

MARKINGS

Your Archives Interchange

Volume Two, Number Two

June-July 1982

ARCHIVES NEWS

The proliferation of Archival Centers within the A.A. world has made our recently fashioned Newsletter, Markings: Your Archives Interchange, a best-seller, with over 700 copies now being mailed. Three issues a year are planned.

Many photos of our co-founders were added to our collection, Lois W. being the chief donor. Our efforts to preserve significant press clippings continue, 15 scrapbooks have been completed, covering newspaper stories on A.A. from 1939 thru 1960. These have been microfilmed for protection. We are exploring the feasibility of producing one scrapbook incorporating the "best of the scrapbooks" perhaps making reproductions of it available to local Archival Centers.

Much time has been given to assisting the author of the new Bill W. biography: providing information and photos, locating new material and offering reference sources, as well as reviewing the first two drafts of the manuscript.

Please note that this is VOLUME TWO-NUMBER TWO. The Feb-March, 1982 Issue should have been classified as VOLUME TWO-NUMBER ONE. (This is the third issue of MARKINGS.)



Some of our Archive people are shown in the photo above. A brief sketch of them:

RONALD W. BRENNE
(Assistant Archivist)

Ron comes to us with considerable Archival background, including a recent association with the Dorchester Historical Society in Boston. Before that he researched photographs for U.P.I. Ron's skills and experience will be even more vital to our preservation and collection efforts as Nell prepares for retirement. More of that sad eventuality in a later issue.

VERONICA K. STONE

"Ronnie" joined us during the winter of 1981 from the Aluminum Company of Canada, where she served as Librarian and administrator. She also helped to assemble the 1981 Musical America, a specialty magazine for professional musicians. Ronnie is also a singer and a professional actress.

SPECIAL ATTENTION CORNER:

In this issue special notice must be given to the Archival Area of Missouri and Archives Chairman, Bob R. Although the pictures and story of the Missouri Traveling Archives have been picked up and displayed prominently in Box 4-5-9, we also want to praise the ingenuity behind this endeavor and share some of Bob's ideas with all our Archivists.

Bob says - "We have two glass display cases. One is borrowed and the other was made by one of our members at a material cost of about \$150 (labor was free). It has glass on five sides and different items can be displayed from three sides. (A stand with pages) used to be an "Armstrong" hard surface flooring display. All we did was take out the flooring samples and buy plexiglas and sandwich pictures and news articles between. Total cost of the display was about \$300, most of which was the plexiglas.

We try to display all we can haul at special events such as conferences and, of course, the Forum. It seems to get people interested in looking, donating memorabilia, and their money...."

NEW ARCHIVAL CENTERS

Arkansas...District of Columbia...Rhode Island... Southern Wisconsin...

Photography

ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS

More and more dedicated photographers are concerned with the permanence of their images. Kodak claims that the slides they process at their plants should retain their full color and brilliance for many years if they are kept under decent conditions and not subject to intense heat or moisture.

Paper prints, both color and black and white, are another story. Paperprints fade at some time or another during their life. Half of the time it is due to cheap, hasty processing, where the prints are not washed properly, and developer or hyporesidue is left in the paper causing the paper to develop brown stains within a few years. To avoid this untimely end to your photos, a system of purifying your papers of all chemicals has been developed which is called ARCHIVAL processing. This procedure includes washing the papers in successive water baths, including a hypo eliminator bath after each water bath and then washing in an efficient print washer with running water for 30 minutes, each time. Many dark room technicians use a chemical wash agent like Perma Wash that reduces the wash time to five minutes. Prints are then rough dried in fresh blotters and then laid on clean screens to dry overnight. Nothing must contaminate your papers. Specially made archival boxes are available for print storage. If the papers are to be mounted, it must be done on acid-free mount boards with acid free tape or vegetable glue.

PRESERVATION IDEAS

From time to time these columns will share some important aspects of developing techniques for helping to make documents last. Some may be incorporated into your center, some may not. Remember, heat and high or low humidity are the worst environmental features. Try for 65° F (or cooler) and 40% humidity.

NEW ARCHIVES HOME

On March 29, 1982, Archives moved into four rooms on the fifth floor of 468 Park Ave. South. At last Archives has found a permanent home, sharing the floor with our neighbor, The Grapevine. Our new and bright quarters consist of a Research Room, Storage Room, Reception Area and an Office/Workroom. Here visitors may see the papers of our co-founders, Akron's Dr. Bob S. and New York's Bill W. and the correspondence of The Alcoholic Foundation and Works Publishing, Inc. On the walls are photos of events and places that are a part of the historical development of the Fellowship.

This year's General Service Conference on April 18-24th brought a steady stream of visitors to G.S.O. and Archives had its share of over a hundred. On May 24th, G.S.O. held an "Open House." Archives was a hit.

In our next "Markings" we plan a pictorial feature on the new quarters.

ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT FILTERING MATERIALS

All light is in some degree damaging to paper, causing it to yellow and become embrittled. Book bindings are similarly damaged, the most noticeable effect being fading of both leather and cloth bindings. Most damaging is that light known as ultraviolet. Sunlight, even indirect sunlight, contains the greatest amount of ultraviolet radiation. Fluorescent light, especially the type emitted by the cool-white and deluxe cool-white types is next in the amount of ultraviolet and in the severity of its effects on paper. Incandescent light contains a negligible amount of ultraviolet radiation. Fortunately, the most damaging of these effects can be largely overcome at relatively modest cost through the use of special materials that filter out the ultraviolet rays from sunlight and from fluorescent lights. These materials are available as plastic films, sheets or sleeves, that can be used to glaze windows or picture frames, installed over window glass, substituted for the plastic lenses in fluorescent light fixtures, or slipped over standard fluorescent light tubes. Best known of these products are the UV sleeves designed to slip over standard fluorescent tubes. These are produced by a few manufacturers who use an acrylic molding powder designated UVA-7. Sleeves made from this material filter out approximately 95 percent of the harmful UV radiation produced by fluorescent tubes. These sleeves do not lose effectiveness and do not have to be replaced periodically.

IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS S.
(1904 - 1982)

Tom S., 78, an early member of A.A. in Florida, died June 9, 1982. He was born in Darlington, S.C. and lived in Jacksonville most of his life. He helped found Jacksonville's first A.A. Chapter in 1941. A graduate of Georgia Tech., he served on the (Florida) Governor's Advisory Council for the Rehabilitation of Alcoholics-1953-1960 and was Southeast U.S. Regional Trustee on the G.S.B. 1961-1965. A colleague said of Tom "He very quietly went about helping people in every walk of life. He often said the most important thing about the A.A. way of life was getting out and helping others who were sick."

Tom, a long-time A.A. history "buff" urged G.S.O. to develop the dormant library-archive project. In 1973, with the creation of a Trustee's Archives Committee, he headed a subcommittee that asked early members for oral histories and A.A. memorabilia. On Nov. 3, 1975, G.S.O. Archives was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony, presided over by Tom and Lois W., widow of Co-Founder Bill W., in New York. Nell Wing (nonalcoholic) Archivist, considered him "The Father of the G.S.O. Archives."

ARTHUR A.
(1914 - 1982)

Andy A., 68, a 33-year member of A.A. died Feb. 5, 1982. Born in Philadelphia, Pa., he lived most of his life in Port Huron Mich. After studying engineering at the University of Mich. he was employed by the Chrysler Corp. Andy served as a member of the St. Clair County Substance Abuse Council. He was elected East Central U.S. Regional Trustee on the G.S.B. 1967-1971. He was considered a guiding force in A.A. Archives in Michigan.

ANYBODY GOT ANY PICTURES OF THE 1950 CLEVELAND CONVENTION?

To complete our history of the First International A.A. Convention held in this lake city, we would like copies of any interesting photographs some of our readers might have. We will of course reimburse for the cost of the copies.

And while we're asking, any Area Earlytimer Meetings should be taped for your own Archives collection and we'd appreciate a copy. Again we can reimburse for the cassette. As mentioned in Feb-March Issue, we do not need specific tapes of individual members, but we are particularly interested in these Meeting tapes.

We appreciate your work on behalf of the members who will be asking the questions and wanting to know.

SAVE THOSE OLD GRAPEVINE FOR US

In checking through our GRAPEVINE collection we find some serious gaps. How these issues got away from us we can't fathom. We would like to ask your help in locating these lost issues:

WE NEED

- 1960 Jan.Feb.Mar.Apr.May
Jun.Jul.Aug.Sep.Dec.
- 1961 Jan.Feb.Mar.Apr.May
Jun.Jul.Aug.Sep.Oct.
- 1962 Mar.Apr.May Jun.Jul.
Aug.Sep.Oct.Nov.Dec.
- 1963 Feb.Mar.Jun.Oct.
- 1964 Sep. - 1967 Feb.

A.A. Archives has available a set of nine historical Archive photos at \$4.50 a set.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

1. "A.A. Comes of Age" - In Braille with cassettes.
2. "A History of Alcoholics Anonymous in Delaware" Susan G. and Archives Committee.
3. Gavel and Block presented to Bill W. on the 25th Anniversary of A.A., July, 1960 by Ancon Group-Diablo Canal Zone. Made from original Transisthmian Railroad Tie, French Canal Co. 1855.
4. First Edition - Ninth Printing of the Big Book. Gift from the Last Chance Group, Saline, Michigan and the Port Huron Monday Night Group, through the courtesy of Jack and Judy W.
5. The Papers of Al M. - Los Angeles Area long time member.



THE LASKER AWARD

The American Public Health Association's Lasker Award, presented to A.A. for contribution in the field of Public Health. Presented in San Francisco, October 1951.

ARCHIVAL ACTIVITY: EXCERPTS FROM NEWSLETTERS, LETTERS AND REPORTS

"Committee discussed problems that might develop and which will require advice from more qualified people in the museum and archive fields. For example, it will be necessary to determine what effect artificial light from different kinds of fluorescent lighting will have on documents once it is intended to put the material on display under lights so that members may be able to view them." (See related story - Page 2)
(Minutes - Toronto Area Archives Committee)

"We are making a special push to get our Group Histories in. They have been coming in although slowly and we still do not have more than about five per cent of existing groups on record."
(Archivist's Report - Eastern Missouri Archives)

"Is there anyone out there who is interested in the challenging job of Archivist for the South Bay A.A. history? So many of our older members have passed away and it would be nice to keep some records to be carried on to others in the future."
(South Bay A.A. News - All South Bay Central Office Newsletter)

"When I took over as Archivist for the Oregon area, we had a handsome glass-fronted case in the Portland Intergroup office, a collection of books and literature relating to alcoholism, a coffee pot like Dr. Bob's, some pictures, a flock of bound Grapevines, local newsletters and minutes, A.A. books and a collection of A.A. tapes on 7" reels that were starting to flake. Copied all of these old tapes on cassettes, then had to figure a way to give our members access to them. We are currently selling copies...we buy quality blanks on sale and have so far stayed in the black (just) with this arrangement. What we would like to find out: Does anybody have a "Better Mousetrap" as the saying goes. If we could just find a way to give more members access to them, it could be another useful tool for recovery."
(Howard F. S. - Archives - Oregon)

"1981 was our first year and we have gotten off to a good start. We have actively become a committee of people trying to preserve our heritage. We have started getting histories of some parts of Virginia with Lynchburg and Staunton leading the way. Now we have taped interviews of some of Northern Virginia's oldtimers. It has been a good year."
(William L. (Country Bill) Chairman - Virginia Archives Committee)

"I will again be making a personal verbal appeal to the G.S.R.'s gathered at the Assembly to help in this very vital gathering of Memos, Letters, Photos, Books, Newsletters, Bulletins, Reports, Group Histories, Personal Histories, Newspaper Clippings and any other written, printed or typed material which relates to any part of the history of A.A. from the beginnings to the present day..."
(Tom P. - Archivist - "Unity" Newsletter of A.A. Auckland, New Zealand)

"It is thirty years since the first Group meeting took place in London. Much history must have been created during that thirty-odd years and much is probably on record in newsletters, news clippings, reports, articles, tapes films, etc. We must ensure that these historical records are not lost but are collected together and preserved as an historical memorabilia of the Fellowship here in Great Britain."
(Gordon W. - Archives - Great Britain)

"Historian has catalogued the material on hand. More has been promised from several locales and it has been an exciting two years for her..."
(Minutes - New Mexico)