

Another notable speaker at the center was Ethel Macy (DOS 1941). Her story, *From Farm To City*, was included in both the second and third editions of the Big Book. She was the first lady to gain permanent sobriety with the Akron group. She once lived in nearby Liberty, Indiana, and was in Richmond to attend a funeral. Another well known member, Art Bauer, visited the center on regular occasions. He was the founder of Dayton AA in 1940. So, AAs came to the center from all over the place!

Sam Meier said that in those days most everyone was proud that their family was part of AA. The ladies, especially, dressed very nicely for the special functions; their get-to-gathers were very important and gala occasions! They had dinners (then called suppers) at each others homes on a weekly basis and really got to know each other. They always looked forward to special suppers (*maybe turtle soup*) at Dan & Ester Fitzpatrick's home. The group fellowship was a family affair! As previously mentioned, the family lived the 12 Step process together. Richmond's membership closeness was reminiscent of that fellowship in Akron during the mid 1930's. There was much humor as well. Newly de-toxed members and all newcomers were highly regarded. They were provided with transportation, given cigarettes, plenty to eat (including orange juice and karo syrup!) shelter, if needed, even vitamin B 12 shots – but, of course, no money.



The rent was \$22.50 per month. But Sam claims 'quiet' money came from the more affluent members such as Roy Hirshburg, a world famous Main Street photographer, and Bob Behrman, who owned a local paint and wallpaper store. There was a token system of poker chips like this: White for the beginner, Red for 4 weeks, Blue for 8 weeks, Silver for 6 months and gold plated Medallion for one year. The yearly anniversaries were celebrated at the fancy Blue Note Restaurant.

This fledgling Groups was very generous to AA; they would send \$5:00 to \$25 to both Indianapolis (*Alanon Club, 124 W. Georgia Street, Indianapolis, Indiana – Phone # 6792*) and to the Central Office in NY.

### Deep Theology

During the late 1940's, Greek J., a sometimes sober member, made this statement during an A.A. meeting at the Craighead Drop-In-Center: "There ain't no God, and I can prove it!"

"How so," Inquired one of his fellows?

Well," Greek replied, "I stopped in at the Homestead Bar last Saturday night and I asked God to let me drink only two beers. . . and I didn't get home till Tuesday!"

This might be referred to as "alco-logical" thinking!