities the "A.A.'s" have fairly strong chapters and the total membership now is about 500 men and women. They boast that two-thirds of their number have laid the foundation for permanent recovery and that more than half have had no "relapse" despite the fact that all were once pronounced incurable alcoholics.

Names aren't often mentioned, but each member stands ready to make himself known to a fellow sufferer and to help him "mount the wagon" with the technique that has worked.

**Not Reform Group.**

To begin with, the "A.A.'s" say they aren't a reform group, a dry organization or a religious cult. They have no quarrel with alcohol and, in fact, think the fellow who can drink sensibly and keep out of trouble has every right to do so. Their motive is not entirely unselfish. Their only interest is the problem of the alcoholic. The A.A. members point out, "We are the man—or sometimes the woman—who gets the disease," to good insurance for themselves, who baffles every cure and who for the same reason, the recovery faces a ruined business career and loss of home life.

The five Indianapolis members think this is a particularly good time to make existence of their loosely-knit organization known because they believe more problem drinkers get into serious difficulties during the Christmas-New Year holiday season than at any other time of the year.

"The alcoholic and his problem seldom are understood," the leader of the A.A. group here says. "The true alcoholic is a very sick man. Too often neither he nor those about him understand that."

Primary reason for the organization's existence is that its members believe the former or non-drinking alcoholic can "talk turkey to a fellow rummy" with considerably more success than the best intentioned, even though trained in such work, non-drinking man.

"Knowing this," says the Indianapolis A.A. leader, "we have banded together in groups over the country and, without fee or obligation, give as much time as our regular business and home life permit to teaching and showing fellow alcoholics how to handle their problem successfully."

**Motive Not Unselfish.**

Such success has crowned the efforts of "Alcoholics Anonymous" that the Alcoholic Foundation of New York has published a booklet about the organization and physicians have written in medical journals about what they consider a new psychotherapy in chronic alcoholism.
'Alcoholics Anonymous' Take Road Back
From Tragedies of Excessive Drinking

Local Chapter of 37 Members
Formed as Part of National Group

By JOHN McVICKER

"We will stand in prayer" said the 38-year-old gray-haired industrial executive, "leader" of the meeting.

This heavy-built man, who had fought his way up from the bottom rung to highly competitive industry, and who now was winning an even harder fight—sitting in and at times even climaxing as one dollar a task unfamiliar, gave the prayer while 32 men and women bowed their heads.

Thus we were introduced to the Evansville chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous, part of a national group of "alcoholics," or those who have made up their minds to quit drinking.

The meeting started off on a very solemn note. The "leader" preached a sermon of sorts. For 10 minutes he emphasized the needs of these men and women who have entered into a fight to shake off the plagues of liquor, the need of a daily program of full service to a brother sufferer. He scattered Scripture quotations throughout his talk.

New Member Talk

Once his talk was completed, however, the tone of the meeting changed as others spoke, spoke spontaneously of their troubles on the road of John Barleycorn. With sincerity, serious contention, all had their place, along with business discussion of the group's future meetings and work.

Typical of the weekly meeting was the talk of a man, a new member, who was in the hospital where he had lain for about six days in a "detoxifying" period. This man, in his thirties and a business man in a nearby city, had an amusing yet tragic story to tell, even if it was an old and familiar story to most of those present. His "blows," one of a series over a 20-year period, had lasted three weeks, all of which time he had been trying to reach a hospital, only to reach consciousness at last in a hotel in his home town.

Two AAs' learned of his return to the city and with the aid of a co-operating minister, started their treatment, the first step of which was to agree to hospitalization.

Describes Treatment

He told of how he arrived at the hospital and met the doctor, active in Double A work, how he was put to bed, and supplied liquor until he became so ill and weak he was forced to quit. Then came the AA clinic work.

"Two men with whom I have been getting drunk for years came to visit me. They told me of the Alcoholics Anonymous program. They told me of their life, what remorse I brought to them. I listened, but was not unduly impressed.

"Then five others came to visit me, total strangers to me. They opened up their hearts and told me all about themselves, and didn't ask a thing about me. I knew they were telling the truth. They had been through the mill, and quit, but they had brought to them all. Their interest in me touched me so that I just broke down and cried.

"His audience listened and laughed with him, for they knew the road they had walked it for years themselves.

It's An Old Story

"We would be glad to hear your life's history, because it seems to me the leader, "it will be an old story to us, but we would like to hear it."

Alcoholics Anonymous was founded some five years ago (more about which will be told in the next article). The local chapter was founded almost six months ago.

The group, which now has grown to 37 members, and includes men and women from Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky, meets each Tuesday evening. There are no dues, no fees. Contributions, however, are made at each meeting to pay for the $2 rental for the club rooms, and to supply a lunch which follows the regular program.

The group uses these funds also to buy pamphlets and books explaining the move; and a leading library of the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous," for those who cannot afford to buy it. (Cost $3.50).

In the group were two persons who had driven 70 miles to the meeting, five others who had driven close to 50 miles, and some from nearer places in the Tri-State.

"I want to stress the necessity of attending meetings each week," said a young business man from a Tri-State city. He said he had missed two meetings, and realized that he was getting ready to "slip."

Wives Attend Meeting

Several of the men had their wives along, one of whom explained that she was not an alcoholic, unless it could be "caused."
Liquor Addicts Help Each Other to Sobriety
In Program of ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’

Mutual Aid Deemed Strong Factor in Rejuvenation of Drunkards

By JOHN MCCORMICK

It takes an alcoholic to help an alcoholic.

That was the basis of the foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous: from it stems the success it has achieved.

Where doctors, ministers and test-takers have failed, admitted drunks have succeeded not only whipping their liquor appetite, but have done the same for others.

A New York broker conceived the idea while taking institutional treatment for drunkenness. While in Cleveland, Ohio on a business venture, which failed, he was ready to go on a binge. A random call to a man who belonged to the name of an alcoholic with whom he might talk and work, sent him to a doctor just recovering from a drink. Together, some five years ago, they worked out the program, gradually increased the group by their own sacrifices, to serve other alcoholics. In 1939 they wrote the book “Alcoholics Anonymous,” which has been the guide of work since.

Sincerity Required

The first step for any person to enter into the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous, is a sincere desire to quit drinking. He must recognize that while others can drink or leave it alone, he is one of those individuals allergic to liquor, or to whom use of alcohol becomes a disease.

He then must believe in the Supreme Power. Not of any particular faith, for it is wholly nonsectarian, but that there is a power greater than himself.

He must make a searching moral inventory, admit his wrongs to himself and other persons, prepare to remove those shortcomings and make amends to those whom he has injured, insomuch as possible.

Next to the Others.

He must seek spiritual aid daily, keeping in mind his resolve to abstain from liquor in all its forms. He must be ready at any time, day or night, to go to the aid of another alcoholic who needs his assistance in either quitting liquor, or staying off of it.

This program of mutual aid and confession is the longest step in the program of the alcoholic, one of the oldest members in Evansville says.

When an alcoholic goes about to his friends and relatives, expressing his misdeeds, paying for things spoiled, bad checks issued, and accounts run up, apologizing for his misdeeds, he has driven a moral peg to hang onto, says this man.

When he begins to assist others to quit drinking, calling his own ability to break the hold of liquor, he then assumes the responsibility of an enemy to help him from drinking again himself.

When the urge to return to drink becomes too great, he has his brother alcoholics, to turn to, understanding men who have been through the same trials, who have made the same apologetic excuses to drink, but know them to be nothing but excuses. He can understand his troubles on that man who will care for and nurse him through a “binge” if he does slide again.

Liquor’s Grip Loosened

At the close of this interview with him, it is found that his associates are persons who either don’t drink, or have gained in the fight to quit drinking, and thus the urge to drink again is minimized.

The meetings, held weekly, are further restraints to return to old habits. Alcoholics, he points out, are sociable persons as a rule. They like to talk and discuss their problems. At the meetings, there is a freedom, an informal comradeship, where each person feels perfectly free to discuss his former shortcomings. They fight their fights with liquor, their remorse afterwards. He finds sympathetic and understanding ears of those who can match his tales with one as bad or worse.

The AAs are not prohibitionists. They serve liquor in their homes to friends who desire it; they drop into a bar with a friend and buy him a drink, taking a soft drink or coffee for themselves.

Courier To Aid Work

“We are a group of people,” explains one of the local leaders, “who has come to realize that with us liquor was a disease that we couldn’t drink. Others can, but we can’t. We have joined together to aid each other in quitting. We are happy in the work. Happy to wake up each morning without remorse about what we did the night before. We fight the battle to drink and lose. We are fighting the battle to not drink and win.”

The local Alcoholics Anonymous have no mailing address. To accommodate those who might desire to contact those in the fellowship, The Courier will forward mail to the proper person. Address: Courier Editorial Department, Care Alcoholics Anonymous.

Evansville Courier, February 28, 1941
Want To Break Drinking Habit?

Alcoholics Anonymous is an informal society of ex-alcoholics who aim to help fellow problem drinkers recover their health. The fellowship, recently organized, is spreading throughout the country. Indianapolis has a chapter of 17 members.

One of the Indianapolis members is in Richmond in connection with a business enterprise. He will gladly convey the method of recovery to alcoholics who are interested in dropping the habit. Persons who are interested can obtain his name from The Palladium-Item.

There are no fees in connection with membership in the chapter. No drugs are used; no vows are taken; no member is obligated to conform to certain opinions and views.

The Alcoholic Foundation of New York is the national headquarters. Inquiries to it will be answered if addressed to Post Office Box 658, Church Street Annex, New York City.
The Day
In Indiana

By MAURICE EARLY

Alcoholics Anonymous.
Membership Grows.
Proud Of Cures.
Talk Same Language.
Half Stay On Wagon.

Indianapolis, July 28.

Many Hoosiers now on the road to seeing pink elephants soon will be members of a flourishing informal organization which styles itself Alcoholics Anonymous. Only one tie binds the men and women in this fellowship. It is their common experience of definitely having been on the road to ruin through the alcohol route.

Two hundred eleven days ago—on New Year's eve—five Indianapolis men who had cured themselves through accepting the Alcoholics Anonymous philosophy were given their first and only publicity in a feature story in the Indianapolis Star.

TODAY THEY have forty members in the group which holds weekly Sunday breakfasts at a north side hotel. In October one of the founders of the A. A. from Akron, O., will be the speaker at a dinner meeting of the fellowship. Experiences in other cities, where the A. A. got started sooner, demonstrate there will be many groups formed in Indianapolis and other Indiana cities. Cleveland O., now has sixteen groups with a membership of nearly 1,000.

There is another reason why the enthusiasm can predict a spread of the fellowship. They claim the "woods is full" of people who have reached the stage where drinking is an illness. There is not much hope for the bums who fall in the gutter. Rather it is the "nice" people—especially minor executives—who are more likely to see the light and profit by the A. A.

It is believed that the strength of the movement, and its success, comes from the fact that it is not a reform organization. It has no concern about prohibition, liquor regulatory laws, whether or not people drink, nor is it affiliated with any religion.

Each member is concerned primarily with his own rescue and in payment for it is willing to assist some other drunk who wants help.

Long faces or pious attitudes naturally do not exist among those boys who would prefer to be on the list of those who can drink with restraint. One leader interviewed for this column extended an invitation to attend a group breakfast and meant it when he said "you don't have to come dry or we will get you a drink if you want it."

There is nothing altruistic or secreted about the A. A. It accepts the medical view that an acute alcoholic is sick. Therefore there is no reason to give publicity to those who have overcome the illness.

But in practice members of the A. A. like to talk about it. While they do not tell the names of other members they have a feeling of pride in their accomplishment.

To get lined up with the A. A. just drop a letter to the post office box 141, Indianapolis, and one of the fellowship—usually busy business people—will take time out to see you. Cures simmer down to a fellow being honest with himself.

Prerequisites for membership, it is explained, are these: that the alcoholic knows that he is sick, that he admits it to someone else, and that he wants to get well. There is no such thing as a pledge. Neither can one get in the fold simply, to satisfy the nagging of a relative.

About half of those who affiliate stay on the wagon. Some of the younger ones, it is found, are more optimistic about their chances of beating the game and relapse. But they can come back after they have "slipped." There is no preaching.
Sunday Morning Breakfast
Hotel Riley (16th & Capital Ave.) 9:00 a.m. from 1941 - 1947
50 ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’ Here Acclaim Originator

Unnamed Man in City to Discuss Beginning, Slow Growth of Organization

A tall, thin, angular-faced Vermont World War veteran who wrote a book that has ‘saved’ 6,000 persons from the curse of drink—obession of drink, as he puts it—spoke at the Evansville Alcoholics Anonymous club meeting last night.

This man—his name shall remain anonymous along with that of the Akron, O., doctor who aided him in founding the national A. A. organization—outlined the origin of the movement, and the psychology which has made it the only effective cure for alcoholics that has been known in the 20,000 years history of fermented juices for drinking.

Idea Born in Hospital

The idea came to him in a hospital where his doctor had decreed oblivion if he continued to drink.

It was developed when he went on his last, drunk, Nov. 11, 1934, and it was hardened into a philosophy during two years he worked with other alcoholics, during which time he had converted only 15 men to the cause.

But last night he had a full reward as some 50 members of the Evansville club made up of Tri-State persons, gave him full thanks for a program which had saved them from drink.

This man, once successful on Wall street, but who lost his all in drink, and who wrote “Alcoholics Anonymous,” the book which guides the 6,000 members of clubs in all parts of the States, told his own story, and then analyzed the “inards” of the A. A.

Stresses Spiritual Side

If any one thing was stressed, it was that the development of the spiritual side, which so many new members of the group find so difficult, will come of itself, if only the alcoholic will carry out the first, or Recovery part of the program.

Just leave the mind open, he said, neither resisting or grabbing for spiritual aid.

The founder, in his talk last night, revealed that the man who founded the Evansville club was the tenth person in the Akron club and the 15th person in the United States to join the A. A.’s.

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

From The Evansville Courier, October 20, 1941
Public to Hear
Former Alcoholics

Anonymous Group to
Hold First Open Meeting
In Library Saturday.

Announcement was made yesterday by the Indianapolis group of Alcoholics Anonymous that it will hold its first public meeting in the Cropsey auditorium of the Indianapolis public library at 8 o'clock Saturday evening.

In accordance with the policy of this organization in keeping anonymous all those associated with it, the name of the principal speaker will not be announced. He is a successful professional man from Akron, O., and one of the founders of the AA, which is a fellowship of confirmed alcoholics who have determined to abstain from drink.

Formed Year Ago.

One year ago this Indianapolis group had its beginning. It now has a membership of 46 Indianapolis men and women and 18 associate members from other Indiana cities. Each Sunday the group meets for breakfast in a hotel.

The speech at the public meeting will be brief. It will explain the origin of the AA, its purpose, method and progress. The AA is not a reform organization. It consists only of persons who have come to the realization that their lives are being ruined by drink. It recognizes that an alcoholic is a sick person and should have the moral support of others to keep him on the water wagon.

One of the missions of members is to help others. The AA main-tains Post Office Box 1474 in Indianapolis for those who desire to communicate with it about their problems.

The only other group of the AA in Indiana is in Evansville. As interest increases groups will be established in other Indiana cities. The organization is not affiliated with any religion and has no dues or membership fees.
Former Alcoholics Anonymous Sponsor Meeting

Announcement was made yesterday by the Indianapolis group of Alcoholics Anonymous that W. Rowland Allen has accepted their invitation to introduce one of the founders of the organization who is to be the principal speaker at the first public meeting of the AA in the Cropsey auditorium of the Indianapolis Public Library tonight at 8 o'clock.

This meeting is open to the public, men and women, to explain the purposes and progress of the movement.

Members of the AA will not identify themselves for interviews, it was announced.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING TO BE TONIGHT

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous will hold their first public meeting in Cropsey auditorium of the Indianapolis Public Library at 8 o'clock tonight.

W. Rowland Allen has accepted the groups invitation to introduce one of the organization founders, who will be the principal speaker.

The meeting, open to the adult public, is to explain the purposes and progress of the movement. Members will not identify themselves for interviews. The organization will hold a breakfast at 9 a.m. Sunday in the Riley hotel.

More Than 100 Attend First Public Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

More than 100 men and women listened with rapt attention to an unidentified speaker in Cropsey auditorium of the Public Library last night.

They were attending the first public meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization composed of former dyspeptics who have conquered their mania and are now devoting their efforts to help others.

Only person “with a name” in the hall was W. Rowland Allen, personnel expert, who consented to introduce the speaker. The speaker is a prominent Akron professional man.

Indianapolis News
October 25, 1941
Ex-Drunks Laud Doctor At “Victory” Dinner Here

There was another convention in Evansville Sunday night. But it was the strangest convention in Evansville’s history. There were no badges, no resolutions were adopted, no committees were appointed, no one wanted his picture in the paper, and there was no hand raising oratory.

It was a convention of victorious ex-drunkards, who with their wives and husbands, 75 in all, from Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois, met for a banquet in the McCurdy to pay tribute to an Akron doctor who six years ago founded Alcoholics Anonymous.

He praised the anonymous doctor, once a hopeless alcoholic himself, for his work. The doctor was the first to acknowledge the existence of alcoholism.

And then, without gesture or after-dinner pretense, he said the simple story of how he and a New York friend found the cure for alcoholism in a bit of common sense, with power and a great amount of faith and understanding.

They can’t be social drinkers.

He avoided the usual medical terms. “It doesn’t do us any good to worry why we’re alcoholic,” he said. “Let the psychiatrists argue the causes; we know only that we’re allergic, that drinking toasts is a disease, that due to the lack of something in our make-up we can never hope to be social drinkers.”

The doctor defined an alcoholic — “an alky,” he called it — as one who has reached “the obsession stage of drinking.”

Alcoholics Anonymous is a reformed organization. It has no quarrel with anyone. It is not concerned about prohibition. Nor is it affiliated with any religion. Each member is concerned primarily with his own rescue, and in payment for it he’s willing anxious, to assist some other drunk who wants help.

Evansville Press
October 27, 1941
Articles from Indiana in the Archives at New York 1942

Faith Is Keystone for Rescues by Alcoholics Anonymous

By A STAFF WRITER
This is a story of regeneration. It is the narrative of men and women, an ever-widening circle, who have become free from the trials and tribulations of drunk and were once regarded with horror and hatred.

It is the miraculous Narrative of Alcoholics Anonymous, the men and women who "came back" to life and health and faith.

Alcoholics Anonymous, "A.A. " to members of the country over, evolved and grew from the experiences of one man: a man who followed the perilous alcoholic pattern familiar to those who can not "leave it alone;" a man whose self-denial of his own problem has since enabled thousands of others to go forward with courage and assurance.

The group, which is growing steadily in Indianapolis since its inception two years ago, has a charter. There are no dues, no officers, few rules. It is a "fellowship" of men who "want to stop drinking;" who speak of their particular "alcoholism" with the frankness of self-examination that a man will speak of his inability to eat certain foods or take certain kinds of drugs.

Alcoholics Anonymous maintains a postoffice box, No. 1474, and present members are on a telephone list with a number of committees to facilitate contacts with the group. Each person who writes to the box, or who contacts an individual member by telephone or letter, receives an explanation of the nature of A.A. and A.A."s all call it, by letter or personal call.

To these alcoholics, alcoholism is not a stigma but a disease: a disease for which there is no "cure," but a daily reiterate--an education program of spiritual insight. In concept, based on the eternal verities that the disease is not enough in itself to overcome temptation and that help, which others help them to help themselves.

Members meet for a program and Sunday breakfast at 9 a.m. in the Riley Hotel, Sixteenth and Capitol Avenue, and for an informal luncheon Wednesday at the hotel.

New "prospects" are permitted to come to these sessions only as the guests of working A.A.s. Since the growth of the organization and the difficulties presented by gasoline rationing, the group has been partitioned off into four parts of the city and thus members may attend any or all of the several meetings which are held throughout the week, regardless of their time and transportation problems.

Alcoholics Anonymous offers no help to a man unless he is not blinded. He is made to realize that, to be cured, he must be resolved to stop drinking. It offers the orthodox approach to God except as "the individual sees Him." It does not seek to bring about the spiritual rebirth of those who are self-sufficient in society.

It is based on the unprejudiced precepts of Alcoholics Anonymous, and that, added to faith, must be demonstrated and supported. It offers the promise of self-recovery that alcoholics cannot be made to accept the disease until it has been brought to the realization of the fact that it is not that they can be helped, but that they must help themselves.

In the whole, long history of medical science there is no record of a man being cured of alcoholism without his own personal identification to that end. And there is no record of any alcoholics who have been able to retrace their steps to the status of "moderate" drinker once he has begun to control his drinking, rather than control it.

The people of Alcoholics Anonymous have begun to learn that the disease is not something that is left behind. Even the recognized as a disease of the body and spirit, relationship, loyalty, life, science and conscience have diametrically and essentially that.

The fellows of Alcoholics Anonymous spring from the wills of all the lives which have been saved, the dignity which has been restored, the happiness which has been sought and found, and the work which has been done in the name of those in distress.

It is a safe bet that if you have taken the trouble to read the end of the story of the people who are alcoholics--or know one. If you will write for the name of Alcoholics Anonymous you will be contacted by a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and the machinery of peace and a good life will have been set in motion.

Fighting the Alcoholic Disease

If a person has some affliction such as vision or partial deafness we would not blame him for his condition. If some internal or external disease interferes with digestion or makes him ill, he is not blamed. But when he is subject to lapses of memory he is condemned. If he takes insulin, or has the coffee and tobacco habit, he may go on with his work and conduct himself satisfactorily in society. He is not thought of as having lapses, he is simply referred to as a diabetic.

If he takes a drug and has a cold, he is given a medicine which makes him well. If he has a cold and takes a drug, he is thought of as having a cold.

So in the case of alcoholism the man with lapses of memory is not considered. If he takes insulin, or has the coffee and tobacco habit, he may go on with his work and conduct himself satisfactorily in society. He is not thought of as having lapses, he is simply referred to as a diabetic.

But when the man with lapses of memory takes a drug, he is thought of as having a cold. And if he has a cold and takes a drug, he is thought of as having a cold.

Thus there are the very same elements which make it possible for him to free himself from the demon.

Alcoholics Anonymous is an organization of people who have had themselves together for the spiritual medicine which keeps drinking out of their lives, and who are glad to be in service to others who would like to have this help and medicine for themselves. They are not an organization as generally inspired by the term. It is a movement. There are chapters, groups, and fellowship centers in many cities of our nation.

The writer has met with the Indianapolis center on a number of occasions. He is not an alcoholic and has never drunk, but he gives witness that this group of men render one of the finest services to the city. They meet each Sunday morning at the Riley Hotel at nine o'clock breakfast and for a program for the physical food of the physical man, followed by a spiritual effort in fellowship for the spiritual man.

We should bear in mind in man is more than body. He is a spiritual entity in a physical body. Thus there are two parts to man, the body, the flesh, or physical part; and the intellect, mind, or spiritual part. In an occult sense there is an emotional body which plays between the spirit and the flesh. It is here that alcohol gets its hold. You will comprehend better if you realize that flesh has its own knowledge. It only feels and wants. This is a way in which the spirit or intellect is the commanding officer which should determine whether or not the desire will overthrow one's life or short-circuit and interfere with it.

When the alcoholic takes a drink, the will-power of the individual is short-circuited or disengaged, and from then on the emotions and desires of the flesh have free rein. It requires a form of self-control or honesty for the individual to avoid the tragedy. When the time comes for the alcoholic to take a drink he must surrender to the desires of the flesh. He must keep the spirit in charge. If needs be, he must look back one of his friends in the movement who can understand and they strengthen each other. It is a grand work and way of service.

Every interested reader should learn of it. Write to the Alcoholic Fellowship, P. O. Box 658, Church St. Annex, New York City.
January 1943

"BULLETIN AS GIFT"

"May I compliment you on the three issues of Central Bulletin I have seen and particularly on the December issue, just received?

I should like to subscribe for Central Bulletin for our four Indianapolis Groups as a Christmas gift from me. I was greatly impressed, when in Cleveland last week, with the progress Cleveland has made with its problem. I think the more the rest of the Groups know of it, the better able they will be to cope with their own."

D.S., Indianapolis, Ind."

January 1944

Indianapolis MEETS

One of our local men (Cleveland) makes a return visit to Indianapolis, Ind., to lead their annual consolidated city-wide meeting Friday evening. January 28th.

He led their meeting a year ago. This meeting will be open to the clergy, medical men and welfare organizations. Four groups are active and successful there.

May 1944

OUT OF TOWN MEETINGS

SUNDAY

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. – Riley Hotel, Capital Ave. & 16th Street (Breakfast)..............................................................; 9:00 A.M.
INDIANAPOLIS GROUP

An interesting little folder comes to our attention from Indianapolis which undoubtedly is sent or given to interested prospects and it tells distinctly the first steps in affiliation with AA as well as all necessary factual information.

In it they report 27 members who have been total abstainers for a period of 1 to 6 years with the number increasing each month. The group numbers 85 men and 8 women.

INDIANAPOLIS OPEN A NURSING HOME

From our good friend, Jim B., of Indianapolis comes the pleasing information that on the first of April, he and Dr. John Nevitt opened a nursing home for the treatment of Alcoholics, and that they are equipped to take care of twenty patients. We wish them success in their endeavor.

The hospital is called Indiana Home and is located at 1341 No. Alabama Street, Indianapolis, Ind.
1341 N. Alabama Street Indianapolis, Indiana
The Indiana Home location from 1945 - 1957
Back in 1945, a community group formed a committee and purchased a home at 1341 N. Alabama. Men struggling with alcohol dependence stayed at the Indiana Home for six days at a cost of $60. They were detoxified by a method not uncommon then – gradually decreasing doses of alcohol. After the home was destroyed by fire in 1957, the Indiana Home opened again at 2054 N. Delaware.
2054 N. Delaware Street Indianapolis, Indiana
The Indiana Home location from 1957 - 1970
Indiana Home
2054 N. Delaware Street
(pictures from Archives of Fairbanks Hospital)
The Indiana Home/ Fairbanks Hospital

- By 1969, over 10,000 patients had been served at the Indiana Home. Charges for treatment had risen to $160. More and more patients were being admitted and requests were growing for a facility in which women could seek help as well. Expansion plans were realized through a grant from the Cornelia Cole Fairbanks Trust Fund. Richard M. Fairbanks Jr. was instrumental in the dispersion of funds to the Indiana Home.

- The Cornelia Cole Fairbanks Hospital opened at 16th and Northwestern in May 1970 with 60 beds, including a unit for women as well as one for men – the first treatment facility in Indiana to provide a unit exclusively for the treatment of women with alcoholism.
The Cornelia Cole Fairbanks Hospital opened at 16th and Northwestern in May 1970 with 60 beds, including a unit for women as well as one for men – the first treatment facility in Indiana to provide a unit exclusively for the treatment of women with alcoholism.
Indiana & Indianapolis

The start of more groups than can be recorded here, not only in Indiana but elsewhere, was due to the extensive and prolonged efforts of Mr. S. Included are those with an original impetus from the Indiana Home, an Indianapolis non-profit hospital for male alcoholics, in which he had a deep interest and where A.A. influence is still strong. Dohr was instrumental in forming the Indiana Home. This is the forerunner to Fairbanks, now a facility on the campus of Community Hospital North.

Significantly Doherty S’s Indiana Home preceded the world renowned Hazelden Facility in Minnesota.

Here are some of the other firsts for Indianapolis A.A.

- Indianapolis had an Intergroup office originally a Club at 124 West Georgia Street, opened on April 3, 1948. Harry L was the first Central Office Manager.

- We were the first in the nation to be incorporated. The attorney who affected this for us is still a very committed member of our Indianapolis Fellowship. Other Intergroups were able to follow our model.

- We were the pioneers of using the Telephone Answering Service to extend our availability. It is an opportunity for those who reach out for help. They can do it here in Indianapolis 24/7 for 52 weeks every year. This was launched in January of 1943.

- The introduction of Tokens or Medallions might have started here. We have the substantiating correspondence over the signature of the Archivist of AA World Services Office.

- We might have been the second group to establish an A.A. meeting in a prison. Late in 1942 or early 1943 we initiated A.A. in the Putnamville Facility. The first AA meeting in prison was San Quentin, CA. - promoted by the Warden Clinton Duffy. A recent re-release article is available from AA Archives via a Grapevine re-print.
From the July 1948 *Grapevine*:
Indianapolis A.A’s Open Club; A three story brick building, used during the war as the USO Center, is now the new Alanon Club of Indianapolis. The clubhouse is complete with a large room for dancing, lounges and coffee and sandwich bar, equipped with a brass rail so that the members will feel at home. The opening was attended by approximately 500 members and friends. The clubrooms are open at all times and groups from all parts of the city hold meetings there.

The **Alanon Club** served as a recovery social center, AA meeting location and Center for AA business activities, including a telephone service. It was supported by AA meetings around the state and was known simply as the Alanon Club. It was one of the first AA Intergroup Offices in the United States. The 124 Georgia Street location served as a Central Office from 1948 to 1955. This building was razed and is now a parking garage.

Above is an aerial view of the corner of Capital Avenue and Georgia Street taken in 1965.
The American Weekly, August 14, 1949, Help For Alcoholics reports on the use of the Answering Service.
Q. Why do A.A. members use tokens, medallions, and chips to mark sobriety? When did that practice start?

A. The chip system is thought to have begun in Indianapolis in 1942. The tradition is believed to have started with Doherty S., who introduced A.A. to Indianapolis and who said in a letter to Bill that the practice originated in that city.

Nell Wing wrote in 1962 about the history of the chip system: “The chip system might have begun in Indianapolis…. reference was made in a letter from Doherty to the start of giving out ‘chips’ and ‘tokens.’ This was in 1942. I imagine this would be about right, because most of the early groups started in 1940 and it would take about a couple of years to think of anniversaries and marking any time of sobriety. I asked Bill about this and his memory is that the system started in Indianapolis.”

In Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, it indicates that Sister Ignatia in Akron, working at St. Thomas Hospital, also used medallions: “Sister Ignatia gave each of her newly released patients a Sacred Heart medallion, which she asked them to return before they took the first drink. She would occasionally give out St. Christopher medals as well.” (page 195).

We don’t know precisely who started this system, or when and how it spread to other groups. As with many things in A.A., the exact nature of the history eludes us.

(From the Markings newsletter Spring 2008)
Sister Ignatia gave these medallions to newly released alcoholic patients of St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio.

Clarence S. Coin Token

Richmond, IN
Group Tom Ross
One Year Token
Nov. 6, 1951

This printing of the Serenity Prayer is from an issue of the New York Tribune in 1941.
Hotels that held the Sunday Morning Breakfast Meeting

Hotel Antlers, 1947

Hotel Warren, 1958
The After 1948 Directory of Meetings Listed Hotel Riley & Hotel Warren as having a 9:00 A.M. Sunday Breakfast Meeting.
Hotel Severin / Buffet & Dining Room
Akron Pamphlets circ 1941
THE TWELVE STEPS
THAT CONSTITUTE THE A.A. PROGRAM

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and practice these principles in all our affairs.
WHAT IS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

There is nothing occult or mysterious about Alcoholics Anonymous. They avoid 1 drink (the last one) one day at a time.

Man in his extremity has ever turned to God. This is the alcoholic's situation, facing as he does, the mental and physical anguish of the recurring hang-over and the grave danger of loss of reason — even death.

But with Alcoholics Anonymous the turning to God is an individual and voluntary thing, and God is as each individual may understand Him. The movement, Alcoholics Anonymous, is not a sect, or cult, or ism. And does not conflict in any way with accustomed religious beliefs and practices. These are never even discussed among us.

It is not an "organization" in the ordinary sense, because it has no constitution, by-laws, officers or fixed meeting place.

It is a close-knit Group of individual alcoholics who wish to spread their knowledge of alcoholism because in doing so they, themselves, stay sober. This is the experience of some 90,000 to 100,000 recovering alcoholics.

The "A. A." Program is in twelve steps. The weekly meetings are not The Program — they are merely a part of the performance of the 12th Step.

Experience is both abundant and convincing that adherence to the 12-step program is rewarded with complete sobriety, but adherence must be voluntary. There is no record anywhere of an alcoholic recovering from addiction to alcohol against his will.

There is, therefore, no effort on the part of Alcoholics Anonymous to "sell" this Program. It is entirely a program of self discipline, and no one is entitled to expect more from the Group than honest information about the application of such self-discipline and what it has already accomplished for those who apply it with a sincere desire to recover.

Experience is very definite that alcoholics do not recover "by proxy," and that no amount of wishful thinking has ever substituted for work in this workaday world.

Indianapolis Group of Alcoholics Anonymous
P. O. Box 1474 Phone FR. 2743

Purpose: To be a dependable source of information on recovery from alcoholism. To make the information as broadly available as possible to men who have an alcoholic problem and seek a solution. To lend encouragement and confidence to those seeking a way out of what seems to them a hopeless mess. To give them the benefit of association with many who are following the Program successfully. To keep sober, ourselves, by doing these things.

Progress: At this writing (Sept. 1947) the group is 7 years old, has about 500 members, of whom more than 200 have been total abstainers from 1 to 7 years.

Not associated with any religious group.
No medical advice given by members.
No exhortation practiced.
Not in any sense a "reform" movement — no quarrel with liquor, nor with those who sell it, nor with those who drink it.

The A.A. Program is a step-by-step statement of the actual experience of sixty thousand persons who have used it successfully during the past ten years. It was developed by the "trial and error" method by men determined to free themselves of an addiction to a drug. It operates JUST ONE DAY AT A TIME.
Alcoholics Anonymous

No pledges are given or taken. The A.A. Program is strictly one of "self-imposed" discipline, so mild as to require the utmost in regularity to make it effective, but not nourished by promises.

No attempt is made by members to diagnose either the existence or the extent of addiction in another that is considered each one's individual responsibility.

No dues or fees; the expense of telephone service and P. O. Box rent is met by members' contributions, limited to 25¢, at weekly meetings.

No compulsory attendance, nor Group-imposed discipline, no officers, nor formal organization, nor "files," nor records.

Meetings: 12 meetings of various sections of the group each week; 1 or more every evening—for time and place call FR. 2743. General, all-section meeting is a 9 o'clock breakfast in the Antlers Hotel, Sunday mornings. A.A.'s from other cities welcome.

Contact with the Group (by either mail or telephone) should be made by the individual having the problem. Where this is not possible, and the initial contact is made by another, the Group avoids any continuing "progress reports" to family or friends of members.

Anonymity is carefully preserved, not as a cloak of concealment for members, but because experience has shown it necessary to a successful approach to prospective members. Equal care is taken to preserve the anonymity of inquirers. Any mailed replies to inquiries are enclosed in plain envelopes. No records are kept.

Members, once started on the Program, are proud, alike, of their effort and their associates in it. Time and abstinence tend to increase this feeling.

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous do not believe there is (in the present state of knowledge) a cure for alcoholism—a cure in the sense that an alcoholic can ever hope to be a "social drinker" again—but they know it is possible to be a non-drinking alcoholic and live a normal, useful life.

Families of prospective members are often apprehensive about calling in total strangers in what has almost always become a "touchy" situation. For their reassurance be it stated the words Alcoholic and Drunkard are not synonymous. A non-drinking alcoholic is as trustworthy as any other non-drinking person—and much more understanding of the complexities arising from drink.

There is not a "thin dime" of money in this undertaking for anybody. It is well to remember that.

It is well to remember, too, that the prospect (at the time of the initial call) is usually no "rose geranium." A little humility, all around, is a very effective antidote for humiliation.

This is a general statement for general distribution. It does not imply a personal interest on the part of anyone receiving it.

But it could save a life.

We know of A.A.'s (some in Groups) in these other Indiana towns; upon request, we will ask them to contact any inquirer in their vicinity... usually they are glad to: Anderson, Angola, Bedford, Bloomington, Connersville, Columbus, Crawfordsville, Danville, Dale, East Chicago, Elkhart, Evansville, Ft. Wayne, Franklin, Goshen, Greenfield, Hammond, Huron, Jasper, Jeffersonville, Kendallville, Kokomo, LaFayette, LaPorte, Logansport, Marion, Mishawaka, Mitchell, Muncie, New Albany, New Castle, Noblesville, North Webster, Oakland City, Richmond, Seymour, Shelbyville, South Bend, Spencer, Terre Haute, Vincennes, Wabash and Warsaw.
YOU MAY BE ASKING THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

What is A. A.?
What does the A. A. organization do—how does it operate?
What kind of people are the A. A. Members?
Why should I be invited to join?
What does it cost me?

That Word “ALCOHOLIC”

First let us clear up the meaning of the word ‘alcoholic’ as we use the word here. The word alcoholic means anyone whose drinking means misery, sickness, regret, despondency, lost opportunities, unhappy family relationships and grief and trouble in general. By ‘alcoholic’ we mean anyone whose body chemistry is such that they are supersensitive to the effects of alcohol. An alcoholic is any one whose body chemistry makes moderate, social drinking impossible. Just as a hay fever victim is allergic to certain dusts and pollens—just as some people are allergic to certain foods—just as the skin of some people is allergic to contact with wool or nylon—THE ALCOHOLIC IS ALLERGIC TO ALCOHOL. It is not a question of moral depravity. The alcoholic is not an unregenerate scoundrel. The alcoholic has an allergy—something the alcoholic and the public in general does not recognize nor understand until it is properly explained.
“The late C.L.B. of Ft. Wayne told me two years ago that his wife read the 1941 *Saturday Evening Post* and ordered the Big Book which he refused to read, until he had been practically forced to enter the Keeley Institute, taking the book with him.

Returning home he tried to interest others, without much success. On December 7, 1941, the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Mr. B and three other Ft. Wayne problem drinkers attended the Indianapolis breakfast and soon afterwards started a similar gathering in the Allen County seat. Pearl Harbor was only incidental, of course, but out of Ft. Wayne came the beginning of many other groups in northeastern Indiana.”
Early Meeting Places in Fort Wayne and a Post Response

C. L. B.’s Fort Wayne Home
2109 Florida Drive

Fort Wayne’s Alconon Group meets at YMCA

The Drunkard’s Best Friend by Jack Alexander

Reading your article in the Post tonight [THE DRUNKARD’S BEST FRIEND, by Jack Alexander, Apr. 1] got me so nostalgic I had to write the first fan letter of my career.

I think, without a doubt, that it was the most outstanding and understanding article on Alcoholics Anonymous I have ever read, and far better than any talk I have ever heard. It doesn’t seem possible that a nonalcoholic could have such a delicate understanding of the program itself, and also understand the intrafellowship...
Two men, an Engineer who worked in Sales and a Factory Owner, started the South Bend group. Joseph “Soo” C. had gotten sober by attending A.A. meetings when he was working in Buffalo, New York. But when he was transferred to the South Bend area, he slipped back into drinking. He sought out a psychiatrist in South Bend, who had read the Jack Alexander article on A.A., and encouraged Soo to join with another of his patients who was an alcoholic, a factory-owner named Kenneth M., in forming an A.A. group there in town.

So how did Soo and Ken finally decide to take their psychiatrist’s advice? They met in a bar one evening and after splitting a large bottle between them said drunkenly, “Yeah, sure, let’s start an A.A. group”! But they actually did it. The next morning, February 22, 1943, they got up, they stayed sober, and neither of them ever drank again. Soo’s apartment at 128 S. Scott in South Bend was the contact address given to the New York office, but Soo died during the summer of 1944, and Ken M. became the principal message carrier in the South Bend area.

Groups in Elkhart, Goshen, Mishawaka, and Michigan City credit there beginnings to South Bend.
War Increases Problems Of Alcoholics Anonymous

High Salaries and Letdown in Restraint Cause Some "Backsliding"

The war is presenting its problems to Alcoholics Anonymous, a branch of which was formed here several years ago, in more ways than one.

The local group which meets one night weekly in a downtown club room, discussed these problems at a meeting this week.

The temptations to "backslide" are more numerous with the war workers' high salaries and the tempo of war times.

The number of potential members has increased because of the high wages which has put more money in the pocket of the potential members who cannot "take it or let it alone."

Home Meetings Set

Gasoline rationing and "swing shifts" in industries have made it increasingly difficult for members to attend the weekly meetings which are an essential part of the AA program.

The meetings, attendance at which is now almost impossible for the members from surrounding towns in the area because of the lack of transportation, is being met in different ways, one member explained.

Home meetings, at which smaller groups go through the same informal discussions, are being used by some of the isolated members in the Tri-State area. Others attend the group meetings here less often, and many of them make a long distance call to report that they are still "on the wagon" and following the program.

Others write letters, one of which from an Illinois woman was read at a meeting this week.

"I have received more help and comfort," she wrote, "from the AA than anything else I have ever tried." She told of her husband's abstinence from alcohol despite the worry and confusion brought on by the war, and how she is now working with two "rummies" in her home town.

The "share ride" program has also been developed to make attendance at the meetings possible.

"Slip" Only Temporary

The fact that many members have "money in the pocket" formerly not available, plus the slackening of restraint during the war times has resulted in "backsliding" temporarily of a few members, one of the AA's said, but none has been lost, the "slips" being only temporary.

The AA group members are anxious to contact the many newcomers and new "rummies" in the city who need their help but do not know of the program or how to contact the group, which of necessity must remain completely anonymous. The local AA's have obtained a post office box, No. 211, and a letter to that box in Evansville will bring a call from a member who himself was formerly a "dead drunk" who regained control of himself through the simple AA program. But the group leaders emphasize that they are not interested in any "run pot" who is not himself or herself ready and anxious for their help. They also are not interested in the drinker who is not a "not" for they realize "we are persons for whom liquor is a disease, we can't drink and stop, we may drink for years when we drink at all."

Informality Prevails

The AA meeting is a most informal affair. A "leader" is chosen for each meeting. He offers a short prayer for aid in their efforts to quit drinking; he gives a short dissertation on the movement, usually building it up about his own experiences with alcohol and how he was able to overcome the "disease" through the AA program.

The discussion is then turned over to the group members. The philosophy of the AA, experiences of their own and their work with potential or new members are discussed back and forth. Tolerance is the key note of these discussions. They are not "drunks" in the accepted sense of the word. They just believe the man who cannot handle liquor without destruction of his financial, moral and physical life should be left alone entirely, and when he wants to quit they want to help him.

"Convert" Speaks

One man in the discussion at this week's meeting, told how he sought help when he finally realized he was about ready for "a trip to the graveyard," and was given the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" and sat down with a pint of liquor to read it. All except two drinks are still in that pint, he said, and almost one year has elapsed.

After the discussion, run down, the group is dismissed, a leader chosen for the next meeting, makes small contributions to pay for the club room. There are no officers of the group. They do have a secretary to keep track of correspondence and paying bills, but that is all.

Persons interested are asked to contact the AA group through Post Office Box 211, Evansville, Ind.
March 7, 1944
Bill W. Speaks in Evansville

Evansville Press

National Officers Speak At Alcoholic Anonymous

Evansville members of Alcoholics Anonymous heard the story of the national organization Tuesday night from William Wilson, founder, and Miss Bobby Burns, secretary, both of New York. They attended the weekly meeting of the local organization.

"We are not reformers," Mr. Wilson emphasized, "and we offer experience only to those who want it."

"Our approach to alcoholism is based upon our own drinking experience; what we have learned from medicine and psychiatry, and upon the spiritual principles common to all creeds. By combining these resources, the recovery rate among alcoholics who want to stop has been greatly increased."

In the nine years of its activity, Alcoholics Anonymous has aided 15,000 members in 280 cities.

Local drinkers who desire to free themselves of the practice are invited to write Post Office Box 211, Evansville, for complete information and help.

Founder Addresses Alcoholics Anonymous

Bill Wilson Explains Aims of National Organization: Aid Drunkards

Bill Wilson, founder, and Miss Bobby Burns, secretary of Alcoholics Anonymous, both of New York, attended the weekly meeting of Evansville Alcoholics Anonymous last night.

This organization has accomplished a great deal in turning men and women from the use of alcohol into sobriety in the nine years of its life. It now has 15,000 members in 280 cities who one time were drinkers.

"We are not reformers, we offer experience only to those who want it," Mr. Wilson explained in his address before the Evansville group.

"Our approach to alcoholism is based upon our own drinking experience: what we have learned from medicine and psychiatry, and upon the spiritual principles common to all creeds. By combining these resources, the recovery rate among alcoholics who want to stop, has been greatly increased."

Evansville Courier
March 8, 1944

Alcoholism as Illness

"We think of alcoholism as an illness: an obsession of the mind coupled to an 'allergy' of the body. It is a shattering sickness: physical, emotional and spiritual. How to expel the obsession that compels us to drink against our will, is the problem of every alcoholic. The only requirement for membership in this organization, is a honest desire to stop drinking," he explained.

Alcoholics Anonymous has the approval of clergymen of all creeds and in recent years has gained wide publicity in newspapers and magazines for its accomplishments.

Members of the organization, all former drinkers, apply the psychology of their own experience in assisting those who want it.

"Members of Alcoholics Anonymous do not pursue or condone a frightening prospect and they know the strange tricks of an alcoholic as well as the reformed drinker knows his art," Mr. Wilson said.

Weekly meetings are held in Evansville by the organization and an invitation is extended to all with desire to quit drinking to contact the group.

Help can be done by writing Post Office Box 211, Evansville.
A. A.
Tradition

“Our experience has taught us...”

An A.A. Publication
Published by WORKS PUBLISHING, Inc.
P.O. Box 459 (Grand Central Annex) New York 17, N. Y.
(Permission A.A. Grapevine, Inc.)

THE SOCIETY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
WILLIAM W., Co-founder

Republished from THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY,
Vol. 106, No. 5, November, 1949

AN A.A. PUBLICATION
Published by WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.
P.O. Box 459 (Grand Central Annex) New York 17, N. Y.
What is the Alcoholic Foundation? The Alcoholic Foundation, legally speaking, is a non-profit membership corporation. Actually, the Foundation is in effect a general service board for the A.A. movement. The Alcoholic Foundation has a board of fifteen Trustees—sixteen non-alcoholic friends of A.A. and seven A.A. members. All Trustees serve without compensation. Organized in 1939, the Foundation is the outgrowth of a small committee of interested friends who gave Dr. Bob and Bill national assistance in the early years. Several of these friends served A.A. as Trustees ever since.

What is the Alcoholic Foundation doing? The duties of the Foundation are essentially auxiliary. It is the connection of our A.A. tradition. It handles national and international publicity and public relations. It guarantees the financial and institutional integrity of The A. A. Grapevine, our principal monthly journal. It issues Works Publishing, Inc., and through it, the book Alcoholics Anonymous. It supervises the printing and distribution of the book and also our standard pamphlet literature. The Alcoholic Foundation is the receiver of voluntary A.A. Group contributions by which A.A. maintains its General Service Office in New York City.

The Work of the General Service Office: The main job of the General Service Office is to carry the message to other alcoholics—"the millions of alcoholics we don't know." In the United States and in other countries, in 1949 the General Service Staff of 19 professional alcoholics and one "most"-recovered 120,000 letters and sent 12,650 letters in an A.A. printed and 1,000,000 pamphlets and 9,000,000 copies of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, one 1939 edition. In 1949, the Alcoholic Foundation distributed $120,000 to new Groups in the United States and Canada, and corresponded with many of them, and still found time to initiate, encourage, and guide the development of A.A. Groups in foreign countries. Sixty-five such new foreign Groups were registered in 1949.

How the General Service Office is supported: The Alcoholic Foundation is a voluntary and voluntary organization. To support the work of the General Service Office, the receipt of these funds, the Alcoholic Foundation assumes the task of distributing the a few, the General Service Office has to raise funds. Contributions from the General Service Office Office and from foreign countries. Sixty-five such new foreign Groups were registered in 1949.

The Groups: By consent of the Groups, the Foundation acts as custodian, adviser, and agent in national and international public relations. MONIES are contributed by Groups to the Foundation for the maintenance of the General Service Office.

TRADITIONS arising out of Group experiences are transmitted to the Foundation, for publication, comedy, and red paper and inter-Group expression.

More Early Pamphlets from Works Publishing

Jack Alexander Article
Pamphlet

1949 Pamphlet

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Freed Slaves of Drink, Now They Free Others

By Jack Alexander

REMEMBER the bed of an alcoholic patient in the psychopathic ward of Philadelphia General Hospital ere a few weeks ago. The man in the bed, who was a complete stranger to them, had been drawn and slightly emaciated. Yet when he was brought into the ward, his eyes lit up. The only thing that was noteworthy about the whole, except for the obvious contrast between the well-groomed appearance of the doctor and theMil in the bed, was the contrast between the two figures. The doctor in the bed felt that he would like to see one of them again, they told him, but only in a telephonic call.

The patient who was brought in was a mechanic. His visiting hours were at Princeton, Yale and Pennsylvania and even by occupation, an automaker, he was a patient man. Less than a year before, he had been in hospital in the same ward. One of his companions had been the man who is known among alcoholics as a sanitarium roommate. He had moved from place to place, believing the press of the country’s leading institutions for the treatment of alcoholism. The other had spent twenty years of life in an outside institution wall, making life miserable for himself, his family and his employer, as well as unkindly well-meaning relations who had had the temerity to intervene.

The aim of this book is to explain the paradox of alcoholism, an epidemic disease, and to give examples of how hospitals sometimes use to taper off the paralyzing drinker and soon their own, creating new problems. Such is the story of a patient who was told to go home and could not be trusted to do so. One of medicine's

Medicine Looks at Alcoholics Anonymous

(Reprints of paper presented to the MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE of NEW YORK and the AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION)

An A.A. Publication

Published by WORKS PUBLISHING, Inc.

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Sedatives Pamphlets

1948 Pamphlet

Sedatives

Are they an A.A. problem?

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1952 by Alcoholic Foundation

SEDATIVES
and the
ALCOHOLIC

ANDERSON CENTRAL GROUP
P. O. BOX 326
TELEPHONE 4465
A. A. for THE WOMAN

THE ALCOHOLIC EMPLOYEE
Alcoholics Anonymous Aid Sincere Among Drunkards

By HELEN FERGUSON AND NELSON W. NEAL
United Press Staff Correspondents
One of Indiana's most successful and popular advertising executives sat across the table from us, explaining the personal philosophy that pulled him from where he called "the depths of the gutter" to the responsible position he now holds.

The 60-year-old gentleman with the sparkling eyes and the crisp sense of humor was the secretary of the largest of Indiana's 25 chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous. At the dinner table he explained that Indiana's underground force of more than 1,500 A.A. members number almost as many women as it does men.

"THERE ISN'T A member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Indiana or any other place in America who at one time or another hasn't lost almost complete control of his life," he said. "But there are thousands who have regained their self-control, self-respect and the respect of their families and communities merely by applying our simple form of psychology."

Indiana's A.A.s operate on the theory that once a person realizes that he has a number of friends pulling for him and giving him the courage he needs to throw off chronic alcoholism, he will think twice before letting them down. Later we met and talked with some 40 former chronic alcoholics who said they now live normal, happy lives. Many said lives. Many said lives.

A silver-haired, motherly old lady was in charge of a club party and hayride. A pretty, but nervous, young woman was chairman. She said she was driven to drink by a lack of self-confidence.

"DRINKING GAVE me a false sense of courage," the attractive brunette said. "I joined Alcoholics Anonymous a few months ago to get back on my feet the fighting way. They made me chairman to help me regain and self-control before a crowd of people."

A pretty, young blond, who had taken her last drink seven months ago, said she desperately wanted a tall, cool bourbon and coke.

"But I don't care," she said. "That's the way I got started the last time. My program calls for giving up one drink every day -- the first one."

"Here you see what A.A. is fighting for," our host said. "Our only weapon is will power. Drugs and sanitariums are out of our line."

Members who have maintained a strict record of sobriety over long periods of time remain with the club. They sponsor new members, taking them in hand as personal friends.

"It takes an alcoholic to understand an alcoholic," the Indianapolis secretary said. "In a year or so maybe the shaky newcomer will earn a sponsor's medal and with it the responsibility of helping others like him to a higher level."

INDIANAPOLIS has four such A.A. clubs, one of them with 350 members. Fort Wayne has three chapters; Warsaw has two.

In seven years new clubs have mushroomed in Muncie, Columbus, Indianapolis, Gary, LaPorte, Gary, Plymouth, South Bend, Terre Haute, Marion and many other cities and towns.

"Alcoholism is a disease of the mind and has to be treated by the mind," said the advertising executive. "It can't be overcome unless the alcoholic first frankly admits to himself and to others that he's drunk."

"We don't go out after him. If he's sincere, he'll come to us. Whatever he does up to the time he joins A.A. is his business. After that, it's ours."
Homes For Treatment of Alcoholics

New Alcoholics Home to Open Here Tomorrow

A new Indianapolis home for treatment of alcoholics will open tomorrow morning at 840 E. 65th.

Built and supported by individual Indianapolis businessmen, it will be called Indianapolis Haven Inc., and will have a resident medical doctor and psychiatrist.

Nurses and attendants trained at the state hospital at Logansport also are employed.

The home, capable of caring for 12 persons, is housed in a remodeled 2-story building.

Indianapolis News
May 23, 1957

Indianapolis News
July 5, 1950

WIDOW'S GIFT TO ALCOHOLICS

Haven of Drink Addicts Invites Public to Call

Turn of a widow's interest into alcoholism after two of her friends became associated with Alcoholics Anonymous, the Retreat was established in 1946 after its founder determined that only one other sanatorium for alcoholism here was affiliated with AA and that it was frequently overcrowded.

To benefit from the AA program, which gives alcoholics a chance to rehabilitate themselves through association with former alcoholics, the founder felt that patients first must undergo physical rehabilitation.

This she provides at the Retreat, coordinating that with the AA program.

The Retreat is incorporated and operated by an AA member.
Three Part Series on The Indiana Home
Indianapolis News Front Page Articles: April 23, 24, 25, 1951

A WAY IF THERE'S A WILL

There's Help for Drunk Who Asks It

This is the first in a series of articles on the Indiana Home, Inc., and its approach to the problem of alcoholism.

By FREMONT POWER

When I first saw the man who will be called Bill, he was lying on the floor, passed out.

His face was putty like that of a man who had been fighting and coughing, but had just finished smoking.

One eye was open, the other closed, and his lower jaw sagged.

He was in a room with three half-plants to a fifth of whisky.

The nurses were attending to him as they did to the other patients.

Bill had come to the Indiana Home, 1341 N. Alabama St., in search of help.

He was an alcoholic for whose drinking no longer was a pleasure, but on the contrary made him sick, troubled him, with "the heat" and in general was ruining his life.

WAY SOUGHT OUT OF ALCOHOLIC TRAP

Fortunately, Bill had enough sense left to know what was happening to him. And so he had come that morning in the depths of despair, hoping that somehow he would find a way out of the alcoholic trap into which he had fallen.

When an attendant opened the door, he smelled an odor which made him nauseated, and compounded it was apparent that Bill was not well.

Bill had been given a shot of this in a glass and it had quieted him down. He was no longer an attendant.

"You'll stay out here for a while," he said, "and then you'll be back." He then left the room.

The Word went out to the house and he was somewhat relieved.

TEMPTATION WHIPPED, SORER PATIENT DECLARES

Bill said he wanted to stop drinking.

He had never been able to drink in the past without getting drunk.

He had been drinking for years.

Bill had been in the room before he was brought back.

He was given a shot of something common to alcoholics when sober.

Bill sat on the edge of his chair when he was brought in.

His face had the clean-shaven look of one who has just shaved.

"You could stand up right beside me and take a drink... " I would never drink, " he said.

"I feel good, satiny like a horse."

Bill had made it clear that he was not a happy alcoholic to make convenient pledges about abstaining.

But the man whose stomach no longer tolerated even plain water, Jello water may be given by mouth, followed later on by one effective course of medication.

In six days, Bill was ready to go out and face the world, resolved never to have another drink.

NEW: Bill got that way.

For a man accustomed to taking up to a fifth of liquor a day, this was somewhat of a feat, coming on a night when no, Bill could be expected to be building up to the week's biggest whisky "mingling."

But his whistling, loud that night, may have been a bit eased by the fact that he was among other men who also had fallen into the trap of alcoholism.

Bill was attending a meeting of Alcoholic Anonymous at the Indiana Home, No. 1341 N. Alabama St.

Three days before, he had left the home, where for six days, he had undergone a detoxification which had cost him $50.

During that time, he had a chance to get a look at himself and how he had behaved.

He had not had a drink during the last three days as a patient there and so by the time of the Thursday night AA meeting, when coffee is always the main refreshment, Bill had a six-day record of abstinence.

That's the longest Bill had been without a drink for 10 years.

If he keeps coming back to the AA meetings and taking an active part, the chances are about one in three that he will win his battle without a single reversal.

If he slips but tries to win out again, he still has a one-in-three chance eventually.

But however it may come out, the home and AA will be ready to help him whenever he is ready.

The home grew out of the conviction of several AA members that their program needed a place where the sobering up process could be dovetailed with the AA approach to alcoholism.

The property at 1341 N. Alabama St., which already had been an alcoholic institution, was taken over in 1949 by a group of people who believed in the institution and who were among those making contributions toward original purchase of the property.

In order that all commercial aspects be removed from the home, the corporation associated with the home, the Indiana Home, Inc., the non-profit institution is governed by a board of directors. The members of the board are professionally trained, and the non-profit organization is supported by the efforts of volunteers.

The men then surrendered their shares for a reorganization whereby any apparent connection between AA and such ownership of the home, AA, and the home and the Indian Home, Inc., the non-profit institution is governed by a board of directors. The members of the board are professionally trained, and the non-profit organization is supported by the efforts of volunteers.

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AA Founder to Address Meeting Here

J. Edgar, president of the national committee of the Anti-Alcoholics Anonymous, has several chapters of the organization which thrive in South Bend, Fort Wayne, Evansville, and Terre Haute. Wilson, principal speaker at the meeting, will be the subject of an interesting chapter in a book entitled, "Alcoholics Anonymous." The book contains, in detail, the transition of one of the members of the organization from a hopeless alcoholic to bettering himself.

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

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.
Indiana State Convention in Indianapolis 1954 & 1955

First Indiana AA State Convention Indianapolis Star May 8 & 9, 1954

2nd Indiana State A.A. Convention May 7 & 8, 1955
This Is NOT The End!
This Is Only A Beginning!!

“Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of the past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you - - - until then.”