

# MARGENSER NEWSLETTER

FOSTERING UNITY AND CARRYING THE A.A. MESSAGE IN AREA 29



4th QUARTER 2002

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

BARBARA B.

My name is Barbara B. and I'm an alcoholic and currently serving as Chairman of Maryland General Service.

We completed the Area's Inventory at the Maryland General Service Area Assembly October 12, 2002, and I want to thank everyone who participated and give special thanks to Morgan J. for facilitating the proceedings. It was an honor and a privilege to listen to the participants share their ideas and offer suggestions. I hope we can see the results in the coming year. A common thread throughout the responses was the lack of participation. Although it is easier for me to chair meetings with 100 or so attending our Assemblies, I would like to invite the 900 plus Home Groups registered with Maryland General Service to make my job harder by sending their best GSR or Alt GSR to our Assemblies, giving us an opportunity to fulfill the vision of our Co-Founder Bill W. in trusting us with the future of Alcoholics Anonymous through the principles of unity and service.

We know from our experience that the best GSRs become the best DCMs; the best DCMs become our best Committee Leaders; the best Committee Leaders become our best Officers. I can tell you from my experience that this service is a gift from our Higher Power and a privilege available to all members of Alcoholics Anonymous. We also know that the unity achieved when we meet helps protect and preserve the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is an awesome responsibility.

We who are active members of Maryland General Service need to get out among the Home Groups that aren't actively participating and get this message to them. We need to stress that service is the spiritual tool to a rock solid program of recovery; just as it has been for us, so will it be for them. I will do my part to the best of my ability, and I ask the same of you. I am always available to all A.A. members.

### MARGENSER STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Area 29 MARGENSER newsletter is published to foster unity and to facilitate communication among A.A. members, groups, districts, and intergroups within the Maryland General Service Area.

The MARGENSER aims to be instrumental in carrying the A.A. message. This quarterly newsletter seeks to publish A.A.-related material, including personal stories of experience, strength, and hope. Material will be reviewed by the MARGENSER committee chairperson or by a member of the committee.

Nothing published in the MARGENSER should be thought of as a statement of Area 29 or A.A. policy. Finally, publication shall not constitute endorsement by the newsletter itself, by Area 29, by intergroups, districts, or local groups, or by A.A. as a whole.

### SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO . . .

To support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests individual groups adopt a specific contribution plan that is suitable to their particular situation.

Any such plan might work like this:

First, take care of basic group expenses (rent, refreshments, AA literature and a prudent reserve fund).

Divide the remaining funds according to whatever formula suits your local needs. For example:

50% to your Intergroup or central office

30% to General Service Office

Box 459, Grand Cent. Station

New York, NY 10163

10% to District

10% to

Maryland General Service

N

Elkridge, MD 21075

# UNITY THROUGH THE FELLOWSHIP

BY TOM R.

As I travel this path for living in Alcoholics Anonymous, I find recovery from alcoholism in the Twelve Steps, and a purpose, and an ability to give back and carry the A.A. message through service work; but the recovery process would not be complete for me without the fellowship of A.A.

I did not come to A.A. a social butterfly. I came to understand why alcoholism has been described as a disease of isolation. I spent the latter years of my drinking alone in a barroom full of people, or locked away in my room, drinking until I passed out every night. I had no use for people, a Higher People, or anything else for that matter. That is where alcohol had taken me.

For me, the concept of recovery through unity takes on many meanings. I had to reach out to another human being to ask for help. I work through the twelve steps with the guidance of a sponsor. I pray to my Higher Power for direction in my life, and I come to meetings to hear the answers through the people in the rooms. I don't believe I can stay sober sitting at home reading the Big Book, or studying the steps on my own. I'm told there is no Recovery Channel on television; I need to come to meetings to hear the message, and to carry the message. Recovery for me begins with one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic.

I don't know if anyone has ever thought this, but when I stopped drinking, I thought, "Now what? What's left? What am I going to do now?" It was an overwhelming feeling the first time I sat in a speaker's meeting at a State Convention, in a cavernous room with a thousand happy, sober alcoholics. The enormity of the occasion proved to me the power of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. There has not been a "lost weekend" in the time I have been sober, if not for a dance, picnic, breakfast, workshop, service function, taking a road trip to a different meeting, or even recently visiting a haunted house with a group of wonderful, sober friends. Sobriety has given me the blessed gift of many true friends.

Often now as I walk in to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous far from home, I meet a familiar face and feel I am with family. And I am told there are no strangers in A.A., just friends I haven't met yet. I also learned there is life after drinking, and through recovery, it is well beyond the life I ever thought possible. It is through the embodiment of the fellowship that I stay sober, knowing we can do together what I've proven I can not do alone. As I began to chip away at the walls of isolation I had built up so many years, and my perceptions changed in sobriety, my life has been filled with friendship and love, which I am able to give back. I am a grateful alcoholic.

## Maryland General Service Meeting Dates for 2003

February 15, 2003	Area Committee	District 34
February 21-23, 2003	NERAASA	Albany, NY
March 7-9, 2003	NERD	Manchester, NH
March 22, 2003	Area Assembly	Dist. 36 Lexington Park
April 11-13, 2003	Mini Conference	Easton, MD
April 26-May 3, 2003	General Service Conference	NY, NY
May 17, 2003	Area Assembly (Delegate report back)	District 31
June 12-15, 2003	Maryland State Convention	Hagerstown, MD
June 20-23, 2003	NE Regional Forum	Grand Isle, NY
July 19, 2003	Area Committee	District 11
August 16, 2003	Area Committee	District 17
September 13, 2003	Area Assembly	open
October 11, 2003	Area Assembly (elections)	District 7
October 17-19, 2003	NERC	Mt Laurel, NJ

## A Voice in Florida

The MARGENSER editor received a letter from Robert "Diz" T. of Tallahassee Florida. He writes that he loved the Maryland General Service web sight and he thinks that it is "one of the best around." Diz asks for any information regarding a Burwell/Mayo reunion in Owingsville. If you have any information about this reunion, contact Diz. He is also interested in obtaining pictures of Fitz M, the author of a story in the Big Book (all four editions) for his area's archive. Thanks to Diz for such loving comments about the MGS web page.

# THE MOTHER OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

BY LEON R., CROFTON, MD

Bill Wilson and Dr. Robert Smith are generally credited with founding Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935 and establishing this movement that has changed the lives of many millions of people the world over. The role that Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, played in the birth of A.A. has been largely overlooked and is unknown to many. This article summarizes the beginning of A.A. and emphasizes Anne Smith's contribution.

Bill had his last drink December 11, 1934, right before his last of four trips into Towns Hospital, in NYC, which was more like a drying out facility than a hospital. While there Bill had a spiritual awakening when he realized from his Oxford Group (O.G.) experience that he couldn't handle his drinking problem himself and had to turn it over to a God he wasn't convinced existed. (The Oxford Group was a spiritual movement that sought to recapture the power of early Christianity in the modern world by praying to God and listening for guidance.)

In early May, with five months of sobriety, Bill Wilson traveled to Akron, Ohio, to make a business deal. He desperately needed the deal to succeed, but it didn't work out and he had a compulsion to drink.

Bill had been attending O.G. meetings in Brooklyn with his wife Lois and knew he was staying sober by working with other alcoholics. While in Akron he was at the Mayflower Hotel where the lobby had a Directory of Ministers in the area. Bill thought that maybe one of the ministers on the list could lead him to an O.G. member with a drinking problem.

He had little money, but fortunately enough to make telephone calls. On the eleventh call he talked to a woman who set up a meeting between himself and Dr. Bob on Mother's Day, May 12, 1935, and she also arranged for Bill to stay at the Portage Country Club for a while.

Dr. Bob agreed to meet Bill at 5:00 p.m. for a fifteen-minute discussion. They quickly identified with each other and talked until 11:00 p.m. They felt they might be coming up with a way to help alcoholics, which was a profound happening because up to this time alcoholics were doomed. This moment in time led to the beginning of A.A., a major event of the 20th century. Millions of alcoholics around the world have recovered and are recovering from the incurable disease of alcoholism as a result of their work.

Before this history-making meeting, Dr. Bob and his wife Anne were in despair from Dr. Bob's drinking. Both of them came from good families. Dr. Robert H. Smith was born August 1879 in the family bedroom of a 19th century country home in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Bill Wilson was born in 1895 and grew up in East Dorset, Vermont, about one hundred miles northeast of Johnsbury. Dr. Bob's father was a judge with great influence in business and civic affairs, and taught Sunday school for forty years.

Anne Ripley, Bob's wife, was born in Oak Park, Illinois

in 1891. She had been reared in a rather prosperous and straight-laced family. She attended college on a scholarship and became a schoolteacher. They married after seventeen years of courtship. After the birth of a son, Robert, nicknamed Smitty, they were unable to have another offspring. Dr. Bob thought Smitty would be spoiled if he were the only child, so they adopted Sue, who was only five months younger than Smitty.

By the early 1930's, Dr. Bob's drinking problems had progressed to the point where he had little medical practice and family relationships were bad. This was the time of the Great Depression and sometimes he had no money to buy whiskey or beer and would drink medicinal alcohol. On occasion he would buy whiskey from bootleggers. The Smiths couldn't afford to invite people to their home and were ostracized by friends because of Dr. Bob's behavior.

Wife Anne desperately tried many things to get Bob to stop drinking. She would frisk him when he came home to make sure he didn't have a bottle of alcohol under his clothes. In winter he would have on heavy mittens and would put containers of alcohol in the mittens, toss them onto a second floor porch and retrieve the alcohol later. Beer became legal in 1933 and "...nobody ever got drunk on beer," he would say, and continue to guzzle. Sometimes in withdrawals and depression, he would use sedatives for relief.

Anne did what she could to hold the family together and prayed that somehow her husband would find the answer to his problem. Under her continuing pressure Bob reluctantly went with her to O.G. meetings in 1933. Probably because she was ashamed, Anne was hesitant to honestly share at the meetings until a woman friend confronted her, after which she began to open up. Early members usually were married, had good homes, and were white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. Although he continued to drink, Bob slowly began a spiritual renewal of what had begun in his intense childhood church training. He did a lot of reading that the O.G. recommended. He owned many religious and spiritual books that he read and remembered.

After their big meeting, Dr. Bob and Bill continued to work on a simple and practical recovery plan. Anne believed that Dr. Bob's new found sobriety would continue if he and Bill kept working together. Anne asked Bill to move in with them for a while so they could continue their plan. Bill moved in from the Country Club and stayed with the Smiths for three months. To make room, son Smitty had to move to the attic.

About two weeks after Bill moved in, Dr. Bob was scheduled to attend a Medical Conference in Atlantic City. As soon as he boarded the train, he started drinking and the binge lasted throughout the trip. When he returned, he was in bad withdrawals for several days before he was scheduled

*Continued on Page 6*

# MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEES, DISTRICT AND HOME GROUP INFORMATION

## ARCHIVES REPORT

Bill H. Chairman

I used to think that the only area I really felt comfortable about was the Corrections and Treatment Areas in AA. Taking on the Archives commitment for Maryland State Convention was not only a challenge but also caused a little acidity in the old bread basket. It seemed dull and too challenging. Well, after having had about 10 months in this area, I have to say I love it. Digging into old files, trying to decipher what went with what, having the help of some really dedicated people, the archives have become a magnificent obsession such as sobriety itself.

At the fall convention, over 150 people came through and looked at, marveled at, touched, and even coveted some of the items that were on display. Some of the new people marveled at the articles about what the early AAs went through. Some of the old timers had tears in their eyes remembering that they were a part of the history of early AA in Maryland. One person offered \$500.00 for one of the big books we had. Other people added their oral history to the cache we already had. From a poster board with one copy of a grapevine from each year starting in 1949 and going to 2002 to a brick from the old 857 Club on Eutaw Street, the history of AA filled the air.

One woman came up and told the story of how her father, a doctor, wrote articles about AA for the AMA. I was not able to help her about her query, but I called on one of our old timers, Harold, and he remembered something about that particular doctor. We are in the process of contacting Archives in New York and trying to find copies of the articles for her.

Someone gave a copy of the tentative program for the first Maryland General Service State Convention and one of the key speakers was Lamar.

Other people have come to me with an interest in being part of the committee or to ask how to give something to the archives.

With the help of Dan, the co-chair, Pam and numerous other people along with total financial and moral support from Maryland General Service, the Archives are starting to take shape. We hope to have them grow in number and in displays which are people-friendly. We need your help to provide items you may feel represent a part of that history. Such items could be copies of old convention flyers. We almost have a full collection of the fall convention, but need many of the June State Convention. Pictures of the first meeting places in various areas of Maryland would make a great display.

Area 29 has two new additions to our collection of AA history. One, a poster board with various copies of the Grapevine from 1948 to 2002, and second, a poster board of 10 pictures of early AA events. The committee has purchased four cabinets to house all of the archival material and three easels to display them. The display was shown at the Fall

Convention in Hagerstown this past October. If anyone has copies of past state convention flyers, please contact me. The committee would like to make copies for archival records.

Did you know that we have a copy of the first printing of the 2nd edition of the Big Book? Did you know that past delegate Tom E. was instrumental in naming the book Pass It On?

## GRAPEVINE REPORT

Donna S. Chairman

The Grapevine magazine was represented at October's Area 29 Fall Conference in Hagerstown. A special thanks goes to Trish B., Grapevine Committee Co-Chair (and former chair - twice!), for heading up representation that weekend by 'camping out' next to the display and being available with books, subscription order forms, and a video on the history of the magazine. The Grapevine was also represented at the November 16th Area 29 Committee Meeting, where I enjoyed seeing the DCMs and everyone else on Maryland General Services committees!

Please contact me if you want Grapevine representation at your home group or at an upcoming event. Likewise, please contact me if you would like to carry the message by serving on the Area 29 Gv Committee! Your chair and co-chair would like a network of Gv reps throughout the area so we can share ideas and questions, support one another, and ensure Grapevine presence at both regular meetings and special events.

If you are already a Gv rep, please contact me to get acquainted and to let me know if there's any way I may be of service in your efforts to spread the word about the Grapevine. If you would like to become a Gv rep for your home group, volunteer to do that at your next group conscience, then log on to the Grapevine at [aagrapevine.org/newindex.html](http://aagrapevine.org/newindex.html) and click on the "GV REPS" link to register with the Grapevine Rep Coordinator in New York. Then contact me to see how we can work together to promote this great tool for sobriety! I look forward to seeing you at the Area 29 Assembly on December 16th!

## DISTRICTS 21 AND 36

District 21 and 36 regularly submit a report to the MARGENSER. Due to a glitch of some sort, a report has not been received. We look forward to publishing their reports in the first issue of 2003.

Have a happy, safe and sober holiday!!!

The Kingston Creek Group of St. Mary's County is pleased to announce

## NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
 Lexington Park United Methodist Church  
 21760 Great Mills Road  
 Lexington Park, Maryland

**Tickets: \$10**  
Bring an appetizer or dessert to share!



**Tickets, Info, Volunteer:**  
301-862-4999  
301-373-3647

**7:00-8:00 pm..... Fellowship**  
**8:00-9:00 pm..... Speaker (Arnold R. from Baltimore)**  
**9:00-1:00 am... Dancing to the sounds of DJ Brown**



Sorry, we cannot accommodate children this year.



## Celebrate New Year's Eve

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## A Happy New Year!

**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Prince Frederick, MD**

**7:30**  
**8:00**  
**9:00**  
**9:45**  
**10:30 to 1:00 AM**

**Doors open**  
**Speaker**  
**Dinner**  
**Entertainment**  
**Dancing**

**Tickets \$10.00**



**Tickets and Info:**  
Rick  
Sheri  
Laura



# NERAASA 2003

*Twelfth Annual*  
**Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Service Assembly**  
 February 21, 22 and 23, 2003  
 Albany, NY

***"Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship"***  
*(2003 General Service Conference Theme)*

**PURPOSE:**  
*The purpose of the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is for GSR's, DCM's, Area Committee Members and Intergroup/Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the areas of the Northeast Region.*

## THE MOTHER OF AA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

to do surgery. On the day of the operation, Dr. Bob had the shakes, and Bill gave him a beer to calm him down. This was his last drink. Despite these scary circumstances, Dr. Smith was able to perform the surgery without a mishap. Co-founders Bill and Dr. Bob in time accepted this day, June 10, 1935, as the start of A.A.

Dr. Bob and Bill attended weekly O.G. meetings and sat for hours afterwards discussing ways to help the O.G. Drunk Squad, who were the O.G. alcoholic members. About this time, Anne started writing a 64-page historical journal about spiritual growth. Included in her journal were ideas about what the alcoholic needed to do to get well. Also her writings influenced the contents of the twelve suggested steps for recovery.

Non-alcoholic women had a vital leadership role. Anne continued to host and attend the pioneer meetings, acting as housemother, nurse, evangelist, counselor, and an employment agent as required. After the meetings the attendees recited the Lord's Prayer, ate doughnuts or cookies, and drank lots of coffee, which was then twenty-nine cents for three pounds. Coffee became the unofficial A.A. beverage.

Anne also worked especially hard with wives and families of the alcoholics to help relieve their worry and suffering. This need could be viewed as the forerunner of Alanon's development. Women alcoholics started to show up and Anne worked closely with them. Dr. Bob said, "Men could rarely work satisfactorily with women alcoholics. The sex problem made it difficult..."

In the morning with the two men, Anne would read and interpret scriptures, Christian literature, and share quiet time, which involved praying and listening for guidance. As meetings and studies continued on, Bill's wife Lois was nagging him to come home to Brooklyn. Since Anne believed great ideas were developing, she passionately invited Lois to spend her week's vacation with the Smith's. Lois traveled by bus to Akron, Ohio. From then on the two couples often visited each other.

Bob and Bill continued to try to recruit drunks in hospitals and from O.G. referrals. A steady stream of alcoholics, drunk, sober and in between, trekked in and out of the Smith's two-story clapboard home at 855 Ardmore Ave. Sometimes Smitty and Sue had to give up their rooms to guests. Smitty would again sleep in the attic and Sue on the davenport. Once a woman showed up and had to sleep in the basement because there was no other space.

The Smiths sometimes were broke and without food. Anne would leave the front door open and never knew who would be on the davenport when she got up in the morning. Once she heard noise at dawn, went downstairs, and a stranger was making coffee for himself.

Anne, Bill and some of their guests were heavy smokers, which made cleanup more unpleasant. Housekeeping was

backbreaking and laborious in those good old days. Coal was used for cooking and house warming. There was no air conditioning. Most washing machines were tubs with simple agitators turned by hand or electric motors. There were no clothes dryers so the wash had to be hung on clotheslines. Cleaning and drying diapers was especially tedious. Many men smoked pipes and cigars and ashes would end up on the floor. Some would chew tobacco and had to find a place to spit out the tobacco juice. Hand operated sweepers were used to clean up floor dirt. Usually only one bathroom was available. Cars, radios, and operator type telephones were not plentiful. There were no microwave ovens, TVs, VCRs, PCs or cell phones.

In September, Bill returned to Brooklyn committed to using his new found knowledge with the New York area drunks. Bill and wife, Lois became an effective force for carrying the spiritual growth message and for developing written guidance and organizational structure.

Eddie R., a neighbor of the Smiths, lost his house because of his drinking. He, his wife, and two children moved in with the Smiths. They locked Eddie up in the second floor. One time Eddie slid down the rainspout to get a drink. He would beat his wife and once chased Anne with a butcher knife. The Smiths finally kicked them out and surprisingly, years later Eddie was found sober in the program. Later, another guest, Arch T., also moved in with the Smiths and stayed about one year. Anne nursed him back to health. He finally got sober and started the first group in Detroit. His story, *The Man Who Mastered Fear*, is in edition 2, 3, and 4 of the Big Book.

In early 1938, Dr. Bob received a telephone call from the wife of Clarence S. She had heard in Cleveland that Dr. Bob had been able to help alcoholics in Akron to recover. When Dr. Bob asked how old Clarence was, she told him thirty-four. Bob said he was too young and hadn't suffered enough. Never the less she bought a bus ticket and sent Clarence down to Akron. He arrived sick and went directly to the hospital. A Drunk Squad member visited him twice, after which Dr. Bob came to see him. When Clarence tried to avoid answering the question if he believed in God, Bob replied, "...either you do or you don't." When Clarence reluctantly said he did, Bob said, "Get out of bed and get on your knees and pray with me." After leaving the hospital, Clarence was invited to attend O.G. meetings and never drank again.

At this time an alcoholic couldn't just walk into a meeting. He had to be taken by a member. Clarence attended meetings in Akron and then started a fast-growing group in Cleveland, but avoided any connection with O.G. (New York separated from the O.G. in 1937 and Akron separated in 1939.)

In the 1930's alcoholics were considered to be moral degenerates. By helping the downtrodden, good samaritan Anne faced problems she didn't expect. Her neighbors and friends reacted negatively because they believed the Smiths were doing harm to the social and economic values of their community. The minister of their up-scale church, who lived four houses down from the Smiths, visited them and said, "Maybe it would be better if you didn't attend the church services anymore."

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# THE MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE BUDGET WORKSHEET

<u>Receipts:</u>		<u>2002 BUDGETED</u>	<u>2003 PROPOSED</u>
	Contributions	\$29400.00	
	Meeting Collections	\$800.00	
	Interest	\$250.00	
	Host Committee	\$1,200.00	
	Withdraw From Reserve	\$	
	Convention Rtn in excess of seed	\$1,600.00	
<u>Total Budgeted</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>\$33250.00</u>	
<u>Receipts outside</u>	<u>Of the Budget</u>		
	Mini-Conf Rtn Unused Seed		
	Literature In		
	Grapevine In		
	Miscellaneous		
	Rtn Seed 2002 MD State Conv		
	Rtn Seed 2002 Fall Conference		
<hr/>			
<b>Total Receipts:</b>			
<u>Expenditures:</u>		<u>Budgeted</u>	
	Delegate	\$5,500.00	
	General Service Conference	\$1,000.00	
	Alternate Delegate	\$1,500.00	
	Past Delegate	\$800.00	
	Chairperson	\$1,500.00	
	Secretary	\$1050.00	
	Treasurer	\$1050.00	
<u>Committees:</u>	Archives	\$2000.00	
	Audio	\$400.00	
	CPC	\$800.00	
	Correctional Facilities	\$800.00	
	Finance	\$250.00	
	Grapevine	\$850.00	
	Host	\$250.00	
	Host Out - Food Cost	\$1000.00	
	Intergroup Liaison	\$500.00	
	Literature	\$850.00	
	Margenser	\$750.00	
	Public Information	\$500.00	
	PI Website	\$1000.00	
	Registrar	\$500.00	
	Treatment Facilities	\$600.00	
	Workshops	\$450.00	
<u>Assemblies &amp; Conventions</u>	Area Assemblies	\$1,500.00	
	Area Committees	\$850.00	
	Mini Conference	\$1,500.00	
	Int'l Convention Hospitality Suite	\$	
<u>Other</u>	Accounting Services	\$500.00	
	Margenser	\$4000.00	
	MGS Handbook	\$1,000.00	
<u>Total Budgeted</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>\$33,250.00</u>	
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Outside the Budget</u>		
	Bank Charge		
	Mailing Seed Money		
	Cluster Meetings		
	Grapevine Out		
	Literature Out		
	2003 Fall Conference Seed		
	2003 MD State Convention Seed		
	2003 Mini-Conference Seed		
	Advance to new Treasurer		
	adjust		
<hr/>			
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>			

## THE MOTHER OF AA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

In spite of all the pain, labor and frustration, Anne continued on. Dr. Bob often said, "Anne made priceless contributions to the development of A.A. and if it hadn't been for her I would have been dead long before it all happened. For some puzzling reason, we alcoholics seem to have the gift of picking out the world's finest women."

Anne was the mother of A.A. according to Bill. In retrospect, many members agree. Blind and sick, Anne died in June 1949. The Akron Beacon Journal had this to say, "It seems a pity Mrs. Smith's wonderful work could not have received public recognition while she still lived. Akron

should be proud of the A.A. movement which was born here, and proud of the woman who did so much to foster that movement."

After Anne's death, Dr. Bob had cancer and needed care. A couple who once came to Bob for help left their own home for eighteen months to take care of Bob until he died on November 16, 1950.

### Information Sources

Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, A.A. approved literature Children of the Healer, Bob Smith and Sue Smith Windows Dr. Bob's Library and also Ann Smith's Journal, 1933-1939 Dick B., Paradise Research Publications Various A.A. and Alanon members made worthy contributions

# MARGENSER NEWSLETTER

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