

Lifeline

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THE ULTIMATE GIFT

Submitted By Don M., Orange

I am a grateful Alcoholic about to start my seventeenth year of sobriety. I have received many precious gifts since coming to this program, but the ultimate gift was given to me by my first sponsor.

Tom was a man of 82 years of age when I met him in 1978. I was almost one year sober and couldn't seem to pick a sponsor. Among my many character defects was the fact that my picker was broken. I had tried a few sponsors, but they kept getting drunk. I decided to use a little bit of everyone I met for a sponsor.

I had just taken on the "secretary's commitment" of a Noon meeting held at an Alano Club when I noticed this old gentleman attending the meeting. After a few weeks, he walked up to me, introduced himself as a 38 year member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and my sponsor. The old man pointed out that when he sobered up that's the way you got a sponsor. You didn't pick your sponsor-they picked you. Then they usually took you home, put you on the couch and that's the way you went through detox. If you lived, you not only got sober, you also got a sponsor.

He sobered up in March of 1941 after reading an article in the Saturday Evening Post written by Jack Alexander. In the forward to the second edition of our book, it says "By March 1941 the membership had shot up to 2,000, men." Jack Alexander wrote a feature article in the Post and placed such a compelling picture of AA before the general public that alcoholics deluged the program. By the close of 1941, AA numbered 8,000 members. One of those was Tom, who after reading the article, wrote the Post for more information. They forwarded his letter to the Central Office in New York.

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Orange County
Intergroup Association

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Orange County Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

2712 South Grand Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705

714 556-4555

Weekdays
Saturdays

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sundays & Holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Calls from San Clemente, Dana Point, Laguna Beach and CapistranoValley 714-581-2694 TDD 556-4559

