

(1952)

## REMEMBRANCES OF CONNERSVILLE A.A.

The Connersville Group of Alcoholics Anonymous was organized on June 20, 1952. The group met in the Y.M.C.A. from 1952 through 1954. There were three people in Connersville that had some success with the program at that time. Doc T. had about 5 years, Ava B. several months, and Bob B. about 4 months. There were 5 others that Doc T. had worked with and they were invited. They were Howard S. Bill K. Ed H. Jake L. and Russ T. There were 4 guests from Richmond Bill M. Roy H. Walter R. and Sag. Bill M. led the meeting.

The group grew steadily and in June of 1954, it was voted to move the meeting place to the Old V.F.W. Hall in the Roots building. The group was very successful for a year or so, then began to go downhill very slowly, but very surely. We were able to maintain meetings in the hall until August of 1959. We had agreed to pay \$30 per month to Mr. Roots (he had investigated A.A. and was our very good booster) it finally became impossible to raise the rent and Mr. Roots would give us a month's rent to keep us going. But, in August of 1959, after the death of Mr. Roots, some months previously and with only one member at that time, the hall was relinquished.

During the latter 50's, I'm not sure of the exact date, Doc T. who had been one of the founders of the Connersville Group, developed emphysema and had to give up meetings, being physically unable to come. He died in the first part of 1960. I'm not sure of the date. This may have led to the breakdown of the group in the latter part of 1960.

In September of 1962, the group was reorganized by Bobby M. who had moved here from Richmond with the help of Pete R. Bob B. and one or two others I do not remember. We met in Pete's barber shop and were and still are a growing group. The meetings in Pete's barber shop ended in 1968 due to fire. We then became a roving group temporarily, having meetings at the Methodist Church, until they disallowed smoking. We then moved to the Y.M.C.A. and from there to the Catholic library on 5th street. We also had at least one meeting at Bob B.'s wife's beauty shop. We finally moved to what is now called Christian Manor, a building belonging to the Central Christian Church. From there we moved to 118 East 8th street, another building belonging to the church. We were there until Nov. 1973 having only 2 members Abie F. and Bob B. the group folded. In March of 1974, the group was re-activated by the basement of the building at 118 East 8th street. From there we moved to the basement of the Central Christian Church. In 1981, the group moved to Fayette Memorial Hospital. From the start, there had been only a couple of women in the group, and is still very active. Since then there have been several women join the group.

Besides Doc T.'s death some of the others that have passed away are Suzy I., Oscar S. and of course the tragic death of Bobby M. murdered in a gas station holdup. What only I might add. Many have drifted away Pat E. in Phoenix Ariz. Stan L. in Houston, and many others I can't remember. Out of the original 8 members, only 2 survive Ava B. and Bob B. Some are still sober and attending meetings others have quit active participation. This is 1983 and the group is continually growing. There are now 2 groups, the original Wed. group and a Sunday afternoon group.