

MENOMINEE



RANGE



MEMORIES

The Prohibition Era on the Eastern Menominee Iron Range



By William John Cummings

2018

PRELUDE TO THE PROHIBITION ERA – 1

Although the settlement and growth of the Menominee Range closely parallels that of the western United States, the towns of **Vulcan, Loretto, Norway, Quinnesec, Iron Mountain, Sagola, Felch, Foster City** and **Florence** are seldom thought of as contemporaries of **Abeline, Tombstone, Dodge City, Deadwood** and **Wichita**.

Perhaps the townspeople didn't tote a six-shooter and wear a ten-gallon hat or ride a stage coach, but the frontier communities of the Old West and the Menominee Range had many things in common.

Reference to saloons, the consumption of alcohol and brawls abound in the earliest area newspapers.

❖ In the **September 24, 1881** edition of *The Florence Mining News*, published in Florence, Wisconsin, the following humorous item appeared: *WHEN a Quinnesec man wanted his picture in a heroic attitude, the photographer took him when he was refusing a drink.*

❖ In the “Quinnesec Quotum” column of the **December 12, 1885** edition of *The Current*, published in Norway, then Menominee County, Michigan, it was noted that: *A Temperance society has been lately organized in this place which will hold weekly meetings at the opera house. Reform in necessary.*

❖ Just a few weeks later, in the **January 2, 1886** edition of *The Current*, again in the “Quinnesec Quotum” column, the following report was published: *Three stores, five saloons, two meat markets in town, so we have lots to eat, and something to drink.*

The temperance society is doing a good business, and so are the saloon keepers.

❖ Under the Quinnesec column in the **July 31, 1886** edition of *The Current*, the following news item appeared: *At the Indiana mine a saloon has been started, and the boys don't find it necessary to walk three miles as often as heretofore.*

Pipp & Tondini Saloon, 620-622 Millie Street, Iron Mountain – 1



Located at 622 Millie Street on Iron Mountain's North Side, the Pipp & Tondini Saloon was operated by Jacob (Mary) Pipp and Enrico and Henry Tondini by 1907. Although there were 59 saloons recorded in the 1892 Iron Mountain city directory, there was no listing for this address.

In the 1902 Dickinson County directory Catherine Moletta ran a grocery store here, and was also listed as one of 54 saloonkeepers. In the 1905 Iron Mountain city directory Catherine Moletta ran a general merchandise store and saloon at 620-622 Millie Street. By 1913 Joseph (Elizabeth) Giachino had taken possession of this saloon from Pipp & Tondini. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Pipp & Tondini Saloon, 620-622 Millie Street, Iron Mountain – 2



During the Prohibition era **Anton DeMuri** and his wife **Angeline** sold soft drinks at this location, according to the 1925 directory. With Prohibition over, the **DeMuris** again operated a tavern at this address by 1935. By 1939 the DeMuri saloon, known as the **Venetian Tavern**, was still owned and operated by **Anton and Angeline DeMuri**. By 1946 **Anton DeMuri** was retired and living at this address. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

PRELUDE TO THE PROHIBITION ERA – 2

The following two articles, both appearing in the **April 4, 1889** edition of Iron Mountain's *The Menominee Range*, exemplify just how rough and out of hand situations arising from bar fights could escalate. Obviously there was no concern for libel or political correctness.

❖ **BELLA ITALIA AND THE KNIFE – Forty Dagos Break up the Furniture in a Saloon, Stab the Landlady, and then have a General Cutting Match.**

❖ **A Cannibal in Civilization.** *On the table in the court room of Justice Bergeron today there is a bottle holding something that looks like a section of a peach floating in spirits. Sitting a few feet from it, and gazing at it intently, there is a man with the lower part of his face swathed in white bandages. The thing that looks like the section of a peach is a human lower lip, and the man with the bandaged face sitting looking at it is Harry Sampson, to whom it once belonged.*

❖ On the lighter side, the following account appeared in the **August 8, 1889** edition of *The Menominee Range*: **Drinks Beer Like a Man.** *Joe Pascoe made a bet last Saturday with a man in his saloon that he had a horse that would drink beer like a man. To prove his assertion he soon entered the saloon with his two trotters – Mink and a large bay horse – and called for three glasses of beer.*

❖ The number of saloons throughout the Menominee Iron Range in the early years boggles the mind. In the **April 23, 1891** edition of *The Menominee Range*, the following news item provides insight into the number of saloons in Iron Mountain in the year when Dickinson County was formed:

There are about sixty saloons in this city and this week their proprietors are bustling around in order to secure bondsmen.

Milwaukee Saloon, 100 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 1



Milwaukee Saloon, 100 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 2



In 1892 in Iron Mountain's first city directory **William Graf** operated his saloon at **100 East Hughitt Street**, where he also lived, as did **Jim Alexander**, a laborer at the **Chapin Mine**. By 1902 **John Vercelli/Vercella** was the saloonkeeper here, and **Thomas Langdon**, a painter, lived upstairs. By 1905 **Edward (Annie) Shea** operated the saloon and also resided here, as he still did in 1907, advertising "liquors and cigars" in the city directory.

In this photograph, probably dating between 1900 and 1910, a beer wagon stopped in front of the **Milwaukee Saloon** where wooden ramps led to board sidewalks and a young girl looked on from the upstairs window. By 1913 the structure was listed as "vacant" in the city directory.

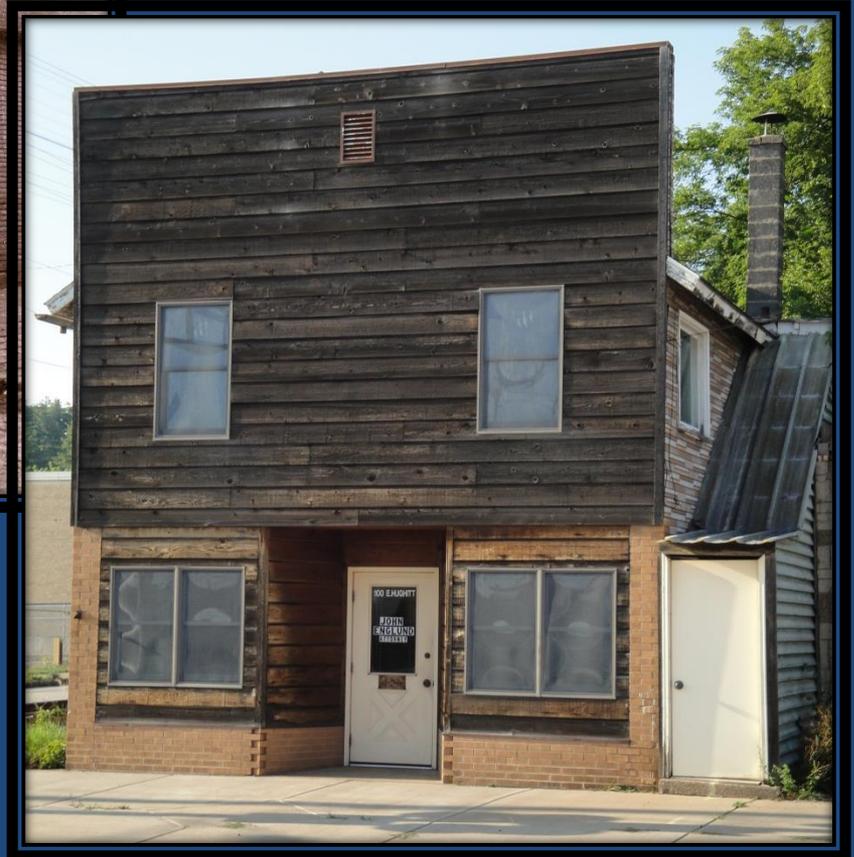
However, by 1925 **Charles/Claude (Edna) Burby** operated a restaurant at this location. Claude was probably the same **Claude Burby** who worked as a bouncer and bartender for **George "Reddy" Meehan**, who operated one of the infamous saloons on **The Midway** with his wife, **Dolly Meehan**, a madam. By 1935 the structure was again listed as "vacant" in the city directory.

By 1939 **Conrad Smith** operated **Smith's Gun Shop** here, and by 1946 **Bert (Marion) Harvey** was the proprietor of **Harvey Sporting Goods** at this address. This structure still stands in 2018. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

Milwaukee Saloon, 100 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 3



John F. England, Attorney, had his office in this building in 2010. This building still stands next to the railroad tracks at 100 East Hughitt Street. The railroad tracks divide the “east” and “west” streets in the City of Iron Mountain.



PRELUDE TO THE PROHIBITION ERA – 3

The large number of saloons and the effects of alcohol on the community with public drunkenness and family problems arising from alcoholism within some homes certainly distressed many residents, who were responsive to the temperance movement locally.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

The Temperance Movement in the United States was a **movement to curb the consumption of alcohol**, having a large influence on American politics and society in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The **American Temperance Society** was **formed in 1826** and benefited from a renewed interest in religion and morality.

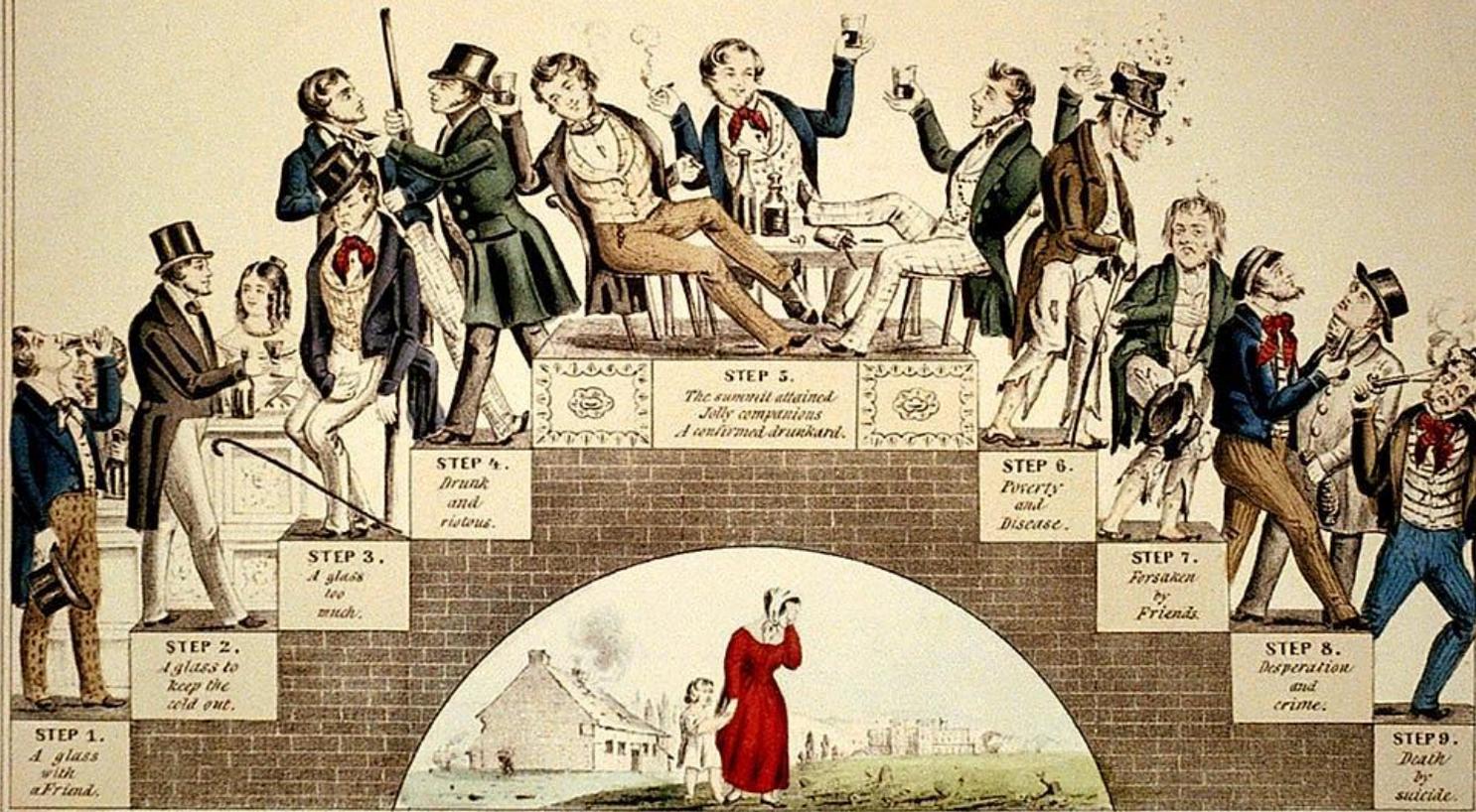
The **Civil War** dealt the Temperance Movement a crippling blow. **Both sides in the war made alcohol sales a part of the war effort by taxing brewers and distillers to finance much of the conflict.**

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION (W.C.T.U.)

The prohibitionist Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) was **organized on December 23, 1873**, in Hillsboro, Ohio, and officially declared at a national convention in Cleveland, Ohio, in **1874**.

The W.C.T.U. was an influential organization with a **membership of 120,000 by 1879**.

Some of the changes the W.C.T.U. sought included: **property and custody rights for women, women's suffrage, raising the age of consensual sex, peace arbitration, women's education and advocacy for working rights of women.**



LITH. & FOR. BY N. CURRIER.

Illustration of the progress of the drunkard in the year 1846 by N. Currier, in our annual volume of the Drunkard's Progress, p. 107.

33 SPRUCE ST. N.Y.

THE DRUNKARDS PROGRESS.

FROM THE FIRST GLASS TO THE GRAVE.

**TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT LITHOGRAPH
NATHANIEL CURRIER – JANUARY, 1846**



“The Drunkard’s Progress: From the First Glass to the Grave” shows the stages of alcoholism outlined by the Temperance Movement. The steps were outlined as follows:

- ❖ 1 – A glass with a Friend;
- ❖ 2 – A glass to keep the cold out;
- ❖ 3 – A glass too much;
- ❖ 4 – Drunk and riotous;
- ❖ 5 – The summit attained – Jolly companions – A confirmed drunkard;
- ❖ 6 – Poverty and Disease;
- ❖ 7 – Forsaken by Friends;
- ❖ 8 – Desperation and crime;
- ❖ 9 – Death by suicide.

This lithograph, drawn by Nathaniel Currier in January, 1846, supported the **growing anti-alcoholism sentiment** which culminated in the United States with the passage of the 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution. **The 18th Amendment outlawed the manufacture, transportation and sale of all alcoholic beverages within the United States.** Despite its best intentions, the amendment proved to be a spectacular failure and was ultimately repealed by the 21st Amendment.

Prohibition Music

The song “*The Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine*” was published by M. Gray in 1874. There are numerous verses or stanzas in the poem upon which the song is based. The last verse or stanza follows:

*Oh! that each fair girl in our abstinence band
Would say: “I’ll ne’er give my heart or my hand
Unto one who I ever had reason to think
Would taste one small drop of the vile,
cursed drink”;
But say, when you are wooed, “I’m a foe
to the wine,
And the lips that touch liquor shall never
touch mine.”*



**LIPS
THAT TOUCH
LIQUOR
SHALL NEVER
TOUCH MINE!**

Prohibition Music

NOT DELIVERED TO THE
MAY 11 1900
Music Department

DEDICATED TO THE WOMENS CRUSADE
Against Liquor Throughout the World

EMPERANCE
SONG AND CHORUS

**THE LIPS
THAT TOUCH
LIQUOR
SHALL NEVER
TOUCH MINE**

WORDS BY
SAM BOOTH.

MUSIC BY
GEO. T. EVANS.

Price 40 Cts.

M. Gray
PUBLISHER

623 & 625 CLAY ST.
SAN FRANCISCO.

101 FIRST STREET
PORTLAND, O.

Entered according to Act of Congress in 1874 by M. Gray in the Clerk's office of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

The song “*The Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine*” was published by M. Gray in 1874. The words were written by Sam Booth and the music was composed by George T. Evans. This sheet music was dedicated to the Women’s Crusade Against Liquor Throughout the World.

Prohibition Music



The origin and date of this poster bearing the words “Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Not Touch Ours” with ten stern-faced women is uncertain. The message plays off the 1874 song title “The Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine” noted above. According to the Thomas Edison National Historic Park Archives, this is a still photograph from an Edison motion picture produced around 1910 with the words added. **Supposedly** the poster was used during the push to establish prohibition in the late 1910s.

PRELUDE TO THE PROHIBITION ERA – 4

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE (A.S.L.)

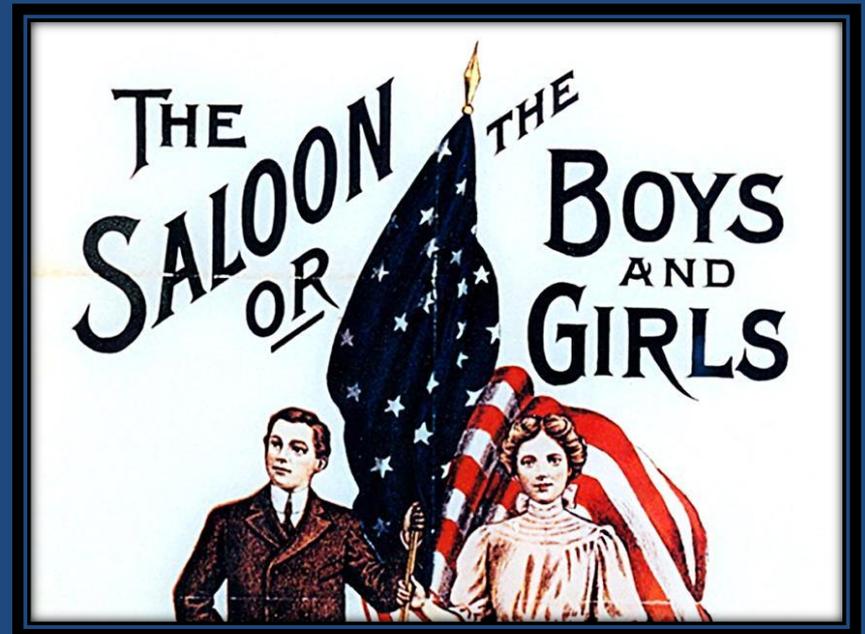
The last wave of temperance in the United States saw the rise of the Anti-Saloon League (A.S.L.), founded as a state society in Oberlin, Ohio, in 1893.

Its influence spread rapidly, and in 1895, the Anti-Saloon League became a national organization and quickly rose to become the most powerful prohibition lobby in America, pushing aside its older competitors – the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Prohibition Party.

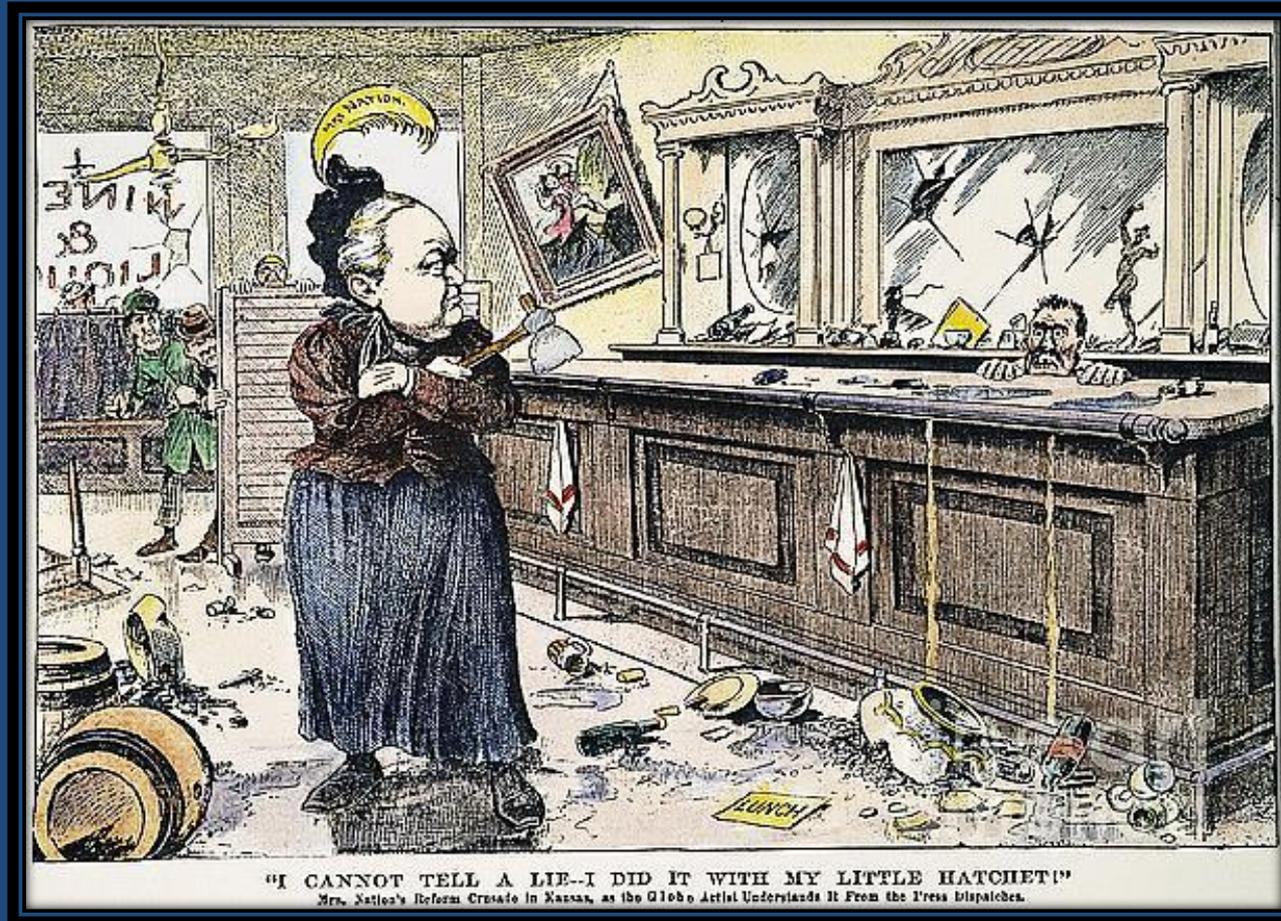
By the late nineteenth century, most Protestant denominations and the American wing of the Catholic Church supported the movement to legally restrict the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. These groups believed that alcohol consumption led to corruption, prostitution, spousal abuse and other criminal activities.

Brewers and distillers resisted the reform movement, which threatened to ruin their livelihood, and also feared women having the vote, because they expected women to vote for prohibition.

Energized by the anti-German sentiment during World War I, the Anti-Saloon League achieved its main goal of passage of the 18th Amendment on December 18, 1917.



Prohibition Humor – Carrie Amelia Nation



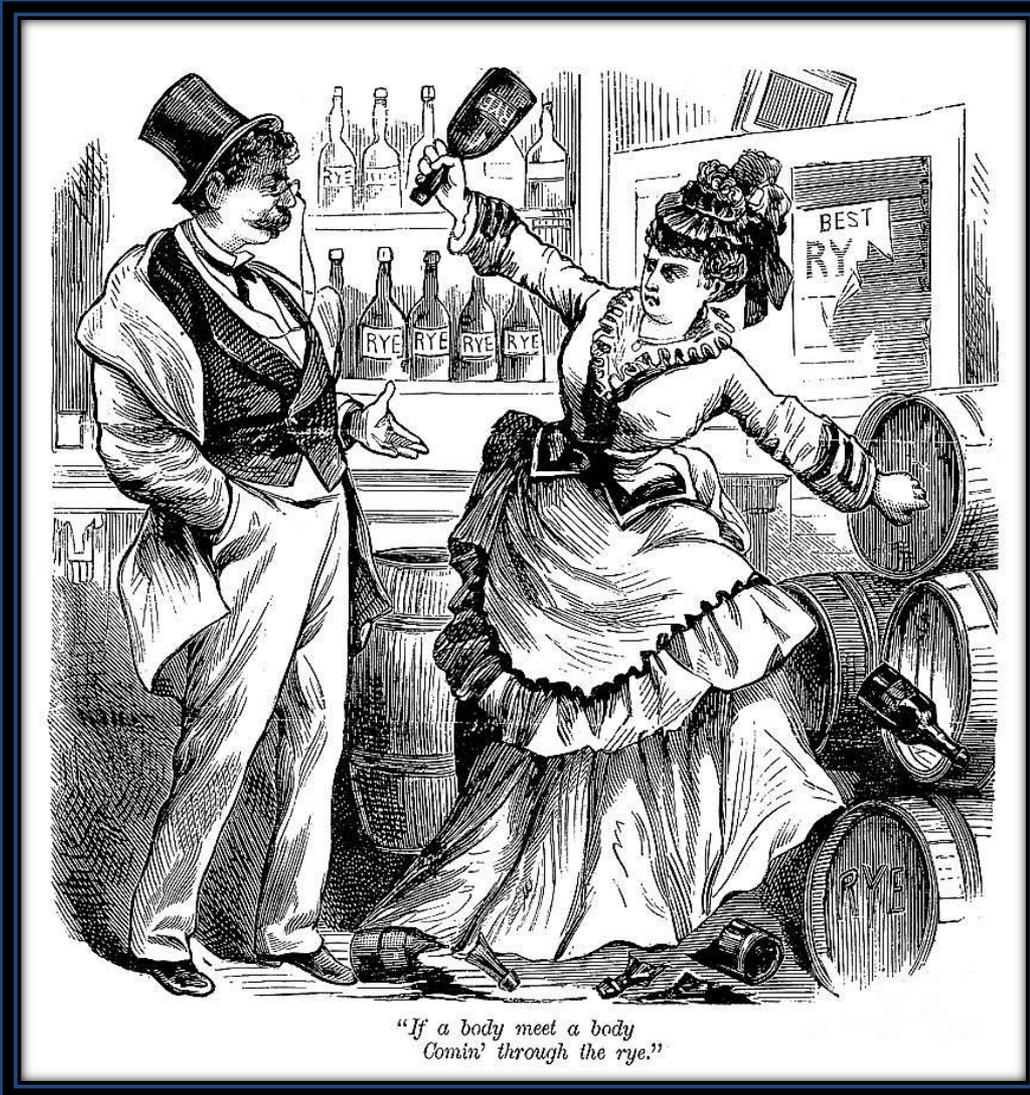
Carrie Amelia Nation (November 25, 1846 – June 9, 1911) was an American woman who was a radical member of the temperance movement, which opposed alcohol before the advent of Prohibition. She is particularly noteworthy for attacking alcohol-serving establishments (most often taverns) with a hatchet.

Prohibition Humor – Carrie Amelia Nation

Alone or accompanied by hymn-singing women, she would march into a bar and sing and pray while smashing bar fixtures and stock with a hatchet. Her actions often did not include other people, just herself.

Between 1900 and 1910, she was arrested some 30 times for “hatchetations”, as she came to call them. Nation paid her jail fines from lecture-tour fees and sales of souvenir hatchets.

Nation's anti-alcohol activities became widely known, with the slogan “All Nations Welcome But Carrie” becoming a bar-room staple.

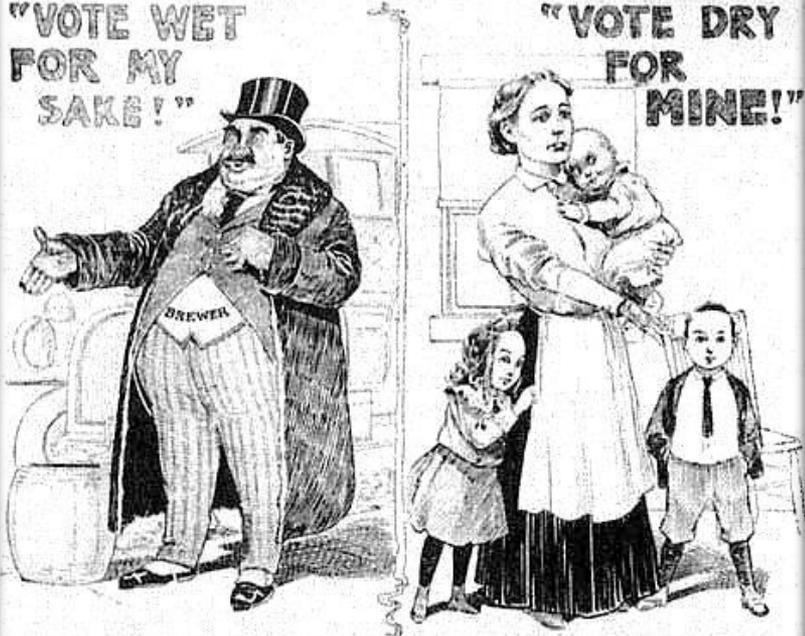


Prohibition Posters – Anti-Saloon League

“WET” OR “DRY”

“VOTE WET FOR MY SAKE!”

“VOTE DRY FOR MINE!”



Shall the Mothers and Children be Sacrificed to the Financial Greed of the Liquor Traffic?

IT IS UP TO YOU, VOTER, TO DECIDE

VOTE DRY

WETS

- ❖ The wets believed that the prohibition led to an increase of illegal activity and did not stop what it was created to prevent.
- ❖ The wets wanted the 18th amendment to be repealed.
- ❖ People who were on the wet side included many congressmen, men and people living in the city.

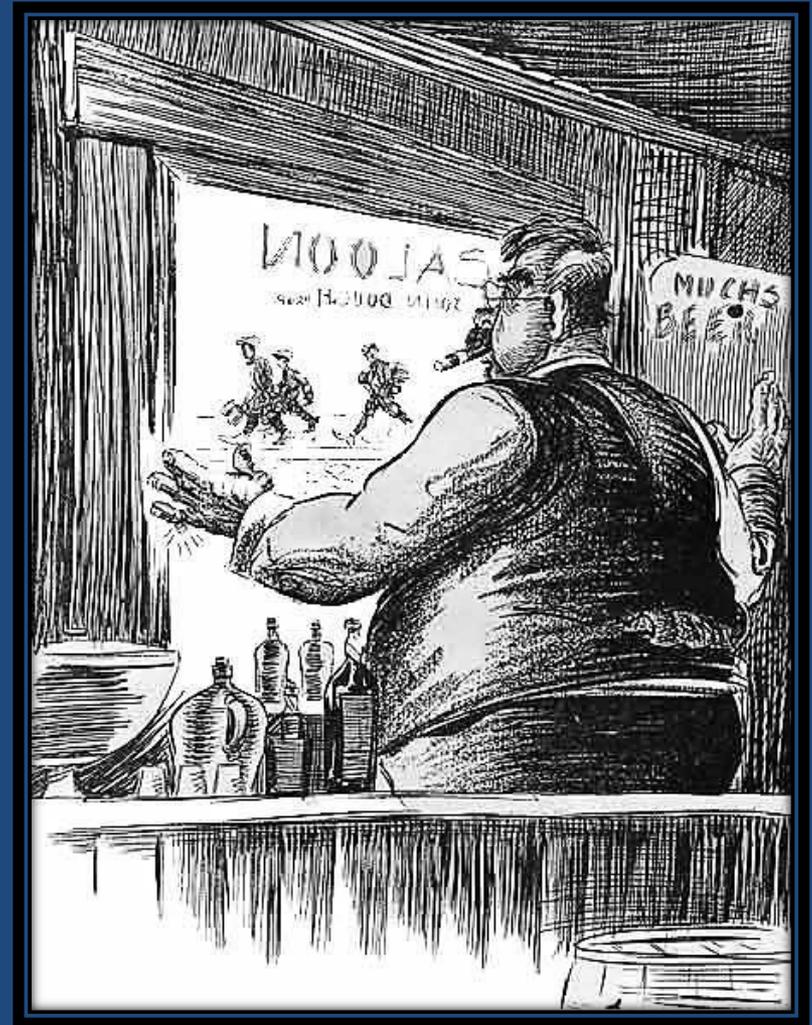
DRYS

- ❖ The drys believed that the prohibition was good for America and benefited America greatly because men were bringing their paychecks home and there was less abuse.
- ❖ People who were on the dry side included many women (because of the abuse caused by alcohol) and rural area populations.

Prohibition Humor – Anti-Saloon League

The prohibition movement in general, and the Anti-Saloon League in particular, were effective in developing propaganda persuading Americans to support the dry cause. This particular cartoon illustrates a central message of the League: that the liquor trades are interested in having more people drink, and those who drink, drink more. Especially important, in this view, was the work of saloon keepers to corrupt American youth into the dissolute life of drink.

There was nothing subtle about this cartoon image, or about the dry propaganda message. Here the saloon keeper is well fed. Notice the name of this proprietor written on the glass is John Dough – with a large jewel glistening on a ring finger. As he smokes a cigar, he is looking longingly out of the saloon window at the boys walking with their school books.



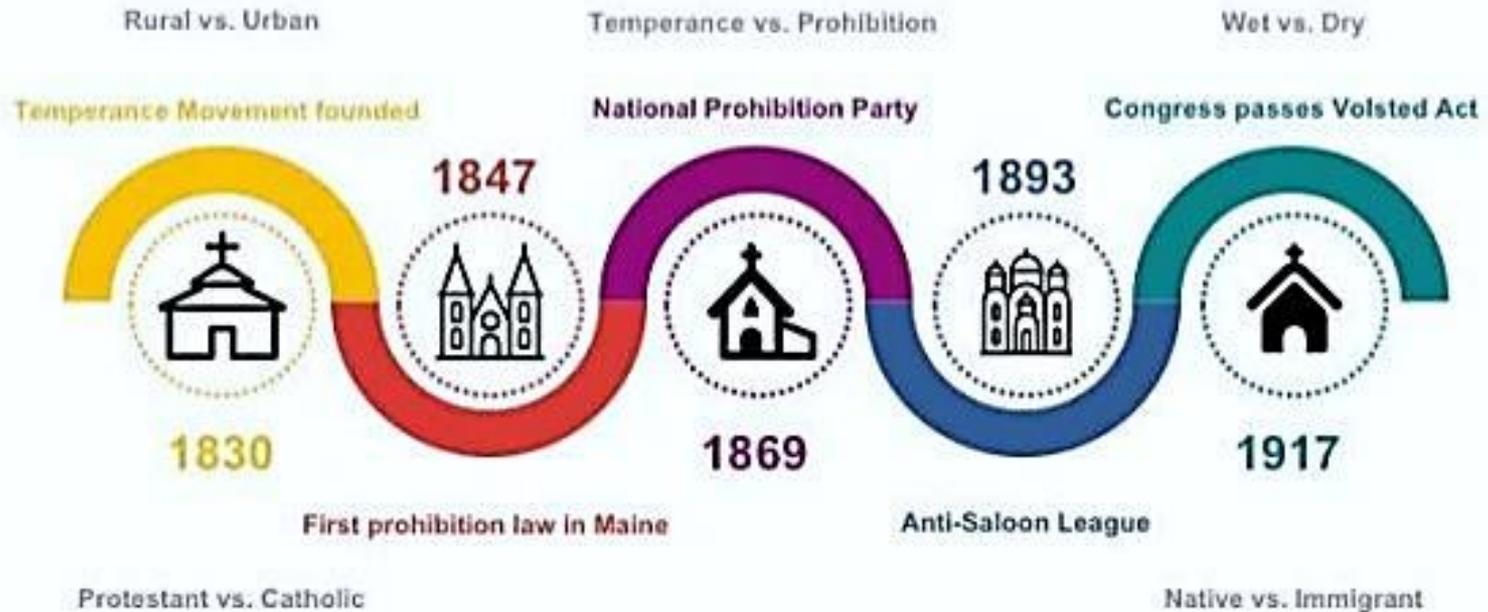
Cartoonist Frank Beard was a favorite of the Anti-Saloon League. Beard had an uncanny knack for capturing the essence of the dry propaganda message, and the League reprinted his cartoons in its own publications.

Prohibition Posters – Anti-Saloon League



Evolution of Prohibition in the United States

Anti-Saloon League's Issue Network



This Anti-Saloon League's diagram shows the timeline for prohibition from 1830 until 1917.

Prohibition Vocabulary – Blind Pig & Blind Tiger



Blind Pig – Originating in the United States in the nineteenth century, the term “blind pig” referred to an illicit establishment that sold alcoholic beverages and came into prominence in the United States during the Prohibition Era. Originally, the operator of an establishment, such as a saloon or bar, would charge customers to see an attraction, such as an animal, and then serve a “complimentary” alcoholic beverage, thus circumventing the law.



Blind Tiger – The term “blind tiger” also referred to an illegal drinking establishment in which the seller’s identity was concealed. For example, a drawer ran into a wall of what appears to be a billiard saloon. The customer pulled out the drawer, dropped in his change, shoved the drawer back, called for what drink wanted and then pulled out the drawer again and there it was, “straight” or “spiked.” Nobody was heard or seen, and the “blind tiger,” apparently without any keeper, worked like a charm.

Prohibition Vocabulary – Speakeasy



Speakeasy – The term “speakeasy” referred to an illicit establishment that sold alcoholic beverages and was used because of the practice of speaking quietly about such a place in public, or, when inside, so as not to alert the police or the neighbors. Sometimes used interchangeably with the term “blind pig” the speakeasy supposedly originated with Kate Hester, who ran an unlicensed bar in the 1880s in McKeesport, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Kate often warned her rowdy customers to “speak easy.”

Prohibition Vocabulary – Bootlegging & Rum-running



Bootlegging – Bootlegging, is the illegal business of transporting (smuggling) alcoholic beverages where such transportation is forbidden by law to circumvent taxation or prohibition laws within a particular jurisdiction. Bootlegging is more commonly applied to **smuggling over land**. The term “boot-legging” probably originated during the American Civil War, when soldiers would sneak liquor into army camps by concealing pint bottles within their boots or beneath their trouser legs.



Rum-Running – Rum-running is the illegal business of transporting (smuggling) alcoholic beverages where such transportation is forbidden by law to circumvent taxation or prohibition laws within a particular jurisdiction. Rum-running is more commonly applied to **smuggling over water**. The term rum-running most likely originated at the start of Prohibition in the United States (1920–1933), when ships from Bimini in the western Bahamas transported cheap Caribbean rum to Florida speakeasies.

PRELUDE TO THE PROHIBITION ERA (1915-1917) – 5

May 20, 1915, Iron Mountain Press:

Alleged Piggers Arrested.

As was intimated in the last issue of The Press, six residents of Iron Mountain have been arrested for selling liquor without a license – in other words, operating blind pigs. The warrants were based on information furnished by two Chicago detectives employed by Mayor Cruse. The detectives operated here under the guise of agents for a piano house. The arrests have caused a good deal of a sensation and were followed by much street talk equally sensational.

December 16, 1915, Iron Mountain Press:

Sixty Saloons.

According to the report of the county treasurer, there are sixty licensed retail liquor dealers in the county and nine wholesalers of beer. The revenue received totals \$34,500. Thirty-one retailers and five wholesalers are located in Iron Mountain and seventeen retailers and four wholesalers in Norway.

There are five saloons in Sagola township, three in Waucedah, two in Norway and one each in Breitung and Breen. There are no saloons in Felch or West Branch townships.

April 5, 1917, Iron Mountain Press:

About Saloon Bonds.

In order to secure bonds from the Michigan Bonding company every liquor dealer in the city and county will be required to make a cash deposit of \$500. There are no exceptions to the rule.

April 12, 1917, Iron Mountain Press:

Want Saloon Licenses.

Thirty-three have filed applications for retail liquor dealer licenses with City Clerk Hallman. The council is authorized by law to grant only twenty-eight licenses.

Prohibition Music

1917

Prohibition sentiments are reflected in the music of the era. The chorus lyrics to Al Sweet's "Prohibition Blues," published in 1917, are:

*Oh! my Brothers and Sisters,
listen to what I say, – By nineteen
twenty dere'll be no boose sold in
the U.S.A. – De whole country as
a goin' bone dry, – Prohibition
am de battle cry, – 'Scuse me
while I shed a tear, – For good
old whiskey, gin and beer, –
Good-bye forever, Good-bye
forever, – Ah got de Prohibition,
Prohibition, Prohibition Blues.
Oh! my Blues.*

Prohibition Blues

NOVELTY SONG

WORDS and MUSIC by
AL SWEET

M. WITMARK & SONS
NEW YORK · CHICAGO · PHILADELPHIA · BOSTON · SAN FRANCISCO · LONDON

50¢25.net

@authentichistory.com

Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 1

March 14, 1918, Iron Mountain Press:

A HOUSE CLEANING

Results of Campaign Engineered By Sheriff and County Attorney.

An unostentatious campaign conducted for several weeks under the direction of Sheriff Lundgren and Prosecuting Attorney Brackett culminated last Friday and Saturday and resulted in ridding the city of a number of undesirable citizens and the arrest of a dozen or more other violators of state laws.

In order to secure the necessary evidence, the officials employed a couple of detectives. That these detectives were “worthy of their hire” is best evidenced by the fact that the violators, when arraigned in justice court, with only two exceptions entered pleas of guilty as charged. It is also intimated that the detectives were successful in gathering a large volume of other evidence that the sheriff and county prosecutor have filed away for future reference.

Among the persons arraigned in justice court as a result of the campaign, together with the disposition of the several cases, follows:

George Meehan, keeping a disorderly house, entered plea of not guilty, preliminary examination today.

Mary Lomphrey, charged with keeping a disorderly house, plea of not guilty, preliminary examination next Wednesday.

Fred Lambert, charged with keeping a disorderly house, entered a plea of guilty and was bound over to the circuit court for trial.

Frances Hough, keeping disorderly house, plea of guilty, bound over to the circuit court for trial.

Jessie Reed, disorderly woman, plea of guilty, fined \$50.00 and costs and sentenced to thirty days in county jail; released from jail and has left the county.

Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 2

Mary Swanson, disorderly woman, plea of guilty, fined \$50.00 and costs with a jail sentence of thirty days; released from jail and has left the county.

Vera Saunders, disorderly woman, plea of guilty, fined \$50.00 and costs with a thirty days' jail sentence; latter punishment suspended and prisoner has departed hence.

Alice Wood, disorderly woman, plea of guilty, second offense, fined \$75.00 and given thirty days in county; latter sentenced suspended and prisoner has left the county.

Dominic Contarini, selling liquor without a license, entered a plea of guilty and bound over to circuit court.

Fred Lambert, selling liquor on Sunday, entered a plea of guilty and bound over to the circuit court.

Frances Hough, selling liquor without a license, entered a plea of not guilty and bound over to the circuit court.

Joseph Bolognesi, selling liquor on Sunday, entered a plea of guilty and bound over to the circuit court.

Hugo Aronson, bartender, charged with keeping the saloon of Oscar Sand open after hours, entered a plea of guilty and the case goes to the circuit court.

Joseph Tirschell, selling liquor without a license, entered a plea of guilty and bound over to the circuit court.

John Rubbo, charged with selling liquor without a license, entered a plea of guilty and case goes to Judge Flannigan.

Biagio Franco, charged with selling liquor without a license, entered a plea of not guilty, examination in justice court yesterday and was bound over to Judge Flannigan's court for trial.

Norman Miller and Emma Miller, his wife, disorderly characters, entered pleas of guilty, fined \$50.00 each and costs with ninety days in county jail; imprisonment sentence suspended.

Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 3

Ray Hutchinson, a vagrant and general nuisance, given sixty days, but sentence was suspended and he has left the state.

Prosecutor Brackett and Sheriff Lundgren wish The Press to state that the campaign against vice is not an aftermath of the charges hurled back and forth by the candidates during the recent primary election. The campaign was in progress long before the primary eruption and the arrests would have been made regardless of the election. The officers are not pulling chestnuts out of the fire for anyone, but they are determined to enforce the laws not only in Iron Mountain but throughout the county.

Prosecutor Brackett wants it understood that, as long as he holds his present office, there will be no room in Dickinson county for disorderly houses, blind pigs, and kindred joints. And in this decision Sheriff Lundgren has assured the prosecuting attorney of his hearty co-operation.

March 21, 1918, *Iron Mountain Press*,

NEWS IN PARAGRAPHS.

The Press hears that a number of leading citizens of Florence are using their influence to bar the sale of liquors at Spread Eagle the coming season.

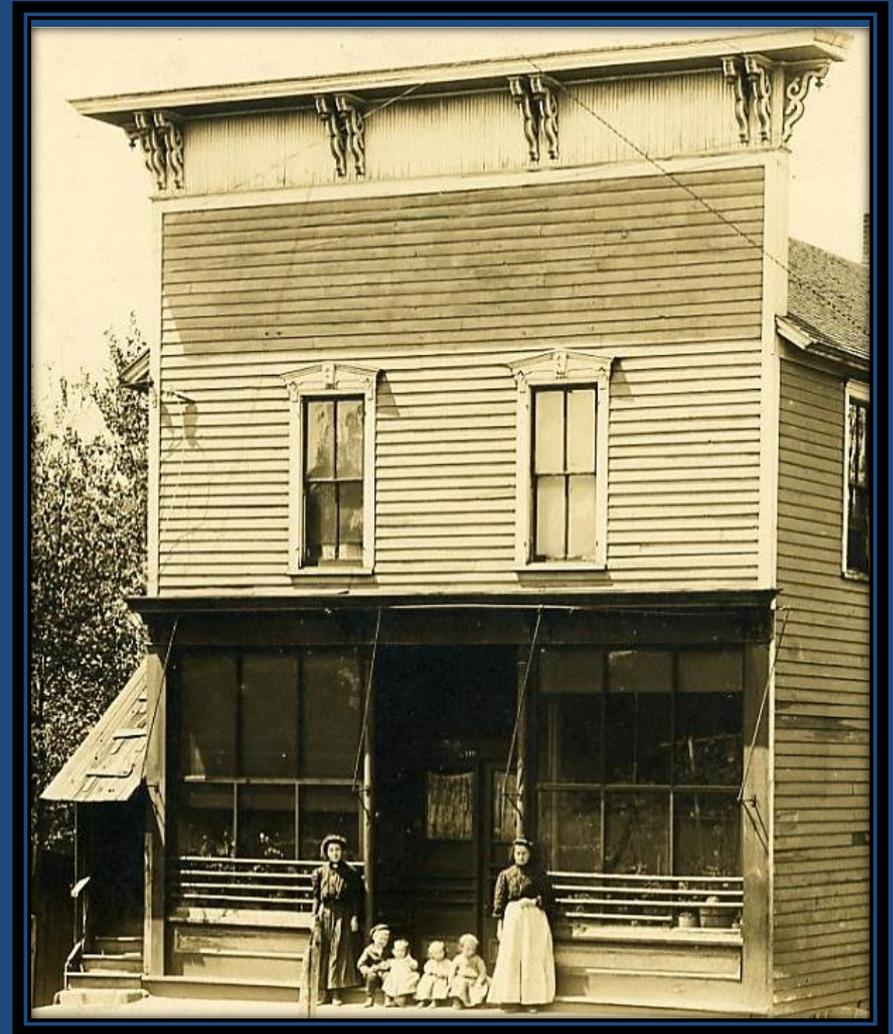
Norman Miller objects to being labeled as a disorderly character, as printed in The Press. He says that the warrants issued against himself and wife allege that they sold liquor without a license and the second charge accuses them of permitting gambling in their place.

John Rubbo's Saloon, 710 Millie Street, Iron Mountain – 1 (1918)



John Rubbo's Saloon, 710 Millie Street, Iron Mountain – 2 (1918)

Pictured here in about 1900-1910, **John (Mary) Rubbo's Saloon**, located at 710 Millie Street at the corner of Margaret Street on Iron Mountain's North Side, was listed in the city directories for 1892, 1902, 1905, 1907 and 1913. The Rubbo family also resided at this address. **John Rubbo was convicted of selling homemade wines without a license in April, 1918.** By 1925 during the prohibition era **Samuel (Constantina) Dalfonso** sold soft drinks and lived here. By then **Mary Rubbo**, John Rubbo's widow, was living at 424 East Margaret Street, but **John T. (Margaret) Rubbo** lived at 710 Millie Street. In the 1935 city directory **Joseph (Emma) Pennoni** operated a tavern here, which was called the **Northside Tavern** in the 1939 city directory. By 1946 the Pennonis still lived at this address, but Joseph was working for the Ford Motor Company. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*



Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 4

Michigan became “dry” on May 1, 1918. In the Upper Peninsula the enforcement of the new liquor laws was a challenge because neighboring Wisconsin was “wet” and the border was easily crossed. For that reason, the following article appeared in the columns of the *Iron Mountain Press*.

April 18, 1918, *Iron Mountain Press*:

No Smuggling of Liquors.

The local joy riders who are expecting to buy beer and liquor supplies at Florence and Spread Eagle when the state prohibition law becomes operative will learn with sorrow that our state authorities have anticipated just such a movement. In order to head off the smugglers of wet goods the state is prepared to station a corps of the constabulary forces at Twin Falls and Homestead bridges. The men will have full authority to halt and examine the carriers of grips [suitcases] and suspicious packages. Someone is always taking the joy out of life!



Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 5

May 2, 1918, Iron Mountain Press:

WITHOUT A RIPPLE

Saloons Close Their Doors With No Unusual Business Methods.

The saloons have departed hence and in going did not make nearly as much “noise” as had been anticipated. Considering conditions, and the number of “floaters” in town, there was not very much drunkenness in evidence. The liquor dealers made no attempt to conduct bargain sales of intoxicants and there was no unusual movement of people at their places of business. There was nothing to indicate that dealers were about to suspend business for an indefinite term in compliance with the state law.

The police authorities – city and county – do not anticipate any extra amount of trouble from the festive blind pig. A considerable number of illegal dealers were taught a severe lesson by Judge Flannigan at the last session of the circuit court.

Judge Flannigan told all concerned what would happen to them if a conviction followed after the prohibition law became operative. Piggers and bootleggers are to be given short shrift. It is only from these classes of gentry that any possible trouble is expected in the enforcement of the law.

For those who may be inclined to import and sell alcoholic liquors in defiance of the new law, the authorities have mapped out a plan of campaign that will make it exceedingly uncomfortable for the violators and a practical certainty that they will be caught.

If necessary, state constabulary will be employed to patrol the borders to prevent the importation of liquor. The mayors of Michigan cities where state troops have been guarding docks, tunnels and munition plants have been notified to organize local forces to replace the state guards, should the services of the latter be required to enforce the liquor prohibition laws.

Henze-Tollen Brewing Company, 1106 Norway Street, Iron Mountain

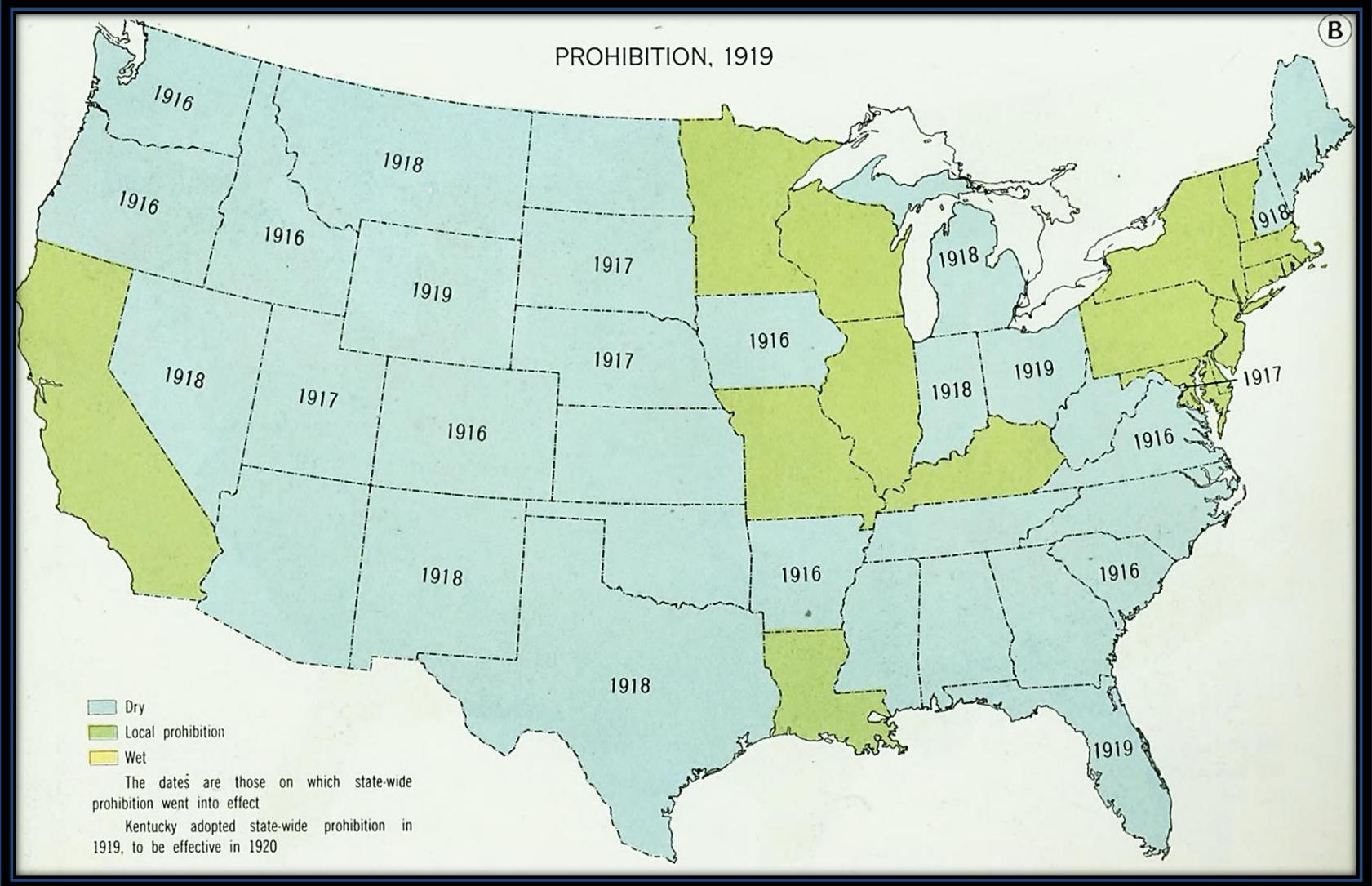


The Henze-Tollen Brewing Company, located at 1106 Norway Street on Iron Mountain's North Side, was established in 1899. Officers from 1901 through 1909 were Louis A. Henze, president and manager; Gus Tollen, vice-president; and George J. Eisele, secretary and treasurer. Between 1911 and 1913, O.R. Henze served as secretary and treasurer. From 1917-1919 Louis A. Henze was president and general manager and O.R. Henze was secretary and treasurer.

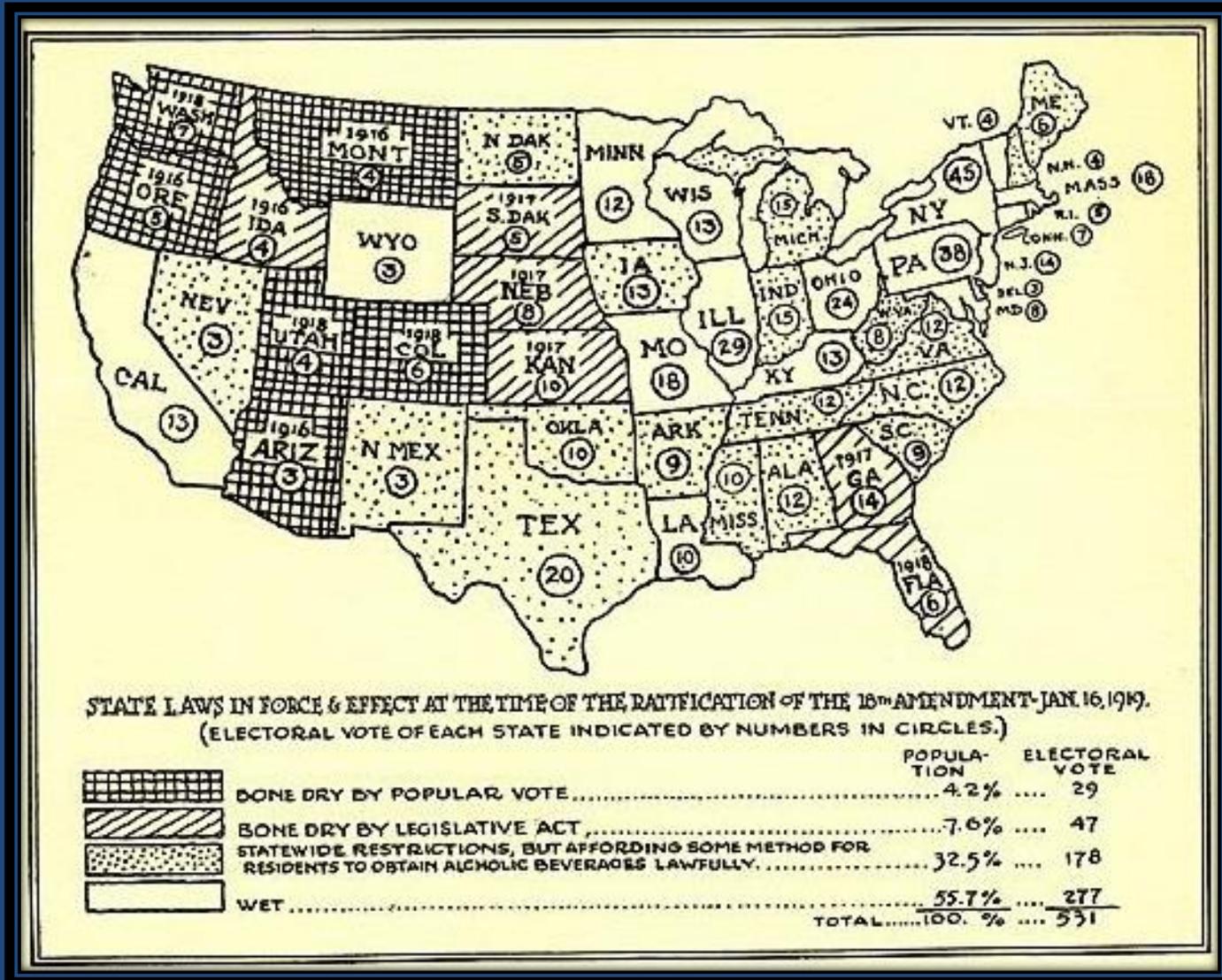
On Saturday, October 5, 1918, the Henze-Tollen Brewing Company, which had been manufacturing two brands of near beer, suspended operations. Sometime in early 1918, the owners organized the Arbutus Beverage Company, a subsidiary, to manufacture a high-grade line of soft drinks, anticipating the implementation of Michigan's prohibition law on May 1. The manufacture of ciders and other soft drinks continued following the closure of the brewery on a reduced rate. The Arbutus Beverage Company operated until about 1921-1922.

[Menominee Range Historical Museum]

Map of the United States Showing Prohibition in 1919



Prohibition Restrictions Varied by State Before 1920



EVERY DAY WILL BE SUNDAY WHEN THE TOWN GOES DRY



GOOD BYE HUNTER, SO LONG SCOTCH
FAREWELL HAIG AND HAIG

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
WM. JEROME AND
JACK MAHONEY

POPULAR EDITION
LEO FEIST, INC. NEW YORK
KEMAN BARNES MUSIC PUBLISHING CO. LONDON, ENGL.

Challenger Piano & Music Co.
St. Louis, U.S.A.

©authentichistory.com

Prohibition Music 1918-1919

Published between 1918-1919, the title of the song “Every Day Will Be Sunday When The Town Goes Dry” made note of the fact that Blue Laws which prohibited the sale of alcohol on Sundays would be every day with the passage of the prohibition amendment. The chorus lyrics are:

Goodbye, Hunter; So long, Scotch; – Farewell Haig and Haig; – Oh my darling old frappe, they will soon take you away. – At the table with Lola they will serve us Coca-Cola. – No more saying: “Let me buy,” – No more coming thru the Rye. – Old Manhattan and Martini have received the big subpoena. – Ev’ry day’ll be Sunday when the town goes dry.

Prohibition Music 1919

“Prohibition Blues” was written by Nora Bayes with words by Ring Lardner in 1919. The chorus lyrics are:

I've had news that's bad news about my best pal

*His name is Old Man Alcohol
But I call Him Al.*

*The doctor says he's dyin'
As sure as sure can be.*

*And if that's so Then oh oh oh
The difference to me.*

*There won't be no sunshine,
No stars, no moon*

*No laughter, no music 'cept this one sad
tune.*

*Good-bye forever to my old friend
“Booze”*

Doggone I've got the Prohibition Blues.

PROHIBITION BLUES
SONG



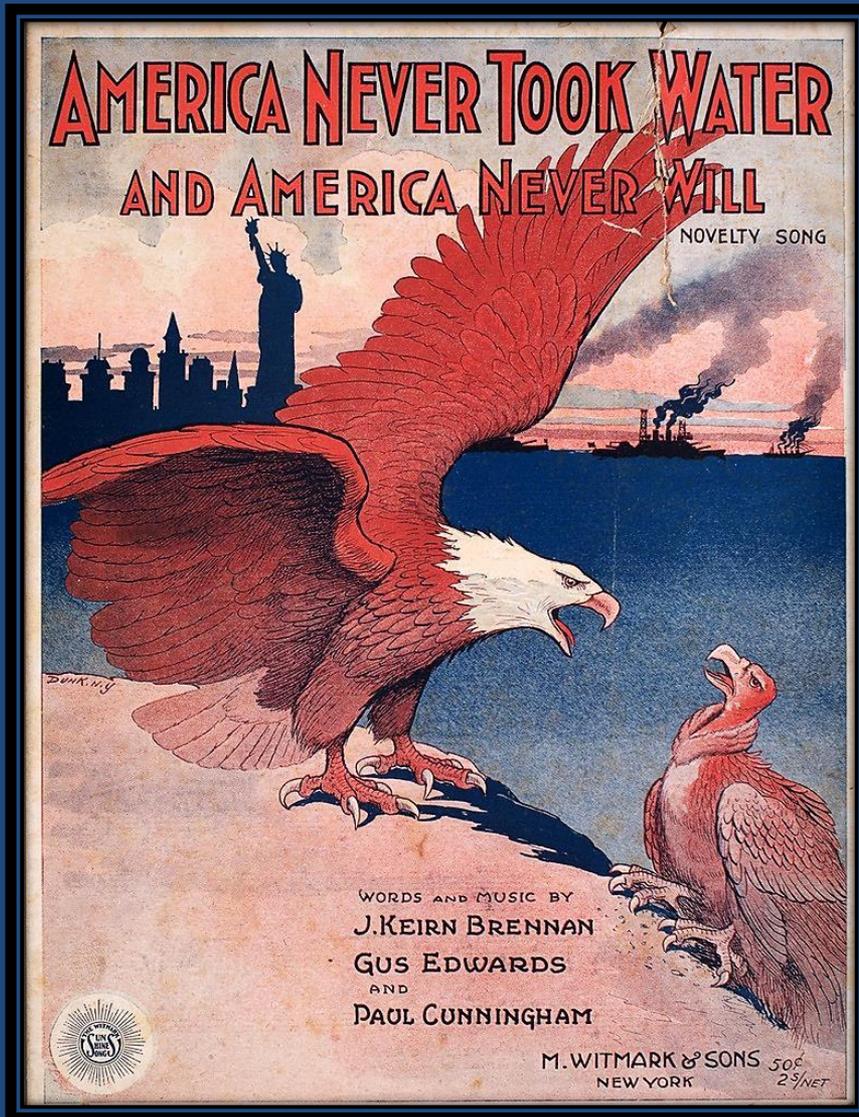
Lyric by
Ring
Lardner
Music by
Nora
Bayes

As Sung by
Miss
Nora
Bayes
in
“Ladies
First”

Jerome H. Romick & Co.
New York Detroit

Prohibition Music 1919

“America Never Took Water and
America Never Will”



America Never Took Water

And America Never Will

By J. KEIRN BRENNAN
GUS EDWARDS
& PAUL CUNNINGHAMBrightly (*Not too fast*)


Slow-ly but sure-ly a
One fight-ing Yank said, "If

trans-
port of joy, Docked at her pier up the bay, "Tell us the news
such is the case, This is no place then for me! I'm go-ing back

old pal, we've been a-way! That's what each boy seemed to say; When
a-gain, back o'er the sea, Where I can live hap-pi-ly." His

some-one said the coun-try's go-ing dry, They list-ened then they all be-gan to cry.
com-rades said, "be-fore you start to go, It seems to us it's time you ought to know."

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REFRAIN



Why A-mer-i-ca nev-er took wa-ter, So why should she take it
That A-mer-i-ca nev-er took wa-ter, So why should she take it

now. Eng-land gave us Ale and Port-er, To drink their wines the
now. Eng-land gave us Ale and Port-er, To drink their wines the

French have taught us how. Of wa-ter in the trenches, We sure-ly had our fill, So
French have taught us how. Old Jack and Jill took wa-ter, That's why they took a spill, The

we can't un-der-stand why you should hand it to us still, For A-mer-i-ca nev-er took wa-ter,
same things apt to hap-pen to this fa-mous drink-ing bill, For A-mer-i-ca nev-er took wa-ter,

ter, And A-mer-i-ca nev-er will! Why A-mer-i-ca nev-er will!
ter, And A-mer-i-ca nev-er will! That A-mer-i-ca nev-er will!

Prohibition Music 1919

“America Never Took Water and America Never Will”

**AMERICA NEVER TOOK WATER
AND AMERICA NEVER WILL**

NOVELTY SONG

Dean Deaver

WORDS
AND
MUSIC
BY

J. KEIRN BRENNAN
GUS EDWARDS
AND
PAUL CUNNINGHAM

SUNG WITH GREAT SUCCESS BY
BELLE BAKER

M. WITMARK & SONS
NEW YORK

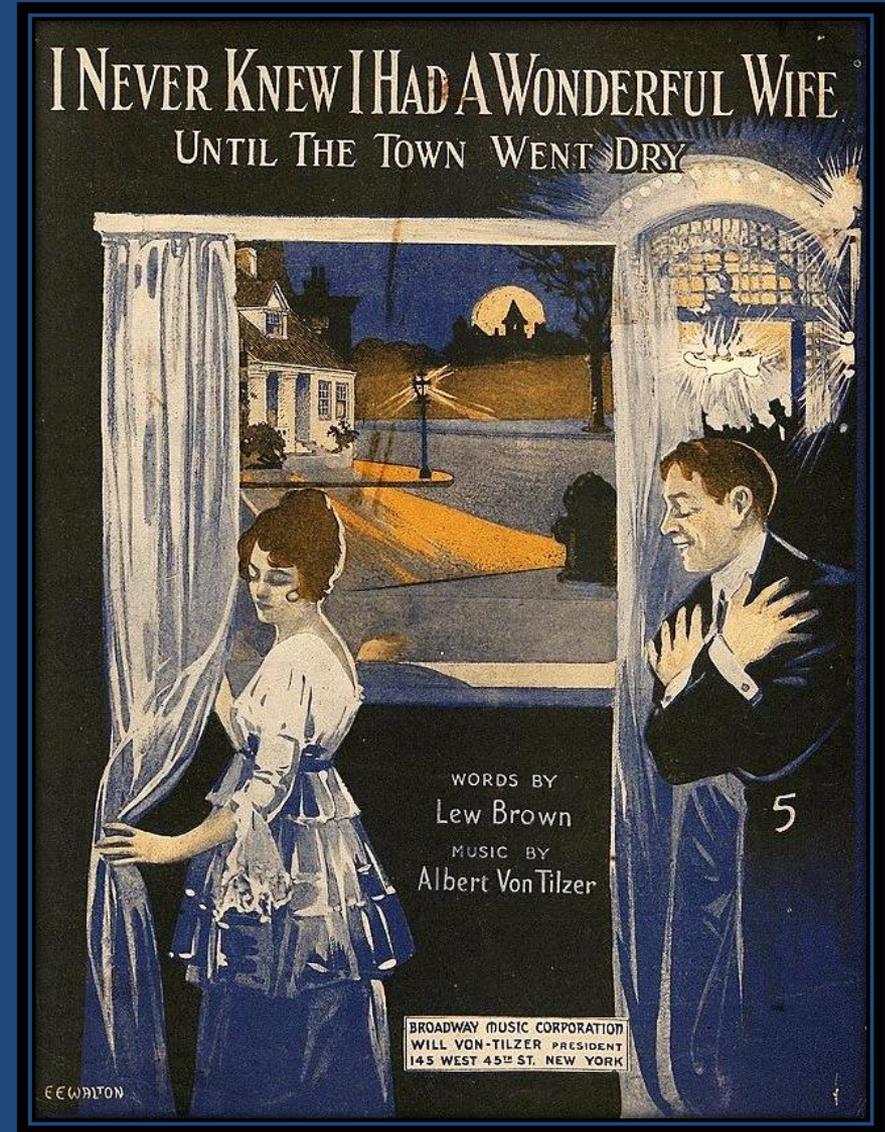
50¢
24net

The image is a vintage sheet music cover for the novelty song "America Never Took Water and America Never Will". At the top, the title is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, it says "NOVELTY SONG" and "Dean Deaver" in a cursive font. The central focus is a circular portrait of Belle Baker, a woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored, sleeveless dress, sitting on a chair. The portrait is framed by a blue, chain-link border. To the left of the portrait, it says "WORDS AND MUSIC BY" and to the right, "J. KEIRN BRENNAN GUS EDWARDS AND PAUL CUNNINGHAM". Below the portrait, it says "SUNG WITH GREAT SUCCESS BY BELLE BAKER". At the bottom, it says "M. WITMARK & SONS NEW YORK". There are two blue anchors flanking the publisher's name. In the bottom right corner, there is a price tag "50¢" and "24net". A small circular logo with "MUSIC" is in the bottom left corner.

Prohibition Music

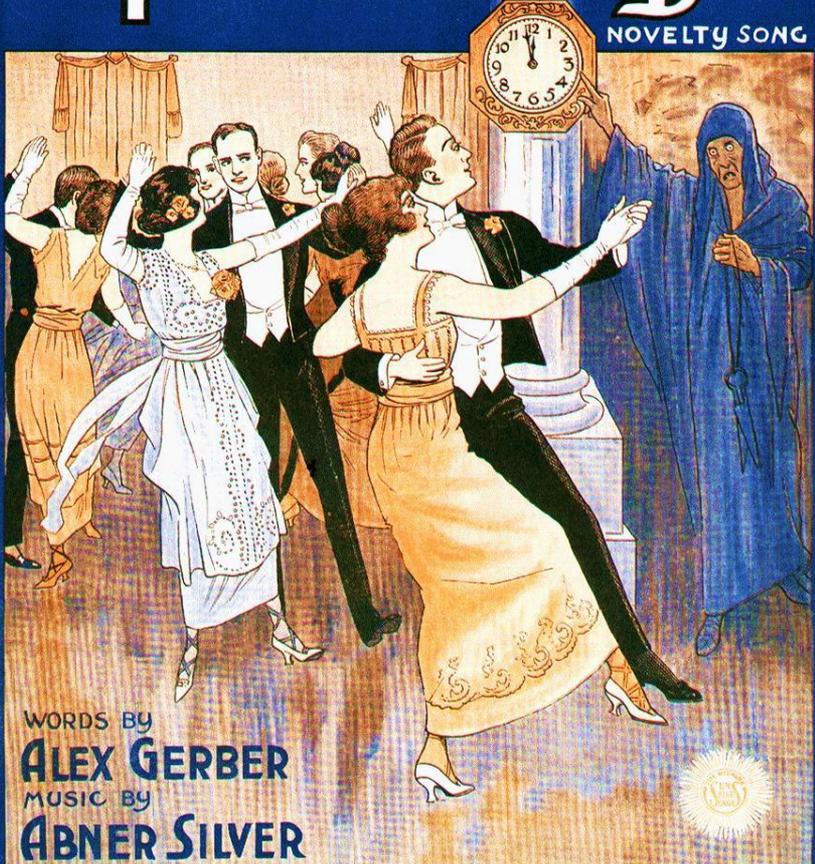
1919

The song “I Never Knew I Had a Wonderful Wife (Until the Town Went Dry)” appeared in 1919 with the following lyrics: Verse 1 – *Jonesy used to roam, stayed away from home, – He'd go out with the boys and leave his wifie all alone, – But when the town went dry, Jones began to cry, – “With no cafes or cabarets, I know I'm going to die.”* Verse 2 – *For weeks it had him worried, but now he's feeling gay, – I heard him tell a friend of his while on the street today.* Say! – Chorus – *I never knew I had a wonderful wife until the town went dry. – The way I spent my MONEY on women was a crime, – I found that with my wife, I could have had a better time, – I'd send her to the country and I'd always yell hooray, – But I saw her picture in a bathing suit the other day, – I never knew I had a wonderful wife until the town went dry.*



Prohibition Music 1919

AT THE PROHIBITION BALL
NOVELTY SONG



WORDS BY
ALEX GERBER
MUSIC BY
ABNER SILVER
Writers of "UP IN MABEL'S ROOM"
THEY MAY BE OLD BUT
THEY WANT TO BE LOVED" ETC.

M. WITMARK & SONS
NEW YORK

50¢
27.net

As **January 16, 1920** approached, songs like "**At the Prohibition Ball**" appeared. The cover for the sheet music for this song, published in 1919, shows couples waltzing on the dance floor as the Grim Reaper, perhaps Mr. Dry in disguise, points to the clock about to strike midnight and begin national prohibition.

An excerpt of the lyrics follows:
*We'll be at the Prohibition Ball, –
There we'll mix with Mister Alcohol; –
Folks will pay their last respects – to
Highballs and to Horse's Necks.*
[Horse's Necks was a cocktail with only two ingredients – burbon, brandy or American rye and whisky with a garnish of one lemon peel.]

Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 6

May 9, 1918, Iron Mountain Press:

License No Saloons.

The authorities at Florence have informed interested parties that the licenses for the two saloons at Spread Eagle will not be renewed when they expire in July. This action will please dwellers at this pretty and popular resort.

NEWS IN PARAGRAPHS.

The Spread Eagle saloons – Florence county – were open last Sunday and had many patrons.

The matter of building a large gate on the Michigan side of the Brule bridge between Iron and Florence counties and placing officers in charge to prevent smuggling any liquor into the county was discussed by the Iron county board, but no conclusion was reached.

May 23, 1918, Iron Mountain Press:

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.

A number of boozers were caught by state constabulary near the Niagara-Norway bridge, on the Michigan side, and pulled for being drunk and disorderly. Justice Brown fined them \$10.00 each and costs. Prosecutor Brackett and Sheriff Lundgren wish The Press to state that for a second offense of this nature the maximum fine will be imposed and a sentence up to ninety days in the county jail will be given for good measure.

The places of business of Batti Stevens and Carlo Calcaterra, two former saloonkeepers, were raided by deputy sheriffs last Wednesday and a quantity of liquors, beer, etc., found and confiscated. Later a second visit was made to Stevens' place and another lot of booze found. All of the contraband goods were taken to the court-house at Iron Mountain. Stevens and Calcaterra were examined and bound over to the circuit court.

Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 7

May 23, 1918, *Iron Mountain Press:*

Confiscated Wet Goods.

Sheriff Lundgren and Deputy Larkin visited the premises of Thomas Carney, at Randville, yesterday. In the hotel building they found no contraband goods, but in a building at the rear of the premises located a miscellaneous lot of whiskey, rum, wine, brandy, etc., in bottles, kegs and barrels. Mr. Carney admitted that he had the goods in this building, but told the officers that he understood he had a right to keep the same there as it was not in a building used before as a saloon. The goods were brought here and locked up at the court-house with the balance of the contraband wet goods.

An Arrest at Channing.

At Channing recently a young man named Raymond Shay, in an intoxicated condition, made free with two bottles of whiskey, endeavoring to dispose of it by treating his friends at a dancing party.

He was induced to tell where he got the “booze.” It transpired that, on the last wet day in Michigan, an auction sale of the remaining stock of John Cuculi was held, and the auctioneer sold some of the whiskey to Shay, who from all accounts looks to be over twenty-one, though it is said he is under age. Mr. Cuculi is held for selling liquor to a minor person.

June 6, 1918, *Iron Mountain Press:*

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.

Members of the state constabulary and deputy sheriffs, working under instructions from Prosecuting Attorney Brackett, stopped an auto load of people returning from Niagara last Saturday night and found four persons bringing intoxicants into the state. One individual, very much intoxicated and disorderly, and the driver of the auto were held for resisting an officer in that he refused to stop his machine [*automobile*] when commanded to do so.

Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 8

The six violators were haled into Justice Brown's court last Monday morning. Three of those bringing liquor across the border were assessed \$25.00 and costs each, and the fourth \$30.00 and costs. The plain drunk and disorderly was fined \$15 and costs, and the man who resisted an officer was given \$25.00 and costs. This leniency was shown on account of it being their first offense, but a second offense will subject them to the maximum fine and costs, and imprisonment. Parties crossing the border with liquor will do so at their own risk.

NEWS IN PARAGRAPHS.

A squad of state constables continue to make it unpleasant for the violators of the prohibition law.

FELCH NEWS NOTES.

Sheriff Lundgren passed through our town on Wednesday in search of "wet" goods.

June 27, 1918, Iron Mountain Press:

BRIEF NEWS NOTES.

William L. Dennis has made application to the Florence authorities for a license to operate a saloon at Spread Eagle. It has been intimated that the application will not be granted.

July 11, 1918, Iron Mountain Press:

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.

Thirteen arrests were made last Saturday night by the state constabulary and local officers for bringing liquor into Michigan and the culprits were booked for trial before Justice Brown.

NIAGARA NEWS NOTES.

Robert Burden has formed a partnership with Charles Morisini in the saloon business at the Niagara-Norway bridge.

Charles W. Johnson's Saloon, 127 South Carpenter Avenue,
Iron Mountain – 1



Charles W. Johnson's Saloon, 127 South Carpenter Avenue, Iron Mountain – 2



In 1892 in Iron Mountain's first city directory there was no listing for 127 South Stephenson Avenue, but at 125 South Stephenson Avenue sample rooms were operated by the **Merritt Brothers (Samuel and Matthew Merritt)**, "Dealers in fine wines, liquors, cigars and fresh beer. Gentlemanly treatment at all times." This could be the same establishment as those listed below as early addresses sometimes changed.

By 1902 **Louis Zaio** ran a saloon at 127 South Stephenson Avenue, and **P.A. Tremontin**, agent of the **Pabst Brewing Company**, also resided here.

By 1907 **Basilio (J. Carlotta) Fedrizzi** sold "wines, liquors and cigars" at his saloon, and also lived on the premises. **Charles W. Johnson's** saloon was here by 1913, when this photograph was taken, and he also resided on the premises.

On **February 6, 1917**, **Edward G. Kingsford** purchased lots 125, 127 and 129 on the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street to build a garage for his Ford dealership. At that time **Fornetti & Aimone (James Fornetti and Peter Aimone)** operated a barbershop at the corner (129), **Frank Caviani** ran a saloon at 127 and **Louis Sjostrom** ran a saloon at 125. The saloon licenses of the two tenants expired at the end of **April, 1917**. In 1925 the **Kingsford Motor Car Company**, owned by **Edward G. Kingsford** and his son **Edward S. Kingsford**, operated an automobile dealership selling "Ford and Lincoln Motor Cars, Trucks and Tractors" at 127-129 South Stephenson Avenue. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Kingsford Motor Car Company (Edward G. and Edward S.),
127-129 South Carpenter Avenue, Iron Mountain, circa 1925



Prohibition Begins in Michigan on May 1, 1918 – 9

July 18, 1918, *Iron Mountain Press*:

The Florence authorities refused to grant William Dennis a license to operate a saloon at Spread Eagle, but this fact has not lessened the sale of beer at the resort. The place is operated openly on Sunday disguised as a “club” and has visitors from all ends on the range. Drunks are numerous and the resort is gaining an unsavory reputation. In organizing his “club” Dennis says he is acting in accordance with the advice of a Green Bay attorney.

July 25, 1918, *Iron Mountain Press*:

Take this as a pointer. The state constabulary is searching ladies who come across the border. And they say that they have found some booze.

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.

The Michigan constabulary, operating out of this city, to stop the importing of booze into Michigan from Niagara, has moved to Iron Mountain.

August 1, 1918, *Iron Mountain Press*:

Constables Active.

The state constabulary held up five persons at Twin Falls bridge last Sunday night. In the first auto were two Iron Mountain drunks, and they paid \$17.50 each. In the second auto two Norway men were found with liquor in their possession, and, they, with the chauffeur, paid about \$50.00 each in justice court last Monday. Constables are now stationed at both bridges and all automobiles crossing the state line are searched.

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 1

1919

The U.S. Senate proposed the Eighteenth Amendment on December 18, 1917.

Eleven months later on November 18, 1918, prior to the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment, the U.S. Congress passed the temporary Wartime Prohibition Act which banned the sale of alcoholic beverages having an alcohol content of greater than 1.28%.

Interestingly, the armistice agreement ending World War I, known at the time as The Great War, was signed November 11, 1918, a week prior to the ratification of the Wartime Prohibition Act which had been intended to save grain for the war effort. Upon being approved by a 36th state on January 16, 1919, the amendment was ratified as a part of the Constitution.

The Wartime Prohibition Act took effect June 30, 1919, with July 1, 1919, becoming known as the “Thirsty-First”.

On October 28, 1919, Congress passed enabling legislation, known as the Volstead Act, to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment when it went into effect on January 16, 1920.

Supporters of the Amendment soon became confident that it would not be repealed. One of its creators, Senator Morris Sheppard, joked that “there is as much chance of repealing the Eighteenth Amendment as there is for a humming-bird to fly to the planet Mars with the Washington Monument tied to its tail.”

At the same time, songs emerged decrying the act. After Edward, Prince of Wales, returned to the United Kingdom following his tour of Canada in 1919, he recounted to his father, King George V, a ditty he had heard at a border town:

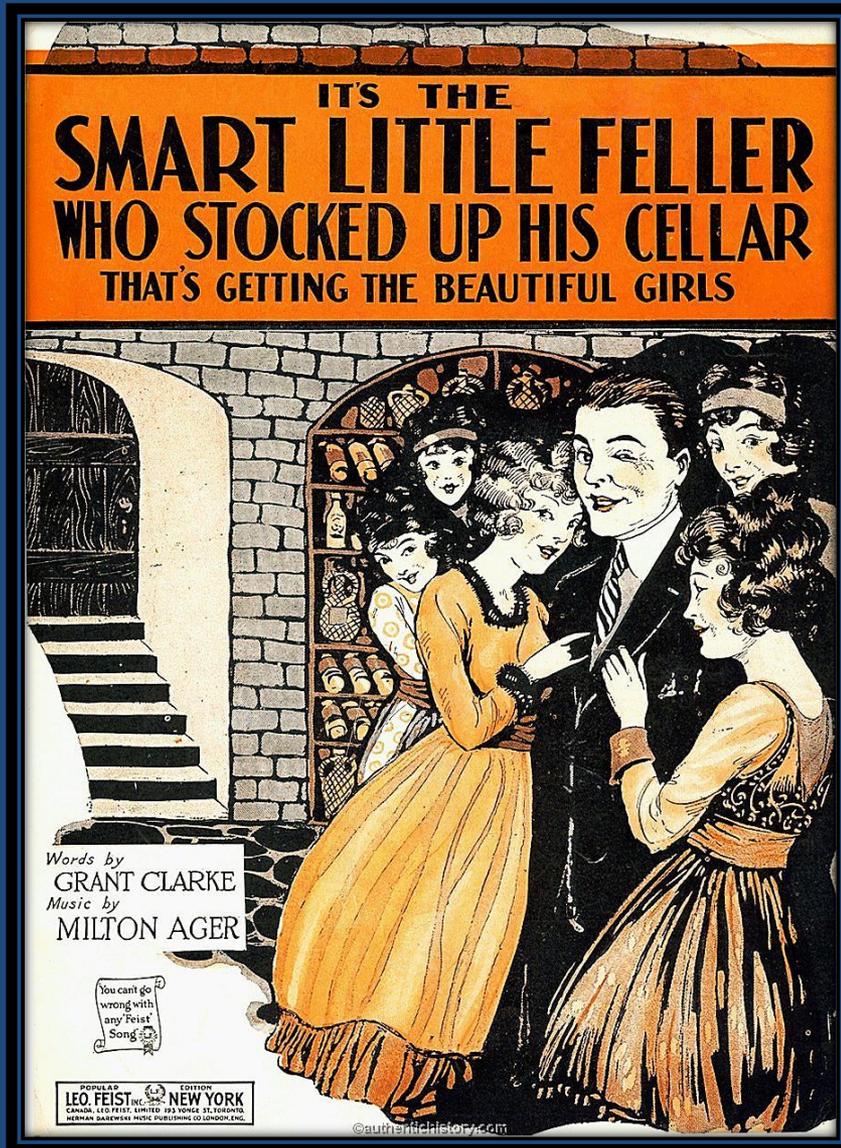
*Four and twenty Yankees, feeling very dry,
Went across the border to get a drink of rye.
When the rye was opened, the Yanks began to
sing,
“God bless America, but God save the King!”*

Prohibition Music

1920

National Prohibition did not prohibit drinking alcohol. It made it illegal to make or to sell it. If they could afford to do so, many people put alcoholic beverages in storage before Prohibition. It was perfectly legal. Published in 1920, “It’s The Smart Little Feller Who Stocked Up His Cellar (That’s Getting The Beautiful Girls)” suggests the advantages of having done so. The first chorus lyrics are:

Oh, they won’t call you honey, because you’ve got money. – It isn’t for money they sigh. – You could once grab a queen with your big limousine – But now times are changing, you know what I mean. – Oh, they won’t know you’re livin’ if all you can give ‘em – Is just pretty diamonds and pearls; – It’s the smart little feller who stocked up his cellar, – That’s getting the beautiful girls. The second chorus lyrics are: *Oh, you won’t satisfy them, with presents you buy them. – It isn’t for presents they pine. – Once they wanted a guy for the rocks he could buy. – But now it’s the guy with the old Rock and Rye. – You may live in a palace, but Annette and Alice – Will pass up the Dukes and the Earls; – For some guy in a shanty, with lots of Chianti. – He’s getting the beautiful girls.*



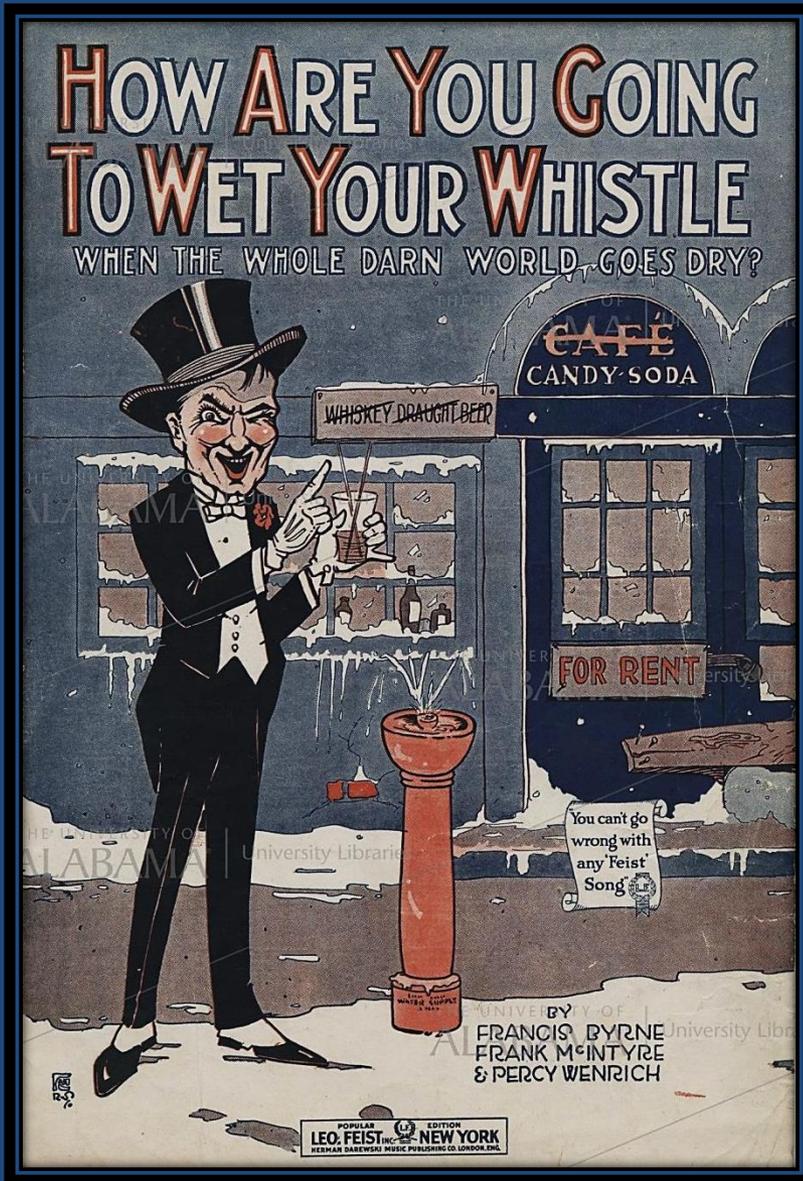
The image shows the cover of a vintage sheet music book. At the top, an orange banner contains the title in bold, black, sans-serif font: "IT'S THE SMART LITTLE FELLER WHO STOCKED UP HIS CELLAR THAT'S GETTING THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS". Below the banner is a black and white illustration of a man in a suit standing in a cellar, surrounded by several women in 1920s-style dresses. The cellar shelves are filled with bottles of alcohol. In the bottom left corner, there is a white box with the text: "Words by GRANT CLARKE Music by MILTON AGER". Below this box is a small logo that says "You can't go wrong with any 'Feist' Song". At the very bottom, there is a small rectangular box with the text: "PUBLISHED BY LEO FEIST, INC. NEW YORK CANADA, LEO FEIST, LIMITED 183 YONGE ST. TORONTO HERMAN BAREWISSE MUSIC PUBLISHING CO. LONDON, ENGL." and a small copyright notice: "©authentichistory.com".

Prohibition Music

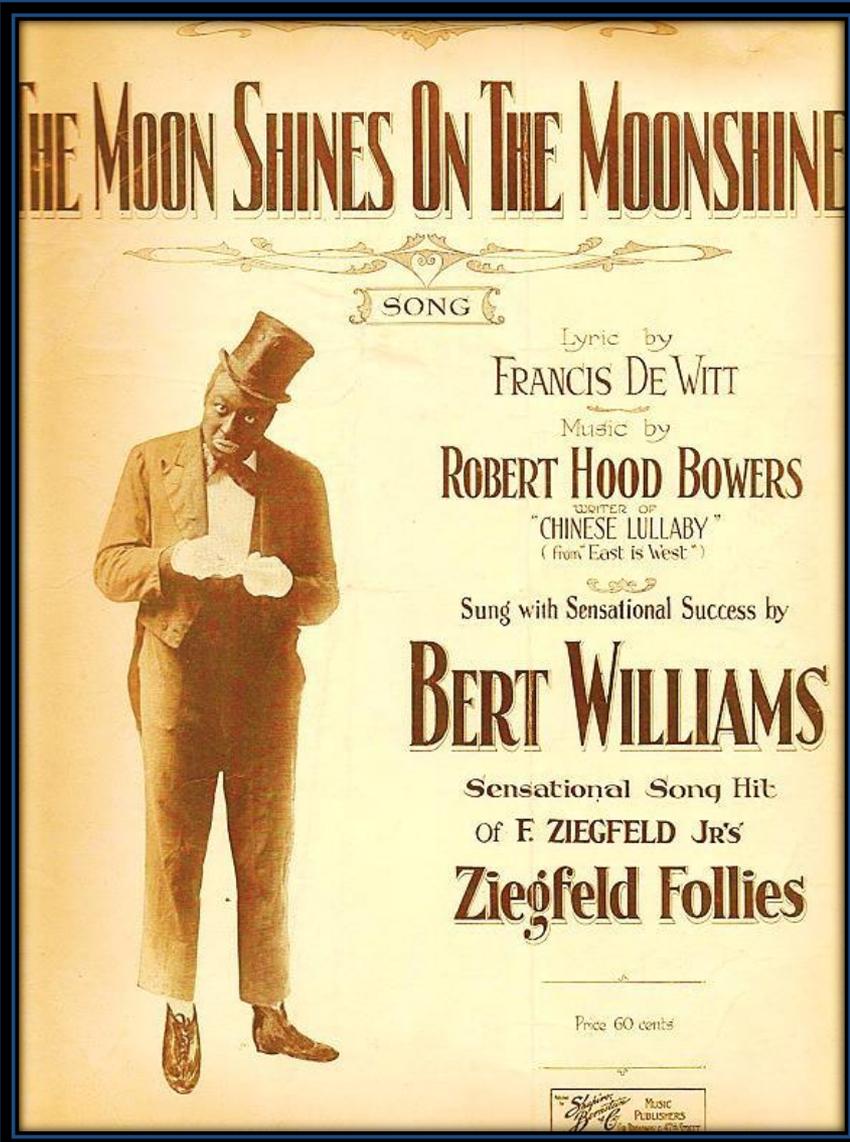
1920

After prohibition went into effect in the United States, many feared the dries would succeed in their goal to bring about world-wide prohibition. When “How Are You Goin’ To Wet Your Whistle (When the Whole Darn World Goes Dry)” was published in 1920, the lyricist expressed that fear, as noted in the sheet music cover showing a tuxedoed man about town asking the crucial question outside a cafe that once sold whiskey and draft beer that tried to get by on candy and soda. Apparently the attempt failed since the sign on the door says “for rent.” The first chorus for the song was:

“How are you goin’ to wet your whistle, – When the whole darn world goes dry? – What are you goin’ to do in the morning, – When you need a nip to open up your eye? – Now what of the wedding and the christening, – And the wake when your dear friends die. – Oh, How are you goin’ to wet your whistle, – When the whole darn world goes dry?”



Prohibition Music 1920



THE MOON SHINES ON THE MOONSHINE

SONG

Lyric by
FRANCIS DE WITT

Music by
ROBERT HOOD BOWERS
WRITER OF
"CHINESE LULLABY"
(from "East is West")

Sung with Sensational Success by
BERT WILLIAMS

Sensational Song Hit
Of F. ZIEGFELD Jr's
Ziegfeld Follies

Price 60 cents

Music PUBLISHERS

The song “The Moon Shines on the Moonshine”, published in 1920, observed that illegal distilling of alcohol had replaced legal distilling. The lyrics are:

“How sad and still tonight, – By the old distillery! – And how the cobwebs cob, – In its old machinery! – But in the mountain tops, Far from the eyes of cops. – Oh! how the moon shines on the moonshine, so merrily!”

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 2

April 8, 1920, Iron Mountain Press:

COLLECTED \$1,700

**Yesterday Was Pay Day for Liquor Law
Violators in Circuit Court.**

Due to the absence of Judge Flannigan, but very little business was transacted at the present term of the circuit court, due to adjourn this afternoon. Judge Collingwood, of Lansing, has been on the bench.

...

The criminal calendar was disposed of as follows:

The people vs. **Biagia Ferzacca**, violation of the liquor law. Trial by jury, found guilty and fined \$300 with \$125 costs assessed.

The People vs. **Joseph J. Tirschell** [*sic* – *Tirschel*], violation of the liquor law. Entered plea of guilty. Fined \$300 with \$50.00 costs assessed.

The People vs. **Robert Quillici**, violation of the liquor law. Entered plea of guilty. Fined \$300 with \$125 costs assessed.

The People vs. **Luigi Tremontine** [*sic* – *Tramontin*], violation of the liquor law. Entered plea of guilty. Fined \$200 with \$50.00 costs assessed.

The People vs. **Nicola Pietrantonio**, violation of liquor law, continued.

The People vs. **Robert Quillici**, violation of the liquor law, second case. Nolled.

The People vs. **George Meehan**, violation of the liquor law. Entered plea of guilty. Fined \$300 and \$25.00 costs.

The People vs. **John Cuculi**, violation of the liquor law. Nolled.

The total of the fines and costs collected by Judge Collingwood is \$1,775. He is not as good a collector as Judge Flannigan.

Charles Tirschel's Saloon, 101 West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 1



Charles Tirschel's Saloon, pictured here between 1902 and 1910, was located at 101 West Hughitt Street, west of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad tracks. Joseph Tirschel is standing at the far left and the other four men are unidentified. Joseph J. Tirschel pled guilty to "violation of the liquor law" and paid \$300 plus \$50 costs in circuit court on April 8, 1920. Note that "Leisen & Henes Beer Always on Draught" was painted on the window at the right. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

Charles Tirschel's Saloon, 101 West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 2



In the 1892 Iron Mountain City directory **Come Trepanier** operated a bakery here and was a dealer in “groceries, provisions, flour, feed, canned goods, confectionery, glassware, chinaware, and baker’s sundries.” Trepanier also resided here, as did **J.O. Arnauld**. By 1902 **Charles Tirschel** operated a saloon at 101 West Hughitt Street, but resided at 406 West A Street.

By 1905 the address changed to 101-103 West Hughitt Street, and **Joseph J. (Josephine) Tirschel** operated the saloon, was an agent for the **Leisen & Henes Brewing Company** (1891-1919) and lived here, still being listed in the 1907 and 1913 city directories at this address.

By 1925, during the Prohibition era, **Silas I. Lundquist** sold soft drinks at 101 West Hughitt Street, while **Vincent (Lucile) Kozenski** ran the **Popular Restaurant**, serving “Meals at All Hours, Special Sunday Dinners” at 103 West Hughitt Street. **Michael (Fannie) Solich** lived behind the restaurant. By 1935, with Prohibition over, **Luis Quilici** operated **La Taverna Hotel** at 101-103 West Hughitt Street. By 1939 **Joseph Boudreau** operated the **Boudreau Hotel** at the same address. In 1946 **Patty's Bargain Bar** occupied the premises with **Patty Flaminio** serving as manager. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

Louis Tramontin's Saloon, 118 East Main Street, Iron Mountain (1920)



In 1892 in Iron Mountain's first city directory **Louis Tramontin** was listed as operating a saloon and residing at **118 East Main Street** on Iron Mountain's North Side. By 1902 **Angelo Sylvestro** was listed as operating a saloon here. However, by 1905 "**Luigi Tremontini**" was listed as the proprietor of the saloon, living on the premises. In the 1907 city directory "**Hugo**" (**Marie**) **Tremontin** was at this location. Hugo worked as an agent for the Pabst Brewing Company. In 1913 "**Luigi**" (**Anna**) **Tremontin/Tramontin** sold soft drinks and also lived here. Luigi "**Tremontine**" pled guilty to "violation of the liquor law" and paid \$200 plus \$50 costs in circuit court on April 8, 1920. Louis "**Traimtion**" [*sic* – **Tramontin**] was living here, probably with his wife and children, in 1925. In the 1935 and 1939 city directories **Louis** and **Anna Tramontin** lived here. By 1946 **Anna Tramontin**, a widow, resided here. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

THE PARTIES
WERE BIGGER.



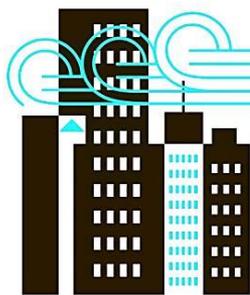
THE PACE WAS FASTER,

THE SHOWS

WERE BROADER,



THE BUILDINGS
WERE HIGHER,

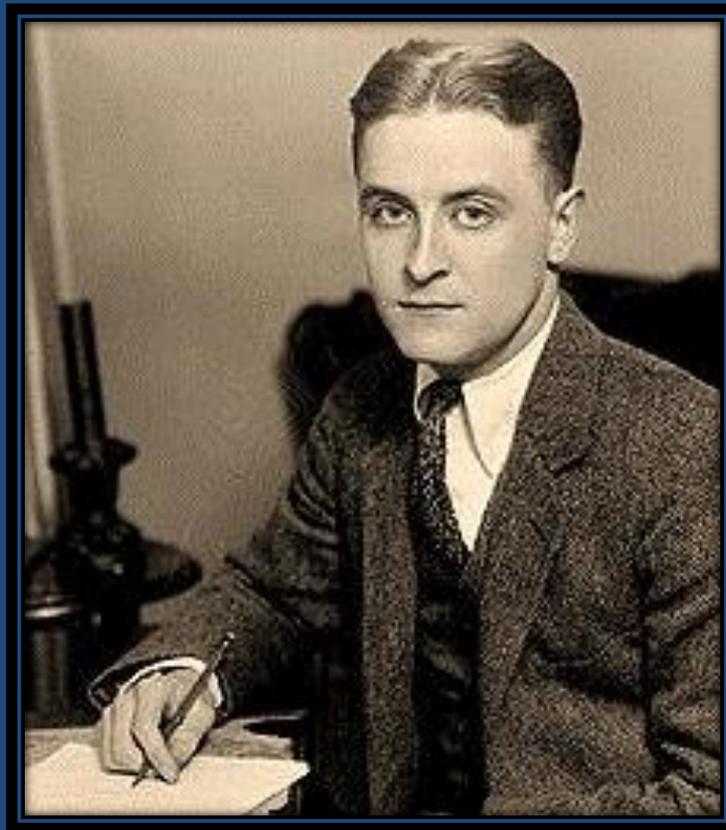


the morals were looser,

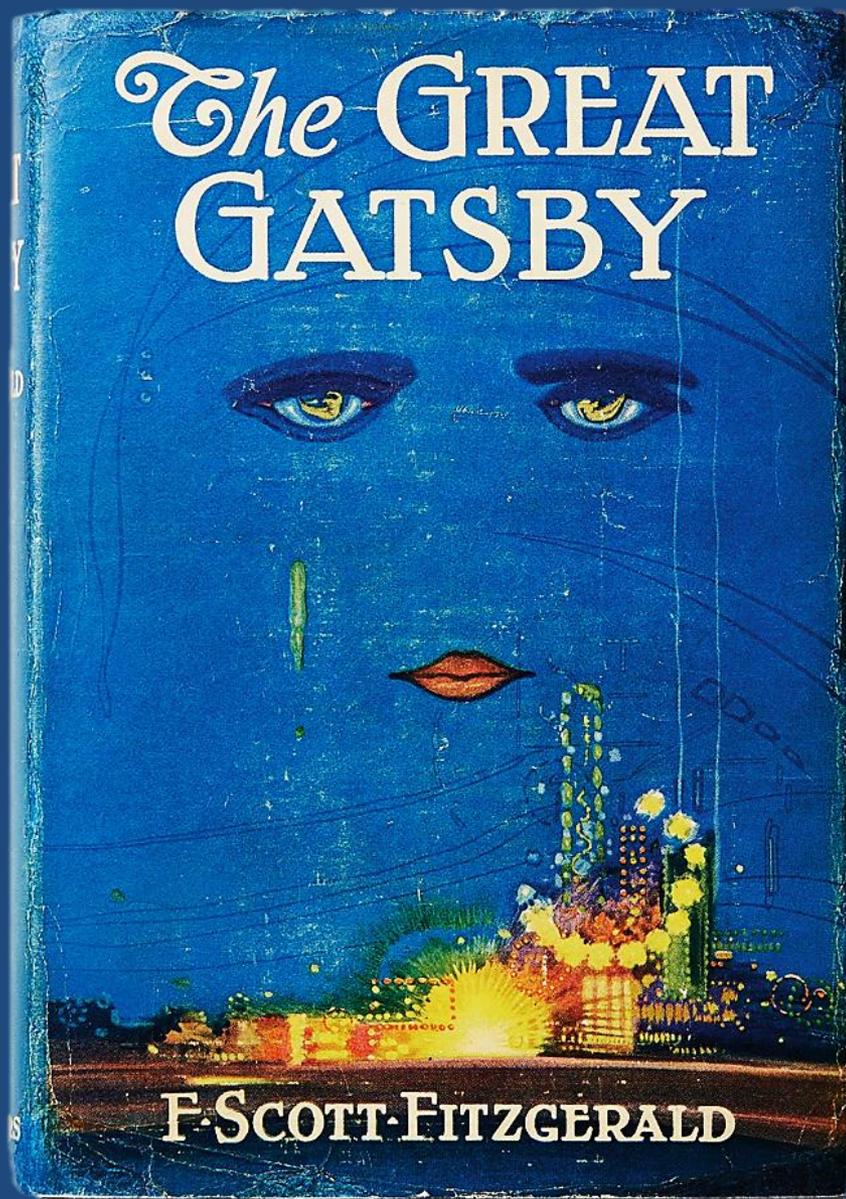
AND **THE LIQUOR**

WAS CHEAPER.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald on the 1920s in *THE GREAT GATSBY*



F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940), shown here in 1921, was inspired by the parties he had attended while visiting Long Island's north shore. Gatsby, the title character in *The Great Gatsby*, was a bootlegger, and the author made discreet allusions to the organized crime culture which was the source of Gatsby's fortune.



The Great Gatsby is a 1925 novel written by American author **F. Scott Fitzgerald** that follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West and East Egg on prosperous Long Island in the **summer of 1922**.

The story primarily concerns **the young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby** and his quixotic passion and obsession for **the beautiful former debutante Daisy Buchanan**.

The cover of the first printing of *The Great Gatsby* is among the most celebrated pieces of art in American literature. It depicts disembodied eyes and a mouth over a blue skyline, with images of naked women reflected in the irises.

A little-known artist named Francis Cugat was commissioned to illustrate the book while Fitzgerald was in the midst of writing it. The cover was completed before the novel. Fitzgerald was so enamored with it that he told his publisher he had "written it into" the novel.

The Great Gatsby Depicts The Roaring Twenties



The Great Gatsby Depicts The Roaring Twenties



The Great Gatsby Depicts The Roaring Twenties



I like large parties. They're so intimate. At small parties there isn't any privacy. - F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby

The Great Gatsby Depicts The Roaring Twenties



*Men and girls came and went like moths among the
whispering and the champagne and the stars. - F. Scott
Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby*

In the Twenties Flappers Danced the Charleston



18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 3

December 2, 1920, *Iron Mountain Press*:

POLICE AND SHERIFF RAID

Police and Sheriff Make Raid at American Hotel.

The police and sheriff departments worked hand in hand late yesterday afternoon and made a raid at the American Hotel on Merritt [*sic – Merritt*] avenue, formerly known as the German Hotel, and confiscated three cases of bitters and six quart bottles of some kind of wine. The seals on the bottles of bitters were broken when found by the authorities, this, in itself, constituting a violation of the liquor law.

The liquor was placed in a sleigh and taken to the county jail.

The raid was made by Sheriff Farrell, Undersheriff Frank Cleveland, Chief of Police Gilbeault and Officers Corey, Constantini and Warne.

Besides placing the proprietor, Anton Lavorich [*sic – Loverich*], under arrest on a charge of violation of the liquor law, the officers took three men in custody on a charge of gambling, namely, George Meyers, Louis Osborn and Louis Mellis.

Meyers was arrested a few days ago on a charge of gambling at the time the raid was made by the police at Robert Wasevich's place, East Brown street.

All the men arrested in the raid yesterday afternoon were taken before Justice MacDonald. Lavorich [*sic – Loverich*] was bound over to circuit court for trial, under a cash bond of \$500, which he furnished. Osborn and Mellis were fined \$10 and costs and Meyers was fined \$25 and costs, owing to it being his second offense. All the men paid their fines.

Lavorich [*sic – Loverich*] purchased the American Hotel a few days ago from Reinhart Goethe, the consideration, it is said, being \$8,500.

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He took possession at one o'clock yesterday afternoon, and within three hours afterward was in the toils of the law.

The police and sheriff departments knowing of the deal and also knowing that he conducts two places of business in **Gladstone** and one at **Escanaba**, suspicioned that he would probably have some liquor at the place, so the two departments heartily co-operated and made it their business to find out.

The place was filled with men when the officers entered like thieves in the night, some engaged in playing cards, and immediately looks of surprise crept all over their countenances.

Those charged with gambling were placed under arrest at once while some of the officers proceeded to look around for liquor.

Every nook and corner in the place was carefully searched and all the time that the raid was going on the doors of the place were kept locked and no person was allowed to leave it until the authorities had completed what they came there for.



The German Hotel, later the American Hotel, the American Inn, the American Inn Tavern, Golden Comb Beauty Salon (2010), Hair Depot (2010), Tangles Hair Care (2010) still stands at 407 Merritt Avenue in 2018.

German Hotel, 407 Merritt Avenue, Iron Mountain – 1 (1920)



The man in the white shirt and long white apron is **William Gothe**. His wife, **Margaret Gothe**, is the woman standing second from the right at the corner of the building, together with their children and dog. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

German Hotel, 407 Merritt Avenue, Iron Mountain – 2 (1920)

The **German Hotel**, operated by **Marsch & Gothe** (John Marsch and Fred Gothe) in 1892 at **407 Merritt Avenue** in downtown Iron Mountain, boasted “Good accommodations by the day or week. A fine bar of wines and liquors in connection.”

The man in the white shirt and long white apron is **William Gothe**. His wife, **Margaret Gothe**, is the woman standing second from the right at the corner of the building, together with their children and dog.

Sometime between 1913 and 1920 the name changed to the **American Hotel**, possibly due to anti-German sentiment during World War I. **Anton Loverich** purchased the **American Hotel** from **Reinhart Gothe** in late November, 1920.

In 1925 **Anthony Baraga** was listed as the proprietor. By 1935 **Anton Loverich** was again the proprietor of the **American Hotel**, later known as the **American Inn**.
[Menominee Range Historical Museum]



Anton “Lavorich” was arrested on a charge of “violation of the liquor law” on December 1, 1920, during a police and sheriff’s raid on the **American Hotel** which occurred just after **Loverich** took possession of the establishment which he had purchased for \$8,500 a few days earlier. Officers also arrested **George Meyers**, **Louis Osborn** and **Louis Mellis** on a charge of gambling.

This building still stands in downtown Iron Mountain in 2018.

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 5

January 5, 1922, *Iron Mountain News*:

HOTEL LANDLORD IS FOUND GUILTY Proprietor of Central House Held For Liquor Law Violation.

“Guilty” was the verdict of the circuit court jury this morning in the case of the People vs. Casimir Recla.

Recla is the landlord of the Central House on East B street and he was charged with a violation of the state liquor law. A local businessman was the main witness for the prosecution. He affirmed that he had not only drank [*sic – drunk*] intoxicant liquors at the hotel, but had become intoxicated and while in that condition had been arrested and taken to the city prison.

January 6, 1922, *Iron Mountain News*:

Recla Sentenced to Jail.

Casimir Recla, proprietor of the Central House, received the heaviest sentence of any liquor law violator as a result, the court informed him, of selling liquor to a man who he knew was a habitual drunkard, with the result that the purchaser, a businessman, was taken to jail on a dray.

“You were the cause of the pain suffered by this man’s family through his disgrace, and the cause of his going to jail,” Judge Flannigan stated. “It is not more than fair that you be given a taste of jail yourself.” The sentence that Recla serve twenty days in jail, and at the expiration of that period pay a fine of \$500 and costs of \$100, in default of which he is to serve additional time until the fine is paid, not exceeding four months.

Ten ballots were required to convict Recla, it was learned today, the first one standing six to six for acquittal and conviction, the latter forces gaining until they secured a unanimous vote on the tenth ballot.

The Central House, 106 East B Street, Iron Mountain – 1 (1922)



The Central House, 106 East B Street, Iron Mountain – 2 (1922)



The **Central House**, a hotel and saloon located at **106 East B Street** in Iron Mountain, was operated by **Joseph Wenzel** in 1892. By 1902 the establishment was run by **John Parmenter**, and by 1907 by **Joseph Cordy**, who was still here in 1913. **Casimir Recla** was the landlord January 6, 1922, when he was found guilty of a “violation of the state liquor law,” as reported in the *Iron Mountain News*.

August E. Brauns purchased the **Central House** and the vacant lots to the west of the hotel from **Joseph Cordy** in November, 1922, with a frontage on B Street of 92 feet, the lot extending back 125 feet. Construction of the **Braumart Theatre** began on the vacant lots on September 3, 1924, and the grand opening was held April 21, 1925. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 6

October 23, 1922, *The Iron Mountain News*:

“MOON SPECIAL” DETROIT BOUND Iron Mountain Delegation of 14 to House of Correction.

Tomorrow morning the doors of the state house of correction in Detroit will be opened to admit a contingent of thirty-four upper peninsula men, 33 of whom will be “guests” in that institution at the request of the United States government because they have been found guilty of violating the constitutional amendment which forbids dealing in intoxicating liquor. Fourteen of the 33 are from Iron Mountain.

These men, who will have the status of prisoners for terms of from sixty days to nine months, will leave Marquette on the South Shore train in a “private” car which has been dubbed the “moonshine special.”

The last time an excursion of this kind was made from Marquette to Detroit, following a term of federal court, the contingent of liquor law violators numbered 51, which stands as the largest delegation of moonshiners ever sent to prison from the upper peninsula at one time.

December 1, 1922, *The Iron Mountain News*:

SPONGE SQUAD MAKES SEVERAL RAIDS IN CITY

Grove and State Troopers Arrest Iron Mountain Men

NORWAY VISITED

Alleged Moonshiners Are Taken to Escanaba For Arraignment.

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 7

Ten Dickinson county men, seven from Iron Mountain and three from Norway, were arrested last night and this morning by federal prohibition agents, assisted by state troopers, in a series of raids conducted in the two cities.

The men were taken to Escanaba this morning, to be arraigned this afternoon before United States Commissioner McEwen. It is understood that most of them were prepared to furnish bond for their liberty until the next term of federal court.

Those Arrested.

The men arrested from Iron Mountain are:

Ed. St Arnauld, 126 West Hughitt street.

Joe Masha, 124 West Hughitt.

Jack Cowan, 116 West Hughitt.

William Milkwiesz, 104 West Hughitt.

_____, 120 West Hughitt [*sic – Hughitt*].

_____, 110 West Hughitt.

_____ Hattisburg, 106 West Hughitt.

Those from Norway are:

James Vezzetti, Main street.

Mr. Casovava [*sic – Casanova*], Saginaw location.

Victor Braspenicks [*sic – Brasspennickx*], Third ward.

The Iron Mountain men were raided last night, while those at Norway were picked up this morning when the party was en route to Escanaba.

At the soft drink parlor operated by Ed St. Arnauld, according to Leo J. Grove, federal enforcement chief for the northern division of Michigan, the raiders found a 10 gallon tank containing moonshine whisky cleverly concealed. A small panel, with a nail hole about three inches from the floor, attracted the officers' attention. Upon raising the panel they discovered two quarts of moonshine and saw two large pipes.

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Lieutenant Bedard, of the state police, and other officers, armed with axes, chopped through the floor of the room above and there revealed a 10 gallon tank in which moonshine is alleged to have been kept.

Justice Is Assaulted.

While the search was being made, Justice of the Peace Ernest L. Anderson entered the building. He was informed by the raiders that he would have to leave until the search was completed and countered with the statement that he “had business there.”

No stars [badges] were displayed by the officers, Anderson claims, and he pressed his claim for admission, whereupon two of the raiders seized him and attempted to put him out of the building. He protested, he said, and Trooper Watterman, of the state police, struck him in the face.

Anderson said this afternoon he would get out a warrant against Watterman, charging him with assault and battery.

The justice declared efforts were made last night to find Watterman and place him under arrest, but he could not be found.

The other six Iron Mountain men taken are held for the sale of intoxicating liquors, while St. Arnauld will be charged with sale and possession, it is expected.

At the soft drink parlor of Vezzetti in Norway a quart of alleged moonshine whisky and a quart of wine were found.

A raid on the home of Casonava [*sic* – *Casanova*] is said to have yielded moonshine and wine, while moonshine is also said to have been found at the soft drink parlor operated by Braspannicks [*sic* – *Braspennickx*].

E. E. St. Arnaud's Saloon, 200 West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 1



E. E. St. Arnauld's Saloon, 200 West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 2

In 1892 in Iron Mountain's first city directory **Edward E. St. Arnauld** operated "sample rooms" at **200 West Hughitt Street** [northwest corner of **Carpenter Avenue** and **West Hughitt Street**], dealing in "fine wines, liquors, cigars and bottle goods," and was still operating a saloon here in 1902, and again in 1907. By 1913 **Antonio J. (Anna) Lefebvre** was running the saloon, but Edward E. St. Arnauld was still residing here, probably upstairs.

In 1925 **Edward J. (Perina) Verrette** sold "Staple and Fancy Groceries, Fresh and Smoked Meats, Freshly Dressed Poultry Every Saturday, Vegetables and Fruits of All Kinds" here. By 1935 **John (Louise) Ealmini** ran a tavern here.

By 1939 the **Iron Mountain Auto Supply Company**, **Stephen F. (Lucille) Krause**, owner and proprietor, occupied this site. This building still stands in 2018. [William J. Cummings]



E. E. St. Arnauld's Saloon, 200 West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 3



The basic structure of Edward E. St. Arnauld's Saloon remained when Galaxy Sports was located at the northwest corner of Carpenter Avenue and West Hughitt Street in 2010. The building is now vacant (2018).

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 9

September 20, 1923, *Iron Mountain News*:

SHERIFF DESTROYS MOONSHINE STILLS

**Cleveland and Deputy Visit
Foster City Territory.**

Two moonshine stills, each of great capacity, were destroyed yesterday by Sheriff Frank Cleveland and Deputy Louis Youhassey, who discovered the devices on farms located near Foster City.

The first still was found on the farm of John McMahan, who gave the officials permission to search the premises. It was destroyed and McMahan, according to the authorities, promised that no more stills would be found on his place.

As the result of complaints from residents of Foster City, the officials also visited the home of Mrs. Ernest Steuben, whose husband was arrested some time ago and is now employed in another city.

The complaints allege that Mrs. Steuben and her two children were making and distributing moonshine. A large still was uncovered in the woods some distance from the Steuben home, the authorities being led to the spot by one of the children. Part of the still was saved and the rest burned. The officials also destroyed a half barrel of mash which was in a room in the Steuben home.

National Saloon, 111 East Brown Street, Iron Mountain – 1 (1924)



National Saloon, 111 East Brown Street, Iron Mountain – 3 (1924)



On about May 1, 1924, the **Modern Laundry & Dry Cleaners** (Edward E. Broullire and Harry Johnson) opened at 111 East Brown Street, Iron Mountain. In late May, 1925, Johnson sold his share of the business to **William Folley** and they still ran the business here in 1935. By 1939 **Fred Folley** was listed as owner with **Edward E. Broullire**, and they still operated the business here in 1941. Pictured here in the 1930's are **Fred Folley** (left) and **Bert Broullire** (center). The person at the right is not identified. [*Jennie Saler*]

G.B. Tramontin, operated the **National Saloon**, “Fine wines, liquors and cigars served,” at 111 East Brown Street in 1892. In 1902 **C.W. Johnson** ran a saloon at this address, but by 1907-1908 **Oscar Sand** operated a saloon here.

One of six padlock suits instituted in Iron Mountain by Prosecuting Attorney J.C. Knight on January 19, 1924, was against William Swanson, proprietor of a resort at 111 East Brown Street. The owners of the building were Joseph and Carolina Bolognesi. On April 7, 1925, the six padlock suits were dropped by Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister.

In 1892 **Lorenzen & Grevette** (John Lorenzen and Joseph Grevette) ran a saloon in the building at the right (109 East Brown Street). **John E. Clash** sold “teas, etc.,” here in 1913. **The Cycle Store**, **William M. Rhodes**, proprietor, provided “Indian Motorcycle Sales and Service” and bicycle repairing at this location in 1925.

National Saloon, 111 East Brown Street, Iron Mountain – 1 (1924)



18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 10

April 28, 1924, *Iron Mountain News*:

Prosecutor Threatens To Put Ban

On Sunday Dances

Drinking Orgy at Quinnesec Last Night

Results In Closing of Hall.

A ban may be placed on Sunday night dances throughout Dickinson county as a result of an orgy of drunkenness at Quinnesec last night, which resulted in the closing of the dance hall by Sheriff Frank Cleveland, it was stated today by Prosecutor Ray E. MacAllister.

The Quinnesec dance was closed after the views of several prominent residents of the town had been solicited by the sheriff and these men and women were found to be in hearty approval of the step.

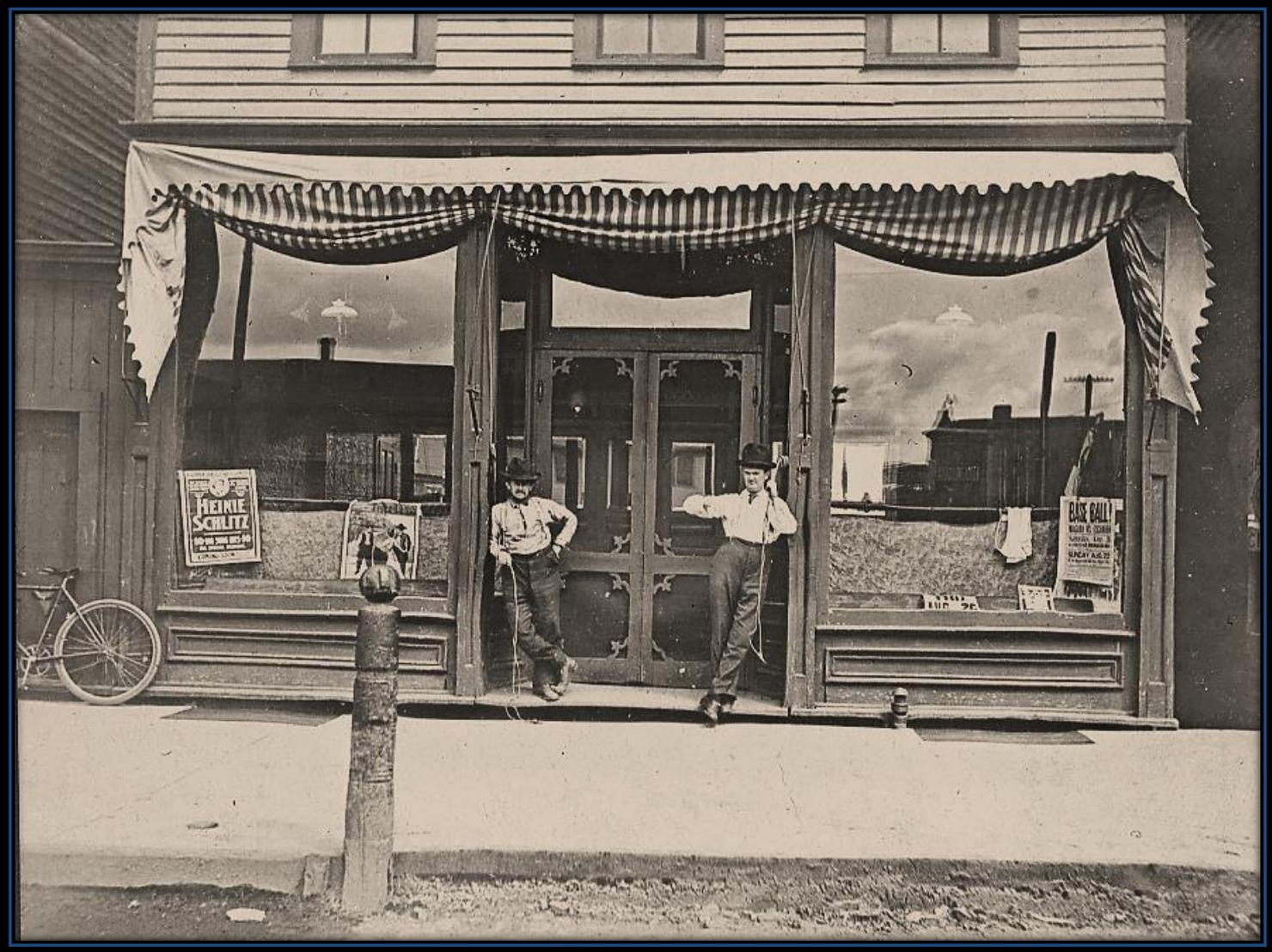
Two Iron Mountain girls, described as about 20 years of age and attractive, figured in the alleged drinking bout which caused the closing of the dance.

Cleveland said, "These young women who attended the dance with two youths about 15 years of age, were found in a drunken condition in the rear seat of an automobile parked back of the dance hall." Several bottles of liquor had been spilled in the car, Cleveland said.

The sheriff stated that an investigation showed that a large number of dancers also were under the influence of liquor in varying degrees.

"We are going to try to put an end to affairs of this kind," declared Prosecutor MacAllister today. "We are going to go ahead and put the damper on all Sunday night public dances all through the county."

Palace Sample Rooms, 531 South Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain – 1



Palace Sample Rooms, 531 South Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain – 2



In the 1892 in Iron Mountain's first city directory **Peter (Mary) Calvi** was listed as the proprietor of the **Palace sample rooms [saloon]**, at **531 South Stephenson Avenue**, Iron Mountain, which boasted "A fine bar of imported and domestic wines, liquors and cigars. Fresh beer always on tap." The Calvis also lived here. **This photograph probably dates between 1902 and 1905.** The two men are unidentified.

Note the hitching post in the foreground and the bicycle at the far left.

Calvi's saloon was listed in the 1902, 1905, 1907 and 1913 city directories. By 1905 the Calvis resided at 304 West C Street.

By 1925, during the Prohibition era, **Keeler L. Calvi** and **James P. Palmer** were the proprietors of **The Quality Hardware Store**, featuring a "General and Complete Line of Hardware." **William (Frances) Rauhut**, an autoworker, resided upstairs. **Calvi** and **Palmer** were still operating **The Quality Hardware Store** in 1935, but in the 1939 and 1946 city directories **Keeler L. Calvi** was listed as the owner and proprietor. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 11

January 26, 1925, *The Iron Mountain News*:

RECORD SET BY LIQUOR SEIZURE

Raid Saturday Netted Big Still,

226 Gallons of Moonshine.

The daddy of all stills and 226 gallons of moonshine were resting today in the basement of the county jail following their seizure late Saturday afternoon by Sheriff Frank Cleveland in a raid at the home of Alois Mortier, 27 Saginaw location, Norway.

The haul was the largest liquor confiscation in the history of the county. Mortier, authorities claim, was in business on a “wholesale” basis.

The investigation that led to the arrest was conducted by the sheriff’s department following information that Mortier was in the moonshine business. After carefully laying his plans, the sheriff led the raid which resulted in his finding the mammoth still and the contraband liquor.

Mortier has not yet been arraigned but will be bound over for trial at the April term of circuit court, **Ray E. MacAllister**, prosecuting attorney, declared today. Mortier has furnished bond for his appearance.

February 20, 1925, *The Iron Mountain News*:

RECORD RUM HAUL MADE IN FEDERAL RAID HERE

SPONGE SQUAD NET CAPTURES

5 LAST NIGHT

**Single Seizure Greatest in History of Upper
Peninsula**

GROVE IN CHARGE

**Declares Enforcement Of Volstead Law In
City Is Joke.**

18th Amendment Goes Into Effect on January 16, 1920 – 12

The largest haul of moonshine whisky ever taken in a soft drink parlor by federal prohibition enforcement agents in the upper peninsula was seized here last night by dry agents working under Leo J. Grove, of Marquette.

The record seizure was made at Meehan “soft” drink parlor at 104 East Hughitt street, where a 50-gallon barrel, a 10-gallon keg, three five-gallon jugs, two one-gallon jugs of moonshine, two gallons of wine and three cases of beer, as well as a number of pint bottles of whisky comprised the haul.

The persons arrested last night are:

Stanley Ulys, 101 West Hughitt street, sale.

Peter Sach, 102 West Hughitt, sale.

Joe Caduto, 104 East Hughitt, sale.

George Gay, 112 West Hughitt, sale.

Joseph Waites, 104 West Hughitt, possession.

Padlock Injunctions Planned.

The raids were made in connection with the arrest of five bartenders at various soft drink saloons of the city.

Injunctions looking for the padlocking of the buildings in which liquor was found will be sought in federal court, Mr. Grove announced, making a total of 16 padlock injunctions sought for Iron Mountain buildings as a result of raids here within a week.

The first raid was a week ago, when 19 persons were arrested and descriptions of 14 buildings taken, to be used in padlock proceedings.

Padlock injunctions will be asked for the buildings at **104 East Hughitt**, the latter occupied by **Ed Van Damme’s** restaurant.

Made Purchases.

The raiding party was armed with search warrants obtained after agents had purchased liquor at the various places and struck its first blow at about 7 o’clock.

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The party, made up of federal agents, United States deputy marshals and state police, arrived here in automobiles, making the trip from Marquette by way of Escanaba, over which route some of them returned this afternoon. Others were to accompany prisoners to Escanaba, while one or two were to accompany the consignment of seized liquor to Marquette by train.

Law enforcement in Iron Mountain, so far as the Volstead act is concerned, is a joke, in the opinion of Mr. Grove, who is federal prohibition enforcement chief for the northern Michigan district. He stated that there have not been more than a dozen liquor law arrests in Iron Mountain by city police in the past five or six years. Willingness of the police to co-operate with him and his men in making raids and arrests here has not been forthcoming, Mr. Grove declared, despite the fact that scores of alleged “soft” drink parlors are in operation here.

Places Responsibility.

Responsibility for conditions here does not rest primarily with the federal enforcement group, Mr. Grove declared, but lies almost entirely with the local administration. As city executive, he declared, it is the duty of the mayor to instruct the chief of police that a clean-up is in order.

Blame for local conditions rests first with the city officials, then come county officials and, finally, he declared, federal agents, who should, but who in few cases are asked to, co-operate with local authorities.

Nineteen arrests were made here last week by Mr. Grove's forces making a total of 24 arrests for Volstead law violation within a week.

Iron Mountain was “dry” this morning, his agents reported, but they realize it will be running “wide open” as soon as they leave the city.

Palace Sample Rooms, 531 South Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain – 1



Palace Sample Rooms, 531 South Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain – 2



Edward G. Kingsford stood at the far right in this photograph, taken in front of Peter Calvi's Saloon at 531 South Stephenson Avenue in downtown Iron Mountain, sometime between 1900 and 1910. The other five men are unidentified. In the 1892 in Iron Mountain's first city directory Peter (Mary) Calvi was listed as the proprietor of the Palace sample rooms [saloon], at this address which boasted "A fine bar of imported and domestic wines, liquors and cigars. Fresh beer always on tap." Calvi also lived here. Calvi's saloon was listed in the 1902, 1905, 1907 and 1913 city directories. By 1905 the Calvis resided at 304 West C Street.

By 1925, during the Prohibition era, Keeler L. Calvi and James P. Palmer were the proprietors of The Quality Hardware Store, featuring a "General and Complete Line of Hardware." William (Frances) Rauhut, an autoworker, resided upstairs. Calvi and Palmer were still operating The Quality Hardware Store in 1935, but in the 1939 and 1946 city directories Keeler L. Calvi was listed as the owner and proprietor. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Florence County's "Little Hurley" Near Twin Falls – 1

"Little Hurley," located on the Wisconsin side of the Menominee River at Twin Falls, was nicknamed for Hurley, Wisconsin, located in Iron County, directly across the Montreal River from Ironwood, Michigan. The newspaper article below, appearing in *The Iron Mountain News* on April; 13, 1925, reports a couple of raids on "Little Hurley" and the surrounding area. Another article from the October 1, 1926 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* transcribed below chronologically records additional raids there.

Founded in 1885 as a railroad town where iron ore was loaded for transport to the Lake Superior ore docks in Ashland, Wisconsin, Hurley became known as the "vice city of the North" due to its isolation from the centers of power and population in the lower portion of the state. Its infamous Silver Street, operating day and night, boasted nearly two hundred saloons disguised as soda parlors during the Prohibition era.

April 13, 1925, *The Iron Mountain News*:

Week-End Vice Clean-Up Made in Florence County

"Little Hurley" Again Among Places Raided; Going After Undesirables, Says Sells.

"Little Hurley," just a shack across the Michigan boundary line near Twin Falls which was raided three weeks ago by the Florence county authorities in a liquor clean-up, was the scene of another raid Saturday night when several gallons of alleged moonshine and wine were confiscated.

John Jockins, said to be the proprietor, faces another charge of violating the Volstead act as a result of the visit of the authorities.

Florence County's "Little Hurley" Near Twin Falls – 2

Arrested this morning before Court Commissioner W.C. Haberkorn, at Florence, Jockins was unable to produce bond of \$2,000 and at present is being detained in the Florence county jail.

Jockins was given his release three weeks ago on payment of a cash bond of \$1,000. The bond was doubled this time by District Attorney Arthur M. Sells because, he said, Jockins is a "mean customer."

Jockins, said to be a former Iron Mountain man, will face the two charges at the next term of circuit court in Florence.

The "sponge squad" which last week was kept busy making raids in Aurora and Homestead, Wis., consisted of Sheriff White, Deputy Rabishaw [*sic* – *Robichaud*] and two other deputies.

More Are Taken

The "Little Red House," across the highway from "Little Hurley", and reported to be conducted by Charles Fredrickson, of Iron Mountain, was also visited. Practically the same amount of alleged liquor was obtained there as was found in "Little Hurley."

Fredrickson was also given a preliminary hearing this morning before Commissioner Haberkorn but could not produce a \$1,000 bond. He is keeping Jockins company in the Florence jail.

Jean Morgan, better known as "Escanaba Jennie", who was arrested early Saturday morning in Marinette on a charge of being an inmate of a house of ill repute in the "Little Red House" raid, was also taken into custody. She was fined \$100 and costs when brought before the Florence commissioner and told to leave the county. Her arrest in Florence county followed her release on bonds in Marinette.

Florence County's "Little Hurley" Near Twin Falls – 3

Jennie's friend, Edmond Moore, was assessed \$25 and costs. Several others were found in the place but were released when it was said Moore told the authorities that "she is my friend."

George Van Buxton, believed to be a fictitious name and said to be the proprietor of the "Homestead Gold Mine", located about a half mile south of the Wisconsin hall, on the Homestead road, was fined \$50 and costs for conducting a disorderly house [*house of ill repute*]. George Frazer, George Andrews and Marion Rothbourn, an inmate [*prostitute*], were assessed the same amount and ordered out of the county.

Pay \$100 Fines

Edward Potter and his wife, Eunice, who it was charged, conducted a disorderly house near the "Homestead Gold Mine", each paid a fine of \$100 and costs.

Another alleged disorderly house, said to be operated by Elmer Boyd, at Aurora, near Niagara, was also raided by the Florence officials. Boyd pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$100 and costs.

George Stocker, of Tipler, Wis., 20 miles northwest of Florence, was also hauled into jail on a similar charge. He gave over \$50 and costs.

Commenting on the clean-up District Attorney Sells declared here today that Florence county will get rid of all undesirable characters. Numerous reports have reached his office, he said, that the laws were being violated in many ways and that a clean-up was the only course to pursue.

The Midway – Iron Mountain’s Infamous Hughitt Street – 1

“The Midway”, an area stretching for three or four blocks on East and West Hughitt Street in downtown Iron Mountain, was infamous during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and first three decades of the twentieth century. Life along “The Midway” was sometimes a “walk on the wild side.”

Hughitt Street was home to a good number of saloons and brothels. Numerous contemporary newspaper accounts during the Prohibition years document liquor raids in this area, as well as raids on the houses of ill repute. The **Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Depot** was in the middle of the 300 block of Stephenson Avenue, between Hughitt Street and Ludington Street.

In his 1987 reminiscence of growing up on the Midway, **Alfred “Oscar” Flaminio** wrote:

When the lumberjacks came to town, they did not have to travel far to find a saloon – or a fair lady. With their earnings of several months in their pockets the lumberjacks came to town to have a good time.

Within four days most of this money would be gone. Often, they did not have fare left to board the train that would take them back to the woods and their livelihood. However, there was always someone who would make a loan, knowing that they would return again with pockets full of cash and looking for a place to spend it, as they were having a good time.

A Major Clean-Up Campaign Occurred in the Spring of 1926

Raids staged by Sheriff Frank Cleveland, Iron Mountain Chief of Police Rudolph Freeman and Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister, together with federal agents and city policemen, as well as private investigators, really cracked down on gambling, prostitution and prohibition. The first two weeks of May were particularly intense, especially on The Midway.

The Midway, 100 Block of West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 1



The Midway, 100 Block of West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 2



Buildings on the south side of the 100 block of West Hughitt Street, visible behind the workers, show a portion of The Midway.

To date this is the only early view of The Midway, infamous for its numerous saloons and brothels during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the first three decades of the twentieth century.

Stretching for three or four blocks from one block east of Stephenson Avenue to and including the 300 block west of Stephenson Avenue, The Midway – particularly the 100 block of West Hughitt Street – was especially notorious. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Workmen were boxing in the mine creek which ran along the side of Iron Mountain's West Hughitt Street from Merritt Avenue west in mid-June, 1891, to "prevent children from throwing debris into the water," according to *The Iron Range*, Iron Mountain's weekly newspaper. The camera faces east, and this unidentified city crew was working at the northwest corner of Carpenter Avenue and Hughitt Street.

The Midway, 100 Block of West Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain



This view of the north side of the 100 block of Iron Mountain's West Hughitt Street probably dates between 1959 and 1972. The buildings, from right to left, are numbered 106 to 120. This was the most infamous block on *The Midway*. These buildings were demolished in about 1973 when Iron Mountain's United States Post Office expanded its parking area. Unfortunately photographs of this block are extremely rare, this being the only one discovered to date, appearing on page 114 of the book *Iron Builds a Town* by Sister Jeanine Boivin, published in 1975. [William J. Cummings]

The Midway – Iron Mountain’s Infamous Hughitt Street – 2

April 21, 1926, *The Iron Mountain News*:

SHERIFF WARS ON GAMBLING DEVICES

COUNTY-WIDE RAIDS STAGED BY CLEVELAND

Slot Machines and Punch Boards Seized in Crusade

TWO CELLS FILLED

And Midway’s “Habitués” Forced to “Keep On Moving.”

Sweeping up and down the county in a relentless and systematic war on slot machines, punch boards and gambling devices of any and all kinds, Sheriff Frank Cleveland and 10 deputies, starting yesterday afternoon at about 4 o’clock and winding up shortly before dawn today, brought back enough equipment to comfortably fill two cells in the county jail.

It was a bad day for the storekeepers, for when the county officer and his weary band of raiders pulled up to the jail doors early this morning more than 100 proprietors had stood practically helpless while a considerable share of their investment in candy, watches, coins, knives, revolvers and other “prizes” was loaded upon the trucks and carried off.

It was a clean sweep from start to finish and if there is a slot machine, punchboard or any other gambling device in the county today, outside the jail, it is carefully and perhaps permanently hidden.

Splitting his men into three groups the sheriff laid out a definite schedule, and starting in the city, one group made a store to store canvass, while others spread out into **Kingsford Heights, Vulcan, Sagola, Channing** and all intervening settlements.

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A truck accompanied each group of raiders, and in each truck, as the squads swept along, was an every-increasing pile of gambling equipment.

No Questions Asked

Little time was lost in getting about the territory. There were no questions asked. There was little time for protest. **If the slot machine or punchboard was in evidence when the officers called, it was taken from the counters and tossed into the truck with the rest of the equipment.** In some places hardly a word passed between the officers and the owners of the equipment. In others there was a mild protest. In a few the proprietors made vehement objection but the result was the same in every case – more machines, more boards – and on to the next.

It would be difficult either to estimate the value of the equipment taken or enumerate the hundred and one articles included, particularly as concerns the punchboards.

There were comparatively few slot machines in the lot as a recent warning had thrown a scare into the owners and since the raiding party was not equipped with warrants, it could go no further than the counters.

Prizes Galore!

There were punchboards of every kind, size, shape, type and variety, – seemingly countless numbers of them. Piled against the walls of the cells in the county jail today were hundreds of boxes of candy, offered as prizes for the lucky numbers. They ranged in size from the quarter-pound boxes to the “premiums” and “grand prizes” of five-pounds each. There were boards on which long hunting knives were fixed in neat array; there were boards with revolvers – long, ugly-looking affairs that were destined for the lucky winners.

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Others offered gold coins ranging from the smallest gold denomination to \$10; others displayed dollar bills and travelers’ checks up to \$20 denomination. Then there were flasks, watches, pen-knives and practically every premium known to the punch-board trade.

The raid was, perhaps, the most thorough and at the same time sudden affair of its kind that has ever been conducted in the district. Coming out of a clear sky and at a time when no attention had been directed against the punch-boards particularly, the owners were caught off guard.

Another Sweep of Midway

While the raid on the slot machines and punchboards constituted the bulk of the sheriff’s effort yesterday, that was by no means all of it, for, shortly before starting out with the raiding party he took a “trial spin” through West Hughitt street, and brought back a load of six hangers-on who had not seemed to take previous “keep moving” warnings seriously.

Parking his car near the group as they stood lolling against the wall of a building on the Midway, Sheriff Cleveland walked up to the men and repeated the now well-known words: “move on.” They seemed doubtful about the authority of the remark. One, particularly, resented it. In another moment he was duly impressed, and all six were trotted off to the county jail, where they spent last night.

This morning that group, like many others during the past few days, were shown “the way to go home,” and that way was in an “outerly” direction from Iron Mountain.

May 1, 1926, *The Iron Mountain News*:

EXTRA!

County Officers Raid 12

East Vulcan Places.

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Four squads of men working under the personal direction of Sheriff Frank Cleveland and Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister late this afternoon swept down on East Vulcan and obtained four carloads of liquor evidence in raids staged at 12 homes and soft drink parlors.

One man, **Matt Pientkiweicz**, was taken on a charge of violating the prohibition law.

Although the raid was staged with surprising suddenness, several of those sought made their getaway. This was the same district that was cleaned up in a comprehensive liquor raid made by the county officials a year ago. Many of the places visited today were included in the list raided at that time.

The four carloads of evidence included whisky, kettles, stills, home brew, bottles and all other accoutrements of bootlegging establishments.

May 3, 1926, *The Iron Mountain News*:

34 WARRANTS FOR RUM ROW

East Vulcan Booze Raid Nets 7 Arrests, Deluge of Evidence

**SEVEN STILLS AMONG HAUL
IN DOZEN PLACES**

Sheriff and Prosecutor Personally

Direct Four Squads

GALLONS OF LIQUOR

**Large Amount Destroyed In Addition
to That Brought In.**

Seven persons, most of them former offenders, were arrested in the sweeping liquor raid conducted in East Vulcan Saturday afternoon by county officers.

Two more are sought on warrants, having evaded the officers.

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Four squads of deputies simultaneously swooped down on a dozen places and the net results included seven stills, hundreds of gallons of wine, a larger quantity of moonshine mash and an odd and end assortment of liquor products. The seizure was the largest ever made in the county.

Sheriff Frank Cleveland and Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister accompanied the raiding party and assisted in destroying much of the liquor.

The houses visited were the same group in which raids were conducted a year ago by the prosecutor and sheriff. A number of arrests were also made at that time.

Although the coming of the raiding party was not announced, inhabitants of the village lost no time in spreading the alarm when the officers arrived. They scooted in all directions, over hills and through fields as fast as their legs would carry them.

Officers found some houses entirely abandoned, although there were plain indications that the occupants had made hurried departures.

Six To Federal Court

The cases of six still owners, Victor Moreschini, Matt Plenklevic, Mike Opalka [*sic - Opolka*], Alex Banish, John Stanek and Mrs. Stella Smokovich, will be turned over to the federal court, Prosecutor MacAllister stated.

Five of the stills were operating when the officers entered, the alcohol dripping into mason jars which were taken as evidence. One still was hot when brought to the county jail. In addition, a new two-burner oil stove on which the mash was being distilled, was also confiscated.

Conditions of extreme squalor greeted the officers. In some places they found beds without blankets, straw ticks being used as coverings.

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Barrels of wine and mash were fermenting in bedrooms and jugs were hidden in beds.

Dirt and grime were in strong evidence and tiny box-like houses that should have been filled with fresh air had every window tightly sealed.

Destroy Much Evidence

Barrels of moonshine mash were discovered embedded in barn refuse. All were emptied. In addition, between 400 and 500 gallons of wine were destroyed, either by dumping or adding kerosene.

The collection of evidence brought to the jail and deposited in the yard attracted scores of curious. It included the seven stills, barrels and jars containing more than 175 gallons of wine, scores of bottles and jugs of moonshine, some of it extremely wicked in appearance, and all other products and adjuncts of the bootlegging business.

One man, John Casanova, was released when it was found that his still was old and could not be used. No liquor was discovered in his house.

Another Italian, Gergenio Formolo, arrested and handcuffed when deputies believed he was threatening them with a knife, was also freed when it was established he had been cutting dandelion plants.

Banish and Opalka [*sic* – *Opolka*] are the two alleged violators still at large.

May 3, 1926, *The Iron Mountain News*:

34 WARRANTS FOR RUM ROW

Midway and Vice Haunts Jolted

In Biggest Booze Clean-up

Staged In City.

The biggest liquor clean-up in the history of Iron Mountain got underway this morning!

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Armed with 34 warrants, city and county officers started out on an invasion of rum row and its allied branches to fetch in 34 alleged bootleggers and deal a staggering blow to vice and its cohorts.

At noon more than 16 of the warrants had been served and the county and city jails were filling up. The sheriff’s department co-operated with city police by loaning a large force of deputies to bring in the violators.

The raid, the most comprehensive ever planned here, was based on evidence gathered by four private investigators working under the direction of Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister and Chief of Police Rudolph Freeman. It followed close on the heels of the mop-up in East Vulcan Saturday afternoon by four squads of deputies under the personal supervision of Prosecutor MacAllister and Sheriff Frank Cleveland. In that bit of sponging a dozen places were visited, nine persons were arrested, hundreds of gallons of liquor were seized and hundreds of gallons were destroyed.

After Every One

The heavy hand of the law descended with a vengeance today. Every “joint” on the Midway, every “speak-easy” on East Brown street and every other blind pig scattered throughout the spider web of booze and vice was its mark. Officials were anxious to topple down saloons and iniquitous resorts like a row of upright dominoes given a push.

Wine, Women and Song flourished unrestricted on the Midway for the last time Sunday night. The painted ladies who require no introduction and little inducement to make any flush lumberjack a (temporary) sheik had their final unhindered hour. The booze emporiums where two-bit moonshine flowed like Niagara Falls saw the river dried up. They may start the flood again, but it will be against the opposition of law enforcement agencies, the prosecutor said.

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The investigation, covering a period of more than two weeks, was financed by Prosecutor MacAllister and Chief Freeman. It was conducted with such secrecy that three of the investigators did not know the fourth, and on one occasion the latter was gathering evidence in a saloon while two of the others were there, but they did not have the knowledge of their mutual pursuit.

Investigator Threatened

Although it was not known that he was an official operative, another of the investigators was “rolled” in an East Brown street resort, and when it was feared he might cause trouble he was drugged with liquor, put on a train to Green Bay and warned that if he returned he might be “bumped off.” He did return, but was smuggled in and kept in concealment on a nearby Wisconsin farm.

The difficulties confronting the officials were increased by the fact that the Midway sensed there was something in the air.

Frequent rumors of raids resulted in dimming of lights and locking of doors. The big street has been dark on more than one evening during the last two weeks and the tip was passed along the line not to sell bottles – only drinks. “Hippers” made their appearance and thirsty customers were led outside to dark corners, where their escort would dish them out a jolt.

“Spotters,” of whom there are many employed by the liquor fraternity, were urged to greater vigilance. Their wary eyes followed each seeker of two thumbs of forked lightning and until they had given the okeh [*sic – O.K.*] the patron found everything as dry as the Sahara desert.

Overcome Odds

Against all these odds the investigators worked successfully. They were regarded as regulars at a number of joints and barkeeps often brought them a round on the house.

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Their quarters passed in a continuous stream over the bars and a continuous stream of moonshine came in return. They even joined in a song fest or two and occasionally may have slipped a wink to a peroxide filly who took her liquor without blinking.

They were served moonshine in all shades of brown, in all grades of taste and with varying resemblance to dynamite, nitroglycerine and vitriol. They found, while undergoing the penalty of more than one headache, that the first hundred years are by far the hardest.

Vice Conditions Bad

Unparalleled conditions of vice and prostitution were revealed, principally by a fifth operative who did not take part in collecting the liquor evidence. A large number of girls between the ages of 16 and 18, lips and cheeks heavily rouged, were found to be ranging the streets, eagerly accepting chance “pick-ups” and stepping out for a whirl along the tinsel path.

More hardened sisters, their coarse features plainly bespeaking their calling, roamed for their prey or carried on their price labeled licentiousness in established red light brothels.

The old, old practice was still prevalent in some joints. The lumberjack fresh from the woods with his pay was served his liquor free and easy until befuddled. Then he joined one of the “girls” upstairs, who frisked him. Broke and drunk, he was thrown out on the sidewalk, with no more perhaps than a new pair of shoes and a fuzzy taste to show for his winter’s work.

Places were discovered where girls and boys in their teens – or hardly out of them – drunk and reckless, were admitted without question into bedrooms. Rooms in other joints were rented with or without, mein host often stealing in during the small hours of the morning to relieve his guests of their valuables.

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Generous Sometimes.

Sometimes an old soak was doled out a shot of booze free when he tottered downstairs in the morning and begged for a bracer to steady his quivering nerves. This gift was even more generously forthcoming if the recipient couldn't remember what became of the money he thought he had when he entered the night before.

More often the sidewalk treatment was administered, especially if business was rushing and there was little time to waste on bums.

The tale of the Midway has long been notorious, but it is doubtful if it ever before reached such lurid proportions. Evidence was even disclosed of a dope ring, purveying to unfortunate addicts slipping on the last plunge into the depths. The details of this have been more closely guarded, with developments probable later.

Enough is known, however, to convince officials that the flotsam and jetsam of humanity that came here when thousands of others were settling in the city during the period of the Ford boom is in many respects bestial and must be expelled.

Girls Leave Town.

The first drive against organized prostitution came about two weeks ago, when raids were staged by Chief of Police Freeman and Prosecutor MacAllister. But as has happened so frequently, a tip preceded the officers and they found the usual rendezvous of vice deserted. Instead of relaxing, they continued their unexpected visits and the alarm was spread as only the Midway knows how to spread an alarm that retreat was the course of wisdom.

Outgoing trains took many of the Midway's girls to other haunts. Others fled across the border line until "these damn police quit tagging us."

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The remainder scurried to adequate hiding places and there carried on in subdued and quiet manner their illicit conduct.

It was generally agreed along the Midway that “things must be tightened up.” Scouts were sent out to learn what was brewing and brought back only vague and unsatisfactory reports. The Midway could feel something impending, but could not fathom what it was.

It was one of the few times it ever found itself in such a fix.

Watch The Prosecutor

On one such occasion Prosecutor MacAllister took a turn down the Midway with a companion. Narrowed eyes followed him and the proprietor of a speak-easy turned to two bystanders and exclaimed: “Who is that * * * with MacAllister?” One of the bystanders was also one of the investigators.

“Spotters” were sent to watch who entered the prosecutor’s office and to stand vigil at other strategic points where it was believed some information might be obtained. The boast was made by the vice barons that “the prosecutor can’t make a move we don’t know about.”

But the investigators were prepared for such contingencies. Reports were rendered in inconspicuous ways to both the chief of police and MacAllister. The officials were never seen talking to anyone who could be traced as an agent or who could “make buys” at any joints. The bootleggers instituted what they thought was complete and leak proof espionage, yet it was not complete enough to find out what they most wanted to know.

Begins To Slow Up

The Midway began to tone down and slacken its pace. Other booze joints did likewise.

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Blinds were drawn and at the first hint of trouble proprietors cleaned out and shot the bolts in the doors. They jumped every time someone called “wolf,” and the presence of federal agents in the city did not add to their comfort.

Meantime, the investigators were learning more about the inside of the Midway than had ever been known before. They saw some of the inner workings of the giant rum machine that had prospered so long.

They learned, for instance, that the Midway hides its booze supply behind sliding panels in chimneys and walls, in secret compartments in lavatories, under trap doors, in back yard recesses, in back of pans and kettles and, in one case, in a barber shop next door. The favorite serving receptacles are coffee pots and pitchers and, of course, there is a wide use of bottles. All of these are easily dumped or broken when an officer enters.

They were told that the booze element is split into two factions, the Midway group headed by George “Reddy” Meehan, and the Brown street bootleggers led by “Poker Joe” Horn.

They determined that two grades of moonshine are handled, the good and not-so-good. The inferior brand, some of which is almost powerful enough to melt the bottle, has, purposely, the largest sale. It is cheaper to buy wholesale.

Moonshine From Wisconsin

A considerable quantity of the moonshine comes from Wisconsin. It is imported across the border line in the dead of night and precautions are taken that the road is clear. Mysterious flashing lights are their signals. Much of the moonshine is of doubtful antecedents. It comes from foul smelling mash and is hatched in stills that are not kept too clean. In all their meanderings the investigators did not come across one still in the city, although they are certain many are being operated here.

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The establishment price is 25 cents a slug, and a slug is an ounce or slightly less. The glasses are thick, with deceptive bottoms leading the purchaser to believe he is getting more than he really is. One bargain place, old Camp 49 on the North side, pours out a shot for 20 cents.

A large part of the revenue of the rum row fraternity comes from gambling dens. In some places dark passages and a series of doors must be travelled before the room with the green-topped tables is reached. In others little effort is made to conceal the games. The stakes are whatever the participant can afford. It is claimed that the game at the Princess restaurant is rather stiff and pikers don’t last long.

Black-Jack and poker are the favorites and some of the dealers are said to be very deft and can take them from the bottom without anyone being the wiser.

Roll the Bones, Too

If the patron wishes to roll the dice the cubes are there. If a loaded pair is slipped in on him that’s his hard luck. If by chance – and it has happened – he cleans the bank it’s an outrageous injustice. However, the crafty house man doesn’t exhibit his chagrin. He is the essence of hospitality and this usually brings the patron around again, when it is likely his pockets don’t profit so much and sometimes are turned inside out.

“Poker Joe” Horn is said to have run one of the biggest gambling dens, although it is not believed to be in existence now. To get to “Poker Joe’s” gaming room it was necessary to walk to the rear of the saloon. There a short section of fake bar was rolled back, a trap door opened and the patron descended into the cellar. Then he passed through three doors before finally gaining the abode of the god of luck. Once there he could go the limit in whatever he liked the most.

Bank Buffet Saloon, 323 South Stephenson Avenue, Iron Mountain – 1



Bank Buffet Saloon, 323 South Stephenson Avenue, Iron Mountain – 2



Pictured above from left to right in about 1908 at the **Bank Buffet Saloon**, 323 South Stephenson Avenue, are **Joseph De Concini**, the owner, wearing a bow tie, an unidentified bartender, an unidentified patron, **Pete Tramontin** and **Bill Hosking** at the far right.

Arthur Uddenberg, “Analytical Chemist, Assayer and Druggist. Dealer in pure drugs and medicines, Prescriptions accurately compounded” was listed at this address in 1892 in Iron Mountain’s first city directory. **A.I. Le Veque**, “Jeweler and Watchmaker. Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Optical Goods and Musical Instruments” also ran his business at this location in 1892.

By 1902 and in 1905, **A.L. Kramer & Company** operated a saloon at 321 South Stephenson Avenue. The **Kramer Brothers** (**Abe L.**, **Benjamin** and **Meyer Kramer**), also sold wholesale and retail liquors at 401 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902 and 1905. In 1907 **B. Kramer & Company**, operated by **Ben Kramer**, sold liquors and cigars and ran a billiard parlor here.

By 1913 **Joseph (Ida) De Concini** was the proprietor of the **Bank Buffet** and also resided here. By 1925, during the Prohibition era, **Aimone & Fornetti** (**Peter Aimone** and **James Fornetti**) operated a barbershop here, while **Dillon & Laughlin** (**Charles M. Dillon** and **James A. Laughlin**) ran a billiard parlor. **Adelard Page** and his wife **Camillia** also ran a boarding house at this address in 1925.

By 1935 the **J.J. Newberry Company** operated a **5 to 25-cent variety store**, managed by **C.W. Pickering** at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

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Mr. A. Tells Story

An extremely interesting story is told by one of the investigators who, for obvious reasons, shall be known as **Mr. A.**

Mr. A. came to Iron Mountain with more than \$250 in his purse. He had two companions, both trustworthy and his pals. They registered at the **American house**, located on **Merritt avenue between Hughitt and A streets.**

Mr. A. bought a pair of shoes and a few odds and ends of clothing that didn’t nick his bankroll very much. **Incidentally, Mr. A. is the investigator who says his life was threatened and who was drugged with poisonous doctored liquor, put on a train and warned not to come back.** Also incidentally, his kind bootlegger friends gave him \$15 – all that he had – to buy his railroad fare and provide meals for a few days until he found another job. Then they proceeded to recover \$9 in drinks they made him purchase. They appointed one of their number to take him to the train.

The escort took his \$5 bill, bought his fare to Green Bay, and kept the change. Mr. A. had about \$2 when he reached Green Bay.

Mr. A’s Adventures

Here is his own story:

“After we had got our room at the **American house** we went downstairs to get a drink. **In order to reach the place where the booze is served you go into the back alley, enter a door and pass down a narrow hall. Then you come to a two-way stairway, that is the stairs go up on each side like a V. At the side are two doors. One leads to a closet. The other into the furnished room where the booze is served.**

“We had white mule at the American house. **The bottle was hidden behind a sideboard. On top of the sideboard was a water glass and next to it a small funnel. Under the funnel was the whisky glass. The supply of booze is kept in a place rigged up like a pantry.**

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“Then I went to the **Princess cafe** and had two drinks. From there I went to **Victor Giasanti’s**, at the corner of Hughitt street and Merritt avenue. I had some home brew there. My next stop was at **‘Poker Joe’ Horn’s place** on Brown street.

“Well, in Poker Joe’s place we had several drinks. **Then a woman invited me upstairs to her room. I followed. By that time the drinks had taken strong hold and after I entered the room I went under. The next thing I knew I woke up in the morning in another room, fully dressed, and with a fellow on another bed nearby.**

37 Cents in Pocket

“I looked in my pocket and found I had 37 cents left of my bankroll. No one around there ‘knew’ anything about what had become of my money. I went to the prosecuting attorney and word of this got back, so they started to work on me to leave town.

“A fellow they call **Jumbo** (since ordered out of town) was one of those who tried to get me to go. He said he could get some money for me from **Poker Joe** and he would also give me \$10 out of his own pocket. I had my two companions as witnesses to the fact I had the money when I went to Poker Joe’s and when I remarked about this they told me never mind about the witnesses, they were out of town.

“**Poker Joe** did give me \$20 and I spent that on drinks. **Over at his joint they keep the booze supply hidden in a lavatory off of a back room.** During my investigation I was in there one evening when the telephone rang and someone gave a tip to ‘clear ‘er out, a raid is coming.’ The boozed came out of there pretty fast. A big indian [*sic – Indian*] who works the bar filled his blouse full of bottles and beat it out the front door. They ‘cleaned ‘er out’ in no time.

Knew Booze Differed

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“I was in **Jones’ restaurant**, also on West Hughitt, when a fellow named **Kiel** delivered five gallons of booze. I was introduced and we had a couple of drinks. The first drink Kiel took he raised particular Cain, claiming that the booze had had been doctored. The bartender denied it, but at Kiel’s insistence brought out another jug. Kiel tested that and the difference was very noticeable. He said the first moonshine had been watered too much by the restaurant keepers.

“**Over at the Princess restaurant the booze is served back in the same room where they have the poker table.** They have two grades.

“Down in **The Cave on Hughitt street** I bought a bottle. I was also in **Reddy Meehan’s place** on a Sunday morning when a Negro woman came in and bought a pint. The barkeeper didn’t want to give it to her at first, they were on needle points then over all the rumors and didn’t want to take a chance on bottles. But evidently she’d been there before.

“‘Never you all mind,’ she said. ‘They’ll never find it on me.’ And taking the pint she hid in somewhere about her clothing and marched out triumphant.

“I got drinks in quite a few places, but the bootleggers always wanted me to leave town on account of the trouble they feared because of the ‘rolling’ I got. They tried to get me into a car, but I was afraid they’d slug me.

Railroad Out of Town

“Finally one evening they got me into a little Hughitt street restaurant run by **Eddie ‘Shorty’ Perron**, a lantern-jawed bird. When they got me there they wouldn’t let me go, not even to step outside for five minutes. Five of them gathered around me. The gang included **Poker Joe, Perron** and a fellow they called ‘**Scotty.**’ They started the drinks going and all the time kept insisting that I leave town, there was no use hanging around, my witnesses were gone and I couldn’t get anywhere.

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“They handed me \$15 for my railroad fare and grub stake till I got a job. Then, as the drinks kept coming, they took \$9 of it back for those rounds I bought. Finally, just a few minutes before train time, Perron grabbed me – I was pretty helpless then – and took me to the St. Paul station. He also took my \$5 bill and went in to buy my ticket. He pocketed the change. When the train rolled in Perron got on board with me. ‘You wouldn’t want to die in this town, would you?’ he said. Of course I replied, ‘No.’ ‘Well then,’ he said, ‘don’t you dare leave this train until it reaches Green Bay and don’t you dare come back to Iron Mountain.’ Then he pulled a bottle of liquor out of his pocket. It had one good sized drink left in it. The liquor was of a light greenish hue. He made me take the drink. When the train started he jumped off and when the conductor got my ticket I passed out. I didn’t know anything more until the train reached Green Bay. I got off there and wandered around in a dazed condition.”

Mr. A. was later brought back from Green Bay and given security on a Wisconsin farm until needed for the showdown here.

Crime Hatchery

The heterogeneous make-up of the rum row colony includes many of extraordinary criminal proclivities, one investigator learned. Some of those who sell booze, he said, are really out for bigger game.

He sat in on one plot to rob an Iron Mountain bank. It was planned to rent the basement of the building and drill through to the vault. He also traced another robbery scheme which was eventually abandoned because the amount to be gained was not high enough.

The Midway is not unwilling to pay for official protection and has bragged that it does. It also spends considerable money to maintain its force of spotters.

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As one example it is reported that an individual who knows by sight most of the state and federal prohibition agents in the upper peninsula has a most comfortable position with the Midway. He is provided with a big car and receives a fat salary. His duties consist of meeting all trains and if any officers arrive give the alarm.

Owners in Background

Owners of the various joints do not always serve the drinks. That is one reason why they are seldom caught. They employ bartenders and it is customary for the bartender to get a suitable reward if he is unfortunate enough to be sent to jail.

In addition, every effort is made to confuse snooping officers of the law. The bartenders work in shifts and may spend one day in one place and the next in another. Thus the officer who returns to a joint finds a different face sizing him up.

The Midway has its monetary rewards. **Victor Giasanti** is the proud possessor of a new \$3,200 Stutz car. Others along rum row enjoy the same luxuries and when they go out on their own jamborees nothing is too good. Easy come, easy go.

But the clean-up today is expected to be a serious setback. It will require some time for the Midway to recuperate and offer again its crimson orgies, if it ever does. Liquor there will be, but it will be sold with utmost stealth; the red lights may burn, but behind a mask. The big street has had the kick taken out of it and is reduced to one half of one per cent.

A summary of some of the more interesting aspects of the investigators’ reports follows:

CAMP 49 – Located on **North side**. Booze at 20 cents a shot. No bottles sold, not even to “best friends.” Girls said to be available.

MIKE MATKOVICZ – Joint on **West Hughitt** street. Sold two rounds of drinks to investigators.

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PRINCESS RESTAURANT – Basement of Anderson building at 105 East C street. Two grades of moon believed to be doped.

VICTOR GIASANTI – Has place at corner of Hughitt street and Merritt avenue in which Mrs. Mary Garowich was shot to death a little more than a year ago. Alleged slayer, Zaja, was freed. Giasanti did not conduct place at that time. Investigators claim they bought drinks for him, his wife, and their daughter, believed to be 17 or 18 years of age. Also got drink from a bartender. Investigators had a little singing bee there one evening. Drinks served in the rear in a kitchen. Man by name of Anderson said to be the “spotter”. Booze hidden behind sliding panel in chimney.

GEORGE “REDDY” MEEHAN’S PLACE – Between St. Paul and North Western tracks on Hughitt. One of bartenders said to be Andy Anderson, district prize fighter, who set ’em up on the house after the investigators had purchased a couple of rounds.

One investigator says he took bootlegger in with him when he went to get drink.

“SHORTY” PERRON’S RESTAURANT – Hughitt street. Two investigators entered first time after a hard day “taking them” in other joints. Wanted a cup of coffee or tea. Restaurant couldn’t provide it. Asked for milk and this was produced. Were then asked, they said, if they wouldn’t “like a little shot” in the milk. They replied in the affirmative and drank a milk highball. A third investigator said he got his in coffee, but was able to get it clear later. One of alleged bartenders, Leo “Scotty” Leclair, said to be very versatile. Claimed that he plays the mandolin, sings for drinks, is a barber and also a bartender. Booze hidden behind pan hanging on wall.

TONY DAG – Has place next to North Star Hall. Not too easy to get into.

AMERICAN HOUSE – “John Doe,” identified through a peg leg, served the drinks. Crap tables said to be in the basement.

The Midway – Iron Mountain’s Infamous Hughitt Street – 21

JONES RESTAURANT – West Hughitt street. Said to be owned by “Red” Hedlund. Claimed that girls are not strangers. **Booze supply concealed under trap door in floor. Also said to keep it in barber shop next door. Booze served from coffee pot.** Genial barkeeps said to serve a round on the house occasionally.

LEO SHEPKY’S PLACE – 120 West Hughitt. “Snap out of it, Leo, and give me a drink before I go to the show,” one of the investigators said he exclaimed. He added that Leo snapped out of it and produced the drink.

EDDIE TIRSCHER – Has quarters above padlocked saloon on West Hughitt street. Girls there, claim.

“POKER JOE” HORN’S PLACE – 110 East Brown street. “Never-mind spending any money,” one of the barkeeps is said to have told the investigator. The barkeep was in a generous mood – for a reason.

“JOHN DOE” – Has house between Ludington and Hughitt streets on Merritt avenue. First floor kept vacant as a blind. **Booze and rooms on second.** Equipment includes a cash register.

ROMA RESTAURANT – No warrant issued for this place, but selling wine reported. Warned to cease at once.

LIST OF WARRANTS

List of warrants issued in today’s liquor clean-up:

Marie Kell, East Brown street.

Ghechini, saloon kitty corner from Camp 49.

Robert Collins, bartender at Camp 49, North side.

Mike Matkovicz, 116 West Hughitt street, also a bartender.

Dominic Spera, who conducts place on North side, and his son.

“John Doe,” alleged to have served drinks at the American hotel.

The Midway – Iron Mountain’s Infamous Hughitt Street – 22

Frank Pulaski, two blocks below high school on West A street.

Eddie Tirschel, who has flat above padlocked saloon on West Hughitt street.

“John Doe,” who has house on Merritt avenue between Ludington and Hughitt streets.

Warrant for **bartender at Tony Dag’s saloon** next to North Star hall on East Fleshiem street.

Bernard Christianson, bartender and waiter at Princess restaurant, in basement of Anderson building at 105 East C street.

Leo Shepky, who conducts a saloon at 120 West Hughitt street. **Mike Melkovick**, (last name uncertain), his bartender. Also another bartender.

Victor Giasanti, corner of Hughitt street and Merritt avenue. Also his wife and their daughter, a girl about 17 or 18 years of age. Also a warrant for **Charles Patrosso**, bartender.

George “Cash” Holmes, bartender at “Poker Joe” Horn’s place, 110 East Brown street. **“John Doe,”** Indian bartender for Poker Joe, and **“John Doe”** with the **“Charlie Chaplin”** mustache, another bartender.

Roy Marcel, bartender at George “Reddy” Meehan’s saloon, East Hughitt street between North Western and St. Paul tracks. Also **Andy “Pug” Anderson**, fighter and bartender at same place.

Eddie “Shorty” Perron, who conducts restaurant on West Hughitt street between St. Paul and North Western tracks. Also **Leo “Scotty” Leclair**, his bartender, and **“Chumpy,”** alleged to be a bartender.

Ed VanDamme, owner, and **John “Beaver” Carlson**, alleged bartender, at The Cave, located in basement of building at 110 East Hughitt street. **Fred Johnson**, also said to be a bartender, was paroled on a liquor law violation charge at the last term of circuit court. Johnson faces immediate sentence to Jackson prison.

The Midway – Iron Mountain’s Infamous Hughitt Street – 23

Joseph Cochetto [*sic* – *Ciochetto*], said to be bartender and waiter at Jones’ restaurant, West Hughitt street, alleged to be conducted by “Red” Hedlund. **Floyd Larson**, also bartender at same place, **Henney Huff**, alias **Mason**, another alleged bartender, and **Evy Newstrom**, barber who is charged with having “filled in” as bartender.

EAST VULCAN WARRANTS

List of those for whom warrants were issued in the raid Saturday afternoon at East Vulcan.

Minica [*sic* – *Monica*] **Bertalini**, 25 gallons of wine.

Mrs. Stella Smokovich, still and moonshine.

Mrs. Annie Dallafaza. Seventy-five gallons of wine.

Victor Moreschini [*sic*], house No. 6, Currie [*sic* – *Curry*] location, owned a new still.

Matt Pienkiewicz [*sic*], still, 10-gallon jug almost full of moonshine, two-quart jar of moonshine.

Mike Bray. Destroyed 50 gallons of mash and took samples for analysis. Could not find still.

Mike Opalka [*sic* – *Opolka*], still, one five and one two-gallon jug of moonshine. Destroyed 100 gallons of mash.

Albin Alesandri [*sic*], Currie [*sic* – *Curry*] location, 25 gallons of wine. Deputies said they destroyed six 50-gallon barrels of wine.

John Stanek, still working when officers entered. Two quart mason jars of moonshine. Destroyed 100 gallons of mash.

Alex Banish, still, two one-gallon jugs of moonshine, another container with 10 quarts of moonshine. Destroyed 100 gallons of mash.

Bank Buffet Saloon, 323 South Stephenson Avenue, Iron Mountain – 1



Bank Buffet Saloon, 323 South Stephenson Avenue, Iron Mountain – 2



Pictured above from left to right in about 1908 at the Bank Buffet Saloon, 323 South Stephenson Avenue, are Joseph De Concini, the owner, wearing a bow tie, an unidentified bartender, an unidentified patron, Pete Tramontin and Bill Hosking at the far right.

Arthur Uddenberg, “Analytical Chemist, Assayer and Druggist. Dealer in pure drugs and medicines, Prescriptions accurately compounded” was listed at this address in 1892 in Iron Mountain’s first city directory. A.I. Le Veque, “Jeweler and Watchmaker. Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Optical Goods and Musical Instruments” also ran his business at this location in 1892.

By 1902 and in 1905, A.L. Kramer & Company operated a saloon at 321 South Stephenson Avenue. The Kramer Brothers (Abe L., Benjamin and Meyer Kramer), also sold wholesale and retail liquors at 401 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902 and 1905. In 1907 B. Kramer & Company, operated by Ben Kramer, sold liquors and cigars and ran a billiard parlor here.

By 1913 Joseph (Ida) De Concini was the proprietor of the Bank Buffet and also resided here. By 1925, during the Prohibition era, Aimone & Fornetti (Peter Aimone and James Fornetti) operated a barbershop here, while Dillon & Laughlin (Charles M. Dillon and James A. Laughlin) ran a billiard parlor. Adelard Page and his wife Camillia also ran a boarding house at this address in 1925.

By 1935 the J.J. Newberry Company operated a 5 to 25-cent variety store, managed by C.W. Pickering at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

The Midway – Rum Row Boys Retreat to Lake Ellwood Island – 1

May 19, 1926, *The Iron Mountain News*:

RUM ROW BOYS IN RETREAT ON RIVER ISLAND

Plot Revenge As Law Bars Them From Former Activities.

Members of the mystic order of the Midway, with the exception of those who are escaping sunburn through forced detention in the county jail, have, according to reports, taken refuge on an island in the Menominee river, which is about as close to water as they want to get.

Driven from their usual haunts by the relentless offensive of federal and local authorities, the boys have gone into voluntary exile, where they even practice utmost caution in venturing forth to get the supplies left by the morning milk boat.

Their thoughts are far from being as placid and calm as the languid waters that lap the shores of their sylvan retreat. They are burning up within the while they must keep a watchful eye without.

Occasionally they send forth delegates who drop intentionally well placed hints of the revenge that is to be visited upon the heads of those who participated in the biggest liquor clean-up ever staged in the upper peninsula. These threats, it is stated, have taken the form of framing bribery charges and inflicting physical injury.

Suffice to remark that the officials have greeted the overtures with cynical smiles and references to more warrants that have not been served.

Maintain Watch

Ostracized from the precincts of Rum Row and sought for various alleged violations of the liquor and other laws, the boys have instituted a military-like vigilance on their St. Helena.

The Midway – Rum Row Boys Retreat to Lake Ellwood Island – 2

[NOTE: Napoleon was exiled to St. Helena, a volcanic tropical island in the South Atlantic Ocean off the west coasts of Africa, in 1815 and died there in 1821.]

Sentinels guard the island day and night and none may land who is not equipped with the proper passport, to wit, the knowing wink, the bootlegger's shake or the sign of the moon.

Councils of war are held frequently and the camp fire furnishes only second rate heat as compared to the verbal explosions with which the boys deluge the air. They have not abandoned hope of re-establishing themselves in their former dens and hangouts, but how to do it and at the same time punish their tormentors is a perplexing question.

Meantime, the Midway bears no resemblance to its former self. At night its saloons and joints are a wall of blackness, broken only by the shining patches of light from several restaurants and stores, much as the white squares in a checkerboard.

Its emporiums of drink are closed and locked with only the stench of stale liquor to remind of the days of unadulterated liberty.

“Reddy Carries On”

“Reddy” Meehan has been the only one who attempted to keep the home fires burning. In a sort of a way, “Reddy” accepted the dare after published statements to the effect that his joint had been scared into closing for the first time in its history.

“Reddy,” according to officials, wanted to demonstrate that the lights were still going to shine in his thirst parlor. So he sent a “swamper” to turn them on one evening to give the place the appearance that it was open, although the doors were shut tight. The swamper was instructed to return at 11 o'clock and “douse the glims.”

The story goes, however, that the swamper proceed to get “likkered up” and forgot to come back, so that the lights blazed in barren glory all night.

The Midway – Rum Row Boys Retreat to Lake Ellwood Island – 3

And that is about the extent of the Midway's present pretense at carrying on.

May 20, 1926, *The Iron Mountain News*:

RUM ROW BOYS IN MARQUETTE; RED GIVES BAIL

Warrant Served on Meehan Came as Surprise to Him

In the above article the newspaper clarified the location on the Rum Row Boys as follows: *The island on which a number of bootleggers have taken refuge is in Lake Elwood [sic – Ellwood], and not in the Menominee river, as was first reported by officials, it was stated today.*

Lake Ellwood Lake is a 130 acre lake located south of the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in eastern Florence County, Wisconsin, not too far from the Menominee River.



Corruption in the Sheriff's Department in 1926 – 1



The sudden and mysterious resignation of Dickinson County Sheriff Frank Cleveland on May 22, 1926, following the big clean-up campaign, was the beginning of a variety of accusations regarding his conduct as sheriff.

His son, Lloyd Cleveland, was appointed to serve out the remainder of Frank Cleveland's term at the time of the latter's resignation.

On July 3, 1926, just six weeks later, the new sheriff and two of his deputies, Albert Freeman and Leonard Young, were arrested, being charged with intimidating a government witness in the Tony Bianchetti case.

Daniel J. O'Hara, a candidate for prosecuting attorney challenging the incumbent, Ray E. MacAllister, made many accusations regarding the former sheriff's conduct while holding that position, and also questioned the competency of the younger Cleveland's ability to fill that post.

Alleged graft, hijacking, assaults and other questionable practices conducted by Frank Cleveland during his term as Dickinson County Sheriff were brought forth.

On September 5, 1926, Sheriff Lloyd Cleveland was arrested on a bench warrant issued by Judge Fred Raymond of the federal court at Sault Ste. Marie, on additional unspecified charges.

Corruption in the Sheriff's Department in 1926 – 2

O'Hara was critical of the endorsement of MacAllister by the Law & Order League. The Law & Order League had endorsed Frank Cleveland for sheriff four years earlier.

The Law & Order League, first founded in the late 1880s after a series of violent labor strikes, enjoyed a revival during World War I. The League defined lynching as a problem of social disorder, advocating better law enforcement as a solution. Better law enforcement referred both to law enforcement action to prevent lynching, as well as increased effectiveness of law enforcement and court systems more generally.

Law & Order Leagues were often led by white, southern progressives, though there were also "colored" chapters, and the organization was publicly celebrated by the N.A.A.C.P. They could operate more openly and effectively in some areas of the south because they focused less on "racial equality" or "civil rights," and more on promoting obedience to legal authorities, encouraging whites to have patience and faith in the formal criminal justice system.

O'Hara, terming League members "fanatics," objected to their assuming to "dictate or advise the 'intelligent voters' of the county upon the candidate or candidates who may be best fitted for the respective county jobs."

MacAllister stated he had "not solicited a single organization in this county for an endorsement of any kind," adding he felt the League was "made up of a lot of good people."

On September 14, 1926, the incumbent, Ray E. MacAllister, won the election by 266 votes, receiving 3,962 votes to O'Hara's 3,696 votes.

The Midway – Iron Mountain’s Infamous Hughitt Street – 24

October 15, 1926, *The Iron Mountain News*:

TWO MORE ARE IN CUSTODY ON RUM CHARGES

Women Bound Over For Trial in Circuit Court.

Two more alleged liquor law violators got into the path of the official broom last night when Mrs. Mary “Lou” Lomphrey, 200 West Hughitt street, and Mrs. Marion Franco, 112 West Hughitt, were taken before Judge James R. Spencer and each released on \$1,000 bail following their arrest by city police on evidence secured by special investigators. The women were bound over to the next term of circuit court.

The investigators got a pint of moonshine whisky at the Lomphrey place and bought drinks at the Franco establishment. At Lomphrey’s the agents were permitted to buy the liquor and carry it away, but it was a rule at the Franco place that they drink it there.

Although suspicion had been directed against both the Lomphrey and Franco establishments for some time past, little success could be achieved in securing the evidence until the special investigators were out on the job. They had little difficulty bringing about the arrests.

It is apparent that the county and city officials are determined that it is “once out, always out” as far as liquor establishments are concerned. These were not the first arrests made along the Midway since the recent epochal clean-up and the authorities do not anticipate that they will be the last.

“A street that enjoyed the flourishing trade which was the experience of the Midway in its heyday cannot be wiped clean in any one drive,” an official said this morning. “There are hidden corners which need to be carefully watched. We are going to clean the Midway and keep it clean. The ‘hidden corners’ will not be forgotten.”

Longprey Saloon, 214 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 1 (1926)



Holmes family at Iron Mountain Mich
Aug 2 1911

Longprey Saloon, 214 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain – 2 (1926)



On page 74 of the 1902 city directory “Mattias Lonprey” advertised the Home Hotel, 216-220 West Hughitt Street, as having “First Class Service, Rates Reasonable, Bar in Connection” and also operated a livery stable at 210 East Hughitt Street, offering “First-Class Turn-Outs, Good Horses, Careful Drivers,” adding “Special Attention to Boarding” and “Prices Reasonable.” Joe “Lonpry” was listed as running a “livery stable, boarding house and saloon” at 116 East Hughitt Street in 1902.

In 1905 “Matthews Longprey” had a livery at 210 East Hughitt Street, a saloon and the Longprey Hotel at 114 East Hughitt Street. “Mathias (Mary) Lonprey” had “livery, feed and sales stables” at 210 East Hughitt and resided at 216 East Hughitt in 1907. “Joseph Longprey” lived at 210 East Hughitt Street in 1907, according to the street index. The Holms family posed in their two-seated wagon for the above postcard view, dated August 2, 1911. “Matt Longprey” still operated his livery stable at 210 East Hughitt Street (visible at far left) in 1913 also ran a saloon at 214 East Hughitt Street (visible at the right), where he also lived. Matthias Lonprey and his wife Mary were listed as living at 300 West Hughitt Street in the 1925 city directory. On October 14, 1926 Mrs. Mary “Lou” Lomphrey [sic] was arrested for selling moonshine whisky at her place of business at 200 West Hughitt Street. [William J. Cummings]

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 1

APRIL 19, 1927, *The Iron Mountain News*:

POISON LIQUOR KILLS 3 HERE

**Iron Mountain Men Dead From Drinking
Iron River Alcohol: Arthur LaFreniere,
Hugh Darrow and Harris England Are
Victims; First Refuses To Tell Where Rum
Was Obtained.**

Three Iron Mountain young men are dead as the result of drinking poisoned alcohol purchased last week in Iron River.

The dead are:

Arthur LaFreniere, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis LaFreniere, 205 West Hughitt street.

Hugh Darrow, 26, boarder at the residence of Mrs. A. Klagstad, 225 East Hughitt street.

Harris England, 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. Silas England, 1009 Prospect avenue.

Two of the fatalities are the result of a drinking party, which had its start at Iron River Wednesday night, according to a statement by LaFreniere before his death. England, however, was not on that party, but is believed to have joined LaFreniere and Darrow some time Saturday night.

Darrow Died Last Night

Darrow died at about 8 o'clock last night in General hospital, after hours of acute suffering. LaFreniere died at 9:30 o'clock this morning at his home, surrounded by members of his family. He, too, had suffered acutely, although maintaining until a few hours before his death that he was all right.

England lay in bed at his home this morning, breathing heavily and apparently in a serious condition after a night of utmost torture. He talked but little and with difficulty. He complained of the "darkness" and asked relatives to "turn on the light." Death came at 1:35 o'clock this afternoon.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 2

LaFreniere and Darrow caught the 5 o'clock bus Wednesday afternoon for Iron River. Darrow was at work up to a short time previous, LaFreniere waiting for him.

Nothing more was seen or heard of them until late Saturday afternoon when they returned, making the trip with Ed. Izzo, of Iron Mountain. LaFreniere went to his home and relatives said he looked ill then, but did not complain.

“They were both sober when they came over from Iron River with me,” Izzo said today. “I didn't see any liquor on either one of them, and neither complained of being sick.

“I brought them into town and dropped them off. I did not see either one of them after that.”

Told Mother of Drinking

Mrs. LaFreniere asked her son what made him look so ill. He admitted that he had been drinking on the previous Thursday, but said no more about it.

Darrow, meanwhile, went to his rooming house. He complained of not feeling well and sat about the house, seemingly ill at ease. Sunday he felt no better and grew steadily worse until about 7 o'clock last night when he was removed to General hospital. He died in less than an hour after reaching there.

LaFreniere, meanwhile, attended a dance at the Nightingale Saturday night, returning early in the morning. Sunday his condition became apparent to his relatives. He seemed dazed, they said, and when they questioned him about what he had to drink at Iron River and where he got it he refused to say.

Mr. LaFreniere, father of the boy, questioned Arthur persistently. “Where have you been – what did you drink,” he asked him again and again.

“Oh, I've been all over, Dad.” was his only reply.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 3

Collapsed at Dance

Sunday night he went out again, this time to the Pine Gardens dancing pavilion. There he is said to have become suddenly ill and to have collapsed on the floor. He revived and a short time later went home. All day yesterday, relatives said, he complained persistently and finally went to bed. Last night he was violently ill and a doctor was called. He said he was growing blind, and as the night progressed his condition became more aggravated.

This morning he recognized the **Rev. Fr. H.A. Beauchene**, but shortly thereafter lapsed into unconsciousness, from which he did not recover.

England, according to his father, must have met LaFreniere some time Saturday night. The first intimation that the young man was ill came early Sunday morning, when the father heard moans coming from his son's room. He investigated and found Harris suffering intently. A physician was called.

III Two Days

Young England was violently ill all day Sunday and yesterday. His condition grew worse last night and he vomited at frequent intervals.

This morning he was in severe distress and pain. He said the room was “dark.” “Turn on the lights,” he repeated, when relatives asked him how he felt.

Police Officer Rene Romanelli, calling at the home at about 10:30 o'clock this morning with a representative of The News, was admitted to the room.

“What did you have, Harris?” Romanelli asked.

“Alcohol,” came the whispered answer.

“Where did you get it?”

“Art ---,” and the answer came with an effort.

“Who is that with you?” England asked.

Romanelli answered evasively.

“Let me see him,” came from the patient.

The Pine Gardens, Badwater Lake, Dickinson County – 1 (1927)



The Pine Gardens, Badwater Lake, Dickinson County – 2 (1927)



The Pine Gardens Dancing Pavilion, located on Badwater Lake, just across Highway M-12 about a mile north of the Twin Falls Bridge over the Menominee River, opened September 1, 1924 with an estimated 1,000 couples from Michigan, Wisconsin and beyond in attendance. Joe Andrews built the 80-foot by 100-foot structure at a cost of \$25,000 in conjunction with his amusement park. On November 1, 1924, construction began on a \$12,000 addition measuring 50-feet by 65-feet which included a modern grill and dining room.

Arthur LaFreniere went to the Pine Gardens Dancing Pavilion on Sunday night, April 17, 1927, where he was said to have become suddenly ill, collapsing on the dance floor. He died of wood alcohol poisoning on April 19.

The Pine Gardens Dancing Pavilion was destroyed by fire on June 8, 1931. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

PINE GARDENS

Sunday Night

Carolina Collegians

Presentation Band from Ringling Theatre, Baraboo, Wis.

LABOR DAY, SEPT. 5

Annual Anniversary Ball

Chicago Blew Blowers Of Chicago

A Whirlwind of Jazz From the Shores of Lake Michigan.

Famous for their successes at the Aragona and Trianon Ballrooms, Chicago. Also played for a number of University functions, including Northwestern and the Washington Prom, University of Chicago, as well as various country clubs and ballrooms throughout Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Don't miss this opportunity of hearing one of the best orchestras in America. The admission price is the same as usual.

LADIES FREE

GENTLEMEN \$1.00

BUS AND TAXI SERVICE SUNDAY AND MONDAY

The Pine Gardens

September 3, 1927

- ❖ The Carolina Collegians, the presentation band from the Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, Wisconsin, played on September 4, 1927 at The Pine Gardens.
- ❖ The Chicago Blew Blowers were featured on Labor Day, September 5, 1927.
- ❖ Note that ladies were admitted free, while gentlemen paid \$1.00 for their admission ticket, plus tax.
- ❖ Bus and taxi service were provided on Sunday and Monday.



Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 4

The reporter went close to the bed. England looked at him. The reporter asked a question or two but the young man did not answer. He was visibly exhausted. At that moment **Dr. S.E. Cruse** and **Dr. G. Fredrickson** arrived and the room was cleared of relatives and others.

Shortly before noon England lapsed into unconsciousness and at 1:35 o'clock this afternoon he died.

Darrow Uncommunicative.

Darrow, according to boarders at the Klegstad home, did not say at any time where he got the liquor or what it was. Neither did he openly complain until a short time before he was taken to the hospital.

Relatives of LaFreniere, gathered about the deathbed this morning, were prostrated. The situation at the England home was similar as Harris, brokenly and with apparent effort, tried to whisper his story.

Darrow, according to friends and boarders at the Klagstad home is an orphan. Several brothers and sisters are said to reside at LaValle, Wis. One brother, **Newton**, advised by wire this morning that he is on his way here to take charge of the body.

Darrow had been employed at the Ford plant for the past four years, working most of that time on a shaping machine.

Investigation Started

City and county authorities began today a spirited investigation into the tragedy. Several theories have been advanced, but the stories of LaFreniere and Darrow have centered the investigation about Iron River. LaFreniere said they stayed at the Iron Inn.

Police recall having seen LaFreniere about the city early Saturday evening. He was apparently all right then, they said.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 5

Coroner Frank Buchanan today took charge of the body of Darrow and said that an autopsy would be held this afternoon to determine the actual cause of death.

Besides his parents, Arthur LaFreniere is survived by three sisters, Malvina, Agnes and Alice, all of Iron Mountain. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

APRIL 20, 1927, The Iron Mountain News:

POISON LIQUOR IS TRACED TO CITY SYNTHETIC GIN CAUSED DEATH OF THREE MEN

Others Drank Same Stuff

But Are Not In Danger

HAD THREE BOTTLES

Fourth Person Violently Ill

After Few Swallows.

The source of the poisoned liquor which caused the death of three young men within 24 hours was today definitely traced to Iron Mountain.

Contrary to an ante-mortem statement made by one of the victims, Art LaFreniere, which indicated to investigators that the liquor had been obtained in Iron River, it has been conclusively learned that three bottles of synthetic gin purchased in Iron Mountain Saturday night brought tragedy to three homes.

The inquiry being conducted by Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister and Sheriff Rudolph Freeman today was well in hand, with all of the salient features determined and only a few minor details remaining to be checked.

Want Airtight Case.

However, before giving out any names Prosecutor MacAllister declared he first desired to make the case so airtight that there would be no danger of its collapsing once the officials move to punish the person or persons guilty of furnishing the liquor.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 6

It was learned that several young men had partaken of the same liquor which brought death to LaFreniere, Harris England and Hugh Darrow and that one of them, Claude Eade, of Waucedah, became violently ill, but is now recovering.

Detected False Taste

Eade detected a false taste in the gin and after taking a few drinks from then on when the bottle came his way he held it only to his lips, but did not swallow. To this discrimination and wisdom he owes his life for the slight amount of liquor that he did consume caused him later to stumble off the road on his way home and lie practically unconscious for two hours.

Eade was in great physical distress and spent Sunday at the home of his brother here. Monday morning he decided to return to his own home in Waucedah and felt that if he walked the air and exercise would brace him up.

He had proceeded only as far as the point on South Stephenson avenue where the Chapin mine air pipe line crosses the road when he was seized with blindness. He staggered to the side of the road and collapsed, remaining in that condition for about two hours. When he finally recovered his senses he required an extra half hour of rest before his vision returned sufficiently for him to continue on his way.

Still Feels Effects

Eade still feels the effects of the poison, but is not considered in danger and with the exception of a slight discomfiture of the stomach is in no distress. He has slept for 20 out of the past 24 hours and his memory from the time that he began to drink the liquor until the present moment is confused.

A fifth man who had some of the liquor reported no ill effects, but is now shaky over his narrow escape.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 7

Autopsies were performed yesterday afternoon upon the bodies of England and Darrow and parts of the stomach and intestines were sent last night to Ann Arbor for examination by the state chemist. This is being done to furnish the basis for an official certificate declaring death due to poison alcohol.

This afternoon inquests were opened by both **Coroners J.B. Erickson** and **Frank Buchanan**. Erickson has the body of England and Buchanan has those of LaFreniere and Darrow. The two juries viewed the bodies and the inquests were then adjourned until later, when all of the details of the unfortunate occurrence may be presented.

Part of Liquor Found.

So successful has been the official investigation that part of the poisonous liquor has been found, a residue being discovered in two of the bottles. The liquor was partly diluted by rain water, but it is believed this will not affect the analysis. It was also sent to the state chemist.

Piece by piece, the story of the fatal Saturday night party has been obtained and dovetailed until now the officials are confident they know practically all of what went on.

The liquor which the three victims drank had denatured alcohol as its base. To this was added the flavoring ingredients that are part of a recipe for making synthetic gin.

Saturday afternoon Darrow and LaFreniere returned from Iron River, where they had done considerable drinking. They met again Saturday evening and were accompanied by three other companions, one of them Eade, and the other two a Ford plant employee and a resident of Granite Bluff.

Had Three Bottles.

One bottle of the gin was obtained from the bootlegging establishment and this was consumed within a fairly short time. **The five men planned to attend the dance at the Nightingale pavilion and decided to take two more bottles of the gin with them.**

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 8

LaFreniere and an unnamed companion are believed to have returned to the bootlegger's place for the liquor, and it is known that one of the bottles was paid for.

The party then went to the Nightingale in a car owned by the Granite Bluff man.

It was at the Nightingale that fate included England among the victims. He was already at the pavilion and LaFreniere met him there. LaFreniere is thought to have offered the liquor to England.

Several others are also believed to have been called out of the pavilion from time to time for a nip from the flasks, but the quantity they drank was so small that they suffered only slight inconvenience.

Before the evening was over, however, England and the five members in the LaFreniere-Darrow party were in pain and were almost overwhelmingly sleepy.

From there on most of the story has been told. Darrow, LaFreniere and England were in pain Sunday and their condition grew steadily worse. The climax to the tragedy came when Darrow died Monday evening, LaFreniere passed away yesterday morning and England succumbed yesterday afternoon.

District Is Aroused

The tragedy has aroused the city and created tremendous interest throughout the district. It has focused public attention upon the ever present evil of bootleg poison and the demand for justice is heard on all sides.

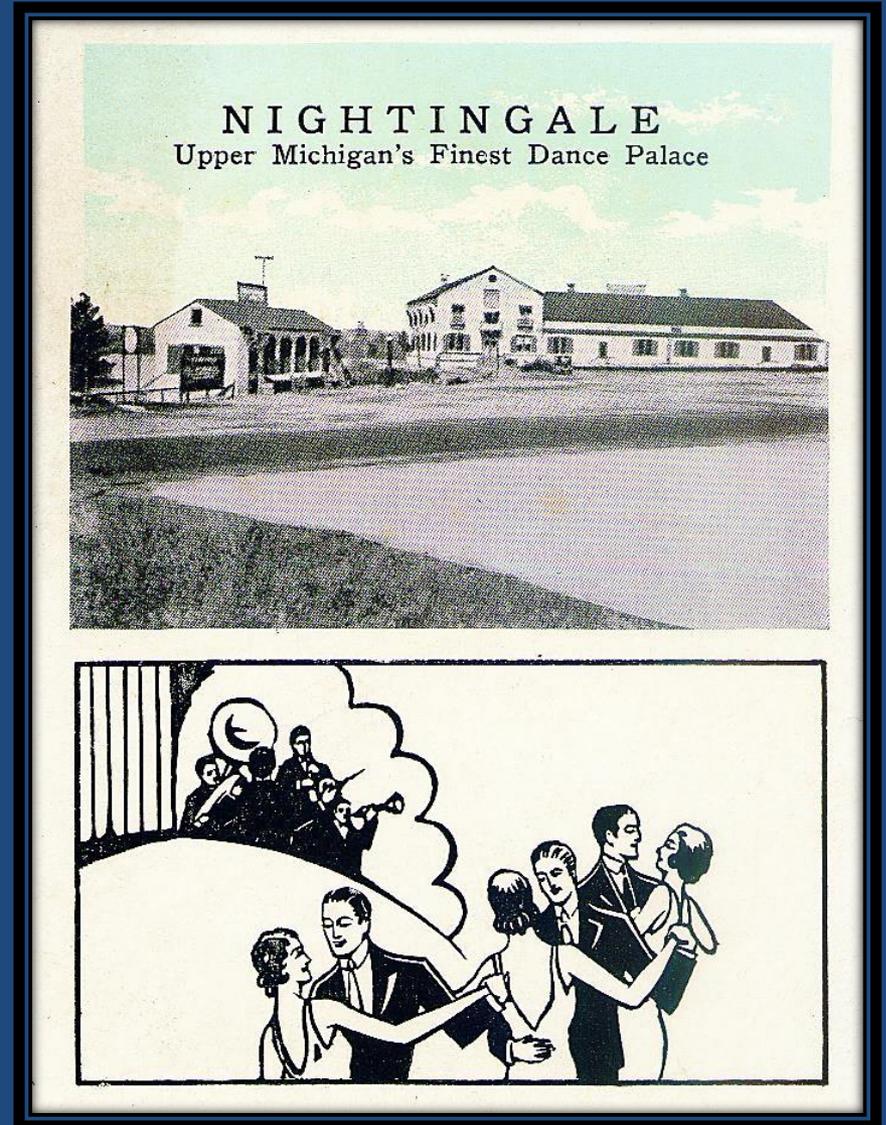
“No stone will be left unturned to bring this investigation to a successful conclusion,” Prosecutor MacAllister asserted today. “We are quite satisfied with its progress thus far, but before making public much of the information we have on hand we must be prepared to back it up with convincing and unassailable proof.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 9

From evidence we now have we are certain of obtaining this and I am confident that the entire story will be known soon and that we will be able to point out the person or persons who placed this poison in the hands of its unfortunate victims.”

More than a dozen witnesses have already contributed statements from which the officials have woven the web of the story of what occurred. The establishment where it is declared the liquor was sold has been under constant surveillance.

Authorities are devoting their entire time to investigation and promise no let up until their case is complete.



The Pine Gardens and The Nightingale Badwater, Dickinson County, Michigan



The Pine Gardens was located behind the Nightingale which had a nice view of the Menominee River at Badwater. The Pine Gardens was destroyed by fire on June 8, 1931. Nine years later, on May 4, 1940, The Nightingale met a similar fate. The two dancing pavilions were the most popular entertainment venues in the area, frequented by residents from miles around during the Roaring Twenties. [Hazel (De Gayner) Dault]

The Nightingale, Badwater Lake, Dickinson County – 1 (1927)



The Nightingale, a dance pavilion measuring 148 feet by 80 feet with a dance floor measuring 96 feet by 80 feet, **opened May 15, 1925**, just across from **The Pine Gardens Dancing Pavilion** at **Badwater** with an estimated 2,200 people in attendance. A mezzanine floor measuring 36 feet by 80 feet was designed for private parties and serving lunches. Designed by **Gale Parmelee**, architect of the firm of **F.E. and G.F. Parmelee**, the steel and concrete structure covered with a cream-colored stucco surface had a red tile roof, following Spanish architectural lines. Located about 175 feet above **Badwater Lake**, the site afforded an excellent view of the surrounding country for miles.

The Nightingale, Badwater Lake, Dickinson County – 2 (1927)



The building was dedicated to the late Indian chief **Jerome Dakota**, who held council with his braves here. Brothers **Claude and Gale Parmelee** were the owners.

On Saturday evening, April 16, 1927, Arthur LaFreniere and Hugh Darrow attended the dance at The Nightingale with friends Torvo Wertanen, Steve Lachine and Claude Eade. Harris England was already at The Nightingale, probably receiving alcohol from LaFreniere. Darrow and LaFreniere were two of the three young men who succumbed to wood alcohol poisoning, Darrow dying on Monday evening and LaFreniere on Tuesday morning. England passed away on Tuesday afternoon.

This photograph was taken in about 1928. The Nightingale burned to the ground in the early morning hours of May 4, 1940. [*Hazel (De Gayner) Dault*]

The Nightingale, Badwater Lake, Dickinson County – 3 (1927)



Nightingale Ball Room, Finest North of Chicago, Iron Mountain, Mich.

This postcard view, postmarked July 30, 1927, shows the highly decorated Nightingale's ballroom.

THE NIGHTINGALE TONIGHT

The Famous Rainbow Aces

Rhythm—Swing—Pep—Harmony
Featuring the Latest Song and Dance Hits!

Coming Sept. 7 and 10

Glen Geneva's Marigold Serenaders

From
W. H. O. Bankers Life Station, Des Moines, Iowa

Sept. 21

Roy Kipp and His Iowa Collegians

10—Artists—10

Don't Forget!
WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS DANCE
Labor Day Night

NOTE—Take our FREE Bus at 9:15 at Cudlip's Drug Store,
This bus is for the patronage of the Nightingale only.

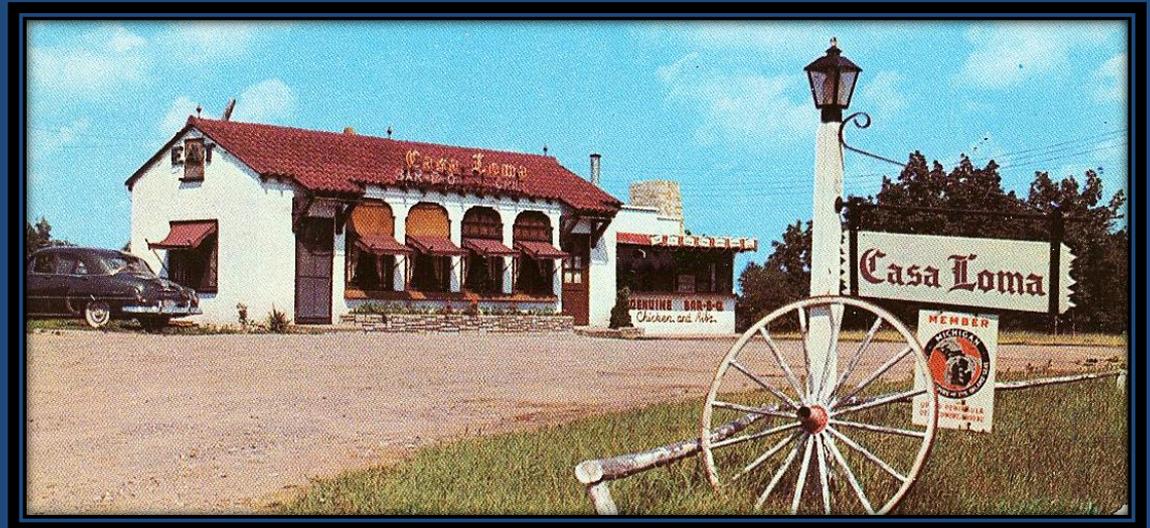
The Nightingale September 3, 1927

- ❖ The Rainbow Aces played at the Nightingale on Saturday September 3, 1927.
- ❖ Glen Geneva's Marigold Serenaders from Des Moines, Iowa, played on Wednesday, September 7, and Saturday, September 10, 1927.
- ❖ Roy Kipp and His Iowa Collegians played on Wednesday, September 21, 1927.
- ❖ A free bus was furnished, leaving at 9:15 p.m. from Cudlip's Drug Store for the patronage of the Nightingale only.

The Nightingale, Badwater Lake, Dickinson County – 4 (1927)



Following the May 4, 1940 fire which destroyed the main building of the Nightingale complex, the building at the left was moved. It eventually was located on the north side of U.S. 2 on the Michigan side near the Menominee River, and was known as the Casa Loma. [William J. Cummings]



Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 9

MAY 12, 1927, *The Iron Mountain News*:

STORY OF LIQUOR DEATHS TOLD TO CORONERS' JURY

Verdict That Three Young Men Died From Wood Alcohol.

The official investigation into the recent deaths of Harris England, Art LaFreniere and Hugh Darrow came to an end late yesterday afternoon when a coroner's jury returned verdicts that each had been the victim of poisonous alcohol.

The jury went no further than that, but the testimony of witnesses, particularly those believed to have partaken of the same lethal liquor, indicated that the bottles were supplied by LaFreniere, whose death makes him no longer accountable.

The inquest was held at the **Buchanan & Villemur funeral home**, South Carpenter avenue. **Coroner Frank Buchanan** had charge of the cases of Darrow and LaFreniere and **Coroner J.B. Erickson** had the England case. The one jury returned the three verdicts. It was composed of **J.C. Eslick, Thomas Rowell, G. Johnson, Urban Rahoi, Sam Krause** and **Fred Caviani**.

Companions Tell Stories

The most complete stories of the ill-fated Saturday night party were told by three of the young men, **Torvo Wertanen, Steve Lachine** and **Claude Eade**, who accompanied LaFreniere and Darrow to the Nightingale dance pavilion. Their testimony cleared up the manner to which LaFreniere and Darrow drank the poison.

The inquest, however, did not reveal how Harris England was given the liquor that caused his death.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 10

One witness who might have been able to furnish some information based on England's own statements was unable to be present, but it was said later by **Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister** that there is strong foundation for the belief that England procured his drinks on the following Sunday afternoon.

Alcohol Was Stolen

Testimony also indicated that the poison alcohol was stolen from an oil station located near George "Reddy" Meehan's resort at Twin Falls. The oil station was not in use at the time and, according to the witnesses, the theft was originated by Meehan's bartender, **Andy Anderson**, who has since disappeared.

Summed up, the testimony of Eade, Wertanen and Lachine was as follows:

Saturday evening Eade, Wertanen, LaFreniere and Darrow met downtown. There was a bottle in the crowd and some drinks were taken in the **Recreation bowling alleys**.

The four wanted to attend the dance at the **Nightingale**, but had no manner of conveyance. They walked up the street and stopped at the **North Western station**.

It was while standing here, according to one of the witnesses, that LaFreniere said he was "broke" and wanted to know if one of the boys would buy a quart of liquor from him for \$2. Wertanen said he agreed and accompanied LaFreniere down the street, the other two remaining at the depot.

Waited Near Hotel

Wertanen said that when they reached the **Harding hotel**, next to which, on West Hughitt street, is located the **LaFreniere home**, LaFreniere told him to wait there. He watched LaFreniere turn into a yard, Wertanen said, and waited about 20 minutes before his companion came back with two quarts.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 11

They returned to the **North Western depot** by walking east on Hughitt street, Wertanen said, and on the way he gave LaFreniere \$2 for one of the quarts. The liquid in one of the bottles was of a brownish color and that in the other was clear.

Back at the depot the boys noticed Lachine and called him over. At their request, he said, he agreed to take them to the **Nightingale**. On the way they stopped near the **Chapin mine machine shops** and the bottles were passed. **Again at the Nightingale they drove down the road about 200 yards and drank some more, finishing one of the bottles. When they returned to the Nightingale the remaining bottle was hidden under a boat, where, at intervals, it was tapped not only by some of those in the party, but by others.**

Two of the witnesses testified to meeting Harris England at the door of the Nightingale, but said they knew nothing of his taking any drinks during the evening.

Felt Weak and Dizzy

The witnesses testified that LaFreniere exhibited evidences of the liquor he had taken, and Eade and Wertanen told of feeling drowsy, weak and ill at ease before the evening was over. Lachine declared he took only one drink during the evening and not liking the taste of the liquor refused to swallow any more.

Lachine said that he exclaimed to LaFreniere, when he took his one drink at the **North Western depot**:

“That stuff don’t [*sic*] taste very good to me. Where are you getting it?”

“We’ve got a patch of our own,” LaFreniere was said to have replied.

When they stopped at the **Chapin machine shop** for more drinks, Lachine said that he “tipped the bottle up to my mouth, but I made damn sure there wasn’t anything coming through.”

Wertanen said he was also suspicious of the liquor and asked LaFreniere, “Are you sure this won’t kill a fellow?”

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 12

“You don’t know good liquor when you taste it,” LaFreniere replied.

“Slimy, Sickening Taste”

The witnesses described the liquor as having a “slimy, sickening taste” and an odor “like the Ford chemical plant.”

The five men returned from the Nightingale at midnight and went to the Coney Island lunch. Later they separated and went home.

Eade, who was the only one to feel any serious effects from the liquor, with the exception of the three victims, told how he slept practically all of the next 24 hours, and on Monday morning decided to walk to Waucedah, his home, but collapsed on the road near Kiel [*sic – Keel*] ridge. He lay in a ditch for two hours and a half and eventually revived sufficiently to continue on his way, eventually, with the aid of rides given him by motorists, reaching Waucedah. Eade said he was seized with periods of blindness.

Asked whether he had tasted any other liquor besides that taken on the Saturday night party, Eade replied with some emphasis:

“I haven’t taken any yet.”

Darrow died on Monday evening, LaFreniere on Tuesday morning and England on Tuesday afternoon.

Other witnesses who testified were Joe Pogornick [*sic – Podgornik*], who said he had one drink of the liquor outside of the Nightingale, and Drs. Carrig and Fredrickson, who tended Darrow and England. Dr. George Belhumeur tended LaFreniere and his affidavit was presented to show that death was caused by wood alcohol. Dr. Fredrickson also testified to receiving a message from the state analyst stating that England’s death was also due to wood alcohol.

Had Liquor On Bus.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 13

Alvin Oswald, who accompanied Darrow and LaFreniere when they went to Iron River the previous afternoon, told of drinking a considerable amount of liquor with them on the way up. Darrow gave him some juniper berries to eat, he said, declaring they were used in making the gin.

Eade met Darrow and LaFreniere in Iron River and returned with them Saturday afternoon, rejoining them in the evening.

Sheriff Rudolph Freeman told of conducting the raid at the LaFreniere home during which a half ounce of wood alcohol was found in a jug. He also told of being present at a conversation in the prosecutor's office when Archie Gribble, of Wisconsin, told of accompanying LaFreniere on the night about 13 gallons of wood alcohol was stolen from the oil station.

He said that after a dance he and LaFreniere had gone to Meehan's resort, where they met Andy Anderson.

Meehan closed the place, it was testified, and Anderson, having some grudge against his employer, offered to put Gribble and LaFreniere "next to a proposition" to make some money.

According to the sheriff, Gribble related how Anderson broke into the oil station and how they loaded several five-gallon cans and a five-gallon jug of alcohol into Gribble's car. Gribble said he became alarmed and when they reached Iron Mountain managed to get rid of Anderson. LaFreniere, however, insisted on saving the alcohol, Gribble is said to have declared, but later told Gribble he had destroyed it.

Gribble's story was also repeated by Ed Lindquist, deputy sheriff, who conversed with him.

Watched House.

Three Iron Mountain Men Poisoned by Wood Alcohol – 14

Deputy Sheriff Victor Lundin and Dan Southworth told of watching the LaFreniere home on Tuesday night, following the deaths, and of seeing two young men remove a five-gallon jug from the cellar and another from the woodshed, and also two cases of bottles.

Witnesses also testified to seeing LaFreniere at Pine Gardens on Sunday evening in an intoxicated condition. Angelo Maninlor told of taking LaFreniere to Pine Gardens and of having one drink with him.

Al LaFreniere testified to having received reports that Darrow and LaFreniere had been “hijacking” liquor and that perhaps someone had “planted” poison for them.

The inquest will probably conclude all official investigation into the tragedy. In view of the evidence, officials believe there is nothing else to uncover and that the three deaths must be written down as a misfortune, for whose responsibility there is no one to be punished.

Nightingale

Upper Michigan's Finest Dance Palace

Tourist Cottages

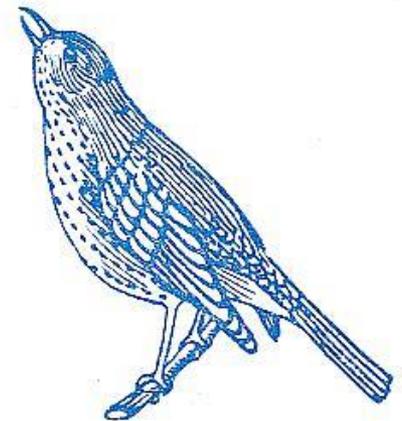
Boating

Fishing

Dancing and

Playground for

Children



Route 2,

5 Miles North of Iron Mountain

United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan,
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan



United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan



Constructed in 1909-1910 of limestone from a Bedford, Indiana, quarry, the building at 209 East Portage Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, served as the United States Post Office for decades and as the courthouse of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan from 1912 until 1941. From July 13 through July 20, 1926, the federal court held session here on the large number of prohibition cases, the majority of which came from Dickinson County.

Federal Court Convenes with Record Number of Cases – 1926

The extensive clean-up campaign carried on in Dickinson County in the spring of 1926 resulted in what was billed as the “biggest term” in federal court – estimated at one hundred cases when the court opened on July 13 at Sault Ste. Marie.

Due to the inordinate number of cases coming from Dickinson County, The Iron Mountain News sent a staff correspondent to cover the federal court proceedings. At that time the local newspaper was the equivalent of today’s cable news, and the correspondent provided timely, detailed articles to the readership back home to keep them updated.

Additional local interest had been spurred by the arrest of Sheriff Lloyd Cleveland on July 3, together with two deputies, Albert Freeman and Leonard Young, charged with intimidating a government witness.

Lloyd Cleveland had replaced his father, Sheriff Frank Cleveland, following the latter’s sudden and unexpected resignation on May 24.

Even though additional benches had been placed in the courtroom for the Wednesday, July 14, session, the space was too small to accommodate all who wished to be admitted. The five feet of standing room at the rear of the courtroom was jammed with people standing four and five rows deep, and a single file of spectators lined the side of the room. The overflow extended through the doorway and out into the third floor corridor. Those out of hearing distance followed the proceedings by whispered word “passed from lip to lip,” according to the correspondent.



Clinking Bottles Result in Arrest of Kingsford Soft Drink Dealer – 1

AUGUST 23, 1927, *The Iron Mountain News*:

“NEAR BEER” IS TOO NEAR; SEEK MAN ON WARRANT

Sheriff Sneaks Up On Loaded Truck And Hears 'Em Clink.

A warrant for the arrest of Harold Stanchina, proprietor of a “soft drink” parlor at 300 Fulton street, corner of Wilson avenue, Kingsford Heights, was issued by Judge James R. Spencer this morning, following the receipt of a sample of an analysis of 144 pints of “near-beer” taken from Stanchina by Sheriff Rudy Freeman last Saturday night, in the rear of a building on East Brown street.

Stanchina has a license to operate a soft drink parlor in the village of Kingsford.

Although the man had previously been suspected of violation, Sheriff Freeman stumbled onto the evidence accidentally about 7 o'clock p.m. Saturday, August 20, while returning from the scene of an auto spill in Kingsford.

Freeman had driven north on Carpenter onto West A street when he noticed a truck, painted green, just ahead. The truck seemed to be carrying a heavy load, for the driver slowed up almost to a stop at each depression in the road. Creeping up close behind, Freeman followed along for a short distance.

Suddenly the truck struck an unusually hard bump, and the tinkle of many, many bottles rang out from beneath the covering on the load. The truck proceeded to East Brown and turned into an alley in the rear of a building there, with Freeman on its tail.

Clinking Bottles Result in Arrest of Kingsford Soft Drink Dealer – 2

Pulling up alongside the truck as it came to a stop, Freeman recognized Stanchina and asked him what he had in the load. Stanchina said it was near beer. “This stuff wouldn’t prove up one per cent,” he told Freeman.

Confiscates Load

Freeman, however, decided to take no chances. “We’d better find out about the percentage,” he told Stanchina, and he ordered him to turn around and drive the load to the county jail. The beer was stored in the basement of the jail building, and Stanchina was released with his truck, while the sheriff took steps to determine the voltage of the load.

There were 14 cases of 24 bottles each – 144 pints. In the lot, Freeman took four samples at random and sent them to the Itzoff clinical laboratory here.

The samples came back this morning. Two of them tested four and a half per cent alcohol, one four per cent and one five.

“And that’s not bad for ‘near beer’,” Freeman said, as he prepared to swear out the warrant.

Stanchina, according to the sheriff, has never before been arrested on a liquor charge, although rumors have been persistent about the character of the “soft drink” parlor of which he is the proprietor. It is a dwelling house, covered with tar paper, and is doubtless one of the places in Kingsford concerning which the village commission has been in controversy for some time past.

It is the belief of Sheriff Freeman that Stanchina has been an exclusive distributor of beer to other soft drink operators in the district.

If Stanchina is arrested today he will be held for hearing and, like others in the past, he will likely be turned over to the next term of circuit court.

Stanchina is a married man, with a family, and has been a resident of Kingsford for some time. He is about 35 years of age.

City Hall, 206-216 East Ludington Street, Iron Mountain – 3 (1928)

April 17, 1928, *The Iron Mountain News*:

BARRELS OF IT, RICH, RARE AND RED, IN SEWER

Police Finally Destroy Evidence Taken In Raid.

Attended by considerable ceremony, while a motion picture camera recorded the event, members of the Iron Mountain city police force, at 9:30 o'clock this morning, sent a rich stream of mixed red and white wine gurgling down the gutter of Ludington street to the sewer below, destroying the 14 barrels of wine taken in a raid last September in the home of Frank Porenta, West A street.

Members of the state police department, headed by Lieutenant Engle, assisted in what to many of the spectators seemed like an alarmingly painful duty.

Within a moment or two after the “bung” had been battered from the first of the huge containers, a good-sized audience gathered to witness the ceremony. J.C. Eslick, as master of ceremonies, ushered the barrels into the street and even took a hand at the pouring party. Almost an hour was required to complete the task and long before it had ended the vicinity of Ludington street reeked with the pungent odor of wine – some good and some bad, according to the fate of each barrel during the long period of storage in the heated quarters of the justice court.

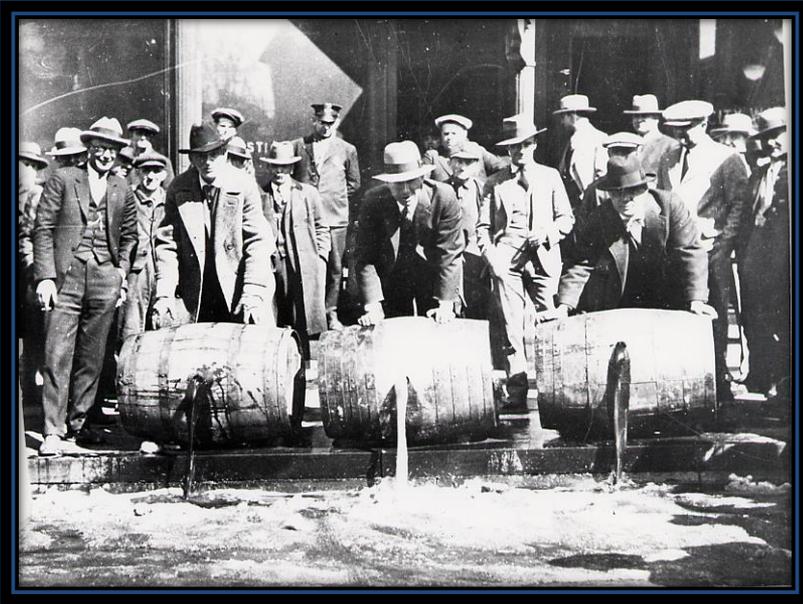
Later the empties were loaded on a truck and hauled away, the crowd gazing almost too longingly on the narrowing stream of nectar as it coursed to the waiting sewer.

Pictures of the sorrowful ceremony are to be shown at the Braumart theatre tonight.

City Hall, 206-216 East Ludington Street, Iron Mountain – 1 (1928)



City Hall, 206-216 East Ludington Street, Iron Mountain – 2 (1928)



The three men assisting in the “pouring” of the barrels in this photograph were, left to right, **John C. Eslick**, **Police Chief Peter Carlevato** and **Lawrence D. Tucker**, then a cub reporter for *The Iron Mountain News*. It was said that over 850 gallons of wine were poured into the street that day.

In *Polk’s Iron Mountain (Dickinson County, Mich.) City Directory 1935* **Frank Pornta** [sic] and his wife **Jennie** ran a tavern at **601 West A Street**, where they also resided. [Dick Ferris/Gene Derwinski]

Fourteen barrels of wine were confiscated in a raid at the home of **Frank Porenta**, **West A Street**, in September, 1927. On Tuesday, April 17, 1928, at 9:30 a.m. the **Iron Mountain Police Force**, assisted by members of the **Michigan State Police Department**, “poured” the wine down the gutter in front of the police station at **Iron Mountain City Hall, 206-216 East Ludington Street**.

1,100 Gallons of Rum and Wine Poured into Sewer Creek – 1 (1931)

MAY 19, 1931, *The Iron Mountain News*:

POUR THOUSAND GALLONS OF RUM, WINE IN SEWER

Spectators Look On In Sorrow As Barrels Are Emptied.

Residents of the district south of the Ford plant, near the main highway to Aurora, Wis., in fact, and in be exact, along that area traversed by the aromatic Sewer creek, halted in their work, or play, shortly before noon today, and stood to windward. They pressed their noses to the breeze. They held their heads high.

For into that district flowed a conglomerate “highball,” made up of some 988 gallons of wine, with a mere dash of moonshine, no more than 150 gallons, for flavoring.

And all that provided sniffing enough for all.

It was field day at the county jail, with state and county officers combining in the task of destroying more than 1100 gallons of accumulated evidence – wine and whiskey – taken in several raids previous to the last term of circuit court here.

The officers thought it was fun. To the few onlookers – in no way associated with the law – it was far from a joke, for, kept in the cool cellar of the jail, most of the stuff had ample time to improve its vintage.

Master of Ceremonies.

State Trooper George Bath was the “bung-starter” for the occasion, while Sergeant Hayden and Sheriff Freeman looked on. Other officers and deputies stood about, while a little to the rear was a detail of county prisoners, drafted to assist with the barrels and kegs. They, too, seemed not to appreciate the joke.

1,100 Gallons of Rum and Wine Poured into Sewer Creek – 2 (1931)

Throughout the jail building, and for a considerable area around, the pungent odor of whiskey and wine wafted out, reaching the nostrils of the county employees in the courthouse. Some worked on, appearing not to mind. Others held to their tasks, too – but beads of perspiration stood out on their bristled brows.

It was almost noon before Trooper Bath called it a day. When he had finished only the empties remained, while the generous pools of liquor, spilled out on the floor in the pouring, were all that was left of what to many would have been a comfortable fortune.



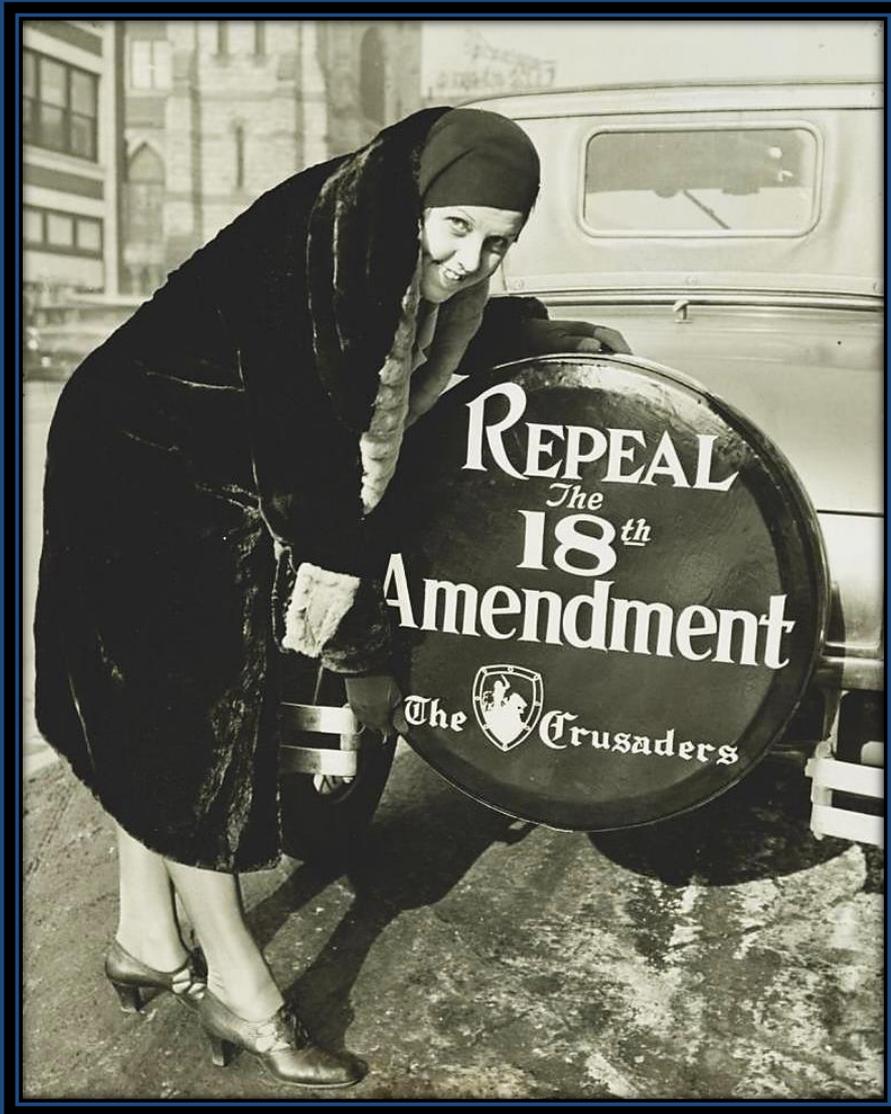
Prohibition Humor

IT DOESN'T WORK



Prohibition Posters

Poster Seeking Repeal of the 18th
Amendment



PROHIBITION ENDS AT LAST!

DECEMBER 5, 1933



CELEBRATE!

Prohibition Posters December 5, 1933

It was never illegal to drink during Prohibition. The 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act, the legal measure that included the instructions for enforcing Prohibition, never barred the consumption of alcohol – just making it, selling it, and shipping it for mass production and consumption.

Eighteenth Amendment Repealed December 5, 1933 – 1



Eighteenth Amendment Repealed December 5, 1933 – 2

On March 4, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Democrat, of New York, was inaugurated as the 32nd President of the United States of America.

The Cullen–Harrison Act, named for its sponsors, Senator Pat Harrison and Representative Thomas H. Cullen, enacted by the United States Congress March 21, 1933, and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt the following day, legalized the sale in the United States of beer with an alcohol content of 3.2% (by weight) and wine of similarly low alcohol content, thought to be too low to be intoxicating, effective April 7, 1933. Upon signing the legislation, Roosevelt made his famous remark, “I think this would be a good time for a beer.”

Of course, since he actually signed the bill on March 22, 1933 when he made the famed remark, there were still a full sixteen days before he could actually do so.

According to the Cullen-Harrison Act, each state had to pass similar legislation to legalize sale of the low alcohol beverages in that state. Roosevelt had previously sent a short message to Congress requesting such a bill. Sale of even such low alcohol beer had been illegal in the U.S. since Prohibition started in 1920 following the 1919 passage of the Volstead Act.

Throngs gathered outside breweries and taverns for their first legal beer in many years. The first Budwiser Clydesdale hitch in Washington, D.C. in April, 1933, just after the repeal of Prohibition. The Clydesdales paraded down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House to deliver a case of Budweiser to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

On April 10, 1933, Michigan became the first state to ratify the 21st Amendment that repealed the 18th Amendment to end prohibition of alcohol.

Eighteenth Amendment Repealed December 5, 1933 – 3

Each county in the state put before voters a choice between a “wet” and a “dry” candidate to send to the ratification convention as a delegate. Every county but one, Barry, elected a “wet” delegate. Governor William Comstock would later describe Michigan’s vote for ratification as “99 percent pure,” since the vote was 99-1.



President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

On December 5, 1933, at 6:55 p.m. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt announced to the nation on a national radio broadcast that Prohibition had come to an end.

With the adoption of the 21st Amendment, the states were free to experiment with new control systems or to retain prohibition. Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia adopted the licensing (open-state) system; 17 states, including Michigan, adopted the state control system; and three states – Oklahoma, Kansas and Mississippi – remained dry.

The Michigan Legislature in regular session created the first liquor control act, effective April 27, 1933, with a 17 member Commission, one from each Congressional district. On December 15, 1933 the Legislature abolished the 17 member Commission. It presently provides for the Liquor Control Commission to consist of five members, not more than two of whom shall be members of the same political party, to be appointed by the governor with the approval and consent of the Senate.

Eighteenth Amendment Repealed December 5, 1933 – 4

DECEMBER 4, 1933, *The Iron Mountain News*:

LEGAL LIQUOR ACROSS BORDER TUESDAY NIGHT

**Will Bring In Shipments
From Milwaukee By Car.**

Residents of this district, with eyes turned hopefully to Wisconsin for the lifting of the liquor ban at 12 o'clock tomorrow noon, may smack their lips in vain for some time after the "zero hour" before any "good stuff" reaches this territory, according to reports this morning from neighboring Wisconsin communities in Marinette and Florence counties.

Tavern proprietors across the border, however, are as one in assuring their patrons that the scotch, bourbon, rye and other liquors and wine will be ready for sale as soon after noon tomorrow as fast automobiles can get the goods in from Milwaukee.

Some proprietors who had planned to drive to Milwaukee and there await their turn at one or another of the warehouses had given up the idea with the statement of advance salesmen, who said that it is doubtful if any liquor will be sold direct from the warehouse to the distributors. Most of the liquor, it was said, will be shipped out on the basis of previous orders.

Not Until Evening

Granting that trucks are started from Milwaukee shortly after noon tomorrow, it is evident that no liquor will be available until 6 or 7 o'clock in the evening. Practically all of the established taverns in Marinette and Florence counties, it was indicated, have placed orders and will start selling the moment their shipments come in.

It is doubtful that the shipments to be received in neighboring Wisconsin communities tomorrow will include much, if any, of the bonded American or imported brands.

Eighteenth Amendment Repealed December 5, 1933 – 5

Most of the local supply, it is believed, will be various grades of blended whiskey which is obtainable at \$14 to \$22.50 a case and which may be sold over the bar at from 15 to 25 cents a drink.

Bonded whiskey, 18 years old and older, is wholesaling at \$65 and \$85 a case and the proprietor will have to get from 35 to 50 cents a drink for it. And that drink will, probably, be not more than one ounce.

DECEMBER 7, 1933, *The Iron Mountain News:*

LEGAL LIQUOR TOO EXPENSIVE IN THESE PARTS

What Supply There Is Beyond Reach Of Average Person.

National prohibition repeal, insofar as it has affected this community and the nearby districts in Wisconsin, has so far been little more than just another newspaper story.

The advent of the so-called “good liquor” in Wisconsin, where it is now legal, has caused hardly a ripple in this area according to the few dealers who managed to obtain small quantities of the legal brand for retail sale.

The principal reason – as always – is the price. A drinking public, accustomed through 14 years of diligent practice with mixtures aged-in-the-coil, and at a price which that public felt it could afford to pay, balks at the 25-to-50 cents a shot range for the various brands of repeal whiskey and its allied beverages.

Just Too Steep

“It looks good, it tastes good, and no doubt it is good – but it’s too steep for me,” is the verdict, as nearly as can be learned from reports of those who have tried it.

Eighteenth Amendment Repealed December 5, 1933 – 6

The consumption of legal whiskey in this area hasn't advanced beyond the experimental stage.

"I'll try one," the customer says, and he tries it. Then he promptly goes back to his pre-repeal habits, at 15 cents a throw – or less.

Proprietors of establishments in Aurora, just across the Florence county line in Wisconsin, appointed one of their number as a "runner" and pooled their money for an automobile load of legal liquor. They based that plan upon prices quoted to them by advance agents some time ago.

Couldn't Get It

When the "runner" reached Milwaukee, prepared with the cash, he discovered two things – first, that prices had been advanced from the original quotation from \$3 up per case, and, second, he couldn't even "crash" the warehouse to get it at that price.

He came home empty-handed, and, reports say, there may be no legal liquor in Aurora until early next week, when purchases can be made through regular channels.

If any of the Aurora dealers have managed to pick up any of the legal whiskey there has been no great splurge about it and no rush for it.

Much the same situation is reflected in the limited quantities of "good liquor" available here. Bought at a price which demands retail sale at from 25 to 40 cents a "jigger" it is being regarded more as a novelty and luxury and the output has been small indeed.

Blended Product

The favorite among the legal drinks here, if any, is a blended product which retails at \$6 a gallon and is marked "Bourbon – Three Years Old." It is also obtainable, at retail, for one dollar a pint or 25 cents a drink. It has the appearance, the flavor and all the effect of "good liquor," and is sold as repeal whiskey.

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It is, without question, a decided improvement in texture and bouquet over any of the various grades of the home-made product offered alongside of it at 15 cents or less.

While none of the “fancier” brands – special bond or imported whiskies – had reached this area up to today, a few bottles of ordinary bonded liquor are being displayed and offered for sale at from \$3 to \$4 a pint, and from 40 to 50 cents a drink, with or without a mixture of “wash.” This is described as “unblended” whiskey, uncut and aged.

“10-Minute Product”

Blended whiskey, the cheaper brand, is described for post prohibition purposes in various ways. According to some it is a mixture of the less expensive whiskey bases, not artificially “cut.” Others say it is an alcohol base, treated with enough genuine whiskey to give it the taste and color – but “alky” just the same.

And most drinkers agree, despite the labels, that it is a “20-minute” product, blended skillfully but hurriedly, to meet the “low price” demand.

It is obvious, however, that under present economic conditions and by reason of long habit, the drinking public is not immediately to be weaned wholly from its low priced indulgence – not in the face of 40 to 50 cents a drink. “It will have to come cheaper than that,” is the common statement.

\$7 For Champagne

Only infrequent samples of wine, champagne and similar beverages have made their appearance in this area so far. A somewhat ordinary brand of champagne, touched up with a label and cork-wiring, is offered at \$7 a quart and a deep-red port wine at \$3. There have been no case orders of either, as nearly as can be learned – not with home made muscatel at from 50c [*sic – 50 cents*] to 75 cents a quart easily available.

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All of this gives rise to the question of how many of the local dealers who may, under the forthcoming Michigan regulations, be qualified to handle hard liquor, will be inclined to pay the license fee and enter into the legitimate business. If the drinking public, as has been evidenced so far, displays a tendency to trail along with its habits and customs of the past 14 years, and ignore the higher-priced legal product, there will, in all probability, be little temptation to go into the business. It is common sense salesmanship to give the public what it wants, be it liquor or licorice.

No “Buzz” In Brew

Perhaps some of the attitude with which the public approaches legal liquor may be traceable to legal beer. Those persons who like a “kick” with their drinking hoped to find it in 3.2 per cent beer, but even the high-pressure beer-drinkers had difficulty in working up a “buzz” over the low-content brew.

If legal beer wasn’t all that was hoped for it, some ask, why expect any better results from the so-called “good whiskey”, as far as quality is concerned?

Better Beer Coming

Along that line, however, comes a more hopeful indication from several of the local dealers who, within the past few days, anticipate their first shipments of a higher percentage beer. This beer, it is definitely assured, is on the way. And what, the dealers logically inquire, will be the effect of high percentage beer on whiskey sales?

Whatever may have been the situation in the more heavily populated centers, where large quantities of whiskey have been consumed since the advent of repeal, there is certainly an atmosphere of uncertainty here.

And that uncertainty hinges principally upon the present high price of legal liquor and the regulations which the state legislature may adopt for its distribution and sale.

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The question, simply enough, is, Will the demand, at the present prices, justify going into the business?



Pasquale's Tavern, 402 Fifth Street, Iron Mountain



This photograph, probably taken between 1940 and 1950, shows Pasquale's Tavern, 402 Fifth Street, North Side, Iron Mountain. The first listing for this address appeared in the 1935 city directory, when Pasquale and Matilda Celanese operated a grocery store and tavern here, living on the premises. By 1939 the saloon was listed as the Celanese Tavern. In the 1946 city directory Mrs. Carmen DeUhlio operated the Happy Land Cafe at this address. Pasquale Celanese still resided here, as did Russel (Ruth) Ackerman, who worked at the Anderson Motor Company, and Robert (Rachel) Oliver. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

MENOMINEE



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MEMORIES

THE END