

Alcoholics Anonymous



A Few Quick Resources

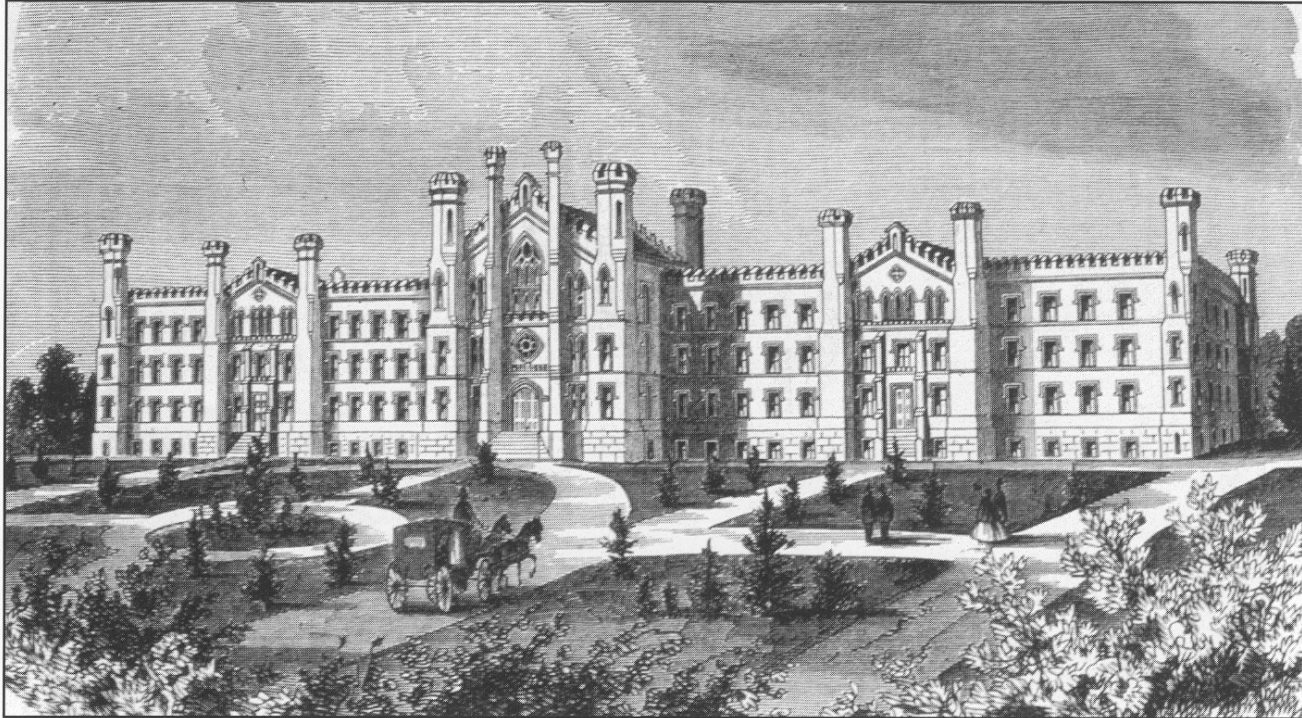
Alcoholics Anonymous
Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions
Pass It On

A.A. Comes of Age
Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers
(AA World Services, New York)

Not-God – A History of Alcoholics Anonymous
by Ernest Kurtz (Hazelden)

Slaying the Dragon – The History of
Treatment and Recovery in America
by William White (Chestnut Health Systems)

What was it like before AA?



Courtesy Strong Museum, Rochester, New York

The New York State Inebriate Asylum

Shock Treatment



Courtesy DHHS, Program Support Center

Courtesy General Services Administration, Office of Administration

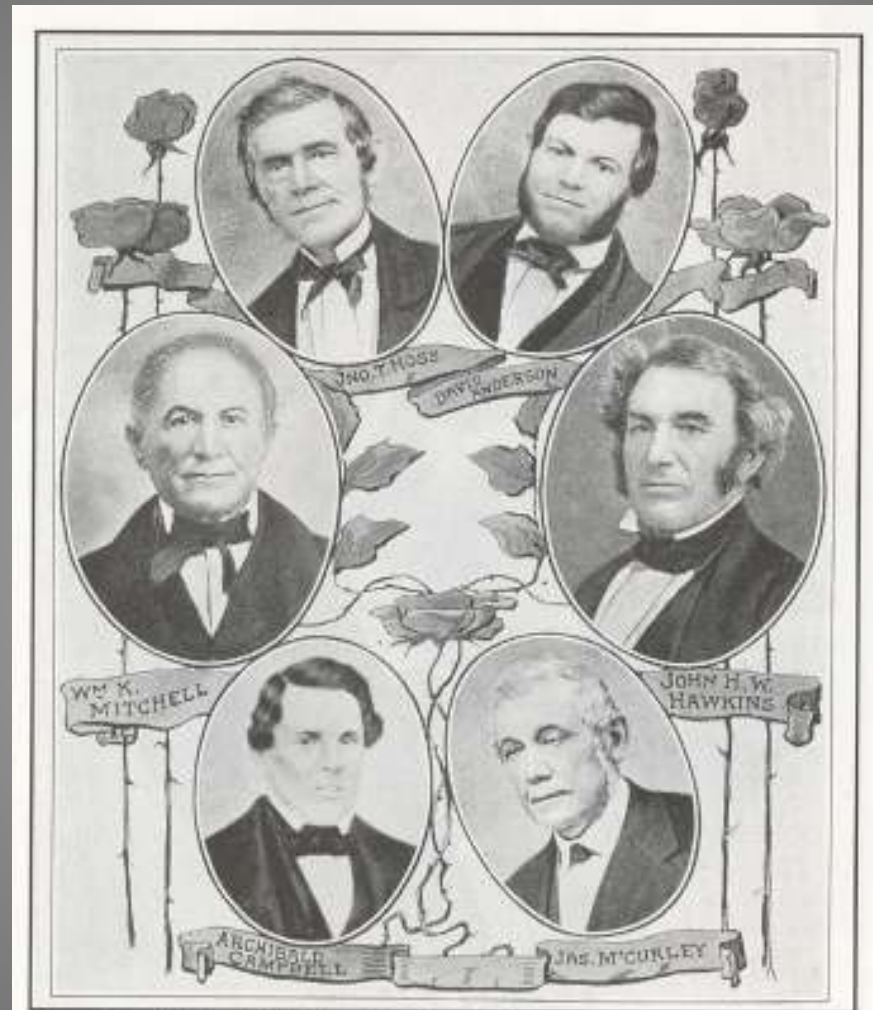
Skid Row Missions



Courtesy Salvation Army National Archives

**Salvation Army "Lassies" Carrying the
Message to the Bowery**

The Washingtonians



Courtesy Illinois Addiction Studies Archives

Early Washingtonians

Rowland Hazard



Dr. Carl Jung



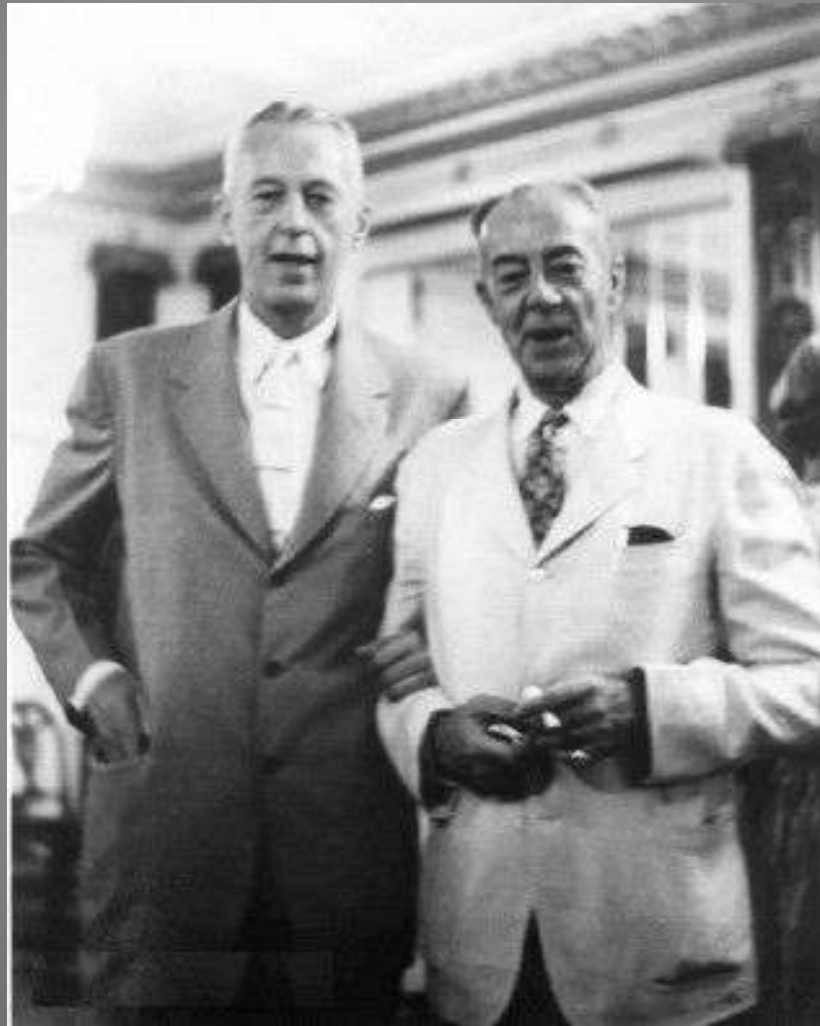
The Oxford Group



Frank Buchman

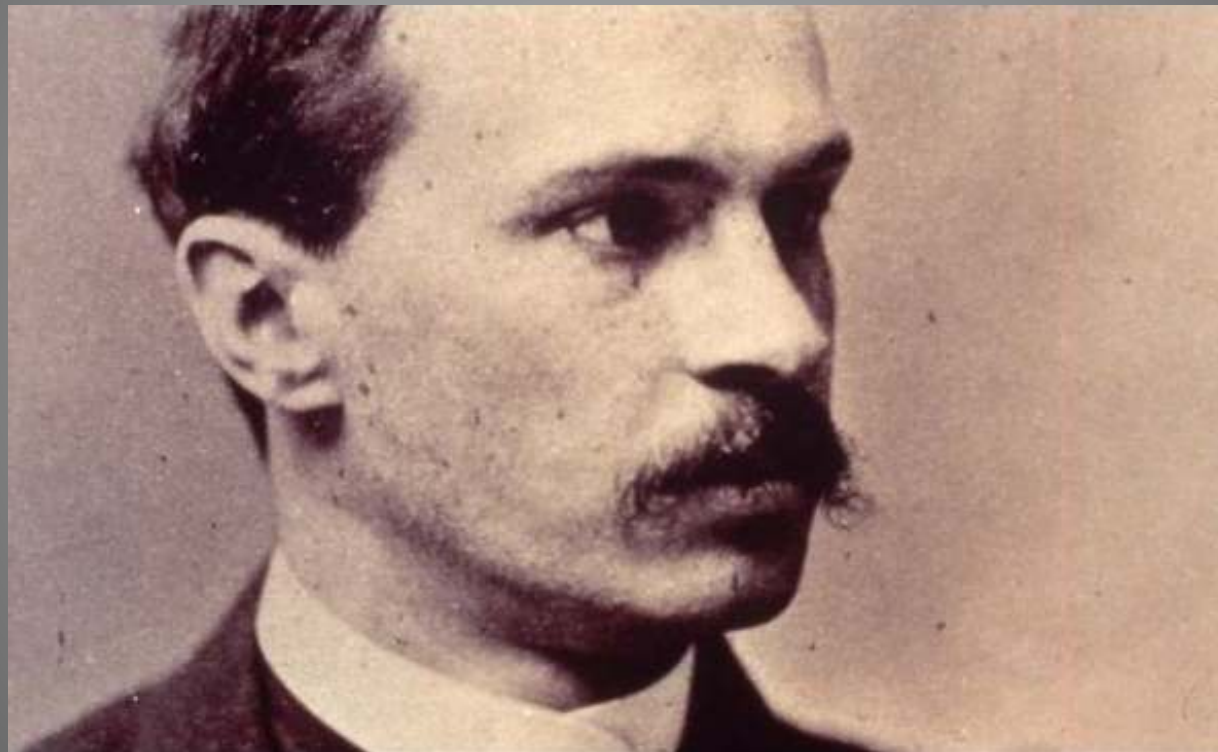


Ebby Thacher



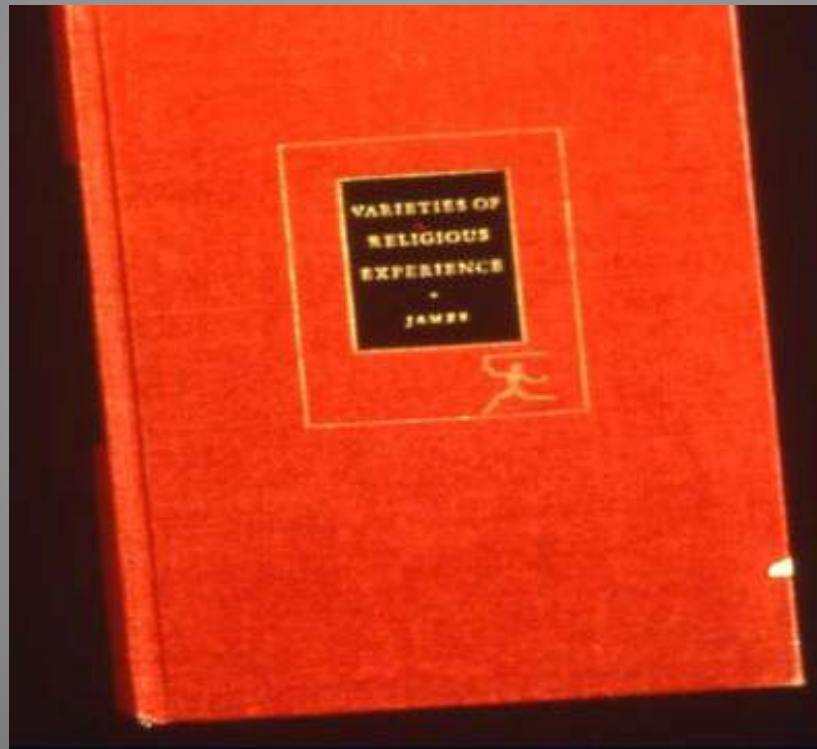
William James

Father of American Psychiatry



Varieties of Religious Experience

Ebby brought this book to Bill in Towns Hospital



Bill Wilson





Bill & Lois Wilson



Towns Hospital • New York

Bill was treated here 4 times



Dr. William Silkworth



Courtesy General Service Office, Alcoholics Anonymous

Dr. Harry Tiebout

Bill's psychiatrist



Reverend Sam Shoemaker

Head of the American Oxford Groups



Father Ed Dowling, S.J.

Bill Wilson's Spiritual Advisor



182 Clinton Street

The Wilson Home



Bill “carried the message”



Akron, Ohio



Mayflower Hotel



Reverend Walter Tunks





Henrietta
Seiberling



The Seiberling Gatehouse

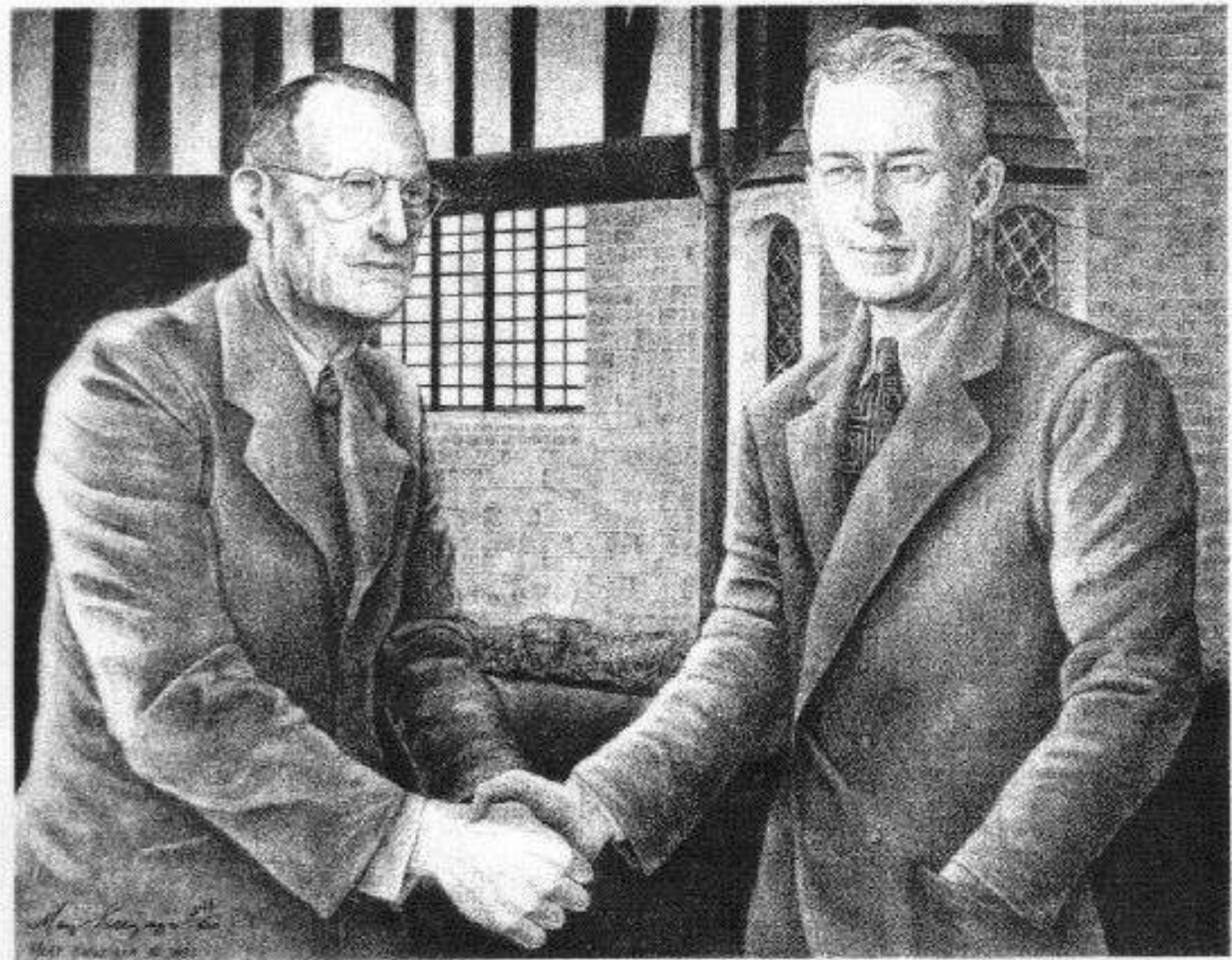


Bill meets Doctor Bob









Robert Holbrook Smith, MD





Dr. Bob & Anne Smith



855 Ardmore

Akron, Ohio



Akron City Hospital



Dr. Bob's Prescription

R. H. SMITH, M. D.
2ND NATIONAL BLDG. AKRON, OHIO
TELEPHONE HE-8628

R FOR alcoholics
ADDRESS _____ DATE Feb 1937

Always remember it

1. Trust God
2. Clean house
3. Help others

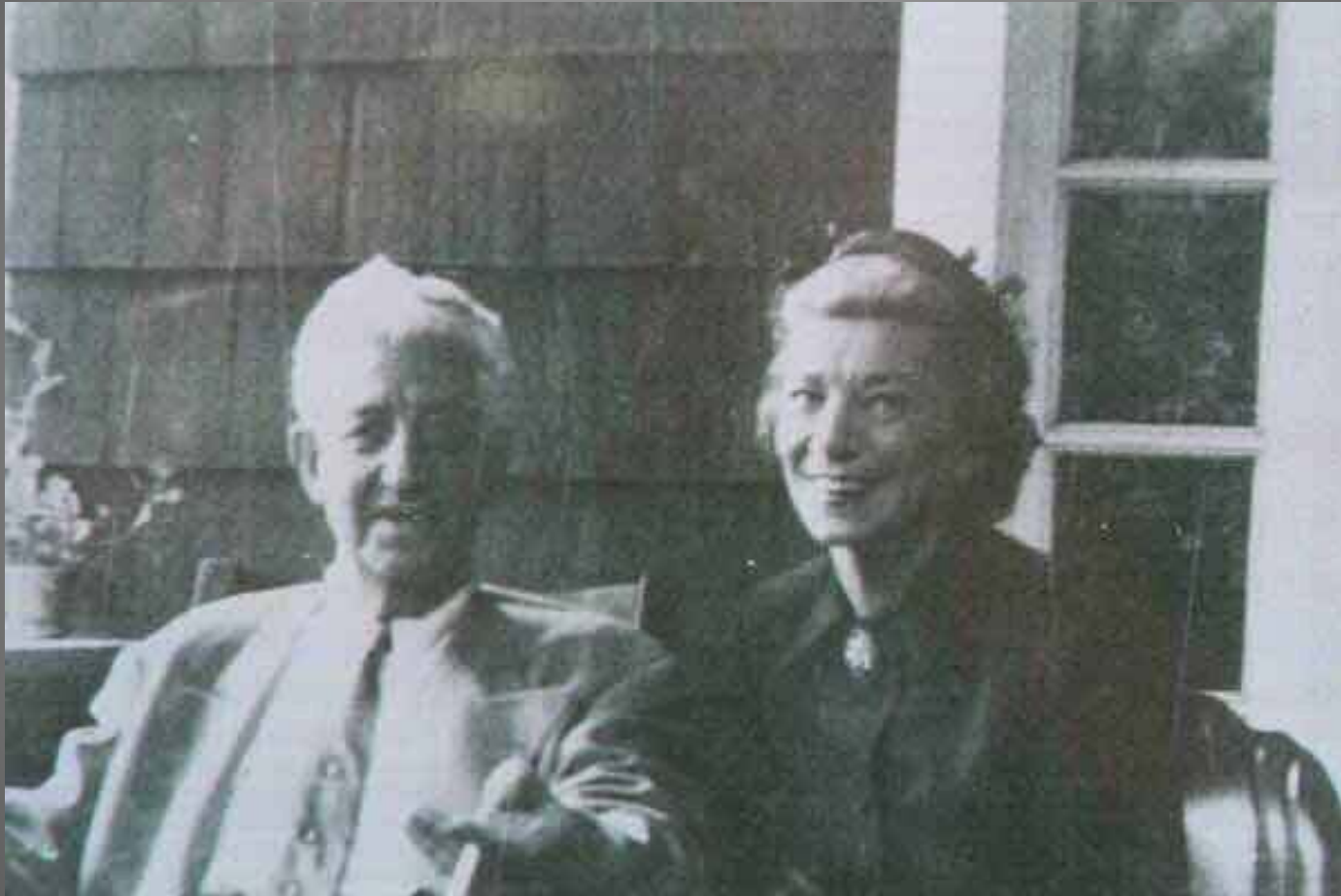
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R. H. Smith

Bill D. • “The man on the bed”



Bill & Henrietta Dotson



William Dotson Dies at 62, Helped Make A. A. Success

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 19 (AP).—A funeral service will be held Tuesday for attorney William I. Dotson, sixty-two, whose recovery from alcoholism has been termed the turning point of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Mr. Dotson died Friday night at Crite Veterans Hospital in Cleveland. He had been in ill health since a heart attack in October.

Mr. Dotson was forty-three and apparently a hopeless alcoholic when the two founders of A. A. found him in Akron City Hospital so intoxicated he was

John McDermott, Physician, 50

Dr. John B. McDermott, fifty, physician practicing in Brooklyn for more than twenty years, died Saturday night after a heart attack at the home of a friend. He lived at 543 E. 18th St., Brooklyn.

Dr. McDermott was an assistant in pediatrics in St. John's and St. Mary's Hospitals in Brooklyn, and was a member of the Brooklyn Academy of Pediatrics. He was graduated from New York University in 1925 and obtained his medical degree from the Long Island College School of Medicine in 1929.

unable to talk. After several days of hospital care Mr. Dotson's mind cleared and he agreed to try A. A.

At that time, in 1935, the two founders were almost ready to give up their A. A. work. Their plan had worked on themselves, but experiments with others had failed.

Mr. Dotson, however, succeeded splendidly and never took another drink of liquor. The two founders—the late Dr. Robert Smith, of Akron, and a "Bill W.," of New York, a successful stockbroker—credited him with having saved their plan.

A native of Lexington, Ky., Mr. Dotson has said he started drinking when he was fifteen. He said he often was intoxicated when he went to classes at the University of Kentucky, from which he was graduated.

He served in the Army in World War I, later coming to Akron and going to work for a rubber company. At night, he studied law at the Akron Law School. He was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1926. In later years he spent much of his time traveling about the United States and Canada, speaking at A. A. meetings.

Surviving are his wife and a son, William I. Dotson jr.

of the James B. H. H.

St. Thomas Hospital

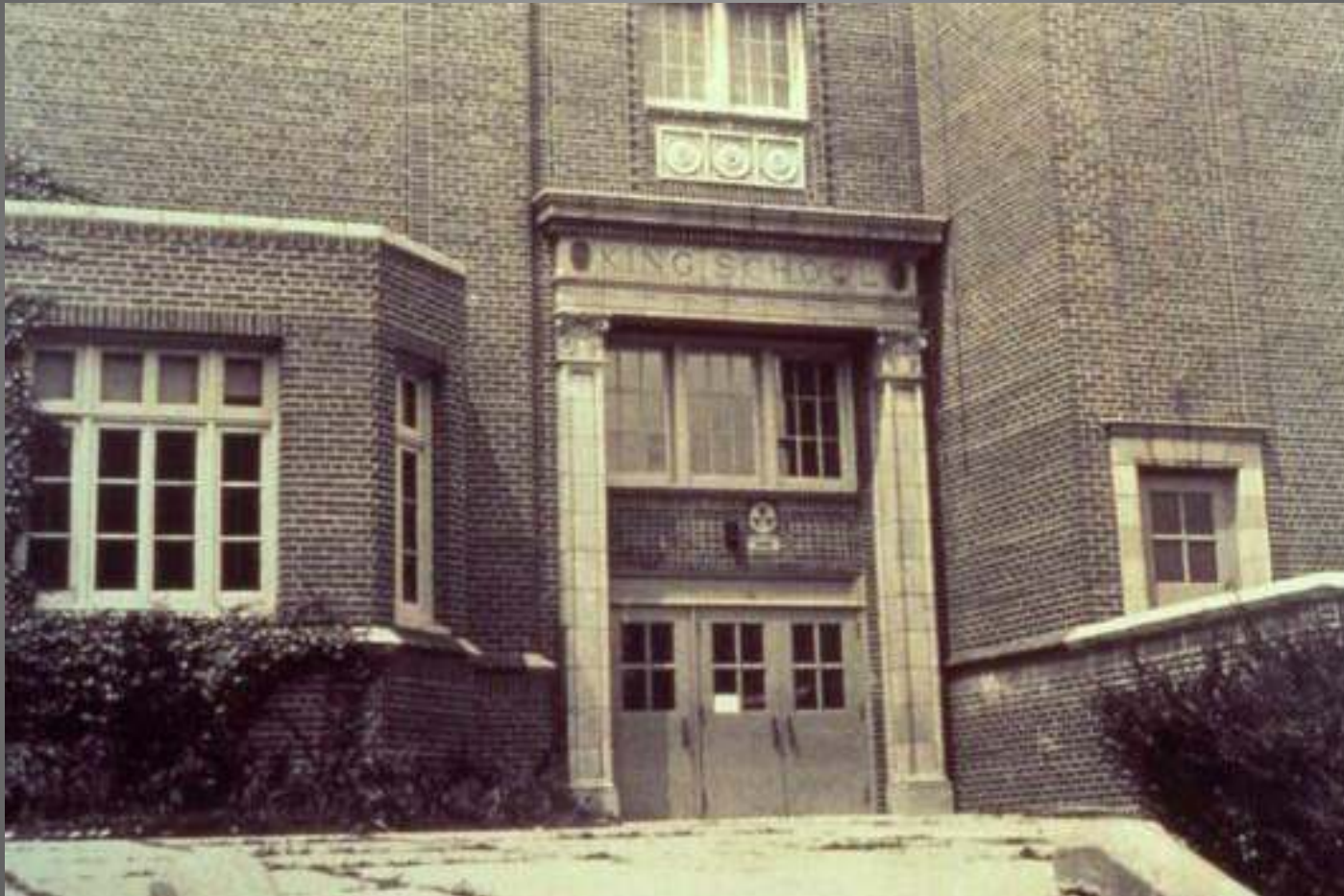


Sister Ignatia

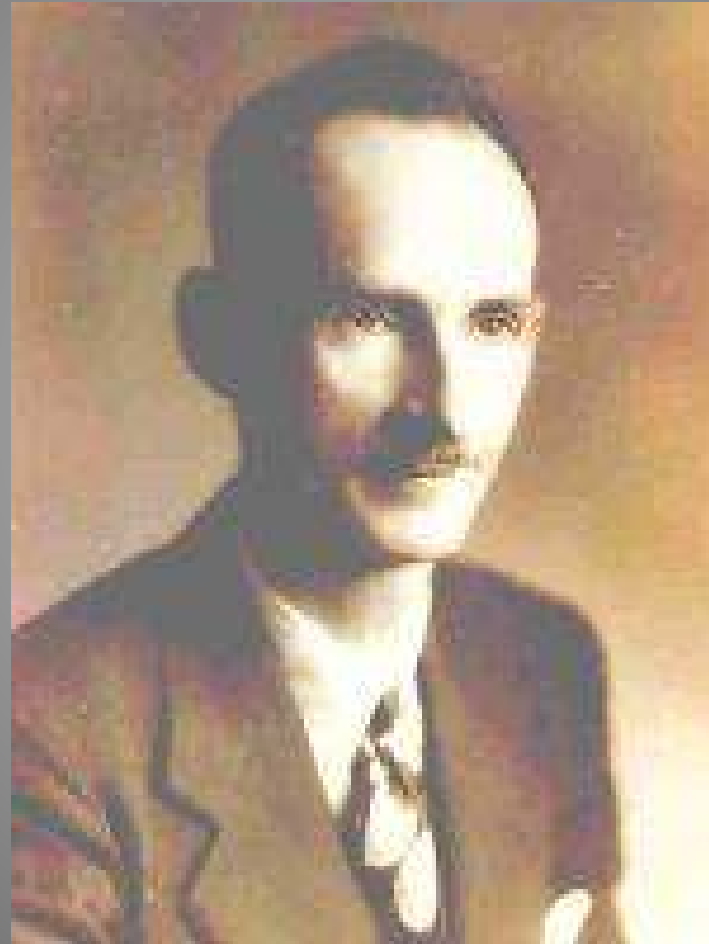


King School

Akron, Ohio



Archie Trowbridge



One drunk to another





FIRST *things* FIRST

Easy DOES IT

LIVE *And* LET LIVE

John D. Rockefeller

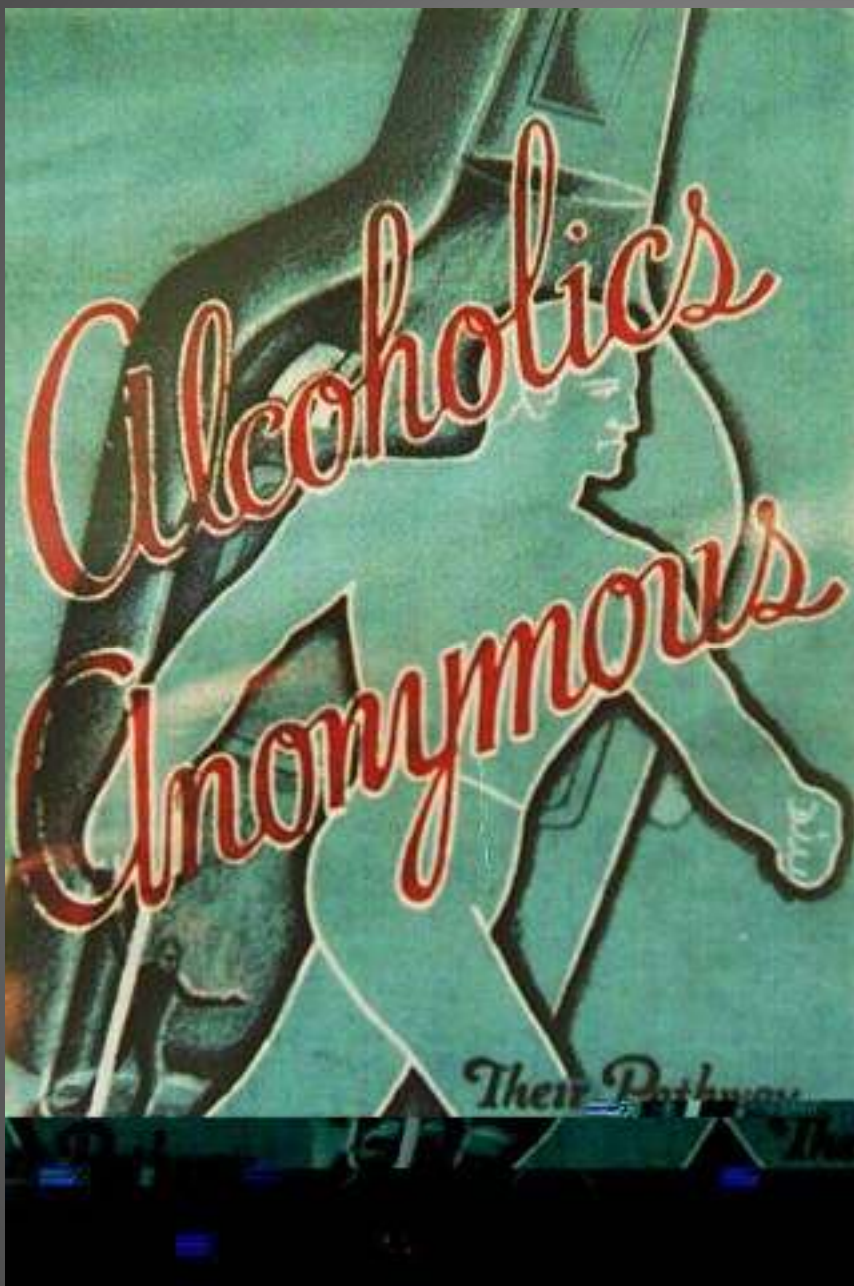
"I am afraid that money will spoil this thing."



THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION No. 411
New York June 4th 1943
Pay to the order of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. \$535.⁰⁰
Five hundred thirty five and 00/100 DOLLARS
- THE CHASE NATIONAL BANK - 23 William B. Richardson
FIRST BRANCH OF BRATTLE, 55 BOSTON STREET

THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION No. 374
New York Dec 21 1942
Pay to the order of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. \$1,250.⁰⁰
One thousand two hundred fifty and 00/100 DOLLARS
- THE CHASE NATIONAL BANK - 23 William B. Richardson
FIRST BRANCH OF BRATTLE, 55 BOSTON STREET

THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION No. 307
New York May 27 1942
Pay to the order of Charles B. Towne \$1,000.⁰⁰
One thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS



The Big Book

April 10, 1939

AA Preamble

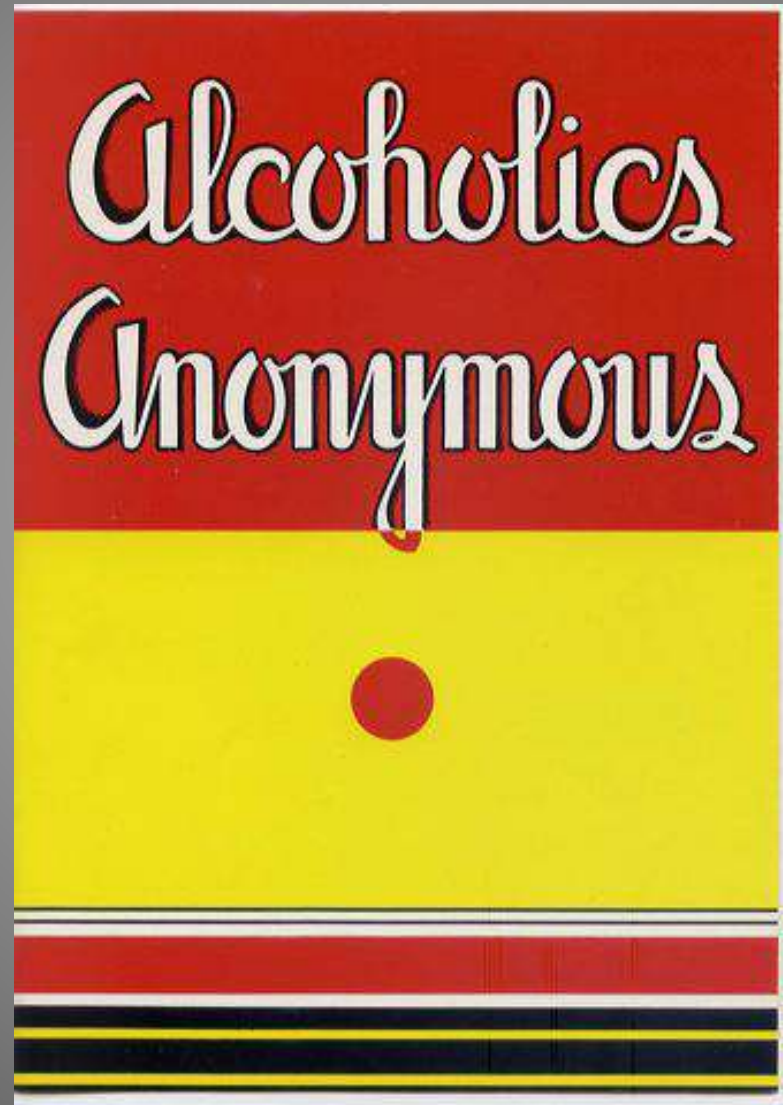
"ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

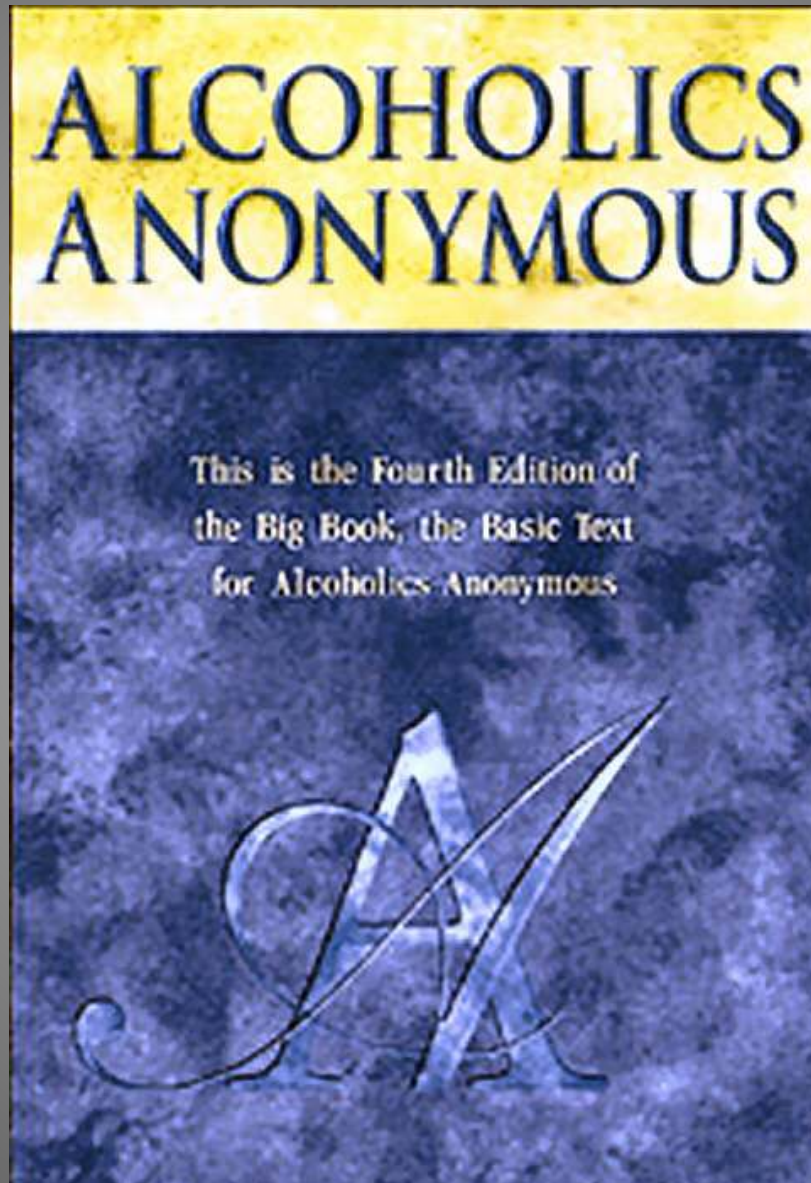
- For God:
1. Admitted hopeless
 2. Got honest with self
 3. Got honest with master
 4. Made Amends
 5. Helped other with need
demand
 6. Prayed to God
as you understand him.

Ever
Bill W.
Apr 1953
Original A.A.
Steps.

Original Big Book



Big Book 4th Edition



Step One

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.

Step Two

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Step Three

Made a decision to turn our will
and our lives over to the care of
God as we understood Him

Step Four

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Step Five

Admitted to God, to ourselves,
and to another human being the
exact nature of our wrongs.

Step Six

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Step Seven

Humbly asked Him to remove
our shortcomings.

Step Eight

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

Step Nine

Made direct amends whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Step Ten

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Step Eleven

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Step Twelve

Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

AA group in 1940's



Jack Alexander





Clarence Snyder “The Home Brewmeister”



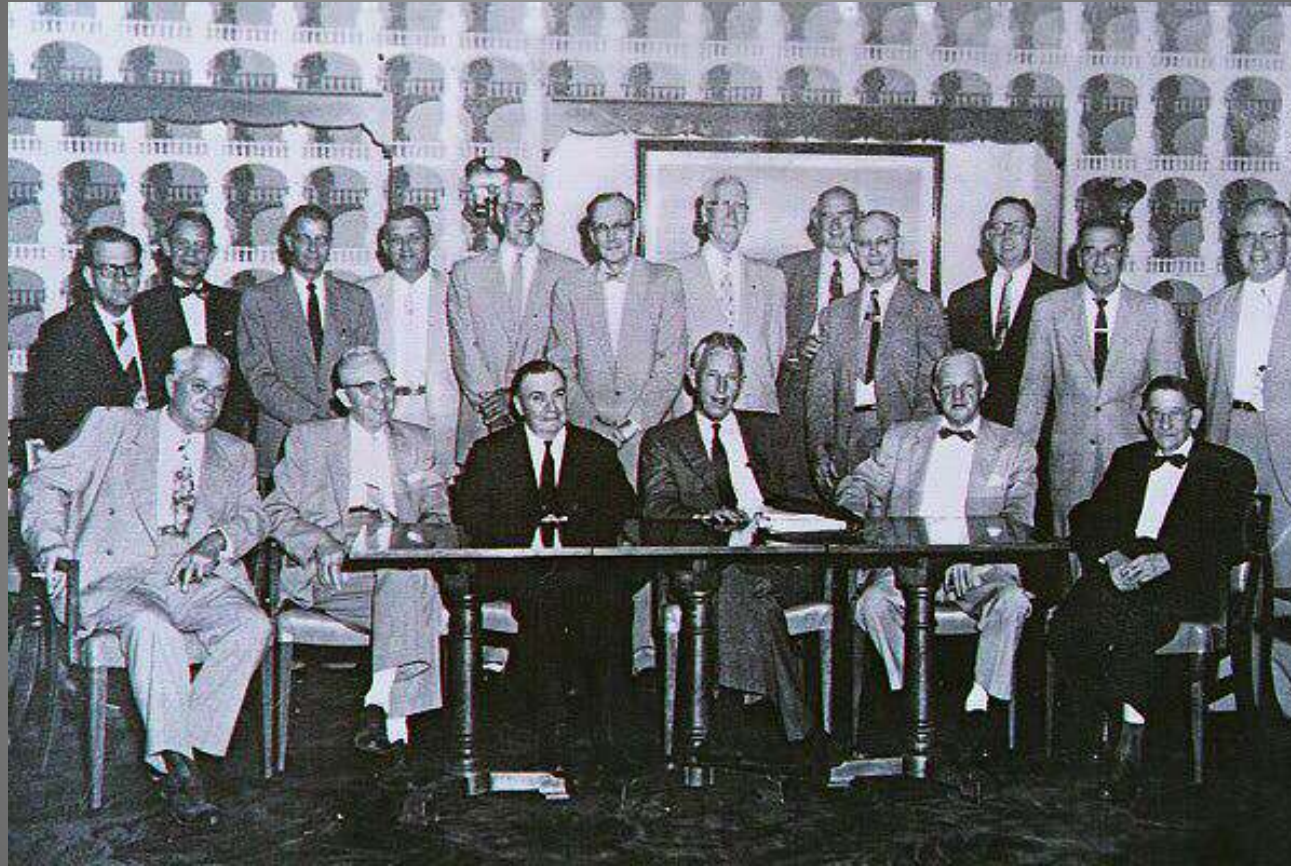
Marty Mann



Dr. E.M. "Bunky" Jellenik

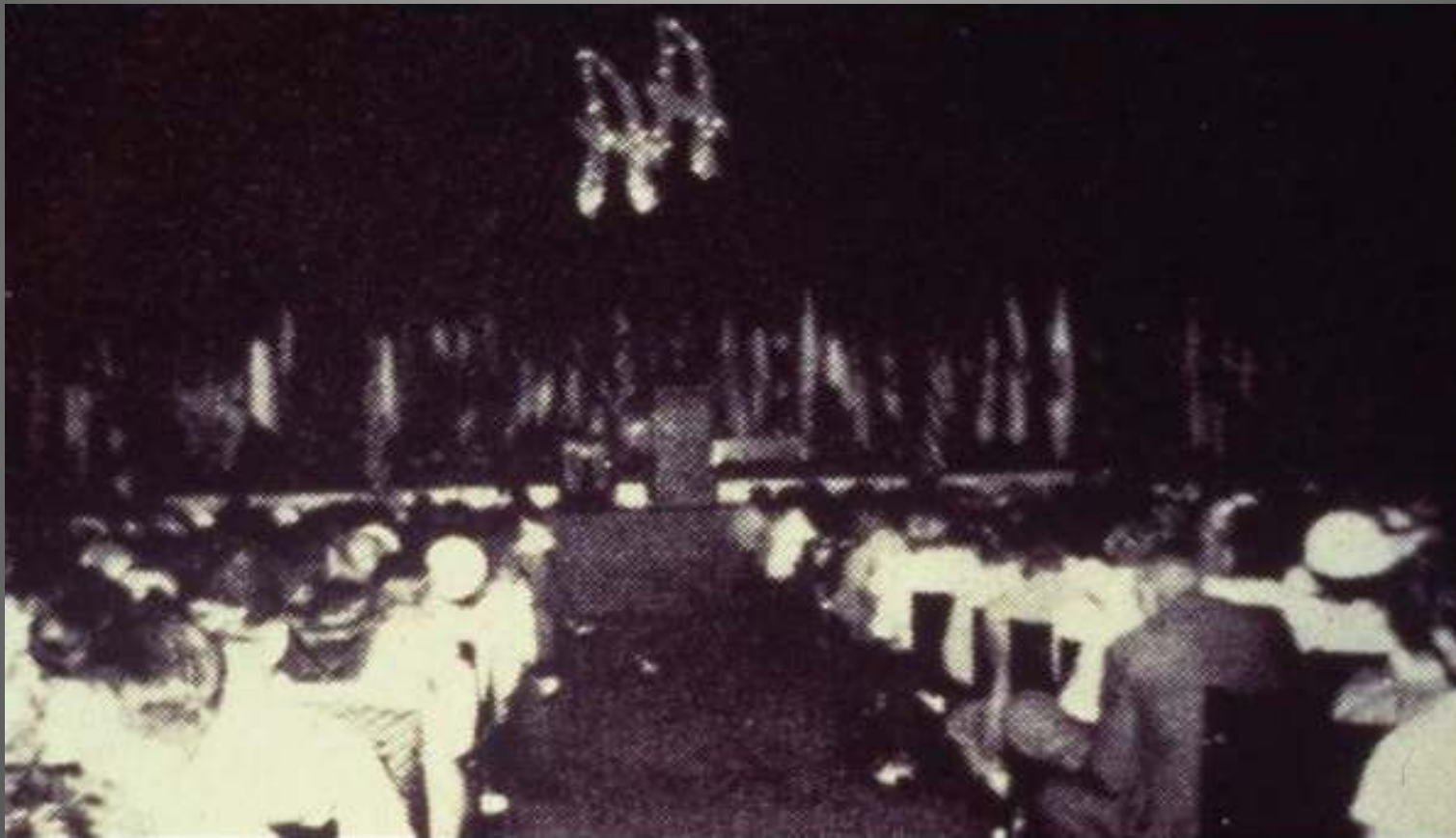


AA group in 1950's



1950 International Convention

Cleveland
The Twelve Traditions



The Twelve Traditions

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1955 International Convention

St. Louis

The Three Legacies

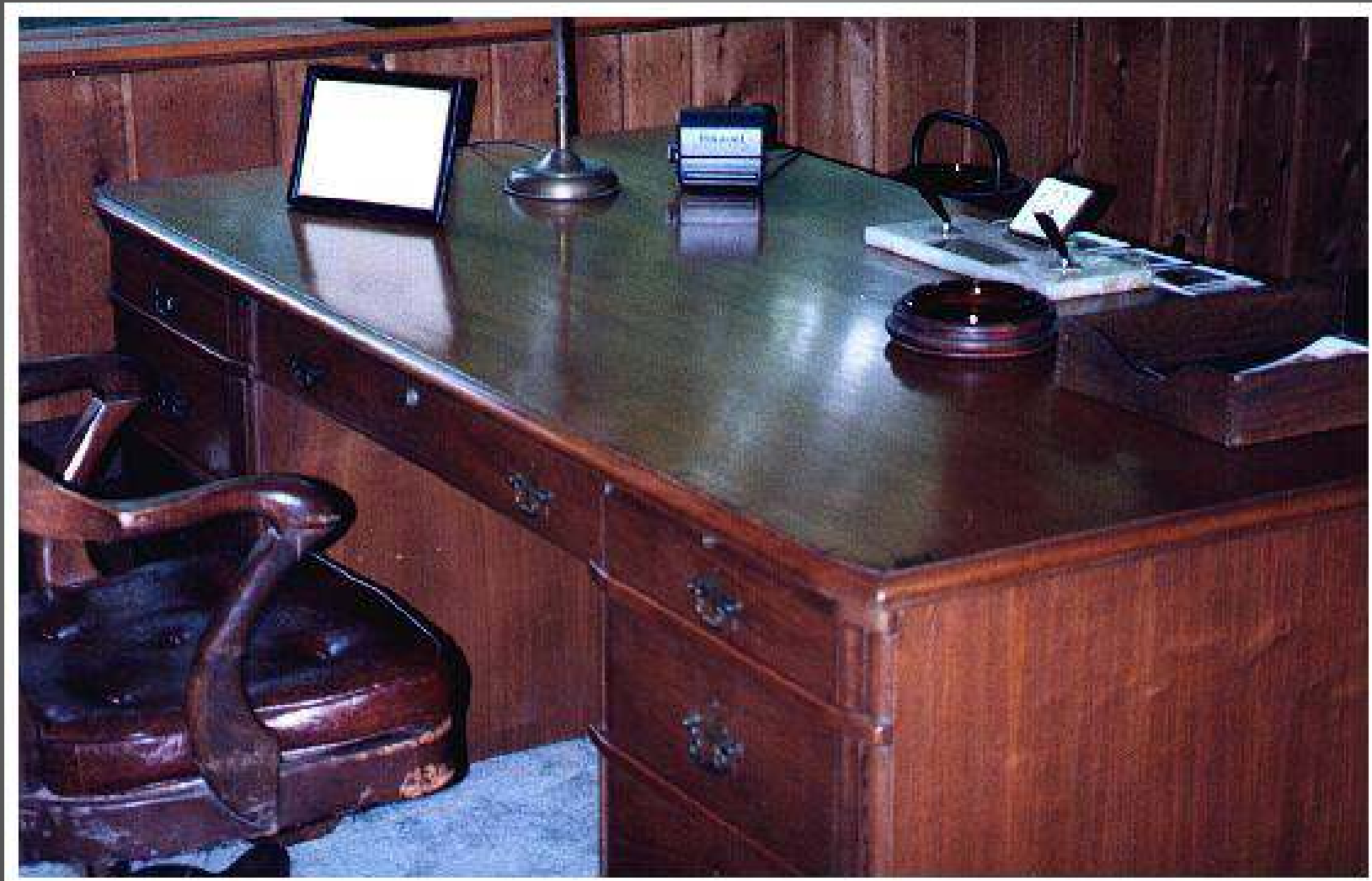


1960 International Convention

Long Beach



Bill's Desk at Stepping Stones



Bill & Lois in the 1960's



1965 International Convention

Toronto
"I am responsible"



Responsibility Declaration

“I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that:
I am responsible.”

Bill Wilson • 1966



1966 • Ebby Thacher dies



1970 International Convention

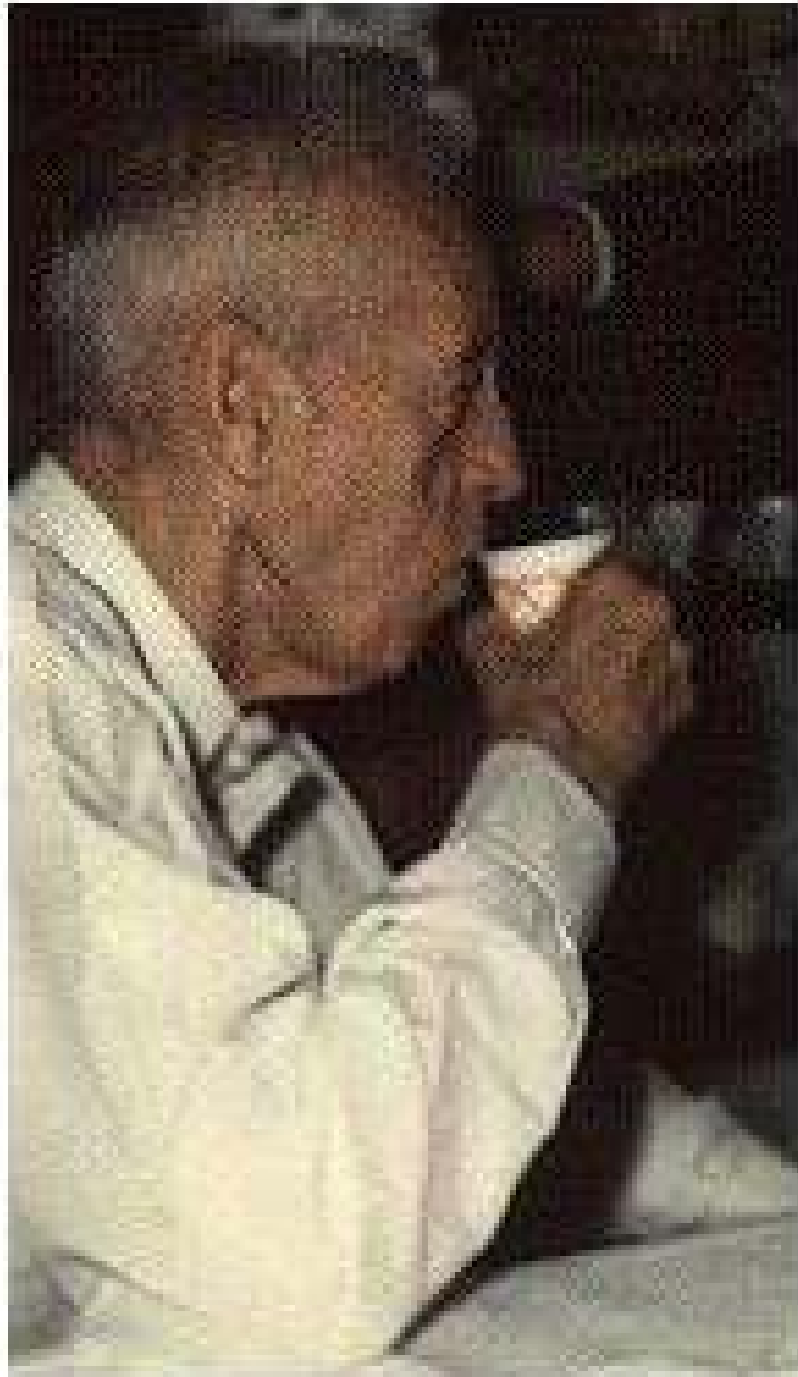
Miami Beach





Bill & Lou





1971 • Bill Wilson dies


Continued on Page 10, Column 3

Bill W. of Alcoholics Anonymous Dies

By JOHN W. STEVENS

William Griffith Wilson died late Sunday night and, with the announcement of his death, was revealed to have been the Bill W. who was a co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. His age was 75.

The retired Wall Street securities analyst had expected to die or go insane as a hopeless drunk 36 years ago but — after what he called a dramatic spiritual experience — had sobered up and stayed sober. He leaves a program of recovery as a legacy to 475,000 acknowledged alcoholics in 15,000 A.A. groups throughout the United States and in 88 other



William Griffith Wilson

other alcoholics. She is a founder of the Al-Anon and Alateen groups, which deal with the fears and insecurity suffered by spouses and children of problem drinkers.

Mr. Wilson last spoke publicly on July 5 of last year in a three-minute talk he delivered after struggling from a wheelchair to the lectern at the closing session of A.A.'s 35th anniversary international convention in Miami, attended by 11,000 people. He had been admitted three days earlier to the Miami Heart Institute, his emphysema complicated by pneumonia.

Last Oct. 10, he was under hospital care for acute emphysema and was unable for some time to attend the A.A. S

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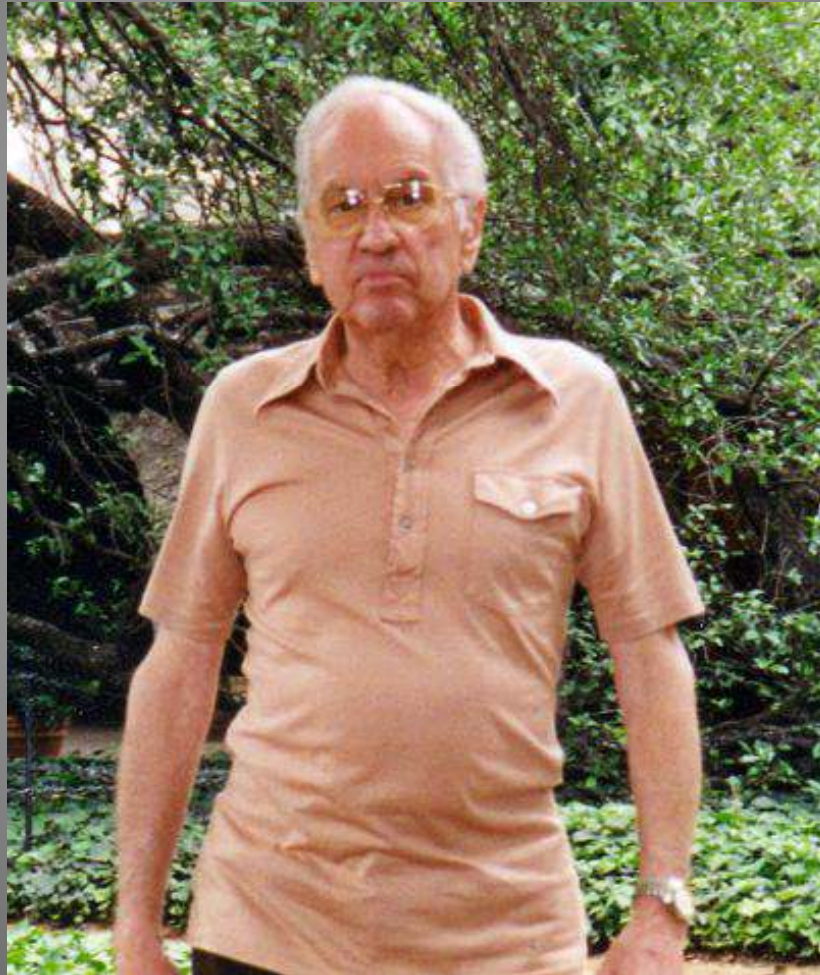
1975 International Convention

Denver



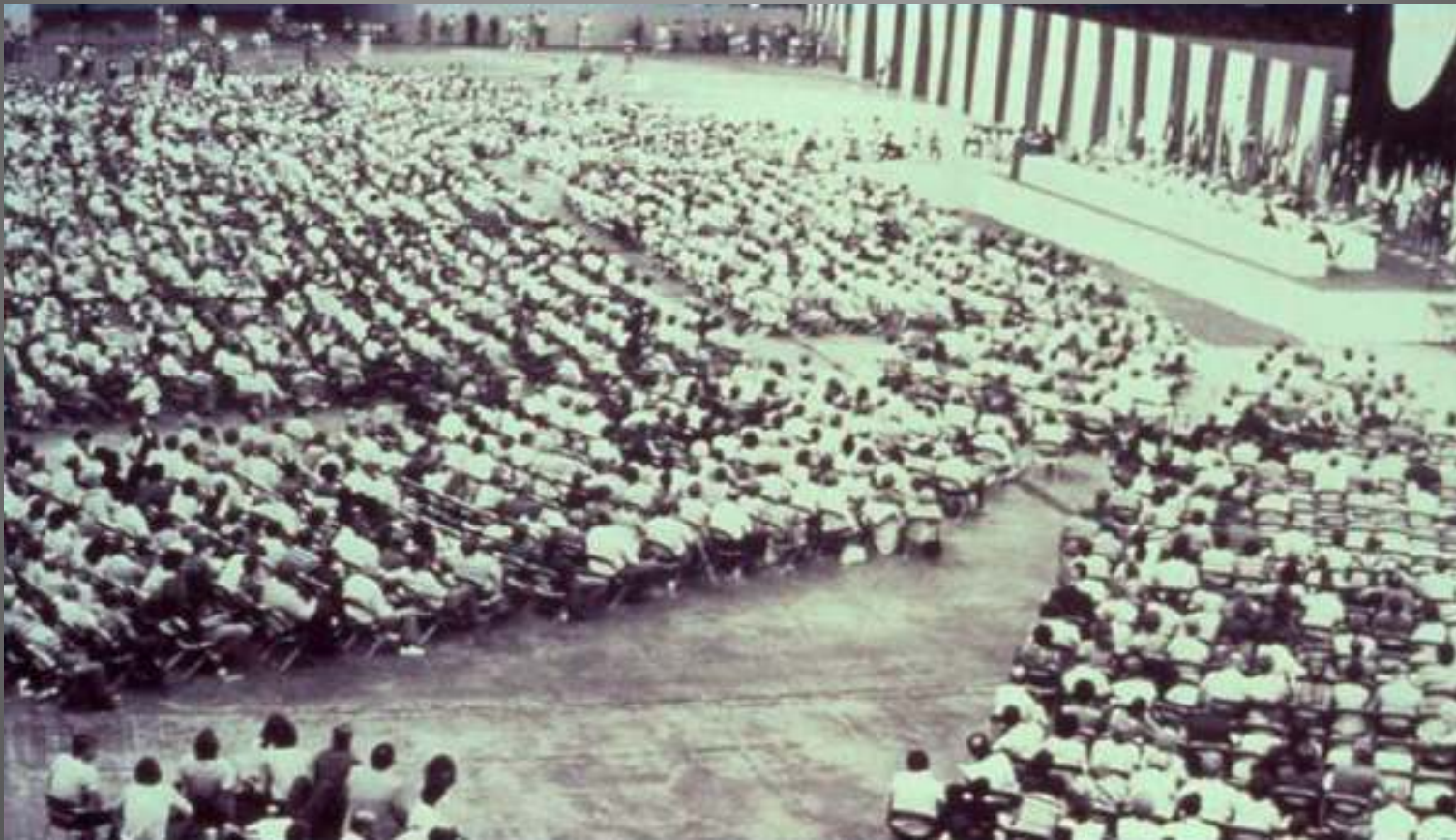
Paul O.

“Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict”



1980 International Convention

New Orleans



Lois Wilson

1891 - 1988



1985 International Convention

Montreal



2000 International Convention

Minneapolis



2005 International Convention

Toronto

