



Area A.A. member returns to St. Louis 50 years later!



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Tom D., of Lima, sober since April 27, 1950, returned this past Thanksgiving weekend to St Louis, MO, with some Dayton Archives, to attend the 50th anniversary of the 1955, 2nd International Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous there. The event, titled "Spiritual Homecoming," marking a half-century since the 20th General Service Conference, where Bill W. "stepped down" in the spirit of rotation as leader of the Fellowship. Bill W. felt the fellowship had 'come of age' and turned A.A. over to its members. That Resolution was accepted July 4th, 1955 weekend with Tom D. and his late wife Amy in attendance.

The large Dayton Archives Notebook, (prepared by Heather B., Intergroup Archivist), was sent with Tom and his friend, to be displayed along with some Southwest Ohio Area 56 Archives, at the largest A.A. Archives Display ever assembled. (That notebook is now displayed at HandleBar Rick's Archives Museum in Freyburg, OH, phone (419) 738-3483 to visit.)

Tom was one of only two in attendance who where present in 1955. While there the first time, he sat and talked with Bill W. met Ebby T., along with Father Ed Dowling, and many other early A.A.s and friends of A.A.

This visit, Tom had a glow about him that many felt as he shared throughout the several days. The Saturday Longtimer's panel saw Tom walk to the microphone at 4 p.m. (same time as Resolution was presented) and share his wit and experience. Later, after the banquet, the sobriety countdown found Tom with 55 years' sobriety (longest by three years), presenting a new *Big Book* to a man with one day's sobriety.

A brand new Second Edition 1955 *Big Book* that was given to Tom at his first visit in '55, was returned from Pennsylvania and handed to Tom's friend, HandleBar Rick, of Freyburg, OH, for the local archives.

Before Saturday's events were over, you could find Tom dancing with the ladies, to the evening DJ's music, followed by more picture taking!

Sunday's events, with over 1,000 in attendance, found Tom, age 92, climbing the steps to the multi-media stage, with that composure of a elder statesman, to recite the Twelve Traditions.

Tom's commented afterward, "It's an experience of a lifetime! It's like going full circle in A.A.!"

-- [HandleBar Rick](#)