

January 1945

WAR GAVE FLORIDA GROUP FLYING START

A.A. would have inevitably have come to Jacksonville some day, but we are grateful to an Executive Officer of the Naval Air Training Station for bringing A.A. to us as far back as the beginning of the present world conflict.

By April 18, 1941, he had formed a nucleus of a group with four alcoholics, and we are very proud that these four men are sober, dependable representatives of this city today. They found the going rough, just as our cofounders did in the beginning. But today, we have risen from the original four men to sixty-eight men and women. Meetings were first held in homes; later a leading hotel offered the group accommodations one night each week. When we got squarely on our feet with about fifteen members, we moved into our own Club Rooms, and one year ago we found it necessary to again move to much larger quarters. We now have the use of a fraternal organization's hall to accommodate our open meetings, numbering one hundred and more members and guests.

We are now in the experimental stage with Squad Meetings, dividing the city into four zones, and this will produce a more closely knit system of calls and follow-ups on prospects, as well as proper size classes for the study of the 12 Steps and other fundamentals necessary for a successful group.

The Jacksonville group has also

found much stimulation in inter-city meetings. Recently a joint meeting between the Daytona Beach - Orlando - Jacksonville and Crescent City groups was held at Daytona Beach.

Jacksonville is at last coming into its own with the medical profession, although war conditions have made it impossible for A.A. or any organization to get any hospital interested in an alcoholic ward. We are also looked upon with much favor by certain members of the ministry, civic organizations and law enforcement authorities, due to a great extent to their attendance at our last annual banquet, where the principal address was given by the one and only Bill W. This banquet helped to swing one of the newspapers over to us, which is a tremendous help.

Yes, the ill-winds of war brought consternation and suffering to many in Jacksonville, but by the Grace of God it brought a Naval Officer to us with A.A.

Many A.A.s come to, and pass through Jacksonville as the Gateway to Florida. We extend a most cordial invitation for all to contact us at our Club Rooms, 204 East Bay Street, telephone 5-7646, open every night with closed meetings Thursday nights. Open meetings are held Monday night at 127 East Bay Street.

J.L.A., Jacksonville, Florida