

Forward To First Edition

On January 20, 1947, the Palladium-Item commenced a series of Alcoholics Anonymous advertisements. They displayed a P.O. Box number and emphasized confidentiality. On the next day the paper announced that A.A. would hold its first local event, a Breakfast Meeting, on the following Sunday. This gala event took place at a popular Main Street Italian restaurant and cocktail lounge called the *Blue Note (The bar was closed on Sundays)*. The speaker was from Ft. Wayne, Indiana; there were twenty-one A.A. members, including their families. Only twelve were local; the others came from Indianapolis and Cincinnati. The seeds of Richmond A. A. had sprouted.

This booklet chronicles the growth of local A.A. groups, and clubs, from the 1940's to present. However, most emphasis has been directed toward the early years of Richmond AA. This information has been extracted from written group records, old newspaper files, phone books and additional records from the local library; but also from donations and taped interviews from early Richmond AA members. Recordings of these interviews are available from both District 40 and G.S.O. archival collections.

This booklet was compiled and written by Bob S. and proof read and edited by Christie J. The difficult task of transcribing a 1994 tape recording by Jerry Markey for use in this booklet was prepared by Mary Ruth S.

First printing	1996
Second printing	1997
Third printing	1998
Fourth printing	2000

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By 2008, when this second edition went to print, Richmond and surrounding communities supported over forty AA meetings, many of which had their beginnings from the earlier groups described in the first section of this booklet. A flowchart will illustrate our beginnings. It is notable that the first meeting still remains active after sixty-two years!

The second section will attempt to give the reader facts concerning the history of nearby groups surrounding Richmond from which a considerable amount of mutual visitation took place. Richmond was the natural location center for these communities, so the fellowship and communication expanded greatly through the years. Eventually the counties of Wayne, Fayette, Union, Henry and Randolph became designated as District 40.