



THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT LED TO A.A..

1931 - Rowland Hazard (age 50), was treated by Dr Carl Gustav Jung in Zurich, Switzerland. It is believed that he was a patient for about a year, (probably less) sobered up and then returned to drinking.

Treated a second time by Jung, Rowland was told that there was no medical or psychological hope for an alcoholic of his type; that his only hope was a vital spiritual or religious experience - in short a genuine conversion experience. (BB pg 27)

1932 - Rowland H found sobriety through the spiritual practices of the Oxford Group. Rowland was a dedicated OG member in NY, Vermont and Massachusetts and a prominent member of the Calvary Episcopal Church in NY City. He later moved to Shaftsbury, Vermont.

1932 - Rowland Hazard had to be hospitalized for his alcoholism in February and March of 1932, and then from January 1933 to October 1934. He was unable to carry on his business activities.

1933 - Courtenay Baylor became Rowland Hazard's therapist in 1933 and continued to work with him through 1934.

- It was under the influence of Baylor's Emmanuel Movement therapy that Hazard actually began to recover.
- Hazard was also attending Oxford Group meetings

1933 - Anne Smith attended meetings of the Oxford Group with her friend Henrietta Sieberling. Anne later persuaded Dr Bob to attend. He participated in the OG for 2 ½ years before meeting Bill.

1933 - Autumn, Bill W was quite literally drinking himself to death. Bill W's first admission to Towns Hospital.

1934 - July, Ebby T was approached in Manchester, Vermont by his friends Cebra Graves (an attorney) and F Sheppard (Shep) Cornell (a NY stockbroker). Both were Oxford Group members who had done considerable drinking with Ebby and were abstaining from drinking. They informed Ebby of the OG in Vermont but he was not quite ready yet to stop drinking.

1934 - July, Bill W's second admission to Towns Hospital. Dr Silkworth explained the obsession and allergy of alcoholism but Bill started drinking again almost immediately upon discharge.

1934 - August, Cebra G and Shep C vacationed at Rowland H's house in Bennington, Vermont.

- Cebra learned that Ebby T's drinking had gotten him into so much trouble that he was facing criminal charges and might be committed to the Brattleboro Retreat Asylum for the Insane. Cebra, Shep and Rowland decided to make Ebby "a project." (NG 309)

Rowland and Cebra attended Ebby's trial and persuaded the judge (who was Cebra's father Collins) to parole Ebby to their custody. In the fall, Rowland took Ebby to NY City where he sobered up with the help of the Oxford Group at the Calvary Mission.

1934 - September 17, Bill W's third admission to Towns Hospital (again paid by Dr Leonard V Strong). Dr Silkworth pronounced Bill a hopeless drunk and informed Lois that Bill would likely have to be committed.

1934 - November 11, Armistice Day, Bill W went to play golf and got drunk and badly injured. Lois began investigating sanitariums in which to place Bill. (AACOA 56-58, BW-FH 56)

1934 - November (late), Ebby T, while staying at the Calvary Mission and working with the Oxford Group, heard about Bill W's problems with drinking.

- He phoned Lois who invited him over for dinner. (EBBY 66)

Ebby visited Bill W at 182 Clinton St and shared his recovery experience "one alcoholic talking to another.

1934 - December 7, Bill W decided to investigate the Calvary Mission on 23rd St. arriving drunk. Bill kept interrupting the service wanting to speak. On the verge of being ejected, Ebby came by and fed Bill a plate of beans. Bill later joined the penitents and drunkenly "testified" at the meeting 1934 - December 11, Bill W (age 39) decided to go back to Towns Hospital and had his last drink

1934 - December 14, Ebby visited Bill W at Towns Hospital and told him about the Oxford Group principles.

- After Ebby left, Bill fell into a deep depression and had a profound spiritual experience after crying out "If there be a God, will he show himself." Fearing that he had gone crazy,

- Bill called for Dr Silkworth who told him to hang on to what he had experienced because it seemed so much better than with what he came into the hospital.

Bill and others would later refer to this as his "white flash" or "hot flash" experience.

1934 - December 15, Ebby (possibly Rowland H) brought Bill W a copy of William James' book "The Varieties of Religious Experience."

1934 - December 18, Bill W left Towns Hospital and began working with drunks. He and Lois attended Oxford Group meetings with Ebby T and Shep C at Calvary Hall in Calvary House.

- The Rev Sam Shoemaker was the rector at the Calvary Church (the OG's US headquarters). The church was on 237 Fourth Ave (now Park Ave South) and 21st St.
- Calvary House (where OG meetings were held in Calvary Hall) was at 61 Gramercy Park (21st St).

Calvary Mission was located at 346 E 23rd St.

1935 - Early, Bill W worked with alcoholics at the Calvary Mission and Towns Hospital, emphasizing his "hot flash" spiritual experience.

- Alcoholic Oxford Group members began meeting at his home on Clinton St.
- Bill had no success sobering up others. (AACOA vii, AABB, BW-FH 69, PIO 131-133)

1935 - March/April, Henrietta Sieberling (nicknamed "Henri") encouraged by her friend Delphine Weber, organized a Wednesday-night Oxford Group meeting at T Henry and Clarace Williams' house on 676 Palisades Dr in Akron, Ohio. The meeting was started specifically to help Dr Bob who later confessed openly about his drinking problem.

1935 - April, Bill W was very discouraged at having no success in sobering up other alcoholics and came very close to giving up on his efforts.

- However, his wife Lois reminded him that HE was staying sober because of his working with others.

Bill had a talk with Dr Silkworth who advised him to stop preaching about his hot flash experience in the hospital and hit the alcoholics hard with the medical view on alcoholism. Dr Silkworth advised Bill to break down the strong egos of alcoholics by telling them about the obsession that condemned them to drink and the allergy that condemned them to go mad or die. It would then be so much easier to get them to accept the spiritual solution.

1935 - May 11, (AGAA says May 10) Bill W, in poor spirits, and tempted to enter the Mayflower Hotel bar, realized he needed another alcoholic.

- He telephoned clergy members listed on the lobby directory. The Rev Walter Tunks referred Bill to Oxford Group member Norman Sheppard who then referred Bill to Henrietta Sieberling.

• Bill introduced himself as "a member of the OG and a rum hound from New York." Henrietta met with Bill at her gatehouse (Stan Hywet Hall) on the Sieberling estate. She viewed Bill's arrival as the answer to her prayers for Dr Bob and called Dr Bob's wife Anne to arrange a dinner the next day.

1935 - May 12, Mother's Day, Bill W (age 39) met Dr Bob (age 55) Anne and their young son Bob (age 17) at Henrietta Sieberling's gatehouse at 5PM.

- Dr Bob, too hung over to eat dinner, planned to stay only 15 minutes.
- Privately, in the library, Bill told Dr Bob of his alcoholism experience in the manner suggested by Dr Silkworth. Bob opened up and he and Bill talked until after 11PM. Dr Bob's planned 15 minutes turned into 6 hours.

Thanks to Amulya M.!