

January 1945

In Texas, Women Too, Are Wonderful

In May, 1943, Esther E. arrived in Dallas! For the problem drinkers of this city that is an historical news item, and the history of the Dallas group of Alcoholics Anonymous must necessarily be a eulogy to that lady.

Esther is a comely gal with personality plus, who had assiduously carved out one whale of an alcoholic career for herself until she became inoculated with A.A.; result - she has found not only sobriety but a happy life; she's comelier than ever and that personality fairly reflects the beneficent influence of the A.A. way of life.

For two years Esther had been one of the most active members of the Houston group, but upon her arrival in Dallas she found herself High and Dry (contradictory in our language but true) without the life-giving activities of an A.A. group. So she really went to work. The material was here, of course, for Dallas like any other city has a plentiful supply of alcoholics - good, bad and indifferent; but Esther's first efforts among some of her former drinking buddies were pretty discouraging. Then one of her Houston "Babies" (another lady souse) put in an appearance, and finally Esther found a male alky - an A.A. from Oklahoma City - just what she had been praying for, she said.

That was the origin of the Dallas group of Alcoholics Anonymous. In the

beginning we had only one meeting a week in Esther's home. Then we used the office of one of our members for what we called our business meeting, having our social gatherings in the various homes. For quite a while we were only about seven in number, but that period meant a great deal to those seven. Then we began to overflow the office at our disposal, so we hired a hall once a week at the Y.M.C.A.

The first year of growing pains witnessed the customary fluctuating membership, but we believe that the past seven months have brought us a certain coordination and that our future growth and expansion will be surer and steadier. Now we have forty active members and we definitely feel that at least we have emerged from our swaddling clothes.

The request for this article comes, it seems to us, at an opportune time, for we are a happy bunch. On December 2nd we held our business meeting in our first home - if you can call a space in an office building that. But it's ours - the coveted Club Room, and we're proud of it. Meetings are held on Mondays and Thursdays of each week but the Club Room is open on every other night as well as on week ends, so some of you traveling A.A.s remember to look us up.

Merle S., Dallas, Texas