

October 1984



WHEN THE Oklahoma AA Assembly and Area Committee voted to establish an archives to collect, safeguard, and display the past history of AA in the state, one group registered a dissenting opinion. The group sent word to the committee, through its district committee member, that archives were a waste of money and did nothing to carry the message, and the group would withhold financial support from the committee as long as money was being squandered on archives.

One of the area's longtime members, a veteran of many years in AA service, had this comment:

"I wonder if any members of that group ever had an old family Bible, the kind with pages in the center to record the births and marriages and deaths in the family. Someone, perhaps your great-great-grandmother, started filling them in; then another

handwriting appeared; and later on a third. If you wanted to know the name of the man Great-Aunt Sophie married, it was in the Bible. If you needed your grandfather's date of birth, it was there.

"And so were other things, yellowed papers between the pages. An invitation to your parents' wedding. A newspaper clipping about Great-Uncle Joseph's election to the state legislature. Another telling of the death of a loved and respected citizen, your grandmother.

"Would anyone say of your Bible and its contents, 'Don't waste money trying to hold on to such worthless junk. Throw it out'?

"More than anything else I can think of, our archives are like that old family Bible, preserving the valuable records and the irreplaceable mementos of our AA family."

E. E., Tulsa, Okla.