

My Years

With Narcotics Anonymous

Robert B. Stone

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Publishing Company, Joplin, Missouri

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Library of Congress Catalog Card number:
F1369.S3M22 972.432'21 94-3792

Publication Data: First Printing 1995

Stone, Robert B.

My Years with Narcotics Anonymous

- 1: History: Drug Addiction
- 2: Autobiography
- 3: Contemporary Affairs

I. Title: My Years With Narcotics Anonymous

ISBN 0-15-167984-0

Hulon Pendleton Publishing Company
610 Pearl Street, Site C
Joplin, Missouri, 64801
417-781-6770

Manufactured in the *United States of America*

Revised 10-10-94

Chapter One

A Miracle Begins...

"Once you're hooked man, its all over. There is no cure. Once you're an addict you'll always be an addict until the day you die. Most likely you'll die in prison, a mental institution or some alley from an over dose. It's kind of like going to hell but being here on earth. Only a miracle can save you."

Those words, or many just like them, were about the only message addicts used to get from cops, judges, doctors, strangers and even family members in the old days. Until the events portrayed in the first three chapters of this book took place, there was still little or no hope. But some people-a lot it turns out-thought there might be a way out, a way to prove that old truism was in fact a lie. The trouble was that one addict had to be the first to prove you could truly kick drug addiction, so others could learn how the first guy did it and follow his lead.

Bill W. and Doctor Bob, through a provident series of events, got together and crafted from their experiences a solution to alcoholism. That alcoholism is a variation of drug addiction, in the general sense, and that this solution could be applied to people addicted to other substances, was undoubtedly a thought that crossed the minds of both members and observers of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) during the 1940's.

It seems from Bill W's writings and from the letters and reports from AA General Service Office that many drug addicts were indeed coming to AA meetings to see if it could be the answer. This often caused problems. Sometimes AA members were tolerant of addicts talking about other drugs and at other times they were not. The addicts acceptance (and often recovery) sometimes depended on their drinking history, appearance, social status or relationship to other AA members.

