You may know someone under the impression that General Service Conference Delegates do a lot of sightseeing when they come to New York. As any past Delegate could tell him, they don't even get to see the New York skyline once the Conference opens—so here it is! This may be all they will see of New York.

Working sessions run from 9:30 A.M.—until 10 P.M. daily. The meeting lasts for six action-filled days.

Delegates' Questions Come First April 19-24

First item of business for G.S. Conference Delegates is not just listening to speeches. Right after introductions and necessary opening preliminaries, Delegates are expected to be on their feet stating the major questions they have brought from Groups back home.

Delegates have already submitted most of the discussion topics on the agenda.

And in three other ways, too, Delegates can ask questions about A.A.'s General (world) Services. (1) Anonymously written questions can be put in the “Ask-it Basket” at any time, to be answered before the entire meeting body. (2) New on the agenda this year is “Interview Time,” with all G.S.O. and Grapevine Staff Members, Trustees, and A.A.W.S. Directors available for questioning. (3) At the “Delegates Only” session, no

15th Conference Checks Itself on 9th Tradition

"Do you suppose every A.A. member who has ever served his Group or Intergroup, or done other 12th Step work, would help us by prayer, meditation, and discussion on the 9th Tradition during Conference Week?" one Delegate to the 1965 General Service Conference meeting writes us,

"I'm sure we'd do a much better job at the 15th meeting of the Conference if we knew that the folks back home were with us in spirit that way."

We like the idea, and are passing it on as a suggestion for Groups.

The 9th Tradition

"A.A. as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Conference meeting dates this year are April 19-24. Eighty-seven Delegates sent by Groups in the U.S. and Canada—gather at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York.

"Directly responsible to those they serve" is the theme for the 1965 session.

In addition to Delegates, other Conference members include General Service Board Trustees, the G.S.O. Staff, Directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. (our publishing unit), Staff and Directors of the Grapevine.
OUR MAILBOX BRINGS NEWS

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED

"I often wonder when sitting at our meetings just what would have happened to me and the other members of our Group had you not been so generous and active in New York sending us our first pamphlets and the story of A.A.

"The Exchange Bulletins keep us informed and it is a never-ending source of amazement to me just how many members do not read the 'Grapevine' or other literature.

"A.A. certainly is powerful medicine, but without replenishment the bottle must run dry in time.

"All taking and no giving will not work for any person or body of people."

--- George, Question & Answer Group, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

HOPELESS?

"When I returned, the Group here was inactive. Well, that's normal for a new Group. Then followed some hard-boiled, take-it-or-leave-it sponsoring of the town's worst, most hopeless drunk.

"You know, the kind they warn you against, saying 'Don't waste your time on him.'"

ONE MEMBER (from page 1)

Hanging up the phone we shake our heads and hope our pigeon is not on the way to getting those new wings saturated again.

Many disappear. Maybe ashamed to come back. For those, our Group has a way to let them know we remember and are thinking of them.

We send birthday cards.

Recently I became Group Secretary and soon realized that this 12th Step work was quite a task. Every day some wandering pigeon had a birthday and as each card was dropped into the box a prayer went with it and the hope that our remembering would help the troubled.

And then it happened. Just a short note addressed "To whom it may concern."

"Thank you for your birthday card. It saved me from taking a drink."

There was more, but that one sentence fulfilled our purpose.

The Group knew as these cards were going out that this pigeon was still in her cups. But somehow I will cherish this as my own Spiritual Experience.

---Detroit, Michigan

GOD WILL AMONG MEN

"I have always kept a profound prejudice against the country of U.S. As a Latin American I always looked upon all and every one of your fellow citizens as the enemies of my race and the exploiters of my country.

"Notwithstanding, so good has been the balsamic effect of your words on my spirit, that after reading your letter, that old prejudice has been totally expelled from my thoughts."

"This was a confession that will serve as a compensation and amends to the North American people, so kindly represented by you A.A. 's at G.S.O.'"

---Roque, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Result: now, this Group is composed of two once-hopeless drunks—one with 8 months, and me (12 years)."

---Jerry, Corozal, Puerto Rico

A PART, NOT A PASSENGER

"Many in this country drift up and down, making possible many meetings but being largely passengers and not active participants in the daily work.

"I have noticed in discussions of slipping patients that while they attend many meetings, they form the silent bloc at large city meetings and don't participate much in discussions, nor contribute much in the way of services. I try to talk to them about the importance of being a part and not just a passenger."

---Charlie, Bethel, Conn.

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A NICE BALANCE

"Seattle, as you have no doubt heard, is a city of hills. Queen Anne is one of its highest and at one time a cable car was the only means of ascent. This was called the counterbalance, and the avenue it ran on still bears that name in the minds of most Seattleites.

"As our Group is located at the foot of it, we have chosen this name, hoping we may attain some of the balance we so greatly need."

---Joyce, Counterbalance Group, Seattle

For Ladies Only

You gals comprise a growing segment of our A.A. population. We would like to hear from you about your A.A. joys and trials. (We plan an article for the 'Exchange Bulletin' based on your response.)

1. Are there other women in your Group? Do you have a mutually helpful and friendly relationship with them? With the non-A.A. wives?

2. Do you feel equally accepted by both the men and women in your Group?

3. Is there much call for 12th Step work among women in your community? Are you available?


For any male reader who happened in—let us know your thoughts about the female A.A. members of your Group.

Psychiatrist and Dr. Bob in "Grapevine"

APRIL

Dr. Griffith Edwards, a psychiatrist, tries to show why A.A. baffles some of his colleagues in "The Puzzle of A.A." in the new "Grapevine" with its customary April cover, the Serenity Prayer.

Also, among other choice articles there's a reprint of a famous article, "The Fundamentals—in Retrospect" by Dr. Bob S., the Akron, O., surgeon who, with Bill W., founded A.A. in 1935.

MAY

"Guardian of A.A.," by Bill W., is the 12th and last Anniversary Reprint bringing to a close Grapevine's 21st year.

"Court Class on Alcoholism," by Eugene K. Mangum, will be of special interest to institutions workers, and almost every A.A. is bound to get a thrill out of "Small World" about the Irish drunk in the Spanish hospital.
You Will Never Forget A.A.'s Greatest Meeting Yet!

30th ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TORONTO, CANADA, JULY 2-4, 1965

Bill W., Lois, Marty M. to Speak
at Big Night Meetings

Bill W., A.A.'s surviving co-founder; his wife Lois, the "first lady of Al-Anon"; Marty M., one of A.A.'s longest sober woman members; attorney Bernard Smith, nonalcoholic Trustee and former Chairman of A.A.'s General Service Board; and Dr. John L. Norris, current Board Chairman, will be principal speakers at the Friday and Saturday evening meetings which will highlight A.A.'s 30th Anniversary International Convention in Toronto.

Bill will speak both nights, once to tell his own personal story, once to review A.A.'s present and future.

The giant Maple Leaf Gardens will be the site of these joint A.A. - Al-Anon rallies, and of the Sunday morning gathering, "God As We Understand Him," at which Father Rolland Boyle, Montreal, Que., and the Rev. Gene Robinson, First Christian Church, Billings, Mont., will be the featured speakers. An A.A. speaker will also participate in the Sunday morning meeting, which closes the Convention.

Simultaneous translations into French will be available through earphones at these meetings.

Sunday night the Gardens will be the scene for the entertaining, professional, post-Convention all-star Variety Show scheduled as dessert after three days of substantial and bounteous A.A. fare.

12 Workshops and 12 "Alkathons" to Run Dawn through Midnight

A.A.'s from all over the world will tell their stories at 12 marathon A.A. meetings ("Alkathons") scheduled to run almost around the clock at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto during A.A.'s 30th Anniversary International Convention.

And more will be on the 12 "Working Panels" which will be question-and-answer workshops on A.A. subjects at 9 a.m. Friday and again Saturday, July 2 and 3.

Each Alkathon will have three speakers and a leader.

Alkathons are scheduled for 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 12 midnight Friday and Saturday. Some of A.A.'s earliest members— "the first 100" — will speak at Saturday midnight.

Three other A.A. meetings (10:30 a.m. and 2:30 Fri., and 2:30 Sat.) will include (1) An all-Canadian meeting; (2) "A.A. Around the World," with speakers from overseas; and (3) one other.

(turn over)
Twenty-One Distinguished Speakers To Feature Daytime Panels

Twenty-one outstanding authorities in their respective fields will cover a wide range of subjects relating to alcoholism at nine big daytime meetings during A.A.'s 30th Anniversary Convention.

They are all good friends of A.A. and their contributions to alcoholics recovery have been invaluable.

A.A. Trustees - alcoholic and non-alcoholic - will preside at these sessions. Here's a preliminary schedule:

10:30 A.M. FRIDAY


Luther Cloud, M.D., Vice President, Equitable Life Assurance Society of U.S.; former president, N.Y. Medical Society on Alcoholism.

A.A. AND COURTS. Judge John M. Murtagh, Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court of New York; nonalcoholic Trustee of our General Service Board.

Judge Emmett Daly, Municipal Court, City and County of San Francisco, California.

2:30 P.M. FRIDAY

A.A. AND THE CLERGY. The Rev. E.S. Lautenschlager, Principal, Emmanuel College, Victoria University - University of Toronto. The Rev. Howard Clinebell Jr., Ph.D., Professor of Pastoral Counselling, Southern California School of Theology, Claremont.


10:30 A.M. SATURDAY

ALLIES IN THE FIELD OF ALCOHOLISM. Mr. Ralph W. Daniel, Executive Director, Michigan State Board of Alcoholism, Lansing.

Mrs. Mary S., New York, Chairman, Al-Anon Family Groups Board of Trustees. Philip Morgan of the National Council on Alcoholism, New York.

A.A. AND EDUCATION. Robert Robinson, Director of Education, Ontario Addictions Research Foundation, Toronto. Sister Mary Andrew, Ph.D., Lecturer, School of Psychology and Education, Univ. of Ottawa and Pembroke General Hospital School of Nursing, Ottawa.

Selden Bacon, Ph.D., Director, Center of Alcohol Studies, Rutgers, State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

A.A. IN HOSPITALS AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES. Robert Wagner, M.D., Assistant Director, Central Islip State Hospital, Central Islip, N.Y.

Miss Bernice Morris, Attorney, founder and President, Crossroads Foundation, San Diego, California, Trustee, San Diego Council on Alcoholism. Miss Phyllis Snyder, Director, Alcoholic Treatment Center, Chicago, Ill.

HUNDREDS OF ONTARIO A.A.'S WORKING ROUND-THE-CLOCK TO ENTERTAIN VISITORS

Playing host to what will undoubtedly be the largest assemblage of recovered alcoholics in the world's history is a spectacular and mammoth volunteer job by Ontario and other Canadian A.A.'s working day and night.

How can such a complex and monumental undertaking (baby sitters; signs; interpreters; local transportation; decorations; entertainment; registration; information booths, etc., etc.) be planned and operated by A.A., which, "as such, ought never be or- ganized" (Tradition 9)?

One thing at a time, of course.

And if you want to join us in Toronto, here--one step at a time--are some suggestions:

START BY REGISTERING

You can use the Registration and Housing Reservation Form on Page 6. Last day for getting registration and housing requests into G.S.O. is May 15, but beginning June 28, and all that week, A.A. members at the Royal York will accept them and find housing for even late-comers.

At press time, over 6,000 registrations had been received--more than the total St. Louis 1955 attendance and well ahead of the Long Beach 1960 total at this date. Over 9,000 registered at Long Beach but optimistic hosts expect even more in Toronto.

GETTING THERE

Many charter flights are already booked (including two from Europe). Special plans for Canadians have been set up by Air Canada, Canadian National and Pacific Airlines, railways and bus companies.

2:30 P.M. SATURDAY

A.A. AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION. S.A. MacPherson, M.D., Head Psychologist, Queen Mary Hospital, Montreal, Quebec.

Martyn A. Block, M.D., Buffalo, N. Y. First Chairman of the Committee on Alcoholism of the American Medical Association.

A.A. IN PRISONS. Mr. Frank Miller, Ottawa, member, National Parole Board of Canada. Mr. Myrt E. Alexander, Director, U. S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D.C.

PASSPORTS

U. S. citizens need none but should bring some personal identification--birth or baptismal certificate or other proof of citizenship. Citizens of other countries should check with Canadian Consulates.

SHOPPING

Many great bargains are available for U.S. shoppers, tax-free. Each visitor has a generous duty-free allowance.

WEATHER, CLOTHES

Temperature should range from high 60's at night to low 80's daytime. Bring summer clothes, plus extra sweater and/or light raincoat to be ready for anything. Experienced A.A. women conventioneers say by all means plan for comfort, especially bring comfortable shoes.
HOTELS AND MOTELS WAITING FOR YOU.

Toronto has 8000 comfortable rooms for A.A. visitors — within minutes of the Royal York, King Edward and Maple Leaf Gardens.

HOTELS

Toronto has many good hotels — enough for more than 10,000 visitors. These are minutes away from Convention sessions and entertainment — by foot or subway or bus or taxi.

The map shows location of many. Please state your choices on the Housing Form (next page) and let the Housing Bureau take care of you.

MOTELS

There are excellent motels in Toronto. At the present time the exact rates are not available. However, the approximate prices range from $7.50 single to $12.00 double.

If you prefer to stay in a motel please write the word “motel” along side of “1st Choice” on the Housing Form and it will be confirmed.

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(The Royal York and King Edward-Sheraton are sold out except as cancellations between now and Convention time may make a few rooms available.)
OFFICIAL REGISTRATION & HOUSING FORM
for A.A.'s and Al-Anons – for everybody

A.A. 30th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION — JULY 2-4, 1965 — TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

BOTH PARTS MUST BE FILLED IN. Mail full sheet (with check payable to Convention Fund) to General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT) REGISTER those listed below for the 30th Anniversary International Convention. $5.00 per person for A.A. sessions. $8.00 for A.A. sessions plus Dance & Show.

NAME

ADDRESS (ST. & CITY, STATE/PROVINCE/COUNTRY)

A.A. OR AL-ANON

FEE

$ ____________

If you wish all receipts mailed to one individual, check box above.

When possible, badges will be made up in advance, using first name or nickname & last initial.

Please indicate below name to appear on your badge.

FIRST NAME OR NICKNAME

LAST INITIAL

FIRST NAME OR NICKNAME

LAST INITIAL

DO NOT DETACH

PLEASE PRINT

HOUSING RESERVATION FORM

All reservations must be received at G.S.O. prior to May 15, 1965.

Reserve the following rooms for the 30th Anniversary Convention:

Single rooms

Twin-Bed rooms

Double-bed rooms

Other

Maximum Rate desired: $ ____________

1st choice hotel/motel ____________________________

2nd ____________________________

3rd ____________________________

Arr. Date ____________ Hour A.M. ______ P.M.

Dep. Date ____________ Hour A.M. ______ P.M.

Write below names and addresses of persons (including children) for whom you request housing.

NAME

ADDRESS (ST. & CITY, STATE, PROVINCE, COUNTRY)

Please check name (above) of individual or individuals to whom confirmation of room reservations should be mailed.
Conference Questions Make Good Group Discussion Topics

"My Group is going to use as discussion topics next month most of the questions to be taken up at the 1965 G.S. Conference meeting. Please send us a list," writes one G.S.R.

Wonderful. Hope you get lots of good ideas to send with your Delegate, and share with the rest of us.

There isn't room for all the topics, but here are a few:

1. Do you have special programs, meetings or plans for beginners in A.A.? What works? What doesn't?

2. Does anonymity continue to be valuable as a means of attracting new A.A. members?

3. Is Al-Anon active in your area? How can A.A. and Al-Anon cooperate?

4. Have you had in your area a convention of the "International Young People in A.A."? How did it work? What were the effects?

5. Do any A.A. Groups in your area call themselves "A.A. Family Groups"? What is their real relationship to Al-Anon? How do they work?

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A.A. CALENDAR

APRIL

2-4 18th South Carolina Conv., Tar Poinsett Hotel, Greenville, S.C. Chairman, P.O. Drawer 5027, Spartanburg, S.C. or Dot T., Room 6B, Court House Bldg., Greenville, S.C.


10 Western N.C. Roundup, Chairman, Drawer X, Tryon, N.C.

15-17 III Central American, Mexico, Panama & Caribbean Conv., Guanajuato. Miguel Aguilar T., Junta Intergrupe de Servicios, Apartado Postal 7398, Mexico 1, D.F.


16-19 5th Australian Conv., Festival Hall, Brisbane, Aust. Convention Committee, Box 203, Albion, Qld., Brisbane, Aust.


30-May 1-2 8th Annual New Mexico State A.A. Conference Chapparal Hotel, Ruidoso Downs, N.M. Write: 810 W. Brownlee, Las Cruces, N.M.

MAY

1-3 Annual Scottish Conv., "Dunblane Hydro Hotel," Perthshire. Jack MacG., 1 Harvie St., Glasgow, S.W. 1, Scot.

1-2 5th Chicago Intergroup Conv., Mac-Cormick Place, Conference Comm., 523 E. Park Ave., Elmhurst, Ill.

14-16 14th Tennessee State Conv., Patten Hotel, Chattanooga, Tenn.

15-16 Montana Allied A.A. Groups Spring Conference, Great Falls, Mont. DeMoyal Memorial Bldg. Write: P.O. Box 1082, Great Falls, Mont.

28-30 9th Annual Florida State Conv., Fort Harrison Hotel, Clearwater, Fl. Chairman, P.O. Box 42, Clearwater, Fl.

JUNE

4-6 Oklahoma State Conference, Skirrin Hotel, Oklahoma City. Write: 1221 N. W. 81 Street, Oklahoma City, Okla.

4-6 18th Mississippi State Conv., Jackson, Miss. Heidelberg Hotel. Convention Committee, P.O. Box 814, Gulfport, Miss.

5-6 Annual Parksville Rally, Island Hall Hotel, Parksville, B.C., Can. Annual Founders Day Commemoration, Akron University Memorial Hall. Write: 197 Smith Street, Akron, Ohio.

19 Annual Founders Day Breakfast, Committee of A.A., Sheraton-Mayflower Hotel, Akron, O.

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DELEGATES FOR 1965


CANADA


Foreign Intrigue -
An A.A. Thriller From Real Life

In Rotterdam, Holland, that's where the fun began.

I had the watchman aboard ship ring the numbers listed in the Directory. Kathleen told me to meet her and another member beneath the clock outside Central Station at 7:30 p.m.

First time in Rotterdam. I wasn't prepared for cold. Only topcoat I could borrow belonged to a guy weighing over 250. I weigh 150. I was there early to get the lay of the land. At 7:20 I went to my post beneath the clock. Another guy was there. Out of the corner of my eye I could see he was looking me up and down.

He took out a pack of Luckies and lit one...a dead giveaway. An American. I took out a pack of Kents. Slowly opened them. This character got the message. He moved closer. Out of the corner of his mouth: "Are you an American?"

"Yes," I said.

The guy was nervous. "Phoned some people today, they told me to meet them here at 7:30 and another American would be here," he said.

"Was it Kathleen?" I asked.

"Yes," he answered, his eyes growing wider. Getting real close, he whispered, "Are you in A.A.??"

"Every 24 hours of it, pal. My name's Joe," I said.

"Mine's Vincent," he said with a big sigh of relief.

Happy that the Dutch C.I.D. wasn't around. We surely have gone to the pokey as spies—me looking like I was standing in a tent, and Vincent shivering because he'd left his coat aboard.

He made his first meeting 5 months ago, had made meetings at every stop on the Great Lakes: Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland. "Friendliest damn people I've ever run across," he said.

7:30 on the dot a man walks up, his hand outstretched, big smile. He was Arie. He's not on speaking terms with the English language. Vincent and me between the two of us couldn't speak one word of Dutch. We just kept shaking hands, slapping each other on the back saying "A.A.!!"

Out of nowhere Kathleen appeared and saved the day. She speaks both languages. We went down a beautiful wide plaza with flowers of every color and description and spent three hours in a cafe-restaurant with three or four rounds of coffee, cakes, and ice cream, and had an A.A. world tour.

The talk kept drifting back to G.S.O. Kathleen and Arie send regards to Staff and Bill and to George M., your indefatigable tape volunteer. I told them about George, that it was his 15th A.A. birthday. God bless his sober hide.

Soberly yours,
Joe R.