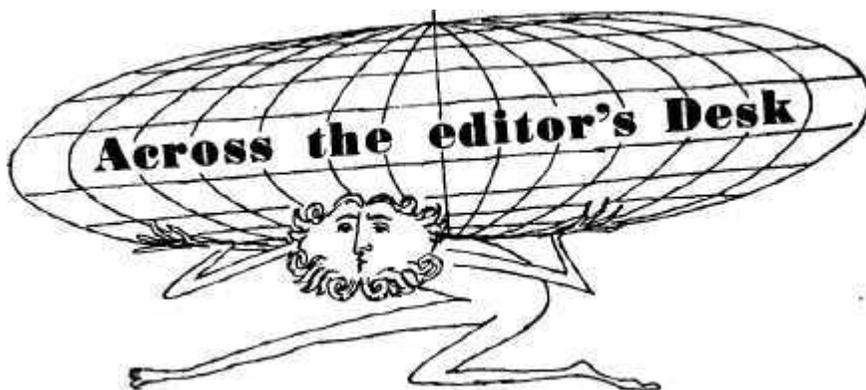


October 1958



Let Us Read- -and Thank God

By *Bill W.*

THIS is Grapevine's first International Issue, and I'm mighty glad to see it going to press.

This event reminds me that the Grapevine's original charter was drawn by an AA lawyer, since gone to his reward. He was a fine lawyer, too. Therefore, his charter was a workmanlike and properly legalistic job. But our departed friend was much more than a good draftsman. He was an AA with a vision—a vision of what the AA of the future could be and what part the Grapevine could play to make that dream come true.

When he wrote the "general purpose" clause of the charter he quite forgot being the lawyer and launched into an extra-enthusiastic portrayal of the Grapevine's purposes and prospects—so much so that in the pioneering year of 1944 his vision seemed all too far-fetched for most of us.

One of his phrases has always stuck by me. He pictured the Grapevine as AA's "Magic Carpet" which could instantly transport every reader to countless cities and hamlets and to those still lonesome outposts on distant shores where our society would one day flourish.

Like no other, this International Issue shows our friend's dream fulfilled. In the brief fourteen years since he penned that first charter, his early vision has been far surpassed by the glorious reality of what has actually taken place among us.

Let us read this issue from cover to cover—and thank God.