

6-10-35 – Alcoholics Anonymous Begins

It would seem very unlikely that a spiritual program such as Alcoholics Anonymous would have had its beginnings by one drunk giving another drunk a bottle of beer in a car in front of a hospital where the drinker was not the patient, but the drinker was the doctor!

Doctor Bob had received the message of recovery from a New York stockbroker named Bill W. on mother's day 1935 and Dr Bob responded by abstaining from alcohol for about a month. After the first 30 days of his recovery, Dr Bob told his wife and Bill W. that he would attend a Doctors conference (AMA) in Atlantic City, off went Doctor Bob to AC and promptly got plastered and the first known "relapse" by an alcoholic happened in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Afterward Bob returned home the following Sunday, still intoxicated and tapering off his mistake. Bill was staying with Bob's family and home in Akron and on Monday morning, June 10th, the good Doctor was scheduled to operate on a patient at Akron City hospital, where he practiced his profession. Dr. Bob's tapering off was a diet of tomato juice, sauerkraut and karo corn syrup, plus a little beer?? To quiet his nerves. Bill and Bob shared one of the upper bedrooms that were large enough for two beds.

Doctor Bob told Bill "that he was going to perform the operation and also do whatever it takes to get sober and stay sober.

The doctor was still shaking as Bill and Bob's wife Ann drove him to the Akron City hospital, before leaving the car, Bill gave him some more beer and a "goofball" to hopefully calm his erratic nerves. We do not know whether the patient lived or not, but we do know Bob made many amends that day to friends and business associates, returning home late that night. And that crazy wild day, was the birth of our fellowship, which has helped millions of alcoholics to recover and live a life of sobriety.

Neither Bill nor Doctor Bob ever drank again, and both dedicated their lives to helping other get sober and stay sober.