

The Camel Club (1965—1968)

The Richmond AA community had been without a clubhouse for five years when the Camel Club was started in the Colonial Building on the south east corner of 7th and Main Street. John Moorman and Benny Parrish were among those who helped start this club in 1965. Jerry Markey tells that this spartan club was only one rather small room with a coffee pot and an unlocked door. Apparently anyone could walk in for a shot ‘o java! The main outer building door, however, was locked at 9:00 pm, so they had to prop it open during meeting time. There were no dues. Jerry says that Rosemary Dunsford named it the *Camel Club*.



It is not known when or how often the meetings took place. In April of 1968, a horrendous gas leak explosion at a nearby sporting goods store rendered the Colonial Building uninhabitable. The Richmond AAs were once again without a clubhouse.

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## The Chester Hts. Group (1968 to present)

Soon after the explosion, Keith G. rented a very nice large room in the Chester Hts. Methodist Church, north of the city; thus continued his home group meeting at the club. The Chester Hts. Group met on Friday evenings on the corner of Rt. #27 & Tingler Road., which was several miles north of downtown. Among the early regular attendees were Joe & Florence L., Wally, from up north, Maxine Adams, John B., Jess Corman, John Prussner, Wyoma & John Willoughby and John Moorman.

This meeting has flourished well through the years; the attendance has remained stable and at times the attendance has been more than fifty AAs. There is also an concurrent Al-Anon meeting and space for child care. This remains a popular discussion meeting with an invited speaker the last week of the month.

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Downtown Richmond—Early 1950s



This is an eastward facing photo.

Roy Hirshburg's photographic studio was on the left near the large vertical “RICHMANS” sign. Bob Behrman's Paint and Wallpaper Store was located to the extreme right of this picture.

The Colonial Build. was probably above Woolworths on the right.

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