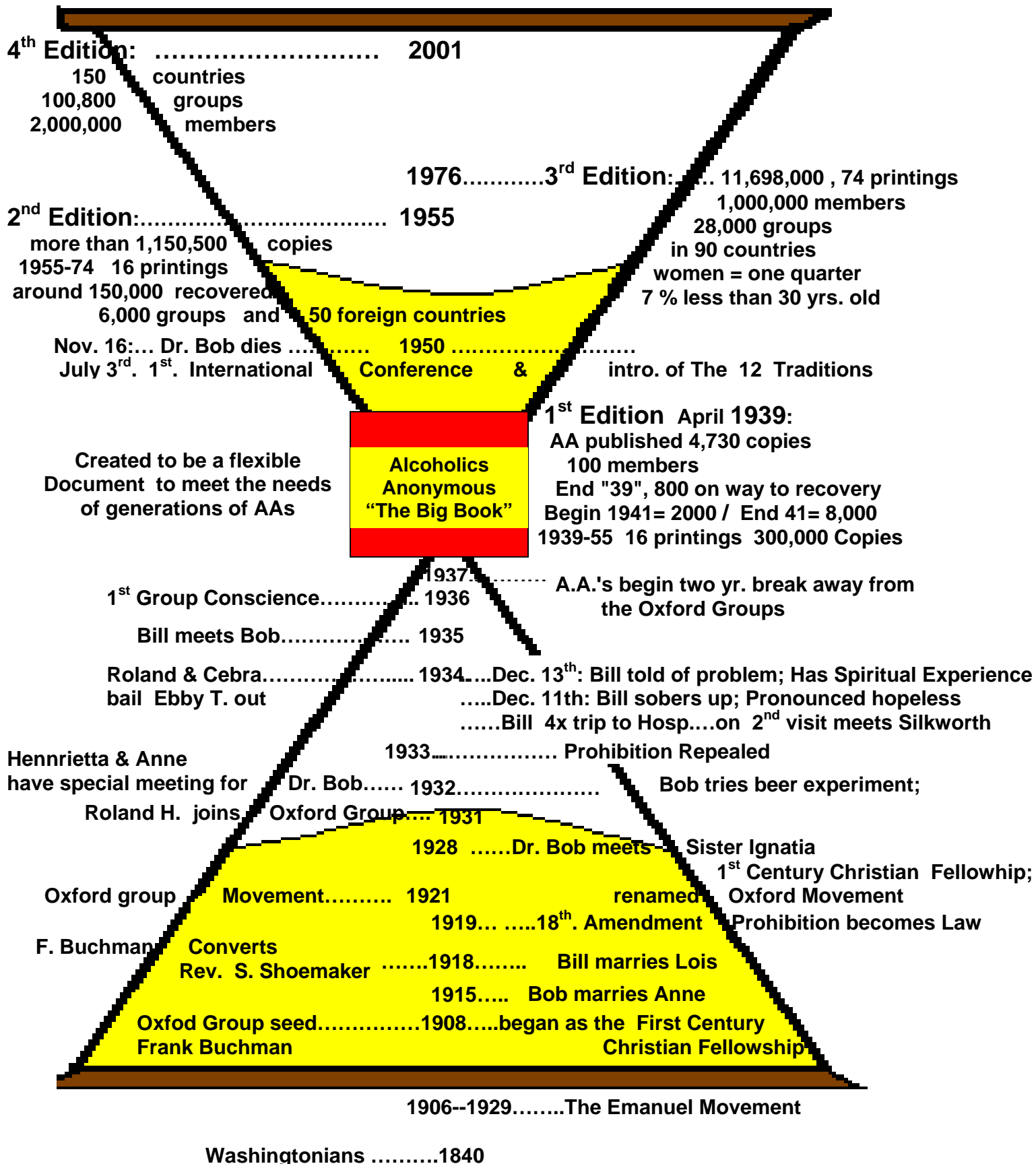


Big Book Timeline



Soloman, Proverbs, chapter 23 (800 BC?)

19: Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20: Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

21: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

29: Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30: They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31: Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32: At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33: Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34: Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35: They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

19 So listen my son, and be wise. Always be careful to live the right way. Don't be friends with people who drink too much wine and eat too much food. People who eat too much and drink too much become poor, All they do is eat, drink, sleep and soon they have nothing.

29-30. It will be very bad for people who drink too much wine and strong drinks. Those people have many fights and arguments. Their eyes are red and they stumble and hurt themselves. They could have avoided all those troubles!

31. So be careful with wine. It is pretty and red. It sparkles in the cup. And it goes down so smooth when you drink it.

32 But in the end it bites like a snake.

33. Wine will cause you to see strange things. Your mind will be confused.

34. When you lie down, you will think you are on a rough sea. You feel like you are lying on a ship.

35. You will say "They hit me but I never felt it. They beat me but I don't remember it. Now I can't wake up. I need another drink.'

Alcoholics Anonymous

Big Book Time Line

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

Tonight we'd like to paint a picture for you of how the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, came to be written, how the Fellowship formed around it's making, and how God's hand was manifested in these people's lives, one to another. For thousands of years, there's always been some kind of movement to save drunks from "the age-old riddle." Solomon's Biblical words seem an accurate description of the alcoholic of today.

PROVERBS SOLOMON

PLAIN ENGLISH VERSION

1840, Washingtonians. The result of six men forming a temperance Club with a pledge of total abstinence. Purpose to impart temperance. **(After a 12 years died out, because of a lack of singleness of purpose).**

1878, June 4th -Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman born in Allentown, PA (Later Akron, OH)

1879, August 8th -Dr. Bob born in Vermont.

1888, Summer -Dr. Bob's 1st drink, jug of hard cider, turning 9 years old.

1895, November 26th -Bill born East Dorset, Vermont, lived in a small room behind bar

1907, Spring -Dr. Bob tries geographic cure on farm year

1910 – Dr. Bob gets medical degree.

Oxford Group. Seed for the group planted in **Dr. Frank Buchman**, native Allentown Pennsylvania. Ran a home for orphan boys in Philadelphia, PA. Resigned after a bitter dispute with trustees.

1908 -- Attends a religious conference in Keswick, Scotland **(Has a Spiritual Experience)**, Inspiring a sermon that had a profound effect,. Made amends to former trustees. Brought him great relief & joy. He shared this, began to see that personal spiritual change was the way of healing the world.

1915 – January 25th Dr. Bob & Anne Ripley married. (MAKES 'RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT')

1917- Bill W. passes Army physical. America makes plans to enter The Great War.

1918 -- Met Dr. Sam Shoemaker sailed to Peking, China and converted him. 1st Century Christian Fellowship started in Calgary Church in NYC, that later became Oxford Group.

(Solution + Program of Action) QUESTION?????? MADE A DECISION, NO ACTION.

18th Amendment passed [Prohibition]; Dr. Bob's father died; Bill stationed Fort Adams, last stop before embarkation

- **January 24th** -Bill & Lois married Swedenborgian Church, Brooklyn, NYC.

AN INTERESTING “SMALL WORLD” COINCIDENCE

- **Summer** -Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman saw 1st “house party.” Became basic Oxford Group technique.

1920, January 17th -18th Amendment, Prohibition, becomes law.

1921 -Frank Buchman, Lutheran minister started Oxford Group in Akron, OH. Part of AA’s Program of Action. For the afflicted who didn’t fit the church or the Salvation Army. The Oxford Group called its conversion process "soul-surgery." Its so-called surgical procedure boiled down to five concepts: CONFIDENCE, CONFESSION, CONVICTION, CONVERSION, CONSERVATION. Four aspects of one core idea: (1) Utter Hopelessness, (2) Totally Deflated, (3) Requiring Conversion,(4) Needing Others

&
1925 – Bill & Lois take their motorcycle trip to implement Value Marketing.

1926 – Henry Harrison Hadley.

1928-1939 -Sister Mary Ignatia of Akron, OH, “The Little Angel of AA”. Pioneered first alcoholic ward. Insisted on spiritual program for recovery. Secretly hospitalizing isolated cases. Sister Ignatia met Dr. Bob at St. Thomas Hospital.

MEANWHILE BACK IN NEW YORK....

1928 – Bill, star among Wall Street associates (“**I had arrived**”); 1st Century Christian Fellowship renamed Oxford Group; Bill's brother-in-law Dr. Leonard Strong gave Bill physical examination, confronted Bill’s drinking.

1929 - Dr. Silkworth loses life's savings; Bill, Ebby, pilot, Ted Burke, chartered airplane flew into new airfield Manchester Vermont, delegation met them, they drunk

1930 - Rowland Hazard, a rich man who could afford to see anyone in the world to solve his alcoholism, sought help with the renowned Dr. Sigmund Freud, Freud’s Colleague, Dr. Courtney Baylor, Dr. Adler, and finally, Dr. Carl Jung in Zurich, Switzerland, the only professional willing to mix science and spirituality.

ANOTHER INTERESTING “SMALL WORLD” COINCIDENCE

Bill’s mother studied with Dr. Adler.

MEANWHILE ON WALL STREET

1931 -Bill enters helpless drinking phase.

1932 -Anne Smith began attending Oxford Group meetings to support friend, Henrietta Seiberling. She received guidance and requested a special Oxford Group meeting concerning Dr. Bob's drinking

1933 –

- Dr. Bob began going Oxford Group meetings cope with alcoholism

- **December 5th - Prohibition ended**

NOISEMAKERS

- Now that Beer is legal, Dr. Bob tried his medical experiment with beer.
- Bill admitted Charles B. Towns Hospital 1st time, Bill's memories totally disordered

WATCH HOW GOD PUTS ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER

1934 –

- **Summer-** Dr. Silkworth pronounces Bill hopeless alcoholic at his 2nd Visit to Towns. **(Told Bill about The Problem.)**

MEANWHILE THAT SUMMER

- **August-** Rowland H. & Cebra G. from Oxford Group intervene with judge, sober up Ebby T. in NYC, saved him from six months jail time.

SETUP

- **September-** Bill Visit Towns for the 3rd time.
- **November-** Ebby phoned Bill, asked to stop by. They haven't seen each other for a year. Ebby is sober two months. Two nights later Ebby & Bill sat together Bill's Kitchen at 182 Clinton Street. Ebby told Bill about himself & Oxford Group. Later called "The Great News." **(A simple kit of spiritual tools)** Bill begins investigating Ebby's religious theory.
- **November 11th** -Armistice Day. **NOISEMAKERS.** Bill started drinking after dry spell, begins his last drunk.
- **November 26th**- Ebby visited Bill at home with Shep C. Like Chapter 7, he didn't give up on Bill.
- **December-** Howard Tompkins Beer & Company sent Bill glowing letter of encouragement concerning sobriety.

QUESTION?????? HOW DID THEY KNOW? WERE SALES DOWN?

(REAL ANSWER) PROXY FIGHT

- **December 11th**- Bill's last drink, 4 beers, one month to the day since his last drinking bout started. Entered Towns Hospital for the 4th and last time. He received the then-current treatment for alcoholism [belladonna].
- **December 13th or 14th**- Ebby visited Bill in the hospital, explained Oxford Group principles, brought William James's book, *Varieties Religious Experience*, which Ebby hadn't read and Oxford Group members recommended. Bill thinks for a couple of hours, has a spiritual experience at 39 years old. He is released from the obsession to drink. **Accepted fully the Solution and the Program of Action.** "The wind blew through and through."
- **December 18th**- Bill discharged at 2:30PM (last hospitalization). Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings Calvary House adjacent Calvary Episcopal Church. Dr. Sam Shoemaker rector. He is the leading Oxford Group figure in NYC.

1935 -Dr. Bob confessed drinking problem Oxford Group. **He doesn't know the problem.** Hasn't met Bill W. yet.

- **early-** Bill preached Oxford Group message to alcoholics and none sober any up.
- **April-** Dr. Silkworth told Bill quit preaching at drunks religion usually fills them guilt or rebellion & said tell **“them obsession & allergy, give them the medical facts.” “Give it to them and give it to them hard. Smash those sick egos.”** Bill returned to Wall Street.

MEANWHILE

- **May 10th-** Business deal brought Bill to Akron to attend an annual stockholders meeting of a small machine-tool factory. They lost a proxy fight. Desperate to stay sober, Bill placed a call from the Mayflower Hotel to Dr. Walter Tunks, an Episcopalian minister. Introduces himself as a “rum hound from NY” and asked if he knew of a drunk he could talk with.
- **May 11th-** Dr. Tunks gives Bill 10 names and phone numbers to call. Bill finally reaches Norman Shephard (the tenth name on the list), who gives him Henrietta Seiberling's phone number. Dr. Bob is too drunk to talk this night.

-- Highlight God's plan. Bill spent 55 cents to get to (Henrietta) Dr. Bob.

- **May 12th-** Bill & Dr. Bob meet (“for 15 minutes only,” but stayed for 5 hours). Bill convinces him of **The Problem. (Talked about the Program of Action for three weeks, but NO ACTION).**
- **June-** American Medical Association Convention, Dr. Bob not missed one in 20 years.
- **June 8th** -- Dr. Bob returns home.
- **June 10th-** Dr. Bob's last drink, beer given him by Bill W. before surgery. Dr. Bob does his amends, never drinks again.

QUESTION???? HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE TO BE SOBER BEFORE YOU CAN DO A 12 STEP CALL? 18 DAYS? 60 DAYS? 24 HOURS?

June 28th- A.A. #3, attorney; his wife & Anne Smith met. Dr. Bob said, "If you and I are going to stay sober, we had better get busy". Dr. Bob called Akrons City Hospital and told the nurse, a Mrs. Hall, that he and a man from New York had a cure for alcoholism. Did she have an alcoholic customer on whom they could try it out?

- Bill & Dr. Bob meet Bill Dotson (slipped 8 times in 6 months). **Dr. Bob's first 12 Step Call.** (Released successfully July 4th). First AA Picnic.
- **Fall-** Upon Bill's return to NYC, he met Henry “Hank” Parkhurst at Town's Hospital. Hank P., an “idea a minute” tycoon, is “The Unbeliever” first printing of the First Edition. Motivator for the writing of the Big Book and an important contributor. Wrote outline for book and marketing plan for publishing.
- Bill and Lois began weekly meetings, Tuesday nights at 182 Clinton Street. A.A. group #2 formed in NYC – Manhattan Group.

1936 –

- Ebby slipped after 2 years 7 months drank heavy long time later.
- Ruth Hock (Hank's secretary at last business) came to work Bill & Hank P. office 17 William Street, Newark, NJ.
- Anne Smith organized wives group.

QUESTION???? WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT? CHAPTER 8.

MEANWHILE

- **December-** Bill met Charlie Towns & associate Dr. Alexander Lambert, asked to work at Towns Hospital as a lay therapist for alcoholism. Bill brought offer to group **A.A.'s 1st group conscience derived**. Bill declines. Bill & Lois attend Oxford Group house party Poconos, Pennsylvania.

1937- Dr. Silkworth published 4 articles about Alcoholism. Parts of which can be found in the Big Book pages xxiii to xxx called "The Doctor's Opinion".

- **Alcoholism as a Manifestation of Allergy- March 17, 1937**
- **Reclamation of the Alcoholic- April 21, 1937**
- **A New Approach to Psychotherapy in Chronic Alcoholism- July, 1939**
- **Psychological Rehabilitation of Alcoholics- July 19, 1939**
- **March-** Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.
- **August-** Bill, others broke away from the Oxford Group.
- **November-** Dr. Bob & Bill realized chain reaction begun. Think of writing the Book.
 - Akron A.A.'s agreed on book to **“carry and spread the message to the world”**. Special meeting T. Henry Williams house, **18 present in Akron, voted 10 yes 8 no, raise money printed material and hospitals.**
 - 40 alcoholics sober New York & Ohio, least 20 dry longer 1 year, all diagnosed hopeless.

1938 –

- Bill, Hank P. & Dr. Bob accumulated stories for the Big Book. Jim Scott helps to edit stories.
- A.A. had 50 men 2 women when Frank Amos, a Rockefeller investment consultant, investigated the fellowship.
- Bill & Dr. Bob commenced work upon world service structure, which became the WSO.
- **February --** Hank P. works with Bill on the outline for the book and the marketing strategy.

- **March/April** -- Bill drafted Chapters 1 and 2. "There Is A Solution" appeared before "Bill's Story" in the publisher's "galley" before first printing.

MEANWHILE WE START MOVING QUICKLY BACK & FORTH BETWEEN NYC & AKRON

- **April**- Bill started dictating Ruth Hock Big Book.
- **May** -- Big Book started. Alcoholics Foundation set up, now General Service Board, 5 members, Bill, Dick Richardson, Frank Amos, Dr. Strong, Dr. Bob. 3 John D. Rockefeller Jr's friends.
- **June** -- **1st 2 chapters Big Book completed.** Dr. Ester Richards, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD recommends Dr. Silkworth's article to add to manuscript (name finally appears in 1955).

MEANWHILE

- **Summer**- Bill and Hank thought up scheme to raise money for printing.
- **July 15th**- 1st documented use of name Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A. archives letter Bill to Willard Richardson.
- **July**- Chapters 3 & 4 written.
- **November**- Controversy over use of God in the Book, some members want more, some want less, some want none. Bill compromises on language, including "We" and "Suggestion," instead of "You" and "Must", but insists he be allowed to finish the book without micromanagement. **Bill writes "How It Works" & 12 Steps.**
- **December**- Chapters 6, 7 (Bill) and 8 (Marie B.), 9 and 11, 10 (Hank P.) completed.

1939-

- **January**- Except few last details, Big Book ready for printers, sent mimeographed manuscript various doctors & ministers criticism.
- **early '39** - **Bill & Hank P.** form Works Publishing Company publish Big Book.
- **April**- **1st Big Book published, run 4,730 copies. NOISEMAKERS.**
Hank P. planned have Morgan R. interviewed by Gabriel Heatter M.C. of We the People fantastically popular radio show to sell books. 20,000 post cards were mailed to every physician east of the Mississippi in reference to the Big Book . **WE HAVE ARRIVED.**
- **May 11th** -1st meeting Cleveland A.A. group [no Oxford Group connection].
- **May 18th** -Clarence S. started 1st group Cleveland, **1st group called Alcoholics Anonymous** Cleveland Heights home Abby G., 16 members.
- **By the End of the year, all AA Groups had pulled away from the Oxford Group.**
- **June 5th** – 1st national article in Liberty Magazine about the Big Book.

- 1940 –**
- Bill had a second conversion experience. 1st AA 5th Step.
 - 3,000 copies Big Book
 - 1,500 members coast, about 50 groups
 - 12-13 cities quite stable groups Akron, New York, Cleveland, Detroit, Greenwich Connecticut, Philadelphia, Chicago Los Angeles, Houston, Little Rock, Arkansas, Washington D.C. Richmond Virginia, St. Louis
- 1941 – March 1st** – Jack Alexander article in the Saturday Evening Post cause “the flood gates to open.”
- 1950 –** 12 Traditions adopted at the International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Dr. Bob died November 16 1950 of cancer
- 1951 –** Twelve & Twelve 1st Edition published.
- 1955 –** Second Edition of the Big Book published, 150,000 members and 22000 groups.
20th Anniversary Convention The three legacies of Recovery.
- 1962 --** Publication of Twelve Concepts for World Service written by Bill W.
- 1971 – January 24 --** Bill W died January 24 11:30pm Miami Heart Clinic.
- 1973 – April --** Distribution of the book Alcoholics Anonymous reached one million mark. One Millionth copy given to Nixon
- 1976 –** Third Edition of the Big Book published. 1,000,000 members and 100,000 groups.
- 2001 –** Fourth Edition of the Big Book published.