

corn syrup (Believed to supply both vitamins and energy), plus a little beer to quiet his nerves. Bob and Bill shared one of the upper bedrooms that was large enough for two beds during this crucial period. Early Monday morning, on the day of the scheduled operation, Bill was awakened by the statement: "I am going through with this!" Bill inquired, "You mean the operation? Dr. Bob replied yes, both—that he was going to perform the operation and also do what ever it takes to get sober, and stay sober. They fell back to sleep. The operation was scheduled just a few hours hence.

The doctor was still shaking as Bill and Ann drove him to Akron City Hospital, but just before leaving the car, Bill gave him some beer and a "goofball" (barbiturate) to hopefully calm his erratic nerves. A misguided scalpel could end the life of his patient as well as his career. Bill and Ann returned to 855 Ardmore and nervously listened for Dr. Bob's phone message of success or no. Hours passed, but finally came the good news that they were praying for. . . . But more hours passed and dire anticipation arose as the newly sobered alcoholic had not returned. They feared the worst! But at last he walked in the door happily announcing that he had simply been busy "mending fences" (making amends to fellow doctors and associates). In other words his "program of action" had finally begun. Up till this time Dr. Bob simply had a 'fellowship,' but now he had a '*program of action*' to go along with it. He never drank again!

AA celebrates this day as the date that AA started. The official date is **June 10, 1935**.

However, it seems probable that the *actual* date of Dr. Bob's sobriety may be a week later than generally supposed: **June 17, 1935**. The JAMA excerpt below makes clear that their Atlantic City convention started on June 10th, 1935, not on June 3rd, as Dr. Bob's account reports. Here follows a probable timeline:

Sunday, June 9th: Dr Bob starts drinking on the train; buys more booze upon arrival.

Monday, June 10th: Stays sober till evening.

Tuesday, June 11th: Checks out of hotel.

Wednesday, June 12th: Blackout begins.

Thursday, June 13th: May have arrived back to Akron train depot.

Friday, June 14th: Picked up by nurse.

Saturday, June 15th: Drying out.



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