

November 1952

Thus Do I Remember.

An Editorial Brings Some Recollections Of AA's Beginnings. . .

Dear Grapevine:

So September is the month of remembering! I am glad that you added "reading" and especially "re-dedication."

I remember...the amazing friendliness of Akron AA in 1938. We were given an address book with all names listed (few could afford telephones then) and the earnest invitation to "call at any time." And we did.

I remember...meetings. We were from Cleveland, and every Wednesday, rain or snow or shine, we made the 70-mile round trip to Akron. We made it eagerly, willingly; anxious to be with new friends. Often there would be pot-luck supper on Saturday nights. We were too poor in material possessions to entertain, but how wealthy we were in friendships!

I remember...the emphasis on "morning meditation and morning reading," and all of us equipped with the 5¢ *Upper Room*. That was a must.

I remember...every lesson that Anne dished out in her gentle and inimitable manner. "Dorothy, everyone has been kind to you as a newcomer. Never forget to pass that friendliness and kindness along!"

I remember...when several manuscript chapters of "The Book" came. Anne and I read them to each other till 4 a.m., and Anne said: "Pray with me that this will help others."

I remember...Anne every time I hear the Twelve Steps read, for the fifth chapter was one that we read so eagerly one night.

I remember our first AA New Year's Eve party in Akron. Anne had gotten two new dresses, her very first new clothes. When I asked her which dress she would wear, she said "I can't wear a new dress. There will be so many who have no new clothes," and she wore the dress we were so accustomed to seeing on her.

I remember...the word spreading like wild-fire: "Bill and Lois are coming!" When they arrived we would all be congregated to greet them. They would hide their weariness (as they still do) and greet us with warmth and affection.

I remember...it says in the Big Book "We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck.."

How true it was of us then! *D.M., La Jolla, Calif.*