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Passing of Jack Alexander Recalls Early AA Growth

Our Fellowship has reason to be forever grateful to Jack Alexander, who died on September 17 in St. Petersburg, Fla., at 73. AA was less than six years old, with a membership around 2,000, when the reporter and magazine writer was assigned to do a *Saturday Evening Post* article on the obscure group of recovering alcoholics.

Jack approached the job skeptically, but ended his research as "a true AA convert in spirit," in the words of co-founder Bill W. The article (now reprinted as an AA pamphlet, "The Jack Alexander Article") was published in the March 1, 1941, issue — and by the end of that year, AA membership had reached 8,000! In the May 1945 *Grapevine*, Jack told the story-behind-the-story, "Were the AAs Pulling My Leg?"

During Jack's 1951-56 service as a non-alcoholic trustee on the AA General Service Board, he "added the final editorial touch" to the manuscript of the "Twelve and Twelve." He was a senior editor on the *Post* at his retirement, in 1964. After he and his wife (who survives him) moved to Florida, he kept in touch with AA until his health began to fail.
