

The Golden Road of Devotion

Pathway to a New Freedom
and a New Happiness

Confidential Version for AA Members Only
Contains Full Names of Past Members

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Devotion

*selfless affection and dedication
to a person or principle.*

*“and you will know the truth
and the truth shall make you free”*

We Began to Count Noses

“So, on this late fall afternoon in 1937, Smithy and I were talking together in his living room, Anne sitting there, when we began to count noses.”

- Bill W. June 12, 1954

*“Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high,
and the wilderness be a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field be counted for a forest”*

Chapter IV

It had been many years since Bill had meaningful work. The Great Depression and the lingering effects of the stock market crash of "29" were still evident and unemployment rates remained in the double digits.¹ Bill, needing work, decided to look in the Midwest cities of Detroit and Cleveland.² On Saturday October 9, 1937, Bill and Lois left New York in the company of William and Kathleen Ruddell of Hackettstown, NJ for the Midwest.³ Upon their arrival in Ohio, Bill Wilson visited his old friend, the Akron Physician.*

In a Grapevine article published in October of 1945 we find Bill telling the story "*The Book is Born.*" This is the first written reference we have found of the event we now consider, which is often referred to as "The Counting of Noses."

"By the fall of 1937 we could count what looked like 40 recovered members. One of us had been sober for three years, another two and a half, and a fair number had a year or more behind them. As all of us had been hopeless cases, this amount of time elapsed began to be significant. The realization that we "had found something" began to take hold of us. No longer were we a dubious experiment. Alcoholics could stay sober. Great numbers perhaps! While some of us had always clung to this possibility, the dream now had real substance. If 40 alcoholics could recover, why not four hundred, four thousand - even forty thousand?"

In June of 1954 at the Ninth Annual Texas State Convention, Bill recounted his visit with Dr. Bob Smith in greater detail.

*"So, on this late fall afternoon in 1937, Smithy and I were talking together in his living room, Anne sitting there, when we began to count noses. How many people had stayed dry; in Akron, in New York, maybe a few in Cleveland? How many had stayed dry and for how long? And when we added up the total, it sure was a handful of, I don't know, 35 to 40 maybe. But enough time had elapsed on enough really fatal cases of alcoholism, so that we grasped the importance of these small statistics. Bob and I saw for the first time that this thing was going to succeed. That God in his providence and mercy had thrown a new light into the dark caves where we and our kind had been and were still by the millions dwelling. I can never forget the elation and ecstasy that seized us both."*⁴

* The Visit to Akron in the fall of 1937.

The first recorded reference to the Akron visit we have found is Bill's Grapevine article published in October of 1945, *The Book is Born*. In this article Bill states: "By the fall of 1937 we could count what looked like 40 recovered members." In 1954 in Texas, he described the time period as "late fall." In the 1957 history book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age*, November is listed as the month of the Akron visit in *Landmarks of AA History* on page vii. This reference has become the source for many subsequent writings by several distinguished authors and historians. It is not our intention to re-write or revise A.A. history by pointing out this historical conflict but rather to present the facts as they have been revealed to us. Lois's diary entry for October 9th is a "snapshot" in real time as opposed to historical dates that were recalled years after the fact by Bill, such as in the writing *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age*, some nineteen or twenty years after the Akron visit. This idea has been posited previously. See Kurtz; *Not God*, p.326, note. 57

We have long pondered the question, who was the handful of people that Bill and Bob counted up on that fall afternoon in 1937? Who were “The First Forty”? To the best of our knowledge and belief, no written list was produced that afternoon as Bill and Bob, with Anne listening in, counted names. We will now attempt to answer the question of who these men and women were using those documents and historical facts that have already been revealed and that which we will reveal now.*

Many of us are familiar with the events following the “counting of noses.” Bill was introduced to Willard Richardson, one of John D. Rockefeller’s closest associates, by his brother-in-law Dr. Leonard Strong. After several meetings with Rockefeller’s advisors, Frank Amos made a visit to Akron in mid February of 1938 to get a first hand look at Dr. Bob and the group of recovered drunks. His account of that visit, which was titled “THE NOTES ON AKRON, OHIO SURVEY by FRANK AMOS” is well documented in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* and to a lesser extent in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age and Pass It On*.

The account of Amos’s Akron visit given in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*, as well as the other publications, omits one very important detail, that a list of the early Akron members was attached to The Amos Report. The likely reason for this key omission is because the list was not attached or included with The Amos Report filed in the GSO archives.

This list of the pioneering Akron members, which we have dubbed “The Amos Roster”, is described below in an excerpt from a copy of The Amos Report. It may prove to be the first written list of members ever produced by one of our co-founders and will support our work as we attempt to document “The First Forty.”

Alcoholic Group

There are now some fifty men, and, I believe, two women former alcoholics, all considered practically incurable by physicians, who have been reformed and so far have remained teetotalers. A list of some of them is attached giving their business, the length in months they have been “dry”, the period in years they were drinking, and their present age.

*SOB (i.e. sober date or as calculated by length of dry time)

“The Amos Roster”, which is a major source of information for this chapter, interestingly enough does not always conform to today’s commonly applied concept of “continuous sobriety” as the basis for dry time. Dr. Bob, Ernie Galbraith, Walter Bray, Phil Smith, Tom Lucas, J.D. Holmes and several others had documented slips during the “flying blind” period which was not always factored in to the overall length of time recorded on the roster for each member. A similar method of documenting “dry time” is found in a survey completed on January 1, 1940 of the New Jersey Group in preparation for the Rockefeller Dinner held in February of that year. Dr Bob did seem to factor in the “slip time” for a few of the pioneers. His reasons for doing so are not clear. Since the Amos Roster was written by Dr. Bob and he was obviously the architect of this methodology for documenting the “SOB” we will follow his lead in this regard. The Amos Roster was attached to the document “NOTES ON AKRON, OHIO SURVEY” by FRANK AMOS and is included as Appendix I in the back of this book.

*“For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed,
And there is nothing secret that will not become known
and come to light”*

The Golden Road in 1935

“He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake”

In the Original Manuscript draft of what was to become the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Bill and “The First One Hundred”^{*} provided the first written detailed history of the founding of the fellowship. It is there we can find Bill’s documented account of the first four members of the group of recovered drunks, who in the Summer of 1935 in Akron, Ohio banded together in love and service for others in an altruistic movement which would become known as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Here is our account of the story Bill tells in Chapter Eleven, “A VISION FOR YOU.”⁵

Wilson and several associates were waging a proxy fight to seize control of the National Rubber Machinery Company in Akron, Ohio. Had the battle been successful his “comeback” would have been complete. Bill would have regained much of his lost credibility and been set back on his feet financially. Instead, Bill and his associates were soundly defeated and discredited. The proxy fight would get bogged down in a lawsuit amid much bitterness between the parties and the players.

Bill remained in Akron clinging to the hope that something could be done to salvage some minute success from this terrible unexpected failure. Alone in the Mayflower Hotel on May 11, 1935 he was feeling the depression and despair. With very little money in his pockets, probably not even enough to pay his hotel bill; he paced about the lobby trying to figure out what to do. His attention was drawn to the lobby bar where there was smoke, laughter and people enjoying themselves. Bill’s mind began to “suggest” to him that it would be okay to go in there and have a ginger-ale and perhaps strike up a conversation with a new acquaintance. Perhaps just one or two drinks would be acceptable to help break the ice?

Quickly, Bill recognized the insane thinking that precedes the first drink and instinctively knew he needed to find another alcoholic to work with. Finding a directory of churches on the wall in the lobby Bill began to make phone calls in search of a kindred soul. He selected one of the names from the directory, The Reverend Mr. Walter Tunks.

^{*} “The First One Hundred”

The first draft of the Original Manuscript, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, was complete in December of 1938 and given to Tom Uzell, former editor of Collier’s Magazine, for review. The FOREWORD of that draft states: “WE, OF Alcoholics Anonymous, are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.” At the time the multilith draft was distributed for comments and editing there were less than one hundred documented recoveries. By April 10, 1939, which is the legally documented publication date of the 1st Edition of the Book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, there were One Hundred Men and Women who had recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. (More fully explained with sources cited in Appendix II)

Tunks was the Episcopalian Minister of St. Paul's Church in Akron and minister to the family of Harvey Firestone, owner of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. He was very familiar with the Oxford Group, Frank Buchman and Sam Shoemaker, having participated in the Group's widely publicized events held in Akron during January of 1933. In speaking with Wilson, Walter Tunks gave Bill the names of several other Oxford Groupers in Akron he could talk to. Bill called all the names Tunks had given him finally reaching Norman Sheppard, desperately searching for another alcoholic to work with. It was Sheppard who gave Bill Wilson the name and phone number of Henrietta Sieberling.

Bill recognized the Sieberling name and fear welled up within him. He thought this woman might be the wife of Frank Sieberling, the founder and owner of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Bill had previously met both Frank and Mrs. Sieberling and was not eager to call and disclose his problem to the wife of an Akron CEO. It seems the thought of a drink continued to haunt Bill and in a true act of humility, and willingness to go to any length, Bill made the much dreaded phone call. To his great relief he found that Henrietta was the estranged daughter-in-law of Frank Sieberling and was living at the Gate House on the Sieberling Estate. He learned she was close friends with the wife of an Akron Physician who had a terrible problem with alcohol and that she had been praying for his deliverance. Henrietta saw Bill's call as the answer to her prayers for Bob.

Bob recalls the story of meeting Bill Wilson at the home of Henrietta Sieberling in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* in his personal story "THE DOCTOR'S NIGHTMARE".

"About this time a lady called up my wife one Saturday afternoon, saying she wanted me to come over that evening to meet a friend of hers who might help me. It was the day before Mother's Day and I had come home plastered, carrying a big potted plant which I set down on the table and forthwith went upstairs and passed out. The next day she called again. Wishing to be polite, though I felt very badly, I said, "Let's make the call," and extracted from my wife a promise that we would not stay over fifteen minutes. We entered her house at exactly five o'clock and it was eleven fifteen when we left. I had a couple of shorter talks with this man afterward, and stopped drinking abruptly."⁶

Bill Wilson carried the message of hope and recovery to Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith on Mother's Day, May 12, 1935 at the Gatehouse on the Sieberling Estate. Bob stopped drinking shortly after his meeting with Bill where previously he had been unable to make any progress toward sobriety. Soon after, Bob and Anne invited Bill to stay with them at their home at 855 Ardmore Avenue. Bill Wilson was having such a positive effect on Dr. Bob that Anne and Henrietta were determined to keep Bill Wilson in Akron.

Bill and the newly sober Dr. Bob soon began to work on another Akron Physician. In a May 1935 letter to Lois Wilson, Bill talks about the first prospect he and Dr. Bob were working with.

"I am writing this in the office of one of my new friends, Dr. Smith. He had my trouble and is getting to be a very ardent Grouper. I have been to his house for meals and the rest of the family is as nice as he is. I have witnessed at a number of meetings and have been taken to a number of people. Dr. Smith is helping me to change a Dr. McKay, once the most prominent surgeon in town, who developed into a terrific rake and drunk. He was rich, lost everything, wife committed suicide, he is ostracized and on the point of suicide himself. His change if accomplished would be a most powerful witness to the whole town as his case is so notorious."⁷

Unfortunately, Bill and Bob were not successful with Dr. McKay and there is no further information available regarding his fate.⁸

The newly sober Dr. Bob "slipped" a few weeks later when he left Akron to attend the annual convention of The American Medical Association in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Dr. Bob recounts the story of meeting Bill Wilson for the first time, his brief dry spell and his trip to the AMA Convention. The story can be found in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* on page 5 of the personal stories section.

"This dry spell lasted for about three weeks; then I went to Atlantic City to attend several days' meeting of a national society of which I was a member. I drank all the scotch they had on the train and bought several quarts on my way to the hotel. This was on Sunday. I got tight that night, stayed sober Monday till after the dinner and then proceeded to get tight again. I drank all I dared in the bar, and then went to my room to finish the job. Tuesday I started in the morning, getting well organized by noon. I did not want to disgrace myself so I then checked out. I bought some more liquor on the way to the depot. I had to wait some time for the train. I remember nothing from then on until I woke up at a friend's house, in a town near home. These good people notified my wife, who sent my newly made friend over to get me. He came and got me home and to bed, gave me a few drinks that night, and one bottle of beer the next morning. "That was June 10, 1935, and that was my last drink. As I write nearly four years have passed."⁹

According to the literature of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and Dr Bob's recollection at the time of the writing of his story for the Multilith copy of the Original Manuscript of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Dr. Bob's last drink was June 10, 1935.¹⁰ We acknowledge the work of several A.A. historians who appear to have correctly demonstrated that this date, long cherished as A.A. history, is most probably in error. The AMA convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1935 began on Monday June 10, 1935.¹¹

By Dr. Bob's own account in "THE DOCTOR'S NIGHTMARE" and factoring in the correct dates as Sunday June 9, Monday June 10 and Tuesday June 11, the very earliest possible date of sobriety for Dr. Bob would have been Thursday June 13, 1935 and more likely was June 17, 1935.¹²

For our common welfare and purposes, we recognize the symbolic date of June 10, 1935 as Dr. Bob's continuous sobriety date and the beginning of the society that would evolve into Alcoholics Anonymous. Time would eventually demonstrate that Dr. Bob, like Bill Wilson before him, had been separated from alcohol for the last time.

We find our two Co-founders walking hand in hand on *The Golden Road*.

"And those that are first shall be last and servant to all"

AA #	NAME	SOB	FROM
1	Bill Wilson	Dec 34	NY
2	Bob Smith	May 35	Akron

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them"*

Throughout the remainder of June, Bill and Bob sought to help other alcoholics. Their next attempt was a man named Edgar Reilly who was a very difficult case. Eddie slipped and slid; wreaked havoc in the lives of Bill, Bob & Anne and never did, at that time, achieve any lasting sobriety. Bill and Dr. Bob unfortunately would have to "let go and let God" with Eddie. Later, he re-emerged in Youngstown A.A.¹³ and appeared at Dr. Bob's funeral in 1950 having been continuously sober for one year. Eddie missed the chance to be the third soul on *The Golden Road of Devotion* but thankfully, did achieve permanent sobriety.

Bill continues the A.A. story in the Original Manuscript Multilith draft of adding the Akron Attorney Bill Dotson and Ernie Galbraith, the "devil-may-care chap" to the fold during that summer in Akron.

"But life was not easy for the two friends. Plenty of difficulties presented themselves. Both saw that they must keep spiritually active. One day they called up the head nurse of a local hospital. They explained their need and inquired if she had a first class alcoholic prospect. She replied, "Yes, we've got a corker. He's just beaten up a couple of nurses. Goes off his head completely when drinking. But he's a grand chap when sober though he's been in here six times in the last four months. Understand he was once a well-known lawyer in town, but just now we've got him strapped down tight."

"Two days later, a future Fellow of Alcoholics Anonymous stared glassily at the strangers beside his bed." Who are you fellows, and why this private room? I was always in a ward before." Said one of the visitors, "We're giving you a treatment for alcoholism." Hopelessness was written large on the man's face as he replied: "Oh, but that's no use. Nothing would fix me. I'm a goner. The last three times, I got drunk on the way home from here. I'm afraid to go out the door. I can't understand it."

"For an hour, the two friends told him about their drinking experiences. Over and over, he would say: "That's me. That's me. I drink like that."

"The man in the bed was told of the acute poisoning from which he suffered, how it deteriorates the body of an alcoholic and warps his mind. There was much talk about the mental state preceding the first drink. "Yes, that's me," said the sick man, "the very image. You fellows know your stuff all right, but I don't see what good it'll do. You fellows are somebody. I was once, but I'm a nobody now. From what you tell me, I know more than ever I can't stop."

"The two friends spoke of their spiritual experience and told him about the course of action they carried out. He interrupted: "I used to be strong for the church, but that won't fix it. I've prayed to God on hangover mornings and sworn that I'd never touch another drop, but by nine o'clock I'd be boiled as an owl."

Next day found the prospect more receptive. He had been thinking it over. "Maybe you're right," he said. "God ought to be able to do anything." Then he added, "He sure didn't do much for me when I was trying to fight this booze racket alone."

"On the third day the lawyer gave his life to the care and direction of his Creator, and said he was perfectly willing to do anything necessary. His wife came, scarcely daring to be hopeful, but she thought she saw something different about her husband already. He had begun to have a spiritual experience.

That afternoon he put on his clothes and walked from the hospital a free man. He entered a political campaign, making speeches, frequenting men's gathering places of all sorts, often staying up all night. He lost the race by only a narrow margin. But he had found God - and in finding God had found himself.

That was in June, 1935. He never drank again. He too, has become a respected and useful member of his community. He has helped other men recover, and is a power in the church from which he was long absent.

So, you see, there were three alcoholics in that town, who now felt they had to give to others what they had found, or be sunk."¹⁴

Bill and Bob had surely hit upon the winning formula which is revealed in Bill Dotson's story. First establish identification with the problem, the powerless and unmanageable life. Once admitted, present the Common Solution, the Power greater than human power. Shortly after Bill Dotson, the boys succeeded again with the young truck driver Ernie Galbraith.

*"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;
who redeemeth thy life from destruction"*

“After several failures to find others, a fourth turned up. He came through an acquaintance who had heard the good news. He proved to be a devil-may-care young fellow whose parents could not make out whether he wanted to stop drinking or not. They were deeply religious people, much shocked by their son's refusal to have anything to do with the church. He suffered horribly from his sprees, but it seemed as if nothing could be done for him. He consented, however, to go to the hospital, where he occupied the very room recently vacated by the lawyer. He had three visitors. After a bit, he said: "The way you fellows put this spiritual stuff makes sense. I'm ready to do business. I guess the old folks were right after all.

So one more was added to the Fellowship.

All this time our friend of the hotel lobby incident remained in that town. He was there, three months. He now returned home, leaving behind his first acquaintance, the lawyer, and the devil-may-care chap.”¹⁵

AA #	NAME	SOB	FROM
1	Bill Wilson	Dec 34	NY
2	Bob Smith	May 35	Akron
3	Bill Dotson	June 35	Akron
4	Ernie Galbraith	July 35	Akron

In late August, 1935, Bill Wilson followed *The Golden Road of Devotion* back to New York. One sure sign of a Spiritual Experience is the unyielding need to carry the Good News. Bill could not rest on the Akron laurels. “God is real because He produces real effects”¹⁶ and His effect on Bill was undeniable. Wilson instinctively knew, and would be continuously reminded by his new friends in the Oxford Group, that in order to keep his Experience he was required to Pass It On.¹⁷

Not long after his return from Akron, Bill returned to Town's Hospital seeking to carry the Life Changing Message. His first success in New York was Henry G. Parkhurst. Henry's (Hank) story follows Dr. Bob's in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and is entitled “THE UNBELIEVER.” According to Hank's recollection, this had been his 11th trip to Towns. It would appear that on this occasion, Dr. Silkworth explained to Hank, with all honesty and humility, the hopeless nature of his illness.

“For Christ's sake Doc! What do you mean-nothing! What! An incurable disease? Doc, you're kidding me! You're trying to scare me into stopping! What's that you say? You wish you were? What are those tears in your eyes Doc? What's that? Forty years you've spent at this alcoholic business and you have yet to see a true alcoholic cured? Your life defeated and wasted? Oh, come, come Doc . . . what would some of us do without you? If even to only sober up. But Doc . . . let's have it. What is going to be my history from here on out? Some vital organ will stop or the mad house with a wet brain? How soon? Within two years?”¹⁸

Just a few short months before this, Dr. Silkworth had counseled Bill to alter his approach to the active alcoholic. He told Bill that instead of conveying the great news of the Solution, first establish the hopeless nature of the physical and mental aspects of the problem.¹⁹ Bill would later often refer to the indispensable advice that our three friends from medicine provided. As we disused in the first chapter, these men of science, Dr. William James, Dr. Carl Jung and Dr. William D. Silkworth had come to believe in the need for the Power greater than human power. Although working separately, decades apart, their individual efforts came together under the Hand of Providence to lay the Foundation and Cornerstone of our recovery program. Today we owe a debt of gratitude to these humble men who showed us how to articulate and streamline those ancient principles behind Steps One and Two into such forms that alcoholics could understand and accept.²⁰ As we established in the previous chapter, Bill had worked with dozens of drunks in the winter and spring of 1935. He had succeeded only in staying sober himself. Dr. Bob was the first drunk he had approached using Dr. Silkworth's method of identification with the problem; the powerless and unmanageable life of the alcoholic. From Hank's narration of his discussion with Dr. Silkworth in Towns, the little Doctor who loved drunks, is practicing what he himself preached to Bill

"What's that Doc? You know a couple of fellows that were steady customers here that haven't been drunk for about ten months?* You say they claim they are cured? And they make an avocation of passing it on to others? What have they got? You don't know . . . and you don't believe they are cured . . . well why tell me about it? A fine fellow you say, plenty of money, and you're sure it isn't a racket . . . just wants to be helpful . . . call him up for me will you, Doc?"²¹

So Hank, with the help of Dr. Silkworth, begins the journey, that first step.

"What was it he said? Oh yes, came in and told about his terrific drunks, his trips up here, this same thing I'm going through. Yes, he's an alcoholic all right. And then he told me he knew he was cured. Told me he was peaceful . . . (I'll never know peace again) . . . that he didn't carry constant fear around with him. Happy because he felt free. But it's screwy. He said so himself. But he did get my confidence when he started to tell what he had gone through. It was so exactly like my case. He knows what this torture is. He raised my hopes so high; it looked as though he had something. "I don't know, I guess I was so sold that I expected him to spring some kind of a pill and I asked him desperately what it was."²²

Just ten months before Bill had asked Ebby the same question that Hank is now asking... "what 'it' was"? Once confronted with truth, before our very own eyes in the form of another recovered soul, we must have the answer.

Ebby's reply to Bill was:

Simply, but smilingly, he said, "I've got religion."²³

Bill's words to Hank: "And he said God." Hank's response: "And I laughed."

"Contempt prior to investigation" plagues most alcoholics presented with this simple religious idea.²⁴ Hank was tormented by what this man, who had been raised up from the scrap heap, had told him. Hank states that Bill had said "four of them were well." This statement confirms our work to this point and establishes that Hank would become the fifth soul to walk *The Golden Road of Devotion*.

"Told him it sounded like self hypnotism to me and he said what of it . . . didn't care if it was yogi-ism, self-hypnotism, or anything else . . . four of them were well."²⁵

Hank's story from the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is a powerful story of the agnostic's struggle to surrender.

Brrr, this floor is cold on my knees . . . why are the tears running like a river down my cheeks . . . God, have mercy on my soul!"²⁶

Hank found himself, on his knees, resigning his position as "number one", as did most of the First One Hundred* who had "recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body," surrendering to a New Manager.²⁷

So now there are five well documented cases of sobriety and we approach our second "historical" conflict. In *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age*, written in the mid-fifties and published by Alcoholics Anonymous Publishing, Inc. 1957, we find documented on page 310 the number of recoveries for the pioneering years of our fellowship. Dr. Tiebout states that by the end of 1935 there were five recovered. We assume that Bill Wilson was his source for that information. We will continue our journey on *The Road* and trust that more will be revealed!

Referring back to the Original Manuscript of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* in Chapter Eleven "A VISION FOR YOU" on page 73, Bill continued the story in Akron.

"A year and six months later these three succeeded with seven more"

"These three" refer to Bob Smith, Bill Dotson and Ernie Galbraith who Bill left in Akron following *The Golden Road of Devotion*. According to Bill, over the course of the next eighteen months The Akron Samaritans would add seven more to their ranks.²⁸ Walter Bray from Akron, whose story, THE BACK-SLIDER, appeared in the personal stories section of the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, was next. He had attempted suicide and found himself in Akron City Hospital. There he met the Prince of Twelfth Steppers.²⁹

* The stories of surrender for the early pioneers are well documented and should not require specific citation. Bill knelt at the altar at Calvary on December 7, 1934. Bob and the Akron Oxford Groupers prayed together on their knees for his release in April of 1935. For more information see the A.A. Conference Approved books, *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; *Pass It On*; and *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age* for numerous documented instances of the early surrenders.

"This doctor came and sat beside my bed. He tried to cheer me up about my future, pointed out I was still a young man with the world to lick and insisted that I could do it if I really wanted to stop drinking. Without telling me what it was, he said he had an answer to my problem and condition that really worked. Then he told me very simply the story of his own life, a life of generous tipping after professional hours for more than three decades until he had lost almost everything a man can lose, and how he had found and applied the remedy with complete success. He felt sure I could do the same. Day after day he called on me in the hospital and spent hours talking to me. He simply asked me to make a practical application of beliefs I already held theoretically but had forgotten all my life. I believed in a God who ruled the universe. The doctor submitted to me the idea of God as a father who would not willingly let any of his children perish and suggested that most, if not all of our troubles, come from being completely out of touch with the idea of God, with God Himself. All my life, he said, I had been doing things of my own human will as opposed to God's will and that the only certain way for me to stop drinking was to submit my will to God and let Him handle my difficulties.

I had never looked on my situation in that way, had always felt myself very remote indeed from a Supreme Being. "Doc," as I shall call him hereinafter, was pretty positive that God's law was the Law of Love and that all my resentful feelings which I had fed and cultivated with liquor were the result of either conscious or unconscious, it didn't matter which, disobedience to that law. Was I willing to submit my will? I said I would try to do so. While I was still at the hospital his visits were supplemented by visits from a young fellow who had been a heavy drinker for years but had run into "Doc" and had tried his remedy.

At that time, the ex-problem drinkers in this town, who have now grown to considerable proportions, numbered only Doc and two other fellows."³⁰

Walter speaks of the many visits he received while in the hospital from both Dr. Bob and Ernie. The statement by Walter that "Doc and two other fellows" were the only other ex-alcoholics at that time in Akron would confirm that Walter was the fourth Akronite to walk *The Golden Road of Devotion*.

The Amos Roster lists Walter Bray with 30 months dry time as opposed to Dr Bob's thirty three months, Bill Dotson's thirty two months and Ernie Galbraith's thirty one months. It seems Walter Bray is in a "dead heat" with Hank Parkhurst for the fifth and sixth places on our list. Walter's story in the Original Manuscript does indicate he slipped two years later which would likely have been about September or October of 1937, and that his slip lasted "months."

"Shamefaced as I was, I went back to the fellowship. They made me welcome, offered me collectively and individually all the help I might need. They treated me as though nothing had happened. " And I feel that it is the most telling tribute to the efficacy of this remedy that during my period of relapse I still knew this remedy would work with me if I would let it, but I was too stubborn to admit it. That was one year ago."³¹

The second of the "seven" the three men were to succeed with was Phil Smith. *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* indicates Phil came after Ernie and makes no mention of Walter Bray except for Sue Smith's recollection on p.106 of that book.³² This could be because Walter was one of the 1st edition big book story authors that didn't stay sober* and was more or less forgotten by many of the Akron Pioneers.³³ It appears as though it took several weeks for Phil to sober up once he connected with our friends. Soon after, he was sequestered to a "drying-out" place by Dr. Bob to avoid jail time. Apparently, most information regarding Phil's entry and early days on the Akron scene came from interviews with Ernie. Based on the information provided in *The Amos Roster* we now place Phil Smith in our seventh position.

About the same time Phil Smith in Akron was drying out, in New York "OUR SOUTHERN FRIEND", John Henry Fitzhugh Mayo, was being made ready for his journey on *The Golden Road of Devotion*.

"It is the last day of the following October, a dark, rainy morning. I come to in a pile of hay in a barn. I look for liquor and can't find any. I wander to a stable and drink five bottles of beer. I must get some liquor. Suddenly I feel hopeless, unable to go on. I go home. My wife is in the living room. She had looked for me last evening after I left the car and wandered off into the night. She had looked for me this morning. She has reached the end of her rope. There is no use trying any more, for there is nothing to try. "Don't say anything," I say to her. "I am going to do something. "I am in the hospital for alcoholics. I am an alcoholic."³⁴

Bill tells a part of Fitz's story in Original Manuscript of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

"One night, when confined in a hospital, he was approached by an alcoholic who had known a spiritual experience.** Our friend's gorge rose as he bitterly cried out: "If there is a God, He certainly hasn't done anything for me!" But later, alone in his room, he asked himself this question: "Is it possible that all the religious people I have known are wrong?" While pondering the answer he felt as though he lived in hell. Then, like a thunderbolt, a great thought came. It crowded out all else:

"WHO ARE YOU TO SAY THERE IS NO GOD?"

This man recounts that he tumbled out of bed to his knees. In a few seconds he was overwhelmed by a conviction of the Presence of God. It poured over and through him with the certainty and majesty of a great tide at flood. The barriers he had built through the years were swept away. He stood in the Presence of Infinite Power and Love. He had stepped from bridge to shore. For the first time, he lived in conscious companionship with his Creator.

* From unnumbered page preceding personal stories section *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 2nd Ed. @168. See Note 34. Walter is said to have slipped again in August of 1939. See *Language of the Heart*, p. 374

** Fitz was approached in the Towns Hospital by another alcoholic who was also resident in Towns and apparently back in the hospital after relapsing. This man was probably Silas Bent. Some historians have suggested it was Hank Parkhurst but there is no evidence to suggest Hank relapsed in his earliest days of sobriety.

Thus was our friend's cornerstone fixed in place. No later vicissitude has shaken it. His alcoholic problem was taken away. That very night, years ago, it disappeared. Save for a few brief moments of temptation the thought of drink has never returned; and at such times a great revulsion has risen up in him. Seemingly he could not drink even if he would. God had restored his sanity."³⁵

*"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;
the one who trusts will never be dismayed"*

There is one more alcoholic we should talk about prior to leaving 1935. Silas Bent was newspaper man and writer. Although we don't have a detailed reference to when he first sobered up, it is alluded to in *Lois Remembers* in her chronological recollections of 1935.³⁶ We know assumptions such as this have proved to be erroneous in the past. The following is brief Biography of Silas.

Silas Bent (1882-1945), American journalist, author, and lecturer, began newspaper work in 1900 in Louisville, Kentucky, on the *Louisville Herald*. After three years he moved to St. Louis and joined the staff of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as reporter and assistant editor. He was appointed assistant professor of theory and practice of journalism at the University of Missouri School of Journalism when the school was opened in 1908, but resigned that position in February 1909 to return to the Post-Dispatch. Later, he did publicity work in Chicago and then spent 13 years in New York City. As a freelance writer he contributed articles to *The New York Times*, *Harpers* and *The Atlantic* among others.

Bent's most famous work is *Ballyhoo* (1927), a critical survey of newspaper practices; he also wrote *Strange Bedfellows* (1929), a book on contemporary political leaders; a biography of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., and *Buchanan of the Press* (Vanguard Press, 1932), a novel about a reporter's career set in St. Louis. He is buried in Bowling Green, Kentucky.³⁷

Bill also mentions Silas to Dr. Bob in a letter written in the spring of 1938. It would appear that many of the later implemented ideas for publicity including the Saturday Evening Post article, would come from Silas in early 1938.

"Now about money matters. In the first place I am sure we could use quite a bit to carry on the general work for the next year. Situations are bound to arise which will need some under-pinning. Moreover, it is going to take time and money to get this book out and put into circulation. In this later connection we are told by Silas Bent that if we can produce a book as useful and as moving as the first two chapters suggest, it may have a very large sale. You will remember Silas an alcoholic we worked with out here. He is a star reporter and writer, and was at one time editor of the New York Times Sunday magazine. He thoroughly knows all the ropes we shall need, and offers his services as an editor or as a writer, if we so desire. He thinks that prior to publication of the book, articles based upon it should be published in the Reader's Digest, Saturday Evening Post, etc."³⁸

As we come to the close of 1935, we have substantiated at least eight if not nine recovered alcoholics. In the case of Silas Bent, it is possible he got sober in 1936, but surely he was among the First Forty whose noses were counted in the fall of 1937. So why does *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age* state on page 310 that there were only five recovered at the end of 1935? We can not say for sure but we do know that several of our first nine documented recoveries would later slip temporarily or relapse completely. Hank and Walter both had documented relapses and appear to have left the fellowship sometime after the publication of the first edition of the Big Book. Both Phil and Ernie would slip at some point around the time of the counting of noses. The long term success or failure of any of the early pioneers is not our current purpose nor is it under consideration here. Our only concern is to determine who were the noses that likely were counted that fall afternoon in Dr. Bob's living room. In any case, we cannot account for the discrepancy and might respectfully suggest the memory of those involved in the writing of the 1957 publication, *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age* had faded with time. Such is the dilemma many of will face as we try to accurately document the history of the early travelers on *The Golden Road of Devotion*.

AA #	NAME	SOB	FROM
1	Bill Wilson	Dec 34	NY
2	Bob Smith	May 35	Akron
3	Bill Dotson	June 35	Akron
4	Ernie Galbraith	July 35	Akron
5	Henry Parkhurst	Sept 35	NJ
6	Walter Bray	Sept 35	Akron
7	Phil Smith	Oct 35	Akron
8	John Mayo	Nov 35	MD
9	Silas Bent	Nov 35	CT

"When we drew near to Him He disclosed Himself to us"

The Golden Road in 1936

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths"

The third man that the original three in Akron would succeed with was Harold Grisinger. He is listed on the Amos Roster as having twenty-five months of dry time as of February 1938, placing his sober date on or about January of 1936. Harold is mentioned twice in the book *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* as being among the first converts who participated in the groups "twelfth-step procedure" commonly employed in Akron in the early days.³⁹

Also in January, we have the story of a man who would soon be set free by the Truth. The original three, Bob, Bill Dotson and Ernie, with the help now of Walter and Phil, would next begin "the work" with Paul Stanley. The Amos Roster lists Paul as having nineteen months of dry time. In Paul's Original Manuscript personal story he specifically dates his last drink as July 2, 1936. An excerpt of his story follows below.

"The Divine Comforter, in my experience, came in the guise of a former drinking companion whom I had assisted home on several occasions. Because of physical infirmities brought about by alcoholic excess, he had been unable to walk a distance of three blocks to his home unassisted, when I last saw him. Now he approached me, and to my amazement he was sober and appeared greatly improved in physical condition. He induced me to take a ride with him, and as we rode along told me of the marvelous thing that had come into his life. He had more than a practical idea of my difficulties, he also had a logical and practical idea as to how they might be overcome.

He started the conversation by explaining acute alcoholism and stated very bluntly that I was an alcoholic. This was news to me in spite of the fact that I had promised everybody East of the Mississippi, if they would take time to listen, that I was through with drink. At the time I made these promises, I honestly wanted to quit drinking, but for some unknown reason hadn't seemed able to. He told me why I failed.

He then suggested that I accompany him to a local doctor who had been helpful to him. It took forty-eight hours of persuasion and quite a few drinks to fortify myself, but I finally agreed to go. The doctor turned out to be one who had been an alcoholic himself, and in gratitude for the release he had found and because he understood the true meaning of the phrase "Brotherly Love" was spending a great portion of his time helping unfortunate individuals like myself.

With the help and advice of these two individuals and two or three associates, I was able, for the first time in two and a half years, to stay sober for six weeks, and then disastrously tried the beer experiment.

For some time I couldn't get hold of myself, but gradually came out of hiding and exposed myself again to this influence which had been so helpful."

"July 2, 1936, I again contacted the two individuals, and since that day I have never had a drink."⁴⁰

In Paul's story he mentions four or five men who helped him.

"With the help and advice of these two individuals and two or three associates, I was able, for the first time in two and a half years, to stay sober for six weeks,"

We can now suggest it was Phil Smith who first carried the message to Paul as both were in the insurance business and Phil would likely have been the drinking companion referred to in Paul's story.⁴¹ Paul tells of his initial dry time of six weeks which began in January of 1936,* the beer experiment, his relapse which lasted "for some time" and his subsequent return to the fold on July 2, 1936. The Amos Roster lists Paul with nineteen months of dry time which harmonizes with the account we have given.

The fifth man the original three would succeed with was Tom Lucas. Tom is listed on The Amos Roster as having seventeen months in February of 1938. Tom describes his first encounter with Dr. Bob in his personal story from the Original Manuscript draft, titled "MY WIFE AND I."

"I was pretty jittery when my wife opened the door to admit a tall, somewhat brusque professional man who, from his speech, was obviously an Easterner. I don't know what I had expected, but his salutation, designed to shake me up, I can now see, had almost the same effect as the hosing with cold water in a turkish bath.

"I hear you're another 'rummy,'" he said as he smiled and sat down beside me. I let him talk. Gradually he drew me out until what I did tell him gave him a picture of my experience. And then he put it to me plainly. "If you are perfectly sure that you want to quit drinking for good, if you are serious about it, if you don't merely wish to get well so that you can take up drinking again at some future date, you can be relieved," he said.

I told him that I had never wanted anything as much in my life as to be able to quit using liquor, and I meant every word of it.

"The first thing to do with your husband," he said, turning to my wife, "is to get him to a hospital and have him 'defogged.' I'll make the necessary arrangements. He didn't go into any further explanation, not even to my wife. That evening I was in a hospital bed. The next day the doctor called. He told me that several former alcoholics were now dry as a result of following a certain prescribed course of action and that some of them would be in to see me."

"There can be no better safeguard to sobriety than faith and trust in God. It can be cultivated through prayer and observing the happiness of those who live a blameless life"

* See DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers page 111. The date of January of 1936 is not cited. See Sources p.352.

My wife came to see me faithfully. She, too, had been learning, perhaps more quickly than I was doing, through talking with the doctor who by this time was getting down to brass tacks with me. My friend was the human agency employed by an all-wise Father to bring me into a pathway of life.

It is an easy matter to repeat and orally affirm a faith. Here were these men who visited me and they, like myself, had tried everything else and although it was plain to be seen none of them were perfect, they were living proof that the sincere attempt to follow the cardinal teaching of Jesus Christ was keeping them sober. If it could do that for others, I was resolved to try it, believing it could do something for me also.

I went home after four days, my mind clear, feeling much better physically and, what was more important, with something better than just will power to aid me. I got to know others of these alcoholics whose human center was my doctor. They came to our home. I met their wives and families. They invited my wife and myself to their homes. I learned that it would be well to begin the day with morning devotion which is the custom in our house now

I was almost a year when I began to get a little careless. One day I hoisted a few drinks, arriving home far from sober. My wife and I talked it over, both knowing it had happened because I had stopped following the plan. I acknowledge my fault to God and asked His help to keep to the course I had to follow.

Our home is a happy one. My children no longer hide when they see me coming. My business has improved. And-this is important-I try to do what I can for my fellow alcoholics. In our town there are some 70 of us, ready and willing to spend our time to show the way to sobriety and sanity to men who are like what we used to be."⁴²

Although we are listing Tom Lucas in February, he may have come into the fellowship earlier than that. Nancy Olson, in her biography of Tom Lucas, suggests it could have been as early as November of 1935.⁴³ We are reasonably sure that Tom would visit our next Akronite in the hospital (see the account of Joe Doppler) and that Tom was attending Oxford Group Meetings in June of 1936 along with several other "Good Oldtimers."⁴⁴

Like Dr. Bob, Ernie, Walter, Phil and Paul before him, Tom too would slip at one point in his early recovery.* Tom's story is interesting for his statement that there were now "some 70 of us" at the time his story was written for the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Joe Doppler would repeat this statement in his story.

Bill Wilson, when recounting the work to date in a letter to the Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation dated October 1, 1940 verifies these accounts.⁴⁵ The opening paragraphs of this letter would be added to the second printing of the 1st Edition big book on page 391 as "Now We are Two Thousand."

* Some A.A.s might take exception to our suggesting Dr. Bob slipped but Dr. Bob himself called his Atlantic City sojourn "a slip". See *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* p.109

“When this book appeared in April of last year there were approximately 100 A.A. members. Two thirds of them were at Akron, Ohio, or nearby communities in the northern part of that state. Most of the remainder were in or near New York City and a few others were scattered along the Atlantic Seaboard. The work had then been in existence over four years. It had been satisfactorily demonstrated that at least two out of three alcoholics who wished to get well could apparently do so, notwithstanding the fact that their chance of recovery upon any other medical or spiritual basis had been almost nil—a small percentage at best.”

Both Bill and Tom’s statements give us additional insight to the makeup of the early fellowship where the greater number of recoveries was occurring in Akron and Cleveland. Bill talks about the early Mid-West success rates in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age* and here again we find that more than two out of three of the first One Hundred Men and Women who had recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body experienced the Akron program of recovery.⁴⁶

*“my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation,
and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places”*

The next member added to the “drunk squad” of the Oxford Group in New York would be Myron Williams. The Spring of 1936 would find Myron, whose personal story “HINDSIGHT” appears in the first edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, joining with Bill, Hank and Fitz in the Eastern branch of the growing movement.

“A week later I found myself in the presence of the man whose address was in my pocket. His story was incredible. I couldn't believe it, but he had the proof. I met men whose stories convinced me that in the ranks of men who had been heavy drinkers I was an amateur and a sissy. What I heard was hard to believe but I wanted to believe it. What's more I wanted to try it and see if it wouldn't work for me.” “It worked, and is still working”⁴⁷

In his personal story Myron dates his entry into the fledgling fellowship and onto *The Golden Road* when he says:

“It has been three and a half years since I made that decision. Those years have been the happiest years of my life. The little girl, who was big enough to tell me the nasty truth when I needed it, is now my wife.”

“Three and half years” would date Myron’s entry into the fellowship in 1935 which we can not substantiate. Many of the big book story authors, or perhaps during final editing, appear to have “projected” the book publication date into their story. We have placed Myron in April of 1936 because of his listing on three other pioneer lists using this date as well as the biography completed by Nancy Olson.⁴⁸

The sixth Akron traveler on The Golden Road in 1936 was Joseph Doppler. Joe's story appeared in the Original Manuscript Draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and was "THE EUROPEAN DRINKER." Joe talks of meeting Dr. Bob and his longer talks about the Great Reality with Tom Lucas.

"Then occurred the event that saved me. An alcoholic came to see me who is a doctor. He didn't talk like a preacher at all. In fact his language was perfectly suited to my understanding. He had no desire to know anything except whether I was definite about my desire to quit drinking. I told him with all the sincerity at my command that I did. Even then he went into no great detail about how he and a crowd of alcoholics, with whom he associated, had mastered their difficulty. Instead he told me that some of them wanted to talk to me and would be over to see me.

This doctor had imparted his knowledge to just a few other men at that Time - not more than four or five - they now number more than seventy persons. And, because as I have discovered since, it is part of the "treatment" that these men be sent to see and talk with alcoholics who want to quit, he kept them busy."

"The visits from these men impressed me at once. Where preaching and prayers had touched me very little, I was immediately impressed with desire for further knowledge of these men. "There must be something to it," I said to myself. "Why would these busy men take the time to come to see me? They understand my problem. Like me, they've tried this remedy and that remedy but never found one that worked. But whatever it is they are using now, it seems to keep them sober."

Certainly I could see they were sober. The third man who came to see me had been one of the greatest business-getters his company had ever employed. From the top of the heap in a few years he had skidded to becoming a shuffling customer, still entering the better barrooms but welcomed by neither mine host nor his patrons. His own business was practically gone, he told me, when he discovered the answer.

"You've been trying man's ways and they always fail," he told me. "You can't win unless you try God's way."

"He went on talking and told me that he had found the plan has a basis of love and the practice of Christ's injunction, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Taking that as a foundation, he reasoned that if a man followed that rule he could not be selfish. I could see that. And he further said that God could not accept me as a sincere follower of His Divine Law unless I was ready to be thoroughly honest about it. "

"We talked things over a long time. I saw readily that I couldn't afford to quibble. I already believed in God, had always done so. Was ready to give my will to Him. That's what it came to. That day I gave my will to God and asked to be directed.

"Agree with God and be at peace, in this way good will come to you"

But I have never thought of that as something to do and then forget about. I very early came to see that there had to be a continual renewal of that simple deal with God; that I had perpetually to keep the bargain. So I began to pray; to place my problems in God's hands.

For a long time I kept on trying, in a pretty dumb way at first, I know, but very earnestly. I didn't want to be a fake. And I began putting in practice what I was learning every day. It wasn't very long until my doctor friend sent me to tell another alcoholic what my experience had been. This duty together with my weekly meetings with my fellow alcoholics and my daily renewal of the contract I originally made with God have kept me sober when nothing else ever did.

I have been sober for three years now. The first few months were hard. Many things happened; business trials, little worries, and feelings of general despondency came near driving me to the bottle, but I made progress. As I go along I seem to get strength daily to be able to resist more easily. And when I get upset, cross-grained and out of tune with my fellow man I know that I am out of tune with God. Searching where I have been at fault, it is not hard to discover and get right again, for I have proven to myself and to many others who know me that God can keep a man sober if he will let Him.”⁴⁹

In the last paragraph quoted, Joe says he's been sober for three years now. Like Myron, he appears to be slightly ahead of himself and may be projecting into the future to the expected publication of the book in the spring or summer of 1939. Bob lists Joe with fifteen months of dry time as of February of 1938; this would seem to indicate a “slip” for Joe although there is no such indication in his story. We can not explain the conflict but we do have Dr. Bob's hand written roster in 1938 and the stories of the nine Akronites who preceded him to help determine the order of the First Forty.

The seventh man to step onto The Golden Road would be Robert Oviatt.* Bob's story “THE SALESMAN” appeared in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Bob first met our friends and was introduced to The Solution in the spring 1936 but wasn't ready for it. His story reveals how his mother had heard of Dr. Bob, the success he was having with drunks, and how he had decided to go and meet with him. Oviatt met Doc and attended his first meeting but “didn't care for anything religious.”

Bob O. could see however, the solution working for the men he had met, but just couldn't find his place among them. John Barleycorn would prove to be the great persuader.

* Bob Oviatt has been often misidentified as Bob G., or Bob Guilatt. See People in AA History, <http://www.aahistory.com/aa/people.html>; or First Edition Authors www.barefootsworld.net

"Some six months later, after a terrific binge, in a maudlin and helpless state, I made my way to the doctor's home. He gave me medical treatment and had me taken to the home of one of my relatives. I told him I had come to the point where I was ready for the remedy, the only remedy. He sent two of the members to see me. They were both kindly to me, told me what they had gone through and how they had overcome their fight with liquor. They made it very plain that I had to seek God, that I had to state my case to Him and ask for help. Prayer was something I had long forgotten. I think my first sincere utterance must have sounded pretty weak. I didn't experience any sudden change, and the desire for liquor wasn't taken away overnight, but I began to enjoy meeting these people and began to exchange the liquor habit for something that has helped me in every way. Every morning I read a part of the Bible and ask God to carry me through the day safely."

"I've been sober two years, kept that way by submitting my natural will to the Higher Power and that is all there is to it. That submission wasn't just a single act, however. It became a daily duty; it had to be that. Daily I am renewed in strength and I have never come to the point where I have wanted to say, "Thanks, God, I think I can paddle my own canoe now," for which I am thankful."⁵⁰

Robert Oviatt finally sobered up in December of 36 according to The Amos Roster where Dr. Bob lists him with fourteen months of dry time.

*"We have no desire to convince anyone that there is only one way
by which faith can be acquired"*

The next name we will provide is a name previously undisclosed in A.A. literature but not unknown to the serious A.A. historian. He is Harry Latta, a Test Car Driver who is listed on The Amos Roster as having 19 months. The absence of his name from *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* makes us quite curious as to his origins. It is possible that Harry was only an "Oxford Grouper" but then all of our numbers were only Oxford Groupers at that time. A careful search of available records turns up Harry once again on what has come to be known as the Akron 226 List⁵¹ or the Cleveland 220 List.⁵²

These two lists, which have been circulated among A.A. historians and on the Internet, are identical. Their origin is not presently known to us. Both list Harry's home address as San Antonio, TX. It could be that Harry left Akron after sobering up and would be forgotten by many of the Akron Pioneers over time. Since Harry is remembered by Dr. Bob in the writing of The Amos Roster he must be included in the Counting of Noses.

*"Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always
one condition present; they forgot where they came from"*

* The Cleveland 220 List (First 220 AA Members) is included in its entirety as Appendix VI

Our last Devotee for 1936 would be James D. Holmes. J. D. H. is mentioned several times in *DR. BOB and the Good Old Timers*. J.D. came into the First Century Christian Fellowship in September of 1936 but slipped after several months.⁵³ The duration of his “slip” is not disclosed but Dr. Bob does list his length of “dry time” on The Amos Roster at 10 months, which is telling. We do know that “a slip” as defined by our boys can last at least “seven months” according to Ernie’s story.⁵⁴ It would appear that J.D. slipped on or before the year’s end and then made it back after four months or so.

The following is a short history of J.D. Holmes that is consistent with the details found in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*.

The man who started A.A. in Indiana was a man named James D. "J. D." Holmes. He was one of the original Akron A.A. group. He got sober in September 1936: if we count Bill W. and Dr. Bob as numbers one and two, J. D. was A.A. number ten. On May 30, 1938, he and his wife Rhoda moved to Evansville, Indiana, which is in the extreme southwestern part of the state, on the banks of the Ohio River. He was unable to get any other alcoholics in Evansville to join him until the Big Book was published in 1939. Dr. Bob sent him a copy of the Big Book the minute it came off the press, and with this new aid, he was able to reach out to a local surgeon, Dr. Joe Welborn, after Dr. Joe's drinking finally landed him in the county jail in April of 1940. Dr. Joe brought in other alcoholics who were patients of his, and the first A.A. group in Indiana met on Tuesday evening, April 23, 1940, in J. D. and Rhoda's home at 420 S. Denby St. in Evansville.⁵⁵

We now have our third historical conflict to discuss. As cited earlier, in the Original Manuscript Draft of Chapter Eleven, “A VISION FOR YOU”, on page 73, Bill states:

“A year and six months later these three succeeded with seven more”

DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers seems to conflict with Bill’s account from the Original Manuscript draft. The author of *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* states on page 108 of that text:

“In February of 1937, another count was taken and there were seven additional members in Akron for a total of 12.”*

We assume the author of *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* was saying there are now 12 members in Akron which would conflict with the count (three plus seven) given by Bill in A VISION FOR YOU. If saying there are now twelve in total it conflicts with *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age* where on page 310 Dr. Tiebout writes that at the end of 1936 there were 15 recoveries. The count as taken in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* would have to be considered accurate; there are now twelve members in Akron prior to the addition of Rob Evans.

* Cf. the source for this statement is not referenced in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* (see p. 352, 108, 17-18 not cited). We believe Bill was referring to the end of 1936 when he stated in “A VISION FOR YOU” that “a year and six months later these three succeeded with seven more”

We count seventeen converts, walking in the Sun Light of the Spirit,
The Golden Road of Devotion at the close of 1936.

AA #	NAME	SOB	FROM
1	Bill Wilson	Dec 34	NY
2	Bob Smith	May 35	Akron
3	Bill Dotson	June 35	Akron
4	Ernie Galbraith	July 35	Akron
5	Henry Parkhurst	Sept 35	NJ
6	Walter Bray	Sept 35	Akron
7	Phil Smith	Oct 35	Akron
8	John Mayo	Nov 35	MD
9	Silas Bent	Nov 35	CT
10	Harold Grisinger	Jan 36	Akron
11	Paul Stanley	Jan 36	Akron
12	Tom Lucas	Feb 36	Akron
13	Myron Williams	Apr 36	NY
14	Joseph Doppler	Apr 36	Cleveland
15	Robert Oviatt	June 36	Cleveland
16	Harry Latta	July 36	Akron
17	James Holmes	Sept 36	Akron

*“But it is only a religious force which, in the twinkling of an eye,
can so alter the character of a man that he not only then and there escapes
and stands utterly free from tyrannical passions,
but is filled full of a great enthusiasm,
desires to spend his whole life in working for righteousness,
and feels as if he had fed on honey-dew and drunk the milk of Paradise”*

The Golden Road in 1937

"Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path"

In January of 1937, there would be two additions to the Akron Contingent. Alfred Smith and Alvin Borden would both step onto The Golden Road. Unfortunately, there is no previously written history in any of the A.A. literature about Al Smith or Alvin Borden. Both names can be found on the Cleveland 220 List which is included as Appendix IV in the back of this book. Borden's name is misspelled as "Bearden" on the Cleveland List. Below is short biography of Alvin.

Alvin D. Borden, b. 12 Aug 1885 - Ohio, Holmes co, d.21 Apr 1968 - Akron, Summit co., Residence at death: Cuyahoga Falls, Summit co., Ohio, United States. Cost accountant working for B F Goodrich in Akron in 1942, living at 536 Grove Street.

We are quite sure, having found these men on both The Amos Roster and the Cleveland/Akron List that they should rightly take their place along side their fellow servants on *The Golden Road of Devotion*. We trust that more will be revealed.

We can now add another Akron Physician to our list, Dr. Howard Searl. We read about the good Doctor in Frank Amos' report to Willard Richardson.

"General practitioner at Cuyahoga Falls aged about 35. Searl had been an alcoholic and had been cured by Smith and his friends' activity and the Christian technique prescribed. Searl said that Smith stood at the top of his profession. He said Smith was the keystone of the alcoholic reform movement there and that something must be done to help him so he could regain more of his remunerative practice and still give much of his time to this work. At present his work with alcoholics was taking an average of 10 hours a day. Searl thought Smith should head a small hospital for this purpose."

Dr. Searl's sobriety date and length of sober time will prove to be illusive. We will return to his story when we discuss another newcomer the Doctor would help.

Our next devotee came from Hackettstown, NJ and is William Ruddell. Bill was to be the first Class "B" Trustee Chairman of the Alcoholic Foundation upon its formation in 1938. Ruddell, like Hank, was a one time employee of Standard Oil. He had tried many a geographical cure including work in the oil fields in Maracaibo, Venezuela. He was able to stay dry for a period of time when he got married but soon returned to drinking with worsening consequences. Finally, Bill returned to the Towns to talk with Dr. Silkworth.

Ruddell's story, "A BUSINESS MAN'S RECOVERY", is found in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

"He told me everything had been done for me that was medically possible but that unless I decided to quit I was licked. "But doctor," I said, "I have decided time and time again to quit drinking and I was sincere each time, but each time I slipped again and each time it got worse." The doctor smiled and said, "Yes, yes, I've heard that story hundreds of times. You really never made a decision, you just made declarations.* You've got to decide and if you really want to quit drinking I know of some fellows who can help you. Would you like to meet them?"

Would a condemned man like a reprieve? Of course I wanted to meet them. I was so scared and so desperate that I was willing to try anything. Thus it was that I met that band of life-savers, Alcoholics Anonymous.

The first thing Bill told me was his own story, which paralleled mine in most respects, and then said that for three years he had had no trouble. It was plain to see that he was a supremely happy man-that he possessed a happiness and peacefulness I had for years envied in men.

What he told me made sense because I knew that everything that I, my wife, my family and my friends had tried had failed. I had always believed in God even though I was not a devout church-goer. Many times in my life I had prayed for the things I wanted God to do for me, but it had never occurred to me that He, in His Infinite Wisdom knew much better than I what I should have, and be, and do, and that if I simply turned the decision over to Him, I would be led along the right path.

At the conclusion of our first interview, Bill suggested that I think it over and come back to see him within a few days if I was interested. Fully realizing the utter futility with which my own efforts had met in the past, and somehow or other sensing that delay might be dangerous, I was back to see him the next day.

At first it seemed a wild, crazy idea to me, but because of the fact that everything else I had tried had failed, because everything seemed so hopeless, and because it worked with these fellows who all had been through the same hell that I had been through, I was willing, at least, to have a try.

To my utter astonishment, when I did give their method a fair trial, it not only worked, but was so amazingly easy and simple that I said to them

"Where have you been all my life?"

That was in February, 1937, and life took on an entirely different meaning. It was plain to see that my wife was radiantly happy. All of the differences that we seemed to have been having, all of the tenseness, the worry, confusion, the hectic days and nights that my drinking had poured into our life together, vanished.

"There was peace. There was real love. There was kindness and consideration. There was everything that goes into the fabric of a happy normal existence together."⁵⁵

* See Reclamation of the Alcoholic, Silkworth, W.D., Medical Record, April 21, 1937

Bill's story as written aids us greatly as he dates his entry into the fledgling society as February of 1937. Lois recalled meeting Bill and his wife Kathleen at the Sunday Night Oxford Group meeting at Calvary on February 28, 1937.⁵⁶ At some point prior to February of 1939 he would "slip" briefly which necessitated his resignation as the first chairman of the Alcoholic Foundation.

Before we return to Akron for our next two stories I wish to take a moment to talk about three New Jerseyites who would become a part of the New York Group but would have their problems achieving sobriety in 1937. In *Lois Remembers*, Lois Wilson talks about some of the earliest visitors to their home on Clinton Street.

"Bill R. a new prospect brought his nonalcoholic wife Kathleen with him. Ernest M., his buddy Herb D., and Herb's wife Margaret came to Brooklyn from New Jersey before meetings were started in that state."⁵⁷

"Bill R." and his "nonalcoholic wife Kathleen" are in fact William and Kathleen Ruddell from Hackettstown, NJ. "Ernest M." is Ernest MacKenzie (Mac) from Westwood, NJ. Mac is mentioned twice in the A.A. history book, *Pass It On*, on pages 162 and 227-228. "Herb D." is Herbert Debevoise from South Orange, NJ. Some pioneer lists we have seen, incorrectly list these three men from New Jersey as "failures" in 1935.⁵⁸ These assumptions are incorrect. We have previously detailed Bill Ruddell's history and his rightful place among the First Forty and will now document that both Ernest and Herb would later achieve sobriety. Mac is listed as one of the founding members of the Bergen County Group on July 29, 1941 and was still plugging away, chairing business meetings in Manhattan in 1944.⁵⁹

"We go to press before a report can be given on the last business meeting held at the 24th Street clubhouse in late October. But at the previous turbulent meeting in September it was voted that three committees should be formed, participants to be chosen by Chairman Ernest M."⁶⁰

Herbert Debevoise is listed as the group Secretary of the New Jersey Group of A.A. in December of 1941 and as an Intergroup Legislative Committee Member in 1946.⁶¹ Additionally, numerous comments were attributed to "Debevoise" in the printer's copy of the Original Manuscript of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.⁶² It was at Herb's South Orange home that the earliest meetings of A.A. in NJ were held in the summer of 1939. Both Ernest and Herb are listed on the January 1, 1940 survey taken of the New Jersey Group in preparation for the Rockefeller dinner of February of that year. This survey lists both men with nine months and numerous slips. We suspect that both men, who originally came on the scene in late 1936 or early 1937,* went back out, only to return in early 1939. For this reason we can not include them among the First Forty but do include them on our "One Hundred List."

* Lois's diary entry for January 19, 1937 indicates that she and Bill spent the night at the Debevoise's South Orange home before leaving the next day to visit Fitz and his wife Elizabeth in Maryland.

But Bill and Bob would have counted another relatively unknown New Jersey member named Douglas Delanoy. Douglas is also listed on the January 1, 1940 survey of the New Jersey Group as having three years along with Ruddell.

The survey indicates he has had several slips but is making “some progress.” We can trace Douglas’s early path and find several instances where it might have crossed with Bill Wilson’s. Douglas, like Bill, attended the officer’s training camp in Plattsburg, NY in 1917.

Similar to Bill, he was an officer (Captain) in an artillery unit in WWI. Douglas was assigned to the 305th Field Artillery and was wounded in France.

During the time that Douglas was active in A.A., he was living in Plainfield, New Jersey. Douglas likely would have been a part of the original group that was attending Oxford Group meetings and the weekly gatherings on Clinton Street that included Hank Parkhurst, John (Fitzhugh) Mayo, Myron Williams and William Ruddell. Curiously, Lois doesn’t mention him in her book.

Not much more is known about Douglas at the present. He apparently had a successful career as a securities analyst with Merrill Lynch (another common point with Bill) which may or may not be indicative of long-term sobriety.

Douglas is signature number 32 in the first big book ever sold belonging to Virginia MacLeod and now housed in the GSO archives.⁶³

We return to Akron to find Bob Evans. According to The Amos Roster, Bob had been dry sixteen months, dating his entry as October of 1936. Bob was a wealthy banker and is mentioned extensively in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*.⁶⁴ Bob seems to vividly recall his entry in the fellowship, according to his taped or transcribed interview that the author of *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* refers to, as February of 1937.⁶⁵ The difference between the two accounts, Evans’ and Dr. Bob’s, as to when Bob Evans arrived on the scene is frustrating and certainly leaves us with yet another unanswered question.

DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers states that “Bob E.” (Robert Evans) came into AA in February of 1937.⁶⁶ Unfortunately, this statement is not given a reference source⁶⁷, although later it is referenced to the 1954 recording or transcript frequently cited and appears to be the recollections of Bob Evans himself.⁶⁸ For now we will defer to *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* and place Bob Evans on our list in 1937.

It is our position, that The Amos Roster as now introduced, is the most accurate source of information now available on the early Akron members. Being written by Dr. Bob in or before February of 1938, should rightly be considered more authoritative than sources previously used including the memory of various individuals who were sources for, or the authors of, *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age*, *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* and *Pass It On*.

It is also interesting to note that The Amos Roster, as we have named it, or Dr. Bob's list is not referenced in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*, leading this writer to believe that the document (The Amos Roster) was not known or made available to its author.⁶⁹ We will explain in Chapter V the reason for the subtle differences in The Rockefeller Report included as Appendix I and the version discussed and quoted in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*.

"The least initial deviation from the truth is multiplied later a thousand fold"

Our next Akronite is another relatively unknown named Frank Curtis. Dr. Bob identifies Frank as a Warehouse Manager with thirteen months. At this point we will now introduce another pioneer list named "PIONEERS BY DATE OF SOBRIETY."* Its authorship is also unknown to us and we can see obvious errors on this list as well as entries that appear to be quite correct. Such is the state of A.A. history as it relates to the pioneers in question. We can see that Frank Curtis is listed as number 36 on this list which we now include as Appendix VII.

There has long been debate whether or not Florence Rankin was the first woman to achieve sobriety or if it was the Cleveland housewife, Jane S (Jennie). According to Dr. Bob's list, Jane Sturdevant was dry twelve months at the time he produced the roster of members for Frank Amos in early February of 1938. This would have preceded the oft quoted (but incorrect) "March" appearance of Florence by just a few weeks. Jane has been misidentified among A.A. historians as "Jane Sturden" which we attribute to the incorrect version of her last name on the "Pioneers" list which we have included as Appendix VII, "Pioneers"

Jane is mentioned twice in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*. Bob Evans recalls Jane coming to Akron in February of 37 from Cleveland for the weekly "Oxford Group" meeting at T. Henry and Clarace Williams Palisades Drive home. By Dr. Bob's assessment, Jane stayed sober longer than just "a few months."⁷⁰ Our research found that Jane's husband Orlyn was an engineer with a Cleveland Steel Mill, similar to the account we find in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*.⁷¹

So Jane Sturdevant becomes the first woman** to walk *The Golden Road*

"Since the life which seeks to be an experience of God, the "surrendered life" as it may be called, is one perpetual exercise in surrender, it is supremely the life of courage, of constantly casting away all security, of cutting one's moorings, of adventure and exploration. Regarded as action, it is summed up in absolute courage more than in any of the other absolutes"

* See Appendix VII, "PIONEERS BY DATE OF SOBRIETY"

** We acknowledge the legendary and humorous story of "Victor and Lil"; See *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*, pages 97-99. At the time, it would appear that "Lil's" intentions were not entirely "spiritual."

Our next Akronite was truly meant to “walk” *The Golden Road* since his reputation as “THE CAR SMASHER” is now well known. Richard Stanley, Paul’s brother, becomes the twenty-fourth on our list. Dick dates his entrance on the scene as March of 1937.

“DURING the first week of March, 1937, through the grace of God, I ended 20 years of a life made practically useless because I could not do two things. First, I was unable to not take a drink. Second, I was unable to take a drink without getting drunk. Perhaps a third as important as the other two should be added; my being unwilling to admit either of the first two.”⁷²

Also in March of 1937 Harry Zollars would achieve sobriety. Harry may have come into contact with some of our friends a month or two earlier but didn’t meet Dr. Bob until March of 1937. His personal story “A CLOSE SHAVE” can be found in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

“I finally secured a job in a shop in a town of about 4,500 people, where I now live. My reputation for drinking soon became more or less generally known. About this time a deacon and the pastor of one of the local churches used to come in the shop for their work and were constantly inviting me to church and Bible classes, which invitations irritated me very much. I earnestly wished they would mind their own business.

I finally did accept one or two invitations to social functions at the home of one of these men, and was received so cordially that the barrier between us was partially lowered.

I did not stop drinking however, though my feeling toward these men was kindly. They at last persuaded me to go to a nearby town to have a talk with a doctor who had had a great deal of experience with this type of trouble. I listened to the man for two hours, and although my mind was quite foggy, I retained a good deal of what he said. I feel that the combined effort of these three Christian gentlemen made it possible for me to have a vital spiritual experience. This occurred in March, 1937. I have had no trouble since.”⁷³

Several web sites have mistakenly connected Harry Zollars, the Orrville Barber with Henry J. Zoeller a Class “B” Trustee who served in the mid 1950s.*

Harry D. Zollars b. 1890 d. December 10, 1960 Orrville, Ohio⁷⁴

Harry D. Zollars, whose birth year matches our friend Harry’s in the Big Book, was from Orrville, Ohio (just outside of Akron). He is listed on the First 226 Members Akron, OH AA Group with an Orrville address (Orville {sic} Barber Shop) although the spelling of his name on this list (as well as the names of several others) is incorrect. (See Appendix VI. “FIRST 220 MEMBERS OF A.A.”)

*“No man can sound the depths of his own natural peace,
or rise to the heights of his own natural bliss,
who is not conscious of the presence and the companionship of God”*

* Cf. (http://akronaaarchives.org/history/20henryJ_story.htm).

In April of 1937 we find two more Akronites walking along *The Golden Road of Devotion*. Harlan Spencer and Wallace Gillam joined our travelers and are each listed on The Amos Roster with ten months. Wallace (Wally G.) is mentioned in A.A. literature but Harlan is not. You will find Harlan's name on all the pioneer lists we've researched, which are included as appendixes, as well as The Amos Roster. We have reason to believe that Harlan was a "sponsee" of Joe Doppler. Wally's story "FIRED AGAIN" appears in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* on page 69.

"So it went until about a year ago when a neighbor happened to hear me trying to get into the house and asked my wife whether I had been having some drinking difficulties. This, of course, disturbed my wife but our neighbor was not just inquisitive. She had heard of the work of a non-drinking doctor who was busily engaged in passing on the benefits he had received from another who had found the answer to his difficulties with liquor. As a result of this my wife saw the doctor. Then I talked with him, spent a few days in a local hospital and haven't had a drink since.

While in the hospital about twenty men called on me and told me of their experiences and the help they had received. Of the twenty I happened to know five, three of whom I had never seen completely sober. I became convinced then and there that if these men had learned something that could keep them sober, I also could profit from the same knowledge. Before leaving the hospital, two of these men, convinced of my sincerity of purpose, imparted to me the necessary knowledge and mental tools which have resulted in my complete sobriety for thirteen months, and an assurance that I need never, so long as I live, drink anything of an alcoholic nature if I kept on the right track."⁷⁵

June of 37 would see four more join the Midwest "clandestine lodge of the Oxford Group."* Lloyd Tate and William Jones were both from Cleveland and are mentioned frequently in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*.⁷⁶ Lloyd's personal story "THE ROLLING STONE" appeared in the 1st Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

"For a few months I was successful in discontinuing drinking. Then all of a sudden I fell again. I lost my position and thought I was through. When I was told of a doctor who had been successful in overcoming alcohol and was asked to go and see him in a nearby city, I consented but with a feeling that it was just another cure. From him and a number of other men, however, I found it was possible to become a man again. He suggested my entrance into a hospital to clear my mind and build me up. Meals had become a thing of the past for me. I had lost all appetite for food but forced myself to eat a little to survive.

This doctor told me that unless I was sincere in wanting to quit drinking, I would be wasting his time and mine and also money in doing this. My answer was I would try anything that would release me.

* Annabelle Gillam's (Wally's wife) description of the Akron Fellowship. See *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*, p. 121

I went into the hospital and started to build my body up again through proper nourishment, and my mind through a different method than I had ever known of. A religious awakening was conveyed to me through some unseen force. I at one time would have laughed at such a possibility because I had tried it and failed because I had not applied it properly. I, at last, was shown the way by these men to whom I am now most grateful.

I am now 50 years old, unmarried, have become sane and sensible again, have made my mother happy and brought back those who were dear to me, have made many new friends, mix where I never mixed before, received back my old position.

I have the respect of my fellow men and have learned how to actually live and really enjoy life. It has been nearly a year and a half since I have found this new life and I know as long as I do the few things that God requires me to do, I never will take another drink."⁷⁷

Lloyd would later be called on to help a Clevelander named Clarence Snyder, who is not counted among our First Forty, but would become well known for his tireless efforts in organizing A.A. in Cleveland.

Bill Jones, another Clevelander, proved to be an early casualty and was rescued by Harold Grisinger after a relapse in Cincinnati according to the 1954 recollections of Bob Evans.⁷⁸

Bill J. is mentioned frequently in *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers* but is curiously absent from the Cleveland 220 list. If this list is true to form, we can assume that Bill Jones did not stay sober and was dropped from the list or forgotten as appears to be the case with Walter Bray, Phil Smith, Harold Grisinger and Frank Curtis.

Chester Parke and Lawrence Patton can not be found anywhere in A.A. literature other than Dr. Bob's list to Frank Amos. A well known archivist in Akron suggested that these two were "Oxford Groupers" who never really joined our devotees and may have continued the journey on another path. This may also apply to Frank Curtis. We may never know for sure.

After adding the last ten names from Akron and Cleveland we return to the Eastern City of Roselle Park, New Jersey. Here in July of 1937 we find Paul Kellogg.

Lois's diary entry for July 28, 1937 indicates she had supper at the Kellogg's and then returned home to find that Oscar* had gotten a job on a boat and would be leaving soon.⁷⁹

"We cannot really make ourselves known to others until we have been introduced to ourselves"

* Oscar Vieths was one of the many drunks who took up residence at the Wilson's Clinton Street home during the years 1936 and 1937. According to Russ Rathbone none of them achieved any appreciable sober time during that period and are not included in *The First Forty*. (See *Pass It On* pages 166-167)

The survey of the New Jersey Group of A.A. completed on January 1, 1940 lists Paul Kellogg with three years of sobriety and no slips.⁸⁰ We will hear more about Paul when we learn the account of another "First Forty" from New Jersey.

Our next two converts would come from the Midwest. Earl Treat and William Van Horn would both join sometime during the period of July or August of 1937. Bill V.H. was from nearby Kent, Ohio and his personal story "A WARD OF THE PROBATE COURT" appeared in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. He tells the story of meeting the good Doctor and hearing The Solution from the devotees who came to see him in the hospital.

"In a few months an old friend came along. He located me a few times in saloons. We had been drinking pals in the early days, particularly at the club houses. He had heard of my predicament. He himself had quit drinking and looked fine. He encouraged me to visit him in a nearby city.

I wanted to quit drinking, but hadn't much faith in ever getting away from it. I agreed to go into a hospital as the patient of a doctor who had been an alcoholic for many years and was now a new man.

It is almost uncanny - in just eight days I left there a different person. This doctor in plain words was a wonderful guy-he spent many hours with me telling me his experience with alcohol. Others of his band, which was then small, visited me-told me their stories. They were all strangers to me, but treated me as a friend. I was impressed with their interest and fellowship. I learned the secret. They had a religious experience. I was willing, and renewed my acquaintance with God and acknowledged Him as a reality.

I found it easy. I came to life and have been free now for two years. I hope never to take another drink. I am building up a reputation again and nearly every day am complimented on my appearance."⁸¹

Earl Treat, whose story appeared in the 2nd Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, first had the opportunity to meet the sober Akronites in January of 1937 but declined. According to The Amos Roster it was July when he finally accepted his father's advice. His personal story "HE SOLD HIMSELF SHORT" tells of returning to Akron to meet Dr. Howard Searl who gives Earl his first look at the Life Changing Program. He would meet several other Akronites over the next few days, hear "The Good News" and was finally taken to his first meeting after a "thorough indoctrination." He tells of staying in Akron for several weeks and of Dr. Bob taking him through the "six step program as it was at that time" in a single afternoon.⁸² Earl would briefly slip several months later and then remain sober thereafter. The account of his slip can be found in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* in Chapter 9 "THE FAMILY AFTERWARD"

*"And yet religion is not only a part of life, it is life itself
In the depth of our being we are God-conscious."*

"Here is a case in point: One of our friends is a heavy smoker and coffee drinker. There was no doubt he over-indulged. Seeing this, and meaning to be helpful, his wife commenced to admonish him about it. He admitted he was overdoing these things, but frankly said that he was not ready to stop. His wife is one of those persons who really feel there is something rather sinful about these commodities, so she nagged, and her intolerance finally threw him into a fit of anger. He got drunk. Of course our friend was wrong - dead wrong.

He had to painfully admit that and mend his spiritual fences. Though he is now a most effective member of Alcoholics Anonymous, he still smokes cigarettes and drinks coffee, but neither his wife nor anyone else stands in judgment. She sees she was wrong to make a burning issue out of such a matter when his more serious ailments were being rapidly cured."⁸³

Earl Treat is credited with starting A.A. in Chicago and with urging Bill Wilson to write what would become the "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future," published in the April 1946 Grapevine. These "points" would later become the Long Form of the Twelve Traditions.

In September of 1937, back in the Eastern City, we find "A FEMININE VICTORY" in Florence Rankin.⁸⁴ Florence hailed from Westfield, NJ and was the second woman to be counted among The First Forty. In her personal story in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Florence tells of Lois Wilson coming to see her in Bellevue Hospital and then taking her home to hear from Bill about the Power greater than human power.

"It was there that L--- came to me. I had known her very slightly ten years before. My ex-husband brought her to me hoping that she could help. She did. From the hospital I went home with her.

There, her husband told me the secret of his rebirth. It is not really a secret at all, but something free and open to all of us. He asked me if I believed in God or some power greater than myself. Well, I did believe in God, but at that time I hadn't any idea what He is. As a child I had been taught my "Now I lay me's" and "Our Father which art in Heaven." I had been sent to Sunday School and taken to church. I had been baptized and confirmed. I had been taught to realize there is a God and to "love" him. But though I had been taught all these things, I had never learned them.

When B-- (L's husband) began to talk about God, I felt pretty low in my mind. I thought God was something that I, and lots of other people like me, had to worry along without. Yet I had always had the "prayer habit." In fact I used to say in my mind "Now, if God answers this prayer, I'll know there is a God." It was a great system, only somehow it didn't seem to work!

Finally B-- put it to me this way: "You admit you've made a mess of things trying to run them your way, are you willing to give up? Are you willing to say: "Here it is God, all mixed up. I don't know how to un-mix it, I'll leave it to you." Well, I couldn't quite do that. I wasn't feeling very well, and I was afraid that later when

the fog wore off, I'd want to back out. So we let it rest a few days. L and B sent me to stay with some friends of theirs out of town-I'd never seen them before. The man of that house, P-- had given up drinking three months before. After I had been there a few days, I saw that P-- and his wife had something that made them mighty hopeful and happy. But I got a little uneasy going into a perfect stranger's home and staying day after day. I said this to P-- and his reply was: "Why, you don't know how much it is helping me to have you here." Was that a surprise! Always before that when I was recovering from a tailspin I'd been just a pain in the neck to everyone. So, I began to sense in a small way just what these spiritual principles were all about."⁸⁵

Florence speaks of her stay with Paul and Gussie Kellogg in Roselle, NJ. Soon after, Florence began helping Ruth Hock care for her young son in New Jersey.⁸⁶ We can deduce from her story it was while working at Ruth's that she first slipped.

"Finally I very self-consciously and briefly asked God to show me how to do what He wanted me to do. My prayer was just about as weak and helpless a thing as one could imagine, but it taught me how to open my mouth and pray earnestly and sincerely. However, I had not quite made the grade. I was full of fears, shames, and other "bug-a-boos" and two weeks later an incident occurred that put me on the toboggan again. I seemed to feel that the hurt of that incident was too great to endure without some "release." So I forsook Spirit in favor of "spirits" and that evening I was well on the way to a long session with my old enemy "liquor." I begged the person in whose home I was living not to let anyone know, but she, having good sense, got in touch right away with those who had helped me before and very shortly they had rallied round."⁸⁷

Once again the Wilson's and the NY crowd would help Florence back onto *The Golden Road* but her recovery would prove to be fleeting.

"It might be very grand to be able to say "Finis" right here, but I see now I hadn't gone all the way I was intended to go. I was still coddling and nursing my two pets, self-pity and resentment. Naturally, I came a cropper once more. This time I went to the telephone (after I had taken about two drinks) and called L to tell her what I had done. She asked me to promise that I would not take another drink before someone came to me. Well, I had learned enough about truthfulness to refuse to give that promise. Had I been living after the old pattern, I would have been ashamed to call for help. In fact I should not have wanted help. I should have tried to hide the fact that I was drinking and continued until I again wound up behind the "eight ball." I was taken back to B's home where I stayed for three weeks. The drinking ended the morning after I got there, but the suffering continued for some time. I felt desperate and I questioned my ability to really avail myself of the help that the others had received and applied so successfully. Gradually, however, God began to clear my channels so that real understanding began to come. Then was the time when full realization and acknowledgement came to me. It was realization and acknowledgement of the fact that I was full of

self-pity and resentment, realization of the fact that I had not fully given my problems to God. I was still trying to do my own fixing.

That was more than a year ago. Since then, although circumstances are no different, for there are still trials and hardships and hurts and disappointments and disillusionments, self-pity and resentment are being eliminated. In this past year I haven't been tempted once. I have no more idea of taking a drink to aid me through a difficult period than I would if I had never drank. But I know absolutely that the minute I close my channels with sorrow for myself, or being hurt by, or resentful toward anyone, I am in horrible danger.

I know that my victory is none of my human doing. I know that I must keep myself worthy of Divine help. And the glorious thing is this: I am free, I am happy, and perhaps I am going to have the blessed opportunity of "passing it on." I say in all reverence-Amen."⁸⁸

Florence Rankin Kalhoun, died April 19, 1943 by her own hand.

We now return to Akron to find the final three from that town that will be added to this list. All appear to have achieved sobriety, according to The Amos Roster, in September of 1937 and two of the stories may inter-relate in a most interesting way. Our 38th devotee is Charles Simonson, whose personal story "RIDING THE RODS", appeared in the Original Manuscript draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. He tells the story of his hospitalization and of meeting one of the Akron number who had recently slipped after more than a year of sobriety.

"Listen, fellow," he said, looking at me with ten times the earnestness of the many good citizens and other well-intentioned persons who had tried their best to help me. "Listen to me. I know a way out. I know the only answer. And I know it works."

I stared at him in amazement. There were several mild mental cases in the place and, little as I knew about their exhibitions of tendencies, I knew that even in a normal conversation, strange ideas might be expected. Was this fellow perhaps a bit balmy - a wee bit off? Here was a man, an admitted alcoholic like myself, trying to tell me he knew the remedy for my situation. I wanted to hear what he had to suggest but made the reservation that he was probably a little "nutty." At the same time I was ready to listen, like any drowning man, to grasp at even a straw.

My friend smiled, he knew what I was thinking. "Yes," he continued. "Forget that I'm here. Forget that I'm just another 'rummy.' But I had the answer once - the only answer." He seemed to be recalling his very recent past. Looking at me earnestly, his voice impressive in its sincerity, he went on. "For more than a year before coming here I was a sober man, thoroughly dry.

I wasn't just on the wagon. I was dry! And I would still be dry if I had stuck to the plan which kept me sober all that time."

Let me say here that he later went back to the very plan he told me about and has since been sober for more than a year for the second time.

He told me his own story briefly and went on to tell me of a certain cure for alcoholism - the only certain cure. I had anticipated hearing of some new treatment, some newly discovered panacea that I had not heard of, something which no doubt combined drugs and mental healing. But it was neither one nor the other; it was certainly not a mixture of any kind. He spoke of some 30 men in my town who were ready to take me by the hand and call me by my first name. They would be friends without canting or ranting. He told me they met once a week to talk over their experiences, how they tried to help each other, how they spent their time in helping me like me.

"I know it sounds strange, incredible, maybe," he said. "I slipped, got drunk after being sober for a year, but I'm going back to try again. I know it works."

Helpless, without faith in myself or anyone else, entirely doubtful that the fellow really had something, I began to ask questions. I had to be interested or go crazy.

"How do you go about this - where do I have to go?" I asked.

"You don't have to go anywhere," he said. "Someone will come to you if you want them to." He didn't go into any detail, just told me that much and little more. I did some thinking that afternoon... the next day I had a visitor, a doctor who had been himself an alcoholic. He told me little more about the plan. He was kindly, didn't offer any cut and dried formula to overcome my life - long difficulty. He presented no religious nostrums, suggested no saving rituals. Later he sent some of the other ex-problem drinkers to see me. They told me their experiences. Many were men of former affluence and position. Some had hit even lower levels than I had.

The first Wednesday evening after my release found me a somewhat shame-faced but intensely curious attendant at a gathering in a private home in this city. Some forty others were present. For the first time I saw a fellowship I had never known in actual operation. I could actually feel it. I learned that this could be mine, that I could win my way to sobriety and sanity if I would follow a few precepts, simple in statement, but profound and far-reaching in their effect if followed. It penetrated to my inner consciousness that the mere offering of lip-service wasn't enough. Still ignorant, still a little doubting, but in deadly earnest, I made up my mind to make an honest effort to try.

That was two years ago. The way has not been easy. The new way of living was strange at first, but all my thoughts were on it. The going was sometimes slow; halting were my steps among the difficulties of the path. But always, when troubles came, when doubts assailed and temptation was strong and the old desire returned, I knew where to go for aid. Helping others also strengthened me and help me to grow."⁸⁹

"For the one who has something even more will be given"

Here in Charles' story we may also have the story of Dr. Howard Searl, the man who had helped Earl Treat. Dr. Searl was sober in January of 1937 according to Earl's father as well as in July of 1937.⁹⁰ Dr. Bob lists him on The Amos Roster with just six months of dry time for a continuous sober date of September 1937 or, more likely, multiple slips. What happened? Perhaps the story told by Charlie Simonson gives us the answer. Dr Searl might have relapsed and been back in the hospital. We can't say with any certainty that this is what occurred but the facts might support this interpretation. Of course based on our work so far, it could have been Ernie, Walter, Phil Smith or Bill Jones that Charlie met in the hospital as a fellow patient. For more background on Dr. Howard Searl see the Rockefeller Report included as Appendix I at the back of this book.

Our last two Akronites like several before are also unknown to us through A.A. literature. Both Frank Krumrine and Irvin Nelson are listed on The Amos Roster and the Cleveland 220 List. Krumrine's name appears to be misspelled on the Cleveland list (Crumrine). We hope more will be revealed as we continue our research, but for now, they join us on

*The Golden Road of Devotion
Pathway to a New Freedom and a New Happiness*

*“Life was intended to grow souls not fortunes
To make character not whoopee
To gain depth of understanding not eminence in business or social circles
To seek the will of God not the praise of the public”*

The Noses Counted in October of 1937

The First Forty

AA #	NAME	SOB	FROM
1	Bill Wilson	Dec 34	NY
2	Bob Smith	May 35	Akron
3	Bill Dotson	June 35	Akron
4	Ernie Galbraith	July 35	Akron
5	Henry Parkhurst	Sept 35	NJ
6	Walter Bray	Sept 35	Akron
7	Phil Smith	Oct 35	Akron
8	John Mayo	Nov 35	MD
9	Silas Bent	Nov 35	CT
10	Harold Grisinger	Jan 36	Akron
11	Paul Stanley	Jan 36	Akron
12	Tom Lucas	Feb 36	Akron
13	Myron Williams	Apr 36	NY
14	Joseph Doppler	Apr 36	Cleveland
15	Robert Oviatt	June 36	Cleveland
16	Harry Latta	July 36	Akron
17	James Holmes	Sept 36	Akron
18	Alfred Smith	Jan 37	Akron
19	Alvin Borden	Jan 37	Akron
20	Howard Searl	Jan 37	Akron
21	William Ruddell	Feb 37	NJ
22	Douglas Delanoy	Feb 37	NJ
23	Robert Evans	Feb 37	Akron
24	Frank Curtis	Feb 37	Akron
25	Jane Sturdevant	Feb 37	Cleveland
26	Richard Stanley	Mar 37	Akron
27	Harry Zollars	Mar 37	Akron
28	Harlan Spencer	Apr 37	Akron
29	Wallace Gillam	Apr 37	Akron
30	Lloyd Tate	June 37	Cleveland
31	William Jones	June 37	Cleveland
32	Chester Parke	June 37	Akron
33	Lawrence Patton	June 37	Akron
34	Paul Kellogg	July 37	NJ
35	Earl Treat	July 37	Akron
36	William Van Horn	July 37	Akron
37	Florence Rankin	Sept 37	NJ
38	Charles Simonson	Sept 37	Akron
39	Irvin Nelson	Sept 37	Akron
40	Frank Krumrine	Sept 37	Akron

Conclusion

We have endeavored to provide an accurate list of who the First Forty men and women might have been that Bill and Bob counted up that October afternoon. As I write it dawns on me that some seventy two years ago the count was conducted and there were but forty men and women who had found the Pathway to a New Freedom and a New Happiness. By many accounts, more than two million men and women have now followed "Our Path" and many are happily living our "Way of Life." Anyone, anywhere who spends anytime upon *The Golden Road of Devotion* should be considered a success. Dates of sobriety, the order with which they were achieved, the number of slips, where or how our devotees found The Path are not of great concern to us. For those who had been first would ultimately be the servants to us all and their love and humility would take many forms and shapes. We will do well to always remember that His thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our ways.

"The Realm of Spirit is broad, roomy all inclusive; never exclusive or forbidding to those who earnestly seek. It is open, we believe, to all men and women."

We provide our final list of the First Forty Devotees, the "Noses Counted" in alphabetical order, listed by the year of their appearance on

The Golden Road of Devotion.

"By their fruit you will know them"

"There is a moment in the life of a man, a moment of choice, a moment of decision, when the original purpose of God is achieved"

The First Forty Counted

October 1937

“We turned back to the list, for it held the key to the future.
We were prepared to look at it from an entirely different angle.”

1934

William Wilson, NY

1935

Robert Smith, Akron

Silas Bent, CT; Walter Bray, Akron; William Dotson, Akron;
Ernest Galbraith, Akron; John (Fitzhugh) Mayo, MD; Henry Parkhurst, NJ;
Phil Smith, Akron.

1936

Joseph Doppler, Cleveland; Harold Grisinger, Akron;
James (J.D.) Holmes, Akron; Harry Latta, Akron; Thomas Lucas, Akron; Robert
Oviatt, Cleveland; Paul Stanley, Akron; Myron Williams, NY

1937

Alvin Borden, Akron; Frank Curtis, Akron;
Douglas Delanoy, NJ; Robert Evans, Akron;
Wallace Gillam, Akron; William Jones, Cleveland;
Paul Kellogg, NJ; Frank Krumrine, Akron;
Irvin Nelson, Akron; Chester Parke, Akron;
Lawrence Patton, Akron; Florence Rankin, NJ;
William Ruddell, NJ; Howard Searl, Akron;
Charles Simonson, Akron; Alfred Smith, Akron;
Harlan Spencer, Akron; Richard Stanley, Akron;
Lloyd Tate, Cleveland; Jane Sturdevant, Cleveland;
Earl Treat, Akron; William Van Horn, Akron; Harry Zollars, Akron

“Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high and the wilderness
be a fruitful field and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.”

NOTES

- ¹ Great Depression in the United States," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2009
- ² *Pass It On*, p.177
- ³ Lois's Diary Oct 9, 1937
- ⁴ Bill Wilson's Address in Fort Worth, Texas June 12, 1954
- ⁵ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Chapter 11, "A VISION FOR YOU", pages 71-72. The account we have provided is a compilation of many sources and is intended to provide the reader with a more detailed account of the abridged, or edited version first given by Bill in the Original Manuscript.
- ⁶ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 5. "THE DOCTOR'S NIGHTMARE"
- ⁷ See Appendix V; Letter from Bill Wilson to Lois Wilson, May 1935
- ⁸ *Pass It On*, p.144
- ⁹ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 5. "THE DOCTOR'S NIGHTMARE"
- ¹⁰ *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939, pages 191-192; *Alcoholics Anonymous* 4th Ed. 2001, pages 179-180
- ¹¹ See Appendix III; 1935 AMA Convention Program Guide
- ¹² See Appendix IV; Excerpt from "A Narrative Timeline of AA History" by Arthur S. Version 2008
- ¹³ *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*, p.81, Quote from Elgie Reese
- ¹⁴ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Chapter 11, "A VISION FOR YOU", pages 72-73
- ¹⁵ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Chapter 11, "A VISION FOR YOU", p.73
- ¹⁶ *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, William James, p.517
- ¹⁷ *Remaking the World*, Buchman; p. x
- ¹⁸ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section page 8. "THE UNBELIEVER"
- ¹⁹ *Pass It On*; p. 133
- ²⁰ *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p.15; P-6 *Three Talks to the Medical Societies by Bill W., Co-founder of A.A.*; Letter to C.G. Jung from Bill Wilson, January 1961
- ²¹ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 8. "THE UNBELIEVER"
- ²² Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 9. "THE UNBELIEVER"
- ²³ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; p.4; *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939 p.19
- ²⁴ "And I Laughed." Hank's reaction, which was typical of many alcoholics, is discussed as "contempt prior to investigation." See the Story of Ray Campbell, AN ARTIST'S CONCEPT, on p.380 in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939, for a full explanation of this principle and concept.
- ²⁵ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 9. "THE UNBELIEVER"
- ²⁶ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 11. "THE UNBELIEVER"
- ²⁷ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; FOREWORD; *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939 p. viii
- ²⁸ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Chapter 7, "WORKING WITH OTHERS", p.44
- ²⁹ IN MEMORIAM; The AA Grapevine Inc., November 1952
- ³⁰ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 41. "THE BACK-SLIDER"
- ³¹ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 42. "THE BACK-SLIDER"
- ³² *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; pages.95-96
- ³³ From unnumbered page preceding personal stories section *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 2nd Ed. @168.
"When first published in 1939, this book contained twenty-nine stories about alcoholics. To ensure maximum identification with the greatest number of readers, the new second edition (1955) carries a considerably enlarged story section, as above described. Concerning the original twenty-nine case histories, it is a deep satisfaction to record, as of 1955, that twenty-two have apparently made a full recovery from their alcoholism. Of these fifteen have remained completely sober for an average of several years each, according to our best knowledge and belief." In the case of Walter Bray, his name being conspicuously absent from the list titled "FIRST 220 MEMBERS OF A.A." would seem to suggest that he did not achieve permanent sobriety.
- ³⁴ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 25. "OUR SOUTHERN FRIEND"

35 *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939, pages 68-69; *Alcoholics Anonymous* 4th Ed. 2001, pages 56-57
36 *Lois Remembers* p. 102
37 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silas_Bent
38 Undated Letter from Bill Wilson to Bob Smith c. April 1938; GSO Archives
39 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; p.110
40 Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 73. "TRUTH FREED ME"
41 See Appendix I. The Amos Roster, listing both Paul and Phil's "Bus" i.e. business, as "Insurance."
42 Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, page 52. "MY WIFE AND I"
43 See <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAHistoryLovers/message/69>
44 See <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAHistoryLovers/message/813>
45 Letter from Bill Wilson to The Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation, New York City, 10/1/1940; GSO Archives
46 *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, pages 21-22
47 *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939, Personal Stories Section, pages 372-374. "HINDSIGHT"
48 (<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAHistoryLovers/message/80>)
49 Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, pages 15-16. "THE EUROPEAN DRINKER"
50 Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, p. 68. "THE SALESMAN"
51 "First 226 Members Akron, OH AA Group," Tommy H. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
<http://www.hindsfoot.org/akrn226b.html>
52 See Appendix VI. "FIRST 220 MEMBERS OF A.A." Origin Unknown
53 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; pages 111 & 148
54 Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section p. 47 "THE SEVEN MONTH SLIP"
55 See <http://hindsfoot.org/nfirst.html>
56 Lois's Diary Oct Feb 28, 1937
57 *Lois Remembers*; p. 102.
58 See <http://www.barefootsworld.net/aapioneers.html>; <http://www.silkworth.net/dickb/thefirstforty.html>
59 See the minutes of "First Meeting of Bergen County Group" NNJAA Area 44 Archives
60 *Grapevine*, November 1944
61 See "New Jersey Groups" from the June 1941 World Directory; Intergroup Meeting Minutes 9/27/1946, NNJAA Area 44 Archives
62 See message posted at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAHistoryLovers/message/5232>
63 See http://www.silkworth.net/aahistory/Signatures_found_in_1st_Big_Book_04_1939.doc
64 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; p. 101,116-119,122-123,142,146,152,156-157,176,217,221-223.
65 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; p. 353, *Sources*, see 116-119 citing C, T, 1954 (B). See p.101, Feb 37 SOB
66 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; p. 101
67 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; p. 352, *Sources*, see 101 lines 10-11 are not referenced or cited.
68 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; p. 353, *Sources*, see 116-119 citing C, T, 1954 (B).
69 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; pages 128-135.
70 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; pages 122.
71 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; pages 241.
72 *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939, Personal Stories Section, p. 364 "THE CAR SMASHER"
73 *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939, Personal Stories Section, p. 364 "A CLOSE SHAVE"
74 Ancestry.com; 1920 U.S. Federal Census
75 Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, p. 71 "FIRED AGAIN"
76 *DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; pages 143, 167 & 204.
77 *Alcoholics Anonymous* 1st Ed. 1939, Personal Stories Section, pages 389-390. "THE ROLLING STONE"

- ⁷⁸ *DR.BOB and the Good Oldtimers*; p. 119
- ⁷⁹ Lois's Diary July 28, 1937
- ⁸⁰ Survey of Jersey Group by G. MacDougall, Jan 1, 1940; NNJAA Area 44 Archives
- ⁸¹ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, p. 55 "A WARD OF THE PROBATE COURT"
- ⁸² *Alcoholics Anonymous* 2nd Ed. 1955, Personal Stories Section, pages 260-265. "HE SOLD HIMSELF SHORT"
- ⁸³ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Chapter 9, "THE FAMILY AFTERWARD", p.61
- ⁸⁴ See the questionnaire of Florence Rankin, 1938 GSO Archives
- ⁸⁵ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, pages 18-19 "A FEMININE VICTORY"
- ⁸⁶ *Lois Remembers*; p. 107.
- ⁸⁷ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, p.19 "A FEMININE VICTORY"
- ⁸⁸ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, pages 19-20. "A FEMININE VICTORY"
- ⁸⁹ Original Manuscript Multilith Copy; Personal Stories Section, pages 59-61. "RIDING THE RODS"
- ⁹⁰ *Alcoholics Anonymous* 2nd Ed. 1955, Personal Stories Section, pages 260-265. "HE SOLD HIMSELF SHORT"

The Amos Roster - February 1938

Name	Bus.	length time dry mos.	length drinking experience yrs.	age
Walter Bray	Rubber Worker	30	15	44
Alvin Borden	Accountant	14	15	50
Frank Curtis	Warehouse Manager	13	25	52
Joe Doppler	Upholsterer	15	25	59
William Dotson	Attorney	32	30	48
George Dowsner	Hospital Attendant	2	10	42
Robert Evans	Banker	16	8	34
Ernest Galbraith	Truck Driver	31	14	33
Harold Grisinger	Pensioned AT&T Co.	25	10	40
Wallace Gillam	Mechanical Engineer	10	20	40
JD Holmes	Newspaper	10	18	4x
Frank Hadrick	Rubber Worker	3	8	3x
John Hughes	Rubber Worker	4	8	3x
Wade Hadsell	Teacher	2	6	36
William Jones	Salesman	8	12	3x
Fred Johnson	Salesman	2 1/2	8	4x
Frank Krumrine	Salesman	6	8	4x
Tom Lucas	Sheet Metal	17	6	3x
Harry Latta	Test Car Driver	19	10	3x
Ed Naher	Merchant	5	7	3x
Irv Nelson	Attorney	6	12	3x
Robert Oviatt	Salesman	14	15	39
Chester Parke	Farmer	8	8	37
Lawrence Patton	Bank Teller	8	14	36
Henry Pearce	Rubber Worker	3	7	33
Carl Reinhert	Policeman	1 1/2	6	33
Howard Searl	MD	6	18	40
Charles Simonson	Machinist	6	12	39
Al Smith	Foreman	14	20	46
Phil Smith	Insurance	29	18	47
Robert Smith	MD	33	35	58

X denotes number cut off in copy

The Amos Roster - February 1938

<i>Name</i>	<i>Bus.</i>	<i>length time dry mos.</i>	<i>length drinking yrs.</i>	<i>age</i>
<i>Harlan Spencer</i>	<i>Auto Salesman</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Richard Stanley</i>	<i>Foreman</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Paul Stanley</i>	<i>Insurance</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Jane Sturdevant</i>	<i>Housewife</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Joe Schaffer</i>	<i>Electrician</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Harold Schitz</i>	<i>Brick Layer</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Edith Scott</i>	<i>Waitress</i>	<i>1 1/2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Lloyd Tate</i>	<i>Painter</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Earl Treat</i>	<i>Inventor</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Norman Tritt</i>	<i>Rubber Worker</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Thurmon Trough</i>	<i>Rubber Worker</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>William Van Horn</i>	<i>Salesman</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>40</i>

Page 2

This list of names is a computer generated reproduction of Dr. Bob's hand written list which was done on his office stationary. The header on this document is ours and is not found on the original.

*Just Another Layman
on
The Golden Road of Devotion*

*“Ask to be shown and it will be shared with you
what the work is and how to do it.*

Ask only to know this much at one time.

*We do not need to know the whole road of life,
just where our soul steps today”*

The Golden Road of Devotion

“Your Heavenly Father will never let you down”