

On The Rogue Again

JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Jackson County A.A. Central Office
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Editors Note -
December 2015/January 2016

Happy 2016 to all!

For several years I have done the newsletter. Four or Five years ago, Fifi started helping me. She does it totally by herself now. My love and my thanks are hard to explain. The reason my name still appears is because that's what she wants. Thanks to all who subscribe to the newsletter. Should you want to send in an article to be included, please do!

~Virginia

When my offer to help Virginia with the newsletter was accepted, it became a lifeline to me. During the scariest time in my life (new to AA and sobriety), I felt included. I can never repay her (or the many who came before me) for welcoming me into their beautiful lives. I can only pray to show others the love and tolerance they have shown me by welcoming others into mine. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

~Fifi

We would love to hear your stories and thoughts. If you have a submission for the newsletter please email it to Fifi3333@gmail.com.

We publish for your enjoyment and information. Any mistakes you find are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

On the Rogue Again, is a monthly Newsletter of the Jackson County Central Office. It is about by, and for the members of Alcoholic Anonymous Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein

aren't to be attributed to Alcoholic Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply any endorsement by either Alcoholic Anonymous Jackson County Central Office, or "On the Rogue Again". (Exceptions: Quotations from the A. A. books or pamphlets and the 12 Steps and/or 12 Traditions are reprinted with permission of A. A. World Services, Inc) On the Rogue Again reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, proper language, length, contents that violate A. A. Traditions, etc.

Have a good day unless you have made other plans.

Read pages 86-87-88 in your Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous every day.

Central Office News

Greetings from the Board of Jackson County AA Central Office. We thank all of the groups and individuals for their generous support.

A great way to get involved is to volunteer for a four hour shift once a week. Please contact Bill S. at Central Office to learn more about this.

You can always come to the business meeting the first Saturday of the month to volunteer.

Remember, Central Office now has a web site.

There you can find information about upcoming events and the meeting schedule as well the current issue of "On the Rogue Again." You can find it by pointing your browser to www.jccoaa.org

"The greatest of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."

Board Members

Chair	-	Wayne T.
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Donations for Nov/ Dec 2015

White House Group	150
Bottom of the Barrel	10.00
Keep It Simple	120.00
Thursday Night Candlelight	75.00
Talent AA	250.00
There is a Solution	163.70
Bottom of the Barrel	70.00
Sunday Morning Ashland	60.00
By the Book	215.00

Birthdays

Russ W.	20.00
Anne G.	12.00

Newsletter

Kelley	25.00
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How about donating a dollar for each year on your sobriety birthday?!

Tributes to Friends

You couldn't pigeon-hole Steve in some classification such as liberal, conservative, old-fashioned, redneck, etc. nor predict what his opinion might be on any subject. That's what made him so interesting and fun to be around and helped me understand why the British had so much trouble with the Irish. An option pollster might categorize him as a fiscal conservative and a social liberal. In my head-to-head political discussions with him we usually wound-up with me calling him a Fabian Socialist and him calling me a

Coolidge Conservative. He frequently started arguments when I knew he agreed with the other person but did so (he would later admit) just to generate discussion or press someone's buttons.

A number of you have probably heard of the conditions he laid on me when I became his sponsor: "stay out of my pocket, don't tell me how to run my life, if I need your help I'll ask for it" etc. I found this was typical of his approach to lots of activities. He sounded like Attila The Hun but frequently acted like Mary Poppins. When I accused him of being a cheapskate, he vehemently denied it but later spent like Diamond Jim Brady. When he found out which meetings I attended, he quietly followed suit. And when he sponsored another alcoholic, he displayed more optimism and patience that I would have.

Steve succeeded in the business world to a degree not justified by his formal education in an organization populated by people with doctorates and masters. I believe that was because he had street smarts, knowledge based on actual experience and native savvy.

Steve and I got along because we shared backgrounds: we grew up poor during the Depression, in Northern California, we had drunken fathers, we both defined success in terms of work and pay, we had wives somewhat younger than us, we selected the Rogue Valley to retire to, etc. Also, we were oft mistaken for one another even though I'm prettier.

But he could remember a story and tell it much better than I.

I shall miss my pal. I already do.

Tom Montgomery

I met Janet Donald about 12 years ago at the Eagle Point Women's Meeting at 6PM on Thursday, at the EP Senior Center. We like to say that it is the best meeting in the Rogue Valley. She was warm and friendly and immediately impressed me as an open hearted, kind, thoughtful woman. As we became friends,

we discovered that we both had a passion for reading, especially spiritual literature. So we naturally shared our books. We also both love nature and shared the comfort that we found there. We swapped “drive em and wreck em” stories and she told me how she liked to “follow the moon”.

Janet loved to crochet and her many hats can be seen on women around the Rogue Valley. Crocheted bookmarks, notes and writings she gave me can be found tucked between the pages of my favorite books.

Janet’s naturally big open heart and caring ways touched many within our community and she will be remembered for her quiet thoughtful ways and especially for her gift of always putting others first.

Janet has a special forever place in my heart and I will always remember my dear, sweet friend and her beautiful smile as she shared in the meeting that the “grand and glorious” is on the way! Love you sweet friend, teacher and guide. Enjoy your grand and glorious!

Donna K.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southern Oregon Dog on the Roof
BOWLING FIASCO
"It's a Family Affair"
February 14, 2016 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Roxy Ann Bowling Lanes
2375 South Pacific Hwy.
For more info call Don Ball
at 541-941-2916

Central Office Annual Fundraiser Breakfast
Sunday, April 3rd 9:30am
Breakfast / Speaker / Raffle
All for the low price of \$10 (children \$5)
St. Vincent DePaul
2424 N. Pacific Hwy
Medford, OR
Tickets available at Central Office

MEMORIES OF ALCOHOL

"I drank for happiness and became unhappy. I drank for joy and became miserable. I drank for sociability and became argumentative. I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious. I drank for friendship and made enemies. I drank for sleep and woke up tired. I drank for strength and felt weak. I drank for relaxation and got the shakes. I drank for courage and became afraid. I drank for confidence and became doubtful. I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech. I drank to feel heavenly and ended up feeling like hell."- **Author Unknown**



Step 12

Having had a spiritual experience as the result of this course of action, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Henry (Hank) P., New Jersey.
(OM and 1st edition, p. 194.)

Hank was the first man Bill W. was successful in sobering up after returning from his famous trip to Akron where he met Dr. Bob. Thus Hank was A.A. #2 in New York prior to resuming drinking about four years later. His original date of sobriety was either October or November 1935.

Hank was a salesman, an agnostic, and a former Standard Oil of New Jersey executive, who had lost his job because of drinking. He wound up at Towns Hospital, where Bill found him in the fall of 1935. The first mention of Hank in

the Big Book is on page xxix of The Doctor's Opinion. He is believed to be the man Dr. Silkworth described who seemed to be a case of pathological mental deterioration. (Hank later became very paranoid and Dr. Silkworth warned Bill he might become dangerous.)

When Bill and Lois lost their home on Clinton Street, Brooklyn, it was to Hank P.'s home in New Jersey that they moved for a short time.

He and Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle"), lead the fight against too much talk of God in the 12 steps, which resulted in the compromise "God as we understood Him."

Hank had a small business, Honor Dealers, in Newark, NJ. It is the little company mentioned on page 149. According to one source, he had conceived it as a way of getting back at Standard Oil, which had fired him. Bill W. and Jim B. worked there for a time and Bill dictated most of the Big Book to Ruth Hock in this office.

Ruth Hock said the Big Book would not have been written without Bill, and it would not have been published without Hank. And Hank wrote, except for the opening paragraph, the chapter "To Employers."

But Hank became very hostile toward Bill. Problems developed between them over the way Hank was setting up Works Publishing Co., as a for profit corporation, with himself as President. As a result of the feedback from group members, Bill listed himself as the sole author of the Big Book as a means of counterbalancing this.

There were other problems over money, and over Ruth Hock. Hank wanted to divorce his wife, Kathleen, and marry Ruth, and when Ruth decided to go with Bill when he moved the A.A. office out of Honor Dealers, Hank was furious. Bill paid him \$200 for the office furniture (which he claimed he still owned, but which had been purchased from him earlier), in exchange for Hank turning over his

stock in Works Publishing, as all the others had done. Hank then went to Cleveland to try to start problems for Bill there.

No one knows exactly when Hank had started drinking again, but in the diary Lois W. kept there are various September 1939 entries that mention that Hank was drunk. He did get back on the program for a short time at some later date but it didn't last.

Nevertheless, A.A. owes Hank a debt of gratitude for his many contributions during his all too short period of sobriety.

He died after a long illness at Glenwood Sanitarium in Trenton, New Jersey, on January 18, 1954, at the age of fifty-seven. Lois W. ascribed his death to drinking. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 22 at Blackwell Memorial Home. Rev. A. Kenneth Magner of the First Presbyterian Church performed the service.

At the time of his death he and his wife, Kathleen Nixon P. (whom he had remarried after two failed marriages) were living at Washington-Crossing Road, Pennington, New Jersey. One son, Henry G. P., Jr., was living in Madeira Beach, Florida. A second son Robert S. P., was living in Pennington.

Prayer
in action
is love, *Love*
in action
is service.

MOTHER TERESA

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One

Step One

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

Tradition One

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Concept One

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

One

On Step One....

AFTER ALMOST six years of coming to meetings and thinking that I was doing just fine, I am starting to understand the second part of the First Step. Maybe it is that I am an exceptionally slow learner, or that I am not a good listener, but six years somehow seems a long time to begin understanding what the First Step means. For all of that time, I knew I was powerless over alcohol, but I thought my life was unmanageable because I was powerless. Now that I had quit drinking, I believed I could again begin to manage my life and control what happened. But my life is just as unmanageable today as it was when I was in an almost daily blackout. The Big Book told me that many of the things other people did to me were the result of things I did. My alcoholic mind did not grasp the meaning of that thought, either. After three and one-half years in the program, I had never felt better--emotionally, spiritually, or physically. Those first years in the program were more than I had dreamed life could ever be for me. It was great! We talk of the honeymoon period in the program, and I thought that the marriage was going to get better and better forever. Then, my past began to catch up with me. I became involved with a huge antitrust lawsuit concerning a former employer. The publicity was

enormous. A major political candidate that I was working for made some statements that I disagreed with, and I resigned my position and called in the press. Again, attention was drawn to me. Boy, was it something to be quoted in newspapers and on TV from coast to coast. Important me! All of a sudden, I was no longer making things happen in my life; things began happening to me. I became unemployed and could not get a job. I became depressed and felt that I was a victim of some unjust plot. Today, after almost twenty-one months without a job, I have lost all my material possessions. But I have come to realize that there is a difference between self-importance and self-esteem. I need not feel important to feel good about myself. I cannot manage much of what goes on in this life. About all I am able to manage is my own actions, and even that is hard to do. I lived so long feeling that I was easily hurt, that I bore suffering poorly, and that if you hurt me, I would retaliate. Today, I am trying to learn and live a life that does not include retaliation, resentments, and anger, and to live without hurting myself or others. After thinking that I had "gone through" the Twelve Steps, coming to realize that I did not understand what even the First Step meant was a lesson in humility. Ego deflation in depth is what the Big Book says I need. I pray today that I can accept and not try to manage, that I can simply be a participant in life. Maybe there is hope for me. I am still trying to work the program, and I know that willingness and acceptance are the key. Reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine © April 1984 Vol. 40 No. 11

Tradition 1

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." Our whole A.A. program is securely founded on the principle of humility--that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are--"a small part of a great whole." Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group

harmony. That is why A.A. Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first." "Does this mean," some will ask, "that in A.A. the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?" No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has no "musts." Few A.A. groups impose penalties on anyone for non-conformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or non-compliance with any principle of A.A. is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "Judge not," we observe most literally. "But," some will argue, "if A.A. has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?" The answer seems to be that we A.A.s cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group

opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and, if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction. So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves. Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no A.A., and that without A.A. there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm A.A. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole." - Bill W.—Editorial on the First Tradition, The Grapevine, The inventory was ours, not the other man's" p.67 Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depend upon A.A. unity. New Frontiers ~ January 2016

ARCHIVES

Bill W. died at 11:30, Sunday, January 24, 1971, at the Miami Heart Institute, Miami Beach, Fla., after a long illness. He had been treated for emphysema since 1968. At death he was 75 years old. After a private funeral service, burial will be in E. Dorset, Vt., where he was born on November 26, 1895. These arrangements followed Bill's wishes. A.A. groups around the world will hold memorial meetings February 14, 1971, honoring Bill's work as cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous, author of basic A.A. books, and chief architect and articulator of the Fellowship's principles. Bill's last public appearance was at the Spiritual Meeting, July 5, 1970, in Convention Hall, Miami Beach, which closed the 35th Anniversary International Convention - the 5th

in A.A. history. He had gone to Florida anticipating a full speaking schedule, but virus pneumonia necessitated a short hospitalization, and physicians allowed him only the one token convention appearance. That Sunday morning, the tall, slender and somewhat weary white-haired man was wearing a bright orange-colored jacket as a salute to the A.A.'s of his host state. As he pulled himself to his feet, a throng of 11, 000 men, women, and children jumped to their feet applauding and cheering. Many wept." (from Box 459 Vol. 16 No.2 Memorial Issue, January 1971) So many years had passed since that last drink on December 11th 1934 when Bill gulped from that fourth bottle of beer on the railway station platform before he hustled to Towns Hospital for another sobering up by Dr. Silkworth (from page 64 of the Bill W. documentary by Robert Thomsen). His efforts to provide the direction of the three legacies of Unity, Recovery and Service via the Big Book, then the Twelve and Twelve, the Service Manual and the hundreds of Grapevine articles now influence the lives of over two million alcoholics who recognize and value Bill's dedication and service.

More of the story....

On page 16 near the conclusion of "Bill's Story," there is the sentence: "One poor chap committed suicide in my home." The poor chap was Bill C., who had been a guest at the home of Bill and Lois at 182 Clinton St. for nearly a year. After being away on a visit, Bill opened the door to their home and smelled the natural gas that had ended Bill C.'s life. Later, "Bill and Lois discovered that he had been selling of all of their good dress clothes to finance his drinking and gambling." On the bottom of page 102, there are the words: "Many of us keep liquor in our homes." At least one of those people was Dr. Bob himself, who is allegedly* quoted as saying: "I was adamant on having liquor. I said we had to prove that you could live in the presence of liquor. So I got two big bottles and put them right on the sideboard and that drove Anne wild for a while." Could Dr. Bob's insistence on liquor in his home be related to another memory contained in Dr. Bob's A.A. story? On page 181, Dr. Bob wrote, "Unlike most of our crowd, I did not get over my craving for liquor much during the first two and one-half years of abstinence." No wonder! The bottom of page 138 begins: "I want to throw up my hands in discouragement, for I saw that I had failed to help my banker friend understand. He simply could not believe that his brother-executive suffered from a serious illness." Who was the brother-executive? According to the web site barefootsworld.net/aa-bbtrivia.html, he was Clarence

Snyder, who had his story entitled "The Home Brewmeister" in the first three editions of the Big Book. Clarence was sponsored by Dr. Bob after getting sober in February of 1938, and eventually claimed to hold the first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in May of 1939 in Cleveland, Ohio using somewhat of a technicality. The book Alcoholics Anonymous had just been published. Clarence claimed to have held the first meeting named after the book. This made him a founder of A.A. On page 7, a sentence begins, "My brother-in-law is a physician." That brother-in law was Dr. Leonard V. Strong Jr., the husband of Bill's younger sister Dorothy. He was among the reasons that Bill Wilson ended up at Town's Hospital to meet Dr. Silkworth, rather than having to go to Bellevue Hospital where most of the other New York drunks went for treatment. Dr. Strong attended the famous Rockefeller dinner on February 8, 1940 as well as being among the first trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation. He died on April 24, 1989. He and his wife Dorothy are buried 150 feet from Bill and Lois in East Dorset Cemetery in Vermont.

** I said "allegedly" because as of this writing, I haven't been able to find the source for this quote*





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