

*I am going by the ages of my children Marlana & Bobby. Marlana was between 5 & 6 years old when we had the first meeting of AA anon.*

*The year between 1951 & 1952 Marlana was between 5 & 6 and Bobby was between 3 & 4. Thelma says it was on Boston Pike, but it was on North 20th Street. I would not of had the meeting on Boston Pike.*

*I remember Roy Hershburg coming out there and telling Bob, come on, let's go to a meeting in Indianapolis. He always wanted Bob to drive his Cadillac.*

*There were so many people that told Bob that he was too young to be an alcoholic. I am so thankful that he did not listen to them.*

*Thelma Ross was there and she really remembers who was at the first meeting. It would be best if you could contact her.*

*Bob always said he was put here on earth to help other hurting Alcoholics. He got help from the Big Book and Norman Vincent Peal's booklets. I received those booklets for years.*

*One of the points that Norman Vincent Peal said was "How do you know you can't do it, if you first don't try?"*

## Afterward

Bob Murphy's wife, Ula, reminds us here of the closeness of the AA/AI-Anon fellowships; of how much we alcoholics owe the wives of those early alcoholics for their love and caring. They lived the Steps together as a family and seemingly visited each other at the drop of a hat. Someone stated that we wouldn't even have AA today if not for the ladies-if not for the wives.

In our history lies our hope. What motivation would we have had to join this fellowship if those before us kept getting drunk, and that is just what they would have done if those early--timers wouldn't have held together as a sincere fellowship during those fledgling days. *AA didn't simply fall off a tree!*

How exciting to have been riding in Roy Hirshburg's sporty fairly-new Cadillac, with the rest of the gang, en route to the Sunday Indianapolis Breakfast Meeting, (They went most every Sunday!), or up to Detroit the hear one of Dr. Bob's rare talks. There were only two meetings in town back then, yet they traveled all over the place all through the week. They traveled to Cleveland and NY for AA functions, also six of them attended the 1955 St. Louis Convention. These guys were full of the spirit of AA fellowship. *AA didn't simply fall off a tree!*

They nursed drunks being de-toxed in the side room of the "Drop In Center," took them to the doctor for a Vitamin B shot, fed him and bought him smokes. One member would hang around the club till the bars closed so he could hang around Jennings cafe and maybe 12-Step some poor lost drunk. *AA didn't simply fall off a tree!*

Thank God for the early-timers. This book is dedicated to them.