

August 1960

Vermont Salutes AA

BY PROCLAMATION of Governor Robert T. Stafford, the state of Vermont will take official note of AA's twenty-fifth anniversary in a week-long celebration next October, according to an announcement issued jointly by the Governor, the University of Vermont, and AA groups of Vermont. The Vermont origins of the two founders of Alcoholics Anonymous—Bill and Dr. Bob—will receive special emphasis in the Governor's proclamation.

A high point of the ceremonies to be held during the week of October 16-22 will be Governor Stafford's presentation, on behalf of the state of Vermont, of a "citation to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous." Dr. John Norris, a non-alcoholic trustee and vice-chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, will accept the citation for AA at a ceremony scheduled to take place on Friday evening, October 21, on the University of Vermont campus.

Following the presentation, members of the faculties of the UVM College of Medicine, St. Michael's College, Norwich University, and Middlebury College will direct questions to three AA members from the General Service Office in New York. Among the questioners — whose in-

tent is to make professional inquiry into the basis and methods of the AA program of recovery from alcoholism — will be a medical doctor, a sociologist, a psychologist, and a political scientist.

Bill W., AA's surviving co-founder, will address the gathering after the discussion period, presenting material about the early experiences of AA and its development. Bill's participation in this meeting is expected to attract the interest of professional people.

The following day—Saturday, October 22—workshop discussions are scheduled, with both AA members and non-AA professional people present to answer questions and discuss problems that may be brought up by anyone attending the session. On the evening of the same day a "giant but otherwise typical" AA meeting will take place in the Memorial Auditorium in Burlington at which Bill W. —and others from New York City— will speak. All meetings scheduled for the special anniversary observation are open to the public.

During the entire week beginning October 16, according to the announcement, individual members of AA will make themselves available for anonymous interviews via newspapers, radio, and television. (*End*)