

June 1950

There Wasn't Time For a Stitch in Nine



Editor's Note: See Arena on Page 39

WE are told that a certain amount of apprehension exists because the large International Conference at Cleveland in July may seriously affect attendance at other regional gatherings near that date; also that the Cleveland Conference has been sponsored heavily by the Foundation, Grapevine, Dr. Bob and myself thus placing the Cleveland project in a preferred position.

That there is some truth in these assertions is self evident; enough, I think, to warrant an explanatory statement.

Like most new ideas in AA that catch on, this one went from the size of a man's hand to cloudburst dimensions in a few weeks. It was realized after the International Conference idea had swept the Middle west—and all too late—that such a gathering might draw AAs away from other regional meetings, notably the fine Southeastern Convention to be held at Miami in June.

Nor was there any possibility of shifting the Cleveland date, for midsummer was the only possible time when there would be enough hotel space to hold the great crowd expected.

Personally, I'm regretful this has happened, and I hope no one will pass up his regional meeting because seized with the fever to be at Cleveland. I guess it's just one of those things—but one which needn't happen again.

In *The A.A. Grapevine*, Dr. Bob and I recently set forth several very special reasons for holding our first AA "International" in this good year, 1950. But we did not wish to set any precedent for such an International gathering yearly; once in every five or ten summers may prove enough.

So naturally, when 1955 or 1960 rolls around, we shall certainly give everybody one year's notice, at least!