

## **714 Club**

(1979-1982 approx.)

This meeting, at 714 North 12th Street, was started by Ada P. and Bob S. in an effort to bring alcoholics from this near-north area into the mainstream AA program. This club was surrounded by notorious all-night drinking spots in Richmond - nicknamed as “bootleg joints,” from the prohibition era.

Wine imbibers would often imbibe in front while the meetings were in progress. One memorable episode was an obviously intoxicated lady who sat down at our meeting to announce: “I ain’t no alcoholic!” To wit, one of the members replied: “Why, I can clearly see you are not one of us, but you are welcome to stay.” As the meeting progressed, and because a drunk has a hard time remaining quiet, she loudly announced: “*I am too an alcoholic!*”

Two wonderful AA members sobered up with this small meeting: Mike Davis, who eventually set up and ran an Indiana Department of Corrections program, and Keith Dorsey, who worked for many years in the addictions program at Richmond State Hospital. Quite a few others found their way into the mainstream of AA through this ray of hope.

## **The 5th Tradition Group**

(1979 till present)

Dick Arden was a mover and shaker type of AA who moved to Richmond, from Chicago, to manage a factory. Though recently sober, he started this Saturday morning group at 101 North 10th Street in 1979; it immediately became a popular daytime Saturday group. It moved to the 228 Club soon after its opening and still meets there on Saturday mornings.

## **A Floating Group**

(1982-1984)

This no-name group was indeed of a rare variety. They met in each others homes on Wednesday nights at midnight (***Yes, Midnight!***) on a spasmodic basis, but it was fairly pretty regular at that! Sometimes, as the sun arose, we would still be drinking coffee, eating spaghetti and excitedly talking AA. Obviously, we were non-workers—but we were happy non-workers! We were Rick and Kathy Mc., ‘Cowboy Jim’, Bob S., Denise B., plus several other forgotten weird types. But guess what? Every single one of those mentioned are still sober today, a quarter of a century later!



This house at 440 SW 3rd Street was one of the nite-owl meeting spots.