

**Roy H.** was voted one of the ten top photographers in the United States; his studio was just down and across the street from the Sergeant's Paint Store at 710 Main Street. Jerry M. (DOS 1953) tells it that a Ft. Wayne customer traveled over a hundred miles, one Saturday afternoon, to be photographed, but alas, to find the famous photographer drunk and passed out on the floor. As benevolent fate would have it, this customer was not only a fellow alcoholic, but also an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous. He helped Roy to sober up; then, bright and early that next morning, he whisked Roy to the aforementioned Sunday Breakfast Meeting in Indianapolis . . . and guess who was there? It was Bob B.! Such was the good fortune that brought Richmond's first two founding AA members together as a fellowship.



The basement of Sergeant's paint store became the first 12<sup>th</sup> Step room in Richmond AA. There at once appeared a 'bottomless' coffee pot in the paint store basement and all sober rum hounds were invited. As this good news spread around town, other potential AA members began to stop by for free coffee and good fellowship. Among those were **Bill M.**, a 45 year old hobo and sometime piano tuner and a 26-year old alcoholic, **Bill P.**, whose father owned Pike's Liquor Store (1600 East Main Street). Then, during the late winter of 1946, when Bill P. suggested they start a regular meeting in the back room of his father's store; the aforementioned four participants agreed. Thus, these four alcoholics started Richmond's first regularly scheduled meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous - *in the back room of a liquor store, of all places.*



Downtown Richmond during the 1940s on a busy Saturday afternoon  
(South side of street)

Sergeant's Paint Store was located one block west of this of Main Street scene. Roy Hirschburg's studio was located on this block but the opposite side of the street - it was above 710 Main Street.