

CENTRAL BULLETIN
UNSELFISHNESS - HONESTY - TRUTH - LOVE
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EDITORIAL. THE SECOND STEP

We took our most important step when we recognized that we were powerless over alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable.

Having done that, the next step was to find a solution.

Our own efforts had failed.

We had tried to control the use of alcohol.

We had tried to do without alcohol, and failed there, too.

We had tried to trick ourselves into sobriety.

We tried off-again-on-again.

We tried beer and wine.

We tried three a day, and saw three jiggers grow to three glasses.

We tried the pledge, with our fingers crossed.

And we remained powerless in the presence of alcohol.

We still had "the strength of a bull in our necks," and we wanted no one telling us how to order our lives; no doctors, no parsons, no women! no men, and none of our fast disappearing friends.

Particularly, we rejected any suggestion that smacked of uplift. We wanted no advice from those we suspected of believing us to be "sinners".

But at last, after many months of headstrong persistence in error we came to the realization that we were powerless to deal with our situations. Then we were ready to look beyond ourselves.

In this, our experience has not been unique. It has been the experience of man throughout the ages that when he felt uneasy, that when he felt that something was wrong with him as he stood, he found his solution by looking beyond himself.

Man in all ages has turned to the realm of the spirit to find completeness, to find way out of error.

Man in all ages has come to the realization that he must place his faith in the Supreme Power that rules the universe and everything in it.

We took our second step, then, when we came to believe that a power higher than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Having taken that step, we are brought to the threshold of release.

To obtain release we must cross the threshold.

To cross the threshold, we must exchange mere recognition of the existence of Higher Power for firm conviction. For, to "believe" is to have firm conviction.

And with firm conviction in the existence of Supreme Power and in the saving grace of that power, we enable ourselves to break the bounds of sensuality, to get off the merry-go-round of nervous compulsion that made us powerless in the presence of alcohol.

We turn our faces toward God and prepare to lift ourselves up from the shallower sphere of life.

Lord, thou has been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth.

Before ever thou madest the earth and the world.

Even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.

IT HAPPENED ONE DAY

The evening "after the meeting session" was a long one and Bill and Jack, two members of A. A., wended their weary way homeward in the wee small hours of the morning.

Awakening Bill next morning was an effort for the Mrs. and, sure enough, he had a grouch and was too busy to bother with his morning devotions, growled at his wife for not waking him earlier, told her it was none of her business why he came home so late, rushed to the corner and just missed his car. Cussing volubly, he decided to wait inside his former habitat - a saloon - to get out of the, cold wind. Was greeted boisterously by the bartender and several of the old-timers with, "Long time no see. " Bill swore back at them with an attempt at the old come-back.

"Come on and have a drink, or are you a panty waist!" offered the bartender. "Gee, I could stand one alright, but no, thanks just the same," said Bill. More ribbing followed and Bill took a peek and saw no car

in sight. "Well, maybe, you're right. I've been dry six months now and certainly one won't do any harm. Give me a quick one."

"Attaboy, now you're talking like the old Bill! You've got will power, Bill, if you only use it," the bartender said as he poured out the slug, "the only thing you got to do is to regulate it. Don't try to drink the house dry in one day". And with more of the sweet-sounding advice he poured another for old times sake - on the house. Bill took it gratefully.

He caught his car and traveled to his job, glowing inside. But things seemed to pop - everything was wrong on the job - the boss was unreasonable, he spoiled a couple of jobs - everybody picked on him. So, at noon he fortified himself with just two more honkers to ease his throbbing head. "Shouldn't have played that late," he ruminated, "should have quit at 12 when we agreed to; would have been money ahead and had a decent night's sleep too."

Back to work - bawled out by the boss for having drink on his breath. With difficulty he ended his day, and he stopped at the corner near his home for a beer. He deserved that, he thought, after such a heavy day. Before he left he had three hookers after the beer, because he knew his wife would bawl him out anyway. She sure was a quick one to catch on when he had a drink.

She knew alright, and though worried she said nothing. This made Bill the angrier! Why didn't she say something! I know she knows, for she's never so quiet except when she's suspicious," he reasoned to himself.

After supper he flopped himself on the davenport and promptly fell asleep only to be disturbed by the incessant ringing of the telephone. Grumblingly he answered. It was the secretary of his group asking him to call on a man who needed A.A. help desperately, immediately. Bill, realizing his condition, refused with the excuse that he had had a heavy day and was busy with some home work that he had to do and told the secretary to get someone else. Sorry! After searching, he found an old cached bottle with a couple of jiggers in it and finishing it staggered to bed without again remembering his devotions. Four days later Bill was again hospitalized - a sorry, dejected and rueful man.

Now, how about Jack? Jack came home about the same time Bill did and also woke up with a grouch, but he forced himself to take time out to read his devotion for the day and offer a short prayer for help the ensuing day. Without breakfast he hurried to the corner and also missed his car. He waited for the next one in the doorway of the dry goods store next to the saloon. Berating himself for abusing his health by staying up later than he should have, he remembered the thought for the day and again asked for help. All day he fought to do a good day's work in spite of his tired eyes. Coming home he was asked to stop at the corner for a quickie because he looked peaked, but he refused - not reluctantly but with certainty. "None of that for me", he told his friend, "I remember too well what that first drink used to do for me. I'm for a good supper and an early sleep".

Jack had his supper and he also laid himself on the davenport. He also was awakened by the secretary, and groaningly consented to see the party that needed help.

He came home about midnight after doing an excellent job on a patient who finally was convinced by Jack that he should be hospitalized. That's what made him so late, he was able to explain to a believing and trusting and happy wife. More devotions and then a grand and glorious sleep and rest.

MORAL: Be temperate in everything you do. If at any time you forget and be intemperate, correct it at the earliest moment and God will do the rest. service.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

Not bad enough for bitterness -
There's never a hardship
Hard enough for that, you know!
Whatever ill has taken you, however
Has fallen your share of woe.
Matter for sorrow it may be,
Or stuff for tears perhaps.
Or warrant for distress;
But, heart, stay sweet!
There's nothing bad enough
For bitterness.
- Nancy Byrd Turner

NEWS FROM THE CAMPS

Clarence Snyder writes:

Again we all stand on the threshold of a new year. What shall it bring to us? It occurs to me that the problems and responsibilities to be faced by all of us this year will dwarf anything in our past experience. In view of this, wouldn't it be fitting that we all pause for a time and consider how we are going to meet those problems and responsibilities and take inventory of our means at hand with which to help ourselves. We as individuals and, yes, as groups have been privileged to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and likewise impossible problems in our past few years experience. We have learned how to live, and there is surely no one among us who doubts for a moment that faith is our foundation for our pattern or design for living. No one can deny that the faith that moves mountains helped us one and all in overcoming our past unhappy, miserable existence, and in its place gave us hope and life and happiness and countless other blessings.

Doesn't it therefore seem logical that we should make every effort to strengthen our faith through works and worship, as individuals and as groups? Never before in our experience has the need for cooperation, loyalty and clear thinking and definite action been so apparent.

Let us, each one, resolve to grow spiritually, mentally and in character day by day during this coming year, depending on our Creator through our prayers for guidance and direction in all our actions.

Many of my friends in A.A. were so kind in sending Christmas, New Year, and birthday messages to me; unfortunately I am unable to thank them individually, and will you do it for me through the A.A. Bulletin? Each and every note and message I received was very much appreciated. During the holiday season I think it is only natural for anyone away from home, friends and family to be affected by the feeling of loneliness, even though surrounded by thousands of other persons. I must admit that I had that feeling, although the thoughtfulness of so many of my friends did much to boost my morale.

Things are still going at a lively pace here, what with many exams, inspections and reviews. The outfit I started with will soon be scattered to the four winds.

The last issue of the Bulletin seemed to me to be better than the previous one, and by the way, I must say that I considered it quite an honor and compliment to find my last letter to you printed in its entirety.

In the near future, perhaps two or three weeks from now, I hope to get a furlough, and if so I will be very anxious to see as many of the A.A. fellowship as possible.

Incidentally, there is a possibility that, due to my being in the 38 to 45 class, I may be sent home for an indefinite period later on. There is nothing too definite on that, as you probably know. There is "nothing for sure" in the Army.

Best wishes to all my friends and keep up the good work with the Bulletin.

Pvt. Clarence H. Snyder

Co. B, 8th Bn. A.F.R.T.C.

Fort Knox, Ky.

From "Chick" Florin this letter was forwarded to the Bulletin by the Crawford Men's group. When he wrote to thank them for the Xmas remembrance which he and all twelve men of that group in the service received.

The season was brightened with the receipt of your thoughtful greeting and gift on Christmas Day.

Thoughts turned to the pleasant associations and happy hours I have enjoyed with many of you. There are regrets, to be sure, but they're necessary in the scheme of life, for upon our frailties (that's a delicate cover-up for drinking and acting like a pig) depends the existence of hospitals, penal institutions, divorces and reconciliation courts, employment agencies and their personnel.

Left for Camp Perry on July 29th - Infantry basic at Fort McClellan, Ala. - ample proof of the Biblical prophecy that we're punished for our transgressions - but I've forgotten that.

Arrived here, assigned to Finance on September 23rd. They must have had some knowledge of my experience in civilian life - i.e. juggling figures - as a basis for their classification. (No, I didn't ask for heavy artillery or anti-aircraft. In fact I never fired a rifle until I came into the service. In retrospect I should consider myself fortunate that I was never on the receiving end of one.)

The work is largely clerical - and routine, because everything is so standardized - computing and briefing payrolls. hours, 7:30 to 4:30. We work ten nights and two Sundays each month when it's a "rough go" and time to complain. Complaining however is supposed to be a marked characteristic of a good soldier.

Have enjoyed two issues of your Bulletins. In extending my good wishes for a New Year of happiness I can assure you they will be yours - and mine - if we but observe the principles of clean living. Thanks again for remembering me.

Harold G. ("Chick") Florin

Finance Dept., U.S. Army
Camp Crowder, Mo.

"Bud" Clapper in the desert sends a card:

Spent Christmas here and in Hollywood as guest of Eddie Cantor who threw a big party for us Christmas Eve. Hope you had a nice holiday. No "white Christmas" here but plenty of sunshine. But they can still have it all; dear old Cleveland for me.

Happy Christmas to all.

Pfc. Leslie A. Clapper
Hdq. Co. 25th Jrm. Engr. Bn.
Desert Maneuvers, APO 256
c/o Postmaster, Los Angeles, Calif.

Also a card from John Kavalunas:

This is my ninth day here. Had six days of drill. I am feeling good even if it is a hard life. Not much leisure time. I am keeping my chin up. Best wishes to the Crawford - 89th group.

Pvt. John A. Karalapas
Flight B. 25th Tech. Sch. Sqd. (S.P.)
U.S. Army, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

From Charlie Shoenbeck:

Thanks for the Central Bulletin. Please keep me informed of the Group. I miss them very much. The weather is fine here. Give my regards to all.

Pvt. Chas. Schoenbeck,
C. 30th C.A.T.B., Camp Wallace, Texas

"Vince" Donovan writes:

Dear Friends:

I have had the Bulletin forwarded to me by one of the group and offer congratulations. I see the Bulletin still leads the country in A.A. news.

I started a group here but they move so fast it's hard to keep track.

I've just completed a course in instruction in operation of heavy equipment. Believe me this section of the country doesn't even compare with Cleveland.

Wishing you further success.

Pvt. Vincent P.D. Donovan
Engineers Srhnni, Fleet Marine Force,
Hudnot Point, New River, N.C.

A new address for Frank Orpse:

Received copy of the Central Bulletin for which I am very grateful.

Reading your editorial "The First Step," puts me in mind of what happened to me just a year ago on the day after Christmas. I had the same thought then, as you say in the Bulletin - "I know I can take a drink right now and nothing will happen." Well, I found out that I could not take that drink and after being in the hospital over New Year I came out with a different attitude than I had before. I felt terrible after staying dry for six months to try and experiment, but after leaving the hospital I sort of was glad that it happened to me, for now I know and recognize that fact that I can never take a drink and believe me, that thought helps me quite a bit in my Army life.

The numbers of times I have been asked to have a drink since I've been here are too numerous to count, but as I know I can't, It's very easy to say (thanks to A.A.) that I've had my share of drinking and let someone else drink if they care to, and that is the end of it and the boys don't bother me any more.

I thank God every day that I am able to keep on the beam. Interested to read about Clarence Snyder. I seem to have almost as much as he has to do. I've been picked out to lecture on Gas and Chemical Warfare, Guard Duty, Military Law, etc., and have to do this in addition to my regular schooling and soldiering. I'm thankful I am able to stay sober and do these tasks. I know if it weren't for A.A. most of my time would have been spent in the guard house.

So, thanking you again for the Bulletin and wishing you much success in the coming New Year. I remain,
Sincerely,
Frank M. Orpse,
U.S. Army Air Forces,
Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, N.C.

Norris Rickabaugh writes in part to a fellow member of the Lawewood Group as follows:

Am writing under difficulties - eight of us writing at the only table in the barracks - no chairs. I sure miss the Monday night meetings and would like to be at the one that C.L. will lead on his third anniversary. I wish in my own way I could say what I think about A.A. The benefits that I alone derive from it are immeasurable. I feel certain that without the plan of A.A. that today I would probably be strapped down in a bug-house or dead. I know that no matter what happens to me, no one will be able to take away from my wife and me the joy, the happiness, the peace of mind plus more things that we share since the better and saner way of life, the cleaner way of thinking that was given me by those four principles of A.A. I hope that I may be able everywhere to live up to them and to share them with others. There is not much time here for reading of the Upper Room, but I have the book here and have read it every day. I can't bow down and say my prayers like I'd like to, but as our breakfast line is long, I can say it there and at night I can still give thanks. I thank you for all the help you and the others gave me and also the women who were so swell to my wife.

Norris Rickabaugh,
E.M.1c 75th Bkt., Co. D. Platoon No. 2
U.S.N.C.T.C.
Davisville, R.I.

GROUP MEETINGS

Monday

Borton, 13931 Euclid Ave., 8:45
Lee Road, 1637 Lee Road, 8:30
Lakewood, Townsend Hall, 15903 Detroit Ave., 8:30
Lake Shore, Lake Shore Hotel, Dinner at 7:30, Meeting at 8:30
Lorain Ave., Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain, 8:30
Miles Ave., 12907 Union Ave., 8:30
Wickliffe, 286 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, O, 8:30
Parma (House Meetings), Secretary's Address, 3287 Ridgewood Dr., 8:30
Shaker Heights, Shaker Jr. High, S. Woodland and Woodbury, 8:30
South East Group, 10203 Miles Ave., 8:30

Tuesday

Wade Park, Emmanuel Church (Rear), 8614 Euclid, 8:30
West Side Men's, Pilgrim Church, W. 14th and Starkweather, 8:30
Douglas, Mansfield O, North Lake Park, Sec. Address, 1.17 W. First St., Mansfield, O, 8:30

Wednesday

Crawford Men's, 8920 Euclid Ave., 9:00
Brooklyn, K. of P. Hall, Broadview and Pearl Rd., 8:30
Lee Road, 1637 Lee Road, 8:30
Collinwood, 14709 St. Clair Ave., 8:30
Women's, 12214 Detroit Ave., 8:30
Lorain, Ohio, Antlers Hotel, 8:30

Thursday

Lee Road, 1637 Lee Road, 8:30
West 25th St., Schmotzer's Hall, W. 25th and Erin Ave., 8:30
Glenville, E. 105th and Marlowe, 8:30

Friday

Lee Road, 1637 Lee Road, 8:30
Avon Lake, 1112 W. Erie, Lorain, 8:30
Berea, Bagley and Seminary, 8:30
Gordon Square, CIO Hall, 6221 Detroit Ave., 8:30
Brooklyn-Parma, 4421 Pearl Rd., 8:30
Rocky River, St. Christopher's Hall, Lakeview off Detroit Rd., 8:30

S u n d a y

Crawford Training, 8920 Euclid Ave., 2:00

Morning Meetings

Wednesday Mornings

Collinwood, 14709 St. Clair Ave., 10:00 A.M.

Thursday Mornings

Schmotzer's Hall, West 25th St., W. 25th and Erin Ave., 10:00 A.M.

1st Tuesday every month

Central Committee, 8920 Euclid Ave., 8:30

DISTRIBUTING POLICY CHANGES

To curtail expenses, the Bulletins for distribution at meetings will not be mailed to the secretaries. They may be picked up at the monthly meeting of the Central Committee by the secretaries or their representatives. The Bulletin will be mailed as usual to all boys in the armed forces and to the subscribers on the 15th of each month. Four hundred more subscribers at \$1.00 per year are needed to complete the budget expense. Secretaries, please make another urgent appeal to your members as the Bulletin certainly fills an important need here at home as well as with the boys in service.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES

The three or four New Year's Eve parties held by the east and west side groups were complete successes.

The experience of attending a New Year's Eve party sober and staying so throughout the night was a thrill to many who attended. And many expressed surprise and gratification for the good time they had. They claimed it strengthened them in their resolve to improve the good fellowship engineered there.

More frequent gatherings of groups have been suggested, and though it means plenty of work and planning, it probably is worth the effort.

The west side groups' committee reports that their party resulted in a net profit of nearly \$150.00, and they voted to hold this money in a fund for picnics or other gatherings. With this fund it will not be necessary to ask each group for a donation in the future. Good work, West Side!

So reports have been received regarding the east side parties profit ?

MALE CHORUS

One of the editors was severely chided by the president of the Chorus for not mentioning its progress in the last Bulletin, so he speeds to report that the Chorus is making appreciable headway in mastering five splendid numbers which will be rendered as soon as perfection is achieved. More baritones are needed and this is a plea that anyone who wishes to sing should come to the Old Arcade, Superior Entrance, every Sunday at 4 P.M., take the elevator to the eighth floor to Francis Sadlier's Studio and then use his vocal cords for an hour and a half. It's fun - worthwhile fun with achievement its reward.

TRAINING

The Washington Group writes:

Editor, Central Bulletin.

I enjoyed your Bulletin very much. Would appreciate it if you would let me know what the "Crawford Men's Training System" is and how it operates.

We need a good plan for new members and prospects here, I think, and this might be of great help to us.

WVG, 1401 - 14th St., N.W. Club address.

The Crawford Training meeting is held in the Crawford Men's group club rooms, at 8920 Euclid Ave. The members of this group have had several members who cannot be hospitalized, either because they are sober at the time, or cannot afford it. So as a substitute for hospitalization a meeting is held on Sunday afternoons. Older members of the group attend and talk to the prospects, it is easier than sending men to a man's house. It also gives him an opportunity to look A.A. over. If enough prospects are available a circle is formed and members talk in turn to the new prospects. If only one or two prospects are present, the members take turns talking to him. Sometimes the prospect decides he isn't ready, and in that way we keep a contact with some one who some time might call us. And we don't have to break down the resistance caused by someone having worked on a man before he is ready. It also serves as a means of getting members into the work, incidently most of them stop at the hospital on the way, so they make an additional hospital call.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group wishes to extend to all other Groups of Cleveland and vicinity, a Happy and Prosperous New Year, with increased membership and greater success in retaining older members.

We are proud to report that we now have a membership of forty-six of whom at least thirty are active, and most faithful in attendance at our meetings. We hope to increase this considerably during the coming year.

We think some of the Groups might be interested in an experiment in which we tried out, during the past two months - "Training Meetings" for speakers. We have always had difficulty in persuading the members to lead a meeting, or

speak up during the discussion period, but this "Training" has resulted in four very shy, retiring members becoming regular contributors of interesting comments, during discussion. One of them led our meeting last week, and gave one of the best talks we have had in months. We are ready to start a new class now, and are very hopeful of results.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Central Committee met January 5th, with a good representation from all groups, and started the new year with election of new officers for the next six months.

The treasurer reported that Lee Rd. Wednesday, Gordon Square, Crawford Men's, Miles and Borton groups already had paid their contribution of \$5 for the next six months, and that the Wade Park group had paid their \$10 for the year. This certainly is a grand start and shows added interest in the work done by the committee.

The chairman of the public relations committee, reported that during January a fifteen minute program is to be broadcast over WHK - watch the radio columns for time. All members are asked to listen and comment so that future broadcasts if any may be more educational and entertaining.

The membership committee reported success with several inquiries, but one who was up before Judge ? didn't respond too well. He was about to go to the workhouse for six months, when he was given an opportunity of joining the Navy, accepting our help, or else. He said, he didn't want to quit drinking, and didn't want to live with his wife, so he took the Navy.

The new chairman of Central Committee asks that every secretary be at the next Central Committee meeting, Tuesday, February 2nd, at 8:30 P.M. If absolutely unable, be sure to send a representative. It meets at 8920 Euclid Avenue. Important!

At the request of several members, we are herewith publishing the original motion which created Central Committee. Meeting held on March 2, 1941.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that a Clearing House Committee be formed, and that it be composed of two (2) members from each and every A.A. group in Cuyahoga County. This Committee to have no authority to commit, involve or bind any one or all the Groups in Cuyahoga County in any manner whatsoever without first referring proposed ideas, plans or propositions to each individual group for its acceptance or rejection.

BULLETIN AS GIFT

May I compliment you on the three issues of Central Bulletin I have seen and particularly on the December issue just received?

I should like to subscribe for Central Bulletin for our four Indianapolis Groups as a Christmas gift from me.

I was greatly impressed, when in Cleveland last week, with the progress Cleveland has made with its problem. I think the more the rest of the Groups know of it, the better able they will be to cope with their own.

D.S., Indianapolis, Ind.

DON'T QUIT

When Things go wrong, as they sometimes will.

When the road you're trudging seems all up hill.

When funds are low and the debts are high,

And when you want to smile but you have to sigh.

When care is pressing you down a bit.

Rest if you must, but Don't You Quit!

Life is queer, with its twists and turns,

As every one of us sometimes learns

And many a failure turns about,

When he might have won had he stuck it out.

Don't give up though the pace seems slow -

You may succeed with the very next blow.

Often the goal is nearer than

It seems to a faint and faltering man;

Often the struggler has given up.

When he might have captured the victor's cup.

And he learned too late when the night slipped down.

How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -

The silver tints of the clouds of doubt

And you never can tell how close you are.

It may be near when it seems afar;

So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -

It's when things seem worst that You Musn't Quit!

FLASH - Parma Group invites all A.A.'s to hear Dr. Dilworth Lupton, subject, "Starting Power and Staying Power."
Tuesday evening, February 9, at 5:30 at Glenn Hall, Broadview and Pearl Road.