

Members attending the 3rd Annevasiry meeting of the H.F.D. Group

CASE HISTORY OF THE ADDICTS ATTENDING

Johnny.B. Age 26

First contact, upon release from Honor Farm, after serving 3 years in a Federal Prison, McNeil Island. Problem when first contacted narcotic addiction. Sober, free from the use of narcotics (heroin) 16 months. Realized he had an alcoholic problem prior to addiction to narcotics after attending AA meetings, sober for about 5 months. Used alcohol, marijuana, sleeping pills, benzedrine, morphine, and heroin, for the same reason he had used alcohol at first, but due to not finding the escape he desired, turned to drugs. Father died from alcoholism, when the boy was very young, in a State Hospital. Mother alcoholic, but not on AA at this time, future prospect. Problems, bashful, backward, anti-social, mis-understood, lots of serious character defects, but always wanting to live a different life, but didn't know how until he found AA.

Bill.M Age 55

Former addict to opium smoking, later morphine addict, many years of addiction, withdrawn in prison, Became alcoholic after release. Very serious case, many confinements to Mental Institutions, and private hospitals. Trouble making the program at first due to inability to accept the First Step in its entirety, always thought perhaps someday somehow, would be able to be a social drinker. Now sober 3 years on AA. First contacted H.F.D. Group to un-burden his story of addiction, which he kept secret, until he heard Betty speak at his group. Through his learning the danger of using any habit forming drugs, even in the sedative class, was possibly saved from a possible serious condition, brought about by a back injury, and resulting surgery, over 2 years ago, still uses a back brace part of the time, and has constant pain. Endures much suffering, due to sedatives being prescribed for pain, got into a frame of mind not conducive to sober living, but through talking his problem and sickness over with the group, listening to our warnings, continued to be a sober member of AA without resorting to sedatives as a crutch for his pain.

Art.H. Age 22.

Heavy drinking, using marijuana, goof-balls, benzedrine, Mother died of Alcoholism, Became addicted to heroin. Served 19 months on first conviction, in maximum security, several other arrests, tried to drink again after release from long prison term, and found he was drinking too much and change quickly back to drugs. Usual results, with trouble with the law, more jails. While still addicted last year (1953) met Johnny.B former pal and drug user, unable to believe that his pal was not using any drugs or alcohol, asked his pal, how come?. Was told to contact me if he ever decided to stay off drugs honestly.. Later arrested, kicked his habit cold in jail, while waiting bail, when out on bail, contacted me, and attended an AA meeting with his Uncle, a sober member of AA for 8 years an hated dope addicts, would have nothing to do with his Nephew until he asked for help in AA, was taken to a meeting, and we talked when he received his sentence 180 days plus 10, Kept in constant touch with members of H.F.D. Group, receiving letters each week, when released went to live with his Uncle, and attending AA meetings, regularly, Now

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realizes that alcohol was his basic problem, plus character defects and shortcomings. Sober attending meetings, has given talks at many of our larger groups, has a wonderful understanding of AA and works the program as it is written in our big Book.

Doris. C Age middle 30's, mother 2 children.

Wife of a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, sober 8 yrs, but made first contact 10 years ago. Doris addicted to sedatives (goof-balls) since early 'teens, her husband was the problem drinker, she never drank. After his inability first to grasp the program, she started to drink using 3 fourths of a glass of whisky to wash down a hand-full of goof-balls, An understanding member of AA tried to help her and her husband, and after her husband had been sober on AA 6 years, she tried it, with success, has been a sober member of AA for over 2 years, and is willing to help anyone addicted to barbiturates, and tell how she made the program.

Sarah. F. Age 33.

First contact. Los Angeles, County Jail, January, 1951. serving a year sentence for herion addiction and forgery. Attended some AA meetings in jail, but not for any concrete reason but to get out of the tank. After hearing me speak, asked for me to interview her on my regular visiting day. Visited her for several months, but due to not being allowed to visit the jail, lost track of her upon her first release, she slipped and went back on herion, but was back in jail in a very short time, served 180 days, but through another member of AA got in contact with me, being a Negro girl, I found her a Negro woman 6 years sober, straight alcoholic, to co-sponsor her. Attending AA meetings, a very active member of the Colored group. 20 months clean of narcotics and alcohol. She too did not recognize an alcoholic problem, drank very heavy as a very young girl, with her father who died alcoholic. Married an addict, then turned to drugs, and became addicted. Admits her basic problem was character defects and alcohol.

Larry. T. age 56.

Husband of founder of the H. F. D. Group, alcoholic since age 14, before coming into contact with AA had got on Goof-balls through his doctor, for hangovers. used both drug and alcohol, many arrests and hospitalization, Contacted AA in June 1946, but unable to remain sober due to use of barbiturates in combination with whisky or just barbiturates or alcohol, never completely off either, for a period of 3 yrs and 3 months, Says that goof-balls take away the willingness to try and remain sober from alcohol. Gave up completely on the 23th of September 1949, and is now a sober member of AA ever since. Has a deep understanding of the person addicted to the barbiturates and other habit forming drugs, never used narcotics to excess. Just what the doctor gave him to get him well! A very active and sincere member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

JoAnne. M age 42.

Narcotic addict, heroin and morphine, and at times on other habit forming drugs, such as benzedrine, goof-balls, tuppin hydrate etc.

Started smoking marijuana, when age 12 and confined to a Reformatory Confined to Federal Prison 2 years, and has spent about two-thirds of her life in various prisons. First contact L.A. County Jail, Jan, 1951, JoAnne was serving a year for narcotic addiction and sale. Her husband serving long time in San Quentin for robbery and narcotic addiction, he also is attend AA in prison. Attended meetings in the jail, to just get out of the tank, After hearing me talk she asked to speak to me. In November 1951, was released and came to live with me temporarily. She claimed no drinking problem and disliked "Lushes" only liked me because I had been an addict. In taking her into my home I tried to give her a new start, as she had no one to turn to She accepted AA for her narcotic problem, attended open meetings as well as H.F.D. Group, then she started drinking beer, socially, and it was not long until she was drinking whisky heavily, I kept taking her to meetings, but she just wouldn't stop her "social drinking", so I had to ask her to leave, did not see her for a long period of time, she met and married, a man completely square, but a heavy drinker, her drinking got to the point where her husband put her in the K----- Cure after having D.T's and convulsions, this was last August 1953. While taking this aversion cure, she refused any type of sedation or drugs. Sick physically, and mentally she suffered agony but refused any drug relief. After this period of hospitalization, she remained sober about two months, then started social drinking again. Another member of AA that had been confined with her in the County Jail, contacted her and asked her to come to the 3rd Anniversary meeting of the H.F.D. Group she felt that she was ashamed of her attitude but we assured her she was wanted. She attended and brought her husband along, the meeting not only seemed to help her get a lot of her chest, but her husband began to see he too possibly has an alcoholic problem. She even admitted at the meeting she was alcoholic, to date she is drinking heavy and her husband is having more and more trouble with his drinking. This is a case of watch and wait, but I feel confident that they both will give up before too long and become active members of our program

Pat.R. Age 34

Long period of addiction to heroin, about 11 years, went to the very bottom of the barrel. Many jails, first contact Jan 1951, released on March 17, 1951. Vivisted with me after we met her upon release, she left us that day and she took one injection of narcotics, then decided to stop, and started social drinking, kept in contact with me about a month, did attend a couple of AA meetings with us. Arrested again in June a very severe habit again, while conducting a meeting in the L.A./City Jail, met her in the hall after the meeting, this was June 21 1951, sentenced to L.A./County Jail again and asked me to visit her, which I did, she was not allowed to attend the AA meetings, but through our help we arranged probation for her in November 1951, Attended our informal H.F.D. meetings and other AA meetings, she was not interested in regular AA meetings only interested in the H.F.D. Group, this was not good, she insisted she was not alcoholic, and the regular AA meetings didn't do anything for her as she was an addict. Her drinking continued and she found a job in Nevada, she visited with me every few months, would attend a meeting, but would not accept the fact she may have an alcoholic problem. Her drinking became steadily worse, but she hated to admit it even to me, she was confused and ashamed, she had started secret drinking, muscatal wine, suffered D.T's all this taking place in a period of about 6 months. Not wanting to admit she was licked she stopped drinking, and took another position in San Diego, got a new start and wen'

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straight to AA meetings, Now is an active member on the Jail committee and conducting meetings, speaking, doing lots of 12th Step work and is very successful. Her period of abstinence from Narcotics is 2 years 10 months to date, and her period of abstinence from both drugs and alcohol 1 yr 10 months, Her case is a miracle of AA. Complete rehabilitation, holding a good position, regaining custody of two of her 3 children, accepting the fact she cannot recover the custody of the youngest, due to conditions beyond her control, accepting the fact she must accept it, and doing the best she can. She is gracious, soft-spoken and lovely, loved by everyone that meets her. At this time she is trying to help her younger Sister, confined to the Terminal Island Medical Facility, sentenced for narcotic addiction, has arranged for her sister to attend AA meetings in jail, goes to visit her sister, she has even spoke at the jail meetings, doing everything within her power to help her sister and show her this new way of life.

* This is just a few cases, there are dozens of others, all sober on AA attending meetings, and active. This list is too long to go into, but this gives a general idea of the type of addicts I have worked with.

Betty.T.
H.F.D.Group.