

AA ANTIQUES ROADSHOW July 27, 2003

ANNOUNCER: Good Afternoon and welcome to AA Antiques Roadshow! I'm Rusty Relic, your host. Each week we travel the highways and byways of America and visit AA groups and appraise their personal, group, or district AA memorabilia. Today we are in lovely Walnut Creek California. Let's get right to it; here is our chief appraiser Byron Barnacle!

BYRON: Good afternoon. Please welcome our first guest Florence Molding.
(applause) Hi, Florence, how are you?

FLORENCE: I feel wonderful, Byron, thank you.

BYRON: Well, what valuable AA artifact have you brought for us today?

FLORENCE: *(pulling it out of a bag)* Byron, I have an old sign-in sheet from the very first meeting I went to in 1968.

BYRON: I see. Where did you find this treasure?

FLORENCE: Well, at that meeting this really gross, creepy guy tried to 13th Step me and kept asking me for my phone number. *(waits a beat)* So I wrote it on the sign-in sheet and gave it to him.

BYRON: Well, wait a minute. If you gave it to *him*, how did *you* end up with it?

FLORENCE: Oh,...well that really gross, creepy guy is now my husband.

BYRON: Oh...kay. Um, may I examine the piece?

FLORENCE: *(hands it to Byron)* Certainly.

BYRON: Oh this is a wonderful piece. Just at first glance I can tell several key things about it which definitely up its value.

FLORENCE: Really? Like what?

BYRON: Well, the burn on the lower left hand comer is from an experimental cigarette Marlboro tried out in late 1968. It was called Scarborough Fair. Its main ingredients were parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme. Now, the giveaway is the elliptical bum signature. These cigarettes never caught on and were scrapped after only a month, so this is extremely rare.

FLORENCE: Wow!

BYRON: Now, did you notice the doodles in the top right hand comer?

FLORENCE: Yes, I was going to use some Whiteout to get rid of them.

BYRON: Oh, God heavens, that would have been a disastrous mistake, Florence. You see, these doodles are the early work of famed cartoonist, S. O. Berman. Have you ever heard of the comic strip B.C.?

FLORENCE: (*surprised*) HE'S THE GUY WHO CREATED B.C.?

BYRON: Well, no, but in several newspapers around the country his strip, "Buford Rules" runs right under B.C. in the Sunday funnies. It is a prime spot. As in opening a new business, location is everything.

FLORENCE: Wow, and you are *sure* that is one of his drawings?

BYRON: (*a little insulted*) I am a professional Florence. The giveaway is the delightful swirls and hoops method he later perfected. You see here? (points to cartoon) The alcoholic with his head in the toilet is an early rendition of Buford as evidenced by the bulging, bloodshot eyes and gap-toothed grin. Yes, this is a Berman original, I am quite sure of it.

FLORENCE: I'm sorry for doubting you.

BYRON: And well you should be but it's quite all right. Now, the real kicker here is who signed line number 17. (*shows it to Florence*)

FLORENCE: Number 17...let's see...I was number 16...I can't quite make out the name. B...I...is that an "r"? No it's an "l". Bill. Bill... W? I WAS SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO BILL W.?

BYRON: That is correct.

FLORENCE: UNBE-FREAKING-LIEV ABLE! I WAS SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO BILL WILSON AT MY FIRST AA MEETING!

BYRON: Oh, no, Florence. You were sitting next to Bill *Weatherspoon*. He became quite popular starring in such B movie classics as "Attack of the Sidewalk Mimes" and "Turnips from Outer Space". He actually won a best actor award for the Turnip movie .

FLORENCE: *(skeptically)* An Oscar?

BYRON: Uh no, it was the 1972 Crappy Movie Awards or the Crappies he won at.

FLORENCE: Oh. *(waits a beat)* Well, how much is this worth then?

BYRON: Well, judging from the relative good shape this document is in I would say it could fetch anywhere from fifteen thousand to seventeen thousand at auction.

FLORENCE: You have got to be kidding me! Seventeen thousand dollars?

BYRON: Oh, no that was in Rupees. There is a big market in India for this sort of thing.

FLORENCE: So how much in dollars?

BYRON: About a buck thirty eight.

FLORENCE: *(snatches the paper)* Thank you. *(she exits)*

BYRON: Thank you. How about a nice warm hand for Florence for sharing with us today? Our next guest is Fred Fossil. Let's welcome him!

(Fred enters carrying a box)

BYRON: Good afternoon Fred, how are you?

FRED: Just great Byron. Hey, I watch this show all the time and I can't believe I'm actually on it.

BYRON: Well, on it you are Fred and it's great to have you. Now, what have you brought today?

FRED: I've brought three items from my smorgasbord of priceless AA memorabilia.

BYRON: Sounds intriguing, Fred. Let's see your first item.

(Fred reaches into box and pulls out a little piece of paper)

FRED: This is one of my favorite pieces. It's a prescription made out to me from Dr. Silkworth.

BYRON: I beg your pardon? Who did you say wrote this?

FRED: Dr. William D. Silkworth. You know the doctor from The Doctor's Opinion in the big book?

BYRON: Okay... well, um, there are several things that immediately make that assertion. . . well, suspect.

FRED: *(clearly surprised)* Like what?

BYRON: Well, for starters I'm fairly certain Dr. Silkworth never worked at Kaiser Permanente.

FRED: A minor detail.

BYRON: Also, I really can't make out one single word on this prescription. It is entirely illegible.

FRED: That's how you know it's the real deal! Can anyone ever read a doctor's handwriting?

BYRON: Let me ask you something, Fred, when did Dr. Silkworth give you this prescription?

FRED: Three years ago.

BYRON: Impossible. The good doctor died in 1951.

FRED: (*angrily*) You callin' me a liar?

BYRON: No...uh, let's just move on to the next item.

(*Fred reaches into box and pulls out a photo and hands it to Byron*)

BYRON: Okay Fred, what do we have here?

FRED: This is a photo of me and Sister Ignatia.

BYRON: **The** sister Ignatia who probably helped over 10,000 alcoholics in her lifetime?

FRED: One and the same!

BYRON: This was taken in San Francisco, correct?

FRED: Yes, beautiful backdrop, huh?

BYRON: Why, yes it is Fred. Especially the Transamerica Building which started construction in 1969, three years after Sister Ignatia passed away!

FRED: What are you trying to say?

BYRON: What I am trying to say Fred is this is not Sister Ignatia! (*pointing to the picture*) My goodness, this woman isn't even a nun! She appears to be a street musician of some sort!

FRED: I always thought you were a snooty son of a...

BYRON: (*cutting him off*) Hey! What was that prescription by Dr. Silkworth for anyway?

FRED: None of your business!

BYRON: Look, can we just see your last item and get it over with?

FRED: *(gives Byron a hard look for a moment then reaches into box and pulls out a book)* Ah, yes. Here it is. The creme-de-la-creme. *(holds it up)*

BYRON: What is that, Fred?

FRED: A first edition of the Big Book signed by Dr. Bob with a personal note to yours truly. *(hands it to Byron)* Be careful with that.

BYRON: *(looks up, slowly looks down and exhales)* Okay. Where do I begin?

FRED: Well, first read the inscription.

BYRON: *(opens up front cover and reads)* "To Fred, Keep it simple. God bless, Dr. Bob Smith. P.S. Go Raiders!

FRED: Pretty cool, huh?

BYRON: That's not the word I would choose. Fred, this is a **FOURTH EDITION!** It says so right here on the cover! It was printed in 2001; half a century after Dr. Bob died! "Smith" does not have an "e" on the end of it! The Oakland Raiders became a team in 1960 ten years after Dr. Bob's death!

FRED: Oh I get it. You're a 4ger fan, right?

BYRON: That is not the point! Do you understand?

FRED: Look, how much is my stuff worth? That's all I want to know.

BYRON: *(reaches into his pocket and pulls out tokens)* I'll tell you what Fred. Instead of going through the hassle of an auction, I'll take these valuable items off your hands right now. *(holds a token up)* These are 16th century Spanish gold dabloons. I'll give you three of them for your three items.

FRED: *(Fred picks up a token and looks at it)* Wow, these dabloons are cool. Hey look, they have a roman numeral and the circle triangle on the front and the serenity prayer on the back.

BYRON: Yes, Fred. Spanish conquistadors is ...uh, where we got a lot of our AA...stuff from.

FRED: Cool. Thanks Byron.

BYRON: Thank you Fred. *(to audience)* I have got to get a real job.

ANNOUNCER: That's all the time we have today. Join us next week for more exciting sobriety artifacts on AA Antiques Roadshow! I'm Rusty Relic saying so long for now!

THE END