



# MARKINGS

YOUR ARCHIVES INTERCHANGE

Vol.III • No. 2 • Fall — 1985

## THE OXFORD GROUP: FORERUNNER OF A.A.

An airline pilot called it "a wonder drug that makes real human beings out of people." A newspaper man wrote "It's not an institution/ It's not a point of view/ It starts a revolution/ By starting one in you."

They were talking about the Oxford Group, the chief forerunner of A.A. The founder or "initiator" as he called himself, was a tall impeccably dressed man with a reserved manner and owlish features; to many he appeared an improbable prophet.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1878, Frank Buchman started his career as a Lutheran minister. After a series of personal disappointments, he became a "changer of men" and launched the Oxford Group between 1916-1920. The group established high ethical standards for its members and urged them to aspire to the four absolutes: absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, and absolute love. These absolutes become the standard for evaluating individual progress.

Possibly the most important single feature of group life was the practice of confession or "sharing." The early days of the group's development were characterized by experiences in which members stood before audiences to tell about their failures.

Buchman gained access to the high society of his day and inspired a deep devotion among his followers, partly because of his remarkable ability with language. He would couch his message in folksy, easily understood metaphors: "If a man's got eye trouble, it's no use throwing eye medicine at him from a second story window" and "Don't put the hay so high a mule can't reach it."

By the 1930's the Oxford Group had attracted many alcoholics; and some stayed sober.

In the mid-1930's, Bill W. came in contact with the Oxford Group at the Calvary Episcopal Church in New York, which conducted a mission for alcoholics. On a business trip to Akron, he found himself struggling with his drinking urge and looked around for some other alcoholic who might be having similar difficulty. He met Dr. Bob who, coincidentally, also had been associated with the Oxford Group.

As these two men shared their experiences, they became aware of the value of spiritual principles, fellowship and a common bond, such as they had in their alcoholism. Moving from weakness to strength, they felt they could reach out to help others who were struggling with alcoholism, and so Alcoholics Anonymous was born.

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## SERIALLY . . . THE ARCHIVAL HANDBOOK

In this and subsequent issues of MARKINGS we will offer suggestions for setting up an ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS ARCHIVAL REPOSITORY. These suggestions can eventually comprise a handbook which your Area Archivist might consolidate, utilize and pass on.

Like the A.A. program itself, the sections that follow here and in future issues are neither ground rules nor laws. They are offered as suggestions only, guides to aid you in deciding what to collect, how to preserve and classify the material, and how to help researchers. G.S.O. policy guidelines are presented — subject to whatever modifications and changes which may be necessary for your particular set of circumstances. Let us keep in mind . . .

" . . . We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian . . . It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our file in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion . . . we want to keep on enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full-length history to come. . . "

Bill W. 1957

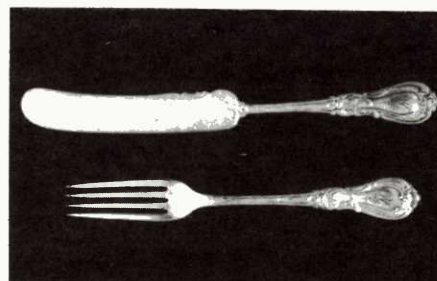
## PLANNING AND SETTING UP AN ARCHIVAL CENTER WHY ESTABLISH AN ARCHIVES (1)

There is both a need and an obligation to preserve the experience, history and memorabilia of the Fellowship. The existing correspondence, records, photographs, newspaper and magazine articles of these years need to be collected, preserved and

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*Baby Cup engraved: "William G. Wilson, Born East Dorset, Vt., Nov. 26, 1895." This was believed given to him by his grandmother Wilson.*



*This ornately engraved child's knife and fork belonged to Bill Wilson.*



Signet ring presented to Bill W. by the men in his World War I command.



Inscription reads: "From Men of Bat. Co. 66th C. A.C., Chalus, France Nov. 1918"

## GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF VIRGINIA AREA ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Archives Committee reserves the right to refuse requests that would involve damage to originals, to restrict the use or further reproduction of rare or valuable material; to protect the identity of individuals according to traditions.

### USE OF MATERIALS

1. Researchers must present appropriate identification, complete and sign an application for use of the collection. It is preferred that researchers contact the Archivist before arriving to examine the manuscripts or archival collections.
2. Visitors to the archives will be assigned a special area for research.
3. All briefcases, hats and personal effects must be kept in the area designated by archival personnel.
4. Visitors using archival material are limited to one box at a time. You are requested to remove only one folder at a time. Records must be kept in the order in which they are in the folders. Papers seemingly in disorder should be brought to the attention of the Archivist. Users must not attempt to arrange records.
5. Materials must not be taken from designated areas in the archives.

### PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS

1. Permission to publish any part of materials owned by Virginia Area Archives will require special permission from the Archivist, the Archive Committee, the Area Committee Chairman and the Area Delegate.
2. A request form must be submitted in writing in plenty of time to receive administrative consideration.
3. Permission to examine material does not constitute authority to publish it.

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## ARCHIVES HISTORY

### 11 YEARS MARKED BY GROWTH AND CHANGE

You will find no mention of the G.S.O. Archives in the Big Book or in *Alcoholics Comes of Age* for the simple reason that it didn't exist when these books were published. However, in a letter dated 1957, A.A. co-founder Bill Wilson expressed concern for the preservation of original papers and artifacts.

It was not until two years after Bill W.'s death that the trustees Archives Committee was established by the General Service Board and held its first meeting on October 24, 1973. The committee determined the main purpose of the Archives: 1. To give the Fellowship "a sense of its own past and the opportunity to study it." 2. "To keep the record straight so that myth does not predominate over fact."

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSIONAL INCORPORATION OF A.A. FROM OUR PAST

"The committee has reviewed all of the arguments pro and con on the subject of incorporation, have discussed it with many members of A.A. within the Conferences and outside of it and have come to these conclusions:

1. The evils which caused the question to arise have largely abated.
  2. It would create by law a power to govern which would be contrary to, and violative of, our Traditions.
  3. It would implement the spiritual force of A.A. with a legal power, which we believe would tend to weaken its spiritual strength.
  4. When we ask for legal rights, enforceable in Courts of Law, we by the same act subject ourselves to possible legal regulation.
  5. We might well become endlessly entangled in litigation which, together with the incident expense and publicity, could seriously threaten our very existence.
  6. Incorporation could conceivably become the opening wedge that might engender politics and a struggle for power within our own ranks.
  7. Continuously since its beginning and today, A.A. has been a fellowship and not an organization. Incorporation necessarily makes it an organization.
  8. We believe that "spiritual faith" and a "way of life" cannot be incorporated.
  9. A.A. can and will survive as long as it remains a spiritual faith and a way of life to all men and women who suffer from alcoholism."
- "Therefore, keeping in mind the high purpose of the General Service Conference as expressed by the Chairman last year when he said 'We seek not compromise but certainty', your Committee unanimously recommends that Alcoholics Anonymous does NOT incorporate."  
(Editor's note: The title "Alcoholics Anonymous" is copyrighted and remains the property of the Fellowship.)

## THE OXFORD GROUP: FORERUNNER OF A.A.

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, the Oxford Group has moved from small intimate groups to large gatherings. In 1938 it took the name Moral Rearmament, abbreviated to MRA, and increasingly worked with national and world assemblies. A number of the early followers withdrew from the movement, dissatisfied with the shift from individual emphasis to mass methods. Buchman's main theme at the time was, "World changing through life changing," and it led to his downfall.

In the mid-1930's, Buchman tried to meet Adolf Hitler, convinced that even he was not beyond the range of God's love and power to change. He was unsuccessful, but kept trying to reach the dictator through his followers. Consequently, he was branded pro-Nazi.

A.A.'s founders learned from the Oxford Group's rise and fall. It is not by chance that the Preamble reads in part: "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."

Another important distinction was anonymity. In the early days, Buchman insisted on anonymity at the public level; later he became convinced that the use of one's name was a component of one's witness and could be used to winning others. Displaying a touch of Madison Avenue, he thought that testimonials could be used to market a satisfying life style, create teamwork in industry, and promote spirituality.

Yet, despite these differences Bill W. would never fail to acknowledge the profound influence of the Oxford Group in the rise of A.A. Speaking at the 20th anniversary meeting of the Fellowship, he said, ". . . the early Alcoholics Anonymous got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgement of character defects, restitution for harm done, and working with others straight from the Oxford Group."

## PAPER: CLEANING AND REPAIR

The solution to several preservation problems dealing with paper cleaning and repair, such as soiled pages, flattening creases, under book pages, and repairing, backing and laminating paper have been grouped together in this section. The procedures are simple, and with care and patience they can be carried out well.

### CLEANING PAPER COVERS

Materials and Tools:

1. Opaline Pad
2. Soft bristle brush
3. Gauze or soft cloth
4. Pink Pearl eraser
5. Cotton swabs

Release cleaning granules from an Opaline pad onto the paper by rotating and pressing the pad between the palms of your hands. Gently rub the granules across the cover with your fingertips. As the granules absorb the dirt and darken, brush them off with a soft brush or gauze, making sure that all are removed.

Gently rubbing a Pink Pearl eraser across the paper is another way to remove dirty spots or smudges. Be careful with paper-covered books, because excessive rubbing can remove the surface of the paper.

### CLEANING PRINTED LEAVES/PAGES

The following instructions are intended for use in cleaning only printed leaves or pages of a book. Do not attempt to clean works of art on paper in this way. Paint, charcoal, and pastels have their own inherent properties and should be left to the expertise of a professional art restorer.

Materials and Tools:

1. Opaline Pad
2. Pink Pearl eraser
3. Index card or 5 mil Mylar
4. Soft brush

Before attempting to clean paper, *carefully* consider the condition of each individual sheet or leaf. Brittle paper should not be cleaned, as abrasive action can cause it to crumble or tear. However, if the paper is only slightly soiled and otherwise in good condition, it can be cleaned with an Opaline pad. Heavily soiled leaves, dirty smudges, or pencil marks can usually be removed with a Pink Pearl eraser.

Any kind of soil removal must be undertaken with care, using a light touch. Always work from the center of the page toward the edge. When erasing along the edge of a page, it is advisable to support the edge with an index card or a similar piece of 5 mil Mylar to prevent tearing. Erase in small sections *toward the edge* of the page onto the support. After each portion is completed, move the support and proceed to the next area. Particles from the eraser should be swept from the page and the gutter margin with a soft brush.

## . . . GUIDELINES

(Continued from page 2)

### WARNING CONCERNING COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

The Virginia Area Archives reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order, if in its judgement, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law and the Twelve Traditions of A.A.

## “ . . . TO SO FEW ”

### Travers C., Bristol, England

It was in the early sixties that I first visited my sponsor's private rooms in Dublin. My first impression was that his natural habitat resembled an “OLD CURIOSITY SHOP” or, to put it bluntly, the back room of a purveyor of junk.

It was full of piles of old books, magazines and pamphlets, often encrusted with dust, and a myriad of nick-nacks and bric-a-brac, which seemed to have no connection with his personality or character. I knew but little — as my visits to him continued, that tangled mess of paraphernalia, which obviously meant so much to him, began bit by bit to take me over. This was his collection of memorabilia, collected during his years of active membership in the Fellowship. Slowly, he began to introduce me to each book, each signed photograph, each piece of his collection — simple introductions, such as “this is a signed photograph of Bob”, “here is a photograph of Bill with his violin, you knew, of course, that we both played the violin”, “this prayer book was given to me by Sister Ignatia . . . you may care to see what she has written in the flyleaf”, “here is a photograph with some friends in Oklahoma visiting an Indian Reservation trying to set up a new Meeting.”

During these early visits I felt a great change coming about in me. For the very first time “AA Comes of Age” became a living book. Bit by bit, I began to be emotionally captivated by what I had first viewed as a load of junk until I began to handle each item with a reverence never shown by me toward any material substance before. This pile of junk had to me become a cross between Aladdin's Cave and Pandora's Box. It was no longer just his . . . it was my roots and my history as well. For the first time I was to be in touch emotionally with the early members of AA. I suppose this was the beginning of my involvement with others.

Seeing that I was hooked, Sackville began to encourage me to collect — simple items at first — menus

of dinners, programmes of Conventions, photographs, to make notes of dates. I think he knew that in fact he was performing a very valuable 12th step.

One of the first things I did on the death of my sponsor in 1979 was to gather together all the letters, photographs, convention and anniversary programmes, together with more tangible memorabilia that I had in my possession, relating to Sackville's involvement with the formation and growth of Europe's first Group. Encouraged by what I had, I began to collect anything relating to the start of AA, not only in my own area, but also in the whole of England. I tried to contact other people, who I felt might be interested in joining me in this work. Regrettably with no response.

I tried unsuccessfully to “12th Step” into this work the Secretary of my Group. She could neither see the point or the need of gathering material.

I was fortunate that year to attend the World Convention in New Orleans with her. I persuaded her to attend, very reluctantly, an early morning workshop led by Nell Wing. That was the turning point. She left that workshop completely converted, full of enthusiasm for Archives, which I am delighted to say has in the past four years never waned.

We formed a little Committee and our work began in earnest. The following year we were able to hold at the Bristol Reunion our first Archives Meeting. 1982 and 1983 saw the Reunions in Bristol holding larger Archives Meetings, and an Archives Room, with our growing collection, being on display each year. As a result, we were able to involve other members in other parts of the country. We received great co-operation from our friends in Ireland through the late Gerry D., and also great encouragement from Nell and Frank. We were really on our way.

Then came a bonus. Like most bonuses in Recovery, it was never envisaged by me, never asked for, and came as a true gift. It happened this way:

Our little Committee's first priority was always to trace back origins, as

far as we could go, with surviving members, tape their early recollections, and piece together the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle. It was very much like joining together unrelated pieces of material to make what eventually has turned out to be the most exquisite patchwork quilt of Recovery. Very often the pieces were only names. We had difficulty in tracing some of them. Some had died, many were lost in the mists for ever, but a few we eventually got through to in all kinds of situations. They were living in Homes for Senior Citizens, Homes for Retired Officers, and some in Geriatric Hospitals. Their ages ranged from 75 to 94. Most of them had not had active contact with the Fellowship for some years. Nearly all were extremely cooperative and most willing to help our project. We just sat with them, together with a cassette recorder, and encouraged gently their recall. It slowly began to flow . . . Names . . . Places . . . People. Very often a name would be mentioned, which was that of someone we had already seen. They were delighted to know that the other person was alive, and to have news of them, and they nearly always asked if it were possible to contact these other “Ghosts of the Present”, who were still very much alive, and active members in the speaker's recall. I saw miracles begin to happen before my eyes — long forgotten members being contacted by their old Groups — isolated, institutionalized — members once again, through Archives involvement, being stimulated in such a way that they again wanted to be a part of our whole. Because of deafness, blindness, financial and health considerations, sometimes they were unable to make direct contact themselves and used me as a messenger boy extraordinary, conveying their very special message of experience, strength, and hope to each other — ALL THIS because of their new-found and re-kindled vitality as a result of once again being needed.

“HE WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO CREATE THE FELLOWSHIP YOU CRAVE”

## ARCHIVAL HANDBOOK

(Continued from page 1)

made available for guidance, use and research of A.A. members and others — researchers, historians, sociologists, and other scholars — not only for the present but for generations to come.

### SELECTING AN ARCHIVES COMMITTEE (2)

The idea of setting up an archives in a specific geographic area probably occurs to a member who has been in the Fellowship for several years, or two or more oldtimers may also have discussed the desirability of gathering memorabilia and early A.A. history. Many members may have visited the A.A. Archives in New York and have expressed a desire to create their own local or area centers, beginning a project of collecting area history.

The Area or State Committee may be sounded out about the idea, the result of which may be the creation of an Archives Committee, perhaps responsible to the Area or State Committee, which would probably be composed of older members in the area who are knowledgeable about the early area history and sources for obtaining local historical material. This committee would be responsible for establishing policies, budget requirements and procedures for that

particular area. Current or past delegates could be helpful and most of them will probably be interested in cooperating.

The Archives Committee may, as its first action, select a person to act as permanent, nonrotating archivist — the focal person for the collection. However, the committee should maintain final responsibility and authority for the use of the archives and exercise its group conscience in regard to all matters of general policy.

An archives should not be financed in any way fundamentally different from a regular A.A. group. An archives is not a club and should not require dues, fees or assessments from other A.A. funds, particularly those that are normally provided for central offices or other area committees, intergroups and the General Service Office. Voluntary contributions from A.A.'s should sustain the archives. In most cases, interested members will immediately see the value of a local archives, and their generosity will indicate most clearly that a need is being met. Funding should be consistent with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support and be provided solely by A.A. members.

In all its actions, the A.A. Archives Committee should remain mindful of and guided by the primary purpose of helping alcoholics achieve sobriety. This simple overriding principle can be the most useful tool available in setting policy and conducting



South Carolina State Archives

the affairs of an archives in the A.A. Fellowship, just as it is central to the operation of the G.S.O. Archives in New York. Should non-A.A.'s serve on the Archives Committee (and this is possible because of their interest and special knowledge and expertise), they should be thoroughly familiar with the "primary purpose" concept.

### SELECTION OF ARCHIVIST AND ASSISTANT(S) (3)

The Archivist ought to have some familiarity with library and archival procedures. If the archival center is located in a large city there is probably a course available in library science at the local high school or college extension program. There is a very good two-weeks course given at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It is an introductory program, but covers a lot of useful material. The University at Denver offers an excellent course, a longer and probably more definitive one than is really necessary. What is important is that the archivist has the desire to do the job and learn about local A.A. history, and how to care for and maintain records in a systematic fashion.



Oklahoma State Archives

We have reprinted *Guidelines* and *Usage* with the permission of the Virginia Area Archives Committee. We think this carefully concise and thorough report might be useful as a model, adaptive to any particular archival needs. Ed.

## VIRGINIA AREA ARCHIVES GUIDELINES

I. **NAME: VIRGINIA AREA ARCHIVES** is hereby established as the official archival agency of the area.

II. **OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of the Virginia Area Archives shall be the collection,

preservation and administration of the official records of the Area and the development of standards for the making, care and administration of archives throughout the Area.

III. **ARCHIVES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The Archives and Finance committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the archives.

IV. **FUNCTIONS OF ARCHIVES:** The Cmte. shall have the authority to make policies regulating the Archives; to control the expenditure of such funds as may be appropriated for equipment and maintenance, to accept gifts, be-

quests, and endowments for purposes consistent with the aims of the Archives; to make necessary reports of receipts, disbursements and to adopt policies and projects designed to fulfill the duties and attain the objectives of the Archives.

V. **THE ARCHIVIST:** The active management and administration of the Virginia Area Archives shall be vested in the archivist who shall be qualified by professional training in archival work at the time of his appointment. The Archivist shall formulate rules and regulations, under existing policies, for the use of the area archives.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## HANDBOOK

*(Continued from page 5)*

### WHERE TO LOCATE? (4)

Some archives have begun in a private home, usually of the person interested in taking on the responsibility of collecting material. This may be a temporary arrangement. Later a decision might be made to use space, a single room to begin with, in a central office. Perhaps, when an Archives Committee is organized, space will be rented in some suitable location agreeable to the committee and the archivist.

### DETERMINE WHAT HISTORY OR MEMORABILIA THERE IS ON HAND AND WHAT MORE IS NEEDED (5)

Usually there are at least a few old and out-of-print books and pamphlets around — perhaps World Directories, local meeting listings, bulletins from G.S.O., photographs or tapes — that can serve as the foundation of the collection.

### DEFINE CATEGORIES OF HOLDINGS (6)

Possible categories are:

- a. Books about A.A. and/or alcoholism
- b. Pamphlets (local and from G.S.O.)

- c. Photographs
- d. Directories
- e. G.S.O. Bulletins
- f. Conference Reports
- g. Tapes
- h. Films
- i. Newsletters
- j. News clippings
- k. Magazine articles
- l. Grapevines, etc.
- m. Oral Histories
- n. Correspondence

These can then be coded for indexing and cataloging purposes.

### AFTER AN INVENTORY OF HOLDINGS, HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD BE ADDED THAT WILL BE OF IMPORTANCE IN FILLING OUT THE WHOLE PICTURE OF A.A. IN AN AREA? WHAT MORE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE? (7)

Solicit, acquire and accumulate historical material and information about the Fellowship since its inception, from early members and from nonalcoholics as well. Do not forget 3rd Legacy records, letters and material from past delegates and Area Committee members.

Data may be solicited from members via the local A.A. newsletter or Intergroup bulletins. Place a notice announcing that an archival center is being set up and ask if members would like to contribute any letters,

old bulletins, books, etc. At G.S.O., Box 4-5-9 and the *Grapevine* have carried stories on the beginning efforts of our G.S.O. Archives and informed the membership about what General Service is doing and wants to do.

A subcommittee of the Archives committee would contact those members who are knowledgeable about early history in one or several areas of activity. Members of the subcommittee might set up a tape-recorded history project, in cooperation with the archivist, interviewing early members for information on how the local groups started and grew, as well as sharing their own personal stories. These tapes and cassettes or Oral Histories would be a valuable and interesting section of the archives.

Maintaining contact with other archival centers and with the G.S.O. Archives may be helpful in bringing in additions to the local or area archives.



Leonard Harrison

## VIRGINIA

(Continued from page 6)

### VI. FUNCTIONS OF THE ARCHIVIST:

The Archivist shall perform all duties in connection with the administration and development of the archives, so as to achieve the purposes of its creation.

### VII. OPERATION OF THE ARCHIVES

#### A. Transfer of Records:

On behalf of the Area the Archivist is authorized to negotiate for the transfer of and to receive Area Archives from the custody of any Group or other record-creating divisions.

#### B. The Archival Program:

The Archivist shall collect, arrange, and make available to authorized persons, at reasonable times, in the office of the Archives, all obtainable archival materials relating to the operation and history of the Virginia Area. He shall carefully protect and preserve them from deterioration, mutilation, loss or destruction. He shall keep the official archives in his custody in such arrangement and condition as to make them accessible for convenient use, and shall permit them to be inspected, examined, abstracted, or copied at reasonable times under his supervision, by any authorized person. He shall make arrangements for the furnishing of certified copies thereof on payment in advance of fees as prescribed by the Archives.

#### C. Release of Non-current Records:

Any record-creating division of the Virginia Area is hereby directed and empowered to release to the Area Archivist for preservation and administration such Area records legally in its cus-

tody as are not needed for the transaction of the current business of the office, whenever the Archives is willing and able to receive and call for them.

Whenever such transfer is made, the Archivist shall transmit to the office from which the archives are transferred a list in which such archives are described in terms sufficient to identify them. This list shall be filed and preserved in said office.

All Area Archives of any division shall, upon the termination of the existence and functions of that office, be transferred to the custody of the Archives, unless otherwise directed by the Archivist.

The Archivist, in person, or through a deputy, shall have the right of reasonable access to and examination of all current Area records.

#### D. Records Administration:

In addition to purely archival functions, the Archivist shall also serve as Records Administrator. He shall examine into and report to the Committee on the condition of current records. He shall cause such actions to be taken by their custodians as may be necessary to put them in the condition needed to preserve them from misplacement, loss or destruction. He shall promote better care of the files and advise with record-creating offices regarding:

1. the disposal of useless archives in their custody;
2. the recovery of archives belonging to their offices;
3. the delivery of archives to their successors in office;
4. the adoption of sound practices relative to the

use of durable paper and ink;

5. other desirable practices which will facilitate better use of current files and orderly retirement to the Archives of non-current records.

The Archivist shall, at stated intervals, issue circular letters on the procedures to be followed in the management of records.

VIII. AREA POLICY: The Policy stated above relates to the official records of the Area.

### IX. ARCHIVES OTHER THAN AREA ARCHIVES:

Archives of other agencies, organizations, or the personal papers of individuals entrusted to the custody of the Area shall be governed and administered in accordance with the strictest archival practices. Regulations and restrictions governing their use shall be worked out by the Archivist in conjunction with the Archives Committee. As non-official archives are processed, guides will be issued with a statement of policy included.

### X. OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT:

This guideline shall be in full force and effect from and after \_\_\_\_\_ .

## INFORMATION EXCHANGE

(Continued from page 8)

Archivist Mary Ann W. of Everett, Washington shared that one goal of Washington Archives is to acquire two complete sets of the Grapevine in Binders to be held in a depository (Seattle Intergroup will accept one set) for check out by the Area's membership. She is encouraging each Area group to consider donating a binder in its name and become part of sharing or archival material. "These older Grapevines are real jewels."

*Editors' note: Just last year we learned of another "typo" in the text of the Big Book. On page 73 of the Third Edition, third paragraph, the text should read, "As fast as he can . . ." The second edition also had this error.*

# INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The *California Northern Coastal Area* (C.N.C.A.) Archives Committee held an open house in their new quarters to spur interest and provide information regarding the local A.A. history through archives activity. The afternoon included a display of books, documents and memorabilia from oldtimers responsible for bringing A.A. to that area. Refreshments were served and committee members were available to answer questions. Buzz G., C.N.C.A. Secretary-Treasurer reports that it was busy and crowded — 79 AA's visited, some from nearly 100 miles away — and the afternoon fully achieved its purpose.

**FLORIDA:** "From the South Florida Archives Workshop: Peter from West Palm Beach has been working hard for District 8; he has a budget, a traveling display and has acquired a 4th printing of the First Edition of the Big Book. He has transcribed the filmstrip of 'Markings on the Journey' into slides and is generating interest with that. Peter is also busy interviewing oldtimers and will transcribe those interviews. As if all this isn't enough, he is soliciting things to be donated and is recruiting people interested in serving. Peter also has acquired the whole Wash Tubbs comic strip which an oldtimer clipped and saved."

"Peter wanted to share his experience in interviewing an oldtimer and how he could see a Guiding Hand behind it all. The man he is speaking of has a Big Book that Bill W. and Dr. Bob signed for him. It was stored in an attic at his nephew's house where it got wet and roaches ate it. All that was left of the Big Book was the fly-leaf where they had signed it."

G. White from District 7 in Fort Myers has been looking over some of the things given to her by the past Archivists, Carol and Dick Byer. "G", who said she's '... brand new to this,' was very impressed with the tape on the beginnings of the Fort Myers Group, about 35 years ago when people from Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach had to come in by boat."

We would like to thank Sue T. of *San Rafael, California* for pointing out a typographical error which appears in the Second and Third Editions of our Big Book. (On page 66 it should read: "We were prepared to look at it from an entirely different angle." The mistake was made in resetting the text for the Second Edition and was carried forward into the Third.

Although most typographical errors are relatively harmless—punctuation, misspellings, etc. some can fundamentally change the nuance of an idea or the meaning of an entire sentence.

In trade book publishing, the reader is the final copy editor, since most printed errors are reported by them.

We thank all who are alert and concerned enough to inform us of these "imperfections", which can easily be corrected for subsequent printings. (See Editors' Note)

The *Tennessee Area Assembly* has finally found a suitable and safe place to store their State Archive Material. The Tennessee State Museum has offered, at no charge, the use of a dehumidified room with controlled access and security, where the records may be accessed, added to or removed only by those persons approved as official reps of that Area Assembly. A motion was passed to store the Archive Material at the Museum on a temporary basis. It is requested that a member from each group in this Area get their group history written and put into the State Archives to preserve for the record the history of A.A. in Tennessee.

**VERMONT:** Charlie W. of the St. Johnsbury Group in East Burke, Vt. (the original Dr. Bob Group in Dr. Bob's home town) sent us a prayer which he believes was widely known in the forties and was adapted to open some Vermont A.A. Meetings. He suggests the original Akron Group started using it but the author and location of its first use is lost. For some years it was used in East and Middle West A.A. then mysteriously disappeared.

We would appreciate hearing from anyone who can shed light on the origin of this beautiful prayer:

"God bless this meeting and the members gathered here tonight. Help us to make this group a haven of strength and comfort, giving to all who seek help here the beauty and friendliness of home, which shall be as a shield against temptation of all kinds and against loneliness and despair. Bless those who are going forth from this house to fight a gallant fight, to know suffering; and bless those who come here to rest, those who must readjust themselves to face life once more."

**WASHINGTON:** Permission has been requested at a meeting of the Washington Area History Committee for it to proceed with the compilation of a new, revised Area History Book. Eric B., who made the initial request also asked that the Area Committee allocate the funds (\$300.00) from the sale of Washington Area History Books (1941-66), which was advanced to the Washington Area to help with preliminary production costs of the new book. As the old books are sold, more money will become available for the new.

At the next Committee Meeting a motion was made "That the Washington Area History Committee be allowed to spend the \$300.00 and money to be received from the sale of Washington Area History Books at their discretion."; motion was made by Coop C. of District 23, seconded by Ned O. of District 27. Terry S., past Delegate shared that in 1977 the author of the original History (Everett K.) died, and the copyright was obtained by Seattle Intergroup after the Area decided that it couldn't accept the copyright. Carol W. past Archivist brought up the information that the original funding for the Washington Area History was provided by the Area Assembly.