

# Big Book Annotation

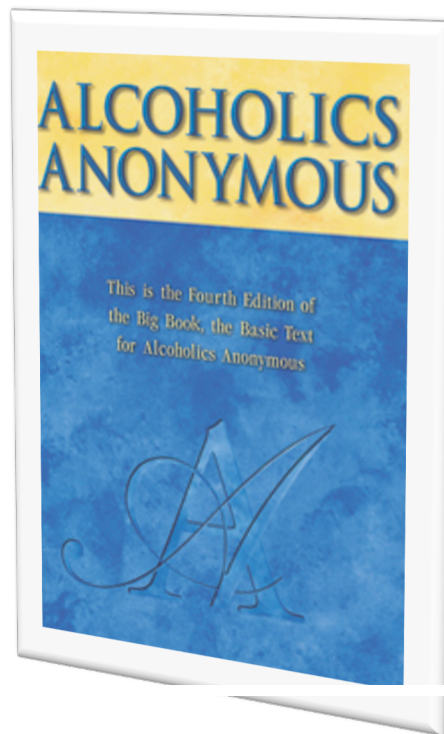
## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Fourth Edition

*Lesser-known details from our "basic text"*

*Preface, Forwards, The Doctor's Opinion, The First 164 Pages,  
and Personal Stories*

*By Tim B.*



**Revised July 2021**

**PREFACE-** Nov / 2001 (p-xi)

**Page-xi, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "...basic text..."

*In the context of codified concepts to be used as a reference book.*

**Page-xi, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "...the first portion of this volume, describing the A.A. recovery program, has been left largely untouched..."

*This is referring to the first 164 pages in which only minor changes have occurred since publication of the First Edition in 1939. Not all 4<sup>th</sup> editions contain the qualification, "largely". It was added in 2006. I am working from a Fifteenth Printing, 2009.*

**FOREWARD TO FIRST EDITION-** April / 1939 (p-xiii)

**Page-xiii, 1st paragraph-** "...one hundred men and women..."

*At the time of the manuscript going to print several women were sober. Of the total members counted, approximately 40 achieved permanent sobriety.*

**FOREWARD TO SECOND EDITION-** 1955 (p-xv)

**Page-xv, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...New York stockbroker and an Akron physician."



*Referring to both Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith.*

**Page-xvi, 1<sup>st</sup> line-** "...an alcoholic friend..."



*Edwin (Ebby) Thacher.*

**Page-xvi, 2<sup>nd</sup> line-** "...**Oxford Groups of that day.**"

*The Oxford Group was an international non-denominational Christian religious movement. Founded by Frank Buchman and assisted in America by Rev. Sam Shoemaker. Rev. Shoemaker was Rector of Calvary Church, NYC.*



Frank Buchman (Lutheran)



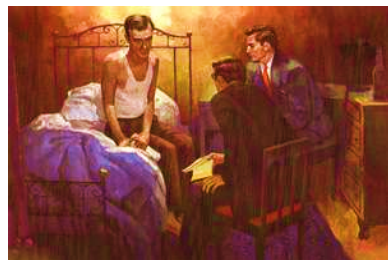
Sam Shoemaker (Episcopalian)

**Page-xvii, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "**Their very first case...**"

*Eddie Reilly was most likely their first and Dr. Roy H. McKay the second. Dr. McKay never achieved permanent sobriety, but Eddie Reilly eventually did. Eddie attended Dr. Bob's funeral sober in 1950 and remained that way. However, here the Big Book authors are referring to Bill Dotson, Alcoholic Anonymous Number Three, aka, "Man on the Bed".*



Bill Dotson



"Man on the Bed"



Eddie Reilly



Dr. McKay's House, Akron

**Page-xvii, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "...**1937 with a start of a third at Cleveland.**"

*Clarence Snyder, author of "The Home Brewmeister" started the third group in Cleveland. His story can still be read in [Experience, Strength and Hope](#).*



Clarence Snyder

**Page-xvii, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...about 100 men and **women.**"

Some early women were: Jane Sturdevant -Feb/37, Florence Rankin-Sept/37, Edith Scott-Jan/38, Hazel Cloos-Mar/39, Marty Mann-Apr/39, Sylvia Kauffman-Sept/39 and Helen Penhale-Sept/39

Florence Rankin was responsible for the Big Book not being called One Hundred Men. At the point the book was about to go to print in 1939 she had 1 year continuous sobriety and had proven the Program was effective for women too. Subsequently, the title Alcoholics Anonymous was agreed upon. Although, she eventually drank again and died in 1943. Her story "A Feminine Victory" can still be read in Experience, Strength and Hope.



*Florence Rankin's Headstone*

**FOREWORD TO THIRD EDITION-** March / 1976 (p-xxii)

*The first Foreword to not be written by Bill Wilson as he passed in Jan 1971. Note the difference in tone and length.*

**FOREWORD TO FOURTH EDITION-** November / 2001 (p-xxiii)

**The Doctor's Opinion-** (p-xxv)

*Written by Dr. William D. Silkworth.*

**Page-xxv, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "...was an alcoholic of a type I had come to regard as hopeless."

*Dr. Silkworth is referring to Bill Wilson.*



Bill Wilson



Lois Burnham



WW1



College



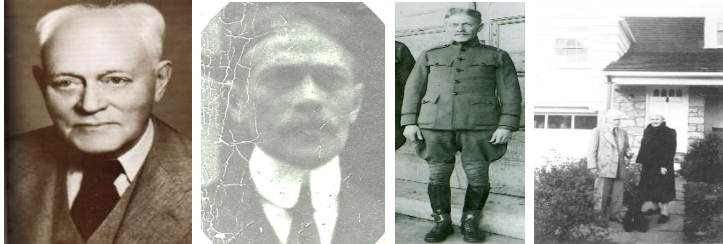
H.S.



Young Bill

**Page-xxvii, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "I say this after many years' experience as Medical Director..."

*By 1939, Silkworth had already been at Towns Hospital for approximately 9 years.*



Dr. Silkworth circa 1910 WW1 N.J. home w/wife, Marie

Later in life they lived in Manhattan at 45 W81st St. He died of heart failure on 3/22/51.

**Page-xxvii, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "Many years ago one of the leading contributors to this book..."

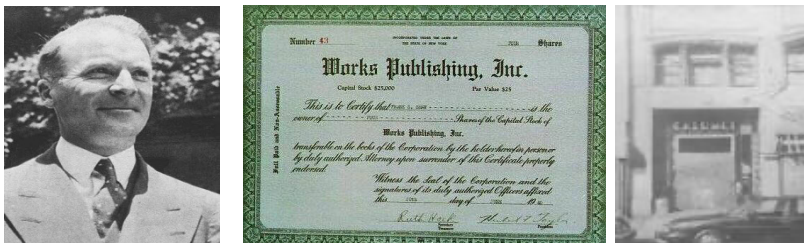
*Referring to Bill Wilson.*

**Page-xxviii, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "We believe, and so suggested a few years ago..."

*Dr. Silkworth wrote an article for the medical journal, Medical Record, on March 17<sup>th</sup> 1937, titled Alcoholism as a Manifestation of an Allergy.*

**Page-xxxii, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "Gastric Hemorrhage, pathological mental deterioration"

*Referring to Hank Parkhurst, who wrote "The Unbeliever", which appears in the First Edition of the Big Book and also the chapter "To Employers". Could also be considered an editor of the Big Book. He was the architect of the stock certificate idea (Works Publishing) to raise money for the Big Book's first printing.*



Hank Parkhurst Stock Certificate Hank's Office in Newark, N.J.

**Page-xxxii, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "The patient had made his own diagnosis, and deciding his situation hopeless, had hid in a deserted barn..."

*Fitz Mayo, "Our Southern Friend". Founder of A.A. Washington DC.*



Fitz Mayo



J.H. FITZHUGH MAYO Headstone

### **Bill's Story**

*Bill Wilson- DOS, Dec / 34.*

*A.A. Co-Founder. Born in East Dorset, VT in 1895. Stockbroker.*

**Page-1, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph- "...New England town..."**

*New Bedford, Massachusetts. Bill was stationed at Fort Rodman awaiting to be shipped out to England.*

**Page-1, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph- "...I discovered liquor..."**

*Bill's first drink of hard liquor, 1917. He had several Bronx Cocktails and got drunk and sick. This occurred at a party at the Grinnell Mansion.*



**Page-1, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph- "...had not the men of my battery given me a special token of appreciation?"**



*The Ring*

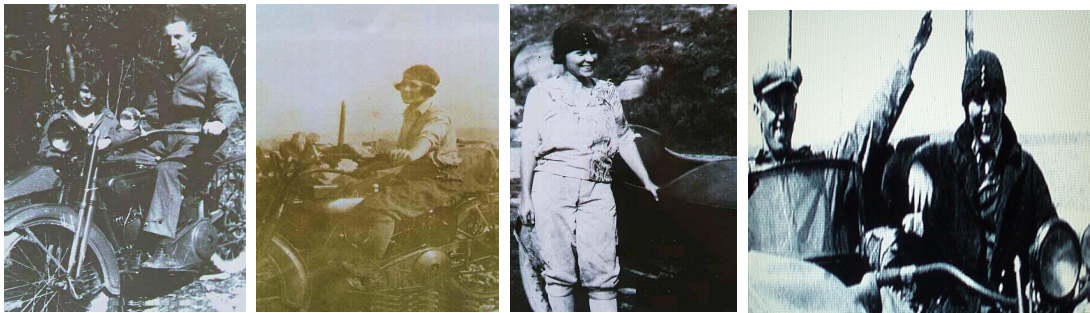
*Bill Wilson was given a watch, chain and ring.*

**Page-2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "I took a night law course..."

*Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY.*

**Page-2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...off we roared on a motorcycle, the sidecar stuffed..."

*April, 1925*



*Bill and Lois Wilson with their Harley-Davidson.*

**Page-2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "...disturbed my wife".

*Lois Wilson*



*Lois Wilson (Burnham)*

**Page-3, top of page-** "...but we once worked on a farm for a month..."

Goldfoot Dairy Farm, Scotia, NY (near Schenectady). Ella Goldfoot had two sons who both worked at General Electric. Bill was able to get a tour of inside the plant and made a report back to N.Y. about the companies' positive future potential.

**Page-3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "There were many unhappy scenes in our sumptuous apartment."

*38 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY*

**Page-4, 2<sup>nd</sup> line-** "...the exclusive course which inspired awe in me as a lad".

*EKWANOK COUNTRY CLUB, Manchester, VT.*



**Page-4, 1st paragraph-** "...XYZ-32."

*Was a company named Penick & Ford (Corn Products Co.)*



**Page-4, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "...I telephoned a friend in Montreal"



*Dick Johnson, a partner at Greenshield's and Co., a Canadian brokerage house.*

**Page-4, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "We went to live with my wife's parents".

*Dr. Clark Burnham (Gynecologist) and Mrs. Matilda Burnham (Spellman).*



*The Burnham brownstone at 182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn Heights, NY.*

**Page-4, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "My wife began to work in a department store..."

*Worked in Macy's 1930 (a few years later worked in a less upmarket store, Loeser's)*

**Page-5, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...I had somehow formed a group to buy."

*A. Wheeler & F. Winans*

**Page-7, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "My brother-in-law is a physician..."

*Dr. Leonard Strong (married Bill's younger sister, Dorothy).*



*Dr. Leonard Strong and headstone (East Dorset, VT)*

**Page-7, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "...I was placed in a nationally-known hospital..."



*Charles Towns*

*Charles B. Towns Hospital, 292 & 293 Central Park West, NYC*

**Page-7, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "...belladonna treatment..."

*Belladonna is a poisonous Eurasian herb used as a sedative and anti-spasmodic drug to aid in detox. Part of a larger recipe of "Puke and Purge" treatment.*

**Page-8, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "The cheery voice of an old school friend..."

*Ebby Thacher met Bill in 1911. He was also a classmate at Burr & Burton Seminary for one semester in either Junior or Senior year.*



*Ebby T.      School's current sign      Older Ebby*

**Page-9, top of page-** "...chartered an airplane to complete a jag!"



*Airfield is about one mile away from the front entrance of Equinox House, Manchester, VT. Bill, Ebby and the pilot, Ted Burke, **all still drunk**, flew into the six-month-old airfield in 1929.*

**Page-9, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "...two men had appeared in court..."

*Rowland Hazard and Cebra Graves (Shep Cornell was involved too).*



Rowland H.



Cebra G.



Shep C.

**Page-13, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "My schoolmate visited me..."

*Ebby Thacher*

**Page-15, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "In one western city".

*Akron, Ohio*

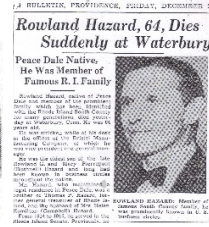
**Page-16, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "One poor chap committed suicide in my home".

*Refers to Bill Cousins, a Canadian born professional gambler (Bridge Player) and former lawyer. He sold approximately \$700 worth of Bill and Lois' better clothes and luggage. He used the gas from their oven in the summer of 1936. He had lived with them for about a year.*

### **There is a Solution**

**Page 26, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "A certain American businessman..."

*Rowland Hazard-Oxford Group*



Rowland Hazard (left) Circa 1890 Hazard, VT "cottage" DOD 1945

### **More About Alcoholism**

**Page-35, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "Our first example is a friend we shall call Jim".

*Currently unknown. Commonly attributed to Ralph Furlong, author of "Another Prodigal Story" in 1st Ed. of Big Book. However, this has not been proven and maybe even disproven.*

**Page-39, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "Fred is a partner in a well-known accounting firm".

*Harry Brick, CPA, author of "A Different Slant" in 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. of Big Book.*

**Page-43, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "...staff member of a world renowned hospital..."

*Dr. Leslie Hohman (Psychiatry), Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD.*

### **We Agnostics**

**Page-50, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...American statesman..."

*Alfred E. Smith, the former four-time Governor of New York.*

**Page-56, 1<sup>st</sup> line-** "Our friend..."

*John H. F. (Fitz) Mayo, author of "Our Southern Friend".*

**Page-56, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "Who are you to say there is no God?"

*Fitz Mayo (passed away 1943)*



### **How It Works**

**Page 58, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "Rarely have we seen a person fail..."

*It is often said that Bill W. regretted using the word "rarely" rather than "never". This is not true as can be seen in a letter from Bill to Les V. dated 5/25/61. Although, it was discussed which to use, once decided he never reconsidered the decision.*

### **Into Action**

**Page 80, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "While drinking, he accepted a sum of money from a bitterly-hated business rival..."

*An Oxford Group story passed along to A.A.*

### **Working with Others**

**Page 96, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "One of our Fellowship failed entirely with his first half dozen prospects."

*Bill Wilson*

**Page 102, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "Many of us keep liquor in our homes".

*Both Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith did.*

### **To Wives**

**Pages 104 through 121-**

*Written by Bill Wilson. Originally Anne Smith was asked if she would write it, but she declined.*



*Anne and Bob Smith*

### **The Family Afterward**

**Page 124, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "For example, we know of situations in which the alcoholic or his wife have had love affairs."

*First known case of this is Eddie Reilly's wife who had an affair and told him of it.*

**Page 135, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "One of our friends is a heavy smoker and coffee drinker."

*Earl Treat, "Sold Himself Short". Founded A.A. Chicago.*



*Earl Treat*

### **To Employers**

**Pages 136 through 150-**

*Written by Hank Parkhurst.*

**Page 136, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "...one member who has spent much of his life in the world of big business".

*Hank Parkhurst, former Standard Oil, Asst. Sales Mgr.*



*Hank Parkhurst*

**Page 140, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "...a prominent doctor in Chicago..."

*Dr. Dan Craske, MD.*

**Page 149, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "There are two alcoholic employees..."

*Jimmy Burwell and Sterling Parker worked for Honor Dealers, an Auto Supply Cooperative Buying Group. Hank owned 51% of the business with Bill and his investment group owning 49%. Bill was listed as the Secretary and Treasurer.*



*Jimmy Burwell*

### **A Vision for You**

**Page 154, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "He would phone a clergyman".

*Rev. Walter F. Tunks, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Akron, Ohio.*



*Rev. Tunks*

**Page 155, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "...formerly able and respected, was then nearing the nadir of alcoholic despair".

*Dr. Bob Smith*

**Page 156, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "One day they called up the head nurse of a local hospital."

*Mrs. Hall, Admissions Nurse at Akron City Hospital.*



*Akron City Hospital*

**Page 156, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "She replied, "Yes, we've got a corker".

*Bill Dotson, Jun 35. Author of "Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three"*



*Bill Dotson, aka: "Man on the Bed"*

**Page 158, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "He entered a political campaign, making speeches..."

*In June of 1935 Bill Dotson was running for City Councilman. However, he lost.*

**Page 158, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph-** "He proved to be a devil-may-care young fellow."

*Ernie Galbrath. Only 30 years old at the time. A.A. #4. Married Dr. Bob's daughter, Sue. Wrote "Seven Month Slip" which can be read in Experience, Strength and Hope.*





*Ernie Galbrath*

**Page 159, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...these three had succeeded with seven more."

*In Akron, from 1935-1936, some successes were Harold Grisinger, Walter Bray, Joe Doppler, Paul Stanley, J.D. Holmes, Holland Spencer and Bob Oviatt.*

**Page 160, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "One man and his wife placed their large home..."

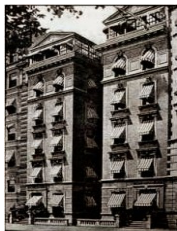


*T. Henry and Clarace Williams of the Oxford Group.*

**Page 161, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "A community thirty miles away..."

*Cleveland, OH.*

**Page 162, top of page-** "...a well-known hospital for the treatment..."



*Charles B. Towns Hospital, located at 292 and 293 Central Park West, NYC.*

**Page 162, top of page-** "Six years ago one of our number..."



*Bill Wilson*

**Page 162, top of page-** "...doctor in attendance there..."



*William Duncan Silkworth, MD.*

**Page 163, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "We know of an A.A. member who was living in a large community."

*Currently unknown. Commonly thought of as Hank Parkhurst, Montclair, NJ.*

**Page 163, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "He got in touch with a prominent psychiatrist who had undertaken certain responsibilities..."

*Currently unknown. Commonly referred to as Dr. Howard, Montclair, NJ.*

**Page 163, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "chief psychiatrist of a large public hospital..."

*Dr. Russell E. Blaisdell, Rockland State Hospital, Rockland County, NY.*

## ***PART I***

### ***PIONEERS OF A.A.***

#### **Doctor Bob's Nightmare**



*Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith- Jun /35. A.A. Co-Founder*

*He carried the message to more than 5,000 drunks. His father was a judge in his hometown of St. Johnsbury, VT. They lived at 292 Summer St. The family was deeply religious. He was an only child; however, he had a much older foster sister, Amanda Northrup, who he was very fond of. He attended Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Dr. Bob had an exceptionally large blue and red fire dragon tattoo that wound around his left arm from the shoulder to the wrist. He was a Proctologist and Rectal Surgeon. Died Nov 1950.*

**Page 171, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "...small New England village..."

*St. Johnsbury, VT.*

**Page 172, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...one of the best colleges in the country..."

*Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH, from 1899-1902. An "Ivy League" school.*

**Page 173, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "...one of the largest universities..."

*University of Michigan, 1905-1907*

**Page 174, top of page-** "...another of the leading universities..."

*Rush Medical, Chicago, IL. Graduated 1910*

**Page 174, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph-** "...western city..."

*Akron, OH.*

**Page 175, top of page-** "...local sanitariums..."

*Fair Oaks Villa, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio*

**Page 175, top of page-** "...Scylla and Charybdis..."

*Scylla is a small peninsula on the Italian coast. There is a destructive whirlpool close by called Charybdis. Used in The Odyssey by Homer and by Shakespeare in Merchant of Venice. Today, like saying "I was between a rock and a hard place".*

**Page 175, top of page-** "...local hospital..."



*People's Hospital*

**Page 175, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "Finally my father had to send a doctor out from my hometown..."

*Occurred in 1914. Brought Dr. Bob back to family's home on Summer Street. He was in bed for 2 months and home another 2 before he could return to Akron.*

**Page 176, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "If my wife..."

*Anne Ripley, Wellesley College. He met her at a dance at St. Johnsbury Academy, while she was on vacation. They married 17 years later.*



*Anne Ripley*

**Page 178, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "I was thrown in with a crowd of people..."

*The Oxford Group*

**Page 179, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** "About this time a lady called up my wife..."

*Henrietta Seiberling*



*Henrietta      Young Henrietta      Her home (Gate House)*

**Page 179, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph-** "I woke up at a friend's house..."

*This refers to Lilly, Dr. Bob's receptionist. With her husband, Everett.*

### **Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three (Page 182)**

Bill Dotson- DOS, Jul/35. A.A. #3: "Man on the bed". Bill was raised in Kentucky and became an attorney. He ran for City Council while sober but lost. His wife was, Henrietta. Initially he did not support the General Service Conference idea. However, he was the first Ohio Delegate to GSC in 1951. Bill Wilson personally interviewed him for his story to be added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Big Book. Died Sept 1954.



Bill Dotson



### **Gratitude in Action (Page 193)**

Dave Bancroft- DOS, Apr/44. Founded A.A. Montreal which included the first French speaking members. He was a highly active "12 Stepper". Dave served as a Class B Trustee from 1962-1964. Died Dec 1984.

### **Women Suffer Too (Page 200)**

Marty Mann- DOS, Apr/39. Treated by Dr. Harry Tiebout who gave her a copy of our manuscript. Founded National Council on Alcoholism. Involved with the Yale School on Alcoholism. "The mother of the Hughes Act". Her partner was Priscilla Peck. Priscilla was a long-time editor of the Grapevine.



Marty Mann



Priscilla Peck

### **Our Southern Friend (Page 208)**

Fitz Mayo- DOS, Oct /35. Approximately A.A. #8. Founded A.A. Washington, DC. Checked on potential titles for Big Book at the Library of Congress (The Way Out, The Way). Attended the Rockefeller Dinner. He and his wife, Elizabeth were great friends of Bill and Lois. Bill Cousins committed suicide at 182 Clinton St. while Bill and Lois were visiting Fitz in Maryland. Fitz sent his Sponsee, Jackie Williams, to 12 Step, Jimmy Burwell. Pushed hard for more a more biblical sounding Big Book. Sponsored Florence Rankin. Identified body after her suicide. His sister Agnes loaned A.A. \$1,000 to get some Big Book copies released from the printer.



Fitz Mayo



### **The Vicious Cycle (Page 219)**

Jimmy Burwell- DOS, Jan /38. Founded A.A. Philadelphia. Was responsible for "God as we understand Him" added to Steps 3 and 11. Also, pointed out to the Group "The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking." (Foreword to First Edition, page xiv). He and Hank Parkhurst argued for less spirituality in the Big Book. Remained an agnostic. He is buried remarkably close to Fitz Mayo in Christ Episcopal Church, Maryland.



Jimmy Burwell

### **Jim's Story (Page 232)**

Dr. Jim Scott-DOS, 1943. Founded an early Black A.A. Group in Washington, DC, called the "Washington Colored Group". With the help of Charlie Gant and his wife Ella, this group became the "The Cosmopolitan Group" in April 1945. There were 15 members in its first year and 30 in their second. Jim spoke at the "God as we

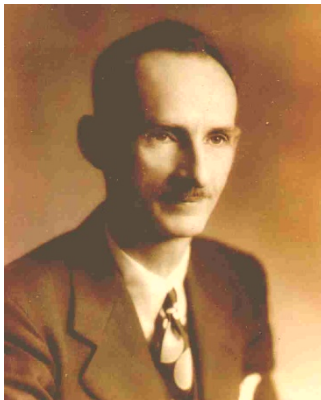
Understand Him”, Sunday morning meeting of the International Convention in St. Louis 1955.



Jim Scott

### **The Man who Mastered Fear (Page 246)**

Archie Trowbridge-DOS, Nov /38. Founded A.A. Detroit. Lived with Dr. Bob and Anne Smith for about 10 months. His non-alcoholic friend, Sarah Klein, helped him start first Detroit meeting.



Archie Trowbridge

### **He Sold Himself Short (Page 258)**

Earl Treat-DOS, Jul/37. Founded A.A. Chicago. He grew up near Akron and his wife's name was Katie. Earl is mentioned on Page 135, The Family Afterwards. He is the man who got angry and drank because his wife nagged him about smoking and drinking too much coffee. It was also Earl who pushed Bill Wilson to codify the A.A. experience. From this suggestion Bill wrote "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future" which were first published in the Grapevine starting in April 1946. These ultimately became our Traditions. When it looked like they may have difficulty passing during the 1950 International Convention it was Earl who suggested they be shortened. Bill did and they were voted in!



Earl Treat

### **The Keys of the Kingdom (Page 268)**

Sylvia Kaufman-DOS, Sept/39. An early female to gain long-term sobriety. Helped Earl T. to develop Chicago A.A. Her doctor gave her a copy of the Big Book. She also had a sedative pill addiction. Stayed with Clarence and Dorothy Snyder for two weeks. She was an extremely attractive, divorcee and socialite. Secretary of Chicago Intergroup which was the first in the country. Eventually, married a fellow member, Dr. Ed S and lived in Sarasota FL.



Sylvia Kaufman

## **PART II**

### **THEY STOPPED IN TIME**

#### **The Missing Link (Page 281)**

Author currently unknown- Jewish but Agnostic. First drink at age 15. Suffered from depression. He came into A.A. and got sober at age 18. Wrote his story with 7 years sobriety at age 25.



### **Fear of Fear (Page 289)**

Ceil Mansfield-DOS, Jul /49. (Aka: Ceil F.) Originally came to A.A. to support husband George. Stayed for herself after only her third meeting. She was about 52 years old when she wrote her story for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Had 2 children. In Sept 1968, she updated her story in the Grapevine. After eighteen years they were both still active in A.A. "We are not reformed drunks-but informed alcoholics".

### **The Housewife who Drank at Home (Page 295)**

Author currently unknown- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition story. She did not lose her marriage, possessions or have legal troubles. However, she hid her drinking and suffered mental turmoil which included delirium tremens towards the end.

### **Physician, Heal Thyself! (Page 301)**

Dr. Earl Marsh-DOS, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1953. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition story and wrote it with only approximately 1 year sobriety. Surgeon (GYN) and Psychiatrist. Born in Omaha and lived in San Francisco. He has drugs in his story. Co-Chairman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention's Medical Panel. He learned about A.A. from Clark, a butcher, Shorty, a carpenter, Vern, a baker and Harry an inventor. Died in 2003 at the age of 93.



Dr. Earl Marsh

### **My Chance to Live (Page 309)**

Author currently unknown- Written for the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. She came into A.A. at age 17 and got sober at 18. Has both drugs and some level of mental illness in her story.

### **Student of Life (Page 319)**

Jane D., Philadelphia PA.- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Written in about an hour with one edit revision. Her title was "Ms. I Never". Got sober age 26.

### **Crossing the River of Denial (Page 328)**

Karen R.- DOS, early 1990's. Arrested 5 times. Lived in NYC for a while and settled in California where she got sober at approximately 39 years old.

### **Because I'm and Alcoholic (Page 338)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition. She drank for 30 years. Came to A.A. at about age 47. PhD (medical researcher). Story was written with long term sobriety at about age 75.

### **It Might Have Been Worse (Page 348)**

Chet Rude- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition story. Banking Executive. Extraordinarily successful and did not start drinking until age 35. Started career in Portland OR, before moving to LA.



### **Tightrope (Page 359)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. First openly gay story. He helped found the first gay A.A. meeting in his area. Writes his story with 12 years sobriety.

### **Flooded With Feeling (Page 369)**

Author currently unknown DOS, circa 1990- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. School teacher. Originally a self-described agnostic. Treated for suicide and depression. Wrote his story with 11 years sobriety.

### **Winner Takes All (Page 375)**

Gay N.-DOS, 10/23/85- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Born Fredericksburg, TX but lived in San Antonio. She is legally blind. Wrote her story in 1997.

### **Me an Alcoholic? (Page 382)**

Author currently unknown- DOS, Nov/47. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition story. He was a periodic alcoholic. Goes from having a lot of material success to a more modest life. Writes his story with 7 years sobriety.

### **The Perpetual Quest (Page 388)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Attorney. Came into the Program at age 34 in the 1980's. Most likely writes her story when she was in her 50's.

### **A Drunk, Like You (Page 398)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. He was Jewish and suicidal. Describes himself as a control drinker. Emphasizes the Fellowship over the Program. Got sober around 1985. Objected to the Lord's Prayer but his sponsor suggested he say it "Well then, say it in Jewish". Writes his story with 15 years sobriety.

### **Acceptance Was The Answer (Page 407)**

Dr. Paul Ohliger-DOS, Jul/67. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition title was Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict. Died May 2000.



Dr. Paul O.

### **Window of Opportunity (Page 421)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Sober at age 19, probably in the late 1980's. Like Dr. Bob, he attended Dartmouth College. Became an attorney.

## **PART III**

### **THEY LOST NEARLY ALL**

### **My Bottle, My Resentment, and Me (Page 437)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. However, it has the feel of a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition life due to his early references. Uses 21 exclamation points! He describes a major life transformation that is filled with synchronicity.

### **He Lived Only to Drink (Page 446)**

Phil Parker- DOS 1969, NYC- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. African American. A true "Yale to Jail story". Died on 6/15/16 at 86 years old and with 47 years Sobriety. Attended Morehouse College for undergraduate and Harvard for his Master's in Teaching. Got sober while in the infamous Third Street Men's Shelter.



Phil Parker

### **Safe Haven (Page 452)**

Author currently unknown- DOS/1996. 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Written while still in prison.

### **Listening To The Wind (Page 458)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Native American. Her story also appeared in the December 2001 Grapevine. Ultimately, used the "Great Sprit" as her Higher Power.

### **Twice Gifted (Page 470)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. She came into the Program near death at age 37. Her story refers to a "Power greater than myself..." but no mention of God in the traditional sense.

### **Building A New Life (Page 476)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Hispanic and Spanish was his 1<sup>st</sup> language. 7 children. Extreme cases of DT's. Ultimately, reunited with his family.

### **On The Move (Page 486)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Suicidal as a teenager. Jewish and came to A.A. at age 28. Contracted multiple sclerosis and had to use a wheelchair. White-knuckled it for 2 years before doing the Steps. Like Dr. Bob, did many of his Amends over an entire 8- or 9-hour day.

### **A Vision of Recovery (Page 494)**

Author currently unknown- 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. She is a Mic-Mac Indian (largest population of Native Americas). Slightly less than 60 thousand members in 2015, mostly in Canada and northeast Maine. Wrote her story with less than 2 years Sobriety. Participated in a 28-day Treatment Program. Also, an example of someone who started to Sponsor prior to finishing the Steps herself.

### **Gutter Bravado (Page 501)**

Paul G.-Brecksville, OH, DOS 9/15/91. 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Raised Catholic. Lived the "Biker Lifestyle". First drink at age 13 and was living on the streets for a short time at age 16. Wrote his story in 1998.

### **Empty On The Inside (Page 512)**

Beth H.-Cary, NC, DOS 6/26/88. 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Father was in A.A. She spoke at the International in Atlanta. She got sober on the Foxhall Group style. Peggy M. is her Sponsor.

### **Grounded (Page 522)**

Lyle P.-DOS 3/7/90. 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. Extremely public bottom. Pilot with Northwest Airlines. Earned back his pilot's license and more. Pardoned by President Bill Clinton.

### **Another Chance (Page 531)**

Bertha Vincent Black-Louisville, KY, DOS, 4/72. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition story. Was in prison from 1972-1976. Her story was republished in the Grapevine, June 2004 with 32 years Sobriety.

### **A Late Start (Page 535)**

Author currently unknown- DOS circa 1994. 4<sup>th</sup> edition story. She got Sober at age 69.

### **Freedom From Bondage (Page 544)**

Wynn Corum Laws, California. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition story. Married 5 times. Her story is referred to often because of the advice on page 552 (praying for 2 weeks for the person we resent). Which comes from a Guideposts article written by Rev. Norman Vincent Peale.



Wynn C. Laws

**A.A. Taught Him To Handle Sobriety (Page 553)**

Bob Pearson-DOS, 1961. Trustee from 68-71 and General Service Manager, (GSO 74-84). Wife's name is Betsy. Robert Greenlees Pearson. Died Jan 2008.



Bob Pearson

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