

## IN MEMORIAM TREASURE RICE

*The Recovery family lost a much-loved, eminently valued member when Treasure Rice passed away on February 18 at the age of 90. Her influence on our organization—and on so many of our members' lives—is immeasurable. Her presence will continue to be felt as long as there are Recovery meetings anywhere in the world. What follows are a series of tributes submitted to The Reporter in recent weeks, beginning with an obituary written by Treasure's daughter, Treasure Ann Sachnoff. Recovery, Inc. will honor Treasure at our 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on May 28, 2005.*



### **Obituary for Treasure Rice** by Treasure Ann Sachnoff

Treasure Rice, age 90, passed away on February 18, 2005. Born in Bad Axe, Michigan, Treasure met her future husband and soul mate, William L. Rice, D.O. (deceased 1994) at the age of 14. To help her widowed mother financially, Treasure dropped out of the University Of Michigan School of Music and sang with a band, often on coast-to-coast radio. She would dedicate songs to Bill so he could hear her sing while he was at medical school. They married upon his graduation and started a family in Brighton, Michigan. As a result of some of her own challenges, Treasure soon became a pioneer in self-help mental health as she received help from and then worked with the neuropsychiatrist, Abraham A. Low, M.D. Dr. Low founded Recovery, Inc., which has helped tens of thousands of people with mental and emotional problems through weekly group meetings (including in Pittsburgh). Next to her husband and two children, Treasure's life-long passion was for her work in Recovery, Inc. She was

also a founding Board member of the Abraham A. Low Institute, a further extension of Low's work.

People who knew Treasure remember her beautiful smile, her compassion, and her sense of humor. She has been a resident of Canterbury Place in Pittsburgh, PA since 1998.

Mrs. Rice is survived by her son, William Haley Rice, and his wife Peg of Kalispell, MT; daughter Treasure Ann Sachnoff and her husband Bruce of Fox Chapel, PA; grandchildren Haley Greene, Brain Anderson, Jason Cajune and Sarah Smith; great grandchildren Lindsey and Heather Greene, Sarah and Billy Gibson, and Sophia Cajune; and sisters-in-law Joan Aldrich and Joan Rice.

Memorial donations can be sent to Recovery, Inc., 802 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610 or the Abraham A. Low Institute, 550 Frontage Road, Northfield, IL 60093.



### **Some Thoughts About Treasure Rice** from Douglas Elbert, Waco, TX


Treasure Rice was a very special lady. The first thing that comes into my mind when I think of Treasure was her tremendous compassion for those suffering from a psychiatric illness. You could tell that she had suffered greatly by the empathy you could feel flowing from her.

Treasure was President of Recovery, Inc. for most of the years that I worked at Recovery headquarters from 1967-72. I don't remember her ever raising her voice or being upset when we made mistakes—which were not infrequent.

I think everyone looked to Treasure for guidance on administrative and policy matters just as everyone (including Treasure and Mrs. Low) looked to Phil Crane for guidance on the Recovery Method and Group Meeting procedures.

In fact, I recall a conversation in 1970 with a representative from NIMH (National Institute for Mental Health), a year when Treasure was not President. He asked, "Who is the power behind the scenes in





Recovery?" I had never heard that expression before, but I knew the answer was "Treasure Rice", because everyone looked to her for leadership when we weren't sure what to do.

Treasure dedicated an enormous amount of her time and energy over the years as a volunteer to Recovery, Inc., and to its work. She put Recovery's needs first over her own interests—she had benefited from Recovery, Inc. and Dr. Low, and gave back to the work of Recovery, selflessly.

Treasure spearheaded the major expansion drive in Michigan that resulted in 120 groups and 1,331 paid members in Michigan by the end of 1970. Treasure was President of Recovery, Inc. during most of its Five Year Development Plan (1967-71) when 219 groups were added nationally, growing from 587 to 808 total groups by the end of 1971.

Treasure inspired and encouraged everyone she met. She visited almost all the major areas in the 1960's, often in conjunction with Leader Training Conferences. She did more for Recovery than anyone will ever know, benefiting thousands directly and tens of thousands indirectly.

What we need in Recovery, Inc. today is a few more Treasure Rices. And...wasn't Treasure well named? Thank you, Treasure Rice.



### **A Tribute to Treasure Rice**

from Joan L. Nobiling, Rochester, NY

*The verse on the sympathy card I purchased to send to the family of Treasure Rice said, "May time ease your grief and loving memories bring you peace." I realized how applicable those words were for those of us in Treasure's Recovery, Inc. family and for me personally. I then decided to share this loving memory in tribute to Treasure Rice.*

Our phone rang one evening several years ago and to my surprise it was Treasure calling. We chatted for a few minutes and then she said that she wanted to speak to me about Gerry, my husband. She wondered if he might be willing to lead a group meeting for family

members as a part of the Abraham A. Low's Institute's pilot Relative's Project.

I said I doubted it but that he was there and she'd need to speak with him. She said that would be fine and the two of them talked. I was amazed when he agreed to her request. I shouldn't have been. She was so good at convincing others to be group-minded. She demonstrated that ability herself as she shared so willingly with Recovery folks.

It was decided that the meeting would be held in the same location and at the same time that my Recovery group met. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have the relatives' group participants sit in with our group for the reading and one or two examples as an orientation to Recovery, Inc. They would then move to a meeting room next door to ours to share their own examples and rejoin us for mutual aid. An invitation was extended to family members of our Recovery group. Meetings began. After a while Gerry's group decided to merge with our group. Amazingly enough it has worked very well.

I'd attended Recovery meetings for almost 20 years while my husband had stayed at home. Now he, too, was in Recovery, Inc. thanks to Treasure Rice's invitation. I am certain that Treasure never expected to influence marriages but by that invitation she certainly influenced ours. We will be married 44 years this August. The years since we've been attending Recovery have been our very best ones. We give examples, share spotting and practice, practice, practice. Gerry believes that Recovery's method can benefit anyone. We feel fortunate that we had the opportunity to let Treasure know how much the invitation she extended to Gerry had benefited us personally.

*We owe her so much and we will always remember her "Recovery type marriage counseling" all the days of our lives. May she rest in peace. We'll miss her very much.*



## From the Abraham A. Low Institute

The Board of Directors of the Abraham A. Low Institute are greatly saddened by the passing of its founding Board member, Treasure Rice. Mrs. Rice became a patient of Abraham Low in 1947 and thereafter played a major role in the development and expansion of Recovery Inc. A native of Bad Axe, Michigan, she organized Recovery groups throughout that state, and worked tirelessly with Recovery headquarters in Chicago to build a strong foundation for the organization after Abraham Low's death in 1954. Her efforts were a major factor in the survival and flourishing of Recovery Inc. for the past 67 years.



In 1989, Treasure Rice helped to found the Abraham Low Institute and brought to it her profound understanding of Low's self-help mental health system. Her advice and instruction guided the Board of Directors as it adapted Low's system to new audiences: especially relatives of those suffering from mental illness, through The Relatives Project, and ex-prisoners, through The Power to Change program. She was an invaluable communicator to everyone with whom the Low Institute had contact. Her wisdom will be greatly missed, as will her beautiful demeanor and sense of humor. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family, and especially to her daughter and son-in-law, fellow Low Institute founding Board members Treasure Ann and Bruce Sachnoff.



### **Remembering Treasure Rice** from Joan Rice, Sacramento, CA

It was so predictable. Whenever I mentioned Treasure Rice in conversations with people who didn't know her, they always would say, "Oh, what a different name" and I would reply, "Yes, and that name perfectly describes Treasure."

Why was I so often telling people about Treasure? There were all the things that she had done for Recovery, Inc.: having been Dr. Low's patient and then going back to Michigan and starting over 60 Recovery groups; being on the early Recovery Board; serving as President for many years; and helping to establish a firm base for Recovery, Inc.

But it was much more that made me describe Treasure to those who had never met her. It was the things that she said. Anyone who met and spoke with Treasure would never forget her and would be looking forward to the next time they might meet.

Treasure had a knack for saying just what you needed to hear. It might be some Recovery "spotting" that was exactly the help that you needed at that moment. Or, it might be a kind question about your family or your job or your general well being, followed by a warm, right-from-the-heart comment, often with humor and always with a smile.

Treasure cared about people. And all of us who were lucky enough to know her would benefit from that acquaintance. Ask anyone – "How do you remember Treasure Rice?" - and you will hear a story that probably starts with "She helped me so much with something she told me." Treasure, you are forever in our hearts.



**From Ralph Jungheim**  
Marina del Rey, CA

Treasure Rice was Recovery's President when I first met her back in the mid-60s. I will never forget her ever-smiling face and many kindnesses. Serving on what was then the Public Relations Committee, I was fairly new to Recovery and very excited about the opportunity to help Recovery become better known. Treasure was always patient and encouraging to all of us who were making the effort. Her never-failing demonstration of Dr. Low's method was an inspiration to me.





**From Celinda Jungheim**  
Marina del Rey, CA

I knew Treasure beginning in the 70s when I was first going to Annual Meetings in Chicago and Treasure was President. She demonstrated so many of the best things we learn in Recovery Inc. She knew how to express her feelings without temper - and usually with humor. I remember she and Betty Keniston doing their 'old ladies in the nursing home' skit. They laughed at themselves and demonstrated to us all. I value letters I have received from Treasure, sometimes written in pencil, on plain lined paper - nothing fancy. Such humility! And I especially will miss Treasure bringing us all back to realism when we get off on a tangent in Recovery - trying to be exceptional in some "spot" or taking a narrow view of a policy. She would remind us in a gentle way of the total view. It is hard to even imagine where Recovery, Inc. would be today if it wasn't for Treasure.



**From Marilyn Low Schmitt**  
Los Angeles, CA

I have known Treasure Rice for most of my life, since she became a patient of my father in 1947. I remember her for her tireless energy in expanding Recovery throughout Michigan and then, with Phil Crane, across the country. I remember her beautiful demeanor and fun-loving sense of humor, which could even be a bit wicked. And I remember her absolute devotion to Recovery. She had the most profound understanding of the Recovery Method of anyone I've known.

Then in 1989, she joined in the effort to establish the Abraham Low Institute. During the intervening years since then, she kept us on track as the chief protector of Abraham Low's concepts and techniques. Her astute ability to detect the smallest "wrong note" was invaluable to our development of The Power to Change program.

I shall miss Treasure's delightful personality and high intelligence. And I shall be forever thankful for her decades of work in Recovery Inc.



**From Betty Lichtenstein**  
Silver Spring, Maryland


I shall never forget the first time I met Treasure. It was October 1961 at a church in Manhattan, NY. Treasure was conducting a leader training conference before a large audience. During the conference, some of the attendees were argumentative, challenging and disruptive. Needless to say, I was having symptoms. I observed that Treasure was composed, calm and objective regardless of the distress around her. I was so impressed and inspired by her conduct, I knew she was truly a special person and someone to emulate.



**Tribute to Treasure Rice**  
from Phyllis Low Berning

A smile comes to my face whenever I think of Treasure. She was certainly aptly named. My first memories of her were when I was a teenager and she would come to our home to talk with my father about expanding Recovery beyond the Chicago area. She was always a favorite of mine because she was so personable and charming.





Treasure was instrumental in the expansion of Recovery both before and after my father's death. She had an engaging demeanor which was combined with a determination that produced amazing results. She used those qualities to spread the word about the Recovery organization and encourage the formation of new groups. She guided Recovery for many years, and her influence was felt by everyone in the organization.

The Abraham Low Institute would not have been launched without the prodding of Treasure Rice. She saw the possibilities of applying the Low System of Self-help to populations other than those with mental and nervous disorders. As usual, she was right.

I, along with many other people, will miss Treasure. I feel fortunate that she touched my life and that I was able to know her and spend time with her. She was one of a kind.



**From Lana MacKellar**  
Port Hope, Ontario, Canada

I cannot remember the date I first met Treasure. It was in my beginning years of joining Recovery, Inc., which is 38 years ago. She has been an inspiration ever since. Her wisdom and insight were remarkable and these last years were sorrowful as we realized she could no longer give us this help. The news of her passing is still a great loss. All of us in leadership can honour her memory by continuing our efforts to serve Recovery.



**A Memorial Tribute to Treasure Rice**  
from Brian Colgan, Hasbrouck, NJ

A special friend in Recovery has gone away to a place of peace, where there is no pain, suffering or mental illness. Treasure Rice, thank you for being a part of Recovery, for doing all that you did. May you rest in peace.

## From Gary Collier, Sacramento CA

Like many others, I have very fond memories of Treasure. I served with her for six years on the Low Institute Board. She was the driving force behind getting the Institute started, and even though she was in frail health even then, her energy and enthusiasm were remarkable and made it very easy to see how she was one of the major influences in founding Recovery before Low's death and in helping it survive and prosper after he passed away. I really miss her--as will everyone who knew her.

