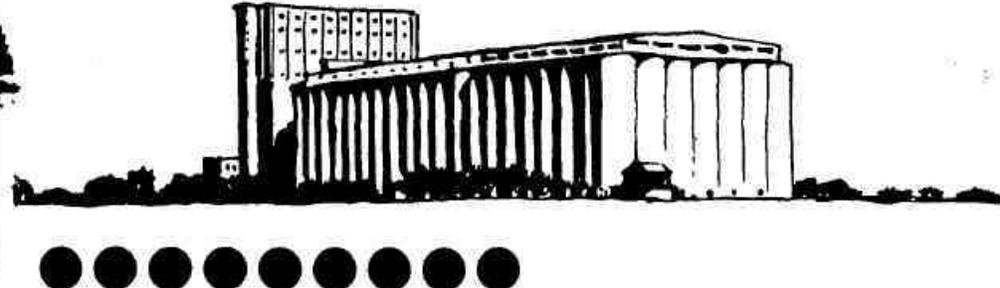


May 1951

The PRAIRIE PROVINCES



toba... this is the great central plain that runs to the Rockies. Twelfth-steppers on the range... ready for anybody's personal ~~stopped~~ ~~time~~ ~~tramp~~ ~~adable~~ . . . here]

IT WAS a 13-year "wing-ding" that brought Sandy into the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous; and it was through Sandy that AA got its start in Regina.

At the end of 13 years in the squirrel cage Sandy touched bottom. He had lost all hope of recovery from his alcoholism and through the fog could see only the inevitable end.

Sandy had travelled the full course. It took him inside both jails and hospitals and led him into most of the disasters common to us all.

Characteristically, AA caught up with him accidentally. Early in 1947 he came across a reprint of Jack Alexander's well-known article in the Saturday Evening Post.

He sent to the Foundation for literature and on March 20, 1947, he had his last drink.

By August, 1947, Sandy was feeling the need of 12th Step work.

So he went out to Calgary, Alberta, where one of western Canada's early groups was already formed. There he studied procedure with the idea of getting a group started in Regina.

It wasn't until after the beginning of 1948 that he found a couple of drunks willing to take the first two steps and try out the Program with him. These met for a time in his home, but after a few weeks fell away from AA and left him by himself through the summer and fall of 1948.

It wasn't until early November that he got another little group together. Four alcoholics started meeting in Sandy's house on Nov. 4, 1948. That was the actual start of AA in Regina.

By the end of December membership had grown to 12, and the New Year's Eve party in Sandy's house was attended by 20 people, including wives.

By this time Sandy was getting help from Shif, who had been practicing AA for some time in a neighboring town all by himself.

By March, 1949, the Regina group had 20 members. A basement room in a church was obtained for meetings; also the recreation room in a downtown plant. These were used alternately for meetings until late summer. By then the group had grown to 40 and permission was obtained to use the recreation room for all meetings.

The second New Year's party was attended by more than 100, including wives and husbands.

Attendance fell off in the summer of 1950 but last fall it picked up rapidly and membership grew to 75 active members.

In October the movement was vigorously stimulated by the first Saskatchewan roundup of AA members in the province.

This was attended by delegates

from about a dozen groups, seven of which were direct off-shoots of the Regina group. About 250 attended the banquet in Hotel Saskatchewan. A roundup meeting was also held at Davidson, which was attended by northern members unable to get down to Regina.

Fully 150 attended the New Year's party this year. Present membership in Regina is about 80, of which about 40 are fully 'active.'

Since December, 1950, 'squad' meetings have been held in a local fraternal society hall for the benefit of new members. These are attended by all groups.

There are now three groups in Regina. The Wascana group was formed in the summer of 1950 and the Queen City group last January, both off-shoots of the Regina group.

At the time of writing a co-ordinating committee is in the process of being formed.

— H.A.H., Regina, Saskatchewan