

## **A.A. History of Cambridge City, Indiana**

(1953 till present)

The first known Cambridge City meeting took place as a small get-together in the basement of an alcoholic (location unknown). This was probably in the early winter of 1953. Later, it may have been moved to the second floor of a NW corner building downtown Main Street which later became the offices of the Ford dealership - exact location??? (Please read the article by "R. M." on the following page) Doc Thompson and Bill Meier were among the early attendees.

Regular Sunday evening meetings were held with frequent visits to surrounding towns where groups were already active. It wasn't long before the idea caught on and the Twelfth Step work reaped its reward. The town itself curious, skeptical at first, just sat by and watched. As the group grew, outside persons became more and more interested. The happy faces of mothers, wives, sons and daughters reflected the change that AA had made for their loved ones.

After a year of hard work, cold turkey calls, trips to hospitals, a few disappointments, but on the whole, a successful year, the group decided to have an anniversary dinner. A few words here and there soon brought an offer of a local church basement and kitchen for the affair. Then, to top even that, the gracious offer from a church ladies' organization was made to cook and serve the dinner.

A very well known state leader accepted the invitation to be the speaker of the evening and a young team of teen-age xylophone players furnished the musical portion of the program. To say the anniversary was a big success would be mild. For some it was an inspiration. Turkey dinners were served to over one hundred AA members, their friends and families.

The speaker, who wishes to remain anonymous, made one of the finest talks ever heard and thrilled the local group no end when he brought the personal congratulations from the Governor of Indiana.

It was later (date unknown) located on the second floor of a building at 19 West Main Street. This building was built around 1900 by the Knights of Pythias and later purchased by a Walter Rihm. Some of the members were: Bill P., Jim B., Ed C., and Cocky V. Sr. who after sobering up went on to become TOWN Marshall. This building is now a liquor store. Rihms' Market is now located next door west. This meeting lasted the mid-1960s or into the 1970s before it ended.

But it was restarted as a Tuesday night meeting in January, 1983 by Colonel I., Billy I., Ron W., Beth W. and Mike T. at a church at 238 West Main Street. Colonels' wife, Billie, gave the first lead. This meeting has continued until the time of this writing (2008).

Editor