

# MUSTS ?

YOU BET! THERE ARE TWO!

THE importance of giving the new man the best possible start in AA Life cannot be over emphasized. In the spring of 1945 the blessings of AA began to move in on me. They have never ceased to come; to the end, that each day is just another opportunity for gratitude and some form of accomplishment.

At my first AA meeting a speaker said, "Tonight could be the most important night of your life." Another said, "You never need to shake again, ever, unless you want to." An AA from another city said, "Between the covers of this book, (*Alcoholics Anonymous*) lies your one hope of salvation." Many other

things were said, but these *three fundamentals* took a precarious root.

Times without number during my first year, when the urge to make a fast "run" to the nearest gin mill came upon me, I suddenly remembered that my one hope of salvation lay between the covers of my *Big Book*. Miraculously I would stop, open it to any page and start reading. Equally miraculous was the fact that just one paragraph would return me to sanity, and the emergency was passed. The blinding urge to take a drink had gone, I know not where. Other older AAs have related the same experience to me, therefore, let's tell the new candidate that there are only two

*musts* to get started on our new way of life:

1. *Ownership of the Big Book*

2. *Subscription to the Grapevine* both available for the price of a quart of good whisky.

I want a new man to have the monthly visit of the current accomplishments of Alcoholics Anonymous, told in a way that only we alcoholics appreciate. I have found that an awaiting *Grapevine* at the end of a business day was easily good for a whole day of contented sobriety. Some of the side effects carried clear through a month till the next issue was due. Never before have I had the privilege of reading a magazine written by alcoholics for the likes of me, another alcoholic. It has been like the visit of a favored relative.

Muskegon AA now makes it pos-

ible to start every new member with these two indispensable tools, fifty cents cash and an equal amount each pay day. One of the members handles the credit detail and without a trace of trouble. He has yet to find the new member who is not delighted to get his disease under control so simply and easily.

After six years of thinking AA, dreaming AA, alcoholically trying to live AA it is my humble opinion, that when a man starts on the wonderful Alcoholics Anonymous journey properly equipped, he usually can be found among that famous *fifty per cent* who took their last drink before they came to their first meeting.

We can all have a hand in seeing to it that the new man or woman goes in rightly equipped.

— S.B.M., *Muskegon, Michigan*