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## PERSONAL STORIES

### PART I

#### *Pioneers of A.A.*

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*A co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. The birth of our Society dates from his first day of permanent sobriety, June 10, 1935.*

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<i>Pioneer member of Akron's Group No. 1, the first A.A. group in the world. He kept the faith; therefore, he and countless others found a new life.</i>	
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<i>The story of Dave B., one of the founders of A.A. in Canada in 1944.</i>	
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<i>Despite great opportunities, alcohol nearly ended her life. An early member, she spread the word among women in our pioneering period.</i>	
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<i>How it finally broke a Southerner's obstinacy and destined this salesman to start A.A. in Philadelphia.</i>	
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<i>But he found there was a Higher Power that had more faith in him than he had in himself. Thus, A.A. was born in Chicago.</i>	
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<i>This worldly lady helped to develop A.A. in Chicago and thus passed her keys to many.</i>	

## PART II

*They Stopped in Time*

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|   | <i>She hid her bottles in clothes hampers and dresser drawers. In A.A., she discovered she had lost nothing and had found everything.</i>  |     |
| 4 | PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF!   | 301 |
|   | <i>Psychiatrist and surgeon, he had lost his way until he realized that God, not he, was the Great Healer.</i>   |     |
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|   | <i>A.A. gave this teenager the tools to climb out of her dark abyss of despair.</i>  |     |
| 6 | STUDENT OF LIFE  | 319 |
|   | <i>Living at home with her parents, she tried using willpower to beat the obsession to drink. But it wasn't until she met another alcoholic and went to an A.A. meeting that sobriety took hold.</i> |     |
| 7 | CROSSING THE RIVER OF DENIAL   | 328 |
|   | <i>She finally realized that when she enjoyed her drinking, she couldn't control it, and when she controlled it, she couldn't enjoy it.</i>  |     |
| 8 | BECAUSE I'M AN ALCOHOLIC   | 338 |
|   | <i>This drinker finally found the answer to her nagging question, "Why?"</i>   |     |

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## PART III

*They Lost Nearly All*

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*From childhood trauma to skid row drunk, this hobo finally found a Higher Power, bringing sobriety and a long-lost family.*
- 2 HE LIVED ONLY TO DRINK 446  
*"I had been preached to, analyzed, cursed, and counseled, but no one had ever said, 'I identify with what's going on with you. It happened to me and this is what I did about it.'"*
- 3 SAFE HAVEN 452  
*This A.A. found that the process of discovering who he really was began with knowing who he didn't want to be.*
- 4 LISTENING TO THE WIND 458  
*It took an "angel" to introduce this Native American woman to A.A. and recovery.*
- 5 TWICE GIFTED 470  
*Diagnosed with cirrhosis, this sick alcoholic got sobriety—plus a lifesaving liver transplant.*
- 6 BUILDING A NEW LIFE 476  
*Hallucinating and restrained by sheriff's deputies and hospital staff, this once-happy family man received an unexpected gift from God—a firm foundation in sobriety that would hold up through good times and bad.*
- 7 ON THE MOVE 486  
*Working the A.A. program showed this alcoholic how to get from geographics to gratitude.*
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*A feeble prayer forged a lasting connection with a Higher Power for this Mic-Mac Indian.*

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