

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



In 1892 in Iron Mountain's first city directory William Graf operated a saloon at 100 East Hughitt Street in Iron Mountain and lived here, 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. This photograph was probably taken between 1900 and 1910, when 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. 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. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

[NOTE: Dates, placed chronologically, are highlighted in boldface red letters for easier reading,

and names of individuals and places are highlighted in boldface black letters to facilitate finding information.]

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As noted in a **February 20, 1925** article in the Iron Mountain News, transcribed below, local enforcement of the Volstead Act was lax, being described as a “joke” by **Leo J. Grove**, federal prohibition enforcement chief for the northern Michigan district.

Grove noted in early 1925 that there had “not been more than a dozen liquor law arrests in Iron Mountain by city police in the past five or six years,” further stating, “Willingness of the police to co-operate with him and his men in making raids and arrests here” had “not been forthcoming...despite the fact that scores of alleged ‘soft’ drink parlors” were “in operation here.”

Placing the responsibility for conditions in Iron Mountain “almost entirely on the local administration,” Grove declared that it was “the duty of the mayor to instruct the chief of police that a clean-up is in order.”

Joseph B. Eslick’s term as mayor began May 3, 1920, and **Walter A. Henze**’s term began April 17, 1922. Walter Henze was the son of **Louis A. Henze**, of the **Henze-Tollen Brewing Company**. **Alfred Sutherlund** succeeded Henze as mayor in 1926.

Thus, newspaper accounts of prohibition violations in the early 1920s, particularly in Iron Mountain, are sparse until first Grove and later local officials began to clamp down on liquor law violators.

The Iron Mountain Daily News published its first issue on Monday, April 11, 1921. In the early years the coverage of prohibition was not as abundant as it had been in the *Iron Mountain Press* in 1918 and 1920.

In the first edition of *The Iron Mountain Daily News*, the following article appeared under the headline “**Dry Agents Come, But Get Nothing**”:

*Leo J. Grove, prohibition enforcement group chief, accompanied by two troopers of the Michigan state police, paid a flying visit to Iron Mountain Saturday afternoon, just before 6 o’clock. A search was made of the **American Hotel**, on Merritt street, but no liquor was discovered. The party left for Escanaba by automobile about 7.*

City officials declare they were not advised of Mr. Grove’s visit, and consequently, when reports spread that prohibition agents had searched the American, doubt was expressed as to whether they were “the real article” or fakers. They left the city before local officials were given an opportunity to interview them.

In the **April 14, 1921** edition of *The Iron Mountain Daily News*, the following article appeared under the headline “**Liquor Violators to Serve Time in Jail: Judge Flannigan Sentences Iron Mountain Men, Youths Are Lectured**”:

Henry Stanchina, Victor Brasspennicke [sic – Braspennickx] and Victor Grasso, all of Iron Mountain, were each sentenced to four months in the Dickinson county jail for violation of the prohibition statues [sic – statutes] in circuit court this morning. All pleaded guilty to the charge of having liquor in their places of business, and, although the direct evidence had been introduced to prove that such

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liquor was sold directly to “customers”, the court decided that when quantities of liquor are found in any place where men congregate to lounge, it is a justifiable assumption that such liquor is for sale.

James Nora, Joseph Negro and ay [sic – Ray] Beard, three youths, pleading guilty to various acts of larceny and burglary in and about the city of Iron Mountain, were released on suspended sentences, placed in charge of the county parole officials, and charged to report in court Wednesday, April 20. In the meantime, the local ----- were instructed that ----- to investigate the ----- and report, with the ----- next week.

Judge Lectures Boys

“The crimes to which the boys have pleaded guilty are punishable by prison sentences,” declared Judge Flannigan. “It has been further determined,” the court continued, “that approximately 95 per cent of all crimes of burglary, larceny, rape and other illegal acts coming to the attention of the ----- today are committed by youths. The course which ----- pursue is that of direct and strict punishment by imprisonment. That is my present intention.

“It is my intention because I am beginning to feel that leniency in such cases has only invited an increase of crime among boys. I feel that past clemency has been more of a stimulant to wrong doing among young boys than a ----- upon them, but, while it might save your name and your families from a deep disgrace if I should let you go today, [I] want further time to

consider. Go home now, but come back next Wednesday. We will see then what is to be done.”

Recess was then called before the opening of the case arising from the dispute within the congregation of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church, of Iron Mountain.

In its **January 5, 1922** edition under the headline “**Hotel Landlord Is Found Guilty: Proprietor of the Central House Held For Liquor Law Violation,**” *The Iron Mountain Daily News* noted the following:

“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 drunk intoxicant liquors at the hotel, but had become intoxicated and while in that condition had been arrested and taken to the city prison.

Under the headline “**Spread Eagle Woman Fined: Mrs. Tempier Pays \$350 For Manufacture and Sale of Moonshine,**” the following article appeared in the **December 19, 1922** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

Mrs. Anna Tempier, a resident of **Spread Eagle**, arrested by federal prohibition agents from **Superior, Wis.**, for possession, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, paid a fine of \$350 and costs when arraigned in **Florence** before **District Attorney Clarence H. O’Brien**.

Mrs. Tempier was found supervising the operation of one of two stills found at her place, it was said, and further search

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revealed seven barrels of mash and several kegs of intoxicating liquor. It is alleged by the agents that Mrs. Tempier had been

selling moonshine whisky to Iron Mountain residents as well as persons from Florence, Wis.



The **Central House**, a hotel and saloon, located at 106 East B Street, Iron Mountain, was operated by **Joseph Wenzel** in 1892. This photograph dates between 1890 and 1900. Note the close proximity of the train tracks to the hotel building and the platform to facilitate loading and unloading railroad cars. The hotel was located across the street from the **Milwaukee & Northern Railway Depot**. By 1902 the establishment was run by **John Parmenter**, and by 1907 by **Joseph Cordy**, who was still here in 1913. **August E. Brauns** purchased the Central House and the vacant lots to the west of the hotel from Joseph Cordy in November, 1922, with

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a frontage on B Street of 92 feet, the lot extending back 125 feet. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

The raiding party also arrested three Florence men – **George LaChappel**, **August Pultz** and **Gus Dunkle**. A quantity of liquor was found at the soft drink parlors of LaChappel and Pultz, it is said, while at the Dunkle home a still was found in operation.

LaChappel and Pultz were each fined \$250 and costs, while Dunkle parted with \$300.

The federal agents were assisted in the raids by **Undersheriff Harry Cretor** and **Deputy Sheriff Zeisler**.

In the **January 29, 1923** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article appeared under the headline “**Arrested Again o Booze Charge: Gino Bianchi Returns to County Jail; Given Bail Yesterday**”:

Gino Bianchi, arrested several weeks ago on a charge of selling moonshine at his establishment in the basement of the **Cordy building** on East B street, again appeared at the county jail Saturday night in custody of **Sheriff Cleveland** and **Under-sheriff Davis**.

As in the previous instance, Bianchi is charged with the sale of intoxicating beverages, but the arrest differed in that no raid was staged.

Bianchi was released yesterday on bonds of \$500 and his preliminary examination, scheduled for this afternoon, was postponed until tomorrow.

Shortly after the supper hour Saturday, the sheriff and his assistant visited Bianchi's soft drink emporium. Then they

went through the formality of serving him with a warrant after which he went back to jail. The charge is based on the evidence of two or three witnesses who, it is claimed, declare they bought moonshine from him.

Bianchi was arrested the first time by **ex-Sheriff Farrell** and deputies who raided the soft drink parlor. His case was on the calendar for the January term of circuit court but a continuance was granted until the April term.

Under the headline “**Tried to Bride Davis, Is Claim: And Then Sheriff Puts Chain on Door But Attorney Removes It**,” the following article appeared in the **March 9, 1923** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

Sheriff Cleveland's war against alleged moonshiners took an unusual twist late yesterday afternoon when **Casimir Milkwicz**, either owner or operator of a soft drink emporium at 102 West Hughitt street, was placed under arrest on a charge of attempting to bribe **Under-sheriff James Davis**.

Later Malkwicz was released on the condition, it is said, that he would submit his establishment being placed under lock and key. To make sure that this provision was carried out, the sheriff yesterday afternoon fastened a chain across the front door so that it could not be opened. This, however, did not end the battle for Milkwicz sought

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Attorney Dan J. O'Hara and the latter removed the chain this morning.

*There the matter rested for today at least, as Sheriff Cleveland was out of town and **Prosecuting Attorney J.C. Knight** declined to take any action until the official returned.*

Brother of William.

*Milkwicz is a brother of **William Milkwicz**, arrested several weeks ago at the same establishment on a charge of violating the prohibition laws. After being held for trial at the April term of circuit court, William turned over the place to Casimir, it is claimed, and it was to be conducted as a restaurant.*

While no charge of selling moonshine has been placed against Casimir, it is claimed that while Under-sheriff James Davis was in the place Wednesday night, Casimir invited him upstairs. When they had seated themselves in a room on the second floor Casimir offered Davis some money for protection from arrest, it is claimed, but the under-sheriff told him that all business was transacted at the sheriff's office. Davis says he added that Casimir should go there if he wanted to "do any business."

And He Goes.

Late yesterday afternoon Casimir appeared at the county jail. Davis was in the sheriff's office and the sheriff was hidden behind a door. After a few opening remarks Casimir is alleged to have mentioned the object of his visit and produced \$100 in bills which he laid on the

*desk. Davis then moved his chair as a signal for the sheriff to enter and as Cleveland strode into the room he placed Casimir under arrest. The \$100 was turned over to **County Clerk Cudlip** to be registered and put in a safe place so that it can be used as evidence.*

*A short time after this occurrence Prosecuting Attorney Knight was called to the sheriff's office and in his presence, it is claimed, Milkwicz agreed to close up his place and turn the keys over to the sheriff, who was to keep them for the balance of this month. In return for this agreement Milkwicz was to be released and no charges of bribery prosecuted against him. He was given two days in which to leave town and return to **Delta county**, from where he came.*

Casimir Calls William.

To make sure that the establishment was closed, the sheriff visited it and fastened a chain across the front door so that it could not be opened. Casimir is then believed to have summoned William, who was at Escanaba, and the brother arrived here this morning.

At 10 o'clock Attorney O'Hara broke the chain from the door and challenged anyone to show him where the sheriff had authority to close "a man's place of business."

"The sheriff had absolutely no legal right for his act," Mr. O'Hara declared. "In no case can a man's legal place of business be closed unless [sic – unless] legal proceedings are started to close it to abate

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

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a nuisance. The sheriff put the chain on and I took it off.”

*Sheriff Cleveland was in **Newberry** today but is expected back in the city tonight or tomorrow. When he returns a decision will be reached as to what course of action will be pursued. As the situation stands now, Milkwicz is at liberty but subject to a charge of bribery being placed against him. Conviction means either five years in state’s prison or a fine of \$3,000 and one year in the county jail. The soft drink parlor, where four other prohibition arrests have been made within as many months, is open and in the clerk’s vault at the court house reposes a sealed envelope containing \$100 which, it is alleged, Casimir gave Davis for protection.*

In the **September 7, 1923** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article was published under the headline “**Channing Man Held On Liquor Charge**”:

George Wereley, who conducts a soft drink parlor at **Channing**, this morning was placed under arrest by **Deputy Sheriffs Marrin, Kinainn and Wickman** who, acting under orders from **Sheriff Cleveland**, purchased drinks of alleged moonshine at Wereley’s establishment. Wereley was brought to **Iron Mountain** and was to be given his preliminary examination late this afternoon.

Under the headline “**Sheriff Destroys Moonshine Stills: Cleveland and Deputy Visit Foster City Territory**,” the following article appeared in the **September 20, 1923** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*:

*Two moonshine stills, each of great capacity, were destroyed yesterday by **Sheriff Frank Cleveland** and **Deputy Louis Youhassey [sic - Yuhasey/Uhazie]**, who discovered the devices on farms located near **Foster City**.*

*The first still was found on the farm of **John McMahon**, who gave the officials permission to search the premises. It was destroyed and McMahon, 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.*

In the **February 25, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article appeared under the headline “**Carries Liquor to Jail; Caught: Friendly Mike Kolozg Is Now a Resident Of County Bastile**”:

***Mike Kolozg**, who has many whiskers on his chin, a deep bass voice and a friendly heart, languishes behind the bars of the county jail today. Mike last night*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

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attempted to prove beyond question that he was a friend in need; today he admits that he needs friends himself.

*Mike was arrested and lodged in the jail last night after he had smuggled in a bottle of alleged moonshine whisky to his “pals,” **Tony Paper** and **Mike Matkowski**, who are held in default of \$500 bail on charges of carrying concealed weapons. He was arrested after **Sheriff Cleveland** had been mysteriously “tipped” by telephone that liquor was being brought to the jail.*

According to Cleveland, the apprehension of Kolozg resulted from a misunderstanding of the “tip” on his part. This was discovered some time after Kolozg had been locked in jail.

Sheriff Cleveland stated that while playing a game of pool at one of the lodge rooms here last night he was called to the telephone. A party who did not identify himself advised the sheriff, “If you go to the jail right away you’ll catch some birds sneaking in some booze.” The sheriff hurried back to the jail. He found two or three persons there, talking to prisoners.

Had Callers.

*After some questioning he learned that Paper and Matkowski had callers that evening. He brought Paper from his cell and finally the prisoner admitted that “a bottle of pop” had been brought to him. The man who brought it, he said, was “up town.” Cleveland and Paper started out to look for the visitor. He was found at a soft drink parlor operated by **Vincent Koeseski**. Returned to the county jail, Kolozg admitted*

having brought liquor to Paper and his companion. The bottle then was unearthed from where it had been hidden under a mattress.

This morning Kolozg, with many promises to “go back to the camps if you’ll let me go,” said that Paper and Matkowski had confided to him that both were pretty sick when he brought them some cigarettes early in the evening. He had heard, he said, that whiskey had medicinal qualities. He sallied forth and obtained a pop bottle filled with liquor. This he brought to Paper and Matkowski.

After Cleveland had locked Kolozg in the jail and was congratulating himself one of his deputies came in. After hearing the story, he said, “where did you get the tip they were bringing booze here?” Cleveland told him that the information was telephoned to him while he was playing a game of pool.

“Gosh!” the deputy exclaimed, “That was me who called you but I meant the city jail.”

Under the headline “Beverage Shop Ruling Strict: Gives Village Strong Control Over Soft Drink Parlors,” the following article regarding Kingsford “soft drink” ordinance was published in the **March 5, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

*The new soft drink parlor licensing ordinance passed by the village of **Kingsford** gives the commission, general manager and chief of police wide latitude in controlling such establishments and*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

preventing their being used as moonshine resorts.

Each applicant for a license must be 21 years of age and a citizen of the United States. His application is investigated and if approved the license granted for a few of \$2. The license must be renewed in April of every year.

In addition, authorities are permitted at all reasonable times to inspect the beverage shops and the products they are selling and if there is well found suspicion or evidence that the ordinance is being violated the license can be suspended.

The licensee is permitted to bring his case before the commission which can either make the revocation permanent or restore the permit. If the licensee is convicted of violating the prohibition act he cannot obtain another license for a period of one year. Additional penalties are also provided for violation of the ordinance.

*Commission committees have been appointed as follows: finance, taxation and auditing – **Frank Honsowetz** and **Tom Seymour**; street lighting and electrical inspection – **Amil Perreault** and **John W. Peterson**; health department – **Tom Seymour** and **Amil Perreault**; water works, **John W. Peterson** and **Frank Honsowetz**.*

*In the **April 10, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article was printed under the headline: **Iron Mountain Bootlegger Given Three-Year Term: Francisinni Held Guilty of Rum Sale: Peter and Joseph Merzlak Have 10 Days to PPay \$200 Each: Goulette Jailed:***

Fourth Local Man Must Serve Four Months in House of Correction”:

*MARQUETTE, Mich. – Three years in a federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., the longest sentence ever given in the United States district court here to a violater [sic – violator] of the liquor law, was imposed late yesterday afternoon by **Judge Clarence W. Sessions** upon **Peter Francisinni**, of **Iron Mountain**, who was tried and convicted of possession and sale of moonshine whisky and of maintaining a nuisance.*

*Francisinni owns a building in Iron Mountain and the ground floor is occupied by a soft drink parlor, supposed to have been conducted by **Peter and Joseph Marzlak** [sic – **Merzlak**]. Federal officers and state police raided the place a few weeks ago after procuring evidence that moonshine was being sold there. They arrested the **Merzlak** brothers and **Francisinni** who, they said, was serving drinks in the place.*

Francisinni Took Profits.

*Arraigned before Judge Sessions yesterday, following their indictment by the grand jury, the **Merzlak** brothers pleaded guilty and **Peter Merzlak**, a cripple, declared that he and his brother had been conducting the business for **Francisinni**. **Merzlak** said that **Francisinni** received the profits from the business and paid them for their services.*

***Francisinni**, indicted, pleaded not guilty when arraigned and was tried before a jury. As a defense, he exhibited a handful of*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

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receipts which, he contended, were given to the Merzlak brothers for rent they had paid him on the soft drink parlor. Called to the stand as a witness for the government, Peter Merzlak testified that Francisinni had employed him as bartender and that the latter had prepared all the alleged rent receipts at one time and, [sic] handed them to him after he, Merzlak, had been arrested on the liquor charge.

Defense “Framed-Up,” Charge.

In his statement to the jury **E.J. Bowman**, district attorney, charged that Francisinni had offered the receipts in evidence as a “frame-up to make the Merzlak brothers the ‘goats’.”

The jury found Francisinni guilty as charged after a few minutes’ deliberation. He was visibly stunned by the severe sentence, which was imposed on him shortly after the verdict was returned. Francisinni was a second offender. He returned to Iron Mountain a short time ago after serving a term in the **Detroit House of Correction** for violating the liquor law.

Peter and Joseph Merzlak, sentenced a minute later, were fined \$200 each and were given 10 days in which to pay.

Negaunee Man Gets 2 Years.

Abe Schwartzberg, of Negaunee, a second offender, pleaded guilty to all counts with liquor law violation and was sentenced to serve two years in **Leavenworth**.

Six other men and one woman, indicted for bootlegging, were arraigned. They

pleaded guilty and were sentenced as follows:

John Goulette, Jr., of Iron Mountain, four months in the **Detroit House of Correction**.

Carmelo Portalla, of Negaunee, \$1,000 fine. He was given five days in which to pay the fine, in default of which he will have to serve four months in the **Marquette county jail**.

William Karala, of Ontonagon, four months in the **Detroit House of Correction**.

Louis Pedo, of Caspian, four months in the **Detroit House of Correction**.

Gus Mitchell, of Iron River, five months in the **Detroit House of Correction**. An indictment against **Mrs. Mitchell** was dismissed.

Mrs. Ann Vuk, of L’Anse, four months in the **Detroit House of Correction**.

John Martin, of Merriweather, Ontonagon county, three months in the **Detroit House of Correction**.

The following article appeared in the **April 18, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**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**.

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

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."

Under the headline "**Channing Dry, Residents Say: Nothing But Odor Is Left in 'Wildcat Town,'**" the following item appeared in the **April 30, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

"Hard-boiled" Channing no longer is very hard. About all that breaks the calm, serene tranquility of its evenings now is the piping of a multitude of love making frogs, denizens of the marshes that surround the town.

Residents of Channing assert that the change has been miraculous, and almost

overnight. The town which one month ago bore the reputation of being one of the "wildest in the upper peninsula," is now incredibly tame.

*To **Prosecutor MacAllister, Sheriff Cleveland, and United States District Judge Sessions, of Marquette**, Channing pays tribute as its cleansers. The harsh treatment by Cleveland of three alleged bootleggers at **Sagola**, who attempted to prevent arrest by assaulting a deputy sheriff; the message sent to the proprietors of the several Channing soft drink parlors by MacAllister that no "monkey business" would be tolerated, and last, but far from least, the stiff prison sentences imposed by Judge Sessions upon **Iron Mountain** bootleggers who are now serving long terms at **Fort Leavenworth**, is said to have prompted the decision by the peddlers of moonshine liquor that the occupation was a too hazardous one to be considered worth while [sic – worthwhile].*

There are several establishments there quite redolent of forbidden beverages. That redolence causes officials to sniff the air suspiciously; but Channing residents are unanimous that the odor is all that is left. The town, they say, is dry.

The following unusual account appeared in the **May 15, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline "**Tired to Fleece Youths, Charge: Two Men Under Arrest As Result of Story Told By Boys**":

*What is said by **Prosecutor MacAllister** to have been an attempt to rob two country*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

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boys of their savings, and alleged to have been perpetrated by **Arcade Brouette**, of **Iron Mountain**, became known today following an investigation that continued through the greater part of yesterday.

As a result of the inquiry, MacAllister said, **Tony Byers**, said to be a bartender for **George “Red” Meehan**, is under arrest charged with violation of the liquor laws. He is at liberty on bonds of \$500. His case probably will be turned over to the federal authorities.

The two boys – **Clifford Knutson** and **Ned Madson**, cousins, who came here to work at the **Ford plant** from **Waupaca township, Wisconsin** – arrived in **Iron Mountain** Tuesday to “take things in.” They visited the establishment where Byers was employed, and obtained several drinks, according to the story told the prosecutor. As the morning passed the boys decided they would return to the **Ford camp**, where they room and board. They missed their bus and started to walk.

Invited to Ride, Claim.

Near the **Lincoln school**, according to their story, they were encountered by Brouette, who, they said, was driving a Ford car. He invited them to ride. One of the two, Knutson, was said to have been in a drunken condition. The two youths clambered into the machine and Brouette drove on with them.

When they reached the vicinity of the **Ford store**, they declared, Brouette stopped the machine and, turning around, accused Madson of having stolen his

companion’s pocketbook, which contained about \$42. Brouette, the boys say, mentioned the sum when he accused Madson of the theft. He then represented himself to be an officer and told Madson he was going to arrest him, the prosecutor said.

When Knutson felt his hip pocket he found his wallet missing. Madson thereupon informed Brouette, it is claimed, that he had “about \$103 when I started and only spent two or three dollars,” and held out his wallet for examination. Brouette is alleged to have taken it, again started the machine and drove around through **Breitung** and back towards the **Ford plant** on the road from the **Ford dam**. When a short distance from the plant he is alleged to have stopped the machine and ordered the two boys to “beat it.” Knutson started to run away, according to the story.

At this point a machine driven by **John Lundberg** approached. Noticing Knutson running, he stopped his car and called to him to stop. Knutson, apparently fearing he faced arrest and that he might be fired at, fell prostrate upon the road.

Says He Returned Wallet.

Lundberg, hearing Madson and Brouette talking, ordered Brouette to return Madson’s wallet to him. This, it is asserted, the latter did. Brouette then again started his machine and drove off.

Madson had copied the license number of the Brouette machine while standing in the road, when his companion fled. He immediately notified the police and

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

furnished them with an accurate description of the man who had picked them up. The police investigated and took Broulette into custody.

The youth informed the police that when he examined the contents of his pocketbook after it had been returned to him he found \$40 was missing.

Broulette denies, MacAllister said, that he picked the two boys up or that he has any knowledge of their affair. He claims he first saw them on the road quarrelling about "some stolen money."

Yesterday afternoon the boys were asked whether they could tell who sold them the liquor they had drank [sic – drunk]. They led MacAllister and the chief of police to the establishment said to be conducted by Meehan. Outside they described the man who had sold the liquor to them. The description furnished was that of Byers and the latter then was arrested on a liquor violation charge.

Broulette today is at liberty on bonds of \$1,000 and Byers furnished bail of \$500.

In the **January 21, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article was published under the headline "**Seven Arrested On Charge Of Liquor Law Violations: Evidence Gathered by Police; Victims to Appear in Federal Court**":

*Seven alleged venders of moonshine whisky were arrested this morning at 8:30 o'clock by the **Iron Mountain police** on charges of liquor law violations. Others escaped, it was claimed, when they learned*

that federal warrants were being served on fellow members of the moonshine fraternity.

The victims were:

Camilo Taliento, proprietor, 115 Stephenson avenue.

Alex Steiner, bartender, 115 Stephenson avenue.

Frank Miller, bartender, 115 Stephenson avenue.

James DiAugustini, restaurateur, 104 west Ludington street.

Frank Peronto, 101 West Hughitt street.

John Feira, 419 Millie street.

Nazereno Cavaliere, 427 Vulcan street.

*Liquor was obtained by members of the police departments at the establishments during the latter part of December and the early part of this month, it was declared today by the **Chief of Police Frank Smole**, who supervised the investigation. The evidence was sent to **Leo Grove**, prohibition officer at **Marquette**, who had an analysis made.*

Warrants Delivered Last Night.

*Warrants for the seven were sworn out yesterday at Marquette and delivered here last night by **Martin Brown**, of **Grand Rapids**, United States marshal of the western district of the state, and **M.H. Mitchell**, of **Sault Ste. Marie**, deputy U.S. Marshal.*

The warrants were served simultaneously by the policemen. At a few places the proprietors were not in but were later located at their homes. Others learned, it was said, that the prohibition

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

authorities were in the city and left for parts unknown. It is understood that additional warrants will be served.

Following the arrests the alleged moonshiners summoned their friends to obtain bonds. The seven were to be arraigned late this afternoon before **U.S. Commissioner McEwen** at **Escanaba**, for their preliminary [sic – preliminary] hearing.

A “Moonshine Special”, one of the big Gray passenger busses, left early this afternoon for Escanaba with the victims and their bondsmen. The contingent was in charge of Marshals Brown and Mitchell.

The liquor cases will be tried before **Judge Sessions** at a special session of federal court at Marquette in April, Marshal Brown said.

Commenting on the arrest, Chief Smole declared that every effort will be made to clean up the city.

On **January 26, 1925**, the following article appeared in *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline “**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.

Under the headline “**Nineteen Arrested in County Rum Clean-Up: Padlock of 13 Places to Be Asked Court: Score of Federal Agents Swoop Down on Alleged Violators: Many From City: Officers Time Arrival for Changing Shifts of Bartenders**,” the following article appeared in the **February 11, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

Padlock injunctions will be sought by **Leo J. Grove**, prohibition enforcement chief for northern Michigan, against 11 **Iron Mountain** saloons and one each in **Quinnesec** and **Norway**, he announced here last night following raids in which 19 Dickinson county persons, 16 of them from Iron Mountain, were arrested, charged with violation of the Volstead act.

Mr. Grove, accompanied by three United States marshals, another agent and three members of the state police, timed their arrival so that they would get both shifts of bartenders as they were changing. In numerous instances their plan was more

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

than successful, not only getting both bartenders, but the proprietors as well, who were checking over accounts of the retiring bartender.

In no case was any trouble experienced, Mr. Grove said, not the least resistance being offered.

The persons arrested, seven of whom were taken to **Escanaba** last night, to be arraigned today before a United States commissioner, with the remaining 12, are:

John Sloper, American House; **John Donahue**, 102 West Ludington; **Middaugh Menard**, 102 West Ludington; **James Fontecchio**, 510 Sixth avenue; **Carmelio Tijilint**, 115 Stephenson avenue; **Santo Secinaro**, 416 Millie street; **James Diagostino**, 416 Millie street; **Sam D'Alfonse**, 710 Millie street; **Charles Henderson**, 110 East Brown street; **George Gilbeau**, 110 East Brown street; **Reno Romagnoli**, 300 Margaret street; **Charles Fredrickson**, 710 Millie street; **Frank Skok [sic – Skog]**, 112 East Brown street; **Carl Montier**, 102 West Hughitt street; **Walter Jednak**, 102 West Hughitt street; **John Sack**, 102 West Hughitt street; **Victor Braspennickx**, Quinnesec; **Charles Peterson**, Norway; **Peter Westlund**, Norway.

Braspennickx has been arrested before for violation of the prohibition law, it was said by the raiders, and only recently completed serving a term at the **Detroit house of correction**, while Diagostino was arrested last night for the second time within a month.

Evidence against the prisoners was secured last week by state troopers working in plain clothes while two federal agents appeared to be attempting to make liquor purchases here, it was said. With the bootleggers keeping close watch on the two federal agents, it was an easy matter for the state men, dressed as laboring men, to get “buys”, the raiders said.

The entire party will be arraigned in Escanaba this afternoon on charges of violating the eighteenth amendment and will be tried in **Marquette** during the April term of federal court.

Descriptions of the places against which Mr. Grove will seek padlock injunctions, under which they would be closed by federal court order for one year, are being prepared by **Pros. Atty. R.E. MacAllister**, who co-operated with the federal men.

In several cases, Mr. Grove said, owners of the buildings will be charged with conspiracy, in that they knew the buildings were being used for the sale of illicit liquor. Addresses of buildings against which injunctions will be sought were given by Mr. Grove as follows:

112 East Brown street, 102 West Hughitt street, 110 East Brown street, 416 Millie street, American House, 102 West Ludington, Victor Braspennickx building at Quinnesec, 710 Millie street, one at Norway, 516 Sixth avenue, 300 Margaret street, 115 Stephenson avenue, 104 East Hughitt street.

The raiding party was made up of Mr. Grove, **U.S. Marshal Martin Brown**, of

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Grand Rapids; Deputy Marshals Paul Nelson, of Marquette, and Matt Mitchell, of Sault Ste. Marie; Federal Agent Floyd Smith, and Sergt. Engle and Troopers Reardon and Pearsall of the state police. Leaving Escanaba at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon in two automobiles, they timed their arrival so as to reach here at 5 o'clock, when they expected to find the "day shift" bartender turning over his duties to the "night shift" man.

In the **February 20, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* the following article appeared under the headline "**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**":

*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 [the] **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.*

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**.*

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.

*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*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

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.

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 case 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.

“It will take a whole lot of ‘pecking away’ to clean up Iron Mountain,” Mr. Grove said, “in view of the apparent failure of local authorities to make arrests. Surely they must know of conditions here. We hear of them at Marquette and are more than ready

at all time to act immediately upon ‘tips’ given us by reliable sources.”

In the **March 25, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article appeared under the headline **“Nineteen Taken, Four Sought in Liquor Clean-Up: Warrants Are Issued After Quiet Inquiry: Prosecuting Attorney Directs Mop-up, Gathers Evidence: “Surprise Party”:** **MacAllister Warns That More Clean-ups Will Follow”:**

*Nineteen persons were under arrest today and four more were being sought in the biggest single liquor clean-up ever staged in **Dickinson county**. All of the alleged offenders were from **Iron Mountain** or **Kingsford** and the last included six women.*

*Although underground channels frequently convey to members of the bootlegging fraternity the intelligence of impending raids there was no intimation beforehand of the sweeping clean-up last night and those who faced charges today found themselves taken entirely unawares. The “surprise party” was arranged by **Ray E. MacAllister**, prosecuting attorney, who had private operatives busy during the last 18 days gathering the evidence upon which the 23 warrants were sworn out.*

Those arrested follow:

Samuel Lago and wife, Rose, 1265 Hemlock street, Breitung. Each furnished bail of \$1,000.

Swift Janzen, Lotus grill [sic – Grill], West Hughitt street. Had not furnished bail of \$1,000 at noon.

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Pasquale Dalfonse, 406 Millie street, soft drink parlor. Furnished bail of \$1,000.

Mrs. Martha Roberto, 702 Milwaukee avenue, confectionery store. Furnished bail of \$500.

Mrs. Marion Franco, 112 West Hughitt street, grocery store. Furnished bail of \$500.

Carmen Diyullo, 407 Millie street, grocery store. Furnished bail of \$1,000.

Mrs. Rose Constantini, 604 Chapin street. Furnished bail of \$500.

Clifford “Baldy” Sparapani, Lotus grill [sic – Grill], West Hughitt street. Furnished bail of \$1,000.

Marian Gecchini, Roma restaurant, 114 East Brown street. Furnished bail of \$1,000.

Mrs. Vivian Higgins, waitress at Roma restaurant. Furnished bail of \$100.

Those also under arrest but who had not been arraigned this morning were:

Rose Parent, waitress at Roma restaurant.

Stephen Marchionni and brother, August, 206 Sixth street, house.

Tony Mari, Millie street, soft drink parlor.

Constine Occhietti, 805 Millie street, house.

Frank Palluconi, 204 Sixth street, house.

Benifasio Grannunzio, North side, house.

Bozo Evosevitch, South Carpenter avenue, Breitung.

Waive Examination

*Those who had not been arraigned this morning were to be taken before **Justice James R. Spencer** this afternoon. The defendants were waiving preliminary examination in every instance and had bondsmen at hand to obtain their release. They will face trial at the April term of circuit court.*

*Making good his warning several weeks ago that he intended waging war upon violators of the prohibition law, Prosecutor MacAllister quietly arranged his plans for the coup. Working in conjunction with several citizens who supplied him with tips as to places where liquor was being sold, the prosecutor secured the services of two independent investigators [sic – investigators], **Russell King** and **Garnet Sylvester**, the latter of **Sault Ste. Marie**, and set them to work.*

*In order that no suspicion of the true identity of the investigators might leak out, **Sheriff Cleveland**, who was acquainted with the details of the investigation, remained in the background and deputies conducted only their ordinary routine work.*

Disguised as Laborers

Disguised as ordinary laborers, the two operatives visited the various resorts whose owners were under arrest today. They made their reports directly to the prosecutor’s office and were supplied by him with new leads to trace down. In some instances it was necessary for the pair to make three and four visits to one place before securing what they believed was evidence sufficient to warrant an arrest.

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

For 18 days the inquiry went on without the bootlegging fraternity, being cognizant that it was in progress. The evidence gathered was in the nature of “buys,” the operatives representing themselves as regular customers of bootlegging resorts.

One of Them Attacked

In one case a representative of the prosecutor’s office who was aiding the investigators became the innocent victim of a soft drink parlor brawl and was badly assaulted. In order not to expose the investigation, however, the prosecutor did not come to his worker’s defense in court.

With the stage prepared for the climax, arrangements were made for the mop-up. Based on the testimony of the two investigators, warrants were sworn out for 23 persons, extra help being required in the prosecutor’s office in order to get the writs ready to serve on all at the same time.

Yesterday afternoon Sheriff Cleveland was armed with the warrants and at 5:30 o’clock the sheriff and his deputies were busily engaged in making arrests and taking their prisoners to the county jail. Two arrests were also made this morning and four persons whose names were not given out were being sought this afternoon.

All of those arrested last night furnished bond for their appearance in justice court today and hence were not detained in the county jail over night.

Word Is Flashed About

Shortly after the sheriff and his assistants began serving the warrants the word percolated about that a raid was in

*progress. But it failed to prevent 19 of those wanted from being caught. As the news was flashed down the **Midway of West Hughitt street**, lights were darkened and the thoroughfare took on an exceptionally quiet air. Pop and nothing else but was the only beverage available for thirsty souls who sought their usual alcoholic solace.*

Other sections of the city where the officers visited also became abnormally quiet and small groups of men gathered on street corners to discuss the devastating onslaught.

Hearings This Morning.

*Preliminary hearing of the defendants began early this morning in **Judge Spencer’s** court. The ante room [sic – anteroom] was crowded with bondsmen and the prosecutor’s prisoners and frequently the sheriff or an emissary of one of the defendants of one of the defendants [sic – phrase repeated] left on hurried missions involving usually the appearance of new defendants or more bondsmen, as the case might be.*

The prosecutor’s clean-up, the second series of arrests made by county officials since he took office, brings the total liquor arrests in Dickinson county to 68 since January 1. This includes seven arrests made by the Iron Mountain police department, 25 by federal enforcement officers, in two visits, 13 arrests made previously by the prosecutor and sheriff and the 23 warrants taken out last night.

Heaviest Criminal Calendar

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

The clean-up means that Dickinson county will have the heaviest criminal calendar in its history at the April term of court. Approximately 50 cases will be listed for trial and unless there are a number of pleas of guilty upon arraignment the court session will take considerable time.

“This will not be the last of the liquor clean-ups in the county,” Prosecutor MacAllister warned this noon. “We will keep after these places as long as there is such open and flagrant violation of the prohibition law.

“Conditions in the county had become such that the circuit judge was moved to threaten a grand jury investigation unless there was some change. At that time I publicly stated that those who were violating the liquor law would be arrested unless they ceased before we had time to gather the evidence against them. Those who are still in business can take as a warning that unless they get out we will eventually reach them and they will also face the court.”

The investigators, according to the prosecutor, found a thriving bootleg business being done in private houses. In some places it was stated, furniture had been moved out to make room for the patrons and the places had literally become barrooms.

Under the headline **“Fourteen Alleged Liquor Resorts To Be Padlocked: Temporary Injunctions Against Iron Mountain Establishments Granted by Sessions,”** the following report was

published in the **April 1, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*:

Paul Nelson, deputy United States marshal, was somewhere between **Grand Rapids, Mich.**, and **Iron Mountain** today but on his way to Iron Mountain to serve temporary injunctions padlocking 14 buildings here in which, it is charged, liquor law violations have occurred.

The injunctions are the result of liquor raids conducted here several weeks ago by **Leo J. Grove**, head of prohibition enforcement in the upper peninsula. At that time Grove declared he would make application to padlock the resorts where the alleged violations occurred. In co-operation with **Ray E. MacAllister**, prosecuting attorney, the padlock proceedings were arranged and the injunctions applied for.

This will be the first application in Iron Mountain of the padlock law by federal officers. It will mean that if the injunctions are continued at the April term of federal court the places designated will be closed and locked for a period of one year.

Many of the resorts against which the temporary injunctions have been issued are located on the **West Hughitt street midway**.

Additional news on the padlock injunctions appeared on the **April 2, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline **“No Padlocks Yet on 14 Buildings: One Deputy marshal In City But Nelson Is Still on Way”**:

The owners of 14 buildings facing federal padlock injunctions awaited with

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

*some trepidation today the crack of doom. Their fear was increased by the presence in the city of **United States Deputy Marshall M.H. Mitchell**, of **Sault Ste. Marie**.*

But at 3 o'clock this afternoon the blow had not yet fallen.

*The delay was due to the non-arrival of **Paul Nelson**, deputy U.S. marshal and bearer of the 14 official documents granted by **Judge Sessions** at **Grand Rapids** which authorize the draping of a lock and chain across the front door of every establishment against which an action was started because of alleged liquor law violations in them.*

Mitchell was non-committal and said he had "other business here." Just when Nelson was due no one professed to know and no one intimidated.

*The injunctions granted by Judge Sessions are only temporary. Their permanence will be decided at hearings to be held at the April term of federal court in **Marquette**.*

*Reports that **Leo J. Grove**, prohibition enforcement chief in the upper peninsula, was in the city today were without foundation.*

*Further information regarding the padlock injunctions appeared as follows in the **April 3, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline "**Nelson Serves Padlock Writs: Owners of Buildings Notified to Appear At Federal Hearing**":*

*Service of 14 temporary padlock injunctions was begun here today by **Paul***

***Nelson**, deputy United States marshal, following his arrival from **Grand Rapids** where the writs were granted by **Federal Judge Sessions**.*

Contrary to expectations it was understood that the injunctions do not close up the buildings designated at this time but the owners are enjoined from altering, destroying or molesting them or their contents pending the padlock hearings.

*The owners are also notified to appear at the padlock hearings during the April term of federal court in **Marquette** and show cause why their buildings should not be locked.*

The padlock action is the result of federal raids conducted several weeks ago in which more than a score of alleged violators of the liquor law were arrested.

*Twelve of the 14 injunctions are for service in **Iron Mountain**, one is in **Quinnesec** and the other is in **Norway**.*

*In the **April 4, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* the following news item appeared under the headline "**Police Called to U.S. Court: Must Testify in Liquor Cases Against Seven Men**":*

***Police Sergeant Peter Calevato** and **Patrolman** [sic – **Patrolmen**] **Atilio Cavaiani** and **Ernest Soderberg** today received subpoenas to testify in the liquor cases of seven **Iron Mountain** men which will be heard April 14 before **Judge Sessions** of the federal district court at **Marquette**.*

*The subpoenas were signed by **Martin Brown**, of **Grand Rapids**, United States*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

marshal of Michigan, and were brought here yesterday by **Paul Nelson**, deputy marshal.

The seven alleged moonshiners were arrested here on January 21 by members of the police department. They were all arraigned before **U.S. Commissioner McEwen** at **Escanaba** and waived preliminary examination. Those arrested were **Camilo Tallenti, Alex Steiner, Frank Miller, James DiAugustini, Frank Peronto, John Feira** and **Nazereno Cavaliere**.

Under the headline “**1924 Padlock Suits Dropped: Actions started by Prosecutor Knight Are Discontinued,**” the following item appeared in the **April 7, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*:

Six padlock suits instituted by **ex-Prosecuting Attorney J.C. Knight** on **January 19, 1924**, were dropped in circuit court this morning by **Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister** as conditions under which the actions were started had changed considerably during the time that has since elapsed.

Two of the buildings designated are at present facing federal padlock actions while at least three of the four remaining are now occupied by business establishments of unquestioned good character.

The padlock actions started by Mr. Knight were among the first in the state of Michigan. Originally seven suits were entered and a test case was made of one pending a decision upon a lower Michigan

padlock action that had been appealed to the state supreme court.

Closed Bijou Cafe.

The one action that was gone through with was against **Henry and Doris Jacobs**, owner of the **Bijou cafe building**, located on Merritt avenue between Ludington and Brown streets. The court ruled for the prosecutor and the building was padlocked for one year, remaining closed until last **February 7**, when the time expired.

In all seven cases it was alleged that violation of the liquor law had occurred in the buildings and it was maintained that they be closed to _____ public nuisances. The prosecutor contended that whether the owners of the building were aware of the nature of the business done by their tenants had no bearing on the cases.

Action on the six remaining suits was held up by mutual agreement until a decision was rendered by the state supreme court on the validity of the padlock law. Several months later the supreme court ruled that the act was legal. Inasmuch as the circumstances under which the actions were originally started had changed in the interim the suits were not prosecuted but remained on the court calendar until removed today.

Those Listed.

In addition to the Bijou cafe, which had been occupied by **Edward Van Damme**, the padlock actions were started against the following six:

Felix St. Louis, proprietor of a resort at the corner of West Hughitt street and

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

*Carpenter avenue; **Joseph and Carolina Bolognesi**, owners of building.*

***Leo Skepy**, proprietor of a resort at 120 West Hughitt street; **Frances Saigh** [sic – difficult to read], owner.*

***William Swanson**, proprietor of a resort at 111 East Brown street; **Joseph and Carolina Bolognesi**, owners.*

***Joseph Eischen** [sic – difficult to read], proprietor of a resort at 112 East Brown street; **Minnie Lambert**, owner. This building now faces a federal padlock action. The ownership has changed to **Frank Bonaglia**.*

***Joseph Hota**, proprietor of a resort at 104 West Hughitt street; **Edward Shea**, owner.*

***Marie Dobrowski**, alias, **Marie** _____ [illegible], proprietor of a resort at 110 West Brown street; **Baptiste Contarini**, owner. This building is now facing a federal padlock action.*

In the **April 13, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article appeared under the headline “**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. Arraigned 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.*

*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*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

charge of being an inmate of a house of ill repute, was also taken into custody in the “Little Red House” raid. 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.

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. **George Frazer**, **George Andrews** and **Marion Rothbourn**, an inmate, were assessed the same amount and ordered out of the county.

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.

Under the headline “**Plead Guilty to Liquor Charges: One of Iron Mountain Contingent Is Fugitive From Justice,**” the following item appeared in the **April 16, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

Napoleon LaPorte and **Nazarene Cavelleri**, of **Iron Mountain**, pleaded guilty to charges of violating the prohibition law when arraigned before **Judge Sessions** in federal court at **Marquette**.

Indictments against the two were among the 30 returned by the grand jury Tuesday evening.

One of the Iron Mountain contingent facing federal charges is a fugitive from justice. He is **Frank Paronta** and his bonds were estreated when he failed to appear to answer charges.

The first man to be tried on a charge of violating the prohibition law was **Henry Waisenen**, of **Herman**, and the jury found him guilty. This was his second offense.

No word was received from Marquette today as to what action if any had been taken in the **14 Dickinson county padlock actions**.

In the **April 17, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following lengthy article appeared under the headline “**Liquor Law Violators Fined; Others Jailed: Seven Given Paroles; One Sent to Jail: Old**

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Offender Receives \$900 Fine; Seven to Pay \$500: Corsi Sentenced: Indeterminate Terms Are Handed Out By Judge To Three”:

It was Dickinson county field day in circuit court this morning, Judge Flannigan imposing sentences ranging from a minimum of six months to a maximum of five years, and fines totalling [sic – totaling] \$8,070 with costs of \$855 or an alternative of sentence totaling five years and 70 days, in disposing of 36 cases, seven of which were turned over to parole officer Lundgren, including four women and two men.

The majority of the cases were violations of the liquor law and in only one instance was a straight jail sentence imposed, the alternative of a fine being made in all other cases by Judge Flannigan. Prison sentences were meted out in the cases of Paul Haines, guilty of statutory rape, who was committed to the reformatory at Ionia for not more than five or less than two years, with a minimum sentence being recommended. Alfred Corsi was also sentenced to Ionia for a period of from one to five years on his plea of guilty to larceny of a Chevrolet touring car, minimum sentence also being recommended in his case. Robert Krawt must also serve a term ranging from one to three years at Ionia for an assault with a deadly weapon, the nature of circumstances surrounding the case at the time also leading Judge Flannigan to recommend the minimum time. In the

larceny case against Joseph Pietrantonio and John Manikas for the theft of \$75, which the former divided after finding the wallet on the floor of a restaurant. Pietrantonio, who was out of work at the time, was let off with a fine of \$100, plus the costs in the action which he paid. Manikas was given a jail sentence of 30 days and a fine of \$200 or an additional 60 days in jail in default of payment.

The balance of the docket was composed entirely of liquor cases, leniency being extended to a number of the violators because of existing circumstances. Seven paroled were granted in all and several others were let down with light fines.

Paroles were granted in the cases of four women. Stella Sokolowski, of Vulcan, on whose premises a large still was found, was placed on parole one year. Carlotta Pancheri, who conducts a soft drink parlor at Norway, and Marion Franco, who runs a grocery store in Iron Mountain, also were granted paroles. In the former case the husband was held to be more guilty than the wife, while there was only the single complaint against Mrs. Franco, whose husband recently left for Italy to return to this country with his mother. Rose Lago was also given a parole upon the promise to abstain from the moonshine business, although her husband was given a fine of \$500 or an alternative of spending 90 days in jail.

Three Men Paroled.

Men paroled were Henry Kessler, 59, who conducted a small business at

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Channing, serving chiefly the lumberjacks in that vicinity. He was granted reprieve because of his advanced age. In the case of **Paul Torrett**, ill health was the deciding factor in Judge Flannigan's decision to grant parole, while 19-year-old **Clifford Sparapani** was also given parole on his promise to reform and have nothing more to do with illicit liquor.

One Sent To Jail.

Alois Mortier was the only liquor violator to receive a straight jail sentence, 205 gallons of moonshine whisky being found on his premises. A sentence of from six months to one year in the **Detroit reformatory** was given Mortier, with the minimum time being recommended. Mortier denied sale, claiming that a stranger had promised to take the whole lot off his hands when plans were upset by the officers' raid.

In all of the cases where possession was the only charge made the defendants denied sale, each claiming that the liquor was manufactured for house use only. In most cases where possession and sale charges were made the violators explained that sale was made only in cases of illness.

The others who appeared this morning and were fined included **Bozo Evosovitch**, an old offender who has served time in the house of correction and who is charged with jumping bail in court previously, the judge imposing a \$900 fine plus the costs in the action, which totaled \$100, the alternative being a six-months term in

Jackson prison. He was given five days in which to pay.

Seven \$500 Fines

Seven were given fines of \$500, including **Dominic Parloto**, of **Norway**, where a quantity of wine was found in his candy store. Failure to pay will mean a four months sentence in the **Detroit House of Correction**; **Pasquale Dalfonso**, **Samuel Lago**, **Marion Gecchini**, **Seift Janzen**, **James Fontecchio** and **John Fiera** all were fined a like amount, costs in all of the cases amounting to \$50 except in the latter three in which the costs were only \$25. A 90-[day] jail sentence will be imposed in default of payment. The case of **Frank Skog** was transferred to Federal court.

Constanti Ochetti [sic – **Constantino Occhietti**], who was alleged to have been conducting a large business at his residence, was fined \$400 and costs of \$50 or an alternative of spending 90 days in county jail.

Four \$300 fines were imposed on **Frank Goudenbour**, **Mike Bray**, **Alec Banish** and **Mike Opalka** [sic – **Opolka**], large stills being found in all but the Goudenbour home, where a quantity of liquor was seized. In the Opalka [sic – **Opolka**] place two stills were found, one being out of commission. Costs in the cases amount to \$25 or a sixty day jail sentence in all but the Opalka [sic – **Opolka**] case where the costs totaled \$50 or 90 days in jail upon failure to pay.

Fine Two Women

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Two women, **Rose Constantini** and **Martha Roberto**, were each fined, the former pleading guilty to doing a large liquor business at her house. She was assessed a fine of \$250 while the latter, who has twice before appeared in court, was fined \$200, the costs of both of the cases totalling [sic – totaling] \$50. A twenty day jail sentence was the alternative.

Carmen Diulio, **Joseph Boudreau**, **Tony Demori** and **Stephen Macchroni** were let down with fines of \$150 each, the sale or possession of wine being the only charges made, while in the case of Demori, who has eleven children, the judge extended sympathy by making the fine light. Diulio paid his fine but failure of the others to pay will result in a 30 day jail sentence.

A \$200 fine was imposed in the cases of **Joseph Recore** and **Joseph Grandeau**, costs amounting to \$60 in the Recore case and \$25 for Grandeau, with the alternative of a jail sentence of 60 days. **Frank Pallaconi** [sic – Palluconi], who claimed that he sold only a single bottle of wine, was fined \$100 plus \$10 costs, or 30 days in the county jail.

Judge Flannigan in imposing the sentences delivered a lecture on Americanism, flaying the violations [sic – violators] for their lust for money which they thoughtlessly put before flag or country. The consumer was also scored, the judge claiming that it was the buyer and not the man who sold liquor who was directly responsible for conditions that exist over the country today.

One case remains to be disposed. **Gino Leonardelli**, 17-year-old **Norway** youth charged with attempt to rape. He is held in custody by **Sheriff Cleveland**. Age of the youth was the factor leading to the postponement of action in his case.

Under the headline “**Temporary Writs Upheld by Court: Final Padlock Hearings to Be Held at Soo in July,**” the following article appeared in the **April 17, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

Orders sustaining temporary injunctions issued in **Grand Rapids** two weeks ago by **Federal Judge Clarence W. Sessions** have been granted in United States district court in **Marquette** against 12 **Iron Mountain** men and one **Quinnesec** and one **Norway** property owner restraining them from maintaining or using, as a business premises in which violations of the national prohibition act are alleged to have occurred.

The orders issued yesterday are the preliminary step in “padlock” injunction proceedings, but do not mean that the buildings involved must be locked. Decision as to whether they will be locked up for one year will be made at subsequent hearings. In the meantime, pending final hearings, owners and tenants of the premises are restrained from using their buildings as places in which the liquor law is violated.

Final Hearings at Soo.

Final hearings on the injunctions will be held at the next term of federal court, which probably will convene in **Sault Ste. Marie** in

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

July. The temporary injunctions are the first of their kind ever to be issued in the upper peninsula.

*Request for the temporary injunctions was made by **Cyril E. Bailey**, legal advisor to the federal prohibition forces in **Detroit**, who appeared for the government. **M.J. Doyle**, of **Menominee**, and **A.F. Dixon**, of **Iron River**, appeared for 11 of the 14 named. Three persons were not represented by counsel and none of the defendants appeared in court here.*

The Court's Order.

The orders issued by the court read as follows:

"This cause coming duly on for hearing upon the bill of complaint and affidavits in support thereof praying that pending a final determination herein upon the merits the defendants and each of them be restrained from using or maintaining or assisting in using or maintaining the premises described in said complaint as a nuisance in violation of the National Prohibition Act, the court, being fully advised in the premises, doth order, that the defendants, their agents, servants, and employees be, and they hereby are, pending a final hearing upon the merits herein, enjoined and restrained from maintaining or assisting in using and maintaining the premises in said bill of complaint described as a place where intoxicating liquor is manufactured, sold, kept, or bartered in violation of Title II of the National Prohibition Act, and from removing or in anywise interfering with any liquor or fixtures or other things upon said

premises used, kept, or maintained in connection with the manufacture, sale, keeping, or bartering of intoxicating liquor, and from conducting or permitting the continuance of a common and public nuisance upon said premises, and that the United States Marshal for the Western District of Michigan be directed to place upon the said room or premises herein described, a notice in substance and effect that a temporary injunction has been issued restraining the defendants herein from using or permitting the use of said premises as a place for the selling, keeping, or bartering of intoxicating liquors in violation of the National Prohibition Act."

In the **April 18, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following report appeared under the headline "**Rummers Enter Pleas of Guilty: Five Dickinson County Men Summoned for Jury Service**":

*Three Iron Mountain moonshiners pleaded guilty when arraigned this morning in federal court at **Marquette**. They were **Felix Paronti**, **Cemalio** [sic – **Camello**] **Tijlunt** [sic – **Tijlit**] and **Frank Skog** [sic – **Skog**].*

*Others who pleaded guilty today were **George G. Hocking**, **Houghton**, who was fined \$500 on each of two counts, **Pete Mekalko**, of **Sault Ste. Marie** and **Victor Pollomaki**, **James Nardi**, of **Ishpeming**, charged with obstructing justice., stood mute when arraigned and a plea of not guilty was entered.*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Late yesterday afternoon a plea of guilty to one count in a liquor indictment and not guilty to other charges specified was entered by **Joseph Codoto**, of **Iron Mountain**.

Citizenship Cancelled.

The **citizenship papers** of nine persons, six of them from **Iron Mountain**, were cancelled by **Judge Sessions** this morning. Those named are no longer residents of the United States. They included **Zacore Carey**, of **Escanaba**, and **Luigi Madeo**, alias **Misdeo**, of **Chippewa county**. Those from Iron Mountain were **Franché Burelli**, **Antonio Spera**, **Luigi Dimattio**, **Locci Felippo** [sic – **Felippo Locci**], **Michelle Diloreto** and **Anselmo Busellie**. The ninth was **Dominic Bartouri**, alias **Bertucci**, whose former residence was given as **Dickinson county**.

Thirty-six additional traverse jurors have been drawn to hear cases in the federal court and must report in Marquette at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Those from Dickinson county who are summoned are **Louis Yuhasey**, Iron Mountain; **Anton Massa**, Loretto; **David Rees**, Iron Mountain; **Swan Peterson**, Foster City, and **Edmund Trudell**, Iron Mountain.

Under the headline “**31 Sentences By Federal Judge: Several of Those Sent to House of Correction Local Men**,” the following item appeared in the **April 21, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

MARQUETTE, April 21 – (Special) – Thirty-one persons were sentenced here in federal court this afternoon, several of them

from **Iron Mountain**. The **Iron Mountain** and **Norway** men sentenced to the **Detroit House of Correction** were as follows:

Frank Skok [sic – **Skog**], Iron Mountain, four months.

Tony Bleist, Iron Mountain, four months.

Alec Stanich, Iron Mountain, six months.

Charles Peterson, Norway, four months.

Joseph Cuduto, Iron Mountain, four months.

Camello Tijlit, Iron Mountain, six months.

A brief article under the headline “**150 Gallons of Mash Destroyed**” appeared in the **April 24, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* as follows:

Failing to locate the owner of the shack, **Sheriff Cleveland** and three deputies who found 150 gallons of sour mash at the head of **Pine creek**, about seven miles from the highway, destroyed the mash and burned down the shack. A thorough search of the woods and swamp surrounding the shack was made but no trace of the owner was found.

In the **May 20, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article appeared under the headline “**Big Still Taken In Sheriff’s Raid: Officers Find Spies And Also Secure Liquor Distiller**”:

Sheriff Frank Cleveland and a squad of deputies, including **Fred Johnson** of this city and **Charles Osterberg** and **Mike Possi**, of **Norway**, captured a young

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

*distillery in a raid on the **Celio Ziller** farm near Norway last evening. The still was found in the basement of the little farm home, and was hot when the officers arrived.*

It was the largest still ever captured by the sheriff's forces. Ziller had a complete outfit, including barrels and a small amount of alleged moonshine mash. The still was full when the officers arrived and samples of the mash and the alleged moonshine whisky in it were taken by the officers as evidence.

*Although Ziller admitted that the still was in operation on his farm for some time, he denied that he had been operating it, laying the blame on **Otto Bolan**, who was found by officers while spying in the woods near the Ziller farm. Bolan pleaded ignorance and said that he was employed on the farm as a worker, and had been doing plowing and preparing the land for the spring sowing, although no work was evident to the officers.*

Close watch was kept on the road by the alleged moonshiners, a spy reporting to Bolan the minute officers drove down the lonely road leading to the Ziller farm. Both were found in the woods, Bolan being caught while a young lad who had been keeping watch succeeded in making his getaway although he is known by the officers and will be questioned.

At the direction of the officers, the still was removed from the brick base by Ziller, loaded on a truck and taken to the sheriff's office. Ziller had little trouble in taking the

still apart and removed the cellar stairway leading to the upper floor to enable officials to take the still from the basement without breaking it. Ziller, who is an old man well along in the sixties, was permitted to remain at his home, but Bolan was taken into custody and is being held in the city jail at Norway.

The following account, under the headline **“Slippery Jack’ Arrested by Feds: Admits He Was Beer Running in the Upper Peninsula,”** appeared in the **May 29, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

Where does the “good” beer that flows into the upper peninsula come from?

*Ask **Jack M. “Red” or “Slippery Jack” Shafton**, of **Chicago**. He can tell you because he's been bringing it in for the last two months – until he was caught by **Floyd H. Smith** and **T.T. Hurley**, of the federal prohibition department, near **Norway**.*

Shafton has been described as a real honest-to-goodness “spiked” beer runner and makes no apologies to the federal officers or the public.

*“Maybe I should be ashamed of my trade,” he said yesterday to **Leo J. Grove**, federal prohibition chief at **Marquette**, “but I'm after the money like everybody else.”*

*Shafton was arrested together with **Richard Mohn**, of **Spread Eagle, Wis.**, after a 72-hour watch by the prohibition officers. The beer runners left the old Blatz beer cellar at Norway with seven and one-half barrels of four per cent beer, and, when the officers returned to the building they*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

found five and one-quarter barrels and 528 pint bottles. The entire loot was loaded on the new Reo motor truck, driven less than 1,000 miles, and take [sic – taken] to Marquette where it attracted considerable attention.

Doesn't Handle "Moon."

Shafton was "insulted" by members of the "dry" squad, he said yesterday, when they loaded two large stills onto the truck. He appeared to take "pride" in the fact that he delivered beer, but the mention of moonshine "went against his grain."

Shafton declared that there is no real liquor in the upper peninsula, that it is all "cut stuff." He said that "bonded" liquor being sold here is about one-sixth real, the imported liquor being mixed with alcohol, water, bourbon flavoring to cut the taste of the alcohol, and "bead oil." One case of imported liquor, he said, would make six cases of the "real stuff," as sold.

The upper peninsula is too far away for good liquor to be delivered, especially when there are plenty of customers between Chicago and here, he said.

"I knew this day was coming some time [sic – sometime]," Shafton told Group Chief Grove at Marquette. "I haven't got it in for you at all. You and your agents are a bunch of good fellows and are doing your duty. Your force is feared throughout the upper peninsula and in Wisconsin and Illinois."

Bootleggers and rum runners in Wisconsin and Illinois don't mind transporting liquor, Shafton said, because

they know that if they get "hooked" they will pay a fine and then return to their trade.

In Michigan they fear the jail sentences that have been imposed in several courts and the loss of their cars.

This is not the first time Shafton was been apprehended and he told Mr. Grove that it would be the last time "upper peninsula agents catch me, because I'm going to change my base of operations."

A brief item under the headline "**Ziller Released on Bond of \$500**" appeared in the **May 29, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* as follows:

***Celio Ziller**, charged with violation of the prohibition law who was being held at the county jail following a preliminary hearing before **Justice Spencer** in which he pleaded not guilty, was freed on bail of \$500 yesterday afternoon.*

*Relatives of Ziller put up the bond for his appearance at the September term of circuit court. Ziller's arrest followed a raid on his farm in **Norway**, the officers confiscating a large still and a small amount of mash and alleged moonshine whisky.*

In the **June 4, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* the following article appeared under the headline "**Whiskey Labels for All Brands Found in Raid on Stronghold of Shafton**":

Federal officers swooped down on **Norway** last evening, invading the stronghold of **Jack M. "Red" Shafton**, and his alleged partner, "**Florida**" **Ed VanDervelde**, and secured a large number of counterfeit revenue stamps, whisky

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

labels of all descriptions, two stills, one of which was in operation, and 75 gallons of alleged moonshine whiskey.

Shafton was taken into custody a short time ago when he was caught red-handed by the “feds” with a load of beer, the officers confiscating the beer and a new Reo truck. After his arrest Shafton told the officers of the large amount of moonshine being peddled in this section under the guise of “bonded goods” and seemed so familiar with the handling of this sort of liquor that the officers decided on another trip to Norway.

Invading the buildings owned by Ed VanDervelde, the officers confiscated one

of the most complete outfits ever taken in the upper peninsula. Fake revenue stamps were found by the bundle and there were whisky labels of all descriptions, so that the buyer could purchase “his favorite brand.”

Van Dervelde, **Alvin Lundeen** and **Leo Diaraens** were all taken into custody, the two stills, fake whisky labels and stamps and a Nash truck also being confiscated. The truck was specially rigged out for the use of bootleggers, the front seat having a false bottom which contained one barrel of alleged liquor. The liquor could be emptied by a special arrangement under the seat.



MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 30: THE ROARING TWENTIES – LOCAL PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT LAX IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

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A postcard view taken in about 1914-1915 shows the **Menominee River Brewing Company** beer wagon in front of **Louis Cristanelli's** saloon at **1009 Railroad Street** in **Norway**. **Big Ed Van Dam** drove the beer wagon, while **Andrew Cristanelli** (left) and an unidentified man (right) sat on the top barrels. **Joseph Wassa**, wearing a long coat, and **Louis Cristanelli** stood alongside of the loaded wagon. Note the fly nets worn by the horses. [James Lindstrom]



Peter DeDecker, pictured here in about 1920, operated a bar at **Seventh Avenue** in **Norway**. In the 1925 city directory **Peter and Elodie DeDecker** were listed as selling soft drinks here. [Jake Menghini Museum]