

## *Oklahoma AA Milestones*

- 1934, December 11:* Bill W. finds sobriety after a startling spiritual experience in New York Hospital.
- 1935, May-June:* Bill and Dr. Bob S. meet in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Bob's last drink, June 10, 1935. Alcoholics Anonymous is founded.
- 1940, June 7:* Johnny P. finds sobriety in Chicago. Starts AA in Kansas City, Topeka, and in Oklahoma City September 14, 1941.
- 1941, September 14:* First meeting Biltmore Hotel attended by Johnny P., Harry A., Ellis F., Melvin B., and one other.
- 1941, September 16:* First newspaper advertisement. Clarence A. responded, attended second meeting on September 21, 1941.
- 1941, November:* Started Friday night at Biltmore Hotel, closed meeting on Tuesday nights at Harry A.'s office in Hightower Building, Oklahoma City.
- 1941,* All drunks detoxed at Coyne Campbell Hospital for years.
- 1941, December 26:* AA number 19. Earle G. started continuous sobriety.
- 1942, January 7:* AA number 20. Jack D. started continuous sobriety.
- 1942, February:* First woman attended AA; Norene H. did not stay.
- 1942, June:* Second woman, Bertha H., came to AA and stayed; helped so many yet unable to have continuous sobriety.
- 1942, August 10:* Roy S. came to AA, remained sober from December 15, 1942; became first delegate Panel One in 1951, Trustee in 1964.
- 1942, September:* Daily Oklahoman newspaper story by Josephine Hawk appeared; excellent story which went all over U.S., contributed to growth of AA nationally.
- 1942, December:* Total AA membership 42 men, 1 woman.
- 1942, March:* First Oklahoma AA Club House, rented building at 1016 NW 42nd Street.



1944, January 18: Bill and Lois visited AA members in Oklahoma City. Bill decided anonymity should be paramount for AA's future.

1944, Wacs and Air Force members from Will Rogers Air Force Base and Tinker Air Force Base attended AA.

1944, February: Tulsa group started by Carrol Mc., requested in New York May 19, 1944. Parent group divided into original and pioneer group. Ted R. visited June 1944. Later two car loads from Oklahoma City helped AA form in Tulsa, Muskogee, McAlister, Shawnee, Duncan and Lawton.

1945, Mark W. started AA in Chickasha.

1945, Bob B. started AA in Lawton, Jimmy F., Charley Y., Harold A.

1945, July: Alcoholics Anonymous of Oklahoma was incorporated by Roy S., Fritz B. and Bon B.

1945, July 31: Left Club House at 1016 NW 42nd. Formed eight home groups.

1945, Ponca City group started by Matt and Verna S., Ted R.

1945, July 26 to May 31, 1946: Open meetings at Little Theatre Court House, Shrine Auditorium.

1945, December: El Reno group--Dutch C., A.D.S., Cotton M., John Mc., R.L.J., Jebe G., and Morece M.

1945, December 15: Paul and Virginia C., Elk City.

1945, Duncan, Andy A., Herb S. Tommie J., Roni P., Johnny H., Jim F., and John S.

1945, Sam K. came to Oklahoma City on bus from Altus.

1945, December 31: Twelve women and 186 men were members in Oklahoma.

1946, February-June: Jay G. built Kelly Club.

1946, New groups: Shawnee-January 8, Clinton-February, Bartlesville-May, Alva-August, Altus-August, Cordell-September, Norman-December.

1946, June: Kelly Club opened; Monday night-mixed group one. Beginner group Tuesday night men only group 2, Women only group 3 in 1947. Wednesday mixed group 4, Thursday mixed group 5, young people group February 1953. Friday



open meeting, Sunday sponsorship group, Sunday afternoon later.

1946, All phone call Hot Line for AA at Kelly Club until 1967, Jackson 5-5612

1946, If you want to continue drinking that's your business! If you want to stop, that's our business.

1947, *New groups:* Cherokee-January, Blackwell-January, Pauls Valley-March, Hobart-March, Holdenville-June, Stillwater-June, Ada-July, Seminole, Wynewood, Pawhuska, Bill B.

1947, *March:* Capitol Hill Group, Chick F., 25th & Robinson.

1947, Gay E., secretary, Kelly Club.

1947, *Lawton:* purchased club house on F Street.

1947, *Ardmore:* Grady B., Hardy S., Jerome W., Jack B. First woman in 1949.

1948, First Women's Group founded by E.J.M., Roxie M., Bertha H., Mitzi W., Nine B; grew to 65 members in one year.

1948, Vinita Group, Mike G.

1948, *March:* Pawhuska Group C.B. by Bill B.

1948, *April:* Tipton Group

1949, Churches heavily involved in area: John Abernathy, Don Alexander, Father Harkins, Father Levin, Rev. Blake, Bishop Cassidy, Clyde Wheeler, Dr. Crane.

1950, *July:* Mary H. first person to register for Cleveland Convention which was attended by five people from Oklahoma City.

1951, First State Area Assembly attended by only a few. There were only forty-five groups in state in 1954. Roy S. was elected state chairman and state delegate. John W. was first secretary. Roy S. elected to Panel One. Roy was one of 37 delegates who attended first New York Conference in April.

1951, *April 20:* The delegate of First Panel of the General Service Conference of AA arrived in New York City. Over seven and one half million people lined the streets to give a record Manhattan welcome . . . complete with ticker tape, bands, armed forces, police and firemen escorts . . . normal business and traffic as at a standstill for hours while the



natives shouted themselves hoarse. Another famous visitor in the city that day was General Douglas McArthur.

1951, May 29: First State Conference, Tenth Anniversary at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at Municipal Auditorium. Attended by Bill W. and Johnny P.

1951, National Champion Barbershop Quartet from Oklahoma City sang at Conference. Non AA Bob Burns and Granville Scanlin, AA member Sleepy C. and Bruce W.

1952, Roy S. attended Second Panel of AA Conference in New York; seventy-six attended.

1952, Alanon group started.

1952, Eleventh Annual State Conference at Tulsa. John P. was featured speaker. It was attended by several other state members at Hotel Mayo.

1952, Roy S. traveled to outlying towns teaching the significance of complying to A.A. traditions.

1953, Ab A. was elected second delegate to Panel 3 and 4. Ab A. and Maxine J. traveled to New York, very close friend to Bill. Rmina L. was secretary. Very few attended State Meetings.

1953, Twelfth Anniversary Convention held in Oklahoma City at Skirvin Tower. Oklahoma City-10 groups, Tulsa-6 groups, other groups over state-29, and one Alanon group.

1954, Ted R. thought of "Birthday Plan" to give one dollar a year for each year of sobriety, up to \$10, to New York General Service to perpetuate AA growth. Ab A. disclosed it to Bill and it was accepted.

1954, Tulsa, Thirteenth Anniversary Conference, Hotel Mayo.

1954, Lane P. became delegate number 3, Panel 5 and 6.

1955, Lane P. contributed grapevine representative from each group, adapted nationally. Polly P. became Oklahoma AA secretary February 6, 1956.

1955, A large delegation from Oklahoma was a part of the 3,100 who attended the 20th Anniversary of AA in St. Louis. We accepted the responsibility for General Service and Third Legacy.

1955 to 1974: No one in the eighties would accept the responsibility to gather historical milestones for this period.