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# Names & Events in the A.A. Big Book

**From the members of the AA History Lovers**

**edited by Glenn Chesnut**

## PREFACE

(4th edit. p. xi) The Doctor's Opinion was written by Dr. William D. Silkworth.

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## PREFACE to 2nd edition

(4th edit. p. xv) during a talk between New York stockbroker Bill Wilson and Akron physician Dr. Bob, who first met on May 12, 1935.

(p. xvi) the alcoholic friend in contact with the Oxford Group was Ebby Thacher.

(p. xvi) the New York specialist on alcoholism was Dr. William D. Silkworth.

(p. xvi) the broker was Bill Wilson.

(p. xvi) the Akron physician was Dr. Bob Smith.

(p. xvii) AA No. 3 was Bill Dotson in Akron, his sobriety date was June 26, 1935, Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob first visited him on June 28, 1935. Very first case, unsuccessful, was Eddie Riley.

(p. xvii-iii) the noted clergyman was Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

(p. xviii) the editor of Liberty magazine was Fulton Oursler.

(p. xviii) John D. Rockefeller, Jr., gave the dinner.

(p. xviii) Jack Alexander wrote the article in the Saturday Evening Post magazine.

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THE DOCTOR'S OPINION (began on page 1 in the first edition of the Big Book)

(4th edit. p. xxv-xxxii) the well known doctor was Dr. William D. Silkworth, who worked at Towns Hospital in New York City.

(p. xxv) the patient he regarded as hopeless was Bill Wilson.

(p. xxvii) "many years' experience" meant nine years that Dr. Silkworth had been there.

- (p. xxvii) "one of the leading contributors to this book" referred to Bill Wilson.
- (p. xxviii) "We believe and so suggested a few years ago" in an article in the Lancet in 1937.
- (p. xxxi) the man brought in to be treated for chronic alcoholism was Hank Parkhurst. His story "The Unbeliever" appeared in the 1st ed.
- (p. xxxi) the man who had hidden in a barn was Fitz Mayo. His story in the BB is "Our Southern Friend."

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## CHAPTER 1. BILL'S STORY

- (p. 1) Winchester Cathedral is in the south of England, about 50 miles southwest of London, and only 15 to 20 miles inland from several of the major southern ports. This moment of awareness of God's immediate presence was a central motif in Bill's story, see also pages 10 and 12.
- (p. 1) the Hampshire Grenadier whose tombstone Bill Wilson saw was Thomas Thetcher.
- (p. 2) Law courses at Brooklyn Law School, 250 Toralemon St., Brooklyn, New York.
- (p. 2) Bill and Lois Wilson roared off on a Harley Davidson motorcycle in April, 1925.
- (p. 3) they worked for a month on Ella Goldfoot's farm, in Scotia, New York, near Connecticut.
- (p. 3) "the remonstrances of my friends" ?? names unknown
- (p. 3) contracted golf fever in Spring 1929.
- (p. 4) the exclusive golf course was Ekwanok Country Club.
- (p. 4) the stock whose symbol on the stock ticker was XYZ-32, was Penick & Ford, which tumbled from 52 to 32 in a single day. The great stock market crash which occurred in October 1929, ushered in the long era of the Great Depression, in which the U.S. economy fell apart, and people all over the country found themselves without jobs.
- (p. 4) the friend in Montreal was Richard O. "Dick" Johnson, who worked at Greenshields & Co., a brokerage house.
- (p. 4) "By the following spring" meant 1930.
- (p. 4) His wife's parents were Dr. Clark and Matilda Hoyt Burnham.
- (p. 4) Bill's wife Lois worked in Macy's department store.

- (p. 5) Bill formed a group to buy stock in 1932: A. Wheeler & F. Winans.
- (p. 5) "I had written lots of sweet promises": On October 20, 1928, Bill wrote a pledge to quit drinking in the family Bible, with additional pledges written in the Bible on Thanksgiving Day, in January 1929, and on September 3, 1930.
- (pp. 6-7) "A doctor came with a heavy sedative," which Bill Wilson began combining with alcohol the next day. Early Spring 1934. The doctor's name is not known. Sedatives at that time meant drugs which were "downers" (to use modern street jargon) such as barbiturates and bromides. They were very strong drugs. There was one powerful bromide compound which could sometimes produce LSD-like hallucinations.
- (p. 7) Bill's brother-in-law was Dr. Leonard V. Strong Jr., married to Bill's sister Dorothy. Bill was born November 26, 1895, and his sister Dorothy Brewster Wilson was born in 1898. Bill's mother was Dr. Emily Griffith Wilson. Both his brother-in-law and his mother were osteopaths.
- (p. 7) The nationally-known New York City hospital was Charles B. Towns Hospital at 293 Central Park West in Manhattan.
- (p. 7) Belladonna, also called deadly nightshade, was an herb containing a poisonous alkaloid which was used in small doses as a sedative and antispasmodic drug in early alcoholism treatment.
- (p. 7) "I met a kind doctor," Dr. William D. Silkworth.
- (p. 7) "After a time I returned to the hospital" in Summer 1934.
- (p. 8) Armistice Day was November 11, 1934.
- (pp. 8-12) the old school friend was Ebby Thacher. His crucial visit to Bill W., and the long conversation in Bill's kitchen at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn, New York, was near the end of November 1934.
- (p. 9) "chartered an airplane" in January 1929, to fly from Albany, New York, to the grand opening of the new airport by the Equinox House at Manchester, Vermont.
- (p. 9) "two men had appeared in court." Three people from the Oxford Group were actually involved in the successful effort to rescue Ebby from being committed to the insane asylum against his will, because of his out-of-control alcoholism: Shep Cornell, Rowland Hazard, and Cebra Graves, in August 1934.
- (p. 10) Bill's grandfather was Fayette Griffith.

(p. 10) a reference back to the story on page 1 of visiting Winchester Cathedral, see also page 12.

(p. 12) another reference to the story on page 1 of visiting Winchester Cathedral, see also page 10.

(p. 12) "Scales of pride and prejudice fell from my eyes. A new world came into view." A standard way of referring to a conversion experience in the Protestant Christianity of that period, referring to the story of the Apostle Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, see Acts 9:18 in the New Testament: "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized." Richard Maurice Bucke, *Cosmic Consciousness: A Study in the Evolution of the Human Mind* (Philadelphia: Innes & Sons, 1901), Part IV. Chapter 3 described the Apostle Paul's conversion experience on the road to Damascus as his sudden experience of cosmic consciousness, see the note to page 14 below.

(p. 13) "At the hospital I was separated from alcohol for the last time." Bill was admitted to the hospital in New York City at 2:38p.m. on December 11, 1934. He was 39 years old. The hospital was the Charles B. Towns Hospital at 293 Central Park West in Manhattan

(p. 14) December 14, 1934. This was about three weeks after his basic conversion experience at the end of November (see page 12). Now, in the middle of December, Bill had this visionary experience which turned him into a missionary for a new message of hope. "I must turn in all things to the Father of Light" is a reference to the letter of James in the New Testament, which was one of the three most important parts of the New Testament in early AA teaching. See James 1:17-18, "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his created beings." Although Bill described only "the great clean wind of a mountain top" in this brief account in the Big Book, he elsewhere (see "Pass It On," p. 121) described a vision of light as well: "Suddenly, my room blazed with an indescribably white light. I was seized with an ecstasy beyond description .... Then, seen in the mind's eye, there was a mountain. I stood upon its summit, where a great wind blew." This was his divine call (or "guidance" as the Oxford

Group termed it) to spread the message which Dr. Carl Jung had delivered to Rowland Hazard, which Rowland had brought to Ebby, and which Ebby had in turn passed on to him: "the thought came that there were thousands of hopeless alcoholics who might be glad to have what had been so freely given me." He only had three days of sobriety at the time. In later years, Bill W. told Mel Barger that the best description of his experience of the light was to be found in Richard Maurice Bucke, *Cosmic Consciousness: A Study in the Evolution of the Human Mind* (Philadelphia: Innes & Sons, 1901), see the second note to page 12 above.

(p. 14) "my friend, the doctor" was Dr. William D. Silkworth.

(p. 14) "my friend had emphasized" refers to Ebby.

(p. 15) "in one western city" refers to Cleveland, Ohio.

(p. 16) "one poor chap committed suicide" refers to Bill C., a lawyer and gambler, or as he termed it, a "professional bridge player," who stayed with them almost a year at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn, New York, and committed suicide in 1936, after having stolen and sold about \$700 worth of their dress clothes and luggage.

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## CHAPTER 2. THERE IS A SOLUTION

(p. 21) "Here is the fellow who has been puzzling you" is made up of bits and pieces of the stories of numerous early AA members.

(pp. 26-27) "A certain American business man" was Rowland Hazard, who was treated by the Swiss psychiatrist Dr. Carl Jung in 1931, according to the traditional date given later on. (In 2006 however, two good researchers -- Cora Finch and Amy Colwell Bluhm, Ph.D. -- independently discovered, from a letter written by Rowland Hazard describing his ongoing sessions with the psychiatrist, that his extensive psychoanalysis with Jung took place in 1926.) At any rate, Rowland Hazard, following Jung's advice, eventually found a spiritual solution to alcoholism, and then rescued Ebby Thacher from alcoholism. Ebby then went to Bill Wilson to pass the message on to him and introduce Bill to the Oxford Group, the worldwide evangelical group which seemed to be having success, not only with them but with other people as well, in using a spiritual method to enable people to stop drinking.

(p. 28) Famous American psychologist William James, who wrote "The Varieties of Religious Experience."

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### CHAPTER 3. MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM

(P. 32) "A man of thirty" was a story based loosely on an anecdote given in Richard Peabody, "The Common Sense of Drinking," page 123. Peabody briefly mentions an unknown man who gave up drinking until he had made his fortune five years later. Resuming "moderate" drinking, he was soon back in his alcoholic difficulties, losing his money in two or three years and dying of alcoholism a few years after that.

(pp. 35-37) "a friend we shall call Jim" was probably Harlan Spencer, who was described as an automobile salesman on a list of early AA members written up by Dr. Bob, according to the most recent research. The older AA accounts however identified "Jim" as a man named Roland Arthur "Bob" Furlong, whose story "Another Prodigal Story" appeared in the first edition of the Big Book.

(pp. 37-38) The jaywalker story cannot be linked to any known individual, and may have been a hypothetical case.

(pp. 39-43) Fred, a "partner in a well known accounting firm," was Harry Brick, see the story "A Different Slant" in the first edition of the Big Book.

(p. 43) the "staff member of a world renowned hospital" was Dr. Percy Pollick at Bellevue Hospital in New York City.

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### CHAPTER 4. WE AGNOSTICS

(p. 50) "Let's look at the record" was a phrase used by Alfred E. Smith, four-time governor of New York, who made an unsuccessful bid to become the first Roman Catholic President of the United States.

(p. 51) the Wright brothers made the first successful airplane flight in 1903, the year Dr. Bob turned 24, and the year Bill Wilson turned 8. The airplane was the symbol of the great new age of modern technology for both men, and the ability of ordinary folks, like the Wright brothers who were bicycle repairmen, to solve problems which had bested the greatest scientific minds by applying simple but well-thought-out trial and error experiments until they were successful. Setting all the grand theories and established doctrines aside, what actually works, and what does not work? And how can we make it work even better?

(p. 51) Professor Samuel P. Langley, whose attempt to build an airplane for the War Department failed in 1903.

(p. 52) the Wright brothers made the first successful airplane flight in 1903.

(p. 55) "people who proved that man could never fly" probably referred to any number of scientific calculations, prior to 1903, showing that the weight of the kind of engine which was then available was too heavy to work with the lift of the airfoil designs which were then known. It took the development of lighter engines, and the kind of better wing designs which the Wright brothers discovered by repeated trial and error in experiments done in their bicycle shop, to beat that lift/weight problem. The AA program likewise was the product of amateurs doing trial and error experiments until they discovered pragmatic ways of getting around all of the problems which were baffling most of the learned psychiatrists, psychologists, and religious leaders.

(p. 56) the "minister's son" was Fitz Mayo, see the story "Our Southern Friend" in the Big Book. The alcoholic who approached him in the hospital was Bill Wilson.

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## CHAPTER 5. HOW IT WORKS

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## CHAPTER 6. INTO ACTION

(p. 76) "Faith without works is dead" is a quotation from the letter of James 2:20 and 2:26.

(p. 79) "a man we know had remarried" ?? unknown

(p. 80) the story of the man who "accepted a sum of money from a ... business rival" was taken from Oxford Group literature, name unknown.

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## CHAPTER 7. WORKING WITH OTHERS

(p. 96) "One of our Fellowship [who] failed entirely with his first half dozen prospects" was possibly Bill Wilson, although many of the early AA people had a numbers of unsuccessful twelfth step calls before they found their first success.

(p. 102) "Many of us keep liquor in our homes." When he was staying with Dr. Bob and Anne Smith, Bill W. kept two bottles on the sideboard, to show that alcoholics could be around liquor without drinking.

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## CHAPTER 8. TO WIVES

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## CHAPTER 9. THE FAMILY AFTERWARD

(p. 124) Henry Ford of the Ford automobile company.

(p. 133) "one of the many doctors who had the opportunity of reading this book in manuscript form" ?? name unknown

(p. 135) "a heavy smoker and coffee drinker" was Earl Treat, see the story "He Sold Himself Short" in the first edition of the Big Book.

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#### CHAPTER 10. TO EMPLOYERS

(p. 136) "one member who has spent much of his life in big business" was Hank Parkhurst, who wrote this chapter. See the story "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book.

(p. 136) Paul B. ?? name otherwise unknown

(p. 137) man who committed suicide with a shotgun ?? name unknown

(p. 137) man who hanged himself ?? name unknown

(p. 138) "An officer of one of the largest banking institutions" ?? Frank Winans ??

(p. 138) "an executive of the same bank: ?? Bob E. ?? Clarence Snyder, "The Home Brewmeister" in the 1st edit. ??

(p. 140) "prominent doctor in Chicago" ?? Dr. Edward Cowles ?? Dan Craske, M.D. ??

(p. 141) the company that employed Hank Parkhurst, the author of this chapter, was Standard Oil of New Jersey.

(pp. 148-149) "the vice president of a large industrial concern" ?? name unknown

(p. 149) "Today I own a little company," the Honor Dealers Co., an automobile polish distributorship. See the Big Book story "The Vicious Cycle," 3rd edit. page 246, "Bill and Hank had just taken over a small automobile polish company," and 3rd edit. page 248, "peddling off my polish samples."

(pp. 149-150) the "two alcoholic employees" were Bill Wilson and Jim Burwell.

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#### CHAPTER 11. A VISION FOR YOU

(p. 151) The Four Horsemen are described here as Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, and Despair. The reference is to the New Testament, Revelation 6:1-8, where we see the Lamb opening the seven seals on the scroll which bears our judgment and condemnation by the heavenly standards of all that is holy and good and moral and responsible (what we call Good Orderly Direction in AA language). Four horsemen appear, and the horrors of the end of the world begin to take place. Terror: the white horse brings being conquered and defeated. Bewilderment: the red horse brings chaotic warfare and conflict to which we can find no solution. Frustration: the black horse brings no money to buy

food. Despair: the rider of the pale horse is named Death. In the middle ages, Death was portrayed as a skeleton in a black robe carrying a scythe. The Big Book's version of the Four Horsemen equates Death with Despair, because falling into total despair is the death of the alcoholic's soul.

(pp. 153-154) "in 1935, one of our number made a journey to a certain western city" refers to Bill Wilson's trip to Akron, Ohio, to attempt to deal with a proxy fight over a business called National Rubber Machinery. The hotel lobby was in the Mayflower Hotel in Akron. Bill W. had been staying sober himself for the past five months, since December 14, 1934, but had been unable to carry the message successfully to any other alcoholic.

(pp. 154-155) The clergyman whom Bill W. phoned was the Reverend Walter Tunks, the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron.

(p. 155) Bill W. was eventually put in contact with an alcoholic in Akron, a surgeon (a proctologist) named Dr. Bob Smith, who had been attending Oxford Group meetings, but had not been able to get sober that way.

(p. 155) After staying sober for almost four weeks, Dr. Bob left Akron to go to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association which was going to be held that year at the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, but once he was away from home, he instead went on a drunken spree that lasted several days.

(pp. 155-156) Returning to Akron, Dr. Bob made the decision that he had no choice but to commit himself totally to the new program of recovery which he and Bill W. had been devising. He never drank again. Dr. Bob and Bill W. later believed this to have been on June 10, 1935, which is still celebrated as Founders Day and the beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous. However, a check of the American Medical Association's records shows that the national convention was held Monday-Friday, June 10-14, 1935, so Dr. Bob's real sobriety date has to have been a few days later than the official date, most likely on Monday, June 17, 1935.

(p. 156) "the head nurse of a local hospital" was Mrs. Hall, the Admissions Nurse at Akron City Hospital.

(pp. 156-158) The Man on the Bed, AA No. 3: this visit to the alcoholic in the hospital took place on June 28, 1935, only ten days or so after Dr. Bob had his last drink. The alcoholic lawyer whom Bill W. and Dr. Bob called on was Bill Dotson, AA No. 3, the third person to get sober in AA, sobriety date June 26, 1935. The political campaign he entered: he ran one time for councilman, but did not get elected.

(p. 158) The "devil-may-care young fellow" was 30-year-old Ernie Galbraith of Akron, a young man with problems who must be distinguished from the other Ernie G. in the early Ohio AA group, who was Ernie Gerig of Toledo, one of the truly great AA good old timers. Ernie Galbraith, who had trouble with drinking for the rest of his life, nevertheless had his story, "The Seven Month Slip," in the first edition of the Big Book. In 1941, Dr. Bob's daughter Sue married Ernie Galbraith, against her father's wishes, but they were later divorced.

(p. 159) "our friend of the hotel lobby incident" was Bill Wilson.

(p. 159) Bill Wilson "leaving behind his first acquaintance [Dr. Bob], the lawyer [Bill Dotson], and the devil-may-care chap [Ernie Galbraith]" left Akron and took a train back home to New York in late August 1935. He had been in Akron a little over three months, most of it living in Dr. Bob and Anne Smith's home, where Bill and Dr. Bob had worked out the basic modifications which were going to have to be made to the Oxford Group methods so they would work better with alcoholics.

(p. 159) "A year and six months later these three had succeeded with seven more," that is, by the end of February 1937, there were a total of ten people in the Akron AA group. Among the early Akron AA's, some or all of the following people may have been included in that "seven more." For those whose stories appeared in the first edition of the Big Book, the title of the story is also given. We need to remember that at any given time, the count would have included people who had gotten sober but were not going to stay sober, and also people who got permanently sober in Akron but who then left to found AA groups in other cities, so it is probably impossible to completely reconstruct the list of seven people whom the Big Book authors were thinking of at this point.

#### AKRON:

Ernie Galbraith, "The Seven Month Slip," first got sober September 1935, but had continual trouble staying sober.

Phil S., AA No. 5, sober September 1935, first AA court case.

Tom Lucas, sober November 1935, "My Wife and I."

Walter Bray, sober February 1936, "The Backslider."

Joe Doppler, sober April 1936, "The European Drinker."

Paul Stanley, sober April 1936, "The Truth Freed Me."

Dick S. was regarded as AA No. 7.

Bill V., Bob E., and Ken A. were all sober by 1937.

James D. "J.D." Holmes, who founded the first AA group in Indiana, got sober in Akron in September 1936, and said that he was AA No. 10. But he had left Akron and gone to Evansville, Indiana, by the time the Big Book was written, so although he stayed sober till the end of his life, he was probably not counted among the seven people mentioned on page 159 of the Big Book.

NEW YORK: during the same period, four of the people whose stories were in the first edition of the Big Book got sober in the New York area.

Fitz Mayo, sober October 1935, "Our Southern Friend."

Hank Parkhurst, sober November 1935, "The Unbeliever."

William Ruddell, sober November 1935, "A Businessman's Recovery."

Myron Williams, sober April 1936, "Hindsight."

(p. 160) "One man and his wife" meant T. Henry and Clarace Williams, who lived at 876 Palisades Drive, Akron, Ohio.

(p. 161) The "community thirty miles away" was Cleveland, Ohio. The three major AA groups in the earliest days were in Akron, the New York City area, and Cleveland. The fifteen members in Cleveland may have included Lloyd T., Charlie J., and Clarence Snyder. Clarence's sobriety date was February 11, 1938, as recorded in Mitchell K., "How It Worked."

(p. 161) "the same thing is taking place in many eastern cities" refers to the people, sometimes from a fair distance away, who had found sobriety through contact with the early AA program in the New York City area.

(p. 161) "a well-known hospital" refers to a hospital in New York City called the Charles B. Towns Hospital at 293 Central Park West in Manhattan. "The doctor in attendance there" was Dr. William D. Silkworth. "Six years ago one of our number was a patient there" refers to what must have been Bill Wilson's first admission there when he was still struggling unsuccessfully to stop drinking, and may refer to a date around 1932 or 1933.

(p. 162) "our western friends" refers to the AA people in the part of northeastern Ohio centering around Akron and Cleveland. The latter city, Cleveland, is right on Lake Erie, which separates the U.S. from Canada, while Akron is inland, twenty miles to the south.

(p. 162) "through contact with our two larger centers" refers to the New York City area and the Akron/Cleveland area in northeastern Ohio.

(p. 163) "an A.A. member who was living in a large community" referred to Hank Parkhurst in Montclair, New Jersey. "A prominent psychiatrist" there was Dr. Howard of Montclair, who was the Chief Psychiatrist for the State of New Jersey.

(p. 163) "Arrangements were also made with the chief psychiatrist of a large public hospital" referred to Dr. Russell E. Blaisdell and the Rockland State Hospital near Orangeburg, New York.

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#### DR. BOB'S NIGHTMARE

(p. 171) Sister Ignatia at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio.

(p. 171) "Born in a small New England village." Dr. Bob was born on August 8, 1879, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. His father and mother were Judge and Mrs. Walter Perrin Smith. Bill Wilson was born November 26, 1895, so he was sixteen years younger than Dr. Bob, and his WW I experiences also put him in a different generation.

(p. 172) Dr. Bob graduated from high school, the St. Johnsbury Academy, in 1898. "One of the best colleges in the country" was Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, one of the prestigious Ivy League colleges where Dr. Bob graduated in 1902.

(p. 173) Medical school at "one of the largest universities in the country" meant the University of Michigan, 1905-1907. This is one of the three or four best universities in the upper midwest.

(p. 174) After being sent on his way, he enrolled in Rush Medical University near Chicago, Illinois, where he received his medical degree in 1910.

(p. 174) He did a two year internship "in a western city" which was Akron, Ohio, and after finishing this, he opened an office there in downtown Akron in 1912.

(pp. 174-175) "Voluntarily incarcerated myself at least a dozen times in one of the local sanitariums." Fair Oaks Villa in Cuyahoga Falls, a town four miles north of downtown Akron.

(p. 175) Scylla and Charybdis were references to ancient Greek mythology, where the hero Odysseus had to sail through a narrow strait between them. Scylla, who lived in a cave on one side of the strait, was a sea-monster with six heads, each with a triple row of teeth, and twelve feet. Charybdis was a whirlpool or maelstrom on the other side of the strait which would suck a ship under and destroy it. Trying to avoid one of these as you sailed through the strait would throw you into the clutches of the other. Later authors tried to identify this with the Straits of Messina, but there is no whirlpool of that sort there. The story of Odysseus was the tale of a man who went off in the attempt to become a great hero, and underwent shipwreck and incredible disasters during his struggle to get back home. "Coming home" meant crawling up on a beach in tattered rags, and having to live as a beggar, and being forced to fight a series of hideous

monsters and other people too, in order to live as a true Prince once again. As a symbolic tale for alcoholics, the monsters are the frightening and destructive forces living in our own minds. Only the help and grace of Athena, the goddess of mercy who brought civilized behavior to the Greeks, enabled Odysseus to defeat them, for they were stronger than any human power. In addition to a deep familiarity with the Bible, all educated people in the U.S. of that generation knew Latin, and Dr. Bob could also read ancient Greek quite well, which meant that he was totally familiar with Homer's "Odyssey," the epic which told of Odysseus' struggle to get back home.

(p. 175) "I wound up in the local hospital." People's Hospital.

(p. 175) "My father had to send a doctor out from my home town." This was in 1914. The town was St. Johnsbury, Vermont. The hometown doctor took Dr. Bob back to the house on Summer Street where he had been born, where he remained in bed for two months.

(p. 175) "The passing of the Eighteenth Amendment," which banned all sale or use of alcoholic beverages in the United States, took place on January 16, 1919, just two months after the Armistice was signed ending World War I. The National Prohibition Act, commonly known as the Volstead Act, was passed on October 28, 1920, to carry out the intent of the new amendment to the Constitution, and went into effect at the beginning of 1921. Almost thirteen years passed before the Twenty-First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 5, 1933, repealing the Eighteenth Amendment and ending the prohibition era. During that period, alcoholics in the U.S. bought smuggled or illegally-made alcoholic beverages, or made their own illegal brews. There was "bath tub gin" and homemade wine and beer. There was also moonshine whiskey made up in the hills by ferocious hillbillies toting rifles and shotguns, along with similar small distilleries hidden near many cities. Better quality alcoholic beverages were smuggled in from places like Canada and the Caribbean.

(p. 176) Hiding out in one of the clubs and registering at a hotel under an assumed name ?? unknown

(p. 176) "My wife" referred to Anne Smith.

(p. 177) Wallace Beery (Hollywood movie actor) in the famous classic movie "Tugboat Annie" about a colorful, two-fisted woman who was the captain of a tugboat.

(p. 178) "A crowd of people" referred to the Oxford Group in Akron. Dr. Bob started going to their meetings in 1933, but was unable to get sober using Oxford Group methods. After Bill Wilson arrived in Akron, the two of them began modifying those

Oxford Group methods, and devising a method which would work much better. Dr. Bob and the Akron AA's did not totally break with the Oxford Group however until November or December of 1939, which was after the Big Book had been published.

(p. 179) "A lady called up my wife." This was Oxford Group member Henrietta Seiberling, whose name had been given to Bill Wilson by the Reverend Walter Tunks, as the result of Bill's telephone call from the Mayflower Hotel in Akron, see pages 153-155 and the notes above to those pages.

(p. 179) "We entered her house at exactly five o'clock" refers to Henrietta Seiberling's house, on the evening of May 12, 1935. Dr. Bob stayed until 11:15 p.m. talking with Bill Wilson. This was their first meeting.

(p. 179) After about three weeks dry, Dr. Bob says, he went to Atlantic City, New Jersey. He intended to go to the national meeting of the American Medical Association at the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, which the AMA's records show was held from June 10-14, Monday-Friday, 1935.

(p. 179) "I woke up at a friend's house" in a town near Akron. This was Dr. Bob's receptionist in his office, a woman named Lily who lived in Cuyahoga Falls. This town was only about four miles north of downtown Akron, and is now part of the greater Akron metropolitan area.

(p. 179) "my wife ... sent my newly made friend [Bill Wilson] over to get me."

(p. 180) Dr. Bob says he had "my last drink" the next day, to steady his nerves for a surgical operation he had to perform, on "June 10, 1935." As we have seen, the AMA had met from Monday to Friday, June 10-14, so it must have been a few days later than either he or Bill W. remembered, and possibly as late as June 17. But Dr. Bob stayed sober for all the rest of his life, and died sober on November 16, 1950. He was 71 years old, and had been sober for over 15 years.