

July 1996

Nothing new

From Raleigh, N.C.:

I really enjoyed reading the February special section called "Old-Timers and Young People in AA." However, I've never understood the myths I hear around AA that all our early members were older in age and that younger members are something new to our Fellowship.

Our basic text, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which was published in 1939, talks about young drinkers clearly in chapter three. It also mentions (on p. 33) that "several of our crowd, men of thirty or less, had been drinking only a few years, but they found themselves as helpless as those who had been drinking twenty years." Clearly, young people are nothing new. They've been around since our beginning.

I attended my first AA meeting in July 1989 when I was twenty-two years old, and I've been continuously

sober ever since. Thank God I wasn't told I was too young to be an alcoholic. I was given the same solution to my problem that was given to the early members of AA.

Jerry W.