



When the Grapevine was a New York City newsletter and AA itself was just nine years old, the monthly "Along the Metropolitan Circuit" pages held the flavor of how AA worked then - and perhaps only a few differences from how it works now. What follows are some insights from 1944 Grapevines into carrying the message in one AA metropolitan center through group life, individual twelfth stepping, and public information.

**July:** Mount Vernon Group News - A special open meeting to which the clergy, medical profession, court and probation officers, and social workers were invited was held. The interest aroused has brought us a deluge of inquiries for further information. Invitations have been received for guest speakers to the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Club luncheons. The cooperation we have received from the courts has been most gratifying.

**August:** New Jersey Notes - A comedy-drama written around AA was presented at the New Jersey State Re-

formatory for Women by members of the recently established group there. Authored by the inmates, the piece was presented before an audience composed of members of several North Jersey groups in appreciation of their assistance in starting the group at the institution.



**August:** To get the individual and personal contact with new members, Mount Vernon is using "Sponsor Cards." This card is in two parts. One part has the list of inter-group meetings on one side and on the reverse the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three older members. This is given to the new member, he is introduced to his sponsors, and it is suggested that he keep in touch with them when he gets that lonesome feeling or if the butterflies start fluttering . . . The other part of the card has

the new member's name, address, etc. and is given to the first sponsor with the instruction that he keep this person under his wing for a few weeks until he has some understanding of the program.

**September:** "Brooklyn Revives Old Custom" - At our closed meetings we have revived an old AA custom: discussing only one Step at each meeting. The members know in advance which Step will be under discussion. The result is a highly informative and interesting evening.

**October:** "Manhattan Member Twelfth Steps on Street Corner" - John B. can be found every Sunday around noon at the corner of 207th Street and Broadway. Hard by are several gin mills. In his own words, John was for years "one of the worst rummies" of that 95 percent Irish district.



He knows everybody, everybody knows him and that he is now sober because he is in AA. John stands and waits. He never approaches any of the jittery men waiting for the bars to open at 1:00 p.m. He waits for them to come to him. They do. Many of them. Result: John gets all the twelfth-step work he can handle - right there.

**December:** "Manhattan Happenings" (excerpts) - Olive O., lying ill ... in St. Luke's Hospital, was responsible for the furtherance of AA among doctors. Olive talked so much and so well to



Dr. Dwight Griswold of the hospital staff about AA that he gladly accepted an invitation to the 10th anniversary AA dinner at the Commodore. He was so tremendously impressed that he chose Alcoholic Anonymous as the subject of the paper he was going to read before the New York County Medical Association.

**December:** "Bronx Combat Teams" - We have evolved a twelfth-step work procedure of our own: a couple of old-timers, together with one or two newcomers, visit prospects. In this way the new members quickly learn the method of working with prospects; in no time at all the older members are sitting back and listening to the newer ones take over. Our "combat teams" are bringing great results, for our membership is growing by leaps and bounds.