

January 1976

## *An Old-Timer Remembers...*

*One of  
Bill's last  
letters expresses,  
as always, his  
gratitude*

ON JUNE 7 last, it was a privilege for me to be present as a speaker at a gathering of members of AA and friends. It took place in Boston, Mass., at Boston University. Referred to as the First Gratitude Mini-Convention for AA groups in the Northeast, it was arranged by the Boston Central Service Committee and activated and motivated by younger members, to celebrate the founding of AA and to thank the old-timers who stayed sober and passed the program on to them.

From twelve noon to midnight, there was indeed much gratitude. I tried to share some messages I re-

ceived from my sponsor, starting at the Vesey Street office (the old AA headquarters in New York) in 1940 and continuing until his death in 1971. Bill W.'s last message to me seemed appropriate for the occasion. In a letter, he wrote:

"Dear Jack: We old-timers are certainly a vanishing race. You and I are a remnant of the past, and soon will be no more on earth. Such is the manner in which God has arranged our Pilgrim's Progress. It is my cherished hope and belief we have left AA a good heritage. Besides this, we old-timers are getting scattered, anyhow. And I want to thank you for all you have done to make our Fellowship what it is. All affection to everybody and especially to you. Ever yours, Bill."

Yes indeed, at the First Gratitude Mini-Convention in Boston, there *was* gratitude among old-timers and new-timers.

*J. D., Wollaston, Mass.*