

May 1951



CALGARY STAMPEDE

BACK in the spring of 1945 a non-alcoholic resident of Calgary, Alberta, inaugurated a Calgary Stampede of his own. It all began with a sincere desire to assist his alcoholic brother out of his difficulties.

He contacted the General Service Headquarters and was immediately referred to the secretary of the then small Vancouver Group. Armed with the Big Book, pamphlets and literature from the Foundation and suggestions on group procedure from Vancouver, the non-alcoholic set about riding

Calgary's untamed broncos. In an early letter to the National Headquarters he said, "We're trying to take it easy up here ... trying not to push things too fast."

During the spring and summer of 1945, things did move slowly ... almost discouragingly so. The non-alcoholic and his now sober brother pursued many prospective AAs, with almost no success except that the alcoholic member of the team was happily sober himself. In September, came the inquiry that started the chain reaction in Calgary. A minister call-

ed in search of help for the husband of one of his congregation. The meeting of these two men in September, 1945 marked the official beginning of the Calgary Group.

They reached another milestone when they rented a hall and inserted an ad in the daily paper. After that it was more difficult to — "take it easy and not push things..."

Now, in Calgary many of the seemingly untamable broncos no longer buck and rear and snort... they meet quietly and happily in a new and beautiful corral.. a large home purchased by the Alberta Provincial Government for the exclusive use of the Calgary AA Groups ... three of them with approximately 200 members.

Over in the Prairie Province of Saskatchewan, AA growth has moved along with the usual quota of growing pains. From Lumsden, Saskatchewan, recently came a remark that it was an experience of laughter mixed with tears to know that from the very outset the growing pains of New York groups were no different from those suffered in the prairie country. New York, they say has nothing on Regina when it comes to the location of their central office ...they go New York one better. Regina has meeting rooms over the West End Cleaners and the Regina Steam laundry ... if you don't get cleaned one place, they say you do in the other.

Saskatchewan has now formed a central committee to guide the AA

needs of the province. It is yet on a temporary basis with the Chairman in Kamrack, the secretary treasurer in Lumsden and an extra member in Prince Albert. These towns are at least two hundred miles apart but by letter and telephone they manage to give the province problems thought and consideration.

The realization of the necessity for such a committee came about after, it is said, the Regina Group was cleaned up at the steam laundry and obtained the Saskatchewan Hotel for its first Roundup.

And so AA dreams and grows to make the dreams come true. Distance is no barrier... whether it be in Calgary or Lumsden, Regina or Misistik, the AA Roundup grows.

