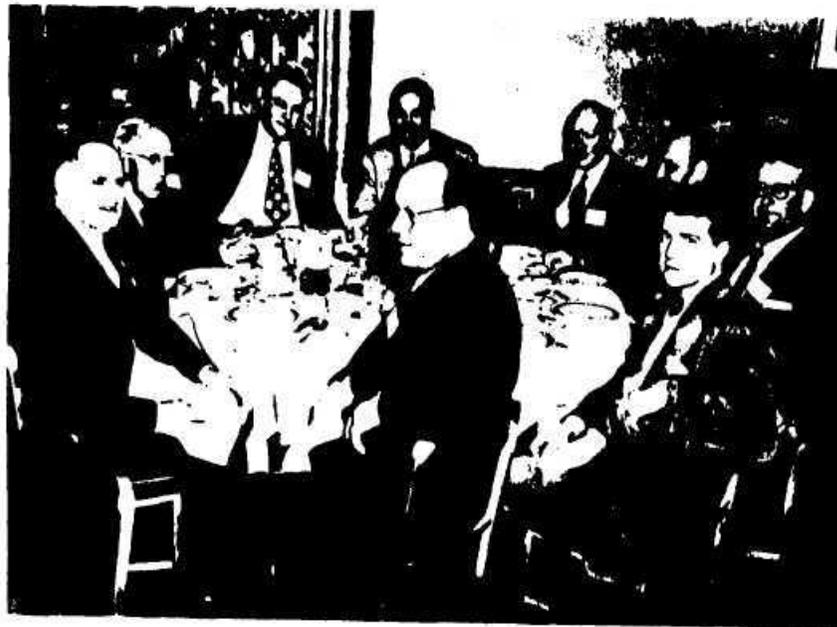


June 1951

Conference
Post Script's

Some Random Sidelights
From the Notebook of the
Grapevine's Roving Kibitzer.



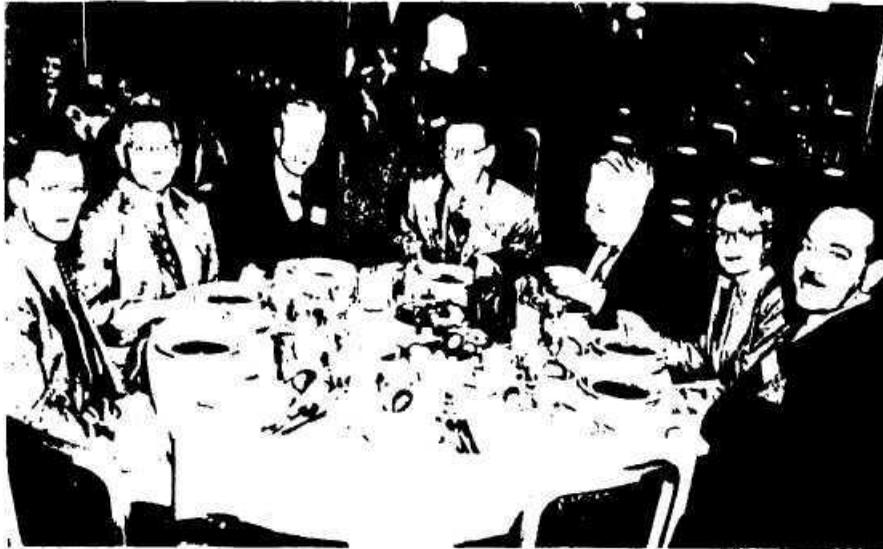
PANEL PORTRAITS - Delegates represented a total of more than two centuries of sobriety. Giving their best thinking to the business sessions were men who 9 to 5 are busy in their communities as lawyer, newspaperman, insurance executive, swimming pool salesman, airport vice president, public relations counsel, real estate agent, government worker, advertising production man, stock broker, and other occupations in which, curiously, they once thought drinking was "unavoidable in my line of work."

STATISTICS - 37 delegates from 26 States, the District of Columbia and 2 Canadian provinces. Thirty-three hours of actual conference sessions packed into 72 hours from the Thursday registration to Sunday's adjournment.



Conference
Post-Script's

TRAVEL NOTES——Nearest delegate 23 minutes by subway from Hollis, Long Island. Furthest delegate 2,606 miles by plane from San Francisco. Furthest foreign delegates 15,664 from Brazil (number of coffee beans used to make official conference beverage.)



WEATHER REPORT - Warm friendships, cool heads, dry thinking, steady winds (383,412 words are estimated to have been used, allowing for 33 hours of discussion by single speakers, 8 hours and 21 minutes when two speakers spoke at once and 2 hours and 11 minutes of multiple voice raisings)

CASUALTIES - Other than neglected wives (17 who got acquainted with their delegate husbands

on the way back home) there was only one minor mishap. Two delegates (ah, anonymity!) attended Broadway hit "Out Of This World." They talked AA throughout the hit show and left the theatre exchanging viewpoints with their overcoats forgotten and temporarily out of this world. P.S.: a very non-AA coatroom girl forwarded the coats back into their hometown world.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES — For the visiting wives, a delightful Saturday morning ride 40 miles north to luncheon with Lois at Bill's house. A marvelous time reported by all until seven in the pleasant May evening.

SIGHTSEEING tour by far-out-of-towners at 1 a.m. after a conference session that lasted until midnight. Up the West Side highway along the Hudson, across through Harlem and down the East River in open-top convertibles. Gaping at star-hung skyscrapers in the wee small hours, in a stone-dry night-owl prowl.

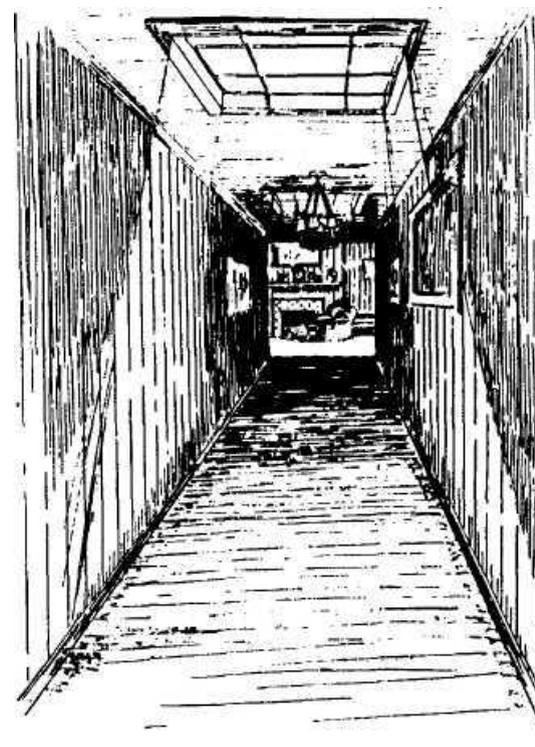
FAVORITE NON-AA SPORTS of the delegates turned out to be subway trips, the automat and seeing the Statue of Liberty from the Staten Island ferry boat. Who said you can't be normal?

AA OVERTIME - Perhaps never before had delegates to any kind of conference (the U.N. not excepted) set such a record of per-

fect attendance at each of the six sessions. And between sessions in the three crowded days there were visits in ones and twos and small groups to Knickerbocker hospital ... and words of cheer to very new patients from visitors from across the Rockies and the deep South and neighbor Canada, and pleasant "after hours" coffee (yes, again) at 24 Hour Club. And calls at 46th Street's Alanon and the Bowery's 12th Step House. AA's from far away cramming in the sights and sounds of AA in Gotham. Sunday, an hour after the final adjournment of the Conference, thirteen states attended the regular meeting of Manhattan Group.

Said one midwestern delegate ... "It was downstairs in a church. The place was pretty much like back home. The cakes and coffee weren't any fancier, the folks were just like folks we have on Tuesday nights.

Yes sir, AA's a small world, isn't it?"



Some Delegates Wanted To Buy A Building

One of the "musts" on the AA Conference sightseeing list was the old 24th Street Clubhouse — the first AA clubhouse anywhere. The delegates were enchanted with the place, just as New Yorker AAs always have been. The visitors made a point of visiting "Bill's room" where Bill and Lois once lived and which Bill still uses. Under the spell of the place's warmth and charm some delegates suggested that it ought to be bought and preserved as an historic AA landmark. If anyone — in or out of New York is interested in such a project, drop a note to Building Committee at that famous funny address - 334½ W. 24th St. New York, N.Y.

