

September 1958

DELEGATES' CORNER

From Vermont . . .

I HAVE been in AA for sixteen years but in all my experience I have never gotten so close to the heart throb of AA as I did at that General Service Conference. I wish we could have a sound movie of the Conference so we could show it to every member of AA! We delegates can give a report but we can never give the rapture that I experienced at the meeting. We must admit it was a "good show" as the English would say—one that all the talent in Hollywood could never duplicate. Because this was not somebody's dream or story—this was life as people live it. It came through in the sincerity contained in the talks given by Bill and Hank and all the girls. How could a delegate take that to the groups? Again I say a movie could do a great job. But we all know that it would cost a lot of money which we do not have at this time. *J. S., Underhill, Vermont*



From Northeast Texas . . .

WITH THE TREMENDOUS SPIRIT shown by everyone connected with the Conference still clear in my mind, I feel that I can convey to you [his area] the deep awareness that was expressed in the varying viewpoints of the trustees, the staff members, and the delegates—the earnestness of everyone in the search for solutions to strengthen and fulfill the primary purpose of AA was that of dedicated men and women.

As the youth of our fellowship

slips into the records, the responsibilities have grown and our awareness requires that we be better informed about all three Legacies and their relationship to each other—the Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. The strength of the Twelve Steps should be reflected in the way we serve others. The needs of AA were well served in 1951 by the first Conference—but each year, as the records will show, the challenge of necessary actions has been met. We have realized that service is a moving, flowing, and growing endeavor requiring flexibility and positive effort to meet the needs of this fellowship and those who seek help.

The 1958 General Service Conference calls to mind the words of Thomas Carlyle: "Men do less than they ought, unless they do all they can." That this Conference sincerely accepted the challenge to meet our growing responsibility for effective service is reflected in its advisory actions.*

Bill H., Northeast-Texas-Area

* Ed. note—See the "Final Report," just issued by GSO.

From California . . .

WEHADA WONDERFUL General Service meeting in Sacra-

mento last night, which brought out something I have been watching grow for some time: there is an increasing interest in General Services at the "grass roots." I believe that we can carry the message of all the important services, and the Grapevine too, through personal contact.

For some unknown reason, many individuals have not become well-informed on AA as a whole—it is a revelation to have newcomers shake your hand and thank you for explaining the "other two" Legacies of Unity and Service, and for introducing them to all the fine people of New York. They want to know, as many of us did, the people behind the scenes who play so essential a part in making our entire Fellowship possible.

This is our job—to see that the people who want to know are informed and they will be, from here on out. The article by Jim K. in the May issue of the Grapevine, "Give My Regards to New York," is waking up a lot of so-called old timers and it is interesting to note the change of attitude on the part of many: they are actually talking in terms of General Service in a manner that is warming to behold.

D. R., Modesto, Calif.