

CENTRAL BULLETIN



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Editorial - Today

But where are the snows of yesteryear?

This oft-quoted, nostalgic line out of the poetry of Francois Villon carries a worthwhile lesson.

The fifteenth century writer was an unhappy alcoholic whose bouts with the brimming cup led to the commission of crimes that made him a hunted quarry of the king's watch.

There was no happiness for him in the present. His poetic genius, given a chance to express itself in his sober moments, often turned to thoughts of earlier and better days. Villon tried to recapture them in his mind. In the above line he comes to the dreary conclusion that, like last year's snow, they are gone forever. He was unable to enjoy today. He had no tomorrow.

Memories are thin gruel on which to thrive spiritually. They may be of Heeting comfort when they arise from pleasant associations and events.

In the experience of most alcoholics it is fortunate that memories are of flimsy substance. The recollections most vivid to them are of heart-breaking and even disgraceful episodes. To recall and dwell on these can breed a morbid frame of mind. It is a habit that is bad for today and can become, if persisted in, disastrous for tomorrow.

There may be a tendency on the part of some to evoke such recollections with the best of intentions: to keep themselves sober. Without ruling out a thought of thankfulness for the horrors we have escaped, we should remember that we cannot frighten ourselves into sobriety. This is a negative and a deadening approach. By employing it we can become despairing Francois Villons in our own way.

If we live in the past we cannot grow soiritually or any other way. If we dote on it that past becomes master of the present and holds back our development as individuals freed from a serious illness. It puts a brake on our rehabilitation.

Sobriety, and the progress that it makes possible is to be obtained by living today to the best of our ability in applying the principles of the Twelve Steps. This does not mean just in relation to other members of Alcoholics Anonymous, not only toward the inebriate who has reached the great decision that he cannot stop by his own efforts, but to all the people with whom we deal or have relations. This practiced consciousness of today carries the assurance of a brighter tomorrow.

This should not be too difficult. Alcoholics who have found the new life of sobriety have one great advantage over others in this regard. Their todays and tomorrows—however far they may fall short of their hopes and expectations—are automatically better than their yesterdays.

There is a key in the poetry of Villon that may be of help. Whenever he turns to things of the spirit, Villon never prays to the diety, he merely salutes the diety. We cannot live today or look forward to tomorrow merely by an occasional passing courtesy to the Higher Power. We must pray to that Power in the fullest sense, making it part of our lives, of our every action. When we learn how to do this there will be no desire to conjure up the past, pleasant or frightful.

(Continued on page two)

Holiday Casual ties

The holidays again took their miserable toll, and in spite of warnings and appeals, the temptation was too much for too many who had held their membership in AA too lightly. The nursing homes were full to capacity with some honestly repentant, some beligerently resentful, some cagily explanatory and the pity of it all, some completely unabashed by their experiences, calloused to any show of emotion.

What a shock 'this revelation was to new members and old who dutifully called on them. To these callers, AA was such a precious gift the beauty and fulness of which was daily being miraculously revealed to them. What could

they say and give to these patients? Logically the patients were there to receive help from AA. Most had been given the nnest picture of what AA could accomplish from varied types of sponsors and visitors.

I he thoughts of one visitor were, "What's the use? I thought, when I joined AA, that this was my last chance. Now it seems to me that AA isn't the answer after all. Maybe it wil happen to me, too, though I hope not. I didn't find real happiness until I joined six monihs ago." An older man turned to him and pointed out that seeing these fellows suffering not only the effects of their binge, but their attendant sense of shame should be a lesson to him to keep his "guard up," by following the daily plan as though his life and sanity depended upon it-as it does indeed. That this could also happen to him if he relaxed in his vigilance and conveniently forgot his desperation and fears when

he first came in. "Don't" he sagely admonished, "don't ever forget how you felt when you made your decision to do something about your problem-when you joined AA."

What is the common cause for people losing their grip on AA and themselves? Why do they lose their interest and slide back to the hateful, precarious existence? Did AA fail them? No, they failed AA. They found that AA required disciplining themselves, when by instinct they rebelled against discipline. Most of them lost respect for the potency of alcohol, conveniently forgetting the trouble it caused them and probably missing and idealizing the "good times" they thought AA was depriving them of.

But we believe another factor is one to consider. We believe too many leaders spend too much time qualifying themselves as rip-roaring drunks, going into too vivid and sordid details of their experiences. While shocking and sometimes entertaining, there is a danger that the listener will be comforted in the realization that he had done no such things, therefore dangerously causing him to minimize his own betrayal to himself and his family. It isn't how much or what you drink-it's what drink d&s to you.

Another factor is the return to self-confidence and self-assurance. If it isn't watched, being extremists, this can develop into over-confidence, smugness and complacency. Here is where there is danger of becoming extremely critical of others' faults and weaknesses, being intolerant and quick to anger. Let's be tolerant of the other fellow, so he will be tolerant towards us. For probably we, too, are not so perfect that we can't stand improvement.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

Properly directed, discontent can be an asset instead of a liability. Discontent has brought the world about all the comfort it now enjoys.

EDITORIAL-TODAY

(Continued from page one)

By this means we can verify in ourselves the promise of Revelation, "Behold I make all things new." We can make ourselves **complete**ly new, from our addiction to alcohol to our most routine habits.

Yesterday is gone beyond recall, like the snows of yesteryear. Tomorrow is not yet here. Today we can be gloriously alive in God and that, fully realized, is all that can **be** asked.

FAITH

Whether we entered AA of our **own** volition, or were more or less "pressured" into it, the fact remains that when we did enter we were desperately 'making a last effort to salvage our sanity, health and existence. We had tried medication, hospitalization, religion, will power, anything and everything. **All** had failed.

Many of us openly denied the possibility of any spiritual power. Those who had some sort of vague belief had even had that shaken to its core and clouded by doubt. So, here we were, and what was AA and what would-or could -it do?

We didn't want anyone to pray over us and no one did. We did not want condemnation or recrimination; we got none. We wanted help and here were fellow sufferers. We listened and observed. These men and women fight the same battle we fight-without pills, without rigid rules of diet, exercise or any system of restraint helping in their daily battle. Yet, they were obviously **winning** it!

How? Perhaps we didn't want to believe in spiritual force, yet, we could not deny history for history itself has told us of the victories of other valiant armies just like AA.

The ragged and tired Jewish race wandered for 40 years and found its promised land. That is history.

Constantine led his broken, beaten band of mercenaries against the strongest, richest, proudest, most fanatical band of warriors in ancient times and conquered them in the symbol of spiritual belief, "In Hoc Signo Vinces."

Martyrs shed their blood and laid down their lives to preserve their belief, and it has lived to be one of the strongest influences in the modern world. Common sense tells us that some Force above and beyond mortal limitations sustained, guided, and led them to victory.

If you reason this as I did you sense that above and beyond the reality and solidarity of earthly things that we can see and feel! there was a Force of Some Sort, that encouraged and guided men to do and be their best: a Force that uplifted and upheld, giving strength and **courage** to the weak, and hope to the hopeless. Whether we called this Force 'God' or something else, we knew it was there-suddenly and simply-just like that. And that Force was helping AA friends about us.

Just as clearly, we sensed that, with the help of this Force or Power which asks for nothing but the chance to aid us, we, like the army of Jericho, could falteringly, yet hopefully stumble our way about the walls of fear, disgust, remorse, sorrow, and woe that we had erected around us and the Walls would crumble!

What it was and how we regarded it, we were still too weak and weary, too dazed to know, but we know that a Power higher than our mortal power was there, ready and willing-eager to help us. We had taken our **SECOND STEP** upward.-Twelfth Stepper, Omaha, Neb.

SAVE SALES-TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

ONE OF A MILLION

It has been estimated that AA has reached only ten per cent of all alcoholics.

Did you ever stop to consider your good fortune in that God for some reason or other selected you to entertain the idea of following the AA program? You *were* selected while nine other alcoholics are still banging their heads against an impregnable wall. You have it in your power to be an example such as many others have been in **AA**—**50%** perfect, **25%** joining the **50** percenters after a bit of trouble or the hapless remaining **25%** who haven't the character to desire rehabilitation enough to offset their desire for escape and oblivion. You've been given a **precious** gift. Appreciate it, nurture it and give it the value it deserves.

TAKE CARE OF THAT COLD

It's when you've got the sniffles and your back is aching and you feel that you're gonna die, when you search your mind for some remedy, that your old time rock and rye recipe keeps edging into the forefront. Na! Na! Na! Don't touch that bottle. Get the thought out of your mind. Stop drooling! Load yourself up with lemon juice and orange juice and call a doctor. Tell him, if you value your sobriety, that you're an alcoholic so that he prescribes a non-alcoholic prescription.

EVEN IN A DECK OF CARDS

Even in a deck of cards can you be reminded of the fact that God is everywhere. In an article too long to reproduce, we give you the gist. The Ace reminds you that there is but one God; deuce, two testaments in the Bible; trey, the Holy Trinity; four, the four Evangelists; five, five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps as well as the five foolish maids; six, the days in which God made the world; seven, the seventh day or Sabbath; eight, the eight righteous persons saved when God destroyed the earth, namely Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives; nine, the nine lepers who were cleansed and failed to thank Him; ten, the commandments; Jack, the knave (devil); Queen, the Blessed Virgin; King, the Lord God Almighty.

There are 365 spots in the entire pack, the days of a year. Fifty-two cards arc the weeks in a year. Twelve picture cards denote the months. Four suits, the number of weeks in a month.-Louis M., Orchard Grove, Lakewood.

ADMIT IT

One of the most difficult traits we must learn to overcome is that of finding fault. We demand perfection in other people and forget that we're far from being acceptable ourselves. We seem to look for the faults and weaknesses in others, never aware of the fact that most others are looking us over the same way. So let's train ourselves to discover the things we can praise in the other fellow. We'll be astonished to find that life will be sweeter and happier and the world a grand place to live in after all. Try it.

Consolidated Meetings Third Sunday of Every Month!

CHICAGO SECRETARY DIES

The many Clevelanders who passed through Chicago and visited the Chicago AA offices were privileged to meet **Miss Grace Cultice**, who as secretary contributed considerably to the great success the Chicago area has enjoyed. Not an alcoholic, however, she understood the alcoholic mind and gave great inspiration and encouragement to many. It is with regret that we report her passing to her eternal reward. She died January 8, and was buried in Xenia, O., Tuesday, January 13.

FRED BEZOLD

Cleveland AA's mourn the passing of one of its most cherished members in **Fred Bezold**, a member of Lee Road Friday and Corinthian Groups. Fred would have had nine years of uninterrupted sobriety in May. He also will be sorely missed at Charity Hospital, where he was a regular visitor. He underwent a serious operation which he failed to survive. He died December 20 and was buried December 23.

Word comes to us as we go to press that **Jim Preston** who had been active for quite some time until the past year passed away Friday, January 16. He was buried Monday, January 19.

THREE NEW GROUPS

On Wednesday, January 21, a new group titled **Garfield Heights Group**, will hold its opening meeting with **Bill O'R.**, popular West Sider, as its speaker. Meeting place at Trinity Baptist Church, E. 94th and Garfield Blvd., at 9:00 o'clock.

Plans are being completed for the opening of club rooms at 6409 Detroit Ave. The group will be called the **Edgewater** and will hold meetings on Saturday evenings. Club rooms will be open to all members for 24 hours daily. **Jack K.**, former secretary of the Angle Group, is secretary.

Barrister Ed. B. was the speaker as the new **Miles-Lee Group** was formed on January 6. They meet in Mount Hope Church, E. 164th Street, just north of Miles on Tuesdays.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE

From time to time the Office receives calls for blood donations for members of AA and their families. In recent attempts to assist people in contacting donors we have found that the Office blood donor list which was compiled some years ago is out of date. If any members of your Group are willing to list their names as blood donors they can do so by calling or writing the Office. In order to make it easier for any member who may be interested in writing the Office, the only information needed is the name, address, telephone and blood type, if known.

During the period November 28-December 30, 1947, there were 95 requests for contact, turned over to 7 individuals and 39 Groups. Of these 71 were receptive to first contact, 16 were not ready or not interested! 2 were not AA cases, in 4 instances no contact was possible, and in 2 cases we have as yet received no report as to result. In the same period there were 77 liaison services to Groups, 25 requests for literature and information and 8 speakers were supplied.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Gloom pervaded the atmosphere as the treasurer reported bills outstanding of \$172.77. Most of this amount was due to the expense of mimeographed reports and mailing of this Committee as well as the Hospital and Consolidated Meeting Committee. It was deemed advisable to dispense with reports and notices until groups responded with their semi-annual \$5.00 donations which were due in January. Heretofore revenue from the Consolidated meetings enabled the committee to operate within its income, but these meetings have been so poorly attended that it prompted the question as to the advisability of continuing them.

Being committed for the January 18th meeting, a decision will be made by a subcommittee whether to continue or not. If the response is favorable on the January meeting, a February meeting honoring Clarence S. on his 10th anniversary will be considered.

BIG CROWD AT UNION

A capacity crowd of over 300 enjoyed an exhilarating meeting on Monday, January 19. Don B., of no-hit fame, was the speaker and he did a highly creditable job. After about a dozen comments from AA's, a member of Cleveland's police department who came as a visitor, gave the audience a half-hour of his experiences with drunks and broken homes. Assigned to combat juvenile delinquency, in his judgment, much of this was caused by broken homes which resulted from intoxication and a decline in moral character. The cop was a natural comedian and had the crowd in stitches, as he gave colorful details.

The group returned to its old quarters at 12907 Union Ave.

BOWLING

Euclid-Wade clubs are riding in first place with 37 games won and 17 lost, with Doan Tigers in second, a game behind. Glenville #3 is in third with #1 in fifth. The latter two were riding high in the first two positions for some time.

Pearl #1 still leads the Friday League with 53 points. Collinwood is in second place with 48 points. Eddie B. still leads the individuals with a consistent 174 average. Norman T.'s Lorain Bears bring up the rear with a sorry 20 points. He has difficulty in keeping bowlers.

ERIE CELEBRATES THIRD

Clevelanders are invited to help Erie Stag celebrate its third anniversary on February 6, at 1110 Parade St. The affair will start with a meeting led by Father Ralph P. of Indianapolis, Ind., and will be followed by a fish buffet lunch.

The Chief of Police, William Donahue, will be honored for his consideration and cooperation at this meeting.

EDGE LAKE

Two Amishmen from Wooster, O., attended our meeting of December 30 and received a cordial welcome.

Our New Year's Eve party was a hilarious success, bringing out surprising and amusing talents in some of the members.

FERTILE TERRITORY

By the grace of God many AA's were spared the shock of being sent to Warrensville. Those who served their sentence left with mingled emotions, such as fear, resentment, shame, hatred and revenge in their hearts.

Among the prisoners are many who could be saved from themselves with just the right approach. AA has made an outstanding record with men and women. Really fine people, even as you and I.

Each Wednesday at 6:30 p. m. sharp, a determined and appreciative group goes out to the Women's House of Correction, and they're rewarded with great attention and excellent results. Carl and Ettie G. are doing a magnificent job of organization.

If you want to help someone, there's a real opportunity.

A highly successful Christmas party was staged for the women. Each of the 83 inmates was given an AA initialed handkerchief with crocheted edging, the work of one of the former inmates now in AA, and candy and cigarettes. This was made possible through the sale of Christmas cards and added-contributions.

POLICE TAKE OVER

Four outstanding members of AA in the Cleveland Police Department will participate in a panel discussion on Wednesday, February 4, at Brooklyn's regular meeting. They are Harold S., Jack N., Paul S. and Tom F. Should be an unusual and an excellent meeting.

One of the largest crowds in the group's history heard Don B. give a humble and sincere talk on January 7.

LORAIN COUNTY CONSOLIDATED

The monthly Consolidated meeting of the Lorain County Groups will be held on Sunday, February 1, in AA Social Center, 700 Broadway, Lorain, O. Judge Jim C. of Cleveland will be the speaker.

CROSSROADS

A busload of Bereans visited the Crossroads Group on January 10 and heard Dr. James R. of Newton Falls give an excellent lead. The occasion was a delightful one.

ELYRIA

Elyria celebrates its fifth anniversary on Wednesday, February 7, with a dance and a short talk by Franklyn S. of Cleveland. The affair will be held in the basement of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Middle and Third Avenues, Elyria, O.

SMITH-WILSON

On Tuesday, January 27, the Smith-Wilson Group will celebrate its second anniversary with a gala festival. The speakers will be Jack D. and Franklyn S., who contributed so much to the success of the first anniversary celebration last year. Good eats and music and dancing will follow. The affair will start promptly at 8:30 because of length of program.

THE RIAN IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,
And see what THAT man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Who judgment upon you must pass;
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people may think you a straight-shootin' chum
And call you a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest
For he's with you clear up to the end,
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of
years

And get pats on the back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

-Reprinted by request.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

BORTON-E. Clew. Cong. Church. Page & Euclid	8 :45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O.—Ward 23-B	7 :30
FAIRMOUNT-ST. Paul's Episc. Church. Fairmount & Coventry-&l	8 :30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg.	
Detroit Ave. & St. Charles	8 :30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episcopal. W. Clifton & Detroit	8 :30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON-St. Luke's Church. Clifton Blvd.	8 :30
LAKE SHORE—Lezion Hall. 1372 Warren Rd.	
Dinner at 7 :00 P. M. Meeting	8 :30
LEE ROAD-E. C. Presb. Church. Nelaview & Euclid	8 :30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex. W. 120th at Lorain	8 :30
PEARL-Good Counsel Hall. 4427 Pearl Rd.	8 :30
UNION-12907 Union Ave	8 :30
SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church. 3451 Warrenville	8 :30
Center Rd.	8 :30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-Holy Name Hall. 13328 Broadway	8 :30
WEST 25TH ST.-Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St	8 :30
WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church. Willoughby. O.	8 :30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE-Glenville Hall. 10421 St. Clair	8 :30
WOMEN%-West Side, Our Savior's Hall. W. 68th at Franklin	8 :30

TUESDAY

ARCADE-Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid	8 :30
CHARITY-Last Tues. of each month-Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid	8 :30
CLARK-4106 Clark Ave. (Upstairs)	8 :30
EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle	8 :00
EUCRID-WAD&Calvary Presbyterian Church. E. 79 & Euclid	8 :30
EDGELAKE-Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit	
Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting	8 :30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church. E. 164th, north of Miles	8 :30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church. 15615 Kinsman Rd.	8 :30
SMITH-WILSON-Nativity School. 9510 Aetna Road	8 :30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—St. Joseph's Parish	8 :30
SUPERIOR —Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior	8 :30
WEST SIDE MEN'S-St. Patrick's Hall. Bridge Ave. near W. 38th	8 :30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall. 23rd and Beech Sts	8 :00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag-33 N. State Street	8 :30

WEDNESDAY

ADDISON-1467 Addison Rd. (side)	8 :30
BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.	8 :30
BROOKLYN-K of P Hall. 3316 Broadview. east of Pearl Rd.	8 :45
CHARDON-St. Mary's Church	9 :00
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.	8 :30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.	8 :30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St., 2nd floor. aide entrance	8 :45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS-Trinity Baptist Church. E. 94-Garfield Blvd.	9 :00
LEE ROAD-First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard	8 :30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD-S. Cyril's Church. Madison and Lakewood Aves.	8 :30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction	6 :30
WEST PAHK-17th Precinct Hall. W. 167th and Lorain (upstairs)	8 :30
BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A. Tarbell Ave	8 :30
ELYRIA, O.-St. Andrew's Episc. Church. Middle & Third	8 :00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School. Reid Ave.	8 :30

THURSDAY

ANGLE-St. Malachi's Church, 2549 Washington Ave	8 :30
BEREA, O.-Fine Arts Club. E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland	8 :30
BROADWAY-56TH—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall	8 :30
COVENTRY-Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road. East of Coventry	8 :30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE-Emmanuel Church Euclid at E. 86th	9 :00
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair	9 :00
EAST LAKE-Vine and Campbell, Willoughby. O	8 :30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain	8 :30
OUTHWAITE-(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman	8 :30
WYANDOTTE MEN'S—Church of Redeemer. Andrew and Detroit Avenue (rear)	8 :30
LORAIN TRAINING-AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.	8 :30
PAINESVILLE, O.-33 N. State St., Third Floor	8 :30
WEST SIDE—7403 Denison Ave.	10 :30 A. M.

FRIDAY

CEDAR — Salvation Army. 2181 E 66th St.	8 :15
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.-American Legion. E. Orange St	8 :30
GORDON SQUARE-People's bleth. Church, W. 66th & Bridge	8 :30
LEE ROAD-2066 E. 106th. K. of P. Hall	8 :30
MILES MEN'S—Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.	8 :30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall. Lakeview off Detroit Rd.	8 :30
NORTHEAST-2026 E. 106th St.	8 :30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE-St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit	8 :30
LORAIN-AVON—1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.	8 :30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church. Seminary and Church	8 :30
EUCRID, O.-St. Paul's Church. E. 200th St. off St Clair	8 :30

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S-St. John's Lutheran Church, Cable at Bmadwoy	8 :30
CROSSROADS-Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th. North of Euclid Avenue	9 :00
EDGEWATER - Detroit Ave.	9 :00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair	9 :30
MATT TALBOT-St. Philip Neri Church. E. 82 and St. Clair	8 :30
PARMA-St. Frances de Sales School Hall. State Rd. & George Ave.	8 :30
TRINITY-Trinity Evangelical Church, 3526 W. 26th St.	8 :30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather	5 :30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road	8 :00
8005 GROUP—8005 Lorain Ave.	8 :30
ELYRIA, O.-St. Andrew's Episc. Church. Middle & Third	8 :30
OBERLIN, OHIO-K. of P. Hall	9 :00

SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue	7 :30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 105th St.	8 :00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93	8 :30
PIONEER (Negro)—7100 Kinsman	10 :00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.	2 :00
WARRENSVILLE—Workhouse Library	10 :00 A. M.
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway,	10 :00 A. M.
1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH	
CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370	8 :30

GOOD PHILOSOPHY

An alcoholic under the influence of alcohol some time ago said repeatedly, "I'm so unhappy. I'm so unhappy." This can result when the disatisfying experiences of life begin to outweigh the satisfying experiences. Then it is that a person concludes he has little if anything to live for.

Religion helps us to take a long-range view of life. We are prone to judge life, calling it good or bad, upon the basis of a single experience. Yet we know there is always a sequel to every experience and that no experience is in itself all bad or all good until the final chapter of life has been written.

I am reminded of one of the parables of Lietse, the great Taoist philosopher. Ilim Yutang records it. It's the parable of the Old Man at the Fort. An old man was living with his son at an abandoned fort on top of a hill. One day he lost his horse, and the neighbors came to express their sympathy. But the old man asked, "How do you know this is bad luck?" A few days afterwards his horse returned with a number of wild horses! So his neighbors came again, this time to congratulate him. But the old man replied, "How do you know this is good luck?" With so many horses around his son took to riding, and it wasn't long before there was a broken leg in the family. Once more the neighbors came around to express their sympathy. But the old man, was not to be moved. He answered, "How do you know this is bad luck?" The next year there was a war, and because the old man's son was a cripple he didn't have to go to the front!

Nothing could be clearer. One doesn't have to be a Chinese to get the point.

—From "The Thought Starter," Minneapolis.

* * *

One of the most important things my husband has learned in AA is to tell the truth no matter what the consequences may be. He knows now that "truth is the best policy" and that in the end it pays. The lies he used to tell and the way he used to exaggerate things for his own benefit was very embarrassing to me. I often wondered just how dumb he thought we other people were.

—Camel Club Chronicle.

* * *

And then there was the dying midget who ordered a short bier.

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL—No. 13



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Editorial – Criticism

Thwt form of criticism which the dictionary defines as "faultfinding" is a line of least resistance. No effort is required to criticize that which we do not like or which we do not understand in others.

Carping criticism can become a habit. It engenders mental laziness. It breeds moral irresponsibility. It stunts the growth of emotional maturity. It becomes, in the end, a danger to the spiritual life of the critic.

Remember how we alcoholics resented the slightest criticism of our drinking? Yet criticism of our old habits was intended to be constructive. Such recollection should be a warning to think and pray before we judge.

Remember how we despised those whom we classified as "holier than thou" persons because of their criticism? Criticism implies an attitude superior to the person criticized. We should abolish from our hearts the faintest remnant of smugness now that we are sober. Unless this is done the way is barred to humility and tolerance.

Criticism can take many forms. It can be gossip. It can be petty fault-finding. It can be ridicule. For example, there is a tendency among us, a hangover from drinking days, to think it is being big, tough and strong to ridicule sentiment. This is the attitude of an adolescent. It is understandable because all alcoholics, being emotionally immature, pass through an adolescent stage before they reach an adult appreciation of the place true sentiment plays in the life of mature people.

Criticism is negative. A tendency to indulge in it can be overcome with a little effort. Try to go through one day without either harboring a single negative or destructive thought and without giving expression to such a statement.

Most of us may not find it easy. Do not again follow the line of least resistance because it has not worked on the first few attempts. Consider the experiences of each attempt as the lessons for the next. Like taking the daily inventory it will become easier with practice. When a whole day has been passed without gossip, faultfinding and criticism, real spiritual progress has been made.

A good yardstick is the old Arabic poem about the "Three Gates":

*If you are tempted to reveal
A tale to you someone has told
About mother, make it pass,
Before you speak, three gates of gold.
These narrow gates: First "Is it true?"
Then "Is it needful?" In your mind
Give truthful answer. And the next
Is last and narrowest, "Is it kind?"
And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three,
Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
What the result of speech may be.*

When the inclination to condemn or criticize comes upon you ask yourself why. Try to find what you are harboring in your own heart similar to that which you are prone to condemn in another. Look always for the good in the person you wish to criticize and remember that good

(Continued ON page two)

Disillusionment ©

He wore a most unhappy look as he sauntered into our office today. He appeared disillusioned and lost, and after several minutes of casual comments on health and weather we sensed he wanted to get something off his chest. So we dusted off a chair, sat him down in it, and he let loose.

Seems as though we invited this in a meeting we led recently, when we stated that pent-up emotions such as hate, resentment and envy could eat like a cancer in the very soul and that only the airing of these emotions to some trusted confidant could prevent disaster or offer a solution. That, in the airing of it, often a dispassionate counselor could find the solution to most problems. Sometimes not to his liking, for hate, resentment and envy once entering the soul leave sore and gaping holes when they are ripped out and exposed. So he came to us, thinking we would understand.

Now we certainly can't lay claim to having all the answers. We are subject to emotional upheavals too often ourselves to suit us. But if we have learned anything in AA, we have found that our attitude and peace of mind was sowed by the continued harboring of these human vices. And having found that which helped us, we are glad to offer it to others for what it is worth.

This man was having reflexes. He had been in AA for two months and had thought it the most beautiful fellowship in the world. He attended five to six meetings a week and made daily visits to hospitals. But today he's unhappy. He's disillusioned. AA isn't the beautiful fellowship it seemed to be. This guy was a fourflusher. That guy was a fakir. So-and-so was insincere. Another was using AA for financial gain. Three or four had borrowed money from him and never paid it back. So this was AA!

Our hackles started to rise instinctively as he made these charges on our beloved AA, but we permitted him to expend himself. (Those who know us have a right to doubt the last part of the foregoing sentence, but it's true.) We listened with carefully restrained patience because we sensed the man was sincere in his desire to find an answer to something disturbing him. His final explosion was toward the spiritual part of the program. How could these hypocrites preach prayer and be like they were?

It's difficult to point out to any prejudiced person that he's wrong in his thinking. WC pointed out that he'd attained sobriety for two months and had found happiness until he started to investigate the caliber of the persons in AA. Human beings will always be human beings and will act like them. If we judge AA by the humans, we lose sight of that which is the very essence of AA, the spirit of God which motivates the movement.

If we were saved from drowning, would we care about the pedigree of our saviour? Would we care if he was shaven or had whiskers, clean or was filthy, a church deacon or a reprobate? No. We who comprise the membership in AA are human and subject to human frailties to a greater or lesser degree, each striving to improve our status in life through sobriety and a rekindled interest

(Continued ON page two)

CRITICISM

(Continued from page one)

will overcome evil. But most important: instead of giving way to this negative tendency do something practical to help. For us this should not be difficult. We have successfully worked with the Higher Power to help others overcome the weakness of alcoholism. WC can also work with the Higher Power in doing the little things in life which can make faultfinding a discarded habit.

APRON STRINGS

WC have read and re-read a story, "A Star to Livr By," which appeared in *Colliers* for December 27, 1947, in which a sadly disillusioned returned soldier looks up his old army chaplain. He's bitter because he found racial intolerance and hatred more prevalent than before he left. Some of his buddies were Jews and Negroes and the God he'd found through the padre wasn't as evident to him any more as he witnessed the change in people.

We liked the author's answer to the soldier's questions and we reprint herewith an excerpt from the very excellent story which we can use:

Joe: That's beautiful stuff, Padre. But do you mean to say that God is personally looking out for me? That if I, Joe, and my wife and kids were thrown out in the street—that God would find us some place to live? Gee, Padre, don't give me that!

Padre: "Not a sparrow falls but your heavenly Father knows it." Remember that from the Bible, Joe? And this one—"The very hairs on your head are numbered in the mind of God."

Joe: Yeah, what about my buddy? I guess the hairs on his head were numbered too. And maybe God wasn't looking when he got his head blown off at Leyte, eh, Padre?

Padre: The Book of Job was written about that very problem, lad. Does God look out for each one of us, personally? If so, how do we account for kids who went to flaming death in airplanes, or little children who are crippled, or people who get hit by cars? Well, Joe, we've got to grow up with our religions. God isn't a busybody of a mom with a couple of billion apron strings-one for each blithering child. God is the love and goodness in us. So instead of watching over us, God is in us, and each of us is a part of God.

Religion doesn't promise immunity, Joe. It would be at a premium if it did. Man, would our churches be packed every Sunday? When you and I were out there in Guinea I saw many a fellow shot up with the Bible on his breast. Religion isn't a rabbit's foot, Joe. We've got to get rid of the idea that it is. I used to tell the pilots, "Prayers won't hold your planes up. Only aerodynamics will."

Joe: You mean we shouldn't pray, Padre? You mean prayers aren't worth a hoot?

Padre: Prayer opens the door of your inner self to the spirit of the universe. It allows the God inside you to communicate with the God all around you. That's why prayer has brought many a plane in safely. Not because it gave magical immunity, mind you—but because it gave the pilot peace and calm and courage, and enabled him to bring the plane in safely. That's why we say the power of faith moves mountains. Do you follow me?

Joe: In a way, Padre. I used to pray a lot in the fox-holes. Just talkin' to God. like. I think without that, I'd have died of plain fright.

Padre: And plain fright would have made you a bad soldier. You might have got yourself killed. See, prayer wasn't a rabbit's foot. It didn't draw a magic ring around you and say, "Jap bullets detour here." But it gave you inner peace, Joe—another name for courage—and so you ducked at the right time and you held your ground.

Joe: I still could have got killed.

Padre: Certainly. Remember what we said about immunity? No guarantees. Religion, Joe, is concerned with the indestructible part of man. So it isn't what happens that counts as much as it is how we take what happens. The faithless are rocked by feather taps, but the believing man is unmoved by a bludgeon.

We regret that space does not permit reprinting the entire story. We recommend its reading. *Colliers*, December 27, 1947, issue.

DISILLUSIONMENT

(Continued from page one)

in God, whose contact we'd neglected for years in our solo through life. This interest in God is also rekindled to a greater or lesser degree, and it isn't an indictment of God or AA that a small percentage, sober, are stirring doubt in the minds of those searching for perfection. It will never be found on earth.

It behooves all of us to correct our obvious faults. The Spirit behind AA is never wrong. It's a lifetime job to measure up to it as best we can.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Over 500 people attended the February Consolidated Meeting to pay tribute to one of the most ardent and active men in Cleveland's AA history, Clarence S. Many Clevelanders, as well as hosts of others in outlying towns are sober today because of his great energy and devotion.

One of the early pioneers in the Cleveland area, and in spite of criticism and opposition to his methods of spreading the word in those early formative years, when there was no established policy. Clarence deserves a great share of the credit for the remarkable growth of AA in Cleveland. The separation from the Oxford movement caused the adoption of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* to be the guide of the alcoholics and through its adoption, groups were formally called Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

He gave a brief sketch of early AA history in his address. Points which he emphasized and conclusions which he reached from his rich experience were: That drinking in his opinion was not a habit, taste or disease, but an obsession—a condition of the mind; that no man made AA what it is, but that the contributions of each member, new and old, made it great and would continue to do so; that II Corinthians 5:13 was AA in operation; that we were chosen for a life of service; that the very reason for our success was that we were not professional, and could make serving our hobby; and finally that in order to insure our own future we should apply the four absolutes to our life at home and at work as well as at meetings.

In our opinion it was one of the best meetings that Clarence has led, and we offer him our congratulations and wishes for happier years ahead.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

ARE WE ALL LIKE THAT?

A housewife decided that a bowl in which she kept her goldfish needed cleaning. She filled the bathtub with water, emptied the fish into it, thinking that the poor little things would enjoy a big swim. But instead they still swam around in small circles the size of the glass bowl.

Some people are like that. They become so used to their own ideas and their own limited horizon that when someone with vision suggests something new and different their immediate reaction is: "It can't be done." They would still rather "swim" within the narrow circle of their usual thinking and acting.

WARNING

A thorough scamp who claims five years' experience in AA, hailing from Washington, D. C., has victimized several gullible Clevelanters. He calls himself Albert R-d, though he is facile enough to change that too. Before you invest, investigate. Watch out, Detroit and intervening cities.

MINSTREL SHOW IN APRIL

A brand new variety show with the minstrels almost subsidiary will be on stage at Little Theater 011 Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25. Exceptionally fine specialty acts with all AA talent allows the minstrels but a meager half hour out of the one and one-half hour show. Prices will be \$1.50 and \$2.10, tax included.

FORMER LORAIN SECRETARY DIES

Word came to us that our good friend Harry J. Fischer died in Florida where he retired because of ill health a little over a year ago. He was a devoted AA and was former secretary of Lorain-Avon group. He died February 13 and was buried in Oklawaha, Fla., on the 16th.

YOUR DISTRICT AA OFFICE

Thursday evening, February 19, the quarterly meeting of the Cleveland District AA Office Operating Committee was held with 30 local groups represented, united in cooperation and enthusiasm.

They heard that there has been contributed a total (so far since November 1, 1947) \$2917.76 against the necessary yearly total of \$10,164, which 1948 budget was approved at the meeting on November 20, 1947.

Hence there is forthcoming some \$7000, which every indication points toward being received.

Edward J. B., the noted barrister of Lee Road Friday group, was elected to the open three-year term as a member of the Office Operating Committee. Edward J. B. succeeds Jack D. of Borton group who has been chairman of this committee ever since your office was opened over three years ago. Tribute was paid to Jack for the great amount of time and sincere effort he has so willingly contributed in charting your office to its present state of efficiency, which contribution he modestly stated, was one of labor fruitfully expended.

Because today your office is operating as efficiently and successfully as ever can be expected. Witness the figures disclosed: that over 200 men and women have become members of AA since November 1, 1947, solely through original contact through your Cleveland District AA office.

Your office has long ceased to be an experiment (it was the second one in America). Today there is an office in practically every city in the county, several of them learning from your office some of the time-tested most helpful procedures.

The editor of Central Bulletin has graciously made available to your office some space in this magazine each month. In that space you will hear each month of the serious and sometimes lighter activities your office is called upon to perform.

Till then, thank you one and all for your wonderful cooperation. Your Office Committee.

P. S.: Can any member of Cleveland AA either read or speak Syrian? If so, please come up to the office and translate a letter just received from Syria. We do try to fill our jobs, but this one has us stumped.

TAX STAMPS

The tax stamps so far turned in to the Cleveland District AA office have a cash value of something over \$50.00. Contributed by but a few groups so far-but indicating the possibilities before us.

Why not have your group save these stamps too-it provides needed money for the operation of your office; and certainly is an easy dividend to earn on monies already spent.

Just send them to your office-they will be counted there and cashed.

SMITH-WILSON

About 150 persons attended the second anniversary of the groups Tuesday, January 27. Jack D. and Frank S. were in excellent form. The pastor of the church, Rev. V. A. Chaloupka, expressed his praise for the remarkable achievements of AA.

NORWALK HOLDS THIRD

The third anniversary of the Norwalk group was attended by the town's leading citizen&including the mayor, two judges, prominent business men and many of the clergy, each of whom were called on for a few words. Particularly pleasing were the remarks of the Episcopalian pastor who averred that if the members of his congregation exhibited the same spiritual zeal as AA had shown he would have one of the most successful congregations in the country. The speaker for the evening was Harry D. of Cleveland, editor of the Bulletin.

ADDISON MOVES-CHANGES NIGHT

The Addison group announces both changes in location and meeting night. Formerly meeting on Wednesday, it now meets on Mondays at 8:30 and the new location is St. Francis School Hall at E. 71st and Superior. Bob S. of West Side Men was the speaker at the first meeting in the new hall on February 9.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

At the February meeting 19 groups answered to roll call. The treasurer reported that all Twelfth Anniversary bills owing Masonic Auditorium had been paid in full, although there were some miscellaneous printing bills still to pay. The Central Committee remaining bills totaled \$195.71. Groups contributed \$40.00 for first half of 1948 contributions. (If your group has not yet made its semi-annual \$5.00 contribution, please do so at next meeting.)

The continuation of Consolidated Meetings was discussed at length and representatives were instructed to present this to their groups for decision. Quarterly meetings or bi-monthly meetings were seriously considered. Accordingly no decision could be made on holding a March meeting.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Twenty-six groups were represented at the February Hospital Committee meeting, February 17. It was a highly constructive meeting with intelligent discussion showing a desire on the part of each to be a potent force in the improvement of the treatment of alcoholics in the hospitalizing agencies.

Because of charges preferred against one nursing home and a demand that it be removed from the approved list, a committee was appointed to prepare a code of ethics for hospitals which will be submitted to the committee and groups for adoption.

The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 370 Hanna Building. Each group should be represented. March 16 is the next meeting.

MILES MEN A REVELATION

Packed in tightly in the cleared workroom of a southeast greenhouse each week are 30 to 40 men who constitute the Miles Men's group. The intensity of their interest is so apparent to any visitor that it is contagious. Spirited and intelligent discussion reflect the thoroughness of their sponsorships and their desire to further their knowledge. Frank I., secretary and organizer, is to be commended for his developing such an asset to Cleveland AA.

MEN'S WORKHOUSE GROUP

Excellent meetings conducted by fine leaders have had wonderful effect on the inmates of Warrensville. About 24 AA's make the trek every Sunday at 10 o'clock. The library is crowded with prisoners who are looking for a way out, period. Spendid opportunity for Twelfth Step work.

We have made new arrangements for the homeless who are discharged from the workhouse. They are placed with Wayfarers Lodge until "adopted" by sponsors. Old Buck made a fine move in this respect we think.

CONGRATS TO STANLEY G.

One of Cedar group's proudest "achievements" celebrated his third anniversary on February 6. His comeback from veritable oblivion and exceeding hopelessness to a respected position and reunion with his family is one of the miracles of Cleveland. We join Cedar in praising God for Stan's fine recovery.

NEWBURGH ELECTS NEW SECRETARY

A highly enthusiastic group of AA's which meet on Sunday evening at 9 o'clock on the southeast side of Cleveland in St. Catherine's Hall, 3443 E. 93, has elected Lee K. as its new secretary.

Lee welcomes the cooperation of all groups in visiting and getting better acquainted.

CHARITY GROGJ

Through the efforts of a committee of one, Eddie G., whose appreciation of treatment at Charity prompted him, the diet kitchen used by AA's for "coffee and" will be modernized with a new refrigerator and hot plate. His goal is \$600.00 and about \$400.00 is in the hands of Sister Eunice. Greater appreciation hath no man than this fine little Jewish boy.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON-St. Francis School Hall, E. 11st and Superior	8:30
HORTON-E. Clew. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid	8:45
CRAIG V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O.—Ward 23-B	7:30
FAIRMOUNT-St. Paul's Episc. Church, Fairmount & Coventry	8:30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. & St. Charles	P 3:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episcopal W. Clifton & Detroit	8:30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON-St. Luke's Church, Clifton Blvd.	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd. Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting	8:30
LEE ROAD-E. C. Presb. Church, Nelaview & Euclid	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain	8:30
PEARL-Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.	8:30
UNION-12907 Union Ave.	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church, 3461 Warrenville Center Rd.	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway	8:30
WEST 25TH ST.-Marvel Hall, 2868 W. 26th St.	8:30
WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, 0	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE-Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side, Our Savior's Hall, W. 68th at Franklin	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE-Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 16th & Euclid	8:30
CHARITY-Last Tues. of each month-Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid	8:30
CLARK-4106 Clark Ave. (Upstairs)	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle	8:00
EUCLID-WADE-Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 19 & Euclid	8:30
EDGE LAKE-Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting	8:30
MILES-LEE Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles	8:30
M.T. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.	8:30
SMITH-WILSON-Nativity School, 9610 Aetna Road	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—St. Joseph's Parish	8:30
SUPERIOR — Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag—33 N. State Street	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.	8:30
BROOKLYN-K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.	8:45
CHARDON-St. Mary's Church	9:00
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St., 2nd floor, side entrance	8:45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist Church, E. 94-Garfield Blvd.	9:00
LEE ROAD-First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard	8:30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD-St. Cyril's Church, Madison and Lakewood Aves.	8:30
WARRENSVILLE-Women's House of Correction	6:30
WEST PARK-17th Precinct Hall, W. 167th and Lorain (upstairs)	8:30
BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.	8:30

THURSDAY

ANGLE-St. Malachi's Church, 2649 Washington Ave.	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland	8:30
BROADWAY-55TH—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall	8:30
COVENTRY-Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emmanuel Church Euclid at E. 86th	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair	9:00
EAST LAKE-Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, 0	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain	8:30
OUTHWAITE (Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman	8:30
WYANDOTTE MEN'S-Church of Redeemer, Andrews and Detroit Avenue (rear)	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING-AA Social Center, 700 Broadway	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor	8:30
WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave.	10:30 A. M.

FRIDAY

CEDAR — Salvation Army, 2181 E 66th St.	8:15
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—People's bleth. Church, W. 65th & Bridge	8:30
LEE ROAD-2066 E. 106th, K. of P. Hall	8:30
MILES MEN'S—Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.	8:30
ROCKY RIVER-St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd.	8:30
NORTHEAST-2028 E. 106th St.	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit	8:30
LORAIN-AVON—1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, 0	8:30
BEREA-Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church	8:30
EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church, E. 200th St. off St. Clair	8:30

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Lutheran Church, Cable at Broadway	8:30
CROSSROADS-Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 16th, North of Euclid Avenue	9:00
EDGEWATER—6409 Detroit Ave.	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair	9:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82 and St. Clair	8:30
PARMA—St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. & George Ave.	8:30
TRINITY-Trinity Evangelical Church, 3626 W. 26th St.	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road	8:00
8005 GROUP-8006 Lorain Ave.	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO-K. of P. Hall	9:00

PETE HITS ON EIGHT

Popular Pete McN. will be the speaker for his old group on Monday, March 1 as he celebrates the eighth anniversary of continued sobriety. The Monday Lee Road group meets at the East Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Nela Road and Euclid, E. Cleveland, Ohio.

BOWLING

Pearl No. 1 still leads 1hr West Siders' League with G5 points with Collinwood and Lorain No. 2 tied for second with 58. Eddie B. leads individuals with 176.

Euclid Wade Clubs remain entrenched in first with Doan Tigers gaining one game in three weeks. Glenville No. 3 is challenging again with only four games out of first. Euclid Wade Clubs smacked a 970 game to tie for team high single.

WESTERNER SENDS GREETINGS

In renewing his subscription to the Bulletin, Paul W. G., formerly of Gordon Square group, pays us a nice compliment.

He also states that he operates a nursing home in Sacramento, California, on the same basis as is operated in Cleveland and wants to be remembered to all of his Cleveland friends.

His address is PO Box 1497, Sacramento 7, California.

BAXTER OPEN HOUSE

About 300 people attended the open house party on January 14. The band and dance music under the direction of Rev. Fr. Protazy did an excellent job in keeping the crowd entertained.

MC Johnny H. and Franklyn S. spoke and the film, "Problem Drinkers," was also shown. Secretary Anthony M. appreciates support.

MORNING GROUP PLANNED

A member of the Euclid group had his hours of work shifted on him which makes it impossible to attend regular hour meetings. So he offers to start a group for East Side workers to meet on a suitable morning if others as he would be interested. He is Barney B., 1465 E. 219th Street, and can be reached at KE 4836.

PEARL HAS NEW SECRETARY

William C. R. is the new secretary of the Pearl group effective March 1. Joe RI. is treasurer.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

CLEVELANDERS BUS TO KENT

Six groups from the West Side chartered two buses and paid a visit to the Kent, Ohio, group on Saturday, January 24. A fine time was had in spite of inclement weather. The smorgasbrod was worth the trip. Bob W. of Clark and Jim C. of 8005 arranged the expedition.

CALL FOR NURSING HOME AIDES

One of the common criticisms of Nursing Homes and Hospitals has been the lack of control of discussions—that in many cases in point visitors have been guilty of discussing everything but the AA program.

Farquaharson's are asking the groups to get together to supply regularly scheduled mentors or aides whose assignment would be the direction and control of discussion subjects. The suggestion has been made by Mrs. McNeeley that two be assigned each night.

When a man's fight begins with himself, he 'is worth something.—Browning.

Don't complain about the snow on your neighbor's roof when your own doorstep is unclean.—Confucius.

SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-202R E. 106th St.	3:00
NEWBURGH-St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93	8:30
PIONEER (Negro)—7100 Kinsman	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.	2:00
WARRENSVILLE—Workhouse Library	10:00 A. M.
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway	10:00 A. M.
1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH	
CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370	8:30

CENTRAL BULLETIN



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March, 1948

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Editorial-Easter

Men of all faiths, even pagans, find one of their basic beliefs symbolized in the story of Easter, the renewal, the revival and the resurrection of life.

From primitive times man has celebrated a spring festival comparable to Easter to hail the promise of new birth and continuity. Spring, with its reawakening of nature, seemed to promise not only another opportunity but immortality.

It remained for the experience of the Nazarene to give Easter its personalized form and a content acceptable to Christians. But all men, whatever their religion, pay homage in one fashion or another, to the great truth of resurrection.

To no people more than to members of Alcoholics Anonymous should the universal idea embodied in Easter be sacred. To a greater degree than most people they have experienced a new life, it resurrection from the "death" of the disease which grips them.

Paul once said, "I die daily." In a sense we all do. Each morning brings new life. But for many of us there were hundreds and thousands of mornings that seemed to hold no hope of any new life, but brought instead just another day of "death" because of alcoholism.

We know now that Paul's soliloquy is incomplete unless resurrection also follows daily. But putting our faith in a Higher Power we have experienced a resurrection and have placed ourselves in the way of renewing life each day. This is normal. Cloda Reyner expresses it thus:

"Each moment someone is experiencing resurrection: restoration, revival, a rising again. Every time we doubt, every time we fumble or stumble or fall but gather our forces together and proceed again, we are, I think, experiencing resurrection.

"A normal life is a constant series of resurrections, and when we look for these instead of the depressions that sometimes appear between the peaks of victory, the world seems very good."

Resurrection, the daily renewal of life, for us cannot mean merely reemergence into a sober world. Too many of us too many times are inclined to think that we have achieved the end if we succeed in remaining sober.

To enjoy a new life more is required. There must be that daily assessment of character and the implementing of the Twelve Steps in our business world, in our relations with all other people as well as with fellow alcoholics.

That great joy of resurrection cannot be realized unless we are ready and willing to put aside the pettiness and the bickering which marred our existences as active alcoholics.

Its benefits will be neglected unless we do our work more efficiently by striving to curb the tendency to use only part of our minds and talents, just "getting by."

The tendency of all life, physical as well as the life of the spirit, is always upward. Unless we resurrect all aspects of our existence, even in the minor experiences, we are placing barriers in the path of the great resurrection of our lives, the ways and means to sobriety. We are endangering everything.

(Continued on page two)

I Could Be Wrong

Our last month's feature articles titled "Criticism" and "Disillusionment" provoked quite a bit of comment and discussion. One of the members kindly offered the opinion that, they were the best the Bulletin had published. At least, in his case, he said, they had jolted him into taking another inventory. The human side of some members who were exceedingly active had offended him. Their forcefully stated opinions, often at variance with his, definitely offended him and he was slowly losing his high opinion of AA.

So as a result of the articles he started thinking about himself, and how he would measure up if he honestly

could see himself as others saw him—from the sidelines as it were, judging every act or opinion from a strictly neutral viewpoint. Judging it on the basis of absolute honesty and fairness; absolute love, devoid of resentment, envy and bitterness; absolute purity, untinged with evil or lewd thoughts; and absolute unselfishness, free from desire for power or glory, money or other worldly gain. And what he found startled him.

He had, in his gradual recovery of self-confidence and self-assurance become dangerously near being intolerant of anyone's else opinion. It always angered him when his opinions were challenged and opposed. A hard worker who devoted an unusual amount of time to AA, he resented the grapevine reports that came to him that he was giving the impression

to many that he was "Mr. A. A. himself." It hurt his vanity. But in all truth, he confided in us, he could see that he had brought it upon himself. He could have been wrong! By golly, he was wrong, he ruefully was forced to admit.

Extremist that he was before AA, he found that this trait was showing up in his present life. He had to honestly admit his conceit in believing himself possessed of superior judgment and that selfishly he would shove it down the throats of others. He resented leadership in others and was jealous of the attention others received. He was suspicious of new ideas, especially if they came from someone who had crossed swords with him before.

Back in '43, we published an excellent editorial written by Fred S. who wrote "Tolerance begins with our being liberal minded when the acts and words of others do not square with our own fitful convictions. The tolerant person recognizes that he can be wrong, even in his strong convictions, and he recognizes that it is wrong to try to keep others from trying to express themselves. . . . Many of us, while dry, still insist on having our own way in everything, using high handed methods by shutting up those who disagree with us."

A good thing to remember that to be tolerant of the shortcomings of others is the only way of rising above our own.

Yeah, we've got to learn to be fair. We've got to realize that in this league we have others like us, extremists, and volatile in disposition. If we remember to be honest, unselfish, pure and fair, without guile or trying to "throw curves", we'll find out that the other fellows' idea might be even better than ours.

We could be wrong.

"Many have quarrel'd
about religion, that
never practised it."

—Benjamin Franklin

EASTER

(Continued from page one)

Not only at Easter, or in the spring, but throughout the year and during every hour of every day, the alcoholic must resurrect his character and his spirit from the "death" of the old life. This, to the alcoholic, is an important meaning of Easter. If he is a Christian, his faith will have a richer and deeper spiritual value.

YOUR CLEVELAND DISTRICT OFFICE

Your Cleveland District Office is open every day in the week except Sunday from 9:30 A. M. till 5:30 P. M.-on Saturday afternoons, open house with coffee. Come on up and visit a while with your friends.

Our popular Assistant Secretary "Vee" has been on vacation in Chardon from where she and her husband expect to put on the market for the first time their own brand of maple syrup.

A recent phone call to the office requested a visitor from A.A. for the caller's father. We asked if her father wanted A.A. help and she said of course he didn't. He was drunk, she went on, and she had been told to call the A.A. office and they would send someone out to sit with her father till he sobered up. Any volunteers?—seriously, though, calls such as this are only too common.

Your District Office has made its first international turnover. A Cleveland A.A. came to the office to tell us about his brother in London. England who has heard of our program and feels that he needs it. A letter was written referring this to the A.A. Secretary in London and we hope he will be as prompt and as courteous in reporting the result of this turnover as our Cleveland Groups are, so that we can pass on the news to you.

Cleveland published pamphlets handled by your District Office continue to have an ever widening distribution. Last week orders for these pamphlets were filled and sent to Oregon, South Dakota, Maine, Florida, Canal Zone, Texas and California.

The Polish translation of the pamphlet "A Way of Life" which was made by Dr. O. of the Brooklyn Group has been printed through the kindness of Harry D., and is now available at our District Office.

HOMEWORK

Tolerance, humility, and honesty are all essential to the success of the program but I do not believe that tolerance and humility alone will work. You might be able to keep from getting drunk if you were tolerant of a completely dishonest situation but it is agreed that sobriety is one of the lesser blessings of the program. If the program is really working for you, you are happy and you are making others happy, too.

And I would like to say this in behalf of the AA wife. If you ever feel that the "little woman" is somewhat intolerant, perhaps a hit of a nag, or various other private little thoughts you may have about her-remember you may be entirely right. She may be having some difficulty making her AA work and, gentlemen, there's your opportunity for some 12th step work. AA, like charity, should begin at home. If everybody in your block had scarlet fever and you nursed them ail back to health and came home to find your family had died of the disease and neglected while you were out caring for the multitude, you might be called a hero by some, but ultimately you might feel it wasn't quite worth it. Remember, in many cases, she's practically your sponsor in AA and, before AA, there was many a time you felt she was the only person, tolerant or intolerant, whom you could depend on.-Camel Club Chronicle, Marshalltown, Ia.

CONSOLIDATED MEETING

Ball Room of Cleveland Public Auditorium
SUNDAY, APRIL 18th, 4:00 P. M.

Cornelius (Corny) V., Speaker

EIGHT TEAR MEN HONORED

Four good men and true were honored by their groups in the past months on the completion of their eighth year of absolute sobriety and great and unselfish service in AA. They were Clem L. of Lakeshore, John D. of Borton, Hank W. of Brooklyn and Harry W. of Ceciar.

Their combined efforts and examples had much to do with the remarkable growth of AA in this area.

BULLETIN GETS SPARKPLUG

A veritable dynamo of enthusiasm, Ecieie G. (of Charity Hospital fame) offered to help us wipe out a long-standing deficit, by taking it upon himself to bring our circulation up to 2500, if we made him official circulation manager. We gladly did so, and he has astounded us with his success. Setting a goal of ten a day, he has maintained that average for the past fifteen days and 150 new and old subscribers are on our mailing list.

Amusing are his reports on some who are puzzled because of his teeming activity. Some have asked him what commission he receives and one of his stock answers is two dollars for a cash dollar subscription. How come? He whispers the information that it's from the advertising that he pets his cut.

Nope, folks, he's not on the payroll. This is his way of showing appreciation for help he has received from many in AA. Such unselfishness cannot go unrewarded so we give him this public accolade.

BEGIN AGAIN

By James J. Metcalf

Let me put all my past away . . . For what I have to do . . . And let me start another day . . . As though my life were new . . . Let me forget the yesteryears . . . And every little part . . . Of all the smiles and all the tears . . . They offer to my heart . . . I want to know that they are gone . . . And they will not return . . . And then I want to carry on . . . Where I may live and learn . . . Because whatever I recall . . . Was never meant to last . . . And there can be no point at all To living in the past . . . I want to pack and put away . . . The hours that are done . . . And bravely start another clay . . . Beneath a brighter sun.

STATISTICS SHOW GROWTH

On February 1, the New York office advises us, there were listed 58,381 members in 1959 groups. These groups are located in twenty countries all over the world.

NOT ABSOLUTE HONESTY

Raymond and Pedro were partners in a business and agreed that whichever one died first, the other would place one thousand dollars in the coffin of the deceased to cover expenses in the next world. Soon after the agreement was made, Raymond passed away. When Pedro returned from the funeral, his wife said: "I'll bet you didn't put \$1,000 in the coffin like you promised," Pedro swore that he did, but his wife looked doubtful. "I tell you, I did put the \$1,000 in the coffin said Pedro. "Here, look at the checkbook."

A broker sought admission to the pearly gates. "Who are you?" asked St. Peter. "I am a Wall Street broker." "What do you want?" "I want to get in," said the broker. "Well, what have you done that entitles you to admission?" "Well, I saw a decrepit woman on Broadway the other day and gave her a dime."

"Gabriel, is that on the records?" asked St. Peter, and Gabriel replied in the affirmative. "What else have you done?" continued St. Peter. "Well, I crossed the Brooklyn Bridge the other night and met a newsboy half frozen to death and gave him a nickel."

"Gabriel, is that on the records?" and again the answer was in the affirmative. "What else have you done?" continued St. Peter. "That's ail I can think of" said the broker. "What do you think we ought to do with this guy, Gabriel?" And Gabriel answered, "Give him back his 15c and tell him to go to hell."

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Highlights of the March meeting was the decision to hold Consolidated meetings on the third Sunday in April, September and January rather than monthly as has been the custom during the past year . . . The treasurer's pleasing report of great reduction in outstanding bills, thanks to a substantial return from the last Consolidated meeting and the dutiful contributions from quite a few groups . . . and the Hospital Committee's report which appears elsewhere in this issue.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Many consultations with doctors practising in nursing homes and hospitals and members of the hospital committee resulted in the development of a questionnaire which was submitted for standard adoption in all hospitalizing agencies to provide complete information on the history of each patient, enabling the doctor to better treat his patient.

Information on his previous case history, his home conditions, attitude of family, etc., will place a greater responsibility on the sponsor, but it was generally agreed that this would tend to lessen the number of "repeaters" and acquaint the family with the purposes of AA, thereby securing better cooperation.

All patients would receive a diagnosis of their condition upon leaving the hospital.

We believe it is a great step forward and the doctors are to be commended for their great interest and cooperation.

A committee was appointed to prepare an "Approved Hospitals" list which will be published in the Bulletin.

A new nursing home was opened March 1st at 20615 Euclid Avenue.

NURSING HOME CHANGES HANDS

Because of ill health and doctor's orders, Katharine Kilbane has retired from operating the nursing home she established in 1945. Quite a few active members received their indoctrination in AA. In announcing her decision through the Bulletin, Mrs. Kilbane wishes to express her appreciation to the many loyal AAs who supported her.

The new owner is Miss Helen Ryder, a graduate nurse of City Hospital, who has had years of experience there in treating alcoholics. She plans to add five beds to make a fifteen bed hospital.

Only men patients will be accepted.

MacGILLIS HOME NEW STAFF

Harold S., a great friend to many when he was assistant to the chief of police in Cleveland, as well as a devoted sponsor to many, has entered retirement as a police officer and is now devoting his full time as an aide to MacGillis Nursing Home.

Mrs. MacGillis is to be congratulated on securing such an able assistant.

The Mistletoe Group meets in our quarters each Sunday evening at seven o'clock, and has attracted many visitors. These meetings are especially beneficial to the patients, who get a preview on how AA functions.

NEW GROUPS FORMED

A new mixed group was started in Geneva on Friday, February 6, and meets each Friday at 8:30 in Townsend Hall, over the Geneva Hardware Co., Main St., west of Broadway. The secretary-treasurer is Frank T. **Mailing** address is P. O. Box 56, Geneva, O.

Marine Hospital has a new group which meets Mondays at 7:30.

A new morning group, titled East Side Morning, meets in the Doan Men's Club rooms, 2028 E. 105th St., Friday mornings at 10 A. M. It is a mixed group. Harvey S., formerly of Collinwood is secretary.

Joe: They have a machine now that can tell when a man is lying. Ever see one?

Moe: See one?—I married one.

BOWLING LEAGUES

Frank W. of Northeast, rushed up to us several weeks ago with some hot news for the Bulletin. His team was in first place! He didn't know for how long, but he wanted it for the Bulletin record. Here it is. We checked a week later and the Northeast were even more firmly entrenched. That's the Thursday League. Southeast is crowding 'em.

Pearl No. 1 and Lorain No. 2 are scrapping for the lead in the Friday League with former in the van by two points, Vince E has high single with 268.

Euclid-Wade is tops in the East Side League with Glenville No. 3 six games behind and Southeast seven behind. Looks as though the Euclid-Wades are champs.

DOAN DATA

Dapper Johnny M. was chairman for February and showed excellent judgment in selecting Mike F., Russell B., Jerry M. and old timer Harry R. as his speakers.

Reminiscing was in order as the group celebrated the sixth anniversary of its formation under the name of Crawford Men's Group. Many old timers in the audience recalled incidents which tended to make Doan Men's Group grow to its present size!

Our Sunday training meetings are still attracting good attendance. Bring your new man in for some sound AA philosophy.

BROADWAY MEN'S GROUP

Jack D., former chairman of Cleveland District office, will be the speaker at the Broadway Men's Open House meeting on Saturday, April 3. It meets in St. John's Lutheran School Hall, Cable at Broadway at 8:45 p. m.

This group started from scratch on November 15 and now has 29 active members. Many guests, visitors from other groups, make the meetings highly popular.

BROADWAY-55th

If you have led a meeting at any time at Broadway-55th Group, please advise them. Dates are not necessary. Call Ed. M. at Diamond 7162, so your name can be recorded in their attractive Speakers Book as a matter of history.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Three hundred and fifty people attended the St. Patrick's Day Party given by the Trinity and West Side Men's groups on March 17th in St. Patrick's School Hall.

Bob S. of Lorain Ave., Monday was the speaker and Lee M., one of the organizers of the Trinity Group M.C.'d the splendid floor show which followed.

UNION CELEBRATES SEVENTH

The Union Group, originally the Miles Group, will celebrate its seventh anniversary on Monday, April 19th. There will be a short meeting followed by gala entertainment. Everyone is welcome. Its baby, the Miles Men's Group, organized a year and a half ago with four members now has 65 members on its roster. Frank L., is secretary.

POWER OF EXAMPLE

We heard a man tell recently that he had come into AA through the power of example. He had had many visitors as he lay helplessly in his bed in an AA hospital, unable to talk because he had bitten his tongue severely days before when he was suffering D's. Many talked but when a necessarily silent AA, suffering from laryngitis walked in to visit with him, he was impressed with the devotion and zeal AA could inspire.

A man was complaining about his new son-in-law: "He can't drink and he can't play cards."

"That's the kind of a son-in-law to have!" said a friend.

"Naw," said the man. "He can't play cards-and he plays. He can't drink-and he drinks.-Earl Wilson in N. Y. Post.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON--St. Francis School Hall, E. 71st and Superior.....	8:30
BORTON-E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid.....	8:45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL--Parma, O. Ward 23-B.....	7:30
FAIRMOUNT--St. Paul's Episc. Church, Fairmount & Coventry.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. & St. Charles.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton & Detroit.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON--St. Luke's Church, Clifton Blvd.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE--Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd. Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-E. C. Presb. Church, Nelaview & Euclid.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.--Bnnater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL, -E. 124th and Fairhill.....	7:30
PEARL-Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.....	8:30
UNION --12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church, 3461 Warrensville Center Rd.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway.....	8:30
WEST 25TH ST-Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
WOMEN'S EAST SIDE--Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
WOMEN'S-West Side, Our Savior's Hall, W. 68th at Franklin.....	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE-Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid.....	8:30
CHARITY-Last Tues. of each month-Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid.....	8:30
CLARK-4105 Clark Ave. (Upstairs).....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:30
EUCUID-WADE--Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid.....	8:30
EDGE LAKE--Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit-- Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
MILES-LEE Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles.....	8:30
MT. PLEASANT--Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.....	8:30
SMITH-WILSON--Nativity School, 9610 Aetna Road.....	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.--St. Joseph's Parish.....	8:30
SUPERIOR --Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior.....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S--St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.--Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.--Stag--33 N. State Street.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.--6521 Baxter Ave.....	8:30
BROOKLYN--K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.....	8:45
CHARDON, O.--Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon, O.....	8:30
COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON--7403 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S--2028 E. 106th St., 2nd floor, side entrance.....	8:45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS-Trinity Baptist Church, E. 94-Garfield Blvd.....	9:00
LEE ROAD--First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard.....	8:30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD--St. Cyril's Church, Madison and Lakewood Aves.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE--Women's House of Correction.....	6:30
WEST PARK-17th Precinct Hall, W. 167th and Lorain (upstairs).....	8:30
BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.-St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third.....	8:00
LORAIN, O.-ANTLERS--St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.....	8:30

THURSDAY

ANGLE-St. Malachi's Church, 2549 Washington Ave.....	8:30
BEREA, O.-Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland.....	8:30
BROADWAY-55TH--Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall.....	8:30
COVENTRY-F&mount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry.....	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE--Emmanuel Church Euclid at E. 86th.....	9:00
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair.....	9:00
EAST LAKE-Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.--Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
OUTHWAITE-(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman.....	8:30
WYANDOTTE MEN'S--Church of Redeemer, Andrews and Detroit Avenue (rear).....	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING-AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.-33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	8:30
WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave.....	10:30 A. M.

FRIDAY

CEDAR -- Salvation Army, 2181 E 65th St.....	8:15
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.-American Legion, E. Orange St.....	8:30
EAST SIDE MORNING--2028 E. 105th St.....	10:00 A. M.
GENEVA, O.--Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway.....	8:30
GORDON SQUARE--People's Meth. Church, W. 65th & Bridge.....	8:30
LEE ROAD--2056 E. 105th, K. of P. Hall.....	8:30
MILES MEN'S--Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER--St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd.....	8:30
NORTHEAST--2028 E. 105th St.....	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE--St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit.....	8:30
LORAIN-AVON--1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.....	8:30
BEREA--Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church.....	8:30
EUCUID, O.--St. Paul's Church, E. 200th St. off St. Clair.....	8:30

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S-St. John's Lutheran Church, Cahle at Broadway.....	8:30
CROSSROADS-Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th, North of Euclid Avenue.....	9:00
EDGEWATER--6409 Detroit Ave.....	9:00
GLENVILLE--10421 St. Clair.....	9:30
MATT TALBOT-St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82 and St. Clair.....	8:30
PARMA--St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. & George Ave.....	8:30
TRINITY-Trinity Evangelical Church, 3525 W. 25th St.....	8:30
VALLEY VIEW--Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....	8:00
8005 GROUP-8006 Lorain Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.-St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third.....	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO-K. of P. Hall.....	9:00

MINSTREL SHOW

ALL AA CAST



Little Theatre, Public Auditorium
April 24 and 25 -- Tickets \$1.50 and \$2.10

PREFERS ALCOHOLICS

A Louisville automobile repair shop owner recently advertised in the help wanted column of the Louisville Courier-Journal stating he preferred alcoholics because they do better work and they do it quicker. Of course, he stated, the men aren't drunk while they work. They stay sober and work for about three weeks, go out for a week's bender and then come back to work.

HIGH TIME

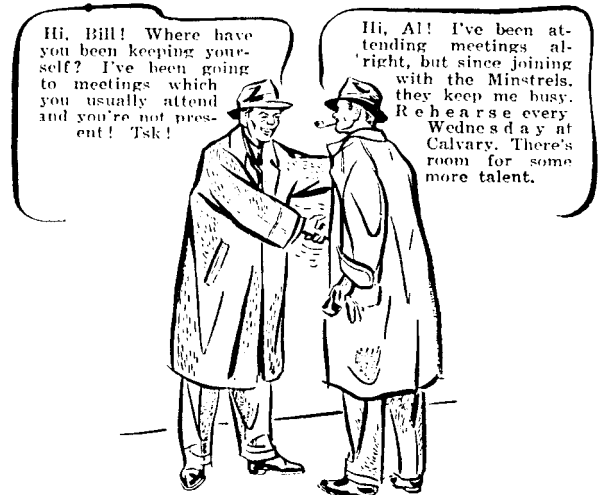
The news reporter covering a special trial flight was enjoying the panorama spread out; before him when a flock of parachutists floated by.

"Going to join us?" asked one.
"Nothing doing," snapped back the reporter. "I'm quite happy right here."
"Suit, yourself," came the now faint reply. "We're the crew!"

From The Song of Bernadette—"To those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. To those who don't, no explanation is possible."

Suffering is not a bad thing, if you have the fiber to stand it.

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL--No. 14



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SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING--2028 E. 105th St.....	8:00
NEWBURGH--St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93.....	8:30
PIONEER (Negro)--7100 Kinsman.....	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING--Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.....	2:00
WARRENSVILLE--Workhouse Library.....	10:00 A. M.
LORAIN, OHIO--Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	10:00 A. M.
MISTLETOE--MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park.....	7:00
1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE--Hanna Building, Room 370.....	8:30

CENTRAL BULLETIN

UNSELFISHNESS • HONESTY
PURITY • LOVE
A.A.

Vol. VI -No. 7

1007 SCHOFIELD BLDG., CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

April, 1948

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00 PER YEAR

TEN CENTS PER COPY

Editorial-Assets

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous have at their command the most valuable set of assets available to any individual—the Twelve Steps.

Like assets in the financial world they can produce results only if put to use.

The Twelve Steps are not a magic formula which, by their mere incantation, automatically evoke good results.

Until we attained sobriety our lives were constituted mainly of liabilities. They pulled us down in body, mind and spirit. Existence was retrogressive.

Through the help of God we found a way to put a stop to this deterioration and to arrest the disease that afflicts us. We experienced a great change; the most wonderful in our lives, but we cannot be satisfied with the change alone. We have had revealed to us a means to an end. It would be treacherous to think that we have thereby attained the final goal.

Nothing in life is static. Sobriety can not be static. We must go forward or we will go backward. Sobriety must be nourished and developed. The assets which sobriety has placed at our disposal—the Twelve Steps—must be used.

This means that the fundamental truths contained in the code of Alcoholics Anonymous—belief in a Higher Power, the privilege of prayer, faith in our fellow men and belief in ourselves, courage, wisdom and understanding—demand employment to survive.

It is easy, it is human, to neglect the exercise of these assets. To do so requires a little time and energy. This is strange because the individual who exercises them helps himself. Maybe the philosophers who somewhat cynically pointed to the perversity of human nature had some similar situation in mind. Yet we will get excited about trivial mundane affairs, push up our blood pressure because things don't go according to our prejudices, and because of our likes and dislikes, sound reasons for which we might be sorely tried to find, we will forget all that the Twelve Steps teach.

The fundamental lesson must be learned that the Twelve Steps are not something that we conjure up only on the one night of the week that our chapter meets. We have no copyright to them so that we can publish them when we choose and ignore them when it suits us best to slip back into the ways that we know are liabilities.

These invaluable assets are for all time and for all conditions and situations. They are a way of life, not a set of by-laws for a new and exclusive lodge.

Unless the individual first applies them to himself they cannot be applied to the group, they will not be utilized in everyday life and unless they are so put to work they die of inanition.

This point is well made in the story of the father who brought home a complicated map-of-the-world jigsaw puzzle and was surprised when his young son put it together immediately without difficulty.

"I didn't know you were so familiar with the geography of the world, my son," he said.

"Oh, I didn't bother with the world," the boy replied.

(Continued on page 10)

Reaching Bottom @

One of the boys was reading an interesting article which appeared in an Asheville, N. C. AA Bulletin, and provided a most interesting discussion on how far most of us went before we made the most important decision of our lives—the decision to join AA. It was the general opinion that unless each of us was convinced that we had hit bottom—our own personal low—we might possibly have trouble in digesting the complete program.

As we recalled bits of the article that impressed us, we claimed that "bottom" was relative; that a segment of our fraternity had to lose absolutely everything—position, savings, home, family, friends and health—before,

thoroughly beaten, he'd accept Step number one. Another segment would lose some of the assets like position, savings and health, but still retain a measure of standing with a long-suffering family. Another smaller segment would only lose health and some money, straining relations at home and at work, but being sufficiently cushioned, was in easy position to regain financial and social stability.

How far should each of these go before making the final, complete surrender? Certainly no sponsor could diagnose each case before him. Each individual must necessarily make his own decision as to the lengths he dare go. One might be well heeled and lose a million dollars and another in poor circumstances lose a thousand. If each has lost all,

certainly neither is more broke than the other.

Also, bottom can be reached in a relatively short time. Some of the younger men in the group, with shorter drinking careers, had had more misery and anguish crammed into a few short years than some of the older ones had experienced in over 30 years. It isn't how much you drank, how long you drank or what you drank—it's what drinking did to drive you to your particular bottom. WC thought we had gone as far as we cared to go when we joined AA, and soon were amazed to learn that we were party-waists, relatively, to some whose tales were quite lurid. And what effect did this have on us? Promptly our starved and horribly shocked ego was fed such comforting thoughts as, "Thank God, I never sank that low" or "I never drank that much," or other similar comparisons. By instinct we were seeking self-justification to salve our bruised pride. This is a dangerous stage in our recovery, for unless we remember constantly those nightmarish, nerve-racking days when we were "sick-and-tired of being sick-and-tired," we will entertain thoughts that possibly we weren't alcoholics and that we had been hasty in joining AA.

If you've ever reached the bottom that your pride permitted it to reach, feed that very pride daily and warrant its existence. The drunk who refuses to change has lost all right to pride. If you want to be proud, merit it.

So high-bottom or low-bottom, re-evaluate yourself and again analyze Step I. Memorize it and if you're convinced that it applies to you, memorize and diligently apply the other eleven. Your reward will be in the measure of your absorption.

ASSETS

(Continued from page one)

"There is a picture of" a man on the back. I just put the man together right and turned the puzzle over. Then the world was fitted together right, too, you see."

If we put ourselves together right by working the assets of the Twelve Steps the group, our ordinary lives and the world, all the puzzles that bewilder and sometimes throw us, will fall into shape.

CHALLENGE

When we were drinking, in certain stages we were inclined to be combative. We were quick to resent the slightest curb to our appetites or our habits, and certainly always to our opinions. Loudly and insistently we defied any challenge to our rights to abuse liberties or people.

We believe we are by instinct challengers.

As we peer into the AA picture, we find many challenges to our better natures and our former ideals. AA is indeed a challenge to our intelligence. Most certainly it is a challenge to our integrity or honesty. This challenge isn't transitory. It's continuous, for day by day we are forced to make decisions which will affect our personalities, strengthening our characters or weakening them as we will it. None of us ever will be perfect, but as we weather each temptation to swerve a little to the left on the Four Absolutes of Honesty, Love, Purity and Unselfishness, we add to our character and bring that ever-elusive peace of mind into reality.

Peace of mind, or inner peace, comes only from a complete acceptance of Step III, accepting without complaint the will of God. If we are truly grateful for our deliverance-TRULY grateful-we will accept without murmur the bumps and discouragements of life as they come, trying to solve these problems with utter confidence as we are led through prayer to their solution.

CONSOLIDATED MEETING

Less than a hundred people attended the April 18 Consolidated meeting and were rewarded with a brilliant masterpiece by Cornelius V. of the Lee Road Wednesday Group.

The size of the crowd was a disappointment to the committee whose efforts have been great. Again the costs exceeded the income and Central Committee is saddled with another debt to pay. It is hoped that a greater response will be evidenced at the September meeting, otherwise they will have to be suspended because of expense.

From the wealth of philosophy the speaker proffered, we dip just a few bits, regretting that lack of space prevents giving all that impressed us, viz. "The highest forms of worship are deeds resulting from worship." "Translate spiritual values into realistic acts by helping others"; "Our purpose is not to make a man subjective—pour him into a mold as it were—but to liberate him from the phobias and fears, so he can live as God intended him to—to set him free." "Not a release from life. but a release for life."

CLEVELAND DISTRICT AA OFFICE

An interesting inquiry was received by your District Office the other day from a lady who said she had no liquor problem but asked us if we had a branch that would help her to stop cigarettes. We told her we had been looking for something like that ourselves for a long time and if she found such an organization, please let us know. We want to join, too.

Mr. B. from Toledo stopped in the Office recently looking for some A.A. work. We were sorting tax stamps at the time and Mr. B. pulled up a chair and fell to. He spent two days helping us and we are deeply grateful.

We find from Office records that requests for A.A. help received at your District Office during February and March were turned over to the Secretaries of 49 Groups. This indicates the widest distribution of calls yet received, since the past averages for like periods have been 36 to 39 Groups.

ROBERT BCJRNS, POET-ALCOHOLIC?

Robert Burns, beloved Poet of the Scottish Highlands, was undoubtedly an alcoholic. He spoke of himself as "A poor, damned, incautious? duped, unfortunate fool; the sport, the miserable victim of rebellious pride and bedlam passion." Burns, however, had a great love for humanity. "His sensibility was quick and keen; his love went out to all friends and the dignity of honest poverty; and even to a mouse beneath the plow-share."

There is no doubt that Burns was a frustrated, disillusioned man. He thought of himself as a failure; and from a financial standpoint he was a failure; but as a poet his success can best be illustrated by the fact that more people visit his grave each year than visit the grave of Shakespeare.

We are told that Burns liked to spend his time in taverns with rowdy people. Best of all he evidently, liked to drink. That he failed to control his drinking was an evident fact, for he was warned by doctors that he would have to be more moderate, but he failed to restrain himself and during a prolonged spell of drinking he contracted a cold which developed into a fever and he died in delirium at the age of thirty-seven.

In Burns' TAM O'SHANTER he undoubtedly poked fun at himself when he spoke of Tam who from November till October on Market Day was not sober. (I think that all of us should read TAM O'SHANTER, for in Tam we recognize the qualities with which we are so familiar in ourselves, and we will also find Tam's intoxication and resulting encounter with the witches and goblins highly amusing.)

The fact that had Robert Burns not been a neurotic individual, he could not have been a great poet is true, but we wonder that had there been an AA Burns' club, and had he found it and sobriety, how many more poems might he have given to add to the enjoyment and enrich the lives of the lovers of English literature. What a grand AA this man Burns, the common people's Poet, would have made. This man expressed this wish: "Oh wad some Power the gift gie us to see ourselves as others see us, it would frae many a blunder free us and foolish notion."

-AA Rebound, Asheville, N. C.

MINSTREL SHOW

The annual AA Minstrel Show will be presented Saturday and Sunday, April 24th and 25th, in Little Theatre of Cleveland Public Auditorium.

This jolly, devoted group of talented members have made a great contribution to AA in Cleveland, giving opportunities to many for diversion and a development of their gifts. Some really fine entertainment has been the result.

The Saturday night performance at 8:30 p. m. will attract the larger crowd, according to advance sales of tickets, and the Sunday show will also have a good crowd, though the \$1.50 balcony section still offers plenty of seats.

Our hats are off to this fine group.

ANNUAL BOXING SHOW

For five years, Tom D. has promoted a boxing show, with talent composed of 'Golden Gloves champs and near champs, and each show has been popularly acclaimed. Beneficiaries of the proceeds have been a West-side hospitalizing plan of the Lorain-Monday group, St. Malachi's Fund (Angle Group's meeting place, which suffered a disastrous fire) and the Downtown office, which will be the beneficiary again this year for the third time.

This year's show will be held in the Ballroom of Public Hall, on Monday evening, May 3rd, and the nine bouts scheduled offer great entertainment for the unusually low price of \$1.25. Be there.

NO SALE

The deal involving the sale of Katherine Kilbane's Nursing Home failed to materialize and Mrs. Kilbane announces that the original policy of accepting women as well as men is still in force!

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Through some error, the Hanna Building unfortunately let the committee room to another tenant, and the meeting was delayed an hour until it convened in the offices of Ed. B. of Lee Road, Friday.

The treasurer reported a bank balance of \$65.35 to pay outstanding bills of \$58.20. However, some bills are due for Hospital Committee's questionnaire, so those groups who have as yet not made their first-hand contributions of \$5.00 can wipe off the remaining worried looks which patient and conscientious Treasurer Bert M. has been wearing the past month, by paying up.

The Hospital Committee reported an enthusiastic three hour meeting on March 30. It proposed to offer a new set of suggested policies in order for the hospitalizing agencies to secure some form of uniformity in our institutions.

The Minstrel Show representative announced that profits accruing from the performances and the program would be turned over to the Central Office. The Boxing Show made a plea for advertisers in their program and also assured that Central Office would be the beneficiary.

RECOMMENDED A. A. HOSPITAL STANDARDS

1. Each patient is to be admitted only on application of sponsor or co-sponsor.
2. No member is to be designated as sponsor or co-sponsor except with his or her consent.
3. Request sponsor or co-sponsor to fill in admission form unless he has already done so.
4. Hospital to notify physician of admission.
5. Hospital shall make out case history.
6. Hospital will be furnished A. A. visitation record which is to be kept for each patient.
7. Only A. A. members are to visit patients except in cases of emergency.
8. Hospital personnel will cooperate in limiting the number and length of visits according to patients condition.
9. No patient is to have more than two visitors at a time.
10. Patients are to have no mail or phone calls except by permission of the sponsor. Also only A. A. or other spiritual literature is permitted.
11. No patient is to be taken to a meeting during the period of hospitalization without the approval of sponsor or co-sponsor.
12. Hospitals are not to designate themselves as A. A. Hospitals or A. A. Approved Hospitals in any publicity or advertising.
13. Hospitals will make every effort to segregate new patients from chronic repeaters.
14. Hospitals are to have at least one registered nurse on duty at all times.

WEST SIDE WOMEN

The West Side Women's group will hold Open House, Monday, May 17th, as they celebrate their seventh anniversary. All groups are invited. This is the oldest women's group in the United States, and these fine ladies deserve many clusters of orchids for their splendid work.

An interesting program is planned for both men and women and refreshments will be served. Monday evening, May 17th at 8:30 p. m. at Our Saviour's Hall, W. 58th, just north of Franklin.

LAKESIDE-CLIFTON

The secretary of this group, Mrs. Elvira B. wishes to thank the many AA's who responded to the call for blood donors during her recent illness, as well as for the many expressions from members and groups. She's doing very nicely, thank you.

OUTHWAITE SECOND ANNIVERSARY

The first colored group to be organized in Cleveland, (and in the country, we believe) has extended an invitation to all AA's to an Open House celebration of its second anniversary on Sunday, May 2nd, from 4 to 8 p. m., in their meeting hall at Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman Road.

The speaker will be Bill H. secretary of Mt. Pleasant and sponsor of Mrs. Ruth H., the original member of this thriving group. He will be introduced by her at 4 o'clock after which refreshments will be served.

Incidentally Ruth gave birth to her first child about a month ago and is inordinately proud and grateful.

BOWLING CHAMPIONS

The Euclid-Wade's Clubs succeeded in weathering the onslaughts of 25 other teams and emerged as champs of the East Side Bowling League. They ended four games ahead of Glenville No. 3 who broke a tie for second on the last night, April 16th. with the Doan Bears who finished one game out in third place.

Their banquet will be held in Doan Men's quarters on April 22nd.

The Pearl No. 1 team won the Friday night West side cup with 78 points. two more than Lorain No. 2. Collinwood finished in third with 74 points.

The Thursday West side has two more nights to go and Southeast No. 2 lends Northeast No. 1 and W. 25th No. 1 by four points. Stiff race.

The West side banquet will be held in Swiss Hall; Thursday, May 20th. Everybody is invited to the family style dinner which will be followed by dancing to an orchestra. The cost will be \$3.00 per plate.

Since the westside leagues will have a roll-off for the West Side Championship, why doesn't someone arrange a match between the winner of this event and the champions of the east side league, Euclid-Wade Clubs. Should have a champion of 'em all. How about it?

PEARL GROUP

This nice group regularly polls fifty to sixty at their meetings which are held Monday evenings in Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Road at 8:30 P. M. Bill R. was elected secretary at their last meeting. Incidentally, he captained the winning team in the West Side Friday League. Our chests are gloriously expanded.

BROOKLYN OBSERVES EIGHTH

One of the older exceeding active groups, the Brooklyn group will observe its eighth anniversary on Wednesday, May 5th. So a greater crowd can be accommodated it will transfer its meeting place for the night to the Clark group's hall, 4105 Clark Ave., upstairs. The meeting will be followed with dancing and refreshments.

WEST PARK CHANGES PLACE

This enterprising group which has met for years in a hall over a police station, has decided that it held too many sordid memories, and arranged to meet in new quarters, in West Park Baptist Church at W. 152th and Lorain. Starting April 20th, it will meet each Tuesday night instead of Wednesday.

NEW THURSDAY GROUP

On April 22nd, a new group titled the Allendale group will meet for the first time in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1583'7 Euclid Ave., East Cleveland. Speakers for the evening will be "Corny" V and Wynn W. of Lee Road, Wednesday. Officers will be elected at this meeting.

NEW SUNDAY GROUP

Another group has been started to meet the ever increasing demand for Sunday evening meetings. It held its first meeting on April 11, and had as its speaker, Jim C. An excellent crowd responded.

STRONGSVILLE CHANGES

The fast growing Strongsville group now meets in the Town Hall, located in the center of Strongsville. Meetings every Tuesday at 8:30 P. M.

"Well, for land's sake," said a dear old lady upon tasting her first glass of beer. "I declare, this tastes exactly like the medicine my husband has been taking for the past 35 years."

TODAY IS THE TOMORROW YOU WORRIED ABOUT YESTERDAY

Habit dies hard, and nerves accustomed to habituated response react mechanically. Use your new found knowledge that your brain can and will change a habit if you desire the change enough.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON-St. Francis School Hall, E. 71st and Superior.....	8:30
BORTON-E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid.....	8:45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O.—Ward 23-B.....	7:30
FAIRMOUNT-St. Paul's Episc. Church, Fairmount & Coventry.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. & St. Charles.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton & Detroit.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON-St. Luke's Church, Clifton Blvd.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE-Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd. Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-E. C. Presb. Church, Nelaview & Euclid.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill.....	7:30
PEARL-Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.....	8:30
UNION—12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church, 3461 Warrensville Center Rd.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway.....	8:30
WEST 25TH ST.-Marvel Hall, 2868 W. 26th St.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
WOMEN'S-EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
WOMEN'S-West Side, Our Savior's Hall, W. 68th at Franklin.....	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid.....	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month—Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid.....	8:30
CLARK—4105 Clark Ave. (Upstairs).....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:00
EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid.....	8:30
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit— Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting.....	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles.....	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.....	8:30
SMITH-WILSON—Nativity School, 9510 Aetna Road.....	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall.....	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior.....	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain.....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag—33 N. State Street.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.....	8:30
BROOKLYN—K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.....	8:45
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon, O.....	8:30
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 105th St., 2nd floor, side entrance.....	8:45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist Church, E. 94-Garfield Blvd.....	9:00
LEE ROAD—First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard.....	8:30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD—St. Cyril's Church, Madison and Lakewood Aves.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction.....	6:30
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third.....	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.....	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLENDALE—St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.....	8:30
ANGLE—St. Malachi's Church, 2549 Washington Ave.....	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland.....	8:30
BROADWAY-65TH—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall.....	8:30
COVENTRY—Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry.....	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emmanuel Church Euclid at E. 86th.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:00
EAST LAKE—Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
OUTHWAITE—(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman.....	8:30
WYANDOTTE MEN'S—Church of Redeemer, Andrews and Detroit Avenue (rear).....	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING-AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	8:30
WEST SIDE—7403 Denison Ave.....	10:30 A. M.

FRIDAY

CEDAR -- Salvation Army, 2131 E. 66th St.....	8:15
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.....	8:30
EAST SIDE MORNING—2028 E. 105th St.....	10:00 A. M.
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., nest of Broadway.....	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—People's Meth. Church, W. 65th & Bridge.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-2066 E. 106th. K. of P. Hall.....	8:30
MILES MEN'S—Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER-St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd.....	8:30
NORTHEAST-202R E. 105th St.....	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit.....	8:30
LORAIN-AVON-1112 W Erie St., Lorain, O.....	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church.....	8:30
EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church, E. 200th St. off St. Clair.....	8:30

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Lutheran Church. Cable at Broadway.....	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 13th. North of Euclid Avenue.....	9:00
EDGEWATER—6409 Detroit Ave.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82 and St. Clair.....	8:30
PARMA—St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. & George Ave.....	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3525 W. 25th St.....	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....	8:00
8005 GROUP—8005 Lorain Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third.....	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO-K. of P. Hall.....	9:00

THE GUY IN THE GLASS

Reprinted by Request

When you get what you want in the struggle for pelf
And the world makes you king for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that guy has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Who upon you judgment will pass;
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the guy staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest
For he is with you clear up to the end;
And you have passed your most difficult test
If the guy in the glass is your friend.

You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy;
But the guy in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass;
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the guy in the glass.

CHARITY HOSPITAL

Attendances at the Charity Monthly Meetings has been falling off.

These are open meetings now, with refreshments in the cafeteria.

Please make an effort to attend the last Tuesday of each month. It would be a shame to have to discontinue these meetings through lack of attendance.

They are held in the auditorium of the Nurses home entrance on East 23rd St.

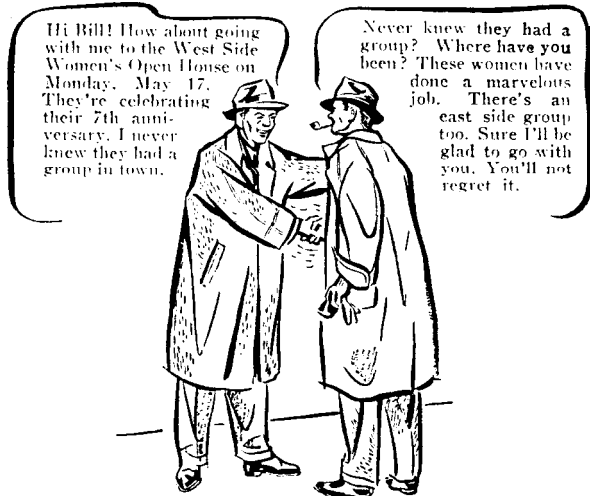
J. PAUL S. LEADS LORAIN CONSOLIDATED

The Joint Sunday Meeting for May will be held on Sunday, May 2, at 7 P. M. in Townsend Club Rooms, 108 Middle Ave., (On The Square) Elyria, Ohio.

Mr. J. Paul S., now of Chicago, will lead this meeting. Paul is one of the A. A. early-birds from Akron.

Come and enjoy a fine evening—a short entertainment will follow the meeting.

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL—No. 15



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SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2023 E. 106th St.....	8:00
LAKEVIEW—CY O Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair.....	8:00
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	10:00 A. M.
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 5443 E. 93.....	8:30
PIONEER (Negro)—7100 Kinsman.....	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.....	2:00
TRAINING MEETING—8023 Detroit Ave.....	8:00
WARRENSVILLE—Workhouse Library.....	10:00 A. M.
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wadl Park.....	7:00

IST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 310.....	8:30
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CENTRAL BULLETIN



Vol. VI-No. 8

1007 SCHOFIELD BLDG., CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

May, 1948

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The Phoney ☹

"He's a phony! That guy gives me a pain. Maybe he isn't smart enough to get the program. He's using A.A. to further his own interest. Yeah, he's a phoney!"

This can be heard on occasion during a lead or once in a while when the boys, and, yes, the girls, get together for amiable conversation. The next step is for the "good brethren" to take a moral inventory of the "phony". The "inventory takers of the other fellow" are often self-righteous individuals who have had little, if any, trouble adhering to the A.A. program. Sometimes it is the fellows who have had some trouble but have a few months sobriety to their credit and are feeling strong and "good" - not realizing that with an attitude like this they are much weaker than they think.

Let us try to analyze the "phony". Let us suppose that to all appearances he is using A.A. as a refuge after a "binge". If he feels he needs a refuge because his drinking is harming him or his family then he needs help. If his life wasn't becoming unmanageable he wouldn't be inclined to escape first to alcohol and then to seek the help of A.A.

Perhaps his sponsorship has been inadequate. The program may not have been explained properly or in sufficient detail. The Fourth Step and the First Absolute may not have been stressed enough.

There is another factor to take into consideration. If the cause of his drinking lies deeply imbedded in the subconscious, dating back to his childhood or early adulthood, he may need additional help outside of A.A. This can be suggested by the sponsor.

Then, remembering that alcoholism is a disease, and that there is always the danger of a recurrence of the disease, he may need more understanding, more assistance just as a person suffering from an ulcer needs assistance when there is a recurrence. As with any other disease, the longer the time after the initial symptoms or after the recurrence and the subsequent treatment the more hopeful the prognosis.

The A.A. treatment of the disease of alcoholism is known as the "conversion treatment" and is embodied in the Twelve Steps and the Four Absolutes. These then lead to the personality rehabilitation so necessary to every alcoholic. The alcoholic experiences a feeling of deep relief when he can discuss his problem (alcoholic or problems of another nature) with his sponsor or another member. The twenty-four hour program frees him from anxiety and the Twelve Steps free him from a sense of guilt and give him courage. They also inspire faith in God, himself and his fellow man and teach him to live for others instead of for himself alone.

Lest we betray our own weakness let us withhold judgment of any alcoholic, abstinent or active, help him or her as much as we can and when we pray for our own sobriety add a prayer for the one we've called "phony". Let us remember the Master's words: "Judge not, lest ye be judged."

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

Akron Anniversary Host

Akron, Ohio, will be the mecca for thousands of Visitors on Sunday, June 13th, at 2:30 P. M., when Bill W. and Doctor Bob, founders of A.A. will be the speakers at the thirteenth anniversary of their meeting.

While Bill and Doc will be the only speakers, the three non-alcoholics who played such an important role in bringing them together will be introduced, as will be Bill D., the first believer in Bill and Doc's idea. And for the sake of verity, there will be a brief factual account of the origin of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement, which should bring to an end the many widely distorted versions of the momentous meeting of Bill and Doc.

Seating capacity for over 5000 is available in Akron Armory, located on South High Street, next to the Courthouse and near the Y. W. C. A. Adequate parking facilities are in the immediate vicinity.

We recall the last time this beloved pair appeared on the same platform in Cleveland on the Tenth Anniversary. We recall the emotional thrill which we and several thousand experienced as these two modest men gave us memorable examples of humility and gratitude.

Despite their laudable desire to remain in the background, we feel with many, many others that this meeting merits the attendance of every A.A. who is active enough to make the trip. The visitors, by their presence, will show Bill and Doc how grateful they are to them.

There will be no banquet, nor will there be a collection. All expenses are being defrayed by the Akron Area Central Committee.

That's Sunday, June 13th at 2:30 in the afternoon.
Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

BULLETIN DELAYED

Undoubtedly many of our readers are annoyed at not receiving their May Bulletin at the usual time, if we are to judge by the many calls that have come to our office. This issue is being printed at least two weeks past regular publication time. We humbly ask your indulgence. All of us who have had a part in preparing copy have been deluged with work.

But there seemed to be a reason for all this, and we can see it as a beneficial one, since, had we gone to press at the customary date, we would have missed the opportunity of acquainting our readers with the great Akron conclave of A.A.'s which will be held on Sunday, June 13th. We would have been greatly disappointed had we not been available to cooperate with Akron in bringing to as many as possible the news of this memorable occasion.

CANADA INVITES A.A. TOURISTS

The Toronto A.A. Club, with rooms at 1170 Yonge Street, welcomes touring A.A.'s who are planning vacation trips in that direction this summer. The club's telephone number is Midway 9951. This invitation was extended by a member who visited Cleveland recently.

IF WE MUST
DISAGREE . . . LET
US AGREE: NOT TO
BE DISAGREEABLE.

MAKING A SUCCESS

We who are alcoholics ought certainly to have far keener appreciation of the following quotation from the writings of Dr. N. V. Peale than ordinary folks:

"A noted American physician has remarked, 'Most people do not need medicine half as much as a good dose of old-fashioned conversation.' Conversation means more than getting an old drunk out of the gutter in a revival meeting or a rescue mission, splendid as that is. It also means getting the evil out of his mind, curing him of the sense of guilt, and in short making a success of him."

As we have so often said, this disease called alcoholism is far more than a physical illness-though it is a most devastating thing in that real711 alone-it is of mind and not of the spirit.

Once we came to see that the way called Alcoholics Anonymous held promise of our recovery and attainment of a state of usefulness again many of us needed medical care and treatment; some of us required days or weeks of hospitalization, so that our jagged nerves could be quieted and our appetites could be awakened.

But from our own experience and that of countless others, we have found that a measure of physical recovery, however great it might be, is not sufficient to give us sobriety and enable us to keep it.

We absolutely must "change our way of thinking." Deep within us drink that were of the mind and not of the body. Unless we can root them out and replace them with straight thoughts which lead to commendable deeds the77 we cannot hope to overcome our pathological drinking-we will lapse again into the clutches of our malady.

Here is where our admitting that we are alcoholics, and confessing our faults, and then attempting to correct them come into the picture.

Despite the sneering claims of many who do not understand us or our problem, our way will work for any alcoholic who earnestly seeks to live as we strive to live.

Whether many people know it or not, modern medical science has long recognized that an experience such as ours in A.A. is not form or ritual or ceremony; it is a moving thing which is a most effective therapeutic agent-it helps one to live, stay sober and become a success.

Now by success we would not be understood to mean possessing great wealth or having influence in the community. By this thing denominated success we mean attainment of peace of mind, a feeling of being useful to ourselves, our families and the community. In our A.A. success we find freedom from worry. We know happiness and to some degree at least we are able to share it with others round about us-with our loved ones and friends, but most of all with those who suffer from the same disease for all of us who are the A.A.'s of this world.

-The Screwball, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Attend Thirteenth Anniversary Meeting, Akron, O., June 13.

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTIONS SOAR

We continue to be amazed and gratified at the astounding number of subscriptions which tireless Eddie G. brings in to our office. He had originally set 1500 as his goal, but now determines to bring the number of subscribers up to 2500.

His unselfish dedication to this subscription selling avocation is prompted by an ardent desire to do something for A.A., and he believes the Bulletin to be an absolute must in everyone's reading. Doing this keeps him sober. (We hope he stays sober a long, long time.)

His ardor is a challenge to us who write and edit this paper and we shall endeavor to merit his faith in the power for good that he is claiming the Bulletin to be.

Typical of his remarkable canvassing are the results of a trip to Akron, where he garnered twenty subscriptions and of Coshocto71, and Chneaut, where he sold fifteen each. Last month he made a record of thirty in one day.

One would be inclined to believe he's on our pavroll, but please don't cool hhn off by impugning his motives. We certainly are heartened by the remarkable response to his unselfish efforts.

THE GAME OF LIFE

I played Life's game of football . . . this game was pretty rough . . . my team was me, all by myself . . . the opposition plenty tough.

I played against John Barleycorn . . . 'twas quite a game to see . . . These big old birds were all lined up . . . to tackle little me.

John's tackles were his own boys . . . Ben Bourbon, Rye and Corn . . . three tougher guys I never met . . . their like were never born.

His guards were two fast smoothies . . . their names were Rum and Gin . . . they'd knife right through and sin777 me down . . . then clip me on the chin.

At center there was old Joe Beers . . . quite old and fat and slow . . . an easy touch says I to me . . . through center I will go.

So, down my head, and charge I did . . . at poor old Joey Beers . . . he picked me up and spun me round . . . and pinned back both my ears.

The quarterback was John himself . . . his judgment was uncanny . . . he placed his men and called my plays . . . before I'd t! ought of any.

The substitutes were just as bad . . . both Port and Muscatel . . . I tried them out for weak spots . . . before them too, I ('IL.

For years I tried to beat that gang . . . their goal line for to cross . . . but every time, on every play . . . they threw me for a loss.

Until one day, I met some men . . . who practiced night and day . . . They had a plan, (got from a book) . . . they called their team A.A.

I joined these fellows of A.A. . . . and learned to play their style . . . The efforts were quite crude at first . . . but smoothed out afterwhile.

Our plays clicked off like clockwork . . . the blocking was terrific . . . each man his own small job to do . . . his duties were specific.

And when we met John's team again . . . we took them in a breeze . . . instead of bucking that tough line . . . we ran the ends with ease.

Now if you ask us how we win . . . we'll tell you, to the man . . . We win because, and just because . . . we follow God's own plan.

—Frank R. II., Cleveland.

BOXING SHOW FINANCIAL SUCCESS

The exact figures were not available at press time, but from the Annual Boxing Show impresario, Tom D., we learn that the District A.A. office will be about a thousand dollars nearer to meeting its 1948 budget. Over 700 people attended the show. Tom and his committee of Ed B., Tom L., Bud O'S., Eddie B., Lee M. anti John W. are to be congratulated for their great sacrifice of time and effort.

MEN WANTED

Men wishing to do Twelfth Step work at Warrensville Workhouse, can earn big dividends by serving as interviewers of prisoners who want to learn about A.A. Give name, address, and phone number as well as days or nights available to Harry S. Gilman, Social Service Dept., Cleveland House of Correction, telephone Washington 2540. (This is not a paid advertisement).

Every man has two educations--that which he gives to himself and that which is given to him. What we are merely taught seldom nourishes the mind like that which we teach ourselves.

MEMORIES

Jones & Smith stopped at the corner pub for a quick beer. Jones drank his slowly savoring every mouthful, but Smith swallowed his with one gulp. After three rounds that fashion, Jones turned to Smith: "Do you always drink your beer that fast?" "Yep, ever since my accident," said Smith. "Oh, you had an accident recently?" said Jones with concern. "Yep, guy knocked my beer over," replied Smith.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

For the second time in as many months, the usual meeting room was not available to us at the regular meeting time. As an emergency measure, the Vice Moderator took the group to his office where he conducted the meeting, in the absence of the moderator.

Treasurer: Collection of \$40.85 to pay \$80.46 leaving \$58.60 outstanding. Bank balance \$1.03.

Hospital Committee: Chuck M. reported in absence of Chairman Jack U. The full report of recent activities of Hospital Committee will be made at next meeting. Comment revealed that suggested policies as printed in Central Bulletin differed from final copy compiled by Hospital Committee. The matter was to be cleared through editor of Bulletin.

Central Bulletin: in absence of editor, 'Eddie G., reported over 1,500 subscriptions-the first time since its inception. The suggestion was made that subscription to the Bulletin be a part of sponsoring a new man.

Consolidated Meeting: Last meeting was not a success. Next meeting will be held in September. There was much discussion of the personnel and latitude of such a committee as Consolidated Committee and out of this discussion a motion was passed unanimously that "Each Group Secretary be requested to have their representative at the June Central Committee meeting for the purpose of discussing paragraph 1 of 'Purposes of Central Committee' and to receive the report of the Hospital Committee."

The June meeting will be held in 370 Hanna Building on Tuesday, June 8th at 8:45 P. M.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Summer is here! And summer brings picnics and outings. The annual East Side picnic jointly sponsored by the Euclid-Wade and Lee Road Friday groups will be held on Sunday, June 20th at Richmond Country Club, located on Highland Road, near Richmond Road. The picnic will be held even if it rains as there is plenty of shelter. All A.A.'s--east, west or south are invited to attend.

Many contests with prizes for young and old are on the elaborate program, and ball games and dancing are also offered as inducements.

Free buses will leave Euclid and East 79th Street between 8 and 9 for those who need transportation.

Bring your family and your basket of food and enjoy a great time.

OUTDOOR MEETING

Beginning Friday, July 2, and continuing until weather conditions compel moving indoors, the Miles Men's Group will meet outside under the trees. Besides coffee, cake, ice cream and soft drinks will be served.

At the present rate of growth which this group has enjoyed, it is expected that 100 members will be enrolled before the end of the year. Excellent speakers have contributed greatly to our increased membership.

Frank L., secretary, claims they mean every word which their slogan of "The Group of Brotherly Love" implies. More power to them. They're workers.

EDGE LAKE

Each year in June, our group is invited to spend a day on the estate of member Al. H., and this year Al. has again extended the invitation which sets Sunday, June 27th as the date for the event of the year for the members of the group.

There will be the usual breakfast on the outdoor grill and games, horseback riding for young and old.

WESTSIDE CLUBROOMS OPEN

Darby w., active in West Side Young People's Group opened new club rooms at 6409 Detroit Avenue on April 24th. The new club will be open twenty-four hours a day. It has a bar (serving coffee, soft drinks and sandwiches) and a dandy lounge for visiting. Open to accredited A.A.'s only. The telephone is Woodbine 8120.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT A.A. OFFICE

Your District Office wishes to express its deep gratitude to members of the Women's East Side Group, who, under the able direction of Helen S., have devoted much of their time to sorting and counting the sales tax stamps you have been kind enough to send in.

The complete report of Group contributions of sales tax stamps will be made at the Office Advisory Meeting at Hotel Cleveland on May 20, 1948.

Your District Office received a request for help for a man in Poland which originated with the man's brother in New York. A letter was sent to the man in New York with a copy of the Polish pamphlet with the suggestion that if the brother proved to be interested in A.A. help correspondence with a member would be arranged. In due course a letter was received from the man in Poland which was turned over to Dr. O. of the Brooklyn Group, who translated the pamphlet A Way of Life into Polish and so made possible the contact. Dr. O. translated the letter received from Jan B. in Poland and answered with an eight page letter. Since then correspondence has been regular. During the course of the correspondence the man returned to his home which proves to be the town in which Dr. O. attended high school and although they do not know each other they have much in common. Now Dr. O. requests that other Polish speaking members of A.A. who may be interested in corresponding with Jan B. in Poland, please contact the District Office to be put in touch with Dr. O.

LORAIN COUNTY CONSOLIDATED

John "Corny" V. of Lee Road, Monday is the scheduled speaker for the big Sunday joint meeting of the Lorain County groups on June 6th at seven o'clock in Townsend Hall, 108 Middle Ave. (on the Square) in Elyria, Ohio. Should be a big crowd.

WEST SIDE WOMEN

The annual Open House of the West Side Women's Group attracted a crowd of over 200 which listened to Ethel R. of Barberton give some of her fine philosophy and which makes her so beloved to all who hear her. While the women were in the majority, there was a goodly number of intrepid men attending. Grand party.

WOMEN'S HOUSE OF CORRECTION

Under the zealous leadership of Mrs. Ettie G., very effective work has been accomplished at the Women's House of Correction at Warrensville. Indifferently and suspiciously received at first, the sincerity and constancy of the ever-increasing number of visitors has produced effective and lasting results. The workers welcome other A.A.'s to attend on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 o'clock sharp.

Attend Thirteenth Anniversary Meeting, Akron, O., June 13.

NEW SUNDAY GROUP

A new West Side Sunday Group held its first meeting on Sunday, May 2nd. Organized by Mrs. May F. and Jack K., it started very auspiciously and promises to be well attended. Barrister Ed. B. was the speaker. The meeting hall is the Michell Club quarters, 1978 West 74th street, between Franklin and Madison avenues. They meet at eight o'clock.

WINDEMERE GROUP FORMS

The first meeting of the new Windemere Group will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 1948, at 9:00 p. m. The meeting place is the East Cleveland Women's Club rooms at 1747 Lakefront Avenue.

In the Fall, meetings will be held on Saturday evenings, and the changeover will be announced later.

The difference between a bachelor and a married man is that when a bachelor walks the floor with baby, he's dancing.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON-St. Francis School Hall, E. 71st and Superior.....	8:30
BORTON-E. Cleve. Cons. Church, Page & Euclid.....	8:45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O.—Ward 23-B.....	7:30
FAIRMOUNT-St. Paul's Episc. Church, Fairmount & Coventry-B.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. & St. Charles.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton & Detroit.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON-St. Luke's Church, Clifton Blvd.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE-Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd. Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-E. C. Presb. Church, Nelaview & Euclid.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill.....	7:30
PEARL—Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.....	8:30
UNION-12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church, 3461 Warrensville Center Rd.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway.....	8:30
WEST 25TH ST-Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side, Our Savior's Hall, W. 68th at Franklin.....	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid.....	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month—Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid.....	8:30
CLARK—4105 Clark Ave. (Upstairs).....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:00
EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid.....	8:30
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit— Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting.....	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles.....	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 16616 Kinsman Rd.....	8:30
SMITH-WILSON—Nativity School, 9510 Aetna Road.....	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall.....	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior.....	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain.....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag—33 N. State Street.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6627 Baxter Ave.....	8:30
BROOKLYN-K of P Hall, 3315 Broadway, east of Pearl Rd.....	8:45
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon, O.....	8:30
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St., 2nd floor, side entrance.....	8:45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS-Trinity Baptist Church, E. 94 Garfield Blvd. 9.....	9:00
LEE ROAD-First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard.....	8:30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD-St. Cyril's Church, Madison and Lakewood Aves.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE-Women's House of Correction.....	6:30
WYNDERMERE—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakefront.....	9:00
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third.....	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS-St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.....	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLENDALE—St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.....	8:30
ANGLE St. Malachi's Church, 2649 Washington Ave.....	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland.....	8:30
BROADWAY-55TH—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall.....	8:30
COVENTRY-Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry.....	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emmanuel Church Euclid at E. 86th.....	9:00
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair.....	9:00
EAST LAKE-Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
OUTHWAITE-(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman.....	8:30
WYANDOTTE MEN'S-Church of Redeemer, Andrew and Detroit Avenue (rear).....	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING-AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	X:30
WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave.....	10:30 A. M.

FRIDAY

CEDAR—Salvation Army, 2181 E 66th St.....	8:15
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.....	8:30
EAST SIDE MORNING—2028 E. 105th St.....	10:00 A. M.
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway.....	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—People's Meth. Church, W. 65th & Bridge.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-2066 E. 106th, K. of P. Hall.....	8:30
MILES MEN'S-Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER-St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd.....	8:30
NORTHEAST-2028 E. 105th St.....	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE-St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit.....	8:30
LORAIN-AVON-1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.....	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church.....	8:30
EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church, E. 200th St. off St. Clair.....	8:30

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S-St. John's Lutheran Church, Cable at Broadway.....	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th, North of Euclid Avenue.....	9:00
EDGEWATER—6409 Detroit Ave.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82 and St. Clair.....	8:30
PARMA-St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. & George Arc.....	8:30
TRINITY-Trinity Evangelical Church, 3625 W. 26th St.....	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....	8:30
8005 GROUP—8005 Lorain Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third.....	8:30
OVERLIN, OHIO—K. of P. Hall.....	9:00

LAKWOOD-CLIFTON

For the second anniversary of the Lakewood-Clifton group, an earnest effort is being made to round up a great crowd to hear Warren C. and possibly Clarence S. This group comprised of several pioneers who helped form the first West Side group, are extending an open invitation to all A.A.'s to participate.

The anniversary celebration will be held on Saturday night, June 19th at 8:30 in their regular meeting place, St. Luke's Church basement, 1212 Bunts Road at Clifton Blvd.

EUCLID VISITS ASHTABULA

A large contingent of members from the Euclid Village group chartered a bus and visited the Ashtabula group on Saturday evening, May 15th. Convivialty reigned on the bus up and back as well as at the meeting. George C. of Euclid led the meeting. Red E. of Mack's Minstrels entertained with his specialty act and also made a great hit.

THE GHOST

It isn't the things outside me I fear—
A Spectre may worm its way in;
The Ghost of The Thing that I slew may appear,
A Ghost that may very well win.

This Thing I have tortured and battered,
This proud, shining Thing once adored;
Tho' bleeding and bludgeoned and tattered,
This Thing was my Master and Lord.

It isn't the challenge outside me I fear—
Things that I see can't get in;
The Ghost of The Thing that is dead may appear,
The Ghost of what used to have been.

This one Thing has never retreated.
Tho' slain and w-slain it may be;
Tho' ten thousand times ten times defeated,
This Thing I may lose to . . . is ME!

Attend Thirteenth Anniversary Meeting, Akron, O., June 13.

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL—No. 16



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SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 105th St.....	8:00
LAKEVIEW—CYO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair.....	8:00
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	10:00 A. M.
MISTLE TOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park.....	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93.....	8:30
PIONEER (Negro)—7100 Kinsman.....	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.....	2:00
TRAINING MEETING 8023 Detroit Ave.....	8:00
WARRENSVILLE—Workhouse Library.....	10:00 A. M.
WEST SIDE—Michell Club, 1978 W. 7th St.....	8:00

1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370.....8:30

Editorial-Integrity

A. A. Handles

Getting by? On the level? Or do you just think you are by putting up an acceptable front?

The answers depend on our integrity. What is integrity? The dictionary lists three definitions for the word. We repeat them because members of Alcoholics Anonymous must encompass all of them in their program:

1. Soundness of moral principle and character; uprightness; honesty.
2. State of being whole or undiminished.
3. Sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition.

The word integrity does not appear in any of the Twelve Steps, but it assuredly is implied in the fourth and seventh steps.

Integrity is impossible unless we have "made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves." Integrity is not what the other fellow sees; it is what we know. It is possible to give the impression, either by word or implication, that we have taken stock of our character, that we have been upright and honest in examining and rooting out defects, and yet never to have done so. Or to have done so so infrequently that no lasting improvement has been made on the inner self.

It is possible to be a "good fellow" in the new way of life we have found; it is possible to be helpful and even to have made considerable improvement over what we were before, but we are not in a "state of being whole or undiminished"-in short, to possess integrity-if we have not done the best possible with the means and methods put at our disposal by the A.A. program. As Bill W. has often said, this is a case of "the good being the enemy of the best."

Human, indeed, is the tendency to take short cuts. Not only are they part of our nature, but they are also a by-product of the hurried and complicated age in which we live. We may think it smart to cheat a little, to take advantage of the other fellow, to betray a trust just a trifle. We may, under the importunities of pressures and habit patterns, elevate prejudices, intolerances and resentments to the place in our thinking that should be occupied by the "soundness of moral principles." These little twists and turns and secret thoughts may not hurt anyone around us very much, but we cannot escape their devastating consequences on ourselves. By using them we cannot build character, we cannot effect the complete personality change which is the cornerstone of the program.

How attain integrity? How eliminate the devious thoughts and deeds that are barriers? How attain honesty?

Caustic old Dr. Samuel Johnson back in 1759 once remarked that, "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."

The knowledge that we as sober alcoholics must gain is self-knowledge. If we know ourselves, the weaknesses and shortcomings, and frankly set about correcting them, we are on the high road to gaining integrity.

But we cannot do it alone. That has been demonstrated to us over and over again in many things. We could not stop drinking alone. We cannot stay sober alone. Hence,

(Continued on page two)

Following the line
of least resistance
makes rivers and
men crooked.

One of the more commonly used phrases in A.A. jargon is the one which heads this article. It has been such a natural part of our vocabulary that we never realized it was a typical A.A. phrase and peculiar to it.

So we took it upon ourselves to find out how many knew its origin. To our amazement we found some who had heard it used often without understanding what the speaker who used it tried to convey. So we did some research and found a highly satisfactory explanation.

Seems we had a highly imaginative member in the early beginnings who illustrated his discussion and proved his point with colorful similes. In one of his leads he described accepting A.A. with at least the amount of faith we had in boarding a bus.

When we board a bus we have no doubt that the driver will bring us to our destination, and that we will arrive safely. There are plenty of seats available for us to ride comfortably. We have faith in the bus and the driver.

Now the bus travels over some pretty rough places once in a while and there are unexpected lurches and sometimes some sudden stops. So we look up questioningly, 'look at the driver, are reassured that he is master of the situation, and calmly, patiently wait until we're once more riding in fair comfort.

On the bus are several types of riders. There's the nervous type who fusses and fumes and is impatient to get to his destination. He crabs and scowls when some one sits next to him; glances when the bus comes to an occasional stop to take on or discharge a passenger; and growls at any minor inconvenience. Selfishly wishes he didn't have to share the bus with anyone else.

Of course, there is the normal phlegmatic type who is a joy to every bus driver. He is courteous and kind to his fellow-passengers and accepts the trivial inconveniences with a shrug of the shoulder.

Then there's the rugged type-the individualist. He'd rather stand. Sitting makes him nervous. As the bus travels the route he shows his remarkable ability to stand feet astraddle in the aisle. As the bus hits some rough spots his showmanship was a thing to see. Arms akimbo he disdained the handles on the seats which were mutely offering him help just as he disdained the overhead hangers. He got a thrill out of imagining he was riding a bucking bronco.

But he met his Waterloo when the driver made a sudden emergency stop. Plop! Down he went on his puss and as he untangled himself the polite, but all-wise eyes of his fellow travelers bespoke their judgment of his foolishness in not availing himself of the protection the bus offered.

The A.A. bus provided plenty of seats as well as many handles. By travelling regularly on the bus on the A.A. route (regularly attending meetings) you will familiarize yourself quickly with the handles and the protection they offer when the going is rough.

Improvement begins with "I."
Pray more and pray less.

INTEGRITY

(Continued from page one)

in this job, the biggest in our lives, "we humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings."

Then we approach the third dictionary definition of integrity: "sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition." While none of us will attain that "perfect condition" we gain happiness by continuing to strive toward it. But easily within our reach is a "sound, unimpaired" condition. And these terms mean all the way through: the heart and the mind as well as the surface.

Only the individual can know if he has integrity. It is a matter between God and the person. It is not without reason that the synonym for integrity is honor.

OLDSTERS BEWARE

It seems to me . . . that it is true—that the "oldsters" in A.A. seem to lose their touch in doing 12-step work, sometimes. Many who have been around for a year or more say they have felt this.

We see a prospect get restless. He asks more questions than our first prospects did, which indicates that we haven't told him what he wants to hear. We miss the rapt attention and interest WC formerly had when we told what A.A. would get done for him, if he'd let it.

What happened ?!! There must be a reason! 'Let's see.

Does our perspective change? In a succession of 24-hour sober periods, do we quit worrying about the primary objective of A.A.: Sobriety? We have attained a measure of peace of mind, and a sense of spiritual guidance and well-being.

Now we are striving for "a new way of life"! which after all is the ultimate, although second objective.

This change of objective has a profound effect on our 12th-Step efforts: it **must** have!

The new member 'wants to know "How can I get sober? How can I stay sober? How can I stop shaking? What shall I do about my job, my debts, my family? Why can't I just take ONE when I need a drink? How can I refuse my old friends? How did YOU get sober?" If we do not anticipate these questions, he may not have the courage to ask them!

These are questions that WE asked. Yet, we find ourselves talking of "a new way of life" to a man who would be glad to settle for **just one** day without a hang-over! We get the cart before the horse, and do it with the best intentions in the world!

If we think about it at all, we think in terms of giving him "the long-range view"—of showing him how grand and far-reaching is the A.A. miracle. At that, I guess it doesn't hurt him. But it's like handing a man the sections of a prefabricated house with a picture of the completed structure but withholding the directions for assembling it!

What's the answer, then? We need, perhaps, only to remember. If we can recall what WE wanted from A.A., and tell our prospect what was told to us, we can help him as we were helped. And that is our best way of helping ourselves!

Let's go back to more of the old-fashioned, down-to-earth A.A. talk. We need not neglect advanced discussions in meetings: we need progressive and stimulating ideas for growth. But we may well conclude every meeting with fundamental, elementary A.A. for those who seek it.

We are products of the philosophy of A.A. To new members, we are the example of what A.A. has to offer them. They look at us and see A.A.'s best advertisement. And, as an advertising man, I would suggest that the illustration is okay—now let's correct "the copy."

—Twelfth 'Stepper, Omaha, Neb.

"Boulder!" said the clergyman when the hammer hit his thumb. "What do you mean by 'boulder'?" asked his wife. "That's the biggest dam in the world, isn't it?"

AKRON IS FINE HOST

Almost every seat in Akron's fine Armory was occupied as Bill W. and Doctor Bob gave the 5000 attentive listeners the stories of the beginning of A.A. It was a happy crowd and Bill and Doc were in excellent form.

Also introduced were Rev. Tonks, the pastor who referred Bill to Mrs. Henrietta Seiberling, Ann, Bob's wife, T. Henry Williams, whose counsel and home was a great factor thirteen years ago, Lois, Bill's wife and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Amos, long a member of the Alcoholic Foundation. Mrs. Seiberling was unable to be present. They were given thunderous ovations for their great patience and compassion toward the two who were destined to be such a potent force for good in the world.

Doctor Bob was in excellent form as he described his liquid condition the day Mrs. S. tried to arrange an interview with Bill, which was delayed one day to make Doc presentable. The crowd evidently had experienced similar emotions as Doc described his reluctance to leave his bottle to observe the amenities of good friendly relations which he felt he had to maintain. How the 15 minute social call lengthened to six hours. How he left, sober, to attend a convention in Atlantic City and returned in his cups. How Anne and Bill nursed him back to sobriety and there during his next ten weeks developed the philosophy which we know as A.A.

Bill had brought with him a philosophy for staying sober-working with others. He had been shy and sensitive in youth, and soon found that liquor brought release from inhibitions. But liquor became a habit and habit became an obsession. Finally after ruining a promising future he came to the cross-roads of decision, where a doctor-psychiatrist found him willing and ready to do ANYTHING, and who advised him to work with others. Evidently, steps one, four, eight, nine, ten and twelve were a part of his working plan. For seven months he tried to sober up others, but failed. However, he himself stayed sober. Working with Doctor Bob and both availing themselves of T. Henry Williams spiritual philosophy, these two developed a working philosophy which promised peace of mind and release from their obsession. Their first "baby," Bill D. was hospitalized by them and absorbed their enthusiasm and the program was launched. Little did they dream that this was to be the pattern for living: for thousands upon thousands in the years to come. And now on the thirteenth anniversary they humbly bowed their heads in thanksgiving for the great gift which was theirs--and ours.

Bill concluded his talk with a thorough analysis of the Twelve Traditions which in his opinion were the complement of the Twelve Steps. He implored that we keep the program simple and laid particular emphasis on traditions 6, 7, 8 and 12.

It was a grand meeting and the committee headed by Ted M. is to be congratulated for the smoothness of operation.

HOSPITAL CALLS

Several old-timers were discussing the alarming number of "slippers" during the past several years and one offered the opinion that poor sponsorship and nursing homes were to blame. However another disagreed with him. In his opinion there was a general slackening in the ardor and zeal . . . that there still were good sponsors . . . that the nursing homes and hospitals were doing an excellent job . . . but that A.A.'s themselves were leaving it to the other guy to visit the nursing home or hospital and as a result the patients had few visitors.

During the early days when hospitalization was a luxury enjoyed by few, every earnest A.A. made at least one call on a prospective member. The average number of visitors per day was from 20 to 50 if he or she was hospitalized and if the calls were made in the new member's home, there were usually from two to five each day.

Now with probably three or four thousand in the city and eleven hospitalizing agencies, these report that only a loyal few make visiting a "must" on their program. There were eighteen patients at Farquharson's last week and including sponsors there were less than 10 visitors average per day. Others tell us the same story.

Make it a habit to visit at least one hospitalizing agency each week. Maybe you can help cut down this alarming trend.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Because of the misunderstanding in the date of the June meeting, the Central Committee Meeting this month was held in two sessions. The first on June 1, 1948 in Room 530 Hanna Building, and the second in Room 370 Hanna Building on June 8, 1948.

The combined minutes are as follows:

Hospital Committee: Accepted the resignation of Jack U. as chairman and sanctioned, unanimously, the Hospital Committee's selection of Frank W. to serve the unexpired term as Chairman of that Committee ending January 1, 1949.

Treasurer Report: Still \$37.60 owed in unpaid bills.

There is a program in progress to get a ward at City Hospital to hospitalize colored patients. The visiting hours at St. John's Hospital A.A. Ward have been extended to read—10:00 A. M. to 9:00 P. M. without passes.

Warrensville Workhouse visits for A.A.'s can be any-time preceded by a call to Mr. Gillman, the social worker to make arrangements.

By unanimous vote the body voted to carry all other business of Central Committee, including the election of officers, over to the July meeting.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT OFFICE

Your District Office is happy to announce that during the period from November 1, 1947 through May 15, 1948 contributions were received from 55 Groups and 10 individuals. During the same period last year contributions were received from 39 Groups and 7 individuals. We are deeply grateful for this evidence of appreciation and wider support of the District Office on the part of Cleveland Groups.

The total of contributions received to date is \$6,373.05. There are some outstanding pledges made by members which have not yet been paid. The total of these is \$453.00. The approved budget for 1947-48 is \$10,164.00.

During the 197-day period from November 1, 1947 through May 15, 1948, 494 requests for contact received at your District Office were turned over to 67 of '75 city Groups. Of these referrals your reports back show 372 were receptive to the A.A. program, 61 were not ready, in 41 instances no contact was possible, 12 were not A.A. cases and 8 were unreported.

In addition, during the same period, 402 liaison services to Groups were accomplished, 183 requests for literature and information were recorded and 50 speakers were supplied.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

SUBSCRIPTIONS SOARING

We are glad to report that the volunteer fireman, Eddie G. has made us take our tongue from the cheek in which we placed it several months ago when he promised he would get the Bulletin "out of the red" in that time. He did it! Of course we're obligated to produce Bulletins for the next year, so there still is a deficit obligation. However, like an avalanche which won't be stopped, Eddie has promised 2500 by October. Our tongue is back in cheek, but were not a betting man.

Thanks to you all, you 1750 who have subscribed. We'll try to give you more than your dollar's worth each month.

DONT BE A PEST

As a devoted and ardent admirer of Don B., Cleveland pitcher, your editor is making an unsolicited plea for him. We learned to our amazement from one of his intimate friends that many A.A.'s were making a habit of ordering tickets for ball games from him and actually not paying for them. Don gets no free tickets, contrary to the belief of many. He has to pay for them out of his own pocket. That's not fair. And besides he has been considerably inconvenienced. Let's be fair.

WILLARD HAS GROUP

That peripatetic traveler, Pete J. G., reports that a group is operating in Willard, Ohio. They meet on Monday nights in the Methodist Church. Pete leads the July 5th meeting. Should be fireworks.

EUCLID-WADE CHAMPIONS

Belatedly we report the news that the Euclid-Wade team, champions of the East Side League won the Cleveland championship by 65 pins over the Pearl No. 1 team which won the Westside Thursday and Friday League trophy. It was an interesting and exciting contest, with both teams turning in excellent scores.

Carl F. and Bill R. were re-elected secretaries of the Thursday and Friday leagues at the banquet which attracted 175.

GENEVA, OHIO

A beautifully appointed nursing home was opened in the heart of Geneva some three months ago. They have space for thirty patients. Accommodations are also provided for sponsors to bathe, eat and rest for a few hours for the night.

The hospital is called the Northern Ohio Rest Home and is operated by Jack and Pearl Burd. Added facilities are massage and steam bath.

The Geneva Friday night mixed group, attracting about 50 persons meet in the Home's recreation room, and is located at 230 So. Broadway, Ohio Route 534, two blocks south of U.S. 20. Phone 4089.

LEE RIONDAY MOVES

Until further notice, the Lee Road Monday Group will meet in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Allendale and Euclid at nine o'clock.

ANOTHER NEW GROUP

A new group has been formed in Mentor, that quaint little eastern suburb of Cleveland. It meets in Mentor Way Villa on Friday nights at nine o'clock. The group's first meeting was held on May 28th.

TRINITY

The Saturday evening, June 5th meeting was highlighted by a memorable talk by old-timer Jack D., whose remarkable lesson on Humility, Honesty and Understanding will be long remembered.

Located at 3525 W. 25th St., in Trinity Evangelical Church, this group continues to draw surprisingly good crowds. An excellent place to come to on a Saturday evening at nine o'clock.

CLEVELANDERS MAKE HIT

One hundred and eighty members of the Jamestown, N. Y., A.A. groups, their wives and guests attended the third anniversary banquet. Speakers were Pete McN., one of Cleveland's oldsters, "Corny" V., of Cleveland's Lee Rd. —Preyer and Eddie G., indefatigable Central Bulletin circulation manager.

Pete and Corny made a deep impression with their usual excellent interpretation of the program, but little Eddie stole the show with his colorful comedy relief.

The committee with Coy W. doing an outstanding job as M. C., is to be commended for a truly memorable meeting.

ANGLE GROUP SUPPLIES HAVEN

It's always a pleasure to attend the Angle Group in St. Malachi Hall. The bulk of the membership is Irish and each meeting is sprinkled with a good deal of "delicious" wit. We didn't count the members but we believe that this group must be the largest on the westside.

One of their outstanding contributions to the welfare of their members has been the establishing of a hospice home to accommodate men who are still in "delicate" condition after leaving a hospital or places of incarceration. The "boarders" are given haven until they get acclimated to the rarified atmosphere of sober society and the members are kept busy finding jobs and permanent places to stay for them. Rev. Fr. Winchester has been of wonderful help far in excess of normal understanding, in guiding this truly Christian endeavor.

Naturally the haven is crowded to its capacity of twelve. The "boarders" are charged nothing for their keep. It is left to their conscience to contribute what they will as they become established.

There usually are two valid reasons why some people don't mind their own business—they haven't any mind and they haven't any business.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON-St. Francis School Hall, E. 71st and Superior	8 :30
BORTON-E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid	8 :45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O.—Ward 23-B	7 :20
FAIRMOUNT-St. Paul's Episc. Church, Fairmount & Coventry	E:30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. & St. Charles-R	:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton & Detroit	8 :30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON-St. Luke's Church, Clifton Blvd.	8 :30
LAKE SHORE—Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd. Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting	8 :30
LEE ROAD—St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Allendale and Euclid	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain	8 :30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill	7:30
PEARL—Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.	8:30
UNION-12907 Union Ave.	8 :30
SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church, 3451 Warrensville Center Rd.	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP—Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway	8:30
WEST 25TH ST.—Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St.	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side, Our Savior's Hall, W. 58th at Franklin	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month—Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid	8:30
CLARK—4106 Clark Ave. (Upstairs)	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle	8:00
EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid	8:30
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eatview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.	8:30
SMITH-WILSON-Nativity School, 9610 Aetna Road	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stan-33 N. State Street	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6627 Baxter Ave.	8:30
BROOKLYN-K of P Hall, 5316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.	8:45
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon, O.	8:30
COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave.	8:30
DENISON-1403 Denison Ave.	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St., 2nd floor, side entrance	8:45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist Church, E. S&Garfield Blvd.	9:00
LEE ROAD—First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard	8:30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD—St. Cyril's Church, Madison and Lakewood Aves.	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction	6:30
WINDEMERE—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakefront	9:00
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A.—Tarbell Ave.	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLEDALE—St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.	8:30
ANGLE-St. Malachi's Church, 2649 Washington Ave.	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland	8:30
BROADWAY-55TH—Our Lady of Lourdes, School Hall	8:30
COVENTRY—Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emmanuel Church Euclid at E. 86th	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair	9:00
EAST LAKE—Vine end Campbell, Willoughby, O.	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St at Lorain	8:30
OUTHWAITE (Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman	8:30
WYANDOTTE MEN'S—Church of Redeemer, Andrews and Detroit Avenue (rear)	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING-AA Social Center, 700 Broadway	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor	8:30
WEST SIDE—1403 Denison Ave.	10:30 A. M.

FRIDAY

CEDAR — Salvation Army, 2181 E 55th St.	8:15
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.	8:30
EAST SIDE MORNING—2028 E. 105th St.	10:00 A.M.
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—People's Meth. Church, W. 65th & Bridge	8:30
LEE ROAD—2056 E. 106th, K. of P. Hall	8:30
MILES MEN'S—Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd.	8:30
NORTHEAST—2028 E. 106th St.	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit	8:30
LORAIN-AVON—1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church	8:30
EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church, E. 200th St. off St. Clair	8:30
MENTOR, O.—Mentor Way Villa	9:00

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Lutheran Church, Cable at Broadway	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th, North of Euclid Avenue	9:00
EDGE WATER — Detroit Ave.	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair	9:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82 and St. Clair	8:30
PARMA—St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. & George Ave.	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3625 W. 25th St.	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road	8:00
3005 GROUP-8006 Lorain Ave.	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO-K. of P. Hall	9:00

APPRECIATION

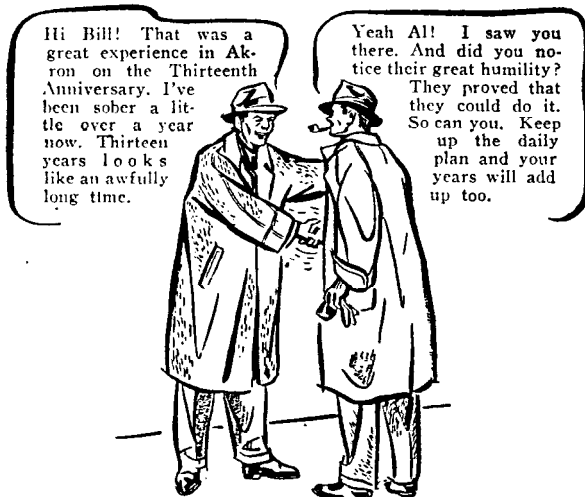
Thank you, Dear God, for this wonderful day.
Thanks for your guidance, in work and at play.
Thanks for your sunshine, your birds and your flowers.
Thanks for This day, just these twenty four hours.
Thanks for our health, for our peace, for our food,
Thanks for the chance to do someone some good.
Thanks for our fellowship, that we've named A. A.
Thank you, Dear God, for THIS Wonderful day.
-Frank R. H., Cleveland

SURPRISE

A young boy in the witness box was so much at ease answering the questions put to him so fluently that the judge was suspicious.
"Did anyone tell you what to say in court before you came here?" he asked.
"Oh, yes sir," replied the boy.
Counsel for the prosecution was up in arms at once. "I felt sure this witness had been tampered with," he snapped.
The judge turned to the boy. "Will you tell me," he said, "who told you what to say?"
"My father, sir," answered the boy. "He said the lawyer would try to get me all tangled up, but if I stuck to the truth I would be quite all right."

When the name of the plaintiff was called out in court, much to everyone's amazement, he stood up in the jury box. "What are you doing here?" snapped the clerk. "I was called to serve on the jury," was the meek reply. "But you must have known you couldn't sit on the jury and try your own case?" "I suppose not!" admitted the plaintiff ruefully. "I did think it was a bit of luck."

THE LIFE OF AL AND, BILL-No. 17



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SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 105th St.	8:30
LAKEVIEW—CYO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair	8:00
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway, 10:00 A. M.	
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93	8:30
PIONEER (Negro)—7100 Kinsman	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.	2:00
TRAINING MEETING—8023 Detroit Ave.	8:00
WARRENSVILLE—Workhouse Library	10:00 A. M.
WEST SIDE—Michell Club, 1978 W. 74th St.	8:00

1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH
CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370 8:30

CENTRAL BULLETIN

UNSELFISHNESS • HONESTY
 PURITY • LOVE
 A.A.

Vol. VI-No. 10

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Editorial - Adversity

Alcoholics who are impatient for immediate material results from their sobriety should ever keep in mind Paul's remark in his famous letter to the Romans:

"To them that love God all things work together for good."

Fundamentally sobriety is its own reward. But it stands to reason that when we cease making our own existences unmanageable and the lives of those around us miserable, there should follow a betterment in our position in society.

When tangible consequences are not soon apparent some of us are & lined to be discouraged. If we truly "love God" in the fullest sense we will realize how shortsighted such an attitude really is. Our thinking has not yet cleared. We are still, mentally, children who believe they should be given a stick of candy for being good.

But sometimes we encounter not rewards but reverses. Material setbacks can be used as an excuse for discouragement disillusionment and even for drinking if we are not strong in faith.

There is the case of Wilson S. who became such a drunk that he was disowned by his family. He was working as a laborer in the shipyards when he accepted the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. His family took him back. They expressed their faith in him by placing him in charge of a plant bearing the family name. It was a decrepit affair. The machinery was old and worn. He worked long hours. He was sincerely trying, but progress was slow.

Fire one night destroyed everything. The endeavor of years was a heap of ashes. Wilson S. is human and he is an alcoholic. He brooded. Why did this have to happen to him? Had God deserted him? What a prime alibi to shrug his shoulders and walk into the nearest cafe.

But Wilson S. came out of his depressed mood intact. He did the sensible thing; he consulted his sponsor. In effect, his sponsor told him that all things happen for the best, not to worry, but to go to his source which was God, make the conscious contact and find out why this disaster befell him. The sponsor further advised him to take a week off and not to worry because there is a reason for everything that (happens). He expressed his confidence that Wilson S. would get his answer.

He did. Wilson S. walked into his bank, a small insurance check, the salvage of the fire, in his wallet. He told the whole story. He showed the check. And the bank advanced the money many times the amount of the insurance check to build a bigger and better plant with new equipment. In a short time the business prospered to such a great degree that Wilson S. wonders why he ever questioned God, why he had any doubts.

Today Wilson S. and thousands like him who have found a better life through sobriety, even in the face of adversity, know the truth of William Cowper's lines, really a paraphrase of Paul:

**God moves in a mysterious way
 His wonders to perform.**

When we reached the bottom in our drinking days we thought there was no hope for us. We turned to God and learned that there was not only hope but a future. We are better and wiser men and women because of the mental

(Continued on page two)

That New Look

One of our local speakers, in the course of his talk, made the statement that if a person was completely absorbed in A.A., a decided change would be apparent in that person's face. Other changes would be apparent such as bearing, posture and general behavior, but the greatest change would be in the person's face. He mentioned how thrilled he was when he approached a perfect stranger, whose face had attracted him because of its unusual serenity in the crowd of which he was a part. Unable to resist the impulse, he engaged this stranger in conversation, and after a few casual remarks, asked him if he perchance was a member of the A.A. He was, and had been for some years.

That struck us as being unusual, so we too began studying the physiognomy of people. And it is interesting! We even studied our own, and though what we saw reflected, failed to excite us, we, with becoming (?) modesty allowed that it did show improvement over the harassed, bloated and fearful (note we do not say fearsome) countenance which glared back at us back in 1942.

What causes facial changes? Somehow, somewhere we recall reading that your face is your fortune. That beauty is only skin deep. That your soul is reflected through your eyes. We wish we could remember just what we read, but we cannot, so let's mull this over together and see what we can find.

Certainly, if we finally succeed in actually surrendering our will, according to Step III, to a Power greater than ourselves, we will lose some of the tenseness which was manifest not only in our face but in our entire behavior. As faith in that Power increases, the greater will be the relaxation and slackening of tension.

And as we purposefully follow the Daily Plan, finding joyful pride in being able to resist temptation, daily discovering unexpected rewards, such as respect, friendliness and most important of all a sense of being an integral part of society once more—we find ourselves unconsciously squaring our shoulders, purposely setting our chin, and discovering a new light in our eyes. It's good to be alive.

Filled with this new sense of well-being, and with a deep sense of gratitude in our hearts, we learn, falteringly and hesitatingly, to apply ourselves to the other steps. Sincerely trying to make amends, we slowly but definitely acquire humility and this too will reflect itself in our countenances. And as our gratitude increases, our love for our fellowman will be evidenced in our sincerity in helping others. The greater the sacrifice without thought of personal reward or personal glory, the greater will it show in the eyes and general bearing of the giver.

Remember conversely that lack of faith, inconstancy, fear, hatred, resentment, discouragement, jealousy dishonesty and other kindred traits which we must eliminate, leave an almost indelible mark on our faces.

The first thought in the morning and the last thought at night are marked on our faces and the set of our shoulders.

God grant us the serenity to accept those things we cannot change, the courage to change those things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Have you the new look?

If your troubles are worth entrusting to another, your joys should be shared as well.

ADVERSITY

(Continued from page one)

anguish we suffered. We know that the answer can be found in the least suspected places. We can today be thankful that we learned this lesson. But it is applicable to all our lives not just to sobriety. We must evaluate the situation in which we find ourselves in the terms of our experience. Like Wilson S. we must go to the source for the answer. Speaking of that source, Lowell Fillmore recently wrote:

"His loving presence in your thoughts will bring you more joy than you can buy with all the money in the world. If you love God for His own sake you will be rich, for He is more to be desired than riches, and when you have Him all things needful for your well-being and happiness will be added, for He is the source of all good."

GENTLEMAN DEFINED

A gentleman is a man who is clean both outside and inside; who neither looks up to the rich nor down to the poor; who can lose without squealing and win without bragging; who is considerate of women, children and old people; who is too brave to lie, too generous to cheat and who takes his share of the world's goods and lets other people have theirs.—The Silver Lining, Vol. 8 No. 1.

GROWING IN STATURE

I ask myself the question, "When I first came into AA wdre my admissions and decisions made then enough to keep me sober?" The answer is very definitely "No." Because the AA program is not a sign up and forget affair. It isn't a one time inoculation against all the ills that may arise in the future. Rather, it is a continuous daily program of living and I have observed that the **happiest** and most successful A.A.'s are those who take a daily refresher course.

Every one of the 12 steps are vital but I believe after the 1st step the 10th step which reads, "continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it," is the one next important. For me, that has to be done daily. As entries on the wrong side of the ledger loom up I can at least see where I was wrong and decide what must be done—not only to correct the error; but to avoid repetition of it.

Self reproach is silly unless I use it constructively and try to use the mistakes of today to make a better day tomorrow. My personal inventory undoubtedly will **always** include selfishness, impatience, anger, and intolerance. As they crop up I try to avoid the occasion the next day. As I say, I generally take my inventory at the end of the day and follow it up with a little prayer of thanks for the good things that have come to me during the day.

It's not for a person to say, "O.K., I've admitted I can't drink." I can't skim over the steps and regard it as being finished for there is no end to AA. Until we have learned to be tolerant with those who do not agree with us, until we have cultivated the habit of saying some kind words of those whom we do not admire, until we have formed the habit of looking for the good instead of the bad there is in others, we will not be either happy or **succssful**.—Camel Club Chronicle

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

A snuff manufacturer is a man who goes around putting his business in other people's noses.

We human beings find it difficult not to boast when we **have** done a good job. But too many boast at the wrong time and too often. Boasting almost never yields a profit. One successful man said he owed his success to a close study **he** made of his Dominicker rooster. That rooster was a powerful fighter. He could fly higher and cut deeper than any **other** rooster in the neighborhood. But often lost fights against weaker foes. His trouble was that right in the middle of a fight, he'd stop to crow.

EXPENSIVE DRUNKS

Statistics furnished by the Safety Council show that accidents caused by drunken drivers are on the increase. In 1947, 23,400 people were killed and there were about 800,000 injured. The staggering sum of **\$700,000,000.00** was lost in wages, hospitalization and attendant expenses, with **\$550,000,000.00** estimated as property damage lost by drivers responsible (or should it be irresponsible 'drivers?'). Alcohol was a major contributing factor in these accidents. For instance, **30%** of those involved in fatal accidents were driving while in varied stages of alcoholism. **14%** of those involved in fatal accidents were pedestrians in varied stages of alcoholism.

We can thank God again and again for providing us with a very busy guardian angel.

Exhaustive experiments by police in four cities brought the following startling disclosures: In Evanston, Ill., of the drivers tested **38%** of them had been drinking, **21%** of whom were under the influence and definite traffic hazards. In Uniontown, Pa., the ratios were **48%** of which **37%** were under the influence. Cleveland, Ohio, was **56%** and **38%**, with New York **51%** and **42%**.

The trend if for the worse instead of better and these figures provide ammunition for the Drys who would bring back Prohibition and its attendant evils. This fear on our part that the country might go dry, isn't because WE want to drink, but because we remember the violent disrespect engendered toward law during the last horrible experiment.

Counsel your friends who drink to stay out of their automobiles if they're drinking and save some lives.

MEN CAPITULATE

Broadway Men's Group has capitulated and now has become a mixed group, although it limits its membership to men. But the ladies are invited to attend their meetings which are held Saturday nights at 8:45 in St. John's Church Hall, Cable Ave., just north of Broadway.

LORAIN PICNIC

The fifth annual Consolidated Picnic of the Lorain County Groups will be held on Sunday, August 1st at Johnny Kilhane's Health Farm, 3.7 miles west of Lorain Drive-in Theatre on Route 2. A great crowd is anticipated.

Brine your basket lunch along with the kids and grandparents. The shindig begins at noon with games for all.

The picnic replaces the monthly meeting. On **September 5th**, the monthly consolidated meetings will be resumed in Townsend Hall, 108 Middle Ave., (on the square) in Elyria, Ohio.

WEST SIDE SUNDAY MOVES

Better facilities for holding meetings for this new and thriving west side Sunday group were found in Trinity Methodist Church at West 99th and Madison. The first meeting in the new quarters was held on Sunday, June 27th, 1948, at 8:30 p. m.

VACATIONLAND

On Saturday, July 3rd, a new group called Vacationland in picturesque Sandusky, Ohio, was opened with veteran Bill B. of Lorain. They meet in Trinity M. E. Church, Sandusky, each Saturday at 8:30.

PARMA ANNIVERSARY

Our highly esteemed editorial writer, Spencer I. will be the speaker at Parma's first anniversary celebration to which all Cleveland is invited. The date is Saturday, July 31, 8:30 p. m.

Each of the speakers who led their meetings were invited to their pot luck dinner. Should be a bang-up affair.

An irate gentleman wrote the following letter: "Sir, my stenographer being a lady cannot type what I think of you. I, being a gentleman cannot think of it. YOU, being neither will understand just what I mean."

OH ME! OH MY!

Smith came home rather **early** in the morning, dreadfully under **the** influence. As Mrs. **S.** had delivered many lectures on previous occasions, he felt he must avoid another at all cost. He crept in very quietly. Someone had forgotten to put out the light in the library. Ah, the very **thing!** He would go in and pretend to be reading if his **wife** should come down. Fumbling, he found a pile of books in the corner. He would take that very big one at the bottom of the pile. He tugged away and finally got it out, opening it up and seated himself comfortably. Soon Mrs. **S.** came down and stood looking at him in the doorway. "What are you doing there?" she inquired. "Why darling, I've been reading this very interesting book, and didn't notice how fast time has flown." "You idiot!" she snapped. "Shut that suitcase and come to bed."

OUR FACE IS RED

Our attention was called several times this month to the fact that Al arid Bill were still wearing overcoats with the temperature hovering in the nineties. We wish we could buy them new clothes, but we can't afford it. Glad at least three people noticed it, however.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

St. John's Hospital Group held its **first** monthly meeting on Friday, June 4th with 54 attending. Bob **McG.** is chairman and Chuck G. is secretary. Meetings will be held the first Friday of each month at **8:30.**

EDITOR AT YALE

Editing the Bulletin by remote control is a novel experience. We are enjoying an unusually fine treat **having** been awarded a scholarship to the Yale Summer School of Alcoholic Studies. We're in the first week of classes, with three more weeks to go and we were astounded to find that we still had much to learn.

We hope to return better equipped to give our subscribers the benefits we hope to gain from the learned lecturers who have made exhaustive studies on "what makes an Alcoholic that way."

DEAF AND DUMB

A deaf mute, seeking A.A. help, visited the Cleveland District Office the other day and managed to make his plea **by** means of pad and pencil. The Office referred the man to the group nearest his home, figuring that if he wanted the program badly enough, he would get it somehow.

By one of those coincidences one finds only in A.A., the secretary to whom the call was referred, turned out to be probably the only A.A. secretary in Cleveland who knew the 'mute alphabet! The man is happily attending meetings. The secretary's daughter, not a deaf mute, had interested her in learning the alphabet, which seemed at the time a useless accomplishment.

During the period of May 15 to June 30, the Office has received 115 requests for contacts which were referred to 47 groups. Among recent callers was one anxious man who wanted us to come quick because his friend upstairs was having **D.T.s.**

President Lincoln was once taken to task for his attitude toward his enemies. "Why do you try to **make** friends of them?" asked an associate. "You should **try** to destroy them."

"Am I not destroying my enemies," Lincoln gently replied, "when I make them my friends?"

"**How** do you know **you** hit that duck?"

"**I** shot him in the foot and in the head at the same time."

"How could you possibly hit him in the foot and head at the same time?"

"He was scratching his head."

CHAIN REACTIONS

A friend of mine was one of approximately three hundred scientists sent overseas by the Department of Commerce to study scientific developments by the Germans, before, during, and after the war. In his travels this man has rubbed shoulders with the leading scientists of the world, including those involved in the development of the atomic bomb.

Of all the exciting things my friend has to tell, the most interesting to me is the discovery that apparently thought waves are as real as radar waves. It seems that man is a mental radar. Thoughts of hate sent out toward others rebound to the sender!

People pick up our thoughts and broadcast them to others, and these others broadcast them to still other people, multiplying almost endlessly the influence of our thinking. Thoughts of hate start chain reactions of hate. Thoughts of good will create chain reactions of good will.

As individuals we have the power to choose the kind of thinking we will broadcast from **our** mental radios. By sending out positive, helpful, healing thoughts, we can become a constructive force in the world. We have the power to start chain reactions that will have a widening influence for good.-Silver Lining, Port Huron, Mich.

A great man shows his greatness by the way he treats little men.—Carlyle

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTIONS

WC won't embarrass our circulation manager with deserved plaudits, but instead we will give them to a constant enthusiastic booster, Matt T., who we hear goes way out of line of duty to give the Bulletin a send-off. So he's the man-of-the-month. Are there any others who want to get on the list of Bulletin Boosters? It's a fine clan.

Latest report shows nearly 1800 subscribers. Lot of subscriptions expired in June. Our tongue is still in check. 2500 in October? Tsk! Tsk! Tsk!

Many a man who prides himself on being "level headed", doesn't know how low that level is.

Gentleness and cheerfulness, these **come** before all morality; they are the perfect duties. If your morals make you 'dreary, depend upon it they are wrong. I do not say "give them up," for they may be all you have; but conceal them like a vice, lest they should spoil the lives of **better** and simpler people.

-Robert Louis Stevenson.

One rainy night an inebriate leaned **up** against the side of his house before entering, (for a reason you'll have to figure out), and as the rainfall continued to pour over the eaves and drip to the ground, he continued to just stand there and lean. Finally, he mumbled to himself: "Guess I been 'a **drinkin'** too much beer."

(Dr. Hyde.)

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CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON-St. Francis School Hall, E. 71st and Superior	8:30
BORTON—E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid	8:45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O.—Ward 23-U	7:30
FAIRMOUNT-St. Paul's Episc. Church, Fairmount & Coventry-B	8:30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg.	
Detroit Ave. & St. Charles-8	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton & Detroit	8:30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON-St. Lake's Church, Clifton Blvd.	8:30
LAKE SHORE-Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd.	
Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting	8:30
LEE ROAD-St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Allendale and Euclid	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill	7:30
PEARL—Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.	8:30
UNION-12907 Union Ave.	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episcopal Church, 3461 Warrenville	
Center Rd.	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway	8:30
WEST 25TH ST.—Marvel Hall, 2368 W. 26th St.	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, 0	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side, Our Savior's Hall, W. 68th at Franklin	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE-Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 13th & Euclid	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month-Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid	8:30
CLARK-4106 Clark Ave. (Upstairs)	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle	8:00
EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid	8:30
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit	
Dinner at 7:00 P. G.—Meeting	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.	8:30
SMITH-WILSON-Nativity School, 9610 Aetna Road	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall	8:30
SUPERIOR —Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag-33 N. State Street	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE-6627 Baxter Ave	8:30
BROOKLYN-K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.	8:45
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon, 0	8:30
COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St., 2nd floor, side entrance	8:45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS-Trinity Baptist Church, E. 94-Garfield Blvd.	9:00
LEE ROAD-First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard	8:30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD—St. Cyril's Church, Madison and Lakewood Aves.	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction	6:30
WINDEMERE—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakefront	9:00
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.,	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLENDALE-St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.	8:30
ANGLE—St. Malachi's Church, 2649 Washington Ave	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland	8:30
BROADWAY-56TH—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall	8:30
COVENTRY-Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emmanuel Church	
Euclid at E. 36th	9:00
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair	9:00
EAST LAKE—Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, 0	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain	8:30
OUTHWAITE—(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman	8:30
WYANDOTTE! MEN'S—Church of Redeemer, Andrew and Detroit Avenue (rear)	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING—AA Social Center, 700 Broadway,	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St. Third Floor	8:30
WEST SIDE-7408 Denison Ave.	10:30 A. M.

FRIDAY

CEDAR — Salvation Army, 2131 E 66th St.	8:15
CHAGRIN FALL & O.—American Legion, E. Orange St	8:30
EAST SIDE MORNING-2028 E. 105th St	10:00 A.M.
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—People's Meth. Church, W. 66th & Bridge	8:30
LEE ROAD-2066 E. 106th, K. of P. Hall	8:30
MILES MEN'S-Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd.	8:30
NORTHEAST-2023 E. 106th St.	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit	8:30
LORAIN-AVON—1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, 0	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church	8:30
EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church, E. 200th St. off St. Clair	8:30
MENTOR, O.—Mentor Way Villa	9:00

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Lutheran Church.	
Cable at Broadway	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th,	
North of Euclid Avenue	9:00
EDGEWATER—Detroit Ave	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair	9:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82 and St. Clair	8:30
PARMA—St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. & George Ave.	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3625 W. 26th St.	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather	6:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road	8:00
8005 GROUP-6006 Lorain Ave.	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO—K. of P. Hall	9:00

A BAR

The name of each saloon is a Bar,
The fittest of its names by far;
A bar to Heaven—a door to hell,
Whoever named it—named it well.

A bar to manliness and wealth,
A door to want and broken health;
A bar to honor, pride and fame,
A door to grief and sin and shame.

A bar to hope—a bar to prayer,
A door to darkness and despair;
A bar to useful honored life,
A door to brawling senseless strife.

A bar to all that's true and brave,
A door to every drunkard's grave;
A bar to joys that home imparts,
A door to tears and aching hearts.

Yes, a bar to Heaven—a door to hell
Whoever named it—named it well.

Mrs. Jones: What's that in the fancy vase on the mantle?

Mrs. Smith: My husband's ashes.

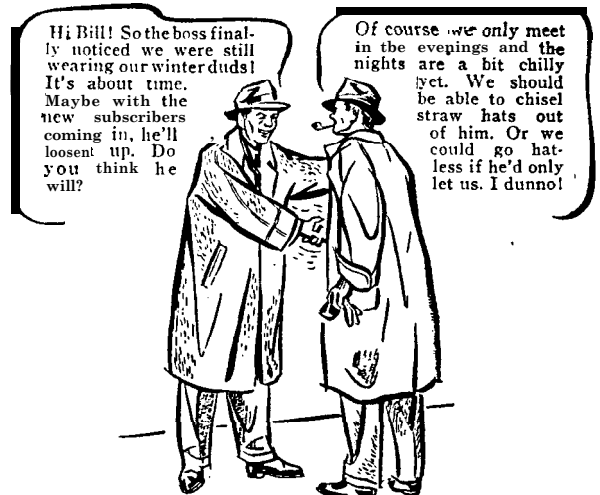
Mrs. Jones: Oh, I'm sorry; how long has he been dead?

Mrs. Smith: He isn't. He's just too lazy to find an ash tray.

Wife to husband who had a few drinks too many: "No, I can't forgive you, Archibald. This is the end. If this were the first time it would be different but you came home in the same condition in November, 1918."

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL—No. 18



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SUNDAY

A. A. CLUB-6409 Detroit Avenue	Open 24 Hours
COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 106th St.	8:00
LAKEVIEW—CYO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair	8:00
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway,	10:00 A. M.
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 8443 E. 93	8:30
PIONEER (Negro)—7100 Kinsman	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.	2:00
ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL—First Friday of Each Month	8:30
TRAINING MEETING—8023 Detroit Ave.	8:00
WARRENSVILLE—Cooley Farms Recreation Room	10:00 A. M.
WEST SIDE—Trinity Methodist, W. 99th and Madison	8:30

1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 870 8:30

Editorial-Gossip

While it is intelligent, in living the new life of sobriety, not to let ourselves be depressed by remorse or haunted by the phantoms of our drinking days, there is one aspect of the past that can profitably be recalled.

All of us remember as alcoholics the gamut of emotions we ran from hate to fear of those persons who talked about us. We hated them for their smugness. We feared them because they might, by their loose tongues, jeopardize our jobs or our standing in the community. These resentments surged especially when, in our delusion, we thought we were "getting away" with something.

More often than not these critics of our old habits had just grounds for their comments. But they often embroidered on the facts, colorful as they already were. They smacked their lips with the re-tailing of a delectable morsel which started: "Oh, what I know about So-and-so."

They neither made life easier nor helped in any degree whatsoever to break the old ways. If anything, they made the victim of their comments even more "sot in his ways." They often inspired a reaction which took the form of a new and worse spree. "I'll show those Such-and-SOS," was the negative and self-destructive thought in our minds.

An honest assessment of our present conduct, now that we have escaped alcohol, will often reveal that, unconsciously, we have fallen into the same habit of loose talk which formerly incensed us.

Maybe gossip is a facet of the personality of most alcoholics who, at heart, are garrulous people anyway. Perhaps it is a substitute for the fantastic bragging that only other brass rail braggarts would listen to. The reason is unimportant. What matters is that the habit is there and until it is abandoned we have not fully achieved our sobriety.

We must be sober in thought as well as physically. Too many of us PO on verbal binges because Mr. X or Mrs. Z has done something of which we do not approve. Most often it is because we do not understand and do not know the whole story. We are inclined to get as verbally drunk on a wisp of gossip as we were to get actually drunk on a double-header. One double-header never satisfied us. We took more until oblivion came. A fragment of scandal doesn't satisfy us. If we cannot learn more details we invent Shem until truth and decency are in oblivion.

This practice implies a holier-than-thou attitude. What alcoholic has the moral right to take the pinnacle of self-righteousness? If the subject of our gossip is really at fault, the gossip does him no good. It only undermines our character.

This habit impinges our usefulness as members of Alcoholics Anonymous. We make impossible the complete fulfillment of the Fifth Step: "Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

(Continued on page two)

Eloise Symphony

Cleveland newspapers gave a great deal of front page publicity with unnecessarily lurid headlines to the newsworthy story of a Detroitier who entered a mental hospital about two years ago suffering delirium tremens which records indicated were brought on by drinking canned heat mixed with wine and headache pills. A hopeless drunkard and brawler, he was listed as "an alcoholic with psychosis." We must agree that such a concoction might inevitably bring such a diagnosis.

The doctors discovered a submerged taste for music in him and his treatment consisted of letting him write music to find a normal outlet for his frustrated musical yearnings, for in his pockets when he was brought in emaciated and in horrible condition, they found notes of Tschaiakowsky's music jotted down on scraps of paper.

Given great encouragement by his psychiatrist, Dr. Ira Altschuler, the patient composed such a creditable composition that it was given its premiere performance by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra before an audience of more than 14,000 persons which gave him such a tremendous ovation that he was called to the stage. In his remarks he pleaded for confidence in mental hospitals which had done so much for him.

Detroit music critics praised his work highly. Incidentally, this concert was only the second which the composer had ever heard. Listening to Tschaiakowsky's records had enabled him to teach himself musical theory and orchestration.

This is indeed a remarkable achievement and reflects a great deal of credit to the psychiatrist for his patience and interest. Too many times have we heard AA speakers scoff at psychiatry and psychiatrists. We were led to believe that psychiatry was a foolish waste of money—that the psychology of AA was the only ultimate answer. Evidently it was in their cases, but only when they had finally reached the end of their own resources and made the complete surrender which AA indicated. Had these patients been as honest and co-operative with the psychiatrist as they were with AA, psychiatry would not have failed.

In analyzing this man's treatment, we believe he succeeded because first he undoubtedly had great latent ability and second, because he had a truly understanding doctor who gave him full sway in his hobby without permitting too many outside distractions. He had nothing material to worry or distract him such as providing food and shelter for himself or his family. Undoubtedly other disturbing elements were kept away from him also. This ideal arrangement probably hastened his recovery. We can draw a lesson from this, in encouraging newcomers in AA to concentrate on some hobby and to avoid distracting elements which would divert his interest and ultimate recovery. Our Twelfth Step is indeed a remarkable medium in diversion.

But we did object to the sensational heads which our Cleveland papers used for their stories. One was headed,

(Continued on page two)

EDITORIAL-GOSSIP

(Continued from page one)

Who will admit the nature of his wrongs to another if he incurs thereby the risk of having them related to unsympathetic ears? Not only the information imparted to us as sponsors or as fellow members, but the information-correct or false-we hear about others must be treated with the same confidence that a doctor or lawyer, a minister or priest, treats the confessions of those who trust in them professionally.

Not only are we as individuals weakened by gossip, but the worth and effectiveness of the group is endangered. Remembering our hostile reaction to this practice in drinking days, it is time to take stock and put a stop to a pernicious habit.

NEVER GIVE UP THE SHIP

Chas. I. G-SIXTH YEAR—Lorain Ave., Monday

When the world seems against you, . . . And the going's mighty rough; . . . That's the time to show them . . . You really have the stuff. Won't do no good to wail or moan, . . . Or dwell upon your plight . . . Make up your mind to do or die, . . . And then begin to fight. Have sympathy for all your friends, . . . But deny yourself this treat; . . . Clommissionation for them is fine, . . . But for you it spells defeat. So straighten up your shoulders, . . . Don't droop them in despair; . . . You may be down but never out . . . If you have the will to dare. It doesn't require **brilliancy** . . . Or an intelligence sublime . . . You can succeed with what you have, . . . If you're plugging all the time. And when the clouds have cleared away, . . . And sunshine floods your soul; . . . Tribulations seem as naught, When you've achieved your goal.

The galleries are full of critics. They play no ball. They fight no fights. They make no mistakes, because they attempt nothing. Down in the arena are the doers. They make many mistakes because they attempt many things. Ford forgot to put a reverse gear in his first automobile. Edison once spent over \$2,000,000 on an invention which proved of little value. The man who makes no mistakes lacks boldness and the spirit of adventure. He is the one who never tries anything new. He is a brake on the wheels of progress.

GRATITUDE

Because of limited space, we had to cut the first five verses from an excellent bit of poetry sent in by Herschel G. H. We wish we could print it all, but here's all we can give you. If interested, call on the editor for the original copy.

And then one day he found AA . . . Once more he saw the light of day . . . Again the skies were fair and blue . . . What's more, he had an extra soul!

But did he pass around his cash? . . . Don't be a sil-he **was** not rash . . . He dropped his 10 cents in the kitty . . . **And he** reared back sitting very pretty.

Though dry Martinis cost a buck . . . If he gave you two bits he was stuck . . . And conjured up lame explanations . . . To justify his small donations.

He **never** seemed to recollect . . . That he'd spent money by the peck . . . Till AA **clipped** him on the chin . . . **And tried** to make a man of him.

When I see such events occur . . . and call to mind things as they were . . . and know he thinks AA's expensive-to me he's quite' incomprehensive!

GROUP CHANGES

Gordon Square moves back to St. Helena's Hall at 1367 W. 65th St., on September 3rd. Members will be allowed to smoke there.

Garfield Heights group meets at 8:30 in the same location on Wednesdays.

Euclid Village group meets at 8:30 in Holy Cross Church. E. 200th and Lakeshore Blvd., on Friday evenings.

Geneva meets Thursday nights in Burd's Rest Home, 230 So. Broadway, not on Friday as was listed.

ELOISE SYMPHONY

(Continued from page one)

"Detroit Hails Music by Ex-Skid Row Bum." Another, "Ex-Alcoholic to Present 'Psychosis Symphony.'" If his music indeed has merit, it's value will be somewhat minimized by the well-meant but prejudiced and condemning publicity attendant to it. Too many times great acts and achievements by members of AA carry the burden of public surprise which **tends** to minimize their greatness.

Let's hope the opus succeeds in spite of this publicity.

GRAPEVINE CHANGES FORMAT

Beginning with the September issue, the AA Grapevine will come out in a new size, 5½x7½ inches and will contain 32 pages **bound** between completely anonymous covers. This pocket-sized format should be popular. For the past five years the only criticism the publication received was its outsize, making it difficult to carry around to read in public. We believe every member should be a subscriber to this excellent official AA publication. Bill W., founder, is editor-in-chief or something, and his monthly messages are wonderfully inspiring, as are other contributions from many parts of the country.

The Grapevine costs \$2.50 per year, \$4.50 for two years. Place your order with AA Grapevine, P.O. Box 328, Grand Central Annex, New York 17, N. Y.

AIM HIGH

"Too low they build who build beneath the stars." That is the motto on the wall of the Congressional Library.

And how true!

More failures in life are due to low aim than to poor marksmanship.

The news headlines had it that a great movie star had taken her life. Another week, it was a multimillionaire. Why?

Oh, just poor aim, that's all!

One thought that life's highest ambition consisted in "the abundance of things he possessed;" the other that fame was life's highest prize.

Most of the men we deal with have aimed at NOTHING and hit it every time.

Perhaps we need spiritual tri-focal glasses so that our DUTY TO GOD, TO OUR NEIGHBOR, AND TO OURSELVES, will each stand out in proper focus, and the relation of each to the other will be clear.

-Social Center Chatter-Cleveland, O.

BACK TO WORK

Our four weeks at Yale were most profitably spent in study. Forty AA's from all parts of the country took the course which gave us a great insight in the work of the clinic.

Among the other 150 people were educators, doctors, ministers, psychiatrists, physiologists, sociologists and others, such as representatives from the Temperance leagues as well as the Brewery and Distiller interests.

Astonishing was the information that there were about four million chronic and excessive drinkers of which 750,000 were women. Accordingly AA has only scratched the surface with its estimated 80,000 members. How thankful we should be for being so singularly blessed, and how challenging these figures are to our Twelfth Step impulses.

Alcoholism ranks fourth behind tuberculosis, cancer and diabetes.

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTIONS

108 more subscribers were added during the past month and easily outstripped the expirations. A followup was made on one-hundred whose subscriptions had lapsed and resulted in a return of 28 on the mailing list so far. Included in this was one from John O'M. whose subscription expired in June. He sent in a five-year subscription. Jeepers! Haven't hit that 2500 yet, Eddie.

* * *

Then there was the drunk who couldn't remember the next morning whether he had cooked his goose or vice "worsa."

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Representatives of 40 Cleveland groups met during August and adopted "Recommended Hospital Standards" which appears below. Hospitalizing agencies measuring up to all of the standards will be given the committee's OK. Should any agency fail to measure up it will be removed from the "recommended list." Those approved at the meeting were:

Charity Hospital	Farquharson's Home
Cleveland Alcoholic Clinic	McGillis Home
Deaconess Hospital	Larry Ryan's Home
East Cleveland Clinic	St. John's Hospital

All groups are urged to have representatives attend the monthly meetings held on the third Thursday of each month.

The following "Recommended Hospital Standards" as developed jointly by your committee and the operators of Alcoholics nursing homes and hospitals are strictly in accord with the policies and practices of this institution

1. Each patient is to be admitted only on application of sponsor or co-sponsor.
2. So member is to be designated as sponsor or co-sponsor except with his or her consent.
3. Request sponsor or co-sponsor to fill in admission form unless he has already done so.
4. Hospital to notify physician of admission.
5. Hospital shall make out case history.
6. Hospital will furnish A.A. visitation record which is to be kept for each patient.
7. Only A.A. members are to visit patients except in cases of emergency.
8. Hospital personnel will co-operate in limiting the number and the length of visits according to patients condition.
9. No patient is to have more than two visitors at a time. Conversation to be constructive and loud tones avoided.
10. Patients are to have no mail or phone calls except by permission of the sponsor.
11. Hospitals will have available for patients' use the book "Alcoholics Anonymous and other inspirational literature."
12. So patient is to be taken to a meeting during the period of hospitalization without the approval of sponsor or co-sponsor.
13. Hospitals are not to designate themselves as A.A. Hospitals or A.A. Approved Hospitals in any publicity or advertising.
14. Hospitals will make every effort to segregate new patients from repeaters.
15. Hospitals are to have at least one registered nurse on their staff with graduate nurse on duty at all times.

SUMMER PICNICS

Lakewood Orchard Grove picnicked and golfed at Ed Erlers ranch in Brunswick, Sunday, July 18th. The crowd had its usual circus.

Ten Westside groups combined in a mammoth picnic which attracted over 1,000 people in North Olmsted Park on Sunday, August 8. Combining races with baseball and dancing. Lotsa prizes.

Lorain-Elyria picnicked at Johnny Kilbane's Health Camp and also attracted a huge crowd. A hotly contested baseball game which featured heavy slugging by both teams resulted in the Lorain Bears smothering the Elyria Angels by a score of 19 to 15. Wonder who kept score-or how many?

Broadway-East 55th and Baxter held its joint picnic. The former's baseball team beat the Baxters 12 to 5 to allow them to stick out their chests.

WARRENSVILLE WOMEN

Permanent chairman of the Warrensville Women's group is Mrs. Hilda H. of the Broadway-East 55th group. These women are doing a magnificent job of Twelfth Step work.

PARMA SHOWS HEART

Celebrating its anniversary with Spencer I as its outstanding speaker on July 31st, the meeting was highlighted with a spontaneous gift offering for John M., Amishman of Millersburg, O., who had won the hearts of group members with an unforgettable talk months before. Word was received that John's large barn had been struck by lightning and burned down with his cattle. The large crowd took up a sizeable collection and surprised him with it. Incidentally, the Saturday, August 24th Plain Dealer minted quite a story on 282 Amishmen raising a new barn for John in one day. John deserved this great demonstration of brotherly love for his sacrifices of time and effort.

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA

A delightful letter accompanied a subscription renewal from Ruby M. G. of Los Angeles, Calif., who with her husband Eddie came into AA in Cleveland over seven years ago. Kicked out of rooming houses, in and out of jail, they were contacted by Howard E. and Tom D. of Lorain Ave., Monday and Mesdames Kate N. and Marian R. and have uninterrupted sobriety since then. Eddie passed away on December 18, 1947, leaving Ruby and a son. Their many new friends in California were of great comfort to her. "Out of the back door from Cleveland into the front door of California; we found the same kindness and friendship here", she writes.

MARION STARTS WOMEN'S GROUP

A women's group was started on Sunday, July 4th in Marion, O., with an enthusiastic meeting. The group has the encouraging support of the regular Marion group which also meets in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Thursdays at 8:30 p. m.

ASHTABULA

Monday meetings of the Ashtabula AA's were discontinued early in August until further notice. The members will be assimilated in the Wednesday and Saturday night Ashtabula groups as well as in the Conneaut Tuesday and Friday and Geneva Thursday night groups.

AKRON

The O'Neill group will hold its annual dance in O'Neill Auditorium on Saturday evening, September 4th. Dancing starts at nine o'clock. Entrance is on State Street and the tickets are fifty cents.

Honored guests will be Bill D. (first after Doctor Bob) and Ethel M. of Barberton, beloved of all women.

ST. JOHNS

St. John's Hospital group holds its monthly meeting in the auditorium on Friday evening, September 3rd at 8:30. Wynn W. of Lee Rd. Preyer will lead. This is an open meeting.

NOVEL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

He forgot it was his 28th wedding anniversary when he agreed to speak before the Brooklyn group on Wednesday, August 4th, but he kept the date just the same and brought the wife along. He made one of his best talks, tying in nicely his 28 years with her and his nearly seven years of continued sobriety. That was that not-so-portly-now optometrist from Berea, Doctor Chauncey C.

TRINITY

The famous Indian from Youngstown, Walter T. M., will speak on Saturday, August 28, and on September 4th, Copper Tom F. and his also-excellent wife Mary will offer a joint lead. Big nights both. Meetings are held at 9:00 p. m. in Trinity Ev. Church, 3525 W. 25th St.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT OFFICE

The meeting of the Office Advisory Committee scheduled for the third Thursday in August has been postponed because of hot weather and vacations, to Wednesday, September 15th. Your research department finds that there is no night ball game on that date. The weather we cannot predict.

From time to time out-of-town AAs visiting in Cleveland call after office hours for meeting location information. If you are willing to have your Group meeting location listed with the telephone message bureau for the convenience of visitors please let us know. We will not make this information available without your permission.

Your Office heard the other day of a man who said he drinks very little, in fact only to relax his nerves. His family informs us that on Saturday nights his nerves are often so relaxed it is almost impossible to determine whether he is alive or dead!

During the month of July, 40 requests for contact received at your District Office were turned over to 22 Groups. During the same period the Office received 40 requests for literature; performed 81 general services and supplied 11 speakers.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON—St. Francis School Hall, E. 71st and Superior	8:30
BORTON—E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid	8:45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O.—Ward 23-B	7:30
FAIRMOUNT—St. Paul's Episc. Church, Fairmount & Coventry	8:30
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE—Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. & St. Charles	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton & Detroit	8:30
LAKEWOOD-CLIFTON—St. Luke's Church, Clifton Blvd.	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd. Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting	8:30
LEE ROAD—St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Allendale and Euclid	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill	7:30
PEARL—Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.	8:30
UNION—12907 Union Ave.	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episcopal Church, 3461 Warrenville Center Rd.	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP—Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway	8:30
WEST 25TH ST.—Marvel Hall, 2868 W. 26th St.	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side, Our Savior's Hell, W. 68th at Franklin	8:30
TUESDAY	
ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist, E 18th & Euclid	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month—Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aid	8:30
CLARK—4106 Clark Ave. (Upstairs)	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle	8:00
EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid	8:30
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 16615 Kinsman Rd.	8:30
SWTH-WILSON—Nativity School, 9510 Aetna Road	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag-33 N. State Street	8:30
WEDNESDAY	
BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.	8:30
BROOKLYN—K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.	8:45
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon, O.	8:30
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St., 2nd floor, side entrance	8:45
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist, E. 94th and Garfield Blvd.	8:30
LEE ROAD—First English Lutheran, Derbyshire and Euclid Heights Boulevard	8:30
MADISON-LAKEWOOD—St. Cyril's Church, Madison and Lakewood Aves.	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction	6:30
WINDEMERE—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakewood	9:00
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.	8:30
THURSDAY	
ALLENDALE—St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.	8:30
ANGLE—St. Malachi's Church, 2649 Washington Ave.	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland	8:30
BROADWAY-55TH—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall	8:30
COVENTRY—Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel Scarborough Road, East of Coventry	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emmanuel Church Euclid at E. 86th	9:00
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair	9:00
EAST LAKE—Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St at Lorain	8:30
OUTHWAITE—(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman	8:30
WYANDOTTE MEN'S—Church of Redeemer, Andrew and Detroit Avenue (rear)	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING—AA Social Center, 700 Broadway	8:30
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor	8:30
WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave.	10:30 A. M.
FRIDAY	
CEDAR—Salvation Army, 2131 E 66th St.	8:15
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St	8:30
EAST SIDE MORNING—2028 E. 105th St	10:00 A. M.
GORDON SQUARE—St. Helena's Hall, 1367 W. 65th St	8:30
LEE ROAD-2066 E. 106th, K. of P. Hall	8:30
MILES MEN'S—Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd.	8:30
NORTHEAST-2028 E. 106th St.	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit	8:30
LORAIN-AVON-1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church	8:30
EUCLID, O.—Holy Cross Church, E. 200th and Lake Shore Blvd.	8:30
MENTOR, O.—Mentor Way Villa	9:00
SATURDAY	
BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Lutheran Church, Cable at Broadway	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th, North of Euclid Avenue	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair	9:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82 and St. Clair	8:30
PARMA—St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. & George Ave.	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3626 W. 26th St.	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th & Starkweather	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road	8:00
8005 G R O U B06 Lorain Ave.	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle & Third	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO—K. of P. Hall	9:00

MILES MEN AND UNION

A hamburger fry is offered as a lure or reward for attending a picnic given by Miles Men and Union groups on Sunday, September 5th at Concordia Park, Schreiber Rd. In re-reading this item, we see it's for members and children of these groups. Just when our mouths were.. watering, too.

WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE

This enterprising and fast-growing group had its first anniversary on Friday, August 20, with the very excellent Matt T. in fine form. Large turn out.. St. Rose's School Hall, W. 116th and Detroit.

NURSING HOME CLOSES

Katherine Kilbane, operating one of the few nursing homes for both men and women patients, was forced to give up her fine work because of ill health.

Unfortunately, that leaves a great gap in treating women alcoholics. Only solution seems to be that they'll have to stop drinking.

OPEN HOUSE

The Cleveland Alcoholic Clinic will hold Open House to celebrate its first anniversary on Sunday, September 12, from 12 noon until 10 in the evening in the club rooms. You're invited.

The man selected a \$500 horse, paid for it, ordered it delivered to his third-floor apartment, ordered it shot and placed in his bathtub. When asked the reason for his strange actions, he replied, "My name is Joe. Every night my roommate comes in and asks 'Whatta ya know, Joe?' I never know a thing. But tonight I'm going to tell him about a dead horse in the bathtub!"

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL—No. 19



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SUNDAY

A. A. CLUB-6409 Detroit Avenue	Open 24 Hours
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 106th St.	3:00
LAKEVIEW-CYO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair	8:00
LORAIN, OHIO—Stan. AA Social Center, 700 Broadway	10:00 A. M.
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93	8:30
PIONEER (Negro)-7100 Kinsman	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.	2:00
ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL—First Friday of Each Month	8:30
TRAINING MEETING-8023 Detroit Ave.	8:00
WARRENSVILLE—Cooley Farms Recreation Room	10:00 A. M.
WEST SIDE—Trinity Methodist, W. 99th and Madison	8:30
1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH	
CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 870	8:30

-STELLA MATHW. HOME' P.O. - RE. 'TOWN CLUB'
REI. CONTROL. MEETING PLACES (AND DIFFICULTIES)

CENTRAL BULLETIN

UNSELFISHNESS • HONESTY
PURITY • LOVE
A.A.

Vol. VI -No. 12

1007 SCHOFIELD BLDG., CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

September, 1948

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Editorial- Easy Does It

"Easy does it" is no bromide. Much sound sense is contained in these three short words so frequently used by members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Give thought to their meaning. Do not utter them glibly. They supply an antidote to some of the negative tendencies characteristic of alcoholics.

We are extremists in thought, word and deed. Too seldom does moderation receive consideration. When we do something, we go the whole hog. We shoot the works. No half-way business for us. We are extravagant in our praise; unyielding and intolerant in our condemnation. We are up in the clouds eulogizing a rosy world; or down in the dumps shaking our fist at fate because it rained that day solely to interfere with our personal plans. Our ego knows no bounds. We are either the greatest guys in the world, or the most miserable worms with a guilt complex longer than a hangover.

It takes a lot of help from God, time, determination and co-operation on our part to eliminate those "defects of character" spoken of in the Sixth Step. Long after we acquire sobriety, impetuosity continues to mark our conduct. Unless checked it can lead to grave difficulties. That's why the little expression, "Easy does it," can sometimes be a life-saver.

The truth of this was forcefully demonstrated in a recent personal experience. We were able to obtain a job out-of-town for a fellow member and close personal friend.

The friend had been sober for a year and a half and had built an excellent record in twelfth step work. The job was in his professional field and just what he wanted and needed to complete his come-back from skid row and round out his rehabilitation as a useful citizen.

There were delays. The job didn't open as quickly as anticipated. The friend got jittery. His imagination began to work. He voiced such thoughts as "somebody else has got it," "they don't want me," "it's a fake," and others as pessimistic and depressing.

Time after time there were personal talks advising him to keep his feet on the ground, to quit allowing his imagination to run away with itself and to take it easy. The reasons for the delay were patiently explained. He was told that if God intended him to have the job he would get it. If not, then Providence had something better in store for him.

At the same time there were other pressures that annoyed the friend. The combination became too great. He tied on a (five-day) bender that was one for the book. Out of booze and lucre he showed up. He was put back on his feet. The job still hadn't materialized and the pressures continued. After a couple of days of hangover agony he resumed the binge.

In the meantime the job came through. The employer showed up to take the friend with him and put him to

(Continued on page two)

Evaluation

Do I want to stay as I am? Or do I want to go back to what I was? These were the questions that Doc Leslie T. posed at himself as he took an inventory of his feelings one morning just previous to celebrating his third year of complete sobriety. He told this to a good-sized and attentive audience at the Lake Shore meeting, held on Monday, September 13th, of which group he is a member.

He felt so good and he wondered why. He remembered his hangover mornings which he described in vivid detail --the sick stomach . . .

. . . the remorse over the many foolish yesterdays . . . the fears for the todays and the morrows to come . . . the headaches and nausea . . . no appetite . . . revulsion for food . . . the vomiting and morning sickness . . . the jitters . . . the worry about losing job, family, friends and faith in himself . . . concern over money wasted and the then present financial condition . . . the bills and the debts . . . wondering how long he'd have to wait for an eye-opener so he could feel half-way good again . . . worry over chronic ill health . . . lack of faith in anything or anybody, including himself . . . the arrest and concern over it's outcome . . . the fight, as he looked at his bruises and wondering about the cause . . . the automobile accidents and concern about litigation as well as expenses to his and the other's car . . . concern about inability to concentrate . . . wondering

whether the mind was affected . . . contemplation of suicide . . . loss of ambition . . . resentment . . . self-justification . . . wondering how much longer this 'would go on, and why he couldn't drink sensibly . . . why he couldn't QUIT drinking . . . bad dreams . . . cold sweats . . . wondering why family and other people wouldn't understand and appreciate him . . . why they didn't forgive him . . . Gosh, how he hated John Doe . . . and Mrs. Zilch, the neighbor, who gossiped about him . . . wondering where he had hidden the bottle he brought home the night before and after frantic search couldn't find . . . too nervous to shave . . . tried it, and cut his face and ear . . . safety razor no good . . . nothing was good any more . . . how to meet this month's bills and what really plausible excuse to give the persistent creditors.

Yes, he remembered! And he remembered how he finally embraced AA, first hesitatingly and reluctantly and how to his amazement he found the skies clearing, the return to favor, the increase in self-respect and the returning respect of family, friends and business associates. He remembered the early temptations to take just a couple and the resistance he courageously offered . . . his pride in that resistance . . . the return of confidence and self-assurance . . . the return of faith in things and particularly in his God.

Ah, it was a glorious day . . . a beautiful day!

Too few take the time out to evaluate their signal

(Continued on page two)

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE.

EASY DOES IT

(Continued from page one)

work at once. We alibied-the friend was out-of-town. In truth, nobody knew where he was. We said we would have him get in touch with the employer as soon as he returned over the week-end.

God meant him to have the job, for on Sunday he showed up, again out of booze and boodle. This time we kept him at home. We got him on his feet. By the end of the week he was on-the job. Since then he has given a brilliant performance. He is active in AA in his new town. His emolover is delighted with his abilities and initiative. And the friend having learned a hard lesson, is today one of the happiest members of this fellowship we know.

But think of the grief that could have been avoided had the admonition that "Easy does it" been followed. For a time the friend lost faith in God's ability to help manage his affairs. All of us must strengthen that faith and keep our feet on the ground. Only in this way can we overcome that great common defect of our characters -impetuosity.

SELF-CONTROL

I know of no virtue more essential than self-control. Many a fine plane, perfect in every detail so far as its mechanism is concerned, has crashed with disastrous results because something went wrong with its controls. The same is true of trains. A Lackawanna train heavily loaded went down the Pocono Mountains one day in a horrible and destructive crash. It was a fine engine, perfect in construction, and powerful to look at, so powerful that it pulled over 100 heavily loaded cars to the top safely and easily, but going down the 16 mile incline on the other side lost its control as the engineer soon discovered when he threw on the emergency brakes, and it gathered momentum every minute with great loss of life and property.

In the realm of sports the same holds true. The star pitcher may have plenty of "smoke" on the ball, he may have the speed of lightning, but if he lacks control he will explode sooner or later. It is even so in life. The man who explodes either mentally or morally is on dangerous ground, for the words of wise old Solomon (Prov: 16-32) are still true: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." We must develop self-control over our emotions and our habits if we would enjoy continual victory and perfect peace.

--Social Center Chatter-Cleveland.

BULLETIN FINISHES SIXTH YEAR

This issue is the twelfth of Volume Six, which means that we have completed six years of monthly service to our fellow members, bringing the philosophy of AA with its many facets into the minds and hearts of its readers for seventy-two months. Seems longer than that to us. From the many letters we have received we are heartened to continue, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve. We write of what we hear, and we wish we had the facility to project the thrills we experience in hearing some leads which prompt a subject for editorial writing. So we disdain any credit-we give credit to those who inspired us.

Our circulation manager, Eddie G., was hospitalized for a short period last month with a severe case of laryngitis. In spite of being out of circulation for several weeks, about 100 new subscribers were added to the list.

Not to be outdone by John O'M. who subscribed for five years so his subscription wouldn't lapse again, "Corny" V. came through with a five year. subscription giving the same reason. Thanks.

Orders for bound copies containing 24 issues for past two years will be received at \$3.00.

* * *

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

EVALUATION

(Continued from page one)

blessing, that of sobriety (brought on by vicarious living. For one has to live vicariously to merit the blessings which God has brought. Doc found the answer in his gratitude.

It's there for all of us if we seek it.

DON BLACK

We are writing this item with a feeling of inadequacy. We were present when Don was stricken on the playing field with a cerebral hemorrhage on Monday, Sept 13. He was in apparent splendid physical shape as he pitched two superb innings before he came to bat. His curve ball was terrific and he appeared to be (pitching with an intense determination to show his manager that he belonged in the Big Four. Beset with disheartening injuries during the season, Don never seemed to get the big chance to show his great talent. Possibly he tried too hard.

The newspapers reported that he was stricken as he was batting, but several of us who rarely took our eyes off him noticed him rubbing the back of his head several times after he broke a murderous third strike curve over the plate in the second inning. This mannerism was so unusual that several commented about it. And he took an unusually long time to come to bat as he led off in Cleveland's half of the second inning. So the hemorrhage must have started as he was pitching and was aggravated when he fouled off the first pitch with an unusually awkward finishing swing. As he swung, his knees sagged and he again grasped the back of his-neck. He seemed to be retching and we watched with great concern as he finally was helped off the field. When Bill T., his sponsor, returned from the dressing room from where Don was rushed to the hospital, he broke the news that Don was dangerously ill. Not until later did we learn how serious it was.

The public sympathetic reaction was tremendous. We have never witnessed such a genuine outpouring of sympathy and prayerful anxiety. We knew that Don had captured the respect and affection of thousands of people, but all Cleveland seemed to be interested in his progress and was pulling and praying for him. This was aptly demonstrated when a crowd of 76,772 fans packed Cleveland's Municipal Stadium for Don Black night, September 22, which was made possible by Bill Veeck, Cleveland owner of the Indians. This was one of the greatest evidences of unselfishness we have ever seen. The action was impulsive and came from a great heart. This was immediately apparent to all fans and they responded generously. Had there been 25,000 more reserved seats available, these too would have been sold, for the demand far exceeded the supply. Don and his family benefitted over \$40,000.00.

He is still in precarious condition as this is written. That he is alive is a miracle, and we firmly believe because of the sincere and fervent prayers of all AA's and the many fans who came to know Don. Many groups included a prayer for Don at their meetings.

God knows we need grand examples like Don to further His work, not as a ball player, but as a man in conspicuous public life, daily living the AA plan and attracting many to AA who were seeking an answer to their problems. Though he probably will never play again, alive, he still will be responsible for many making THE decision

WHY CALL THEM SLIPS?

There are many persons in AA, including this individual, who do not subscribe to the use of the term slip. After being exposed to AA, or, before exposure, for that matter, one doesn't walk up to a bar, order a drink, or two, or three, and then exclaim, "Oh, my God". "What have I done? Why I've slipped" . . . No, definitely No. That just isn't being done. "Slips," it is our contention, are more or less deliberate and premeditated "with malice afore-thought."

CONSOLIDATED MEETING

Last April or May, it was decided to discontinue monthly Consolidated Meetings, but to hold them three times a year in September, January and April. No plans had been made for the September meeting, so it was advanced to October in order to properly advertise it.

Since hotel ballrooms were at a premium and priced beyond the committee's most sanguine ideas, a cheaper place was sought and found. Located slightly off the downtown area, Town Club at 2612 Prospect Ave., offered a splendid location with a beautiful auditorium and adequate parking facilities.

These meetings are important. They provide an opportunity for the congregating of all local units as well as affording out-of-towners a chance to meet some familiar faces.

Franklyn S. of Doan Men's group, a very able speaker, will deliver the message at four o'clock, Sunday, October 17. Be there.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The October meeting of Central Committee was a most interesting one with able Hershell H. as moderator.

Frank W., hospital committee chairman, reported the committee's excellent record and announced his resignation from the board of a local nursing home.

A consolidated meeting was voted to be held on Sunday afternoon, October 17, and a committee of three, Bert M. of Doan, Pete G. of Parma and Harry D. of Edgelake, was appointed to handle the details.

BOWLING LEAGUES

Four or five bowling leagues have started in AA circles during the month of September. The Thursday and Friday West Side leagues bowl at 9:30 in Franklin Recreation Alleys on W. 25th St. with 32 teams participating. The East Side League with 22 men's teams and six five-lady women's teams bowl at Linsz Recreation on E. 13th St. at 10:15 each Friday. Southeast League, a newcomer, with Baxter, Smith-Wilson, Broadway-E. 55th, Southeast and Cable started on the 11th of September with a great deal of hilarity. The proprietor and the pin boys were the only non-AA's in the alleys. The boys set up Coca Cola bottles instead of pins as bowling started. They bowl in the Tinpan Alleys, at Harvard and E. 71st on Mondays.

MORNING GROUP CHANGES NIGHT

On and after October 13th, the East Side Morning Group will meet on Wednesdays at 10 instead of Fridays at 2028 E. 105th St.

TRINITY

Guest speakers for this progressive Saturday night group which meets in Trinity Evangelical Church, 3526 W. 25th St., at 8:30 are as follows: Oct. 2, three members from Warren, O., in a playlet on the 12 Steps; Oct. 9, Al. S. of Cedar; Oct. 16, Frank L. of Miles-Union; Oct. 23, Hank W. of Brooklyn; Oct. 30, Harold S. of Arcade. You're cordially invited.

Clarence S. was given a great send-off as he faced a group of about 300 in our farewell meeting held in his honor, September 11. In the audience were many "old-timers" with six to ten years of continued sobriety. Clarence made one of his finest talks enriched by his eleven years of sobriety. We will miss him in Cleveland.

LAKWOOD SATNITE

A new mixed Saturday night group held its first meeting on Saturday, September 11. They meet in the parish hall of Church of Redeemer, Andrews and Detroit at 8:30 P. M. Wally L., formerly of the discontinued Lakewood-Clifton group is the secretary.

PEARL GROUP MOVES

The Pearl group, one of the active West Side groups, have changed their meeting place from Good Counsel Hall to Corpus Christi Church basement, at 4202 Stickney avenue. They still meet on Mondays at 8:30 P. M.

STELLA MARIS HOME

Recently we published an item about the activities of the Angle Group in which we mentioned their laudable project of rehabilitating men just released from hospitals or houses of correction, without a home or friends to go to while they readjusted their lives.

We placed a man there last week and accordingly made our first of daily visits to this remarkable place.

The old house which nestles in the shadows of mammoth Main St. Bridge off W. 25th Street, has been completely renovated, plastered and painted by willing workers. Excellent box spring mattresses and beds were provided by a nearby hospital and adequate furniture, lamps, rugs, tables and chairs were obtained from other kind sources as was an enormous refrigerator and an excellent stove. These have provided a simple yet homey atmosphere.

In charge is Orville B., who is a veritable beaver as well as an understanding administrator. Harry R., Matt. C., Bob S. and Dave L. have and are also contributing much time, effort and money in this laudable work.

But with the winter months coming all too rapidly, they are in need of winter clothing for these future AA stalwarts. If any reader has any to spare, call PProspect 0173, and a newly acquired, though ancient pick-up truck will gratefully call for what you have to offer.

The inhabitants stay from six weeks to two months. Some are able to work right away and jobs are found for them. They pay no board and their bed is free until they get a grubstake. In an atmosphere of real, sincere AA fellowship the inhabitants shed their resentments and anti-social prejudices and find themselves. They are welcome only as long as they don't drink. If they drink they're out!

If you have a snare overcoat, or other winter clothing, call PProspect 0173, if you want to see the place and get acquainted, visit them at 1306 Winslow Ave., opposite St. Malachi's school. It's a great project

WEST SIDE WOMEN IN NEW LOCATION

On Monday, October 4, the West Side Women's group will hold its first meeting in new quarters in West Boulevard Christian Church, at West Boulevard and W. 101st St., according to what we hear from the secretary-elect Edith K.

LORAIN COUNTY CONSOLIDATED MEETING

Walter (Tecumsch) M. will be the sneaker at the Monthly Consolidated meeting on Sunday, October 3. The meeting will be held in Townsend Hall, 108 Middle Ave. (on the Square) Elyria, O., at 7:00 P. M.

MILES MEN-UNION

Over 200 attended a Hamburger Fry given by the groups on September 5. These enterprising and social groups are also arranging a clambake for Sunday, October 17 at 4:00 P. M. at Valley Brook Farm on Schreiber Rd., off Dunham. Dead line for tickets costing \$3.50 each is a week before, namely October 10. Contact Secretary Walter C. of Union or Frank L. of Miles Men.

The cost of the bake is precisely that set by the caterer. The grounds expense as well as other entertainment expenses will be borne by these groups. The program of entertainment starts at 2:00 P. M.

MEDINA STARTS GROUP

Recently a group was started in neighboring Medina, Ohio, and it meets each Monday night at 8:30 P. M. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish House. About 25 people are in the group. Secretary is Harry L., and Treasurer is L. B. M. The chairman is Gladys B. Good luck to you, neighbor.

WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE

Things are humming in this group of busy bees. Attracting more and more of the younger element, they are operating on a sound level with real purpose. They meet in St. Rose's School Hall, 1441 W. 116th St., each Friday at 8:45 P. M. Oldsters are welcome, of course.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON—St. Francis School, E. 71st and Superior.....	8:30
BORTON—E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid.....	8:45
CRILE V. A. HOSPITAL—Parma, O. Ward 23-B.....	7:30
FAIRMOUNT—St. Paul's Episcopal, Fairmount and Coventry.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd., LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE—Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. and St. Charles.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episc., W. Clifton & Detroit.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—St. Paul's Episc. Church, Allendale and Euclid.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill.....	7:30
PEARL—Corpus Christi Church Basement Stickney at Pearl.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episc., Church, 3451 Warrenville.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP—Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway.....	8:30
UNION—12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
WEST 25th St.—Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St.....	8:30
MEDINA O.—St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side—West Blvd. Christ., W. Blvd. & W. 101.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid.....	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month—charity Hosp. Nurses' Aud.....	8:30
CLARK-4105 Clark Ave. Upstairs.....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:00
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit.....	8:30
EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 7 9 & Euclid.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting.....	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount I lope Church, E. 164th north of Miles.....	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.....	8:30
SMITH-WILSON-Nativity School, 9510 Aetna Road.....	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior.....	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain.....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge at W. 38th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag-33 N. State Street.....	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.....	8:30
BROOKLYN—K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.....	8:45
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon O.....	8:30
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 105th St., 2nd floor, side entrance.....	8:45
EAST SIDE MORNING—2028 E. 105th St.....	10:00 A. M.
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist, E. 94th and Garfield Blvd.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—First Eng. Luth., Derbyshire and Euclid Hts. Blvd.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction.....	6:30
WENDEMER—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakefront.....	9:00
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Middle and Third.....	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.....	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLENDALE—St. Paul's Episc. Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.....	8:30
ANGLE—St. Malachi's Church, 2549 Washington Ave.....	8:30
BROADWAY-55th—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall.....	8:30
COVENTRY—Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry.....	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emman. Church, Euclid at 86.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
OUTHWAITE—(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman.....	8:30
WEST SIDE—7403 Denison Ave.....	10:30 A. M.
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland.....	8:30
EAST LAKE—Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway.....	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING—AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	8:30

FRIDAY

CFDAR—Salvation Army, 2181 E. 55th St.....	8:15
GORDON SQUARE—St. Helena's Hall, 1367 W. 65th St.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-2056 E. 105th, K. of P. Hall.....	8:30
MILES MEN'S-Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.....	8:30
NORTHEAST—2028 E. 105th St.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit.....	8:30
ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL—First Friday of Each Month.....	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit.....	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church.....	8:30
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.....	8:30
EUCLID, O.—Holy Cross Church, E. 200th and Lake Shore Blvd.....	8:30
LORAIN-AVON—11 12 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.....	8:30
MENTOR, O.—Mentor Way Villa.....	9:00

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Luth. Church, Cable at Broad.....	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th. North of Euclid Avenue.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:30
LAKEWOOD Sat. Nite—Redeemer Hall, Andrews, near Detroit.....	8:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82nd and St. Clair.....	8:30
PARMA—St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. and George Av.....	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3525 W. 25th St.....	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th and Starkweather.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....	8:00
8005 GROUP-8005 Lorain Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle and Third.....	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO—K. of P. Hall.....	9:00

AA DOWN TOWN OFFICE

Thirty-six local groups were represented at the quarterly meeting held on September 15. They heard the following report:

Since the last quarterly meeting, May 15, 219 requests for contacts were turned over to 57 groups; 149 were receptive; 21 weren't ready; 8 not AA cases; 25 no Contact possible; 16 unreported. There were 303 requests for general information and service; 37 speakers supplied and 124 requests for literature.

In analyzing the report, the operating committee was enjoined to make a more rigid follow-up on non-reporting secretaries to whom contacts were submitted, so a more complete record be made of inquiries.

The monthly news letter will be mailed about October 1st with the minutes of the meeting.

One humorous query came in from a woman who spoke very distinctly as she asked, "Is this Alcohol Annoyance?" What would you have answered? We were momentarily at a loss for words.

MOUNT PLEASANT

Mount Pleasant group members enjoyed a free Clam-bake at member Frank O's grove on the 19th of September. Our rich kitty enables us to provide a free Hamburger Fry as well as a free New Year's Eve party.

SUPERIOR-ADDISON

A grand time was had by the Superior and Addison groups at their annual picnic at Madison-on-the-Lake. The whole day affair included a well fought ball game and games for the children and adults.

NEW GRAPEVINE

The new Grapevine, published its Volume 5, No. 4, in a new and natty pocket size. It's a beautiful piece of work and it's contents excellent as usual. Everyone should be a subscriber to this national monthly journal of AA. It is edited by Bill W., founder, and each issue contains a precious message from him. This issue includes an article by Doctor Bob of Akron, co-founder. Costs \$2.50 per year, \$4.50 for 2 years. Address your subscription to AA Grapevine, P. O. Box 328, Grand Central Annex, New York 17, N. Y.

THE BOOK ON RECORDS

Through the efforts of a blind member of the Superior group, the AA book was made available in talking recordings at Cleveland Public Library. Though many of the local blind can read Braille and copies of The Book are available in Braille, there are also many who cannot, so this diligent member got busy and was successful. Congratulations.

AKRON HAS KIND PROJECT

If you are not saving your tax stamps or if you're looking for a worthy cause to donate them to, Akron groups will gladly receive them. One of their active members lost his foot by operation and the groups wish to present him with an artificial substitute with the proceeds of the tax redemptions. The O'Neill group is particularly zealous in this work.

DRY CLEANERS

Two members with excellent AA records have combined their efforts and are operating a dry-cleaning service in Cleveland. They are Wilson T. and Steve M. of the Edgelake group. Free advertising to a dandy pair.

SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 105th St.....	3:00
LAKEVIEW—CYO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair.....	8:00
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park.....	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 P. 93rd St.....	8:30
PIONEER (Negro) 7100 Kfhsman.....	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.....	2:00
TRAINING MEETING—8023 Detroit Ave.....	8:00
WI-ST SIDE—Trinity Methodist, W. 99th and Madison.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Cooley Farms Recreation Room.....	10:00 A. M.
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag. AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	10:00 A. M.

1st TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Janna Building, Room 370.....	8:30
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The
Central Bulletin

Volumes VII-VIII

October, 1948 - September, 1950

CENTRAL BULLETIN

UNSELFISHNESS • HONESTY
PURITY • LOVE
A.A.

Vol. VII-No. 1

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October, 1948

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Editorial - Extra Help

Self-satisfaction is no more commendable in an organization than in an individual.

If we are to pay our respects to the First Absolute, we must admit that there is a tendency in Alcoholics Anonymous to be very satisfied with itself and its methods. This takes the form of condemning out-of-hand all forms of treating the problem of alcoholism outside the **Twelve Steps**. It cavalierly brushes to one side all that science has discovered about the disease and ends up by cursing, at least **mentally**, the victim who cannot find sobriety through Alcoholics Anonymous alone.

It is time to grow up on this subject. We're pretty big boys now, but we are not likely to get any bigger unless we face the facts of life on this issue.

One of those facts is that our percentage of success is diminishing. The reason is that in growing, AA is encompassing a widening variety of individuals with a greater variety of problems, including those which cannot be solved by AA alone. They need some supplementary or complementary treatment. It may be psychiatry, suggestion, conditioned reflex, shock or any *one* of a number of other approaches.

It is very well to say that the individual can find the answers to these problems if he is honest with himself and takes inventory. But some persons have such involved problems that no amount of personal stock-taking will unravel them. They need help, not just sponsorship.

To say this is in no way to belittle the importance of the program. God still is the answer. The solution is to be found in going to God and then to man if and as God directs. To pooh-pooh psychiatry, for example, is as dumb as to damn surgery. If the AA method contained the whole answer for everybody on the problem of alcoholism, it also contains it for everybody who breaks a leg or gets appendicitis. The surgeon is superfluous. Yet none of us would seriously make such an argument for bodily ills. Why make them for mental and emotional ills which often go hand-in-hand with alcoholism?

If we just remember that **some** people are either mentally or emotionally incapable of accepting the program when first presented to them, a new light will be cast on this problem. The author was one such individual. We want to tell you about another.

This man had been kicking AA around for years. He had been in and out and he was miserably unhappy. He didn't know why. He blamed himself for some great inadequacy. He knew the book by heart. But let a problem confront him and, the only way out was not the Twelve Steps, but the bottle!

Finally, he ended up in a grand smash with job, home and the work of a lifetime jeopardized. He obviously needed something more than what AA had to offer. He obtained psycho-therapy. We got a letter from him the other day, two paragraphs from which explain much. He wrote:

"Certainly, there are periods that take me back to what used to be. But the grip that fears, worries, and the feel-

(Continued on page two)

Pride and Conceit@

"Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit?"

There is more hope for a fool than he"—Prov. XXVI, 12.

One of the seeming bitter pills we have to swallow when we embrace the AA program, is that we have to admit that we are powerless—that we had mismanaged our lives. We who had been so strong, so lucky and so successful! We had to seek help—we who were so self-sufficient that we could ride roughshod over conventions, break all laws of society as we saw fit and with glib tongue successfully wheedle ourselves out of paying for our indiscretions. We were proud of our ability and power and we gloated.

But there came a time when society rebelled. We'd gone too far! Punishment brought bitterness, fear and resentment and, as pressure increased, we found little happiness in our existence, and we Anally surrendered!

What brought on this surrender? It comes to persons at different stages. Some surrender when they've lost the faith and confidence of their families and a few cherished friends. Some, when economic pressures proved too great to withstand. Many fought for the right to continue in their errant ways until they lost everything—family, home and jobs—finally hitting "Skid Row" and Houses of Correction.

We believe it's innate pride in a person which prompts him or her—to make "The Decision." Shedding all conceit, rebelliousness, resistance and egotism, genuine pride refuses to

be content in the conditions which self-willed conceit brought. Without a grain (if something abstract like pride can be measured in grains) of pride to build on, we believe a person has no chance to succeed.

Pride is a generous elation of the heart. It's a noble self-esteem arising from consciousness of upright conduct, noble actions, or the like; an appreciation of one's own real character, dignity or position, causing aversion to what is considered unworthy -it's self-respect.

In our headstrong refusal to admit that alcohol was the underlying cause of our troubles, we shelved these ideals which were vaguely disturbing us, as we continued in our self-indulgence. As we justified our right to do as we did, conceit asserted itself. And when conceit asserts itself in an alcoholic, Brother, you've got a problem! For conceit is tenacious. It's tough to untangle. Some are so hopelessly matted they require a lifetime of effort.

But if genuine pride is there, with the help of God, and constant daily conscientious effort, it can be licked. Analyzing one's self and judging honestly if we would condone it in others is a great step in the right direction.

Shedding oneself of all vanity, egotism, false pride, favorable or self-flattering opinion with a lofty or vain conception of one's own person or accomplishments is a lifetime job. Its major requirement is absolute honesty. For while we might fool others, we cannot fool ourselves and our conscience. We live with that!

We resent a vain-glorious, egotistical, conceited person and respect a proud person who will not sacrifice his integrity for the sake of popularity.

Let's be proud!

EXTRA HELP

(Continued from page one)

ing of inadequacy had on me up until a few short weeks ago, seems entirely a dream. With that also has gone the **problem** that heretofore was the culmination of the others-drinking * * *

"There seems to be no interruption whatsoever in my friendships here. Everybody is understanding just, I guess, as they were always. Only I wasn't in any condition to receive it. When I used to think of terms of friends and good things that were mine, I always resorted to feelings of shame, branding **myself** as ungrateful and ending up in a cellar of self-condemnation. Now, as I look back, I do so without the horrible feeling of never having done anything good!"

For the first time, this member can accept and work the program. He was given that extra help he needed because his problems were so complex. The fears and self-condemnation are gone. The book has meaning for the first time. He now is equipped, through honesty and inventory, to **solve**, with God's help, whatever faces him in the future. Sobriety, at last, has brought happiness. And, who are we to condemn, because the methods used were not solely those prescribed for the average alcoholic?

If members will keep in mind the fact that after he had strictly followed the program for five years, Bill W., co-founder of AA, felt the need of—and obtained—**psychiatric** treatment, the tendency toward self-satisfaction with one method alone, however adequate for most persons, will diminish.

MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS

I once heard of a man who started out making **shoe laces**. It was a humble calling, seemingly, but he felt there was a great need for it.

He noticed that some laces frayed after a short time, some became twisted, while other just wore out. He determined to make the best shoe lace that could be **made**—and he did it. His laces became known far and wide and what had been a lowly calling, became a respected business—and he prospered. He prospered because he aid in fact turn out the best laces in the market. Into every one of them was woven the honest sincerity and integrity of this man.

As he prospered and his reputation grew, people began to show him deference. They sought his opinion on many things that had nothing to do with making shoe laces. He headed important committees and was recognized as one of the leading men of his community.

His outside duties consumed so much of his time that he had less and less for business. He began to delegate his duties to his subordinates. He began to believe all the nice things people said about him. He took it for granted that his was the last word in most everything and, when he didn't have his way, he was inclined to sulk. He began to throw his weight around and demand things.

One day it was called to his attention that his laces weren't holding up as they did. That, of course, was the fault of the shoe manufacturers. They were using the wrong kind of eyelets. So he set out to dictate to the shoemakers the kinds and shapes of eyelets they should use.

Well, the shoemakers used the eyelets he recommended. Still his laces wore out much too soon. He decided the eyelets in the opposing flaps weren't in proper juxtaposition, so he had them remodel these, and set the laces held up no better than before.

He was brought up short one day, when he took time off from his multitudinous affairs and glanced over a balance sheet. He was dismayed when he saw the state of affairs of his business. He began to dig in and, he found out first of all, that the shoe lace that bore his name was not the lace that had been produced when he stuck to his business and managed his own affairs. He discovered that his best customers had lost confidence in him and that competitors had absorbed large chunks of his market.

He returned to his desk. He took over active management of his plants. Still sales dropped and he learned a

very bitter lesson—once trade lost confidence in him, it was much harder to regain it than it was to acquire it in the first place.

He worked day and night. He resigned from all his clubs. He **gave up trying** to run the whole community and devoted himself to the one task he had set for himself—making shoe laces. Even then it was touch and go, and it was not until bankruptcy stared him in the face that he began to notice a turn in the tide. That, however, was after killing hours of work. After he had examined and re-examined his product—and himself—to find out what had caused his trouble in the first place. It was then that he learned the extent to which he had departed from his early standards. It was then that he learned the wisdom of the old adage, "Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee."

Happily this man found himself in time. Once more he prospered. Again his name *became a synonym for quality, for honesty, merit and integrity, but it was not until he had found that there is real merit in that old American custom of minding one's own business. It was not until he had again become what he originally set out to be—a plain ordinary, humble man who sincerely and honestly was determined to make the best shoe lace on the market.

It seems to me AA can learn a great deal from this man's experience. We started from very lowly beginnings but with the most glorious package of merchandise the-world has ever seen—a formula for helping those who really wished it, to become sober and stay sober. A recipe for a New Way of Life that meant peace of mind, happiness and even some degree of prosperity in material things.

Withal, it was a relatively simple thing: Twelve easy rules with four spiritual objectives as the ultimate ideal. It produced results!

The pioneers weren't concerned with whether the prospect had hot and cold running water in his boudoir. They didn't care whether he had northern exposure in his breakfast nook wherein to soothe his artistic soul. They knew very little about Vitamin E? or goofballs. They "merely said, "Listen, Bud, do you want to sober up—really sober up—and stay sober? Are you willing to admit you're licked and go on from there? OK! Here's where we start! Now get to work," and men and women who had not been sober since the mind of man runneth not to the contrary, sobered up and remained that way!

AA's are not much different from other people. We have pride and ambition. We are egotists who love praise. When we were drinking, we were all "big shots" and, when we did a good job and someone bragged about us, we were quite ready to believe that "He speaketh as one having authority." Hence it is so easy for us, without ever realizing it, to try to earn further praise for ourselves and, sometimes in doing it, we may f&get our fundamental objective—getting people sober and keeping them that way!

There are Twelve Fundamental Steps for Our Way of Life. We can guarantee that if a man follows them sincerely and honestly, he will never drink again!

But, let's not get chesty! Let's not assume too much credit for stopping something we should have had sense enough never to start in the first place! We are not an Alpha nor an Omega. We are just a group of ex-toppers who, with God's help, were able to find something so much better! Our fellowship is, for my money, the greatest blessing within my experience. Its reputation is of the very highest.

Let us not try to emulate the humble lacemaker who began feeling his oats and started throwing his weight hither and yon! For we must ultimately place first things first if our success is to continue, and insofar as we get away from fundamentals, just so far will our influence diminish. With every recommendation there is a corresponding responsibility and, if we get too far from home base, the next batter may be up before we get back!

There is nothing so helpless—and useless as a fallen idol, and this is the lesson of the man who made shoelaces!

HERSCHEL H.

SAVE SALES TAX STAMPS FOR DOWNTOWN OFFICE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Quite a sizable crowd attended the Oct. 5 Central Committee meeting, which was enlivened by a spirited discussion on the Hospital Committee's report, in which the committee expressed a desire for divorcement from Central Committee.

Moderator Herschel H., in summing up the discussion, pointed out that since the committee was created by Central Committee, no divorcement was possible; that if the Hospital Committee was given the right to operate independently, other committees, such as Consolidated Meeting, Central Bulletin, Financial and others might take similar stands. Since the major objection the members of the committee offered as their reason for divorcement was that the Moderator of Central Committee (elected each six months) appointed the chairman and often negated their objectives as well as their interest, it was decided to allow the Hospital Committee to elect its own chairman, who would report to Central Committee.

It seems proper to remind all groups who are not represented at Central Committee to do so. Once a month seems little to demand of groups. Only through co-operative effort can we hold high the traditions our founders provided. Arguments and disagreements will come up every now and then, but better they be argued before a good representation of groups than between two or three.

Central Committee is recognized as The Voice of AA in Cleveland by newspapers, welfare agencies and the public. Even though your group is not personally represented, it acts for you just the same. Majority opinion of those groups represented decides all issues. If you are of the opinion these groups are acting faultily, then it is your duty to offer your constructive criticism in the interest of better AA in Cleveland. And if you are mistaken, be gracious enough to accept the decision of the majority with good grace.

Consolidated Meeting Committee urged support of all secretaries in publicizing the Oct. 17 meeting in Towne Hall.

GOLDEN KEYS

A remarkable chart came to our attention which, we believe, would meet the immediate approval of any AA who wishes to reacquire himself (or herself) with familiar Bible texts. Published by Arthur Morrison & Associates, Cleveland, O., it instantly shows the Bible text for 100 Biblical references. You can find the Chapter and Verse on the Beatitudes, Crucifixion, Divorce, Faith, Hope and Charity, Golden Rule, Good Samaritan, Humility, Lost Sheep, Marriage, Prayer of Faith, Sermon on the Mount, Seventy Times Seven to the Widow's Mite (in alphabetical order) to cite a few, just by turning a dial.

On one side is the guide for the Old Testament and on the other side is the New Testament. Very ingenious and most accurate. It is produced for the St. James version and also for the Roman Catholic Bible.

Makes an excellent Christmas gift and it only costs \$1.

DON GREATLY IMPROVED

We are happy to report the good news that Don B. is well on the road to recovery. He expects to leave the hospital within a week or 10 days. We visited him yesterday (Sept. 17) and were gratified to see him looking so well. He attributes his miraculous recovery to the thousands of prayers made by his friends in AA and others, and is deeply grateful.

EUCLID - WADE HONORS OLDSTER

Jim B. of Windemere led the first meeting of Euclid-Wade, and annually appears on our platform to celebrate his anniversary. He will celebrate his eighth anniversary of uninterrupted sobriety on Oct. 26. Jim has a fine record of AA achievement, and this meeting should attract a lot of the many AA's he has helped.

GORDON SQUARE

Seventeen months in AA, Reese E. made his first lead and held his audience spellbound for the 35 minutes he spoke. A measure of the impression he made can be gleaned from the fact that the discussion period consumed one and a half hours. His sincerity and fine understanding of the program was noteworthy.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE

Activity Report: During the month of September, 72 requests for contact were received at your District Office and turned over to 36 Groups. Of these, 52 were receptive to contact, 7 were not ready; in 10 cases no contact was possible and 3 were not AA cases.

In September, 61 general services were performed for AA members, 51 requests for literature were received and 5 speakers were supplied.

At the quarterly meeting of the Office Advisory Committee, Sept. 15, it was resolved that no member of the Operating Committee, as presently constituted or as constituted in the future, shall have any affiliation or connection with any AA Hospital, Nursing Home or any other AA activity wherein any profit from such activity might inure to any individual, or wherein such activity might be interpreted or construed by the Office Operating Committee itself as detrimental to the welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Clerend District.

LAKWOOD OBSERVES 9th ANNIVERSARY

Lakewood (Orchard Grove) Group will celebrate its ninth anniversary with a grand affair on Monday, Nov. 9. The speaker will be Walter (Tecumseh) M. of Youngstown, and the meeting will be in the group's headquarters in Lakewood Community Center, St. Charles and Detroit Avenues. The affair starts at 8:30 p. m.

This is the first West Side Group in Cleveland.

BROADWAY - 55th ST.

Over 500 persons attended the Third Anniversary celebration on Sept. 30 of this very active group. The speakers were Franklyn S. and John H. Entertainment was furnished by members of the AA Minstrels, including "Sweethearts on Parade," dancers and singers.

Big hall, big crowd and an enormous supply of sandwiches, hot and cold drinks—ice cream, too!

BULLETIN PROGRESSING

A limited supply of bound copies containing the past two years' issues are available. First come, first served. Would make an excellent Christmas gift. Cost is only \$3!

Another five-year subscriber was added to the list. Geraldine S. of Lee Rd. Preyer became the third to avoid the annual annoyance of renewal notices.

Eddie G. (sans laryngitis) is in good voice again—even leading meetings. This doesn't deter him from taking subscriptions wherever he goes.

CONSOLIDATED MEETING

A dismal, rainy day undoubtedly kept quite a number from attending the Oct. 17 Consolidated Meeting. Slightly more than 100 heard Franklyn S. of Doan Men's Group give a masterful interpretation of the program.

The auditorium of Towne Hall, 2612 Prospect Ave., met with universal approval. Acoustics were excellent. The next meeting will be held in the same auditorium Jan. 16.

NEW GROUP

The Redwood Group will meet on Saturday night at E. 260th and Oriole in Lutheran Church. Their first meeting was held Saturday, Oct. 16, at 8:30 p. m.

TWO GROUPS CHANGE NIGHTS

Windemere (lower Preyer) will meet on Saturday nights in East Cleveland Women's Club at 1747 Lakefront. They had been meeting on Wednesday. The Chardon Group meets on Fridays, beginning Oct. 15, having changed from Wednesday.

NURSING HOME CHANGES HANDS

Betty's Home, a nursing home for alcoholics established in 1944 by Mrs. Betty Smith, and which bears an excellent reputation for its co-operation with AA, was sold to Roy J. B. and Tom D., who promise to maintain the high standards of AA.

An open house will enable members in the Cleveland area an opportunity to greet the newcomers. This will be held on Sunday, Oct. 31, during the hours of 2 to 9. It is located at 3840 Scranton Rd.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON—St. Francis School, E. 71st and Superior.....	8:30
BORTON—E. Clew. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid.....	8:45
FAIRNOUNT—St. Paul's Episcopal, Fairmount and Coventry.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd., LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE-Community Center Bldg. Detroit Ave. and St. Charles.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episc. W. Clifton & Detroit.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—St. Paul's Episc. Church, Allendale and Euclid.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill.....	7:30
PEARL—Corpus Christi Church Basement, Stickney at Pearl.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episc., Church, 3451 Warrenville.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP—Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway ---	8:30
UNION-12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
WEST 25th ST.—Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St.....	8:30
NEDINA O.—St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
WOMEN'S EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side—West Blvd Christ., W. Blvd. & W. 101.....	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid.....	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month-charity Hosp. Nurses' Aud.....	8:30
CLARK-4105 Clark Ave. Upstairs.....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation' Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:00
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. N.—Meeting.....	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles.....	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.....	8:30
SMITH-WILSON-Nativity School, 9510 Aetna Road.....	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior.....	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain.....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge at W. 38th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag-33 N. State Street.....	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.....	8:30
BROOKLYN—K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.....	8:45
COLLIN WOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON-7403 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 105th St., 2nd Boor. side entrance.....	8:45
EAST SIDE MORNING-2028 E. 105th St.....	10:00 A. M.
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist, E. 94th and Garfield Blvd.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—First Eng. Luth., Derbyshire and Euclid Hts. Blvd.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction.....	6:30
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Middle and Third.....	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Nary's School, Reid Ave.....	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLENDALE—St. Paul's Episc. Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.....	8:30
ANGLE—St. Malachi's Church, 2549 Washington Ave.....	8:30
BROADWAY-55th—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall.....	8:30
COVENTRY—Fairmwt Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough Road, East of Coventry.....	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emman. Church, Euclid at 86.....	9:00
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
OUTHWAITE—(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave.....	10:30 A. M.
BEREA, O.—Finé Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland.....	8:30
EAST LAKE—Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway.....	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING—AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	8:30

FRIDAY

CEDAR—Salvation Army, 2181 E. 55th St.....	8:15
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon O.....	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—St. Helena's Hall, 1367 W. 65th St.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-2056 E. 105th, K. of P. Hall.....	8:30
MILES NEN'S-Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.....	8:30
NORTHEAST-2028 E. 105th St.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit.....	8:30
ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL—First Friday of Each Month.....	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall, W. 116-Detroit.....	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church.....	8:30
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.....	8:30
EUCLID, O.—Holy Cross Church, E. 200th and Lake Shore Blvd.....	8:30
LORAIN-AVON-1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.....	8:30
MENTOR, O.—Mentor Way Villa.....	9:00

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Luth. Church, Cable at Broad.....	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th, North of Euclid Avenue.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:30
LAKEWOOD Sat. Nite—Redeemer Hall, Andrews, near Detroit.....	8:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82nd and St. Clair.....	8:30
PARMA—St. Frances de Sales School Hall, State Rd. and George Av.....	8:30
REDWOOD—Lutheran Church, Oriole and E. 260th St.....	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3525 W. 25th St.....	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th and Starkweather.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....	8:00
A. A. CLUB-6409 Detroit Avenue.....	Open 24 Hours
WINDERMERE—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakefront.....	9:00
8005 GROUP-8005 Lorain Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle and Third.....	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO—K. of P. Hall.....	9:00

MEETING TROUBLE

In George Matthew Adams' item in the Cleveland News the other day, titled Defeat, the columnist sagely observed "Without trouble and tribulation, there would be little background for all the joys that heal, and all the beauty that gives color to the varied experiences of life. Through suffering, we are made humble and appreciative for all the manifold blessings that are so lavishly strewn about our pathway. I welcome the rainy days, for they make the sunny ones so pronounced and appreciative. Trouble is often a blessing in disguise. Without it, we would lose contact with faith and be a stranger to courage."

As we read this, we recalled how we bellyached and grieved over our tough luck. We'd been lucky so long we weren't able to cope with defeat which came inexorably to claim its balancing right.

We read Adams' philosophy. We recommend you do it, too. It's invariably excellent!

MAC GILLIS IMPROVEMENT

Desiring to provide greater seclusion and privacy for women patients, MacGillis Home is opening its third floor for women only. No men visitors will be admitted except by sponsor assignment.

STELLA MARIS BENEFIT DANCE

A Benefit Dance and Entertainment will be held for the Stella Maris Home at St. Wendelin's Church Hall, Columbus Rd. at W. 25th St., on Saturday, Nov. 27. There will be refreshments and door prizes. Tickets are \$1.

The Stella Maris Home is a non-sectarian haven for persons needing rehabilitation. Good cause!

LAKE SHORE DANCES

Dick O'Heren's Orchestra will be the major attraction at the Halloween Dance to be held for members and their families by Lake Shore Group on Friday night, Oct. 29, in American Legion Hall, 1392 Warren Rd. Mask formal—hardtime costume, and door prizes. \$1 per person.

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL—No., 20



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SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 105th St.....	3:00
LAKEVIEW—CYO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair.....	8:00
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park.....	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93rd St.....	8:30
PIONEER (Negro) 7100 Kinsman.....	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.....	2:00
TRAINING MEETING—8023 Detroit Ave.....	8:00
WEST SIDE—Trinity Methodist, W. 99th and Madison.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Cooley Farms Recreation Room.....	10:00 A. M.
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	10:00 A. N.
1st TUESDAY EVERY MONTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370.....	8:30

Editorial - Gratitude

In the language of the Cheyenne Indians, the most terrible of the plains fighters, there is no word or combination of words that expresses the idea of gratitude.

This paucity of language, revealing a lack of an essential spiritual quality, precludes the possibility of friendship of reciprocity for a good deed, of thanksgiving. Only a dour, hard unhappiness can be the lot of the unfortunate so handicapped.

Sometimes some members of Alcoholics Anonymous are inclined to sink into the Cheyenne way of thinking. sobriety has become so much an established way of life that no thought is given to the miracle it really is.

In neglecting to be ever thankful for a sober and normal existence, some are prone to set a low value on the blessings which flow from sobriety. There is occasionally a tendency to allow adverse events to upset us, not to the point of seeking false solace in alcohol, 'but in becoming moody, depressed and maybe a bit resentful against individuals and conditions around us.

If these thoughts go unchecked, the clay is not far off when we will begin to act like Cheyenne Indians on the warpath, unsatisfied until we can tuck someone's scalp in our belts or put away enough firewater to make us numb.

Moodiness and depression are warning drums that trouble is in the offing. It is time to take the old squirrel rifle from off the chimney wall and rout these varmints of negative thoughts with a whiff of spiritual buckshot.

This is the time to turn to that Higher Power for help, the time to look at ourselves and see exactly where and in what we have been remiss.

In the course of daily living there are sure to be times when affairs do not go as we would like. Maybe adversity comes to sharpen the good periods when we get so much out of life. We must not allow adversity to creep out of its borders and discolor the bright spots.

One sure way of keeping adversity at a minimum, at least of making its effects on our minds and hearts negligible, is to keep ever in mind the great miracle that has been wrought in our lives by sobriety. Without it., as any member of Alcoholics Anonymous can recall, all of life would be bleak and black as it was in the days before we found the way through the Twelve Steps.

We must express our gratitude for what we do possess and not allow thoughts of what we do not possess or what we believe to be our due to upset us. If we daily thank God for the sobriety which is ours and all the blessings which stem from it we will find that other matters are really minor and not important enough to upset us.

Let us remember that in our language, verbal and spiritual, there is not only a word for gratitude, but also words for friendship and thanksgiving.

At this season let us give thanks for what we are and what we have and remember that it is no part of our province to allow ourselves to act like Indians.

Check and Double Check

We recall the embarrassment we suffered when we fell into the trap of our own conceit and ego when our good wife read to us an article on evaluating one's self. It posed quite a list of questions which, if you were to answer honestly as you took stock of yourself. After you had completed this checkup, you scored yourself on points, and you usually found your rating quite satisfactory when you consulted the average standards.

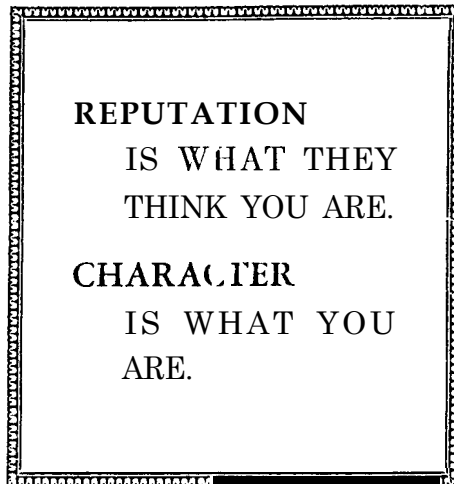
But the article closed with what we later learned to be a most exasperating suggestion, and which caused us to destroy the entire magazine. The suggestion was that this evaluation of YOU should also be made by a member of the family or one's best friend. And then the two should be compared. How do you think you rate? How do others rate you? In our blissful and blind conceit, we did as was suggested!! Warnings were offered that we might be surprised at the disparity in estimates, but we thought a few slight differences in scoring could scarcely alter the ultimate result-that we were certainly better than average.

Never will we forget the shock we experienced at the unfairness of our wife's honest (?) analysis. We went over point after point to prove her errors. Greatly offended, we tossed the magazine in the furnace and sulked for days 'n days until the occasion finally was erased from our memory. We can't recall the questions of the test, but it occurs to us that the principle can be resurrected and tried again. If we really want

to know the facts about ourselves, we shouldn't hesitate to try it. Are you game? Can you take it? Promise you won't get "mad" and throw your weight around? OK! Read on.

1. Am I opinionated or have I an open mind. receptive to change?
2. Am I absolutely honest ?
3. Am I generally truthful?
4. Am I envious of others?
5. Do I hold resentments unreasonably long?
6. Will I take correction of habits graciously?
7. Am I reasonably responsible and dependable?
8. Am I tolerant of mistakes of others?
9. Am I selfish? 100% 75% 50% 20% ?
10. Am I courageous? 100% 75% 50% 25% ?
11. Am I inconsiderate of others' feelings? Am I sympathetic to their desires only when it pleases me?
12. Am I vindictive?
13. Has there been any noticeable improvement in my humility?
14. Am I boring when I get on a subject which interests me and do I persist in making my listeners take it?
15. Do I show proper respect for the other sex?
16. Are my moral standards irreproachable?
17. Am I a loyal and devoted spouse?
18. Am I a loyal friend?
19. Is my temper generally under control?
20. Have I the "guts" to let another person who knows

(Continued on page two)



FEAR vs. DESIRE

Fear

THE NEGATIVE SIDE

F-Frustration
E-Ego
A-Anger-Anxiety
R-Resentment

THE POSITIVE SIDE

F-Faith
E-Endeavor
A-Accomplishment
R-Repouse

Now let's go on to Desire. Webster defines it—"To wish or long for the enjoyment. of." Suppose we "negative" and "positive" that one, too!

Desire

NEGATIVE

D-Defeat,
E-Escape
S-Suspicion
I-Insincerity
R-Reluctance
E-Envy

D-Dependability
E-Earnestness
S-Success
I-Interest
R-Reward
E-Encouragement

Now, suppose we compare FEAR vs. DESIRE, as they may apply to a prospect.

First of all, most everyone who comes into AA is motivated by some degree of FEAR. Fear of losing his job; fear of losing his wife (or husband) ; fear of losing his health; fear of losing his security-fear of something! Each prospect has his, or her own conception.

What percentage of alcoholics come into AA through fear? Personally, I would say everyone.

A couple of years ago (when I believe at least started to reach up to that level known as AA normalcy), I began to mentally set down the real reasons why I did not resent the fellow who first, presented me the possibility of a sane and sober life through AA: and every single one of my reasons spelled F-E-A-R. Again I reflected: what happened after I became a regular attendant at meetings? And then it all unfolded. I no longer attended the meetings because of compulsion or fear-I found I really liked to go and actually missed the gang when business took me out of town. That was it.

Fear had brought me in, but actual desire kept me going. From that day forward! I began to realize just how sticking to the program will CHANGE fear INTO desire. You gain so much while the change is taking place without even realizing it.

But to get back to my original point: one comes into AA through some degree of fear BUT, after a few meetings, if one is sincere, the transition starts to take place and desire begins to predominate in one's thoughts. Then, and only then, in my opinion, does AA really take hold.

Desire brings boundless rewards, helps establish peace of mind and transforms the "hard way" into an easy way to enjoy the real fruits of AA living. For without peace of mind, AA remains a task-a duty performed to avoid repeating unwanted experiences. With it, AA becomes a happy way of living. At least, that's my opinion, and I am deeply grateful for it.

As a New Orleans member expresses it, "If I could be happier outside AA, I'd chuck it in a minute—but, I know I wouldn't, and brother, that's enough for me."

—Dallas A A Bulletin.

WIFE OF MODERATOR DIES

Mrs. Lettie H., wife of the Moderator of Central Committee, died suddenly from a heart attack on November 2nd. We offer our sincere condolences. Flowers were sent, by Central Committee, Edgelake, Parma and the Boys at Berman's. Herchel asked the Bulletin to convey his appreciation.

POCKET MONEY

We have been asked by a certain stout optometrist, well-known in Cleveland circles, to publicize the fact that he can make it, possible for anyone so inclined to make some extra pocket money by selling some product which has a salutary effect on the human system. This can be done in spare or full time. We do not advertise in this paper, but Doc feels that if we can help some AA's solve a financial problem, he's doing Twelfth Step work. So, on that basis, we relent from our hide-bound policy. He's in the Schofield Building, fifth floor, we guess. Men or women.

CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK

(Continued from page one)

me intimately judge me by these standards and the grace to accept his judgment for the purpose of eliminating my faults?

Guess we'll have to take this inventory ourselves. Wonder what sort of bribe we can offer! (See what we mean?)

THE ONE WAY OUT

A man I know who doesn't drink for the very good reason that he doesn't want to, assures me that a teetotaler's life like that of the well-known policeman, is not a happy one.

"What IS it with people," he wants to know, "that they can't bear the sight of a party guest who isn't drinking? They badger you, they nag you, they fairly twist your arm to make you take 'at least one sip' of the glass they keep holding under your nose."

His only recourse, in the past, has been to state flatly and perhaps, he confesses a bit rudely, that he does not CARE TO DRINK. But this summer he discovered the perfect solution to his problem, when he spent a week at a gay resort hotel where cocktail parties went on rather constantly.

"No thank you," he would say, as the tray was passed to him. "You see, I belong to AA."

"It worked like a charm," he tells me, "because even the most zestful carousers have a wholesome respect for Alcoholics Anonymous and the wonderful work it's doing. So, once I said that, they let me alone to enjoy the evening in my own 'peculiar,' abstemious way."—Main Street Meditations, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT OFFICE NOTES

A day's Activity chosen at random . . .

A request for literature for a man in Shaker Heights. Sent . . . A Group Secretary reports man referred to his Group was unavailable for contact . . . A member called to ask Office to get substitute speaker for meeting he is unable to lead on Friday night. Obtained substitute speaker. A Group Secretary reports on last three Office referrals to his Group: one man contacted, taken to three meetings, missed last two meetings. Woman contacted, taken to two meetings, doing o. k. Man hospitalized, attended one meeting. Appears to be doing o. k. . . Received letter from man in New York State asking for information relative to progress of man known to him to be AA in Cleveland who has reportedly fallen behind in attendance at meetings. Sent literature to Cleveland man; also Central Bulletin . . . Received a letter from a woman in Chillicothe, Ohio, asking help for her husband who "says he wants to stop drinking but does not know how". Wrote letter to Columbus asking that follow-up be made to determine interest of man who needs help. . . Received letter from chairman of Ashtabula Group for May asking assistance from the Office in securing four speakers. Note: speakers subsequently supplied . . . Received letter from a man in Cleveland who stopped drinking 15 months ago but is depressed and unhappy, asking assistance of AA. Turned over to Group for contact. . . Man called for help from hotel, slipper from Los Angeles. Call turned over to individual who had previously requested 12th Step work, available during day . . . Received letter from a student requesting information about effects of alcohol upon human body. Wrote referring him to reference library or family physician . . . Request for literature for man in Garrettsville, Ohio. Sent . . . Request for literature for woman in Independence, Ohio. Sent. . . Member of Elyria Group called for ask Office to contact specific individual to lead their meeting; if unable to arrange that wants Office to contact somebody to lead their meeting. Arranged . . . Woman called for help from home of friend. Turned over to Group in neighborhood . . . Man called for help for himself. Turned over to neighborhood Group for contact . . . End of day.

BULLETIN HOLDS OWN

Though there were 102 expirations, renewals and new subscriptions totalled about the same. Bound books of Volumes V and VI at \$3.00 will be available December 1st. Excellent material for giving ideas on meeting discussions or making leads make this volume indispensable.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

The week of December 6th has been designated as Sponsorship Week, and the committee members agreed to acquaint all the groups with the need of better and more effective sponsoring. The Bulletin was requested to emphasize this need.

Sponsorship is a serious responsibility. Properly executed the chances of the patient's success are better than 75% if we take all factors into consideration such as age, temperament, willingness and extent of his downward progress. To this must be added co-operation and understanding of friends and relatives. The degree of success is conditional on the thoroughness of the sponsor, in our opinion.

The major criticism of the committee members has been that, according to their findings, too many sponsors make no effort in explaining the program. Many don't visit the patient after they've "dumped" him in the hospital, and these same persons make no effort to acquaint the patient's family with the program and the part they must take in achieving success.

Another criticism has been aimed at the poor sponsors, in that they have even neglected to acquaint their patients with the Twelve Steps and where to attend meetings.

Every speaker is asked to include a discussion of propel sponsorship in his leads during this week of December 6th and enable the Cleveland area to maintain its excellent record of most of its members enjoying years of uninterrupted sobriety.

The following hospitals have signed the co-operation questionnaire and are therefore recommended:

LIST OF COOPERATIVE AA HOSPITALS

Alcoholic Abstinence Nursing Home (MElrose 1635) (M)
 8023 Detroit Ave.
 Charity Hospital (MAin 9100) (MW) Central and E. 22nd St.
 Cleveland Alcoholic Clinic (Express 8998) (MW) 7809 Euclid Ave.
 Deaconess Evangelical Hospital (FLorida 0070) (MW).....4233 Pearl Rd.
 East Cleveland Clinic (GLenville 3244) (MW).....13240 Euclid Ave.
 Farquharson's (SHadyside 8374) (M).....6037 Pearl Rd.
 MacGillis Nursing Home (RA. 2556) (MW).....
 1560 Mistletoe Dr. at Wade Park
 Betty's Home (SHadyside 4692) (M).....3480 Scranton Road
 (M) men only. (MW) men and women. (W) women only.

MacGILLIS OPEN HOUSE

Open House will prevail on Sunday, November 28th, from 11 to 11, at MacGillis' when the long-sought third-floor women's section will be made available for inspection. As reported in last month's Central Bulletin, these quarters were designed to provide greater privacy for women patients. No men visitors will be admitted to these patients, except by sponsor assignment.

The regularly scheduled Mistletoe training meeting will be held at 7 o'clock.

STELLA MARIS BENEFIT

Dancing and entertainment will attract many to the Stella Maris Benefit, which will be held Saturday, November 27th, at 8 p. m. There will be refreshments and door prizes. St. Wendelin's Hall, Columbus Rd. and W. 25th Street.

WEST SIDE WOMEN

Another Women's Group has been started and held its first meeting on November 11th at 2:00 o'clock. It is titled the Thursday Afternoon Women's Group. It meets at 6409 Detroit Ave. Mary M. L. is secretary.

The West Side Women's Group, meeting in new quarters at West Boulevard and W. 101st St., held an Open Meeting on Monday, November 15th, and had the temerity to welcome the male contingent to this meeting. They meet on Monday nights at 8:30 p. m.

TRINITY

The first anniversary of this active Saturday night group will be celebrated on Saturday evening, December 4th, at 8 o'clock. It will be held in Trinity Evangelical & Reformed Church Auditorium, 3525 West. 26th St., just north of the junction of Scranton and W. 25th. There are 500 comfortable seats available.

The speaker will be Norman Y. of Canton. A half-hour organ recital will precede the meeting. Recital at 8. Meeting at 8:30.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

In the absence of Moderator Herschel H., due to his wife's illness, Harry D., a former Moderator, presided at the November 2 meeting. The small attendance was attributed to it being Election Night.

Hospital Committee Chairman Frank W. reported that Betty's Home would be added to the Co-operating List of Hospitals, having agreed to the conditions. The chairman also reported that the week of December 6th would be designated as Sponsorship Week and asked for wide co-operation.

Because of a misunderstanding, the Crile Hospital meetings have not been started. Chairman Ladd T., after having completed arrangements, was stricken with illness, and the deal was not followed through. A larger committee was appointed and action was promised by the recovered chairman.

A plea for support of the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism directed to a local industrialist was read. The recipient had turned it over to an AA friend for advice. The acting Moderator explained the procedure of this National Committee. No funds are solicited except to people whose names have been offered by graduates of Yale School of Alcoholic Studies. Graduates were advised not to tender names without first explaining the purpose of the school to the person whose name he proposes to send in. The purposes of the school were explained in detail, in an effort to dissipate the misunderstanding existing in Cleveland.

YOUNGSTOWN CELEBRATES

Belatedly, we learned that Youngstown celebrated an important anniversary, and our informant tells us a great crowd attended. We wish Youngstown would inform us in sufficient time to publicize an event which certainly would attract many of our readers. How about it, Youngstown?

Our informer also told us that Walter Tecumseh M. of Youngstown, a man who has won the affection of many in this area, was recently married. We wish them every success.

We do know that the Youngstown Stag Group will celebrate its third anniversary on November 27th. That's because we've been honored by the group to be one of the speakers. The Youngstown Women's Group was also asked to attend. Only once a year is this done, and the women will make the most of it. Kay B. of Cleveland will be the other speaker.

ORCHARD GROVE

Lakewood Orchard Grove, mama or papa of most West Side Cleveland groups, celebrated its ninth anniversary on November 8th. A crowd of over 300 attended. Speaker was Elmer L., secretary of the Edgelake Group and one of the original members. Warren C., originator of the group, was chairman.

Good entertainment was supplied by members of the Mack's Merry Minstrels.

MINNEAPOLIS APPOINTS

One of the most effective workers in the West in establishing successful AA groups has been called by the city of Minneapolis to take charge of a project which is to solve the drink problem of the very poor and adapt them to society. He's our good friend, Pat C., and he must be doing this at a great financial sacrifice. We are proud to know that he has assented. He has a great AA heart.

GLENVILLE ADDS ROOM

Greatly increased crowds have necessitated the expansion of Glenville's quarters at 10421 St. Clair Ave. The group, which favors cards, has completely removed the tables from the club meeting room and has added commodious quarters for those people whose penchant for pi, nohle and other card games attracts them to Glenville. Tony S., secretary, has made a strict rule that these games cease during meetings and that all players must attend them. And they do!

Meetings are conducted on Thursday and Saturday nights, with a Sponsorship Meeting on Sunday afternoons at 2 o'clock.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON—St. Francis School, E. 71st and Superior.....	8:30
BORTON—E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid.....	8:45
FAIRMOUNT—St. Paul's Episcopal, Fairmount and Coventry.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd.	
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE—Community Center Bldg.	
Detroit Ave. and St. Charles.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episc., W. Clifton & Detroit.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—St. Paul's Episc. Church, Allendale and Euclid.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill.....	7:30
PEARL—Corpus Christi Church Basement, Stickney at Pearl.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episc., Church, 3451 Warrensville.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP—Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway.....	8:30
UNION—12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
WEST 25th ST.—Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St.....	8:30
MEDINA O.—St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side—West Blvd. Christ., W. Blvd. & W. 101.....	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist, E. 18th & Euclid.....	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month—Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aud.....	8:30
CLARK—4105 Clark Ave. Upstairs.....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:00
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit	
EUCLID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting.....	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles.....	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.....	8:30
SMITH-WILSON—Nativity School, 9510 Aetna Road.....	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior.....	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain.....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge at W. 38th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag—33 N. State Street.....	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.....	8:30
BROOKLYN—K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.....	8:45
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 105th St., 2nd floor, side entrance.....	8:45
EAST SIDE MORNING—2028 E. 105th St.....	10:00 A. M.
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist, E. 94th and Garfield Blvd.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—First Eng. Luth., Derbyshire and Euclid Hts. Blvd.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction.....	6:30
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Middle and Third.....	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.....	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLENDALE—St. Paul's Episc. Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.....	8:30
ANGLE—St. Malachi's Church, 2949 Washington Ave.....	8:30
BROADWAY-55th—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall.....	8:30
COVENTRY—Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough	
Road, East of Coventry.....	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emman. Church, Euclid at 86.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
OUTHWAITE—(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman.....	8:30
THURSDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN—6409 Detroit Ave.....	2:00
WEST SIDE—7403 Denison Ave.....	10:30 A. M.
WYANDOTTE MI-SS—Church of the Redeemer	
Andrews and Detroit (rear).....	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland.....	8:30
EAST LAKE—Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway.....	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING—AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	8:30

FRIDAY

CEDAR—Salvation Army, 2181 E. 55th St.....	8:15
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon O.....	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—St. Helena's Hall, 1367 W. 65th St.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—2056 E. 105th. K. of P. Hall.....	8:30
MILES MEN'S—Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.....	8:30
NORTHEAST—2028 E. 105th St.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit.....	8:30
ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL—First Friday of Each Month.....	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Rose's Hall W. 116-Detroit.....	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church.....	8:30
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.....	8:30
EUCLID, O.—Holy Cross Church, E. 200th and Lake Shore Blvd.....	8:30
LORAIN-AVON—1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.....	8:30
MENTOR, O.—Mentor Way Villa.....	9:00

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. John's Luth. Church, Cable at Broad.....	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th.	
North of Euclid Avenue.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:30
LAKEWOOD Sat. Nite—Redeemer Hall, Andrews, near Detroit.....	8:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82nd and St. Clair.....	8:30
PARMA—St. Charles Church Basement, Charles and Ridge.....	8:30
REDWOOD—Lutheran Church, Oriole and E. 260th St.....	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3525 W. 25th St.....	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th and Starkweather.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....	8:00
A. A. CLUB—6409 Detroit Ave.....	Open 24 Hours
WINDEMERE—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakefront.....	9:00
8005 GROUP-8005 Lorain Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle and Third.....	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO—K. of P. Hall.....	9:00

MILES - UNION

'Twas a dank and miserable day on October 17th, the day for the Miles-Union clambake. So the gallant entrepreneur, Frank L., transferred the bake to his greenhouse, which he closed at 12 instead of 3 and, after making over 30 phone calls, turned his floral shop into a restaurant for the hundred that came. What a guy! Even the elements can't stop him.

The groups will hold a Turkey Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 20th. A Bingo Party will be the main attraction. This annual affair always attracts a great crowd. Good show. Easily worth the '75 cents they charge. Novak Hall, 12907 Union Ave. Free door prizes.

PARMA MOVES

The Parma Group will meet in the basement of St. Charles Church, at Charles Ave. and Ridge Rd., on and after Saturday, November 27th.

DOAN DATA

Since Roy W. left for Chicago, the Doan Men's Group has appeared very seldom in these columns. A group which attracts over 200 men each week must have news for the 2000 readers of the Bulletin.

The newly-appointed chairman of the Sunday Training meeting, which is an ideal spot to break in the newcomer and is available to all groups, is Paul S. C. These meetings are being resumed this winter, starting at 3 p. m. Sunday, Nov. 7, and each Sunday thereafter.

LORAIN CONSOLIDATED

John D. of Cleveland made a deep impression at the November Consolidated meeting. His ten years of uninterrupted sobriety and active work in AA was reflected in the great philosophy he offered at the meeting.

The December meeting will be addressed by Jim C. of Cleveland in Townsend Hall, 108 Middle Ave., Elyria.

THE LIFE OF AL AND BILL—No. 21



Thanks Bill! Do you realize it's the first time I've really thanked you for what you've done for me? I guess I just took it for granted that I was entitled to the attention I got.

You're welcome, Al. You don't realize how much you have helped me! The sponsor receives a great deal more than he gives. It's what makes AA such a grand league.

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SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 105th St.....	3:00
EAST LAKEVIEW—CVO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair.....	8:00
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park.....	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93rd St.....	8:30
PIONEER (Negro) 7100 Kinsman.....	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.....	2:00
TRAINING MEETING—8023 Detroit Ave.....	8:00
WEST SIDE—Trinity Methodist, W. 99th and Madison.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Cooley Farms Recreation Room.....	10:00 A. M.
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	10:00 A. M.

1st TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370.....	8:30
3rd TUESDAY EVERY MONTH	
HOSPITAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370.....	8:30

CENTRAL BULLETIN

UNSELFISHNESS • HONESTY
PURITY • LOVE
A.A.

Vol. VII-No. 3

1007 SCHOFIELD BLDG., CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

December, 1948

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Good Will

It seems to us that men who have made an honest endeavor to turn their will and their problems over to a High Power and thereby have found sobriety are men of good will.

According to the original sources, the famous phrase of Holy Writ, so often applied at Christmas time, reads: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

This means that men of good will can obtain peace, the greatest peace of all—peace of mind. The other kinds of peace follow naturally.

Doesn't our experience prove this? We manifested our good will by our expressed desire to have the Higher Power help us. We were not rejected. We were given the aid we sought.

In the days of our active alcoholism Christmas was, indeed, a holiday, but one more of the Roman variety than in the spirit of its origin, a holy day. We looked forward to the parties we would attend, the number of toasts we would drink with friend and stranger and the excuse the season gave us to consume all we could take.

The consequences were inevitable and routine. The season was one of sorrow instead of joy for our families. They were days of misery for us. No gifts, had we the funds left to purchase them, could make up for the botch we had made of 'hopes and expectation. Too often the holiday binge blotted out the whole season and we "got by" through the oversights of a tolerant employer and a long suffering family.

Today, because of the peace which our surrender to good will has brought, we know what we are doing. We know it's Christmas, and not just another period of drinking and hangovers. We realize its significance. We can enjoy the companionship of our families and pay tribute in our hearts to the Power which has made this possible.

Now we can enter fully into the joy of the season and carry out its meaning: that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We have obtained so much in sobriety that we are in a position to give more—not only in material and spiritual things to our families and friends—but, to those who have not yet escaped from the world of alcoholic chaos into the world of sober peace. And in our happiness we can never refuse to help another whose plight is like unto ours of old.

This holiday let us take stock of the great and lasting gift that has been given us. Let us remember that we have a very real task to perform in helping other men of good will to obtain peace. Let's remember that, this peace of mind is one open to all men, whatever their faith, however they worship, the Higher Power. Understanding this, showing our gratitude for what we have received, we will gain a new measure of tolerance that will carry us through the year and thereby contribute in small but solid ways to create peace in the hearts of others without which there can be no peace on earth.

Detours Ahead

Christmas decorations everywhere, in stores and on most business thoroughfares, remind us that the holidays are near. Christmas and New Year, a season of great joy and brotherly love, when even utter strangers are smiling and friendly.

These seasons bring also a sense of excitement. Preparations are being made for entertaining friends at home. The office and the shop will depart from their regular decorum, and the inevitable bottles of good cheer(?) will

be really in evidence. Good people ordinarily staid and reserved, will lay aside their reserve, throw their arms around anybody and everyone and insist that the one embraced have a drink with him—or her! Sometimes it's the boss, and it's often a real trick to avoid an argument.

Most of these people mean well. Most of them have no respect for a person who imbibes too much. Yet these very people, inflamed with a few drinks (an amount which we used to sneer at) become abusive and insulting when you turn them down with one excuse or another. Even the excuse that we're AA doesn't stop them from insisting that one—just one for old time's sake—just one, with him—wouldn't and couldn't do any harm. Boys and girls, that's when we face a great test.

Should we stay away from these affairs? Is that the answer? Should we hide out and hibernate during this greatest of all great


holidays? Should we come to these affairs to sulk and mope, inwardly drooling as we see people—everybody—drinking and poor, little us, who used to be the clown and the comic of these annual affairs, be sidelined for others infinitely less funny and less witty enjoying the plaudits of the crowd? Should we take just one and avoid the ridicule and razzberry which we feel we're sure to get if we confess to AA, and that we're powerless over alcohol?

As we enter this season, let's all remember that we were, are and ever will be powerless over alcohol. WE CAN'T TAKE JUST ONE DRINK! We are powerless, powerless, powerless! The very people who coax us will be the very ones who will condemn us later when they remember that we let down our guard.

And let's not feel sorry for ourselves that we can't drink. Remember the hell that the privilege (?) brought us. We used to be that way—all of us—we could drink and leave it alone. But no anymore. We're alcoholics, and WE CAN'T DRINK!

If we just stop to analyze the cost of drinking, we'd never even entertain a moment's drool. Not monetary cost, no! The cost is loss of self-respect, self-confidence, self-assurance, faith of others, faith in oneself, fear, self-reproach, discouragement, etc., etc., and is it worth resisting? We believe it is.

Let's celebrate Christmas and New Year by remembering what these holidays are commemorating and let the Prince of Peace be our rod and staff to sustain us.



*A Very Merry
Christmas
and
A Very Happy
New Year*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In 1923, a group of the world's most successful financiers met at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Present were:

The president of the largest independent steel company; the president of the largest utility company; the greatest wheat speculator; the president of the New York Stock Exchange; a member of the President's cabinet; the greatest "bear" in Wall Street; the president of the Bank of International Settlements; the head of the world's greatest monopoly.

Collectively, these tycoons controlled more wealth than there was in the United States Treasury, and for years newspapers and magazines had been printing their success stories and urging the youth of the nation to follow their examples. Twenty-five years later, let's see what happened to these men.

Fateful Endings

The president of the largest independent steel company—Charles Schwab—lived on borrowed money the last five years of his life, and died broke.

The greatest wheat speculator—Arthur Cutten—died abroad, insolvent.

The president of the New York Stock Exchange—Richard Whitney—was recently released from Sing Sing.

The member of the President's cabinet—Albert Fall—was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.

The greatest "bear" in Wall Street—Jesse Livermore—committed suicide.

The president of the Bank of International Settlement—Leon Fraser—committed suicide.

The head of the world's greatest monopoly—Ivar Kreuger—committed suicide.

ALL OF THESE MEN HAD LEARNED HOW TO MAKE MONET. BUT NOT ONE OF THEM HAD LEARNED HOW TO LIVE.

Holiday Warning—Don't take that first drink!

SUCH IS LIFE

I feel good!

That's strange because just a few minutes ago I felt bad. Very bad. I was tired and tuckered out. I was frayed and frazzled. There was nothing I would have liked so much as to crawl into a deep hole and hibernate 'till spring.

Then I got on a bus. By chance, I sat next to a prospect we had given up on long ago. He began telling me his troubles. How he had just been placed on probation for a year. "But," he added, "I've been doin' pretty good for the last six months. Drinkin' nothing but beer."

I said "Alcohol is alcohol whether it's in beer or whiskey."

With that, the fellow in the next seat turned around. "You ain't kiddin'," he said. "I found that out eight years ago. I joined AA."

I got a good look at him. His light eye was gone. A flap of flesh had been drawn down to cover the socket.

"Been at Crile six months" he said. "This is my fourteenth hospital. They took out part of my ribs and a piece of my hip to patch up my face. Now they're going to take a piece of the other hip. They're fixin' me up for a glass eye. Don't know if they can do it but I ain't worried. Coy, I'm so much better off than a lotta guys."

"You know," he continued. "Lotta guys are phonies. They say 'My leg hurts' or 'My arm hurts. I gotta have a drink.' I say, 'You're nuts. Get yourself a coke. You'll have just as much fun.' Why, I won't even take cough medicine if its got alcohol in it."

And the fellow was cheerful. He was one of the happiest individuals I have seen lately.

I took another look. I pictured in my mind what suffering he must have endured. I tried to imagine what a wrench it must be to his soul every time he looks in the mirror and sees those unsightly scars.

Then those things faded away before the twinkle in his eye as I felt the exuberance of his spirit.

Yes, sir, I feel good! Very, very good!

Herschel G. II.

BILL'S ANNIVERSARIES

Dear Eddie C.:

November 18, 1918

Thanks for your wire of congratulations on the occasion of our anniversary here at New York.

Actually, I think it far more fitting that Jane 10th (The Akron Anniversary) become the birthday for AA as a whole. For AA really started right there and then—as you Clevelanders have good reason to appreciate.

There is an element of real humor in this anniversary business.

Without realizing it, New Yorkers celebrate in the month I got drunk for the last time—that is, November!

We didn't know this comic fact until my last hospital record was checked, four years ago. It showed that I didn't really enter the hospital until December 11, 1934, though my final binge had started Armistice Day, November 11, 1934.

Seemingly, then, AA has three possible anniversaries: the date I got drunk (Nov. 11th); the date I got sober (Dec. 11th) and the date Dr. Bob dried up for good, June 10, 1935. Of course, this Inst. is the right one—there wasn't any real beginning until then.

Congratulations to the Bulletin and best wishes to all.

As ever,

Bill.

Holiday Warning—Don't take that first drink!

A man who was an habitual drinker was often repentant and humble after a debauch. He would promise his wife to do better, but he never seemed able to keep his word. One night he said to his wife sadly: "You're a clever woman, Agnes, a courageous, active and a good woman. You should have married a better man than I am, dear." She looked at him, and thinking of the fine man he had been before he became an alcoholic, she answered in a quiet voice, "I did, John."—The Brighter Side.

ANONYMITY

We received proper censure from the Alcoholic Foundation for evidently violating one of the traditions of AA recently. We were part of a panel of three, enlightening case workers of the Welfare Federation on the treatment of alcoholics.

To our consternation, one of the local newspapers gave us quite a writeup, giving our name and business connections and referred to us as "speaking for Alcoholics Anonymous."

Some kind (?) friend reported this violation to the foundation. Why didn't this informant call us to get facts before jumping at erroneous conclusions?

We wish to state positively that we seek no publicity, nor do we ever claim to speak "for AA." But we do believe it within our province to explain AA to lay bodies who are in position to aid those seeking help. If they believe us capable of explaining the program, we do our duty.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BILL

To nearly everyone Christmas brings thoughts of warm ties to be renewed, gifts to be given and received. Fresh and wondrous is the vision of Him who shines down the centuries to all who will look up and behold.

To us of AA, the Christmas experience is sure to be doubly meaningful. We know ties more precious than any we had dreamed; we have received the gift of life itself and may freely pass that on; each of us has seen and felt a redeeming radiance which he knows to be the Grace of God. What more could we ask; what more could we receive?

Yes, it's a Merry Christmas—a Merry Christmas indeed!

The Trustees, the Grapeviners, Dr. Bob, Anne, Bobbie, Lois and I wish you the happiest of New Years—

As ever,

BILL

DISTRICT OFFICE NOTES

At the regular Quarterly Meeting of the Office Advisory Committee held at Hotel Cleveland on November 18, 1949, Mr. Harry B. of Edgelake Group was elected to serve on the Office Operating Committee.

In 1948 your Cleveland District Office:

1. Arranged contacts for 846 men and women interested in our AA program who were turned over to 77 Groups. Your reports back indicated 596 were receptive contact.

2. Made available to the membership AA books and educational literature.

3. Furnished 90 speakers.

4. Provided a centrally located office where the public could find AA and hear of its general purposes.

Financial report and approved budget for 1948-49 follows:

Year Ending October 31, 1948		
Contributions		\$ 8,307.47
Sales of Literature	\$ 4,201.09	
Less: Cost of Literature Sold	1,974.26	2,226.83
Total Receipts		\$10,534.30
Expenses		
Salaries	\$5,910.00	
Rent and Light	1,771.65	
Telephone	598.66	
Printing and Mimeographing	275.38	
Stationery and Postage	193.95	
Bank Service Charge	9.95	
Laundry	31.20	
Insurance	40.63	
Other Office Expense	52.02	
Total Expense		\$ 8,883.44
Approved Budget 1948-49		
Salaries	\$ 6,000.00	
Rent and Light	2,070.00	
Printing (office)	600.00	
Telephone	700.00	
Postage	200.00	
Office Supplies and Furniture	500.00	
		\$10,070.00
Contingency for salaries and other expenses	\$1,200.00	
Total		\$11,270.00

Holiday Warning--Don't take that first drink!

BOWLING LEAGUE

The 22 teams in the Cleveland AA Bowling League are having a merry scramble for positions, according to the last two (and only, so far) published standings. Before December 3rd, two teams tied for first, Allendale and Addison Clubs, were but two games ahead of eight other teams. On December 3, Allendale was alone in first, leading four teams by two games, three by three games and two by four games. Over half the league is within easy striking distance of first place. All they have to do is to find a way to lick Allendale.

St. Clair Lakeview enjoys the lead for team high three games with a total of 2595 and Doan Tigers have high single game with 962.

WEST SIDE WOMEN

Our attempt to be facetious in the November issue boomeranged and hit us smack in our teeth as a delegation of six indignant members of the West Side Women's Group (Monday) demanded an explanation of the item we inserted for them. Did you ever slap a person on the back real hard and as he turned around find out he was a stranger? We honestly were kidding--no malice intended! They had a beautiful meeting with Corny V. as the speaker, we hear, and our pre-written article seemed to somewhat destroy the fine spirit the meeting brought.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES

Many groups will be holding Christmas and New Year's Eve parties either singly or jointly and it would be difficult to canvass each to publish their plans. We list the following New Year's eve parties to which any AA member is welcome.

EAST SIDE

Glenville--Glenville Hall, 10121 St. Clair. Dancing and favors. Cost \$2.00.

Miles-Union--Novak's Hall, 12907 Union. Dancing and favors. Orchestra. Johnny Green's Polkateers--Cost \$2.00 per person, plus 40c tax.

Euclid-Wade and Lee Rd. Friday-Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79th and Euclid. Full course dinner, dancing, favors, professional vaudeville. \$4.75 per person. Limited to 175 persons).

WEST SIDE

West Side Social--St. Wendelin's Hall, Columbus Road and W. 25th St. Dancing, entertainment, luncheon and door prizes. Benefit Stella Maris Home. Adults, \$1.50; children, \$1.00.

Lorain County Joint Groups--Lorain Social Center, 700 Broadway, Lorain, O.

Tureen dinner (each family bring a dish of meat loaf, pork chops, potato salad, spinach, etc.) To be served at 7:00 p. m. No charge mentioned.

Undoubtedly there are others, but we regret that we have not been informed of them.

CEDAR GROUP REJOICES

An enthusiastic group of people sat down to an excellent banquet dinner in Calvary Presbyterian Church, East 79th and Euclid, November 13th, celebrating the fourth anniversary of this remarkable group.

Warren C., one of the first AA's in Cleveland was an inspired speaker.

GROUP MEETS ON HOLIDAY NIGHTS

Believing that individuals will be seeking an AA meeting on great holiday nights to "get them over the hump", the Broadway Men's Group will hold their regular meeting as per usual at St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, Cable avenue near Broadway, on December 25th, and January 1st.

The group celebrated its first anniversary on November 21. Bill M. led the meeting with Harold S. as MC. 260 people attended and saw pictures of skid row and a magician's act. Great success.

DEBT PAID

A speaker at an East Side Morning Group meeting emphasized the need of making amends as well as paying debts incurred during drinking days in his talk. It paid dividends. One of the listeners came up dramatically and paid back the speaker \$5.00 he'd seen him drop in his stupor five years ago.

TRINITY

Probably 100--maybe more--sat down to an excellent banquet prepared by the members of this year old group, to which were invited the speakers and their wives who had led their meetings during the past year. Very impressive occasion. This was followed by a delightful organ recital and an impressive talk by Norman Y. of Canton. Art G. and Charles S. are to be commended for this "major league" affair.

LUCKY PIECE

George S., an active worker in the Warrensville Group, has designed an aluminum pocket piece, 1 1/4" in diameter, which he is selling at a profit. These "profits" go into a fund to help discharged inmates of Warrensville. He can be reached at Bedford 606W. We are convinced of his integrity, honesty and sincerity.

This Warrensville Group is one which serves the Women's House of Correction. At the present time there is practically no place for a discharged woman prisoner to go for re-orienting or rehabilitation.

LORAIN COUNTY CONSOLIDATED

The regular Consolidated meeting of Lorain County groups will be held in Townsend Hall, 108 Middle Ave., Elyria, on Sunday, January 2 at 7 p. m.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

ADDISON—St. Francis School, E. 71st and Superior.....	8:30
BORTON—E. Cleve. Cong. Church, Page & Euclid.....	8:45
FAIRMOUNT—St. Paul's Episcopal, Fairmount and Coventry.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Legion Hall, 1372 Warren Rd.,	
LAKEWOOD-ORCHARD GROVE—Community Center Bldg.	
Detroit Ave. and St. Charles.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episc., W. Clifton & Detroit.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. M. Meeting.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—St. Paul's Episc. Church, Allendale and Euclid.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
MARINE HOSPITAL—E. 124th and Fairhill.....	7:30
PEARL—Corpus Christi Church Basement, Stickney at Pearl.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episc., Church, 3451 Warrensville.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP—Holy Name Hall, 8328 Broadway.....	8:30
UNION—12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
WEST 25th ST.—Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 25th St.....	8:30
MEDINA O.—St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—EAST SIDE—Glenville Hall, 10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side—West Blvd. Christ., W. Blvd. & W. 101.....	8:30

TUESDAY

ARCADE—Euclid Ave. Baptist E. 18th & Euclid.....	8:30
CHARITY—Last Tues. of each month—Charity Hosp. Nurses' Aud.....	8:30
CLARK—4105 Clark Ave. Upstairs.....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:00
EDGE LAKE—Community Center Bldg., St. Charles and Detroit	
EUCLEID-WADE—Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79 & Euclid.....	8:30
Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting.....	8:30
MILES-LEE—Mount Hope Church, E. 164th, north of Miles.....	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd.....	8:30
SMITH-WILSON—Nativity School, 9510 Aetna Road.....	8:30
SUPERIOR—Immaculate Conception, E. 43rd and Superior.....	8:30
WEST PARK—West Park Baptist Church, W. 152nd and Lorain.....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge at W. 38th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:00
PAINESVILLE, O.—Stag—33 N. State Street.....	8:30
STRONGSVILLE, O.—Town Hall.....	8:30

WEDNESDAY

BAXTER AVE.—6527 Baxter Ave.....	8:30
BROOKLYN—K of P Hall, 3316 Broadview, east of Pearl Rd.....	8:45
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON—7403 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 105th St., 2nd floor, side entrance.....	8:45
EAST SIDE MORNING—2028 E. 105th St. 10:00 A. M.	
GARFIELD HEIGHTS—Trinity Baptist, E. 94th and Garfield Blvd.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—First Eng. Luth., Derbyshire and Euclid Hts. Blvd.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Women's House of Correction.....	6:30
BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Middle and Third.....	8:00
LORAIN, O.—ANTLERS—St. Mary's School, Reid Ave.....	8:30

THURSDAY

ALLENDALE—St. Paul's Episc. Church, 15837 Euclid Ave.....	8:30
ANGLE—St. Malachi's Church, 2549 Washington Ave.....	8:30
BROADWAY—55th—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall.....	8:30
COVENTRY—Fairmount Presbyterian Chapel, Scarborough	
Road, East of Coventry.....	8:30
EAST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—Emman. Church, Euclid at 86.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:00
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
OUTHWAITE—(Negro) Woodland Center, 7100 Kinsman.....	8:30
THURSDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN—6409 Detroit Ave.....	2:00
WEST SIDE—7403 Denison Ave.....	10:30 A. M.
WYANDOTTE MENS—Church of the Redeemer	
Andrews and Detroit (rear).....	8:30
BEREA, O.—Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 drs. east of Eastland.....	8:30
EAST LAKE—Vine and Campbell, Willoughby, O.....	8:30
GENEVA, O.—Townsend Hall, Main St., west of Broadway.....	8:30
LORAIN TRAINING—AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	8:30
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	8:30

FRIDAY

CEDAR—Salvation Army, 2181 E. 55th St.....	8:15
CHARDON, O.—Thrasher House, Water St., Chardon O.....	8:30
GORDON SQUARE—St. Helena's Hall, 1367 W. 65th St.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—2056 E. 105th, K of P Hall.....	8:30
MILES MEN'S—Stag Group, 4141 E. 116th St.....	8:30
NORTHEAST—2028 E. 105th St.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit.....	8:30
S T. JOHN'S HOSPITAL—First Friday of Each Month.....	8:30
WEST SIDE YOUNG PEOPLE—St. Row's Hall W. 116-Detroit.....	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church.....	8:30
CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St.....	8:30
EUCLEID, O.—Holy Cross Church, 1- 200th and Lake shore Blvd.....	8:30
LORAIN-AVON—1112 W. Eric St., Lorain, O.....	8:30
MENTOR, O.—Mentor Way Villa.....	9:00

SATURDAY

BROADWAY MEN'S—St. Johns Luth. Church, Cable at Broad.....	8:30
CROSSROADS—Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, East 18th,	
North of Euclid Avenue.....	9:00
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	9:30
LAKEWOOD Sat. Nite—Redeemer Hall, Andrews, near Detroit.....	8:30
MATT TALBOT—St. Philip Neri Church, E. 82nd and St. Clair.....	8:30
PARMA—St. Charles Church Basement Charles and Ridge.....	8:30
REDWOOD—Lutheran Church, Oriole and 11, 260th St.....	8:30
TRINITY—Trinity Evangelical Church, 3525 W. 25th St.....	8:30
VALLEY VIEW—Community Center, W. 7th and Starkweather.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....	8:00
A. A. CLUB—6409 Detroit Avenue.....	Open 24 Hours
WINDEMERE—East Cleveland Women's Club, 1747 Lakefront.....	9:00
8005 GROUP—8005 Lorain Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—St. Andrew's Episc. Church, Middle and Third.....	8:30
OBERLIN, OHIO—K. of P. Hall.....	9:00

VERMILION

The Vermilion group has been reactivated This means that they have started meetings again in St. Mary's Hall on Monday evenings at 8:30 p tn.

THURSDAY WOMEN'S GROUP

Mary L., secretary of the Thursday At'terttoott Women's Group, reports that fourteen women attended the group's first meeting Nov. 11 at 2 p. m. They meet at 6409 Detroit Ave. Irene W. was the speaker.

Holiday Warning—Don't take that first drink!

WILLOUGHBY

A beautiful speaker's stand was initiated by the editor of Central Bulletin December 6th, before a surprisingly large gathering. Attending their first meeting were four newcomers.

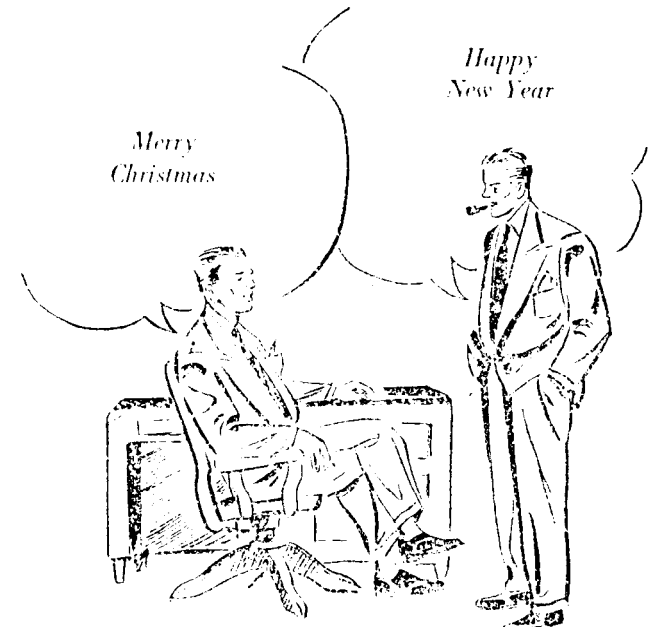
A potluck dinner will be in vogue at their Children's Party, December 20th.

Someone reported that the fellow who said it would embarrass him socially and in his business if he joined Alcoholics Anonymous was seen improving his standing in the community by staggering down the street.

He: "Yes, I'm a self-made man."
She: "Well, it's nice of you to take the blame."

Two bums were sitting on the bench in the state house grounds. "Ah me, I" lamented the first, "I'm a man who never took advice from anybody." "Shake brother," answered the other, "look at me. I'm the guy who took advice from everybody."

Holiday Warning—Don't take that first drink!



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SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 105th St.....	3:00
LAKEVIEW—CYO Hall, St. Aloysius Church, E. 109th & St. Clair.....	8:00
MISTLETOE—MacGillis Home, 1560 Mistletoe at Wade Park.....	7:00
NEWBURGH—St. Catherine's Church, 3443 E. 93rd St.....	8:30
PIONEER (Negro) 7109 Kinsman.....	10:00 A. M.
SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.....	2:00
TRAINING MEETING—8023 Detroit Ave.....	8:00
WEST SIDE—Trinity Methodist, W. 9th and Madison.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE—Cooley Farms Recreation Room.....	10:00 A. M.
LORAIN, OHIO—Stag, AA Social Center, 700 Broadway.....	10:00 A. M.
1st TUESDAY EVERY MONTH	
CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370.....	8:30
3rd TUESDAY EVERY MONTH	
HOSPITAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building, Room 370.....	8:30