



MARKINGS

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YOUR ARCHIVES INTERCHANGE

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EXCERPTS FROM "THE ARCHIVES" AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, SEATTLE - Part 2

Tom H.: "Perhaps you people are wondering how I got this job as moderator. Well, I kind of wonder myself sometimes, but it probably has something to do with the fact that I've been around a little bit for 34 years, 5 months and 29 days. No, no, at this kind of gathering all it means is that you are getting old. You know, I'd like to tell people just so you get some idea of where I'm coming from. I told my wife at my last birthday 'I don't think I look 70 do I?' she said 'No, you don't—but you used to.' We better move along. Here we've got another chap who has some very interesting information: Paul from California":

"My name is Paul and I'm an alcoholic. Before I start, I just want to say that I am very grateful to Seattle for their hospitality and for G.S.O. for putting this function on, since this thing is being taped, for all

of those who stayed at home to keep the flame burning, to make sure there is a place for alcoholics who are still suffering from alcoholism. Our Archival Committee began in the early 1980's. At that time, it was kind of a independent cowboy effort of a few interested people. The Archives Committee became part of San Diego Imperial Area Assembly. I was invited to participate at that time and was elected Chair of that committee. I did a lousy job so they re-elected me to get back at me. In true A.A. spirit, I might add and have been involved in it ever since. Right now the way our committee is set up it is staffed by G.S.R. and district committee members who are interested. Often, somebody gets pulled out for the Archives Committee and they say "But, I am not interested in the Archives Committee." So I say

"Tough, you're on the Archives Committee." Kind of like the Conference I think, so that is kind of fun. I wanted to mention to people that I did bring along a booklet called "The Story of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Diego County. There is a whole box of them up here that our Archives Committee dutifully put together in the last week to bring here to make available to all of you. Please come up and take as many of them as you wish and consider it a teaser for the 1995 International Convention which is going to be in San Diego. One of the things that our Archives Committee has been actively doing is taping the memories of long-timers. They love it! They love finding someone who is interested in the old days who will sit down and take the time to listen to them ramble on and sometimes give excruciating detail about what happened in the old days of A.A. and you can chew up a lot of old tapes that way. That has been fun because the long-term members themselves are the best source of other long-term members. Very often as you know, as they get older, their health goes, and they stay home and they do not want to drive at night and they don't like the smoke and the language and the drug addicts and so forth. I think one of the reasons that I was specially interested in that kind of thing I was raised by my grandfather so I am sensitive, or like to think I am, to those who are two generations older than I am. I am just very interested in the generation of people who founded A.A. So I like old-timers I like older people and I like spending time with them. One of the other things we did was to start a "Roots" meeting. It is an annual gathering of long-term members of 30-40 years plus. We get about a half dozen of them up on stage to talk for about 10 minutes
(continued on page 3)



Portable travel display taken to meetings & conventions in South Florida.
Submitted by Maureen M., South Florida Archivist

