

July 1944

BILL'S TRIP SOUTH

Bill and Lois have returned from a two weeks' trip through the South, as guests of eight A.A. groups: Jacksonville, Miami, Daytona and Tampa, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; and Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tennessee. The *Miami Herald*, Bill tells us, divided its front page nearly equally between the war and A.A. on the day of the meeting; results, over four hundred people attended.

Two days were spent in Atlanta, where elaborate plans had been made (*naturally-they're alcoholics, too!*) including a luncheon at which Bill spoke before one hundred selected doctors, ministers, and leading business-men, another luncheon of a combination of civic groups sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and an open meeting which was attended by the Mayor, members of the Governor's staff, and many other local notables.

In Birmingham, besides the usual open A.A. meeting, Bill was asked to address the monthly guest-luncheon of the town's swankest luncheon-club, which had already contracted to hear the Governor of Alabama on that date. The Governor, believe it or not, was put off until the next month so that the gathering could hear about Alcoholics Anonymous straight from the mouth of its First Member.

Among those listening were the Mayor of Birmingham, the ex-Governor of Alabama, and several members of Congress. They'd come to hear Bill talk, not the other way 'round!