AND SUDDENLY . . . it's about that time again.

When delegates from the North, South, East and West will pack their bags with eagerness and enthusiasm. And set out by plane, train and car for the Eighth General Service Conference of AA in New York.

There in assemblage later this month, they will typify once more the ONE-NESS of our fellowship in unity and service.

Each delegate is an important link between his (or her) area and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Each can play a key role in formulating decisions leading to greater growth in solidarity and achievement.

How he exercises his responsibility to the Conference may determine AA's over-all attitudes in important matters of policy.

Because not one of the delegates has done his thinking in an ivory tower, his opinions will reflect the basic thoughts and desires of the groups within his area, at the same time being ever-mindful of what is best for the entire membership.

(And by the way, breathes there a delegate who never to himself has said, "Now if AA were to do it my way . . ." ?)

To all the delegates who will "mind the store" during this Conference . . . may your watchwords be serenity, courage and wisdom.

We of the Grapevine staff are looking forward to renewing our friendship with the second-year delegates who served at last year's Conference, and to meeting and greeting those for whom it will be the first time.

We're waiting for you . . . and a Happy Easter to everybody!