

Your Archives Interchange

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ARCHIVES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

GSO ARCHIVES



Bill Wilson (1895-1971) wrote in a letter dated Sept. 17, 1957 "it is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion. We want to keep enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come." Nell Wing, nonalcoholic GSO Archivist, 1973-1982, was the prime mover in setting up, organizing and overseeing the GSO Archives. The Trustees' Archives Committee was established by the General Service Board and held its first meeting on Oct. 24, 1973. Since that time the committee has met three times each year. Thomas S. (1904-1982), past trustee from Florida, urged GSO to develop the dormant library-archive project. Nell considered him the "father of GSO Archives." In the spring of 1975 an Archives "suite" was created on the 8th floor of 468 Park Avenue So. Official opening of the Archives was held on Nov. 3, 1975 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. In 1980-81 an Archives newsletter was developed and titled "MARKINGS: YOUR ARCHIVES INTERCHANGE" with the first issue dated Feb. 1981. On March 29, 1982, Archives found its permanent home on the fifth floor of 468 Park Avenue So. in four rooms. (Photo courtesy of Jean K., Beltsville, MD)

SHARING OUR ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Available in the Archives of the General Service Office is a photocopy of the prepublication manuscript (a "Multilith") of our "Big Book." This was the final draft that with corrections was to become the First Printing of our First Edition. These 150 pages are copied by an outside service and cost \$12 per set. So we ask that a contribution be made to cover this expense. If you provide your group's name and number we can credit your group.

Also available are a set of ten historic photos of Bill and Dr. Bob, Sister Ignatia, Dr. Silkworth, etc., at five dollars per set.

An Archival Handbook, a guideline for area archives, is available free of charge.

KATHY SCHEIDEL

Joined the GSO Archives on Dec. 13, 1982 as a nonalcoholic research assistant. Kathy is a June 1982 graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton, where she majored in English Literature and Rhetoric.

Edith Johnson
**This Secret
 Must Be Kept**

WHY are members of Alcoholics Anonymous "anonymous," more than one person asks. If a few persons in that far-flung organization make known their affiliation with it, why not all?

There are both safety and inspiration in anonymity, declares "Bill Anonymous," one of the organizers of the movement, "for AA's anonymity has an immense spiritual significance." He says, "Certainly it was a happy thought the first AA's had, and its wisdom and value have been demonstrated again and again.

This policy is a protection to the cause, for if a leader should go off the deep end, and that does happen once in a while, his spree might put a blot on the society's escutcheon, one too bright to be tarnished by an individual's yielding to temptation.

ANONYMITTY is sound, moreover, because it encourages men and women who need the help of the organization to approach a group. It protects also members of an alcoholic's family. Many a person suffering from alcoholism is not known to be its victim unless it be in a very small circle of relatives and friends. But when he admits his difficulty to a local chapter of AA he can be sure that its members will keep his secret. He and his family, therefore, are spared much thoughtless comment or not too kindly gossip. He is able to recover while no one outside of his limited circle is the wiser. Strangers and persons casually interested in him are not heard saying, "Did you know he used to be a hard drinker, but of late Alcoholics Anonymous has done a lot for him?"

NO one, perhaps, is safer from the loose talk of meddling Matties of both sexes and their prying questions than one who has joined AA.

Men and women, wishing to do so, may join under an assumed name. If a man expresses a wish that the AA member he approaches, asking for aid, shall refrain from discussing his case with others, that wish is respected. Although some AA's do not care a rap who knows about their alcoholism, others are extremely sensitive and care a great deal. In every way the latter should be guarded carefully, at least until they get over the feeling so, if indeed, they ever lose a portion of their sensitiveness.

Women, especially, should be protected, not only for their own sake but for the sake of their parents or their children. A father's addiction to drink is cruelly hard on a child. Harder still is a mother's affliction. If unkind comment is added to that sorrow the burden is almost too much for a child to bear.

CHILDREN, untutored by mother and father, are likely to be cruel to other children, that being of all too common occurrence. For a child to be asked, "Does your father (or mother) belong to Alcoholics Anonymous?" is enough to break a boy's or girl's heart, the implication of former drunkenness being there.

Now and then a member of Alcoholics Anonymous speaks before a semi-public gathering (it may be a civic club), using there his own name. This is done in order to let his hearers know that he no longer fears the stigma of alcoholism. If a newspaper reporter should be present he will be asked in all likelihood to preserve the speaker's anonymity so far as the general public is concerned.

On occasion a discreet and trusted clergyman, doctor or layman is invited into a general meeting and rarely into a closed session.

Wives of AA's and husbands of women members are admitted to the open sessions, so called, their cooperation having no little value. In the social hour that follows a general meeting men and women mingle, play games together and join forces in serving the simple refreshments without which no such meeting would be complete.

MEMBERS of AA who write for their own publications or for the reading public remain anonymous. "Bill Anonymous," author of the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous," which is a sort of Bible to members, both new and old, continues to preserve his anonymity, his real name being known but to a few.

As both modesty and humility are needed by every person joining AA for making a recovery that he and his fellows hope will be permanent, those virtues are recommended highly to recruits. Wisely they are persuaded to make their way cautiously until they shall have gained experience and strength.

If any one has a right to privacy, it belongs to a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and only a ruthless vulgarian would violate it.

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN
 OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
 Oklahoma City, Okla.
 September 1950

First Friend of Prison A.A. Dies



CLINTON T. DUFFY
 1898-1982

He was warden of California State Prison at San Quentin in 1940-1952. He introduced AA into US prisons. He served on the Calif. Adult Authority (Board of Prison Terms) 1952-1962. He died Oct. 11, 1982 in Walnut Creek, CA aged 84.

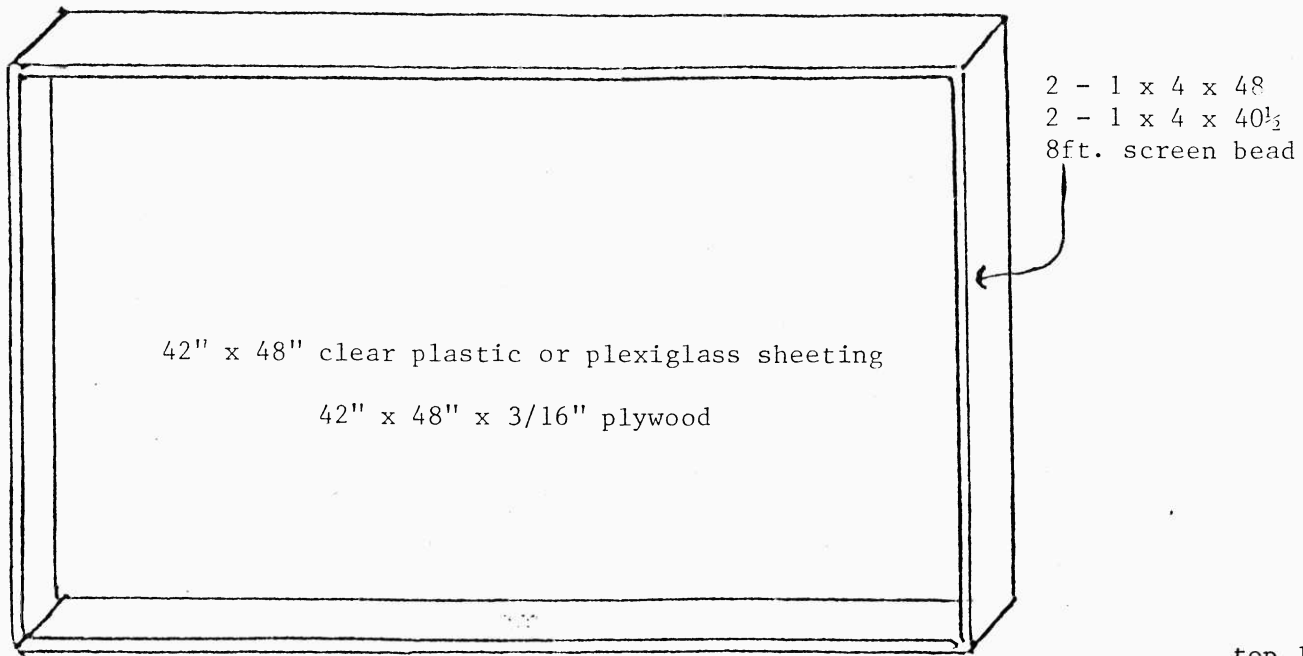
The San Quentin Chapter of AA was formed and sponsored by him in August 1942. The first officially sponsored AA meeting was held in the prison Sept. 27, 1942 and a schedule for monthly meetings was set up. Twenty-eight inmates were present.

After his retirement he became executive director of the San Francisco Council on Alcoholism and president of the 7th Step Foundation, an organization that helps ex-convicts back into society.

**THE SATURDAY
 EVENING POST**

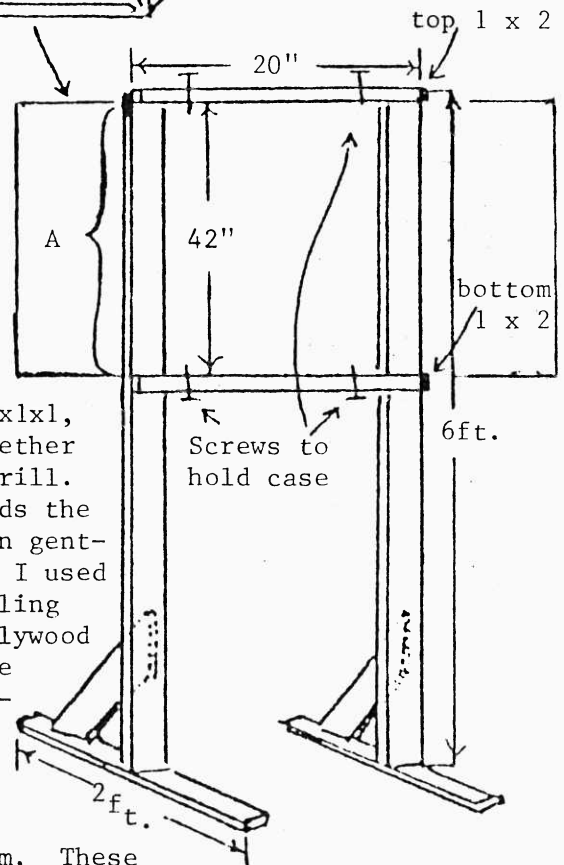
The publication of the article "Alcoholics Anonymous," by Jack Alexander, in the March 1, 1941, issue has now been reprinted in the new S.E.P., serialized in three issues, Nov. & Dec., 1982 and Feb. 1983. The Fellowship will be 48 years old in June and has grown to over a million members, in 110 countries. An updated article on A.A. is planned for a future issue.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY CASES



ARCHIVES DISPLAY CASES

We made three display cases for our annual banquet. The main cost was plastic sheeting which we covered the cases with just like you would install new screen in a screen door. When we built the stand at the right we put the top 1x2 on the legs first and adjusted the bottom 1x2 so that the display case fit snugly between them. To attach the case we used 4 screws as shown. The materials for one case are 4-8'x1x4s, ½ sheet of plywood, 1-4'x1x1, plexiglass, stain and varnish. I put this thing together using dry-wall screws and a screw attachment for a drill. It works fast and is easy. The screen bead that holds the plexiglass (or clear plastic) in place is tacked down gently so that it can be removed to change the display. I used a stapler to hold the plastic in place before installing the screen bead. One thing we learned is that the plywood should be covered or painted a dark color so that the documents show up on the contrasting background. Also, rather than attach documents by taping or tacking them to the backing, I cut up little pieces of clear plastic and tacked them to the back so that they held the document in place, sort of like those little corners that used to hold pictures in an album. These can be made for under \$40.00 each.



Our archives project might finally be going to pick up steam. A couple of older members have gotten interested. Our Intergroup has asked the Archives Committee to prepare a project or display.

Ed S., Washington D.C. Archivist

NEWS AROUND THE ARCHIVES

CALIFORNIA: "Should Mid-Southern California Area have their own Archives Committee? There seemed to be general agreement that we should have our own. This will be brought up at our General Assembly for G.S.R. approval. Ellery S. is to be the Chairman."

(Mid-Southern California Area Newsletter)

CANADA: "The Assembly be responsible for the setting up of the New Brunswick-Prince Edward Island Archives."

(N.B.-P.E.I. Border Groups Assembly-Minutes)

ENGLAND: "West of England Archives Committee, sponsored by the Bristol Newcomers Group, are to prepare a History of the Start and Growth of AA in the West of England. We believe that through Archives there is much to be gained to strengthen and underpin our recovery today. Archival work leads us back to the grass roots of our heritage. We are able to hear, perhaps for the very first time, some of the difficulties, tragedies and even sometimes humor of the events that led to the thriving groups we have today."

(Newsletter: Bristol Fashion)

IOWA: "It has been a year and half since we began our Archives Center located in the Des Moines Central Office. Donations, from members, of first edition Big Book, old Grapevines and A.A. literature, plus pictures and other memorabilia, come into the office periodically. There are many groups that have not recorded their history with us. Your efforts to complete this would be most appreciated."

(Des Moines Central Office/Intergroup VII-Party Line)

MASSACHUSETTS: "Glass enclosed cabinet purchased to be used to display original edition of the Big Book and any future donations to Archives. We have begun an exciting new Archives project, we are taping the reminiscences of our "old timers." These oral history tapes will be preserved in the Springfield Intergroup office. Has been noted that few groups have Archive rep and it is hoped that more groups will elect one."

(Minutes: Western Mass. Archives Committee)

MEXICO: "The Archives Committee are starting their archives in the Intergroup Office and are asking the cooperation of the groups."

(Sureste del Distrito Federal, Mexico)

NORTH DAKOTA: "Assistance was asked in starting a state archives project. The Grove City group at the state penitentiary had offered to build cabinets for displaying the memorabilia and carrying it to Roundups."

(Minutes: North Dakota State Conference)

OREGON: "Eugene-Springfield area archives has begun at Intergroup office. Lyb's collection of AA literature, personal letters and pictures donated. Clyde E. and Morrie O. donated memorabilia.

(E.V.I. Newsletter)

TENNESSEE: "A display set up at this Assembly showing what has been done toward establishing Tennessee Archives. All such work must depend on group contributions for financing at this time. A metal file cabinet will be placed in the Central Office in Nashville for storage place for Archives material. Each group has been asked to prepare a brief history of their group, either on tape or on paper."

(Archives Committee Report, chairperson Kittylyu A., Tenn. AA Assembly)