# Bernard Smith, Non-A.A. Trustee, Dies of Heart Attack in New York

Less than one month after he substituted for Bill at our Convention in Miami Beach, Bernard Smith, vice chairman of A.A.'s General



**BERNARD SMITH** 

Service Board, died of a heart attack at his New York home on July 31, 1970. He was 68 years old.

A distinguished attorney, Mr. Smith described

himself in Miami Beach's Convention Hall, July 4, as a "one-fisted drinker" and a "so-called nonalcoholic, whatever that means."

#### Bill's Statement

In a statement delivered at the funeral service by G.S.O. Manager Bob H., A.A.'s co-founder Bill W. described Bern as a "great and devoted servant" to A.A. who "not only understood our Fellowship, but believed in it as well."

Bern joined the General Service Board in 1944, served as its chairman and chairman of the General Service Conference from 1951 to 1956 and was Board vice chairman until his death.

Outside A.A. Bern was known as a writer (he authored books in areas as diverse as international trade, the construction industry, and television) as well as an attorney.

In 1957 he was made an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth.

When it became necessary for Bill W. to go into the hospital in Miami Beach during our Convention, Bern substituted for Bill at the Saturday night "Big Meeting" with a magnificent talk on "Unity and Continuity," which ended with the hope that the unity which we now know will exist in continuity strengthened and reinforced. The

audience, 11,000 strong, responded with a standing ovation.

Bern helped incorporate the original Alcoholic Foundation — predecessor of the General Service Board, as guardian of A.A.'s program, and assisted in designing the G.S. Conference as a unifying bridge between A.A. members and the Board.

A.A.'s around the world join Bill in extending sympathy to Bern's widow, Sylvia, and their two daughters. Those wishing to pay their respects directly to the family may do so by writing to Mrs. Smith, care of Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

# Six A.A. Trustees To be Elected next Spring

Six alcoholic trustees are to be named at the 21st annual North American General Service Conference, to be held April 19, 1971, at the Hotel New Yorker in New York City.

Of the fourteen alcoholic trustees authorized for the G.S. Board, eight are from various regions of the U.S. and Canada (see map, page 2), two will be trustees-atlarge from the U.S. and Canada respectively, and four are general service trustees from New York City or its commuting area.

Alcoholic trustees serve a maximum of four consecutive years. Vacancies to be filled next April are those for the Canadian "atlarge" trusteeship, plus the following five regions:

- 1. Eastern Canada (Atlantic Provinces, Ont. and Que.);
- 2. East Central U.S. (Ill., Ind., Mich. and Ohio);
- 3. Pacific U.S. (Ariz., Calif., Idaho, Nev., Ore. and Wash.);
- 4. Southeast U.S. (Ala., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Miss., N.C., Puerto Rico, S.C., Tenn., Va., and W.Va.); and
- 5. Southwest U.S. (Ark., Colo., Kan., N.M., Okla., Tex., and Utah).

Delegates and G.S. committee members affected have been notified of the upcoming elections and asked to arrange for choosing candidates by Third Legacy procedure (see "The A.A. Service Manual," pp. 98-99). They will be in touch with your group's G.S.R. soon, to

(to p. 2)



TRUSTEES (from p. 1)

make sure your group conscience is a part of these important elections.

A resume on each candidate is to be in the hands of the chairman of the G.S. Board's Nominating Committee no later than Jan. 15, 1971.

One candidate for each vacancy will be named by the Conference according to the procedures specified in "The A.A. Service Manual." Among qualifications looked for in these trustees are: at least ten years' consecutive sobriety; A.A. activity throughout his or her region; wide grasp of A.A. history and structure, plus leadership ability.

Resoluteness, objectivity and courage are needed, along with availability. Four Board meetings a year, plus Committee meetings

# V.A. Salutes A.A.

The United States Veterans Administration congratulated our Fellowship on its 35th anniversary and declared it looks forward to continued "productive relationships with the numerous A.A. members who meet with alcoholics in our hospitals."

The message from the V.A. Department of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C. was in an official letter to John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., nonalcoholic chairman of our General Service Board and was signed by Dr. Samuel C. Kaim, director, Staff for Alcoholism and Related Disorders. Dr. Kaim noted that the V.A. operates 166 hospitals—"the largest hospital system in the nation for alcoholism treatment.

Over the past twenty years, he added, the V.A. "has enjoyed a long and beneficial association with many A.A. groups and individual members.

He said, "All of our hospitals are encouraged to cooperate with local A.A. groups. Veterans treated for alcoholism are encouraged to affiliate with A.A. after discharge."

"We welcome your assistance," Dr. Kaim concluded. "We are certain our hospital directors will render all possible help in continuing these mutual efforts. Best wishes . . . to all members of the Fellowship for another thirty-five years of sobriety and happiness."

and the Conference, take up much time, as do the many responsibilities in the Trustees' own regions.

Canada: Trustee-at-large candidates should have a background in "communications"; the required experience could be in areas such as press, broadcast media, publishing or public relations.

## DIRECTORY DEADLINE

Groups in the U.S. and Canada will receive about Oct. 1 Group Information Cards to be completed and mailed back to G.S.O. no later than Dec. 1, 1970, for the 1971 World Directory, Part I.

The *Directory* is, of course, confidential for A.A. members only, to be used for A.A. purposes only. It is protected by copyright law, and must never be used by anyone for any commercial purpose.

Each group listed receives one copy free of charge. It is group property—for use of the group as a whole, with each succeeding G.S.R. or secretary acting as temporary custodian.

If lost, it can be replaced for \$1.50. Additional copies—for members only—can be ordered at the same price—through the group.

# LOIS THANKS A.A.'s FOR THEIR MESSAGES

Concerned members from all over the U.S. and Canada — indeed, from all corners of the world of A.A. — have, through cards and other messages, expressed their affection and told of their prayers for Bill W.'s recovery from a recent serious illness.

Lois, Bill's wife, asked us to thank all those who sent messages, wanting them to know of her gratitude. "Their prayers and thoughts have helped," she said.

Bill is home, recuperating, and he, too, asked us to convey his own greetings and affection.

# 35th Anniversary Convention Wrap-Up

Having come down a bit from the pink (or orange) cloud induced by our 35th Anniversary Convention at Miami Beach, we have learned that the final, official registration figure for it is: 10,701.

And did you know that:

- Of the 380 speakers, every single one turned up in the proper place, on time?
- A Miami-bound airplane with many A.A.'s from the Pacific Coast aboard was skyjacked to Cuba on Thurs., July 2? They came in okay the next day.
- Grapevine still has plenty of the new hardcover cartoon book it introduced in Florida?
- Many Miami Beach cab drivers and waitresses said they wish all conventioneers were as happygo-sober as A.A.'s?
- Over 200 Spanish-speaking A.A.'s on the spot set up a special A.A. meeting in their own tongue?
- Tapes of Convention sessions can still be ordered from Southern Audio Visual Exhibition Service? Write: 550 Meridian Ave., Miami Beach, Fla. 33139, for order blanks.
- Our Fellowship got warm Anniversary wishes from two U.S. Government bureaus? Post Office (see this page) and Veterans Administration (p. 2).
- Sixty-six German A.A.'s came in their own chartered plane?
- Two A.A. fellows who had not seen each other since the sixth grade recognized each other?

#### PENS & PROGRAMS

Some souvenir pens and 56-page picture-programs are still available. See order blank enclosed, or write G.S.O.

#### WESTERN UNION

Washington, D.C. 6-29-70 Alcoholics Anonymous Fontainebleau Hotel Miami Beach, Florida

Congratulations to the thousands of A.A.'s gathered at Miami . . . on behalf of the Post Office Dept. I want to express our thanks for the cooperation willingly given by the many local AA groups to our program for recovery installed in Post Offices nationwide. Without this cooperation our efforts to assist employees with a drinking problem could not succeed.

Winton M. Blount Postmaster General

We cannot resist sharing with you one letter from a guest speaker and one from a woman A.A. in Texas:

Warden John Norfield of Saskatchewan Penitentiary, Prince Albert, Sask., called our four Miami days "a living experience and an experience in living."

"Common welfare was placed first—no individual monopolized any meeting. Everyone felt ten feet tall amongst ten-feet-tall people," he wrote. "The nametag was immediate acceptance as a friend."

Warden Norfield pointed out that young and old, rich and poor, famous and unknowns came from every corner of the globe.

The nonalcoholic guest speaker added, "The open and unashamed joy of living, loving and caring for fellow members was everywhere.

"Humility became easy in the magnitude of the assemblies—particularly in Convention Hall, where the individual felt outnumbered, 11,000 to 1."

The warden said that "a serenity and tranquility never before experienced in my lifetime was produced by the joining of hands and repeating the Lord's Prayer with 11,000 personal miracles."

Evelyn P., Vidor, Texas, particularly liked the workshops for Loners, Internationalists, and Armed Forces A.A.'s. She said the Convention "made me more aware of the magnitude of A.A.—large enough to encompass the world, yet tiny enough to fit into the smallest human heart."

When she first joined A.A., Evelyn had to drive 65 miles to an A.A. meeting. "In a sense I felt I was a Loner. I had no one to share with."

But then she became a World Hello letter-writer, keeping in touch by mail with farflung Loners, Internationalists and others. Evelyn is currently their secretary for states east of the Mississippi and for Latin America. In Miami Beach she finally got to meet "in the flesh" many of her correspondents.

"I am reminded," she said, "of the saying: 'Be careful how you walk; you may be the only Big Book someone else may ever read.'"

That about says it for all of us, doesn't it? So au revoir Miami Beach, and look out, Some Place, here we come in '75!

#### THANK YOU ALL...

For your wonderful letters about the Convention, thank you! And especially to those who made good suggestions we can use at A.A.'s sixth International Convention in 1975—wherever!

## GRAPEVINE HARVEST TIME

Don't miss the Miami Beach coverage in the *October* issue—a whole section, plus a report by Lou H., GV's West Coast "editor." Also, Dr. Jack Norris on alcoholism counselors and two other articles presenting varying points of view on the A.A. member as an expert on alcoholism. Also, a piece for beginners.

November issue: 19-year-old writes on alcohol and addiction; Twelve observations by Wm. Bisher, M.D.; A.A. member of six years seeks Al-Anon help; Seventh Step; and an article on slips.

# JAPANESE AND TEXAS A.A.'s MAKE FRIENDS

From Osaka, Japan: "Yesterday a member of A.A. in your country came with his wife and we had a wonderful meeting.

"C---, from Texas, staying in Japan three weeks, called to one of our members who speak English.

"A member of the Osaka Group and I went to the hotel and dine with them and went to Amagasaki meeting at municipal hall. About 20 members had come already and waited.

"We talked about the experience and the way of A.A. life.

"C----'s story was the same of our members and we all had the same feeling of him. His wife told about the Al-Anon meetings in your country, very useful for us.

"Thank you for containing our group name in the *World Directory*. We had a new friend of your country for it. -Cordially, M--M--.



# 'Look at that Table, Joe, It Walks and Talks!'



Does your group literature table carry the message? Invite the shy newcomer to browse? Orlookskimpy and unfriendly?

A three-month-dry man, Pat, had in tow a nearly one-dayer, Joe.

Former was helping latter postpone a drink one half-hour at a time, but latter didn't know it; he thought the Irishman was just conducting a guided tour of the meeting room.

At the coffee pot, Pat had carefully poured jittery Joe's cup only half full . . . Pat was saying, "Just one more thing before you go, fella." Joe groaned inside.

"Look at that table," his tormentor went on. "It walks and it talks." To Joe, it looked fairly ordinary, with neat stacks of stuff on it.

"You see, it carries a lot," Pat said. He picked two fresh pamphlets from a shiny brass-colored wire rack, and went on, "Thousands of people who once had a serious drinking problem have now happily recovered, as I have. How it's done we tell very clearly in these four books, this magazine, the Grapevine, and these pamphlets. Everything here is A.A. stuff, none of it from some church or medical outfit. Take what you want; it's free. . . ." The order blank enclosed with this bulletin can help your table be a better sponsor.

## SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

ARKANSAS
Founders Day Banquet \$250.00
CALIFORNIA
Palm Springs: 10th Desert
Roundup
FLORIDA
All Groups, Greater Miami 1,371.02
4th Dist., So. Florida (G.S. Conf.). 14.26
MASSACHUSETTS
Dist. 13, East. Mass. Area 20.00
MICHIGAN
Central Mich. Inter-Area Council. 100.00
MINNESOTA
Lake Region Area Banquet 85.00
NEW YORK
Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Area
Conf
OREGON
State Gen. Serv. Comm 12.00
SOUTH CAROLINA
Gen. Serv. Comm
TENNESSEE
Nashville: State Conv 148.51
CANADA
Alberta: Dist. 3 Roundup 9.00
B.C.: Kamloops: 23rd Anniv.
Roundup 334.25

B.C.: Nanaimo: Roundup.	47.75
B.C.: Quesnel: Cariboo Gr.	
Roundup	30.00
Ontario: Sault Ste. Marie: N.E.	
Area Conf	191.00
Ontario: Toronto Areas, C-70-16,	
No. Bay	47.75
Ontario: Toronto: Sun. Morn.	
Men's Mtg	28.66
Quebec: Dist. des Bois Francs	23.72
AUSTRALIA	
Sydney: Annu. Council Mtg	221.94

# For Contribution Listings

Reminder: Your group's contribution to the General Fund (administered by the G.S. Board for A.A. world services) will be listed in the 1971 World Directory only if it is received by G.S.O. prior to Dec. 31, 1970. Thank you!

# Staff Rotation...

# Hazel

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER – SPECIAL PROJECTS

# Ann

#### SERVICE COORDINATOR

Correspondence: N.E. (U.S.), Box 4-5-9 (Eng. Fr. Sp.); Guidelines & Service Material; Films; Displays; Tapes; Sec., A.A.W.S.

# Beth

## OVERSEAS — LONERS — GENERAL SERVICE BOARDS (Except U.S. & Can.)

Correspondence: W. Cen. (U.S.), Loners; Overseas (except Spanish-speaking countries); Loners Meeting; Sec., World Service Meeting.

# Cora Louise

## **PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS**

Correspondence: Outside Agencies, S.W. (U.S.); Trustees' Comm. on Professional Relations.

# Eleanor

## PUBLIC INFORMATION— INTERNATIONALISTS

Correspondence: Pacific (U.S.), Internationalists; Internationalists' Round Robin; Sec., Trustees' & Conf. Public Information Comms.

# Mary Ellen

# INSTITUTIONS — SPANISH-SPEAKING GROUPS

Correspondence: E. Can., Spanish-speaking groups, Institutions; Institutions bulletin; Sec., Trustees' & Conf. Lit. Comms.; Sec., Conf. Institutions Comm.

# Midge

## STAFF COORDINATOR

Correspondence: S.E. (U.S.) & W. Can.; Ass't Secretary, G.S.B.; Sec., Trustees' & Conf. Policy Comms.; Director, A.A.W.S.

## Waneta

## CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Correspondence: E. Cen. (U.S.), Conf. delegates; *Quarterly Report*; Sec., Conf. Agenda/Admissions Comm.; Sec., Trustees' Nominating Comm.; Sec., Conf. Comm. on Trustees.

## **GROUP BIRTHDAY PLAN**

One way to celebrate a group anniversary and express gratitude for sobriety is the Birthday Plan for making sure the hand of A.A. is always there.

Individual members celebrate their own A.A. birthdays by contributing to G.S.O. \$1.00 (or any amount, not to exceed \$200 total) for each sober year. The 1970 Conference said "Groups can, too." First to respond was Baldwin, N.Y., with a check for \$25! Thanks, Baldwin.

### IDEAL GROUP LOCATION

"Our group is uniquely located on the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal," writes Roy L. of the Ancon group, Balboa, C.Z.

"We're just across the street from the mental hospital. Just a few steps beyond lies the cemetery. The choices are right in a line."

Internationalists and travelers are eagerly welcomed, Roy says. We hear you're worth finding, Roy!

# AYE, LADS, IN SCOTLAND, TOO!

Alcoholics everywhere often seem alike.

Writing from Scotland, Arch K. says, "There's greater interest amongst young people, and I am trying to help. One, still in his teens, is having a second try with A.A. The age gap doesn't worry him. He knows he can spare himself years of misery or an untimely end.

"We too have this growing incidence of alcoholism and not enough understanding of the problem. Industry in general is very reluctant to admit to the facts, but a small light of knowledge has been lit and the glimmer will grow, I am sure."

## INDIAN A.A.'s KEEP SILENT

Like many new members everywhere, those in the Great Plains Group, Roswell, N.M., are not very talkative—yet!

Richard A., secretary, says the 15 to 20 members at each meeting are Indians from all over the U.S. who attend a vocational training center. Seven are "practicing members," he says, but only three "carry the load" (speak up) most of the time.

Most are terribly shy, and "we would like to encourage them to talk, but we don't want to scare anybody off by making him think he has to talk," Richard writes.

Box 4-5-9 is published 6 times a year by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 468 Park Ave., South, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Individual, \$1.00 per yr.; Group, \$2.50 for each unit of 10 per yr. (Check should accompany order.)

Checks payable to A.A. World Services, Inc., Box 459, Grand Central Post Office, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10017.

# A. A. Calendar of Events

#### SEPTEMBER

- 25-27 Wichita, Kan., Annu. Kan. State Conf. Write: State Conf., Box 8134, Wichita.
- 25-27 Billings, Mont., Montana Fall Conf. Write: Chm., 515 13th West, Billings.
- 25-27 Lenox, Ma., 8th Annu. Mass. Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Box 444, Kenmore Station, Boston.
- 25-27 Grand Rapids, Mich., 18th State Conf. Write: Chm., Box 2454. Grand Rapids.

#### **OCTOBER**

- 2- 4 Buffalo, N.Y., 7th Annu. St. Conv. & 28th Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Room 721, West Genessee St., Buffalo.
- 2- 4- Tucson, Az., 20th Annu. State Conf. Write: Conf. Chm. Comm., Box 12954, Tucson.
- 2 4 Wichita Falls, Tx., N.E. Texas Area Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 4017, Wichita Falls.
- 3- 4 Mitchell, S.D., South Dakota Fall Conf. Write: Sec., State Conf., Box 294, Mitchell.
- 3- 5 Dumfries, Scotland, 17th Blue Bonnet Gathering. Write: Sec., King's Arms Hotel, Dumfries, Scotland.
- Port Dover, Ont., Can., Brant Erie
   Dist. One-Day Conf. Write: Chm.,
   Box 11, Brantford, Ont.
- 8-11 Amarillo, Tx., 23rd Top of Texas Roundup. Write: Chm., Box 1963, Amarillo.
- 8-11 Gadsden, Al., 15th Al.-N.W. Fl. Conv. Write: Chm., Box 231, Gadsden, Al.

- 9-11 Tokyo, Japan, Far East Roundup. Write: Chm., Far East Roundup, Tama Recreation Center, near Fuchu Air Base, Tokyo, (Tel. 389-4361)
- 9-11 Kansas City, Mo., W. Missouri Fall Assembly. Write: Assembly Chm., 2928 Mason, Independence, Mo.
- 9-11 Spokane, Wash., Wash. Area Assembly. Ridpath Hotel, Spokane.
- 9-11 Wheeling, W. Va., 18th W.V. Conf. Write: 18th Conf., Box 46, Wheeling.
- 9-11 Dartmouth, N.S., Can., 6th Annu. Nova Scotia/Nfld./Labr. Assembly Conf. Write: Chm., Box 3, Dartmouth.
- 9-11 Montreal, Que., Can. 12th Que. Provincial Bilinqual Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 1777, Station B, Montreal.
- 9 11 North Bay, Ont., Can., N.E. Area Conf. Write: Conf. Sec., 1058 Premier Road, North Bay, Ont.
- 9-11 Victoria, Tx., S.W. Texas Conf. Write: Chm., Box 408, Pt. Lavaca, Tx.
- 10 New York, N.Y., Bill's Dinner-36th Anniversary Dinner & Dance. Write: Dinner Comm., Intergroup Assn., 24 E. 22 St., 5th fl., New York City.
- 10-11 Bismarck, N.D., State Round-up. Write: Chm., Box 1522, Bismarck.
- 16--18 Augusta, Ga., 17th Georgia St. Conv. of A.A. Write: Ga. State Conv., Box 2732, Augusta.
- 16-18 Lake Placid, N.Y. 20th Annu. Fall Conf., Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Area. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 646, Lake Placid.
- Milwaukee, Wisc. 19th Annu. So.
   Wisc. Fall Conf. Write: A.A. Central
   Office 135 W. Wells St., Milwaukee,
   Wisc.

- 23-25 Bakersfield, Cal., So. Cal. Conv. Write: Central A.A. Office, 767 S. Howard Los Angeles, Cal.
- 23-25 Hinton, W.V., 4th W.V. Bluestone Round-up. Write: Box 500, Bechley, W.V.
- 23-25 London, Ont., Can., 17th Annu Western Ont. Conv. Write: Western Ont. Conf. Box 725, London.
- 30-Nov. 1 Decatur, Ill., Fall A.A. Conf. Write: Chm., 1608 Whittier, Springfield, Ill.
- 31 Portage, Ind., Calumet Area Intergroup Banquet. Write: Chm., 1435
   East End Ave., Dyer, Ind.
- 30-Nov. 1 Winnipeg, Man., 26th Man. Conf. Write: Chm., Rm. 204, 457 Main.

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 6- 8 Las Vegas, Nev., So. Nevada Round-Up. Write: Sober Fun in the Sun, Box 269, Las Vegas.
- 6-8-Barrie, Ont., Can., 5th Annu. Georgian Bay Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 821, Orillia, Ont.
- 6-8 Honolulu, Hawaii, Annual Conf. Write: Chm., 2895 Kalakaua Ave., Apt. 401, Honolulu.
- 7 Minneapolis, Minn., 30th Annu. Founders Day Banquet. Write: Chm., 2218 First Ave. So., Minneapolis.
- Boise, Idaho, Semi-Annu. State Mtg.
   Write: Sec., 1518 Fort St., Boise.
- 7- 9 Pocono Manor, Pa., 12th Annu. Eastern Pa. Conf. Write: Conf. Sec., Box 418, Robesonia, Pa.
- 8 Paramus, N.J., 24th Annu. Dinner-A.A. groups of N.J. Write: Chm., Box 705 Teaneck
- Box 705, Teaneck.

  12-15 Shreveport, La., 25th Annu. TriState Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Box
  495, Shreveport.
- 13-15 Greeley, Co., Winter Regional Assembly. Write: Sec., Route 1, Box 0228, Brighton, Co.



For less than a nickel an issue, you can

# SHARE A.A. NEWS WITH 40 A.A. FRIENDS

TO: G.S.O. P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station New York, N.Y. 10017

	Enclosed please find \$		(check	or money	v order)	for
a	year's subscription (individual or bulk) to BOX 4-5-9	$, (\epsilon$				0-1

CHECK ONE
☐ Individual subscription \$1.00 per year
BULK
□ 10 copies each issue 2.50 per year
20 copies each issue 5.00 per year
30 copies each issue 7.50 per year
40 copies each issue
(Sorry-no charge orders can be taken)

NAME OF GROUP (INDIVIDUAL)	(PLEASE PRINT)
CITY	STATE