

July 1945

Where the AA. Beacon Was Lit

Akron, "the hill where the A.A. beacon was lit," was a mecca for approximately 400 other A.A.s on the same evening (June 10) that the anniversary meeting in Cleveland was drawing to a close.

The occasion was the Founder's Day Dinner, held at the Hotel Mayflower, and the group of speakers included those who helped to light the beacon. Bill W. and Dr. Bob, hurrying over from the Cleveland meeting, spoke, as did Bill D., of Akron, who was a part of that A.A. nucleus. Other speakers were Jake H., one of the organizers of the Pittsburg group; and Earl T., of Chicago. Joe P., of Akron, was toastmaster and Wally G., also of Akron, was chairman of the dinner committee.

Attendance at the dinner reached approximately 80 percent of the membership of Akron's eight sizable and highly active groups.

Drawing on the fact that the name "Akron" is derived from a Greek word meaning "summit," Bill said at one point in his talk:

"It was here that the miracle really happened. This is the hill where the A.A. beacon was lit 10 years ago. From here the light spread outward to guide others and is now casting its glow over a widening area."

Both Bill and Dr. Bob recalled briefly the beginnings of A.A. and with obvious gratitude and pleasure referred again to their first meeting in Akron. "No wonder," said Bill, "that we have a particular feeling for Akron."