The Beginning



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Bob met Bill on Mother's Day, May 12, 1935, at Henrietta Seiberling's home. The two Vermonters had a lot in common — most significantly, their alcoholism. Bob later said of Bill, "[He] was the first living human with whom I had ever talked who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience." As Bill put it, "The spark was struck." He stayed in Akron for three more months.

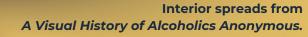
> A still from a rare film of Bill W. and Dr. Bob at Stepping Stones in the early 1940s.

Now Alcoholics Anonymous tackles The LADY SOUSF Problem

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alcoholics were referred to as "souses" and "elbow benders." And compromises sometimes needed to be made: Bill allowed a photograph of himself and other A.A.s to appear, without captioning, in a March 1941 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* because he knew how important the Jack Alexander article was to A.A.'s future early on, the

nd the press



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The Travels of the Big Book

Big Books, top row, left to right: leelandic. Thai and simplified Chinese bottom row, left to right: Greek, Farsi, and Mongolian. Spread: Swahili