

Lifeline

Central Office of
Salt Lake
Newsletter

January 2006

Gifts From The Past

It was in the early 1960's that I first visited my sponsor's private rooms in Dublin, Ireland. My first impression was that Sackville M.'s natural habitat resembled an Old Curiosity Shop or, to put it bluntly, the back room of a purveyor of junk.

It was full of piles of old books, magazines, and pamphlets, often covered with dust, and a myriad of knick-knacks and pieces of bric-a-brac, which seemed to have no connection to him, his personality, or his character. I knew a little, it developed. As my visits to him continued, this tangled mass of paraphernalia, which obviously meant so much to him, began bit by bit to take me over. These were his memorabilia, collected during his years of active membership in Alcoholics Anonymous. Slowly, he began to introduce me to each book, each signed photograph, each piece of his collection:

"This is a signed photograph of Bob."... "Here is a photograph of Bill with his violin — you know, of course we both played the violin."... "This prayer book was given to me by Sister Ignatia. You may care to see what she has written on the flyleaf." ... "Here is a photograph with some friends in Oklahoma visiting an Indian reservation, trying to set up a new meeting."... "This bundle of letters came from Father Eddy Dowling. Did you know he came and spoke to us at the County Shop here in Dublin?"... "That Indian headdress was given to me on my second visit to America by the group I told you about, that we started on my first visit. Did you know they made me an honorary chief?"

During these early visits, I felt a great change coming about in me. For the very first time, *AA Comes of Age* became a living book. Bit by bit, I began to be emotionally captivated by what I had first viewed as a load of junk, until I started to handle each item with a reverence that I had never shown toward any material substance before. This pile of junk had become a storehouse of treasures. It was no longer just his; it was my roots and my history as well. For the first time, I began to feel in touch emotionally with the early members of AA. I suppose this was the beginning of my involvement with others.

Seeing that I was hooked, Sackville began to encourage me to collect, starting with simple items — menus of dinners, programs of conventions, photographs — and to make notes of the dates. I think he knew that in fact he was performing a very valuable Twelfth Step.

One of the first things I did on the death of my sponsor in 1979 was to gather all the letters, photographs, and convention and anniversary programs, together with memorabilia that I had relating to Sackville's involvement with the formation and growth of Europe's first AA group. Encouraged by what I had, I began to collect anything relating to the start of AA, not only in my own area, but also in the whole of England. I tried to contact people who I felt might be interested in joining me in this work; regrettably, there was no response.

I tried unsuccessfully to "twelfth-step" the secretary of my group into this work. She could see neither the point nor the need of gathering material. I was fortunate that year (1980) to attend the International Convention in New Orleans with her. I persuaded her to attend an early morning workshop led by Nell Wing (a non-alcoholic), archivist at the AA General Service Office. Our secretary went reluctantly — but that was the turning point. She left that workshop completely converted, full of enthusiasm for (the) archives. I am delighted to say that in the years since, her enthusiasm has never waned.

(continued on page five)

CENTRAL OFFICE
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Central Office is to provide the basic services listed, to include, but not limited to:

- To carry the A.A. message and help those individuals who suffer from alcoholism;
- to maintain a 24-hour Twelve-Step phone service;
- to answer phone inquiries as needed;
- to compile, update and print meeting lists;
- to maintain A.A.-approved literature for sale to members and the public;
- and to print and distribute a newsletter.

Specifically excluded shall be the operation of any club, clubhouse or drying-out place, and acts in violation of the Twelve Traditions of A.A.

Suiting up and Showing Up

Groups Represented At the
Central Office Reps Meeting for:

Dec. 2005

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| DRAPER FIRESIDE | BOG IRISH |
| TENTH STEP | BASIC YOUNG PEOPLE |
| MURRAY GROUP | STARTING THE DAY |
| SUNDAY BREAKFAST | WOMEN STEPPING UP |
| SPIRITUAL QUEST | TOOELE BEGINNERS |
| SUGARHOUSE MEN'S | DEALERS CHOICE |
| OFF THE CUFF | 974 GROUP |
| CITY AT SEVEN | 17 BY 17 |
| HILLCREST GROUP | MIDVALE LUNCH |
| HAPPY DESTINY | HIGH AND DRY |
| SATURDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS | NEW LIFE |
| NO NOONSENSE | UNITY LUNCH BUNCH |
| TUESDAY BIG BOOK | WENDOVER GROUP |
| HAPPY GROUP | LIVING IN SOBRIETY |
| CAME TO BELIEVE | LIVE AND LET LIVE |
| COME AS YOU ARE | ELEVATOR'S BROKEN |
| STONEWALL GROUP | |

Is Your Group Represented?

The next C.O. Reps Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at the Central City Community Center, 615 South 300 East.

LIFELINE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.

We welcome your correspondence and will publish your material, space permitting, if it meets editorial criteria. *Share your experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic.* For a free subscription or to submit articles, suggestions or contributions, contact Central Office of Salt Lake City:

CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.

2480 South Main Street, Suite 112
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
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To reduce our costs, Central Office would like to update our mailing list for the LIFELINE. If you have moved please contact C.O. at 484-7871
Thank you.

Please visit our website for meeting information.
www.saltlakeaa.org

"Let us never be a closed corporation; let us never deny our experience, for whatever it may be worth, to the world around us. Let our individual members heed the call to every field of human endeavor. Let them carry the experience and spirit of A.A. into all these affairs, for whatever good they may accomplish. For not only has God saved us from alcoholism; the world has recieved us back into its citizenship."
A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 232-233

Upcoming Events

Dec. 29th—Jan. 1st; **WACYPAAX IX**, Best Western Vancouver Hotel & Convention Center, Vancouver, Canada.

Registration Chair: Mark H. 778.227.3401

Mark.H@wacypaa9.org

Feb. 9th—12th, 2006; **42nd International A.A. Women's Conference** at Minneapolis Marriott City Center, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN.

contact/info/website:

www.IAAWC.org

Judy H. @ 651.644.5569 or

Patty B. @ 952.937.9245

March 17th—19th, 2006; **Pre-Conference Assembly**, District 1, Ogden, UT.

Feb. 2nd—5th, 2006; **Spacecoast Round-up**, Cocoa Beach, FL

contact info @ 321.724.2247; email: intergroup@aaspacecoast.org

Updates

to the

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2005 SCHEDULE

CANCELLED:

11TH STEP MEDITATION- 576 W. 2600 S. Bountiful-Sunday @ 9:05 am

CASTAWAYS-1784 Aaron Dr.- tooele-Monday through Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

RECOVERY 101 - 1840 S 1300E. (RM 103, the Converse Building at Westminster College) @ 12noon Wed. and Fri.

WENDOVER GROUP I - West Wendover Mini Mall (Wendover) Thurs. @ noon.

WENDOVER GROUP - Peppermill Conference Room (Wendover) Fri. @ 2:00 pm.

MOVED:

NOMADIC LUNCH BUNCH—from 3800 S. Main to **BONWOOD BOWL** @ 2500 S. Main. Monday at noon.

SALT LAKE MEN'S MEETING—1626 S. 1700 E. is At **7:00 p.m.** on Monday.

HAPPY DESTINY (meets in various homes) on Tuesday @ 8:00pm. Call Jim C. @ 963-9032 for the location.

TIME CHANGE:

SACRED HEALING— 120 W. 1300 S. (**INDIAN WALK-IN CENTER**) on Wednesday, is now at **8:00pm** instead of 7:30pm.

NEW LIFE— 174 W. 7400 S. (cafeteria in the main building) on Sundays is now at **5:00pm** instead of 7:00pm.

NEW MEETING:

GRUPO FE Y ESPERANZA— is meeting @ 3646 S. Redwood Road (second floor, north side) daily at 7:30pm. The meeting lasts till 9:00pm.

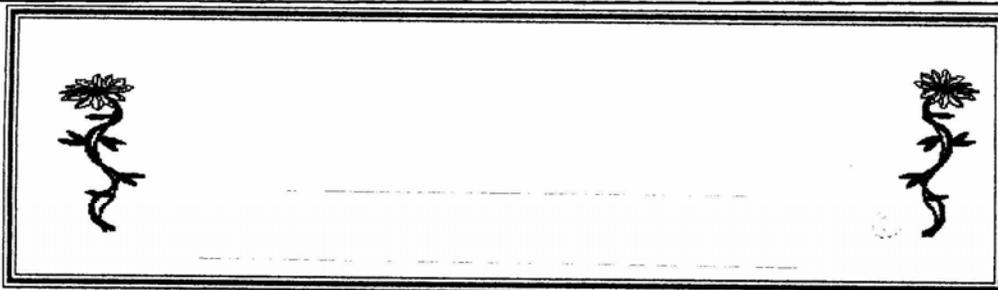
THURSDAY NITE MEDITATION is meeting in the church at 'C' Street and South Temple on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Don't Panic!

~Important Notice~

All meetings that are held at the **Jubilee Center** (309 East 100 South) will be moving by January 31st, 2006. Please contact 484-7871 for the current location of your meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIRTHDAYS!



(continued from page one)

We formed a little committee, and our work began in earnest. The following year, we were able to hold, at the Bristol Reunion, our first archives meeting. The 1982 and 1983 Bristol Reunions saw larger archives meetings, and an archives room, with our growing collection, was on display each year. As a result, we were able to involve other members in other parts of the country. We received great cooperation from our friends in Ireland and also great encouragement from Nell and from the AA who became archivist after Nell's retirement. We were on our way.

Then came a bonus. Like most bonuses in recovery, it was never envisaged by me, never asked for, and it came as a true gift. It happened this way:

Our little committee's first priority was always to trace back a group's origins, as far as we could go. We would talk with surviving early members, tape their recollections, and piece together the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle. Rather, it was like joining together unrelated pieces of material to make what eventually has turned out to be the most exquisite patchwork quilt of recovery. Very often, the pieces were only names. We had difficulty in tracing some of them. Some had died; many were lost in the mists forever; but a few we eventually got through to in all kinds of situations.

They were living in homes for senior citizens, homes for retired officers, and geriatric hospitals. Their ages ranged from from seventy-five to ninety-four. Most of them had not had active contact with the Fellowship for years. Nearly all were extremely cooperative and most willing to help with our project. We just sat with them, started the cassette recorder, and gently encouraged their recall.

Slowly, it began to flow — names, places, people. Very often, names mentioned would be those of people we had already seen. Then, the old-timer would be delighted to know that they were alive and to have news of them, and nearly always asked whether it was possible to contact these other "ghosts of the present," who were still very much alive and active members of AA in the speaker's memory.

I saw miracles begin to happen before my eyes: long-forgotten members being contacted by their old groups; isolated, institutionalized members once again, through archives involvement, being stimulated in such a way that they again wanted to be part of the whole. Because of financial and health considerations, they were sometimes unable to make direct contact themselves and used me as a messenger boy extraordinary, conveying their very special messages of experience, strength, and hope to one another. Their vitality was rekindled once they were needed.

T.C., Bristol, England; March 1985
Vol. II, Best Of The Grapevine,
pages 271-275

Perfection — Only the Objective

There can be no absolute humility for us humans. At best, we can merely glimpse the meaning and splendor of such a perfect ideal. Only God himself can manifest in the absolute; we human beings must needs live and grow in the domain of the relative.

So we seek progress in humility for today.

As Bill Sees It, page 236

Always acknowledge a fault frankly. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you the opportunity to commit more.

—Mark Twain—

Charming Is The Word
For Alcoholics

Down at the bottom of the social scale of AA society are the pariahs, the untouchables, and the outcasts, all under-privileged and all known by one excoriating epithet—relatives.

I am a relative. I know my place. I am not complaining. But I hope *no* one will mind if I venture the plaintive confession that there are many times, oh, many times when I wish I had been an alcoholic. By that I mean I wish I were an AA. The reason is that I consider AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist, I have found it my fortune to meet many of the people who are considered charming. I number among my friends stars and lesser lights of stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet; I know the ladies and gentlemen of both political parties; I have been entertained in the White House; I have broken bread with kings and ministers and ambassadors; and I say, after that catalog, (...of personages, *i.e.*) that I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to an evening with any person or group of persons I have indicated.

I asked myself why I would consider so charming these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in Alcoholics Anonymous. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few.

The AA people are what they are, and they were what they were, because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor and an awareness of universal truth.

They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that ~~helped~~ them become alcoholics. But they have found their restoration, they are still sensitive as ever—responsive to beauty and to truth and eager about the intangible glories of life. That makes them charming companions.

They are imaginative, and that helped to make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their imagination on to greater efforts. Others guzzled only to black out unendurable visions that rose in their imaginations. But they have found their restoration, their imagination is responsive to new incantations, and their talk abounds with color and light, and that makes them charming companions, too.

They are possessed of a sense of humor. Even in their cups, they have been known to say damably funny things. Often, it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that made seek escape in a bottle. But when they have found their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom and they are able to reach a god-like state where they can laugh at themselves—the very height of self-conquest. Go to the meetings and listen to the laughter. At what are they laughing? At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by the candlelight.

And they are possessed of a sense of universal truth. That is often a new thing in their hearts. The fact that this at-oneness with God's universe had never been awakened in them is sometimes the reason they drank. The fact that it was at last awakened is almost always the reason that they were restored to the good and simple ways of life. Stand with them when the meeting is over and listen as they say the Lord's Prayer!

They have found a Power greater than themselves which they diligently serve. And that gives a charm that never was elsewhere on land and sea; it makes you know that God himself is really charming, because AA people reflect his mercy and his forgiveness.

Fulton Oursler, July 1944
Best of the Grapevine, 1985;
pgs. 81-82

Where there is no love, put love and you will find love.

St. Francis

After Hours Transfer Phones for Central Office
January 2006

	M O N D A Y	T U E S D A Y	W E D N E S D A Y	T H U R S D A Y	F R I D A Y
First Week 5:30pm-10:30am	No Nonsense	10th Step Group	Fresh Air Serenity	Skip	Greater Kearns; 6-11
10:30am-9:30am	**	10th Step Group	**	**	**
Second Week 5:30pm-10:30am	No Nonsense	10th Step Group	Fresh Air Serenity	Hillcrest Group; 6-10	Basic Young People's; 7-11
10:30am-9:30am	**	10th Step Group	**	**	**
Third Week 5:30pm-10:30am	No Nonsense	10th Step Group	Fresh Air Serenity	Skip	5:30 NonSmoking Sobriety Hour
10:30am-9:30am	**	10th Step Group	**	**	**
Last Week 5:30pm-10:30am	No Nonsense	10th Step Group	Fresh Air Serenity	Dave S.	5:15 Happy Hour
10:30am-9:30am	**	10th Step Group	**	Dave S.	5:15 Happy Hour 5:30 till 10:00pm
	Saturday			Sunday	
<p>**Time slots available for your group to answer the phones. Call Central Office during business hours to sign up for a time slot. The phone number is at the bottom of this page. C.O.'s hours are; Monday through Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm and 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Saturday's hours are 10:00am till 2:00pm.</p>	First Week 2:00pm-6:30pm		**	9:00am-12:00pm	**
	6:00pm-10:00pm		**	12:00-6:00pm	An AA Group
				6:00pm-8:00am	974 Group
	Second Week 2:00pm-6:00pm		It's In the Book	9:00am-12:00pm	**
	6:00pm-10:00pm		**	12:00-6:00pm	An AA Group
				6:00pm-8:00am	**
	Third Week 2:00pm-6:00pm		**	9:00am-12:00pm	**
	6:00pm-10:00pm		**	12:00-6:00pm	An AA Group
				6:00pm-8:00am	We Care Group
	Last Week 2:00pm-6:00pm		Dave P.	9:00am-12:00pm	**
	6:00pm-10:00pm		John T.	12:00-6:00pm	An AA Group
				6:00pm-8:00am	**