

The Bootlegger Era: Prohibition in New Jersey

**Exhibit at the
Monmouth County Library Headquarters
125 Symmes Drive
Manalapan, New Jersey
October 2013**

**Organized by
The Monmouth County Archives**

**Marc Mappen and Gary D. Saretzky, Curators
Eugene Osovitz, Preparer**

**Produced by the
Monmouth County Archives
Office of the Monmouth County Clerk
125 Symmes Drive
Manalapan, NJ 07726**

Introduction

This exhibit on the Prohibition Era in New Jersey is one of several annual presentations by the Monmouth County Archives on eras in New Jersey's history. Past shows have focused on the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Great Depression, and World War II, as well as thematic shows such as those on sports and photography. Objectives of these public history exhibits include civic education and enhancing an appreciation for the archives that preserve and make available our documentary heritage.

As the centennial approaches of the Prohibition Amendment, which severely restricted the manufacture and use of alcohol in 1919, Americans find themselves facing similar kinds of issues, including laws and punishment for illegal drug offenses. The Prohibition Era, which officially terminated with the repeal of the Amendment in 1933, did not end either the debate about the use of mind-altering substances or the illegal traffic in them. Reflecting the gradual evolution of public opinion, the federal and state governments continue to pass and enforce legislation that seeks to promote the public welfare concerning these controversial issues. Today, the electorate and their representatives passionately discuss whether substances like marijuana should be controlled and what the punishment should be for violating drug laws. Even municipalities in New Jersey are now getting involved in these issues as evidenced by recent ordinances about smoking tobacco outdoors in parks. Similar disagreements were voiced in the Prohibition Era. The health and moral benefits of abstinence from alcohol were touted by temperance advocates while their opponents pointed to the individual right to choose what to ingest, the impetus given to criminal enterprises by Prohibition, the cost of alcohol law enforcement, and widespread corruption.

The Prohibition Era was not just about booze. There were interesting developments in agriculture, art, industry, and other fields at home and abroad, and there were significant social changes as well, including the role of women, music, and fashion, all of which were influenced by the development of speakeasies. The decade also is remembered for the economic boom that ended with the stock market crash in 1929.

Since our exhibit was limited to forty frames for wall display, we limited our objectives to the alcohol question in New Jersey, with an emphasis on Monmouth County. In addition, since we could not treat any subject in depth, most of the exhibit items may be taken as selected examples of hundreds, if not thousands of similar items, in an attempt to show the kind of events that happened, such as violence associated with bootlegging, or the typical ideas expressed at the time, as in letters from citizens to New Jersey governors and newspaper editorials and cartoons.

Primarily, viewers will find two types of documents in the exhibit: those that concern well known individuals, such as New Jersey governors, infamous gangsters, and leaders of pro- or anti-Prohibition organizations; and those that relate to "the common man," individuals who were impacted adversely by Prohibition, either deservedly or as innocent victims. Examples of the latter include bootleggers, law enforcement officers, and those falsely targeted as rumrunners. Most of the displays in the exhibit relate to men, reflecting the overwhelming preponderance of males in documents found on this topic, although references to women can be found, for example, in the display of petitions to enforce Prohibition laws.

Regarding sources for the exhibit, the curators found voluminous records relating to Prohibition in gubernatorial and other papers at the New Jersey State Archives, including correspondence, reports, pamphlets, and flyers, some of which related to Monmouth County. More exhibit items derive from the State Archives than any other source. It is hoped that some of those who view our exhibit will be inspired to visit the State Archives to explore their holdings in more depth.

Another treasure trove was Special Collections & University Archives of Rutgers University, which provided several pamphlets listed in its compendium compiled by Donald A. Sinclair, "*Demon Rum*" *A Bibliography of Publications about Liquor and New Jersey ...* as well as an unlisted poster.

Newspapers were also tapped for exhibit items, some of which were accessed online.

Photographs in the exhibit derive from a number of public and private collections listed in the acknowledgments. Aside from their inherent interest, they serve to provide visual variety to an otherwise text-heavy display.

Also on display are records from the Monmouth County Archives which holds more than one thousand records of court cases involving alcohol during the Prohibition era, including one included here about John Krapka, who was found not guilty of manufacturing liquor. Among others in the exhibit is a document about George F. Grause, who lost his bottling business as a result of Prohibition and became a bootlegger. The most recent item in the exhibit is a 1982 photograph of a marijuana bust from the Archives' *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, helping to underscore that Prohibition issues have continued relevance for the present. *GDS*

Acknowledgments

The October 2013 exhibition, *Prohibition in New Jersey*, at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan, was organized by the Monmouth County Archives under the direction of County Clerk M. Claire French, whose continued support for public history programs is very much appreciated.

My co-curator, historian Marc Mappen, was directly involved in the planning and development of the exhibit and I have learned much from our collegial partnership. In addition, Dr. Mappen's good humor and lively writing style have significantly enhanced the captions he prepared. He also took one of the photographs in the exhibit.

Before beginning work, Marc and I benefited from a visit to the National Constitution Center's exhibit on Prohibition, *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, and a meeting with its curators, Beth Van Why and Stephanie Wiener, who inspired us with their dedication and the quality of their displays. Aside from the size and creativity embodied in this blockbuster show, particularly impressive to us was the effort to present with respect both the temperance ("Dry") and the anti-Prohibition ("Wet") point of view.

Archives intern Elizabeth Dischler performed a useful service by surveying alcohol-related criminal case files in the Monmouth County Archives and identifying potential exhibit items. In addition to exhibit items from the Monmouth County Archives, the following also graciously provided materials on view: George Joynson, Holmdel Historical Society; Laura M. Poll, Monmouth County Historical Association; Peter Mazzei, New Jersey Office of Legislative Services; Veronica Calder, Bette Epstein, and Joanne Nestor, New Jersey State Archives; Mark Falzini, New Jersey State Police Museum; Gail E. Wiese, Norwich University Archives; Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library; Bonita Craft Grant, Rutgers University Special Collections; and Randall Gabrielan, Elsalyn Palmisano, and Karen L. Schnitzspahn, from their personal collections.

While most of the captions were written by the curators, several others also deserve credit for those they contributed: Monmouth County Reference Archivist Tara Christiansen; George Joynson, who also proofread the captions; and John P. King.

Microfilm/Scanning Supervisor Joya Anderson of the Monmouth County Archives printed most of the digital facsimiles and photographs in the exhibit using an inkjet printer and assisted with catalog development. The only silver gelatin print in the exhibit, a *Red Bank Register* photograph by Carl Andrews of Seaman Keith Enright in 1982, was printed a few years ago from the original negative by the Archives' photographer, Chuck Steiner, in our darkroom. As in past years, Eugene Osovitz of the Monmouth County Archives matted and framed the exhibit items.

A mini-grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission helped cover the costs of framing materials and other expenses of Archives Week programs in October. My thanks to the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders who unanimously endorsed our grant

application. Skylar Harris of the New Jersey Historical Commission was very helpful in helping with the grant application process, as was Judy Lynn Mannato of the Monmouth County Finance Department and Mark Pizza, Records Center Manager, Monmouth County Archives. Shelagh Reilly of the Archives staff coordinated Archives Week events. Laura Kirkpatrick, Director, Public Information & Tourism, and Donna Mansfield, Programming Coordinator, Monmouth County Library, helped publicize the programs.

Exhibit installation was under the able direction of Val Pasko, Art & Display Department, Monmouth County Library. Laura Kirkpatrick and Mark Allen facilitated catalog production after proofreading by Patrick Caiazzo of the Archives staff.

The Prohibition exhibit, described in this catalog, consists of forty framed items that will continue to be on view in the hallway outside the Archives offices after the exhibit in the Library. Complementing this exhibit are several temporary displays of Prohibition Era material in exhibit cases in the lobby of the library: ephemera from the collection of Karen L. Schnitzspahn; photographs by Plainfield photographer Paul Collier from the Plainfield Public Library, courtesy of Sarah Hull; and facsimiles of Margaret Bourke-White photographs on the covers of *Trade Winds* magazine, 1928-1929, from my collection. Joya Anderson did a fine job making digital prints for the latter two displays. To all, my profound thanks.

Gary D. Saretzky

Caption Writers (initials after captions)

GJ George Joynson
TC Tara Christiansen
JK John King
MM Marc Mappen
GS Gary Saretzky

The Bootlegger Era: Prohibition in New Jersey

Exhibition Catalog

TEMPERANCE, FORTITUDE, JUSTICE.

AN

ADDRESS :

DELIVERED AT THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF



BY

REV. S. LOCKWOOD,

PASTOR OF THE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, KEYPORT, N. J., DEC. 12th, 1854

And Statistics of the Tent.

NEW YORK :

PUBLISHED FOR CHINGARORA TENT, BY J. MOFFET, 82 NASSAU ST.

1855.

Reverend Lockwood Warns Against Alcohol's Seductive Power, 1854

Excessive drinking, religious fervor, and the widespread acceptance of social reform initiatives all encouraged the development of the Temperance movement that led to Prohibition. In his very long, December 12, 1854, exhortation to the Chingarora Tent of the International Order of Redmen in Keyport, Reverend Samuel Lockwood (1819-1894) warned that alcohol “will rob [man] of his brains. . . . Quick as fire it causes the crimson current to rush through every vein—like electricity it flies along every silver nerve,—suffusing the brain, magnetizing the mind, blurring the vision, becrimsoning the cheek, making garrulous the tongue, fretting the passions, and setting in a flame the lust.” Born in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England, Lockwood emigrated as a boy to the United States. He graduated from the University of the City of New York and the New Brunswick, NJ, Theological Seminary, and later obtained a pastorate in Keyport. His service as the first Monmouth County Superintendent of Schools (1867-1894) prompted his move to Freehold in 1870. Lockwood also lectured on natural science at the Rutgers Grammar School, served as secretary of the New Jersey State Microscopical Society, President of the National Hay Fever Association, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He made many research contributions in botany, zoology, and microscopy; his many published works include, *The American Oyster: Its Natural History, and the Oyster Industry in New Jersey* (1883). GS

Rutgers University

County Superintendent of Schools Records, 1893-1922, Monmouth County Archives, <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.aspx?Id=3882> [Includes biographical information on Lockwood.]

Lockwood, Samuel. *Temperance, Fortitude, Justice. An Address Delivered at the Eighth Anniversary of the Chingarora Tent. No. 204 I.O of R. . . . Delivered Dec. 12, 1854. And Statistics of the Tent.* New York: J. Moffet, 1955. Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University.

NEW JERSEY
Prohibition Executive Committee

CHAIRMAN, GRAFTON E. DAY,

118 MULBERRY STREET

OFFICERS
GRAFTON E. DAY, Chairman
JOHN J. VAN CURE, V. C.
A. C. GRAY, Sec'y and Organizer,
THOS. J. KENNEDY, Treas.
Commercial Trust Building, Jersey City

Millville, N.J. Dec. 26 1903

To the State of New Jersey,

Department of State,

Know all men by these PRESENTS that the National Prohibition Party of the State of New Jersey, adopts as the emblem to be used on the voting machines, the emblem now in use by the said National Prohibition Party in New York State of, "Fountain with Flowing Water", and requests that the same be filed according to paragraph 263, section 8 of the "Election Laws".

Grafton E. Day.

State Chairman.

A. C. Gray

State Secretary.



National Prohibition Party Files Emblem in New Jersey, 1903

In the years before the Prohibition Amendment, some advocates of temperance joined a one-issue political party that became active in New Jersey. In this letter of October 26, 1903, A.C. Graw of Camden, State Secretary of the New Jersey Prohibition Executive Committee, encloses the emblem of the National Prohibition Party, already in use in New York State. The emblem shows a "Fountain with Flowing Water," symbolic of a pure and healthy non-alcoholic beverage. The National Prohibition Party was founded in 1869 and has run candidates for President and Vice-President from 1872 to 2012, as well as candidates for other offices. Its peak year was 1904, when its national ticket led by Methodist preacher Silas Comfort Swallow of Pennsylvania garnered 258,596 popular votes (1.58%), 6,845 in New Jersey, in the election won by Republican Theodore Roosevelt. In other years, Swallow ran for Mayor of Harrisburg and Governor of Pennsylvania. During Prohibition, the National Prohibition Party advocated strict enforcement of Prohibition laws. Today, the Party opposes alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, gambling, illegal drugs, abortion, homosexuality, and vice. In the 2012 presidential election, its candidate, Jack Fellure, received a national total of 519 votes, none in New Jersey.
GS

New Jersey State Archives

1904 and 2012 Presidential General Election Results – New Jersey

<http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/state.php?f=0&fips=34&year=1904>

<http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/state.php?f=0&fips=34&year=2012>

Graw, A.C., State Secretary, New Jersey Prohibition Executive Committee to the State of New Jersey, October 26, 1903. [Cover letter with emblem of the National Prohibition Party.] New Jersey State Archives, 184G.

"Jack Fellure." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Fellure

"New Jersey Prohibitionists," *New York Times*, May 9, 1900, p. 2. [Reference to A.C. Graw of Camden, delegate to national convention of the Prohibition Party.]

"Prohibition Party." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prohibition_Party

"The Prohibition Party to Have National Ticket," *Red Bank Register*, September 5, 1928, p. 12.

"Silas C. Swallow." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silas_C._Swallow

RUM

In Your Salem County

ROAD CAMP

Situated in Pittsgrove Township, About 2 Miles
From Centerton

**Harry Miller, Guard, is Frequently Drunk
at the Camp While on Duty.**

Guests are entertained with Rum and Wine kept in the
Office of the Camp by Harry Miller.

**PRISONERS DRUNK! Caleb Green, a Convict, seen
Drunk on the Highway, Alone!**

This is a serious condition! Who Is Reponsible?

I have in my possession affidavits from Four Different People who live in
the vicinity of the Road Camp. These affidavits cover the above
named conditions and state that they have been reported.

These affidavits came into my possession late SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd.

I am in favor of continuing the Road Camp, if economically and otherwise properly managed,
but if am nominated and elected, I will **Break Up This Condition**. I will give this
whole matter a thorough investigation.

If you are in favor of breaking up these conditions **vote for me at the
Primaries This Tuesday, September 25th**. It will be necessary to
have your Primary Vote in order to become a candidate at the General Election.

A. LINCOLN FOX

Candidate for Sheriff on the Republican Ticket

“Rum in Your Salem County Road Camp,” 1914

This negative campaign poster reflects the politicization of the alcohol question in the years leading up to Prohibition. A. Lincoln Fox, Republican candidate for Salem County Sheriff, had it printed for an election campaign. Apparently successful, he served a term as Sheriff from 1914 to 1917. In this poster, Fox claimed that Harry Miller, the guard at the county’s Road Camp, a temporary facility for prisoners working on county projects, was “frequently drunk at the camp while on duty” and entertained guests with rum and wine. He also averred that “Caleb Green, a convict, was seen drunk on the highway, Alone!” Fox promised that, if elected, he would “give this whole matter a thorough investigation.” Born in New Jersey in 1865 to an Irish immigrant mother, Fox worked as a stock dealer around 1900, at which time he was married with three children (another had died). His daughter Jessie, born in 1895, became a stenographer in the Sheriff’s office, continuing there after Fox’s term ended. He worked as a canner in 1920 and then operated the Fox Coal Company in Salem. *GS*

Rutgers University

Fox, A. Lincoln. U.S. Census Records, 1900 and 1920, Salem County, Ancestry.com.

History of Salem County Sheriff’s Office, Salem County, New Jersey. [Brochure, 2007 or later, lists Sheriff A. Lincoln Fox, 1914-1917.]

“Rum in Your Salem County Road Camp Situated in Pittsgrove Township, About 2 Miles from Centerton” [political poster, probably printed September 1914], Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University.

ASBURY PARK

Why "Prohibition Did Not Prohibit"

AN EXPOSURE
OF CRIMINAL LIQUOR DEALERS
GAMBLERS, COMMERCIALIZED VICE
AND
GRAFTERS



PUBLISHED BY THE
ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY
207 MARKET STREET
NEWARK, N. J.



Asbury Park, Ocean Grove, and the Anti-Saloon League

In 1917, three years before National Prohibition took effect, there was a bitter debate between two New Jersey communities that were joined at the hip: the Methodist religious campground of Ocean Grove and the neighboring wide-open resort city of Asbury Park. A March 9, 1896, law in New Jersey stated that intoxicating liquor could not be sold within one mile of a religious camp, meaning that Asbury Park, which bordered on Ocean Grove, was required by law to be dry. The Anti-Saloon League, which fought for Prohibition, suspected that the law was being flouted in Asbury Park, and hired a detective to undertake an investigation. The worst suspicions of the Prohibitionists were proven true: prostitution, intoxication, voter fraud, gambling, and corruption were everywhere in Asbury Park, and protected by the mayor, the chief of police, and other town leaders. The Anti-Saloon League published this pamphlet describing the corruption they had found, but pretty soon national Prohibition went into effect, giving the Anti-Saloon League much more to worry about than one Monmouth County resort. Today Ocean Grove (still dry) and Asbury Park live next to each other in harmony and each offers its own unique attractions for the tourists who visit the Jersey Shore. *MM*

Rutgers University

Asbury Park, Why "Prohibition Did Not Prohibit": An Exposure of Criminal Liquor Dealers, Gamblers, Commercialized Vice and Grifters. Newark, NJ: Anti-Saloon League of New Jersey, [1917]. Rutgers University Special Collections & University Archives.

Bilby, Joseph and Harry F. Ziegler. *Asbury Park: A Brief History.* Charleston, SC: History Press, 2009.

Honeyman, Abraham Van Doren. *Index-analysis of the statutes of New Jersey, 1896-1909: together with references to all acts, and parts of acts, in the "General statutes" and pamphlet laws expressly repealed: and the statutory crimes of New Jersey during the same period.* Plainfield, NJ: New Jersey Law Journal, 1910, page 158.

No. 177

Is Beer Intoxicating ?

By Dr. Harvey W. Wiley
Testimony at New Jersey Legislative Hearing
March 1, 1920

“Is Beer Intoxicating?”

The Volstead Act enforcing Prohibition went into effect in January 1920. The Act outlawed any beer with an alcohol content above 0.5 percent on the grounds that it was an “intoxicating liquor.” In New Jersey, where opposition to Prohibition ran high, “Wets” wanted a higher but still very modest alcohol content of 2.75%, which they thought might be upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court as not falling under the intoxicating category. So it was that a contentious bill was introduced in the New Jersey legislature calling for a 2.75% limit. To grapple with this issue, the Assembly and Senate judiciary committees of the state legislature held a joint meeting on March 1, 1920, in the State House in Trenton. Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley testified. He was a well known expert on consumer product safety who had served as commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and as chief chemist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wiley argued that 2.75% beer was clearly intoxicating, and that even at lower percentages beer could start a drinker on the path to drunkenness. His testimony was endorsed by the “Drys” who published it as this pamphlet entitled “Is Beer Intoxicating?” Copies were available at 25 cents for 100. The whole issue of alcohol percentages became moot once speakeasies began dispensing bootleg beer to the thirsty public. *MM*

Rutgers University

Wiley, Harvey W. *Is Beer Intoxicating? Testimony at New Jersey Legislative Hearing, March 1, 1920*. Washington DC: Board of Temperance, Prohibition, and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church, n.d. [Copy at Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University.]

April 28, 1917

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The undersigned, GEORGE F. GRAUSE, hereby files the following description of name or names, marks or devices used by him and branded, stamped, engraved, etched, blown, impressed or otherwise produced upon bottles, boxes, siphons, or other articles used by him, the undersigned being engaged in manufacturing, bottling and selling soda waters, mineral or aerated waters, or other beverages, viz.:

George F. Grause, Red Bank, N. J.
B. H. Crate, Red Bank, N. J.
B. H. Crate & Co., Red Bank, N. J.
Benj. H. Crate's Bottling Works, Red Bank, N. J.
B. H. Crate, Red Bank & Asbury Park, N. J.
Steel soda tanks with letters "B. H. C."

This description is filed pursuant to "An Act to protect the owners of bottles, boxes, siphons, tins, kegs or other articles used in the sale of soda waters, mineral or aerated waters, porter, ale, beer, cider, ginger ale, milk, cream, small beer, lager beer, weiss beer, white beer, or other beverages, or medicines, medical preparations, perfumery, oils, compounds or mixtures" (P. L. 1898 page 559) Compiled Statutes, Volume 1, page 293, and the amendments thereof and supplements thereto, the said George F. Grause being a person engaged as aforesaid and his place of business being No. 212 West Front Street, Red Bank, New Jersey.

George F. Grause

\$6,000 in Bottling Equipment Sells for \$186.10 in 1921

Prohibition had a major impact on many Monmouth County businesses, and brewer George F. Grause's timing couldn't have been much worse. Grause was granted a liquor license in Red Bank just one year before the Eighteenth Amendment took effect. The Volstead Act enforcing the Amendment forced the closure of Grause's brewing company and soon after the sale of his mortgaged brewing equipment at about 3% of its original cost. The son of German immigrants, Grause was born around 1880 in New Jersey. Before purchasing Benjamin F. Crate's Bottling Works from Crate in 1917, Grause was employed for fifteen years at the company managing the bottling of soft drinks and beer. After the loss of his license, Grause succumbed to the temptation of the illegal alcohol trade. In 1924, he was one of twenty-one men arrested in a raid in Red Bank for selling liquor. Following the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, Grause applied for a liquor license in Red Bank but was denied, perhaps due to his previous conviction. *TC*

Monmouth County Archives

"\$6,000 Goes for \$186.10," *Red Bank Register*, May 25, 1921, p. 1.

"Bottling Works Sold," *Red Bank Register*, March 14, 1917, p. 2.

Grause, George F. Bottler's Record, 1917. Bottler's Records, COUN1000, Box 1. Monmouth County Archives, Manalapan, NJ.

Grause, George F. 1930 United States Federal Census. Red Bank, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Enumeration District 13-104, Supervisor's District 11th, Sheet 7B. www.ancestry.com.

Grause, George F. Tavern Application, 1919. Tavern Applications, COUN400, Box 417. Monmouth County Archives, Manalapan, NJ.

Grause, George Francis. Registration Card. United States of America, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. www.ancestry.com.

"Licenses Renewed," *Red Bank Register*, January 15, 1919, p. 1.

"Nab 21 in Liquor Raids," *Red Bank Register*, January 30, 1924, p. 1.

"Town Gets \$5,390 in License Fees," *Red Bank Register*, December 13, 1933, p. 1.



NO TEAM WORK.

—Newark Evening News.

Two Prohibition Cartoons from New Jersey Newspapers

These two political cartoons that ran in New Jersey newspapers nine years apart accurately portray the persistent problems brought about by Prohibition. In the first, entitled “NO TEAM WORK,” a red-faced Uncle Sam is overwhelmed by the tide of bootleg liquor, while a figure labeled “WET STATE AND TOWN OFFICIALS” looks on without lending Sam a hand. In the second cartoon, “SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE THAT,” an oblivious Dry fails to see the evils arising out of the Prohibition swamp, including crime, graft, bribery, and contempt for law. These cartoons reflect the public disgust with Prohibition that culminated in the 1933 repeal of the 18th Amendment. MM

“No Team Work,” by Lute Pease, *Trenton Evening Times*, August 24, 1920. [With credit line to the *Newark News*.] Courtesy Peter Mazzei, Office of Legislative Services, State of New Jersey.

“Some People Are Like That,” *Trenton Evening Times*, July 5, 1929. Courtesy Peter Mazzei, Office of Legislative Services, State of New Jersey.



(© International.)



Governor Edwards of New Jersey signing the bill legalizing the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcoholic beverages containing 3.50 per cent. alcohol, after peace shall have been formally declared by the United States. A formidable legal fight is in prospect.

(© Kadel & Herbert.)

Edward I. Edwards: “I am as wet as the Atlantic Ocean!”

Edward I. Edwards (1863-1931) was a major figure in the New Jersey Democratic Party, best known for his firm opposition to Prohibition. In 1919 he ran as a candidate for governor, proudly declaring at campaign stops, “I AM FROM HUDSON COUNTY AND I AM AS WET AS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN!” His Republican opponent in the election campaign argued that Prohibition was mandated by the U.S. Constitution and therefore had to be obeyed. When the election came and the votes were counted, it turned out that Edwards won a clear majority, helped by voters in cities like Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, and Elizabeth--an indication of urban New Jersey’s opposition to Prohibition. During his term as governor, Edwards battled with the Republican opposition in the state legislature. His goal was to prevent state government from enforcing Prohibition. The photo shows him in 1920 signing anti-Prohibition legislation. When his term expired, he won election as United States Senator, where he continued to oppose Prohibition. But his last years were not happy: his political career faded, his wife died, and the Depression bankrupted him. Edwards committed suicide in 1931. MM

“Edward I. Edwards for U.S. Senator,”
Red Bank Register, Nov. 1, 1922, p. 8.

Connors, Richard, "Edwards, Edward Irving." In *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*, edited by Maxine Lurie and Marc Mappen. New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004.



"SOWING DRAGON'S TEETH"

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION,
JUDICIAL SECTION, IN CON-
VENTION AT CINCINNATI, IS-
SUES SOLEMN WARNING TO
SOCIAL SCOFFERS AT PROHI-
BITION LAW.

Following are the solemn words
of warning:

"The people of the United States have undertaken to suppress the age-long evil of the liquor traffic. When, for the gratification of their appetites, lawyers, bankers, merchants and manufacturers, and social leaders, both men and women, scoff at this law, or any other law, they are aiding the cause of anarchy and promoting mob violence, robbery and homicide.

"They are sowing dragon's teeth and they need not be surprised when they find that no judicial or police authority can save our country or humanity from reaping the harvest."



Reverence
of Law

UNDER WHICH FLAG?



Anarchy

The Van Ness Act The Volstead Act and the Eighteenth Amendment

**A Reply to
Nullification Propaganda**

Published by
THE NEW JERSEY TEMPERANCE
SOCIETY
Newark, 1921

The Van Ness Act: New Jersey's First Dry Law

The controversy over the nation's Prohibition Amendment spilled over into New Jersey politics. Republicans, whose base was in the more rural parts of the State, supported Prohibition; Democrats whose strength was in the big cities were opposed to Prohibition. The differences between the two sides can be seen in the debate over the Van Ness Act, sponsored in the New Jersey legislature in early 1921 by Republican assemblywoman, Jennie C. Van Ness. The most controversial part of the bill was the provision that a New Jersey magistrate could have a person suspected of manufacturing or selling alcohol arrested and found guilty without benefit of a jury trial. The Democratic Governor of New Jersey vetoed the bill, but the majority Republicans in the legislature overturned it. A withering public debate ensued, with Democratic "Wets" condemning the Act as a fanatical attack on personal liberty, and the Republican "Drys" depicting their opponents as enemies of the rule of law like communists and anarchists. In February, 1922 New Jersey's highest court ruled the Van Ness Act unconstitutional. It meant that, for a time, enforcing Prohibition in New Jersey would largely be left to the Federal government -- a victory for "Wets" in the Garden State. Later in 1922, New Jersey passed the Hobart Act which reformed the Van Ness Act. *MM*

Rutgers University

Under Which Flag? The Van Ness Act, The Volstead Act, and the Eighteenth Amendment: A Reply to Nullification Propaganda. Newark, NJ: New Jersey Temperance Society, 1921. Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University.



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ratifying a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

1 WHEREAS, Both Houses of the Sixty-fifth Congress of the United States of America,
2 ica, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds thereof, made the following
3 proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States of America, in the
4 following words, to wit: "Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the
5 Constitution of the United States.

6 "1. Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States
7 of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring
8 therein), That the following amendment to the Constitution be, and hereby is,
9 proposed to the States, to become valid as a part of the Constitution when rati-
10 fied by the Legislatures of the several States as provided by the Constitution.



"ARTICLE —.

11 "Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture,
12 sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into,
13 or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to
14 the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

15 "Sec. 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power
16 to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



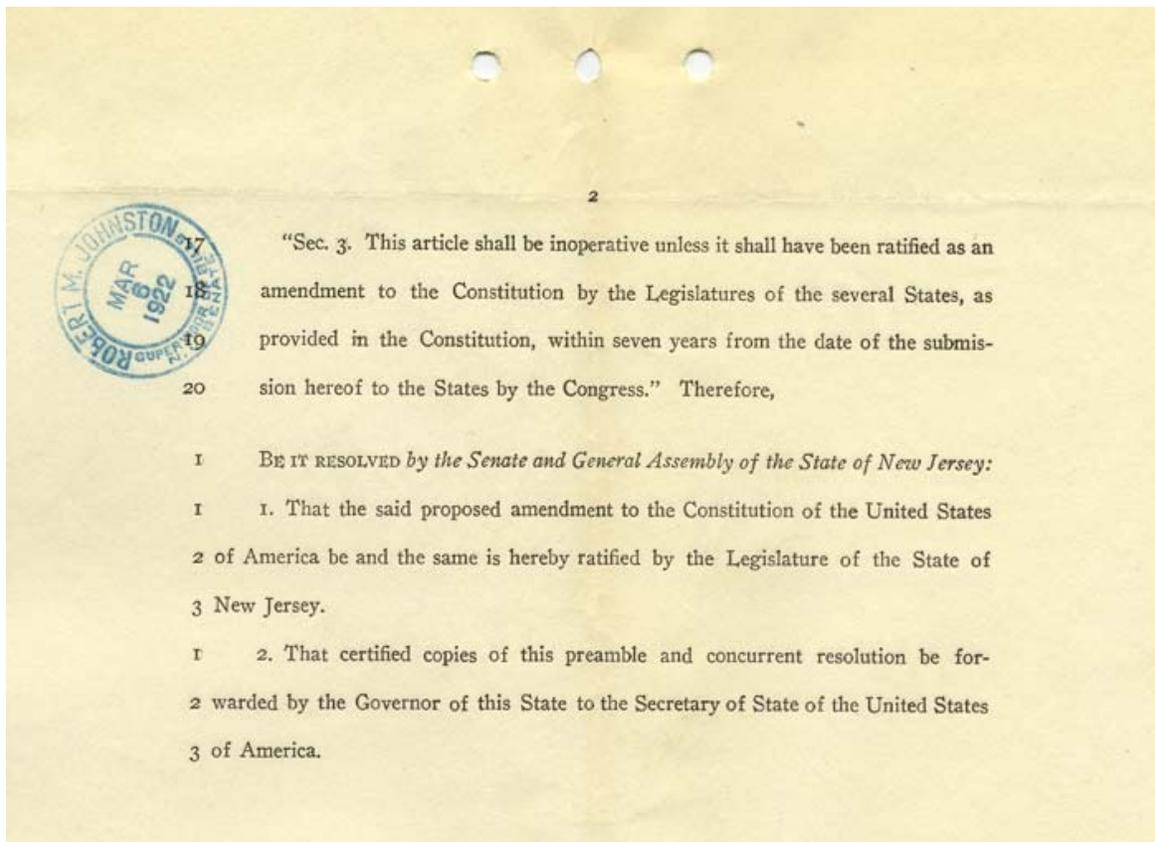
New Jersey Ratifies the Prohibition Amendment, 1922

In order to adopt an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the usual procedure is that two-thirds of the Senate and the House of Representatives have to approve, followed by two-thirds of the states. On January 16, 1919, the Nebraska legislature adopted the Eighteenth Amendment, achieving the necessary two-thirds approval and embedding National Prohibition into law. Other states followed Nebraska, but New Jersey hung back from ratification even though it made no difference at that point. The Republicans who dominated the New Jersey legislature argued that the state should adopt the Amendment anyway. Said one Republican leader, George S. Hobart, "Forty-five states have taken favorable action on this amendment and New Jersey should now get in line where she belongs." On March 9, 1922, the state formally voted for the amendment, but Jersey Democrats never stopped fighting against it. *MM*

New Jersey State Archives

"Charges of Cheap Tricks in Closing Rush at Trenton," *Newark Evening News*, March 9, 1922, p. 1.

Okrent, Daniel. *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010.





Prohibition's Victimless Crime Lays Low a Respected Councilman

William Jennings had once been a respected member of the Atlantic Highlands borough council, serving as Council President and thought to be a future Mayor. However, the lure of easy money in Prohibition's victimless crime wave brought him tragically down. The photo of his Second Ave. home shows the disarray he used as his defense that he simply forgot about the 400 cases of whiskey "Dry Agents" found in his basement: Jennings claimed it was his pre-Prohibition whiskey. Later he said the booze was not his and he had no idea how it wound up in his cellar which he rarely entered. He resigned in disgrace. Finally one dark night at Wagner's Creek in 1923, a State Trooper found Jennings outdoors in possession of 40 cases of Rum Row booze. Jennings said he was waiting for a ride home. When Jennings reached into his pocket as if for a gun, the trooper shot him in the thigh. Despite hospital surgery, the wound proved fatal for Jennings, whose career ended on December 1, 1923. *JK*

Photograph, Courtesy Randall Gabrielan

"Ex-Official Shot in Liquor Raid," *New York Times*, December 1, 1923, p. 4.

"Killed in Street Fight," *Red Bank Register*, October 24, 1923, p. 13 [Article about another incident includes paragraph about raid on Jennings' house.]

King, John P. "Town Councilman Charged with Bootlegging," in *Wicked Tales from the Highlands*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2011, pp, 54-56.

"Shot by State Trooper," *Red Bank Register*, December 5, 1923, p. 17.

"Wound Proves Fatal; William Jennings Dies After Leg Amputation," *Red Bank Register*, January 2, 1924, p. 9.

R. C. MILLER
CHIEF OF POLICE



Department of Police

Atlantic City, N. J., August 20, 1923.

Ceb

Mr. Frederic M. P. Pearse,
Secretary to the Governor,
Executive Department,

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of August 13, in reference to number of arrest made in our city under the Hobart and Volstead Acts, during the year ending June 30, 1923., I wish to advise that during this period we arrested 982, charged with being drunk, in violation of the Hobart, and 114 arrested for violation of the Volstead Act.

This does not include cases handles by the Federal Officers, which were taken to the United States Commissioner, Isard.

I trust this will give you the desired information.

Yours very respectfully,

R. C. Miller

RCM:ESP

Chief of Police.

1,096 Arrested in One Year in Atlantic City for Alcohol Offenses

In this August 20, 1923, letter to New Jersey Governor George Silzer's Secretary, Frederick M.P. Pearse, Atlantic City Chief of Police R.C. Miller reports that in the year ending June 30, 1923, 982 people were arrested for being drunk under the state's Hobart Act and 114 were arrested for violation of the federal Volstead Act, most of them presumably for manufacturing, possessing, or transporting liquor or beer with an alcohol content of .5 % or more. The burden of these Prohibition laws on law enforcement is illustrated by two pages from an Atlantic County Clerk Docket book, May-December 1921, at the New Jersey State Archives, recording actions taken by Common Pleas Judge Robert Ingersoll to enforce the Prohibition Enforcement Act, known as the Van Ness Act. This act was declared unconstitutional and replaced by the Hobart Act in 1922 because it allowed imprisonment without the right of trial by jury. As can be seen in the right hand column, some of those arrested were "deferred" (probably released), but others were fined as much as \$500. One defendant, John Moskrob, was jailed for 11 days. GS

New Jersey State Archives

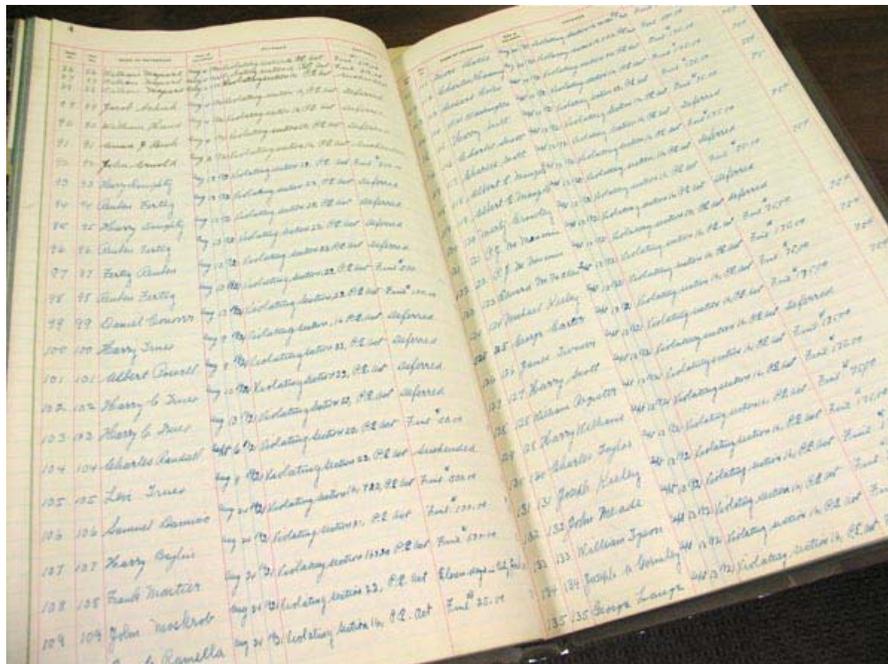
Prohibition Act Docket and Case Files, 1921. New Jersey State Archives.

<http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/guides/catcl013.pdf>

Prohibition Enforcement Act Docket, May – December 1921, Atlantic County Clerk's Office, Box 4, New Jersey State Archives.

R.C. Miller, Chief of Police, Atlantic City, to Frederick M.P. Pearse, Secretary to the Governor, August 20, 1923, Governor George S. Silzer Papers, Box 31, Folder 178, New Jersey State Archives.

Wheeler, Wayne B. *Federal and State Law Relating to Intoxicating Liquor. Third Edition.* Westerville, Ohio: American Issue Publishing Company, November 1921.



KILLED IN STREET FIGHT.

WARFARE RIGHT IN HEART OF ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS.

Battle Between Bootleggers and Highjackets Result in Death for Newark Man, Wounds for Other Men and Wholesale Arrests.

One man murdered, six or more men wounded and several men locked up in jail. These were the major results of a gun fight Saturday night at Atlantic Highlands between bootleggers and "highjackets." Highjackets are rum pirates who make a business of holding up bootleggers and of stealing bootleg "wet goods."

Frank LeConte of Newark, who is said to be the king of the highjackets, was the man killed. He died Monday morning at the Long Branch hospital. He and a gang of other Newark men had been at Highlands in an automobile and when they left that place they were followed by a number of Highlands men in another car. The Highlands men are said to have been under the leadership of Robert Schneider.

The gun fight is said to have been caused by a grudge of several months' standing. Various stories are afloat as to the cause of the grudge but the most prevalent one is that the Highlands men were stopped last summer by Newark highjackets while the Highlands men were in an automobile laden with

Big Bootlegger Battle Rages in the Heart of Atlantic Highlands

A rumrunner shoot out exploded the peace in the heart of Atlantic Highlands one Saturday night in 1923, reminding people of Dime Novel gun battles in Dodge City of America's Old West. The big bootlegger battle toll was one man killed, several wounded and a town filled with terrified residents and visitors. A Newark gang under brothers Joe and Frank "bootleg King" LeConte was chased to Center Ave. (blocked by a train in the station) by rival grudge-bearing Highlands gangsters under Walt Keener with brothers Henry and George Nettinger and Ed and Ralph Bitters. Bootlegging was a family affair! Two .38-caliber bullets took one brother from the other: Frank LeConte fell first with a slug through his stomach; it proved fatal. Shots flew in all directions for several minutes. Gangsters took cover behind car doors, trees and light poles, while residents hugged the ground behind cars, horse troughs, barrels and buildings. Ralph Bitters took a bullet in the shoulder but remarkably kept shooting. Not a single apprehended gangster, not even Ralph Bitters wounded and treated in the hospital, could be forced to testify against a fellow gang member or rival. Arrested for murder, Ed and Ralph Bitters were discharged when no indictment was found by the Grand Jury. There were no witnesses besides the gunslingers and it was impossible to prove whose gun fired the bullet that killed LeConte. Ralph Bitters was patched up and soon returned to Highlands to await the next booze delivery.
JK

"Killed in Street Fight," *Red Bank Register* October 24, 1923, p. 13.

King, John P. "Rumrunner Shootout in the Heart of Atlantic Highlands," in *Wicked Tales from the Highlands*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2011, pp, 52-54.

"Link Gang Battle to Bootleg Trade; Police Find One Dying and Two Wounded After Shooting at Atlantic Highlands," *New York Times*, October 22, 1923, p. 3.

Long Branch Daily Record, October 23, 1923 [title and page not available].

State vs. Ralph Bitters, Edward Bitters. Charge: Murder. Discharged, November 22, 1923. Court of General Quarter Sessions Minutes, Volume 1922-1923, p. 303. Monmouth County Archives.

State)	Charge: Murder.
vs)	Discharged
Ralph Bitters)	November 22, 1923.
Edward Bitters)	

It is ordered that the defendants be discharge no Bill of Indictment having been found.

RESORTS IN NEW JERSEY ARE RAIDED

FASHIONABLE GAMBLING CASINOS ARE CLOSED

Gambling Paraphernalia Valued at \$20,000 Seized —Guests in Evening Attire Not Molested.

Long Branch, N. J., July 18.—A. P.—Fashionable New Jersey resorts which received a shock yesterday when raids netting \$300,000 worth of liquor were made in Lakewood and Point Pleasant, got another jolt today when detectives swooped down on five alleged gambling casinos.

Gambling paraphernalia valued at \$20,000 was confiscated and the proprietors of the five resorts were arrested but their names were withheld. Guests were not molested.

The raids were made by county detectives and state troopers.

The biggest place raided was at West End and was known as the New York club. The raiders surprised thirty men and women in evening dress.

At Pleasure Bay, the raiders entered a road house noted for its shore dinners, in the rear of which a gambling house was found. The raiders confiscated three truck loads of roulette wheels and other gambling devices which were stored in Asbury Park. Several attempts were made to recover some of the wheels, the truck drivers being offered \$30 for each.

Rooster's Crowing Cause of Murder

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New Jersey Casinos Raided, 1923

In July 1923, newspaper reports around the country, like this one in the Steubenville (Ohio) *Herald-Star*, described dramatic raids by Prohibition enforcers on fashionable Monmouth and Ocean County hotels in Lakewood, West End in Long Branch, Point Pleasant, and elsewhere. Stored gambling equipment was also seized in Asbury Park. It shows how the forbidden pleasures of drinking and gambling went hand in hand for vacationers at the shore. The same issue had a long article on the manufacture of bootleg liquor, including the use of poisonous red ivy to enhance fermentation. Taken in sufficient quantity, such moonshine could be deadly. *MM*

“Resorts in New Jersey Are Raided; Fashionable Gambling Casinos Are Closed; Gambling Paraphernalia Valued at \$20,000 Seized—Guests in Evening Attire Not Molested,” *Herald-Star* (Steubenville, Ohio), July 18, 1923, p. 1.



An Illegal Distillery or Brewery in Scotch Plains

Full or empty? Two armed plain-clothes police officials wearing Scotch Plains badges stand in front of two very large barrels in an open shed. Photographer Paul Revere Collier took at least five shots of this “bust” in the 1920s or early 1930s with his 8x10 inch view camera using nitrate negatives. No details of the event have been located and the photo awaits further research at the vast Collier archives at the Plainfield Public Library. Born in Plainfield in 1907, Collier, by his own estimate, took “hundreds of thousands” of photographs all over Plainfield and nearby areas. He worked for the *Courier News*, local police, insurance companies, and numerous local businesses and clubs, as well as for individuals. Collier made numerous individual, family, and group portraits; images of storefronts and streetscapes, traffic accidents, and weddings; and much more with great care for detail and formal structure in his compositions. From 1910 until his sudden death in 1951, Collier operated his own photo studio in downtown Plainfield. GS

Plainfield Public Library

Collier photograph #C40761, Illegal distillery bust circa 1920s-1930s, Local History Collection, Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, New Jersey.
http://collections.plainfieldlibrary.info/collections_browser/search;collection=photos/search_results;photoid=C40761/photo;id=10769/

Hull, Sarah, “Paul R. Collier, 1885-1951,” Plainfield Public Library, Local History, Special Collections & Genealogy, n.d.

**THE REAL McCOY
SCOTCH**

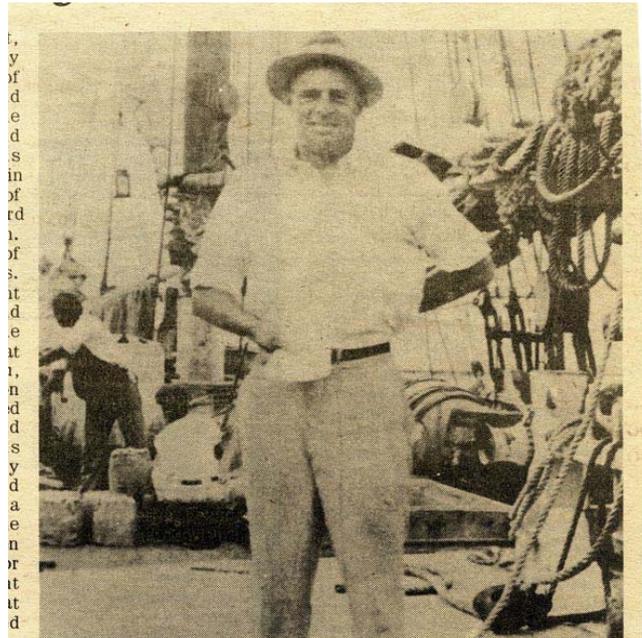
Walker Black Label	\$22.50
Dewar's Ne Plus Ultra	\$21.50
Buchanan's	\$20.00
Haig Pinch	\$19.00
King William	\$16.50
Old Parr	\$16.00
Black and White	\$13.00
Green Stripe	\$13.00
Dewar's White Label	\$13.00
Haig Gold Label	\$13.00
King George Gold Label	\$13.00
Walker Red Label	\$13.00
White Horse	\$13.00
Sandy McDonald	\$12.00
Bullock & Lade Thistle	\$12.00
Peter Dawson	\$10.00
Bullock & Lade Gold Label	\$10.00
Rob Boy	\$10.00
Old Mull	\$ 9.50
Munroe Square Bottle	\$ 9.50
Huntly's Blend	\$ 9.50
Strathdon	\$ 8.00
Claymore	\$ 8.00
Ambassador (24 pts.)	\$ 8.50

GIN

Gordon Dry—Frosted bottle	\$ 6.50
Burke's Dry	\$ 6.00
De Kuyper's Holland	\$ 5.25
Booth's High and Dry	\$ 6.50
Gordon's Old Tom—Frosted bottle	\$ 6.00

INEXPENSIVE QUALITY - The incredible prices of the booze McCoy sold by the case beyond the 12-mile limit.

(Price list continues on page 21)



DEFIANT SMILE - Bill McCoy poses aboard the "Arethura" during the height of his rum running career.

Captain Bill McCoy and the Rumrunners

When Prohibition became the law of the land in 1920, liquor smuggled in from abroad became a valuable commodity. A lively trade known as “rum running” sprang up as daring sea captains brought their ships loaded with liquor close to America’s maritime limit. Motorboats and other small craft would bring the cargo to the shore from mother ships. New Jersey became one of the major destinations for the smuggled foreign alcohol. Captain William “Bill” McCoy was a pioneer rumrunner. He had a reputation as an honest dealer and his fleet of ships was known from the warm Caribbean to the chilly islands off Canada. Because he didn’t dilute his products, he became a folk hero in the Prohibition era as the supposed source of the term, “The Real McCoy,” but the phrase was in use long before Captain Bill sailed the high seas in search of profits. McCoy’s downfall came on March 24, 1924, when a Coast Guard cutter captured his ship. He went on trial in Newark, New Jersey, and served a nine-month sentence in the Essex County jail. On display is a photo of McCoy and his price list per case, from a 1975 newspaper clipping. The caption under McCoy’s photo mistakenly identifies his ship as *Arethura* instead of the *Arethusa*, a nymph in Greek mythology who turned into a fountain in Sicily. McCoy renamed the ship *Tomoka*, after a river in Florida near his home, when he changed the registry from American to British. *MM*

“British Ship’s Crew Free; Capt. McCoy and Others of the *Tomoka* Cleared of Liquor Landing Charge,” *New York Times*, January 17, 1924, p. 20.

“Capital Confident in *Tomoka* Seizure,” *New York Times*, November 29, 1923, p. 23.

“Cutter’s Guns Halt British Liquor Ship Beyond 3-Mile Line,” *New York Times*, November 26, 1923, p. 1.

“The Real McCoy – Undisputed Hero of Rum War,” *NJ Boater*, September 1975, p. 4. Courtesy, Elsalyn Palmisano.

BRITISH LIQUOR VESSEL SEIZED

Trap Set By Prohibition
Agents Posing as Bootleg-
gers nets 5,500 Cases.

BANKERS ARE IN IT?

Motor Boat Owner Gets One
Thousand Dollars Fee For
Bringing In Liquor.

The British trawler Frederick B. with a large liquor cargo and crew of twenty, was brought into New York recently by the Coast Guard cutter Manhattan, which captured the trawler under the Anglo-American liquor search treaty. The trawler is described by the Federal authorities as one of a fleet used by an international ring of American, Canadian and British bootleggers to smuggle more than 1,000,000 dollars worth of bootleg liquor into the United States. The trawler was seized fourteen miles off Moynmouth Beach, N. J.

Members of the Coast Guard who boarded the trawler found her cargo included 5,500 cases of whiskey and a large quantity of grain alcohol. The trawler, according to the Federal authorities, arrived off New Jersey last Monday from Halifax and St. Pierre, Miquelon, where she was loaded with 5,500 cases of whiskey and alcohol. Bad weather delayed her seizure.

Seasoned bootleggers and rum-runners were duped by prohibition agents investigating the international liquor smuggling ring so completely that they unwittingly aided in the seizure of the British ship. For months the prohibition authorities have been pushing negotiations with the owner of the fleet, including the trawler.

AGENTS POSE AS BOOTLEGGERS.
Prohibition Agent Saul Grill, who set a trap that resulted in the arrest of a large number of persons in the alleged 80,000 dollars New Jersey beer conspiracy, once more assumed the role of bootlegger. Prohibition Agents W. E. Dunnigan, Norman Nichol and Arthur Sleator also posed as bootleggers.

From time to time they met the owner of the trawler in New York City. They carried on negotiations at elaborate dinner and theatre parties. The investigators, by the free

assurance of the prohibition agents.

The skeptical rum-runner reluctantly steered for Manhattan. All the way up the coast he kept up a rapid-fire interrogation of the feticious bootleggers who hired his boat. He wanted to know how they managed to "rig the customs men and the police." He admitted that it didn't seem as simple to him as the prohibition agents explained.

The bootlegger was so nervous as he approached the Battery that he nearly rammed a ferryboat. In a heavy perspiration he steered his boat up to the dock at the Barge Office and fumbled with the hawsers by which he made her fast.

Customs inspectors in uniform, members of the Coast Guard who are waging an unremitting blockade against the rum-runners and other Government officials were on the pier. They went about their business hardly giving notice to the unloading of the liquor cargo from the smuggler.

RUM-RUNNER GETS HIS BONUS.

The prohibition agents paid the rum-runner his bonus. He put off without interference from any source. The rum-runner, as he headed down the bay waved his hat at the prohibition agents and shouted:

"I've got to hand it to you."

The evidence landed at the Battery furnished the basis for seizure of the British ship. The cutter Manhattan under command of Captain Oscar Vinge was ordered to go out and capture the trawler, the third boat seized by the Manhattan within two days.

The Coast Guard cutter arrived with her prize in the morning. The master of the trawler was ordered to drop anchor off the Statue of Liberty. A customs guard was placed on the trawler and the office of the United States Attorney was notified.

Major John Holley Clark Jr. went aboard the liquor ship and questioned the master and other men members of the crew. On returning to Manhattan, Assistant United States Attorney Clark said he had learned that the trawler disposed of 400 cases of whiskey.

"We will start libel proceedings against the Frederick B. on Monday," said Major Clark. "We will proceed under the Customs law and the charge will be that the trawler, without a license, established contact with shore and traded illegally. We are proceeding, of course, under the liquor search treaty between Great Britain and the United States, which recognizes as the limit of search 'one hour's steaming from shore.'"

MORE BIG SEIZURES EXPECTED.

British Liquor Vessel Seized off Monmouth Beach, 1924

“I’VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU,” hollered the captain of a motorboat as he steered his craft out of New York harbor in early October 1924. The captain’s shouted remarks were directed at lounging customs officers and Coast Guardsmen who had watched the nervous captain and crew unload a cargo of illegal Canadian liquor from the motorboat right on the docks of the Battery. The bold delivery had been planned months in advance with a gang of bootleggers and the owners of a British-owned 196-ton trawler named the *Frederick B.* The trawler, with its 30-member crew, had been stationed out at sea, and by agreement, cases of liquor were loaded from the ship onto the motorboat to take into New York Bay. The whole operation had gone without a hitch, until, that is, the *Frederick B.* was intercepted and seized by a Coast Guard cutter fourteen miles off Monmouth Beach. The operation had been a sting: the pretend bootleggers who had negotiated the caper were actually Prohibition agents, working together with the Coast Guard, the customs service, and the U.S. Attorney’s office. Authorities estimated that the smuggled liquor was worth a million dollars. It was one of the rare government victories in the 1920s crusade against alcohol. *MM*

“British Boat Seized in \$1,000,000 Plot to Smuggle Liquor,” *New York Times*, October 5, 1924.

“British Liquor Vessel Seized,” *The Gleaner* (Kingston, Jamaica), October 18, 1924.

GERARD KADENBACH SHOT BY COAST GUARD.

He Died at the Long Branch Hospital Five Hours After He Was Shot—Kadenbach Was Alone in His Boat When Shot.

Gerard C. Kadenbach of Highlands, 24 years old, died last Wednesday at the Long Branch hospital five hours after he had been shot while he was in his motorboat off Sandy Hook. The bullet had passed through his body near the lungs. Although weakened by the loss of blood Mr. Kadenbach was conscious until the last moment.

Mr. Kadenbach was hit by a shot fired from a coast guard boat while alone in his boat. Lobster fishermen were at work near by and they went to his assistance. He was taken on board a revenue cutter and failing to get medical aid there he was taken in his own boat to Highlands, and from there to Long Branch in an automobile.

No arrests have been made in connection with the shooting of Mr. Kadenbach. County Detective John M. Smith is making an investigation. At the coast guard station at Sandy Hook Mr. Smith was told that one of the crew had fired the shot, but he was also told that the federal government had jurisdiction over the shooting. It is reported that the crew of the coast guard boat was looking for rum runners. The lobster fishermen who were near when Mr. Kadenbach was shot say that Mr. Kadenbach had no liquor in his boat.

Mr. Kadenbach was the son of Gerard Kadenbach, who conducts a hardware store at Highlands. His mother died several years ago. On June 28th of last year he married Miss Dena Layton of Highlands. Besides his father and his wife he leaves a daughter Ida, who is two months old; and two sisters and a brother, they being Helen, Monica and Gothard Kadenbach. He was a member of the Red Men's lodge and of the Highlands fire company. The funeral was held Saturday afternoon at the house and was conducted by Rev. Harry P. Grim. The burial was made at Fair View cemetery.

Gerard Kadenbach Shot by Coast Guard, 1924

The opponents of Prohibition pointed out that too many Americans were being killed by overzealous lawmen; Gerard “Gerry” Kadenbach was one of those victims. The dangers of even looking like a rumrunner proved fatal to 24-year-old Kadenbach, as reported by the *Red Bank Register* on July 9, 1924. Alone in his boat, Kadenbach was fatally wounded by a single large-caliber bullet fired by a never-identified crew member on the Coast Guard cutter *Gresham* commanded by Captain Loren Tilton. A few weeks earlier, Tilton had succeeded in capturing a rum running boat with 150 cases of liquor after an exciting chase. No liquor or fishing gear was found on board Kadenbach’s boat and it was never determined whether he had dumped liquor overboard or was just out for a ride. But anyone with a fast motorboat in the area was suspect in those days, often with good reason. Monmouth County’s investigation by detective John M. Smith was terminated by the Coast Guard district superintendent Samuel Nichols, who stipulated that the investigation came under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Justice, which took no known action.

Kadenbach, married and the father of a two-month-old daughter, was the oldest child of Hermann Kadenbach, who operated a hardware store in Highlands, where Gerry worked and served as a volunteer fireman. Hermann first arrived from Germany in 1895, as stated in his 1914 naturalization record that lists his four children, all born in Germany. After Hermann’s death in 1934, his younger son Gothard ran the store for decades. Gothard died at age 98 in Merritt Island, Florida, in 2006. *GS*

“Gerard Kadenbach Shot by Coast Guard; He Died at the Long Branch Hospital Five Hours After He Was Shot--Kadenbach Was Alone in His Boat When Shot,” *Red Bank Register*, July 9, 1924, p. 11.

King, John P. “Rumrunning Risks: Family Man Killed for Booze Profit,” in *Wicked Tales from the Highlands*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2011, pp. 50-52.

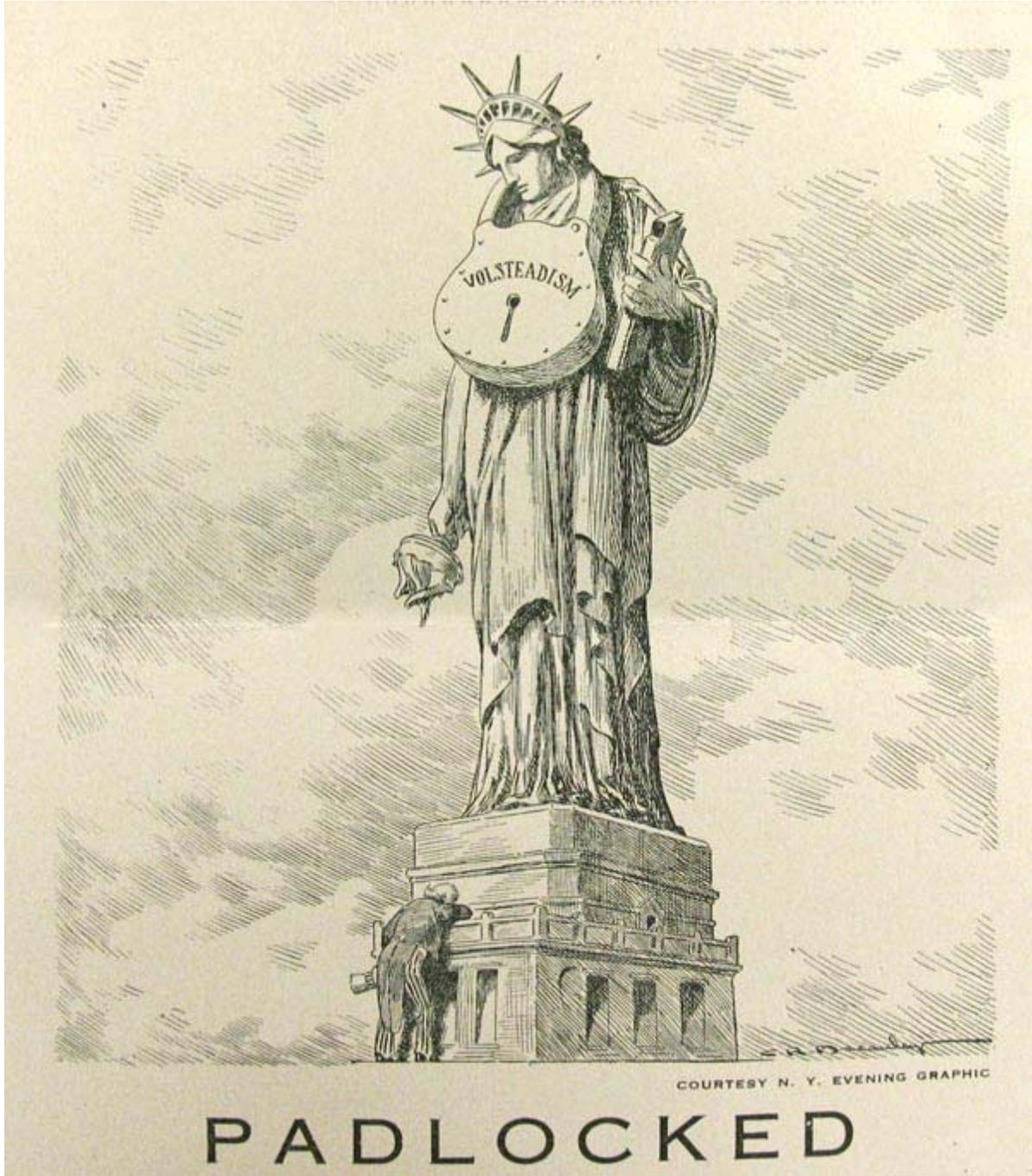
“Obituary: Hermann Kadenbach,” *Red Bank Register*, Oct. 10, 1934, p. 22. [Contains erroneous reference to Gerard Kadenbach.]

Petition for Naturalization by Hermann Kadenbach, May 21, 1914, Monmouth County Archives.

“Retires from Coast Guard,” *Red Bank Register*, August 9, 1933, p. 6. [Re Loren Tilton.]

“Rum Runners Caught,” *Red Bank Register*, June 18, 1924, p. 6.

“Warns Dry Agents in Liquor Raids,” *New York Times*, July 3, 1924, p. 17.



COURTESY N. Y. EVENING GRAPHIC

PADLOCKED

Statue of Liberty Padlocked by Volsteadism, 1925

Liberty has a padlock around her neck with the word, “Volsteadism,” suggesting that the personal freedom cherished by Americans has been restricted by Prohibition. This cartoon by C.R. Macauley was published by the Rational America League to promote its agenda of reforming the Volstead Act, the federal legislation that enabled the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Rational America League, founded in 1922, advocated that Congress redefine “intoxicating liquor” (specified in the Volstead Act as .5% alcohol or more) to permit the manufacture and sale of beer and light wine. In the article that accompanied the cartoon, the League argued that Prohibition gave rise to “a professional criminal class, numbering tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands . . . cold-blooded outlaws, thugs and murderers . . . they are encouraged by the most respectable portions of society, because they meet the demand for whiskey.” The flyer was sent by the League to New Jersey Governor A. Harry Moore, who received numerous communications from the “Wets,” the “Drys,” and the “Damps” like the Rational America League. *GS*

New Jersey State Archives

“Form Rational League to Oppose Prohibition; Organization with Headquarters in Capital Favors Beer and Light Wines,” *New York Times*, May 1, 1922, p. 17.

Padlocked [Cartoon of Statue of Liberty by C.R. Macauley with padlock reading “Volsteadism,” and text reprinted from Detroit Free Press, April 7, 1925, circulated by Executive Office of Rational America League], Governor A. Harry Moore Papers, Box 18, Folder 137, New Jersey State Archives.



George Pease Caught Storing Liquor at 72 Main Street, Keyport, 1925

Keyport was an active bootlegging nexus during Prohibition. Although most of the liquor that came from offshore found its way to other destinations, some of it was used in local speakeasies. George Pease (1876-1961), a butcher like his father Mathias before him, owned this seventeen-room house in Keyport, where he lived with just his wife Evelina and daughter Berenice. Pease also owned twelve horses that he raced in Detroit, a major bootlegging center, and Canada. Acting on a tip, Police Chief Daniel A. Van Pelt confronted Pease at home in January 1925. As recounted by local historian Jack Jeandron, Pease “pulled out two or three \$500 bills from his pocket and offered to wager it against \$2 that he had no liquor in the house.” Soon thereafter, Van Pelt caught Pease moving about 75 cases of liquor from a room to his back porch. He left an officer, George “Footsie” Mason, to watch the cache from a neighbor’s window, since it was very cold outside. When Van Pelt got back, most of the liquor was gone. No record that Pease was prosecuted has been found. Pease sold the Italianate house in 1928 to The Improved Order of Red Men, a fraternal organization, and its women’s auxiliary, The Degree of Pocahontas, and moved to 70 Church Street, where he remained until his death. Today, 72 Main Street is a four-family residence. GS

Monmouth County Historical Association

“Barton House,” Historic Sites Inventory No. 1322-3-13, Historic Preservation Office, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Inventory available on page 8 in http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/hrrcn_sandy_MON_GB_218_PDF/VL_01_MON_218_keyport_boro_part_b.pdf Digital photograph, courtesy, Monmouth County Historical Association.

“Brief Items of News,” *Red Bank Register*, December 14, 1927, p. 15.

“George E. Pease,” *Matawan Journal*, October 26, 1961, p. 8.

Jeandron, Jack. *Keyport: From Plantation to Center of Commerce and Industry*. Dover, NH: Arcadia, 2003, pp. 124-125.

“News from Keyport,” *Red Bank Register*, September 9, 1925, p. 14.

“News from Keyport; Red Men and Pocahontas Buy Property,” *Red Bank Register*, July 4, 1928, p. 4.

United States Census, 1880 (Matawan); 1900-1940 (Keyport).



COLONEL IRA LOUIS REEVES
President

Degrees: Litt. D. Norwich University, C. E. University of Vermont. Enlisted in U. S. Army, 1893. Retired with rank of Captain, 1901. Colonel, Vermont National Guard Reserve, United States Reserve. Professor of Military Science and Tactics, Purdue University, Miami Military Institute, Commandant of Henry Kendall College, Oklahoma. Professor of Military Science and Tactics and Commandant at the University of Vermont. Member of Vermont Society of Engineers. Member of American Association of Presidents of Military Colleges and Schools. Member of National Education Association.

Ira L. Reeves, Federal Prohibition Official, 1926

To implement the nationwide ban on alcohol, the Prohibition Bureau in Washington, DC set up local enforcement offices around the United States. In 1926, the highly respected Ira L. Reeves was put in charge of the New Jersey office, which was headquartered in Newark, the state's largest city. Reeves had strong credentials for the job. From 1915 to 1917, he served as the hardnosed president of a military college, Norwich University in Vermont. He then became a twice-wounded veteran of World War I who rose to the rank of Colonel and received citations for his bravery in combat. Reeves was a devout churchgoer who showed his observance of Prohibition by his refusal to drink. Under his direction, the agents under his command made anti-alcohol raids around the state, shutting down speakeasies, stills, breweries, bottling plants, and other illegal operations. He faced down angry mobs of protestors and refused bribes that were offered to him. But in the end, he became deeply disillusioned with Prohibition. He found that his squad was riddled by corruption: agents were receiving bribes from bootleggers that exceeded their government salaries. He finally quit in disgust after eight months in office and joined a prominent anti-Prohibition organization in Chicago. He gave speeches and wrote articles about how the effort to ban liquor was turning America into a nation of lawbreakers. In 1931, he wrote a book about his sad experience in New Jersey. *MM*

Norwich University Archives, Northfield, VT

Mappen, Marc, "Jerseyana," *New York Times*, January 14, 1990, p. 21. [Essay on and photo of Reeves.]

Mappen, Marc. *Jerseyana: The Underside of New Jersey History*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1992.

Reeves, Ira L. *Ol' Rum River: Revelations of a Prohibition Administrator*. Chicago: Thomas S. Rockwell, 1931.

War Whoop (Norwich University school yearbook), 1917. (Photo of Ira L. Reeves, courtesy of Norwich University Archives, Northfield, VT.)



225 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK
AT 407 STREET
TELEPHONE ASHLAND 4200

January 12, 1926.

Hon. A. Harry Moore,
Governor of New Jersey,
Jersey City, N. J.

Prohibition

Dear Governor:-

You doubtless have noticed the speech of Senator Edge delivered in the Senate on December 15th (Congressional Record, Page 437).

I am no admirer of Senator Edge, as many in New Jersey audiences will bear witness, but this speech was a "corker" as an anti-prohibition pronouncement, though he failed to give credit, in his suggestion as to the remedy, to our friend Al Smith.

During the last campaign, I frequently discussed prohibition, and explained the "Smith Plan".

As I recollect it, Governor Smith's remedy was suggested in his famous approval of the repeal of the Mullen-Gage Act. That suggestion was that the Volstead Act be repealed, and that an intelligent and scientific definition of an intoxicating beverage be determined by a new Congressional Act, fixing the maximum alcoholic content (whether it be 2.75 or 10%) as the limit within which the various States might each determine what shall be its own maximum (within the above limit), i.e. Kansas and Alabama might adopt 1/2 of 1% for its dry citizenship, while New York and New Jersey, if they saw fit, might go the limit; thus, we would have "Home Rule", the Eighteenth Amendment would be observed, and the Law would not be violated.

Whenever I referred to it, in my speeches in your behalf, I called it the "Smith Plan", but Edge seems to appropriate the idea to himself - and forgot to tell the Senate that the idea had originated with our New York Governor.

Don't you let Edge "get away with it".

With all good wishes and congratulations to the Commonwealth of New Jersey, because of the record which will be yours and ours for 1926-7-8, I am

Yours in the Faith,

Moore Greenwood
J. Mountain

M. Greenwood:ED

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE FIRM

The “Al Smith Plan” to Reform Prohibition Advocated for New Jersey, 1926

Democratic Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York was a committed Wet, opposed to Prohibition. In this letter from real estate developer Moses Greenwood of Montclair to New Jersey Governor A. Harry Moore on January 12, 1926, he summarizes Smith’s “remedy” to the federal Volstead Act, which severely restricted alcohol with a strength greater than one-half of one percent. Smith recommended that the federal law be revised so that each state could set its own percentage within a specified range. For example, New York could set its limit at 10%, while Alabama could keep to .5%. New Jersey Senator (and sometimes Governor) Walter Edge, according to Greenwood, had recently spoken in favor of Smith’s plan without giving Smith credit and he urged Moore not to let Edge “get away with it.” Greenwood, who had campaigned for Moore, unsuccessfully ran for Congress from a New Jersey district in 1921 on the Democratic ticket. In 1924, as a delegate from New Jersey at the Democratic National Convention, he voted for Al Smith for President. Smith would get the nomination in 1928 but lost to Republican Herbert Hoover. Greenwood's 1926 letter to Governor Moore illustrates the efforts to tinker with Prohibition in order to make it more acceptable. *GS*

New Jersey State Archives

“Moses Greenwood, 79, Retired Realty Man; Ex-Operator, Builder Here, Once Ran for Congress in New Jersey,” *New York Times*, December 26, 1941, p. 13.

Moses Greenwood to Governor A. Harry Moore, January 12, 1926, Moore Papers, Box 18, File 137, New Jersey State Archives.



ROBERT W. WHITE
PRESIDENT of



THE
RATIONAL
AMERICA LEAGUE



Rational America League: Why the Volstead Act Should Be Modified, 1926

The Rational America League engaged in an aggressive campaign to reform the federal law enforcing Prohibition. In this flyer, featuring a portrait of its leader, Robert W. White, sent to New Jersey Governor A. Harry Moore in 1926, the League listed 15 reasons why the Volstead Act should be modified, including the cost of enforcement; corruption of public officials; infringement of liberties; dangers of drinking poisonous moonshine instead of “harmless beer and wine”; creating contempt for all law; and encouraging people to turn to narcotics and become dope fiends. The flyer concluded that the Act is “un-American, tyrannical, and liberty destroying.” The League was reported to have at least 300,000 members in the United States by 1926 and published a magazine called *American Issue*. Members were recruited by agents, for whom the League advertised in the *New York Times*. Agents earned a lucrative 50% commission on each \$1 annual membership. Denied a permit to solicit by the Department of Public Welfare in New York City, the League continued to solicit anyway. In Utica, two League agents from New York, Harry A. Robins, a merchant, and Robert E. Johnston, a chauffeur, were declared guilty of vagrancy by Judge H. Myron Lewis and police escorted them out of town. GS

New Jersey State Archives

“Alleged Volstead Law Modifiers Shown Gate; Rational America League Agents Said to Have Worked Here,” *Utica Daily Press*, June 11, 1925.

“Fourth Fund Drive Under Coler’s Ban Is Called to Probe; Rational America League Accused of Soliciting in Wet Campaign Without Permit,” *New York Times*, March 2, 1926, page 1.

“Perjury Charge in Campaign Quiz Killed in Senate,” *Brooklyn Eagle*, July 4, 1926. [Dr. Ernest H. Cherrington, General Manager of the Anti-Saloon League, testified on the Rational America League.]

Robert W. White, President of the Rational America League, Gives a Few Reasons Why the Volstead Act Should Be Modified, flyer, Governor A. Harry Moore Papers, Box 18, File 137, 1926, New Jersey State Archives.

“Wets Trying to Organize Women of Atlantic Coast; So-Called Rational America League’s Offer of 50 Per Cent. Commission in Membership Canvas Has Little Support, New York Dry Leader Declares,” *Andover (NY) News*, August 14, 1925, page 1.

HANG THIS UP

ATTENTION

Bring Back Beer and Wines by Changing the Law



VOTE



FOR ALL

CANDIDATES

Who Declare Themselves

FOR A MODIFICATION OF THE VOLSTEAD ACT

REGARDLESS OF PARTY

Prohibition Laws Must Be Modified Now;
The Job Is Half Done; Help to Legalize
What Is Now Being Done Illegally.

VOTE AND WORK WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT

ANTI-DRY LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY
FOR TEMPERANCE WITHOUT TYRANNY
AGAINST PROHIBITION—FOR BEER AND WINES
45 Academy Street, Newark, N. J.



Anti-Dry League of New Jersey: Bring Back Beer and Wine!

The Anti-Dry League of New Jersey favored the legalization of beer and wine. It claimed to have 60,000 members, sent petitions and letters to government officials, and used the motto, “For Temperance Without Tyranny,” on the masthead of its newsletter, *Justice*. One of its posters was *Bring Back Beer and Wine by Changing the Law. Vote for All Candidates Who Declare Themselves for a Modification of the Volstead Act Regardless of Party*. In 1926, the organization’s director was Joseph H. Buckridge, who early in Prohibition had been a recruiter for national and New Jersey liquor dealer trade associations. Buckridge, also *Justice*’s editor, wrote to New Jersey Senator Walter Edge in 1925, “give the people what they want—and that, more than liquor, is an end of the increasing of crime in the country due to subversion of all law as a result of the disrespect for the prohibition laws.” The Anti-Saloon League considered the Anti-Dry League to be the political arm of the bootleggers. This was an unfair accusation, since many bootleggers cherished Prohibition, which enabled them to make huge illegal profits. GS
New Jersey State Archives

Anti-Dry League of New Jersey flyer. Governor A. Harry Moore Papers, New Jersey State Archives, Correspondence, 1926-1929, Box 18, Folder 137b. [Filed with copy of *Justice*, Nov. 1, 1926.]

“Favors Beer Tax for Bonus; Anti-Dry League of New Jersey Appeals to Mellon,” *New York Times*, Feb. 19, 1922.

“Frelinghuysen Dishonestly Suppressed Petition or Is Too Grossly Careless to Stay in Senate, Anti-Dry League’s Chief Says,” *Trenton Evening Times*, Jan. 14, 1922, p.1. [Comments of William R. Stewart, president of the Anti-Dry League of New Jersey, about U.S. Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen of New Jersey.]

Jersey City Directory, 1918-1925. [Lists Joseph H. Buckridge as a publisher at 815 Pavonia Avenue.]

Newark City Directory, 1920. [Lists Joseph H. Buckridge at New Jersey Federation of Liquor Interests, 849 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey.]

U.S. Congress. [Proceedings of the] *Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections*. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1921, pp. 2404-2414, *passim*. [Several mentions of Buckridge in connection with *Justice* and trade associations of liquor dealers, including the National Retail Liquor Dealers Association.]

“Wets Start War on Frelinghuysen; Anti-Dry League to Cease Appeals and Begin Fight, Statement Says,” *Trenton Evening Times*, Jan. 5, 1922, p. 2.

“Wets to Fight the Volstead Act,” *Hamilton (Ohio) Evening Journal*, Aug. 26, 1925, n.p. [Includes quote of letter from Buckridge to Edge.]

NEW JERSEY DIVISION
The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment
(INCORPORATED)

SUITE 1312, MILITARY PARK BUILDING
60 PARK PLACE · NEWARK, N. J.

January 17, 1927

Hon. A. Harry Moore,
State House,
Trenton, N. J.

Dear Sir:

You have been assailed from the customary source and in the customarily offensive manner for your attitude on poisoned alcohol. Allow me to suggest that you treat this and similar attacks with a contempt that will be shared in by every right-minded man and woman in New Jersey.

The deadly and damnable ravages of attempted prohibition enforcement are plainly evident to every one but the neurotic zealot. It matters not which substance, denatured alcohol or crude spirits, be the chief factor of destruction to life and health: the fact remains that thousands of persons have died and are dying, and tens of thousands of others have contracted and are contracting dangerous organic diseases, from drinking the baneful beverages which flood the market. And none but the venal or the fanatical will deny that the basic causes of this frightful pestilence are the 18th Amendment and the Volstead law. It is therefore my deliberate opinion, weighing each word as I write it, that the chief executive of state or nation who can view this almost unbelievable situation without making a protest or demanding a remedy is either an addict to political expediency or a moral coward unworthy the respect of a free and enlightened people.

And can any one conceive of a more loathsome moral monster than the man who, posing as an exponent of Christianity, calmly contemplates this spectacle of wholesale death and disease and says, They know the law - let them commit suicide if they wish? I hesitate to believe that any considerable number of the members of the Protestant Church denominations which are credited with supporting the Anti-Saloon League subscribe to this perverted and malevolent sentiment; and I earnestly beg the members of those churches to make themselves acquainted with the facts and then to allow their minds to dwell upon these words of Christ, which epitomize the whole spirit of the Christian religion, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The evils prohibition has caused are immeasurably greater than any good it may have accomplished. In addition to undermining the health and shortening the lives of untold numbers of our people, it has debauched the young, converted a million homes into breweries and distilleries, subverted our agencies of national defence, spread the rankest corruption through our entire political system, established a putrescent alliance between its enforcement agents and the illicit purveyors of liquor, violated the Constitution, promoted widespread

The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment (AAPA), New Jersey Division

In his strident letter of January 17, 1927, to New Jersey Governor A. Harry Moore, Edward W. Gray, Director of the New Jersey Division of the AAPA, strongly urges that Moore bring “an end to the present intolerable conditions” under Prohibition. During his career, Gray (1870-1942) had been Secretary of the Republican State Committee and then a New Jersey Congressman from 1915 to 1919. He claimed that thousands were dying from poisoned illegal alcohol and that “the evils prohibition [have] caused are immeasurably greater than any good it may have accomplished.” The AAPA was one of the best organized and funded advocacy groups of the era. Attorney and former Naval Captain William H. Stayton founded it in 1918 before Prohibition even was passed. Its membership grew from about 100,000 in 1921 to 726,000 in 1926, helped by an early gift of \$10,000 by John A. Roebling II. Other prominent millionaires supported the AAPA, notably industrialist Pierre S. Du Pont, who became head of its Executive Committee in 1928. Although in the early 1920s, the AAPA advocated legalization of beer and light wine only without the return of saloons, it eventually fought for outright repeal, using among its weapons both the moral argument of freedom of choice and the economic benefits of ending Prohibition, such as the cost of enforcing liquor laws and the appealing prospect of a liquor tax. *GS*

New Jersey State Archives

Association Against the Prohibition Amendment.

<http://www2.potsdam.edu/hansondj/Controversies/Association-Against-the-Prohibition-Amendment.html>

Association Against the Prohibition Amendment.

<http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/mmh/clash/prohibition/Documents/aapa.htm>

Contenders: Association Against the Prohibition Amendment.

<http://classprojects.cornellcollege.edu/stewart/Hoover2/Assn%20against%20prohibition.htm>

Dighe, Ranjit S. “Pierre S. Du Pont and the Making of an Anti-Prohibition Activist.” *SHAD* (Summer 2010): 97:118.

<http://alcoholanddrugshistorysociety.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/shad-24-2-dighe.pdf>

Edward W. Gray to A. Harry Moore, January 17, 1927, Governor A. Harry Moore Papers, Box 18, File 137, New Jersey State Archives.

Phone, Freehold 422-W

FREEHOLD REFORMED CHURCH

William Louis Sahler, Pastor

Freehold, New Jersey

76 West Main Street

Jan. 15th 1927.

Mr. A. Harry Moore,

Trenton, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

Allow me to inform you of the statement of a real hero, who said "When I took office, I was fully warned to expect anything from actual attempts on my life to the most slimy insinuations on my character, and I took the office with the full determination to enforce the law without limit. I have made other sacrifices for my country, and I am perfectly willing to make this one, if necessary".

If you had the moral courage and Christian consecration to determine to enforce the law fully as your oath of office requires, the deaths from drinking poisonous whiskey would be fewer, and the best Christian people in New Jersey would not hang their heads in shame at the tirades of their governor against the Christian men and women who support the Anti-Saloon League by their prayers and gifts, and whose sole object is to save future generations from the curse of a drunkard's grave and hell.

How much longer will you, the sworn head of the State of N. J., encourage the cutthroats and criminals by denouncing men who ask that the law be enforced? Why do you not go after the violators of the law as the executive of the State has sworn to do?

Sorrowfully yours,

William Louis Sahler

Freehold Minister William L. Sahler Urges Enforcement of Prohibition Laws, 1927

Son of a farmer, William Louis Sahler (1875-1952) hailed from a rural area in Ulster County in southern New York State, and matured to become a strong supporter of Prohibition from a religious conservative perspective. Sahler obtained his bachelor's degree from Lafayette College in 1901 and ordination from the New Brunswick Seminary in 1904. As a young evangelistic reverend of the Reformed Church of North America, he served congregations in Cumberland and Somerset counties. In the 1920s, Sahler obtained a long-term position as pastor of the Freehold Reformed Church. In this angry missive to A. Harry Moore on January 15, 1927, he castigates the New Jersey Governor for not locking up alcohol lawbreakers and continues, "If you had the moral courage and Christian consecration to determine to enforce the law. . . the best Christian people in New Jersey would not hang their heads in shame at the tirades of their governor against the Christian men and women who support the anti-Saloon League by their prayers and gifts, and whose sole object is to save future generations from the curse of a drunkard's grave and hell. How much longer will you . . . encourage the cutthroats and criminals by denouncing men who ask that the law be enforced [sic]?" He concludes by closing with "Sorrowfully yours," and pens his name with an enormous signature, which may be an indicator of self-esteem. GS

New Jersey State Archives

Catalog of the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. . . . Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary, 1913.

Christian Intelligencer and Mission Field, Volume 93, 1922, page 718. [Includes report of William L. Sahler, Chairman, Progress Campaign Committee, Classis of Philadelphia.]

"Minister 40 Years," *Red Bank Register*, June 29, 1944, p. 2.

William Louis Sahler to A. Harry Moore, January 15, 1927, Moore Papers, Box 18, File 137, New Jersey State Archives.

o-o-o-o-o

The Moral Responsibility for a Drink-Crazed Man.

A drink-crazed man ran amuck at Fair Haven one day last week and shot at everyone who came within sight. Thanks to efficient and brave police work, the drunken man was soon nabbed and put behind the bars, but before this happened he wounded one man. Fortunately the wound was not serious, but the victim was laid up several days and he had to go to the expense of paying a doctor and of paying for medicine.

* * *

It is a fine thing to have the wielder of the gun locked up so that he can't wound other citizens, but punishment should not begin and end with this one man. The bootlegger who sold the stuff that filled the buyer of it with murderous designs deserves to be in jail even more than the man who did the shooting. This is no reflection on Fair Haven. If it has bootleggers it is not in a class by itself. Nearly every community has them. It may well be that the bootlegger who is primarily responsible for last week's outrage lives at Red Bank, for Red Bank is generally believed to have a considerable number of citizens who long to allay the thirst of their fellow men.

* * *

However that may be, justice will not be requited unless this bootlegger, whoever he may be and wherever he may live, is put behind the bars where he belongs. That is the real way to prevent similar outbreaks. But there is still another thing which should be done to bring about full justice. Putting the drink-crazed man in jail, and putting the bootlegger in jail who sold the stuff to the man, will protect society, but neither of these things will do one bit of good for the citizen who was wounded through no fault of his own. These things will not ease the pain of his injury nor heal his injury one whit sooner. Neither will these things pay for his loss caused by his inability to work, nor will they pay for doctor or medicine expenses.

The Moral Responsibility for a Drink-Crazed Man

With this headline, the *Red Bank Register* inveighed against bootleggers on November 21, 1928, after a drunk “ran amuck at Fair Haven one day last week and shot at everyone who came within sight,” wounding one man before his arrest. The editor believed that “the Bootlegger who sold the stuff that filled the buyer of it with murderous designs deserves to be in jail even more than the man who did the shooting.” He continued that “justice will not be requited unless this bootlegger, whoever he may be and wherever he may live, is put behind the bars where he belongs.” Except for those who profited from smuggling, most *Register* readers probably viewed this argument as non-controversial. But the editor then went out on a limb, stating that the victim of the shooting should be compensated with public funds because “society is morally responsible and should make such provision.” He apparently believed that since the government had failed in its efforts to prevent the illegal sale of liquor, it should compensate the victims of inebriated perpetrators. GS

“The Moral Responsibility for a Drink-Crazed Man,” *Red Bank Register*, November 21, 1928, p. 4.



Climaxing the day-by-day pictures of the six sunny boys who are sunning themselves on Atlantic City's far-famed Boardwalk, the Evening Journal presents Enoch "Nucky" Johnson. He's the big fellow in the light suit, the big smile of the sheik, second from the right. And what a dapper duke he is—spruced and groomed and all perfumed. Johnson is G. O. P. boss in the environs of Atlantic City. On his right is "Scarface Al" Capone, Chicago gang czar, who has a strangle hold-on booze and rum rackets in "Chi" and Florida. It was "Scarface's" frequent visits to Atlantic City that caused the Evening Journal to investigate rum and vice conditions at the resort city. "Scarface" is now doing a stretch in a Philadelphia jail because the "Philly" police didn't like him running around with a "gat." In the group are, David Palter, second from left, and Charles T. "Chuck" Greene, "high pressure" men. Palter admitted paying \$65,000 to avoid a year vacation in Atlanta, Ga., Federal Penitentiary, after being convicted in mail fraud.



Al Capone and Nucky Johnson, 1929

In May 1929, Chicago crime lord Al Capone visited Atlantic City, to discuss the crime business with other underworld leaders. The photo shows Capone strolling down the Boardwalk next to the notorious Nucky Johnson, the boss of Atlantic City who ruled an empire of graft, gambling, vice, and liquor. (Capone is third from right; Johnson is second from right.) Soon after the photo was taken, Capone left Atlantic City and went to Philadelphia, where he and his bodyguard, Frank Rio, were arrested for carrying concealed pistols. Sentenced to a year in prison, they were released a bit early in March 1930. The photograph of Capone's prison cell at Eastern State Penitentiary shows a modern day reconstruction with luxurious furnishings that include a carpet, radio, bookshelf, and liquor cabinet. This reconstruction is based on newspaper accounts of special privileges given to Capone, and may be exaggerated. It is possible Capone wanted to be put in prison. He had fallen out of favor with other gang leaders because of his notoriety, and may have thought that he would be safer if he served a stretch behind bars. *MM*

[Al Capone's Cell at Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia], photograph by Marc Mappen, Feb. 2013.

Johnson, Nelson. *Boardwalk Empire: The Birth, High Times, and Corruption of Atlantic City*. Medford, NJ: Plexus Publishing, 2002.

Mappen, Marc. *Prohibition Gangsters: The Rise and Fall of a Bad Generation*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2013.

[Photograph of six men walking on Atlantic City boardwalk, including Al Capone, Charles T. Greene, Nucky Johnson, and David Palter, *New York Evening Journal*, January 17, 1930 [page unknown]].

Methodist Episcopal Ch.

WHEREAS, Governor Larson has been requested to call a Conference of the officials responsible for law enforcement, in our counties and municipalities, in order that they may consider with each other and with the Federal officials their respective powers and duties in this connection; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James M. Doran, Federal Prohibition Commissioner, has recently said:

"The crying need is not for more law but better understanding of the present law and the functions of the Federal and State Governments with respect thereto, and a better coordinating of all their activities";

and since President Hoover has urged loyalty and cooperation in this great "noble experiment", and we believe that such a conference will advance a better understanding and a better spirit of activity and cooperation among those involved, and will show also that our State administration is in accord with the National Administration in this important matter:

Now, therefore, we, as citizens of New Jersey, respectfully request our Governor to call such a conference at the earliest feasible date.

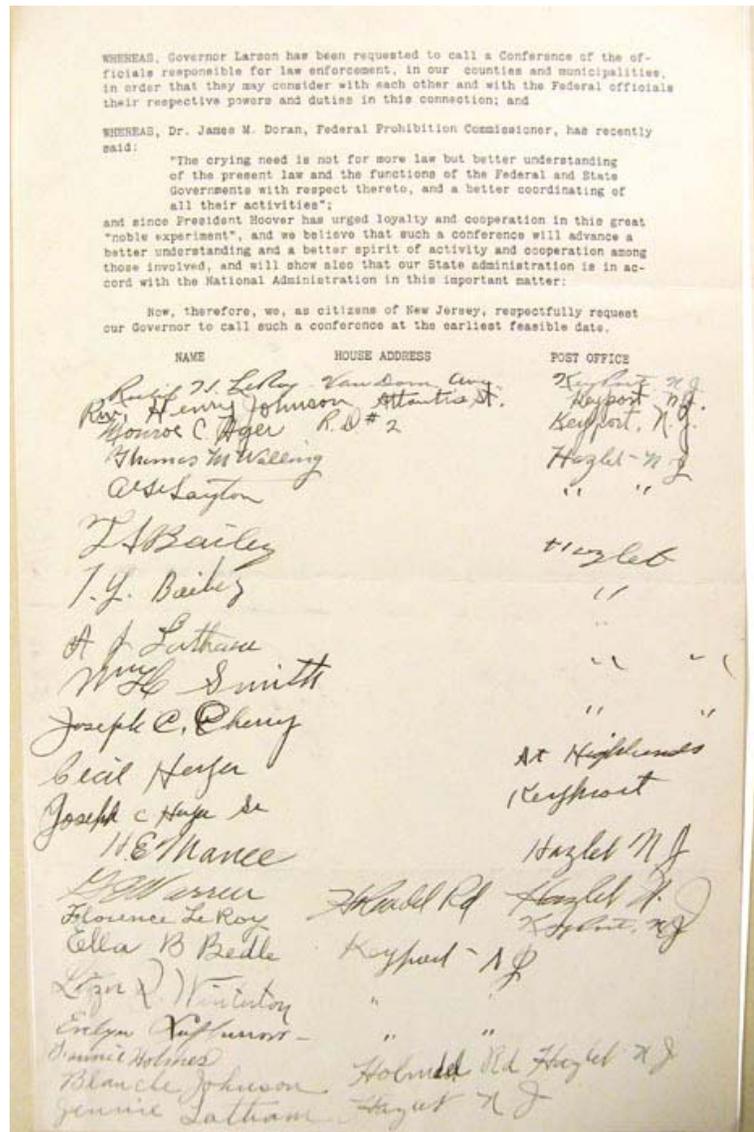
NAME	HOUSE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE
H. Helger	85 Heck Av.	Ocean Grove, N.J.
Charles S. Fees	59 Atlantic Ave	North Long Branch
H. Moore Blake	405 N. 1st St	Spring Lake, N.J.
H. B. Pettit	Pastor M. E. Ch.	Ocean Grove, N.J.
J. H. Hayes	65 Broadway	Ocean Grove, N.J.
F. A. Thomas	103 Maple St.	Red Bank
H. P. Hummer	Farmingdale	N. J.
W. E. Lake	Long Branch	N. J.
Richard A. Bonover	Likewood	N. J.
F. A. Beem	76 1/2 Embury Ave	Ocean Grove, N.J.
J. S. Angellwood	91 Broadway	Ocean Grove, N.J.
W. L. Sparks	Asbury Park, N. J.	Route 1.
C. W. Cobb	Bellport, N. J.	
J. Wright	Ocean Grove, N. J.	
Edwin Forest Hamer	910 Grand Ave	Asbury Park, N. J.
A. M. Fay	Ocean Grove, N. J.	
L. T. Hornum		
L. Schubert	"Asbury Park"	N. J.
J. J. B. Shea	Ocean Grove, N. J.	
L. R. S. S. S.	Sea Breeze	N. J.

Petitions to Governor Larson for Enforcement of Prohibition Laws, 1929

In general, Protestants, especially Methodists and Quakers, tended to be more in favor of Prohibition while many Catholics and Jews were against it. New Jersey Governor Morgan Larson, who served from 1929 to 1932, was deluged with petitions from “Drys” who believed that enforcing the Prohibition laws would solve the problem of bootlegging and associated crimes. They hoped that Larson would call a conference of law enforcement officials that would result in a renewed commitment to crack down on alcohol. No record of such a conference has been found in the governor’s papers at the New Jersey State Archives. The two petitions on display from Larson’s correspondence files were signed mostly by citizens from Monmouth County, including several from Ocean Grove, dry since its founding in 1869 and still dry today. One of the petitions was gathered at a Methodist Episcopal Church in New Brunswick on May 20, 1929, just after a group of mostly Italian and Jewish organized crime leaders, including Al Capone and Meyer Lansky, had their own conference in Atlantic City, from May 13 to 16. GS
New Jersey State Archives

Okrent, Daniel. *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010. [Includes religious differences on Prohibition.]

Whereas, Governor Larson has been requested to call a Conference of the officials responsible for law enforcement. . . . Petitions, [1929], Governor Morgan Foster Larson Papers, Box 151, Folder 151, New Jersey State Archives.



THE WEATHER
Overcast. High 64. This afternoon and early tonight, a cold front will pass through the city. Rainy. High 54. Windy. High 54. Windy. High 54. Windy.

ASBURY PARK EVENING PRESS

MOON AND TIDE
High water, 4:15 a. m., 4:15 p. m.
Low water, 12:15 a. m., 12:15 p. m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1930
ASBURY PARK, N. J.
FORTY-FOURTH YEAR, NO. 92
PRICE THREE CENTS

TWO HELD IN BOOTLEG WAR SLAYING HERE

PACT COMPLETED, DELEGATES AWAIT KEYS FROM HOME

Japanese Probably Will Be Deciding Factor in Whether Americans Can Sell on Levittan.

HOOPER MAY NOT DECIDE ON COURSE UNTIL RETURN

LONDON, April 18. (AP)—The home government had for many months been waiting for the return of the Japanese ambassador to London, who was expected to arrive here today. The Japanese ambassador, who was expected to arrive here today, was expected to arrive here today.

Asks Mayor Explain Beach Building Seats Purchase

Trenton Firm, Told Convention Hall Equipment Already Bought, Seeks Explanation As to Why Bids Were Not Sought.

Declaring that it would not seem reasonable that \$200,000 worth of seating for the convention hall, to say nothing of the cost for the chairs, would have been purchased without advertisement, the E. C. Oliver company, of Trenton, in a letter to Mayor C. E. F. Harsh today, asked that it be given an opportunity to bid on the work.

The company also declared that it had no objection to the city's purchase of the chairs, but that it was disappointed that the chairs had already been bought.

Following Project Five Years from the home office, a program would have been purchased without advertisement, but that it was disappointed that the chairs had already been bought.

HOOPER DOUBTS DRY LAW ENFORCEABLE, COMMITTEE HEARS

Letter by Chairman of Board of Association Against Prohibition Amendment Read at Lobby Meeting.

TRENTON, April 18. (AP)—A bill proposed to amend the constitution to make the prohibition law enforceable, was read today at a meeting of the board of the Association Against Prohibition Amendment, held at the lobby of the State House.

The chairman of the board, Mr. J. H. Curran, declared that he was not sure that the law would be enforceable, and that he was not sure that the law would be enforceable.

Curran asserted that the law would be enforceable, and that he was not sure that the law would be enforceable.

Gopsil's Penal Labor Bill Appears As Counsel Law

Assemblyman's Measure Strangely Changed by Committee Substitute Which is Passed, Quickly Securing Governor's Signature.

TRENTON, April 18. (AP)—A bill proposed to amend the constitution to make the prohibition law enforceable, was read today at a meeting of the board of the Association Against Prohibition Amendment, held at the lobby of the State House.

The chairman of the board, Mr. J. H. Curran, declared that he was not sure that the law would be enforceable, and that he was not sure that the law would be enforceable.

Curran asserted that the law would be enforceable, and that he was not sure that the law would be enforceable.

Life For a Life



Man Who Murdered Bigamous Wife For Her Savings Dies in Trenton.

After being severely questioned for two hours by police investigators, County Prosecutor August Thoms, Harry B. Green, chief investigator for the Thoms' office, and Police Detective Captain Williams, declared "Chapin" Thoms, 33, was ordered held for the murder of his wife.

KILLER MAY BE SEIZED; PAIR JAILED

One Held as Material Witness Without Bail After Questioning Another on Charge of Suspicion.

THIRD IS QUESTIONED ON RUM CONNECTIONS

Detectives and Police Seek Links in Liquor Traffic in Ride Probe.

With the holding of one suspect without bail as a material witness, detectives and police believe the identity of the killer of Salvatore Orlando, alleged bootlegger, is expected to be known within the next 24 hours.

DETECTIVE SAYS HE DID NOT SEE GEMS

Justice Declares Implication of Fauster False—Denied by Tumen.

Prisoner Asked Court to Probe Their Absence

Prisoner Asked Court to Probe Their Absence

DISPUTED GROUP SITS AS BOARD

Five Claiming Right to Seats at Malawan Authorize Signing of Pay Vouchers.

LEGAL FIGHT TO OBTAIN BOOKS IS THREATENED

Legal Fight to Obtain Books is Threatened

WOMAN ACCUSES SEASHORE LAWYER

Joseph Leferts, Toms River, Charged With Taking Fee, Find No Cause Later.

STATE BAR TO CONDUCT HEARING ON APRIL 30

State Bar to Conduct Hearing on April 30

SENATORS WILL ASK PARKER TO TESTIFY

Nominee For Supreme Court to Be Questioned on Charges of Negroes.

SENATORS WILL ASK PARKER TO TESTIFY

Senators Will Ask Parker to Testify

PRISONER ASKED COURT TO PROBE THEIR ABSENCE

Prisoner Asked Court to Probe Their Absence

CLEAR WEATHER FOR EASTER IS PROMISED

Clear Weather for Easter is Promised

WOMAN ACCUSES SEASHORE LAWYER

Woman Accuses Seashore Lawyer

PRISONER ASKED COURT TO PROBE THEIR ABSENCE

Prisoner Asked Court to Probe Their Absence

CLEAR WEATHER FOR EASTER IS PROMISED

Clear Weather for Easter is Promised

WOMAN ACCUSES SEASHORE LAWYER

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PRISONER ASKED COURT TO PROBE THEIR ABSENCE

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CLEAR WEATHER FOR EASTER IS PROMISED

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WOMAN ACCUSES SEASHORE LAWYER

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Murder of Salvatore Oriente, 1930

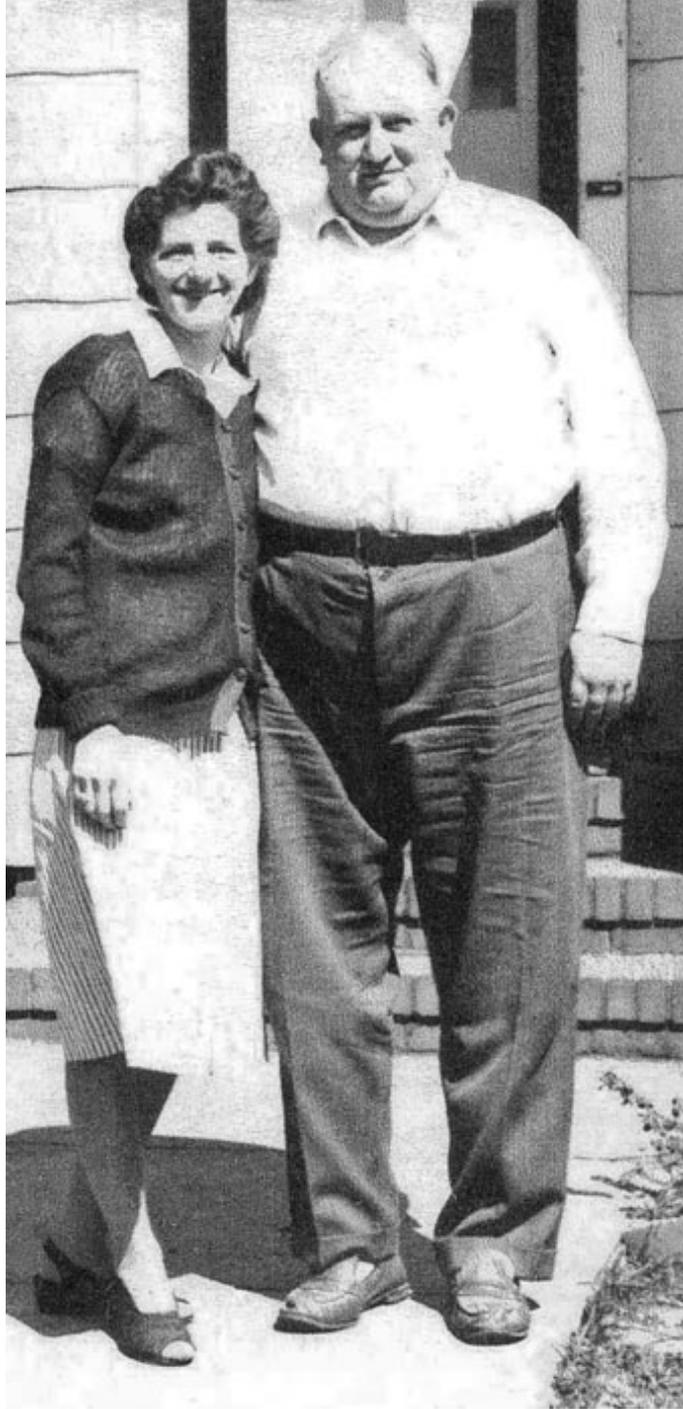
Born in Italy in 1890, Salvatore Oriente (a.k.a. Oriendo) of Long Branch was a butcher with a dangerous but profitable sideline in bootlegging. The danger was not so much from the authorities but from rival gangs. Bootleggers sometimes held up other bootleggers to steal their liquor and feuded over territory and customers. On April 18, 1927, in Asbury Park, Oriente was shot twice with a sawed-off shotgun as he stood in the doorway of a paint shop, once in the back and as he turned, again in the face, resulting in the loss of an eye. Oriente, who had nothing to tell the police, resumed his illegal activities. Three years later, after attending what was supposed to be a peace pact between his and a rival gang, Oriente was shot in the back of the head while driving his sleek Auburn sedan. Before dying, he refused to say who shot him. An intense crime scene investigation led to the arrest of several rival bootleggers for questioning, including Salvatore Vivancio as a material witness. Monmouth County Detective Harry Crook, Sr. grilled Vivancio and concluded, "We are convinced that Vivancio is lying. He is evidently afraid to tell us anything for fear that he will be put 'on the spot.'" Four days later the police investigation was dropped. *GJ & GS*

"Avenue Shooting Is Laid to Bootleg War," *Asbury Park Press*, April 19, 1927.

"Oriente [sic] Suspect in \$10,000 Bail," *Asbury Park Press*, April 21, 1930.

"Two Held in Bootleg War Slaying Here," *Asbury Park Evening Press*, April 18, 1930.

"Wounded with Gun," *Red Bank Register*, April 27, 1927.



James McCormick Maher (1898-1989), Holmdel Still Operator

Before the Civil War, James M. Maher's grandfather Thomas Maher sailed from Kilkenny, Ireland, and settled into the agricultural way of life in Holmdel, New Jersey. Three generations of Mahers planted apple orchards at Hop Brook Farm, which according to the *Red Bank Register*, produced the largest and finest apples in Holmdel. Young Jim grew up working the land with his father, then married Anna Scheupp of Nebraska in 1920. Jim not only farmed the land, he learned how to convert apple cider into apple jack, a process that violated Prohibition laws. His plans for his family's new house included a large still hidden in the attic, with access through a moveable ceiling panel in their daughter's second floor bedroom closet. He also designed the property layout with a horseshoe driveway that led behind the house, allowing customers to pull up unseen, knock on the back kitchen door, buy a gallon of Jim's homemade hooch and drive away – a clever precursor of today's fast food drive-ins. Jim used this rare, homemade alcometer, or hydrometer, to test the alcohol content of his illegally distilled whiskey. The stronger the alcohol content, the higher the cork would float in the glass vial filled with Jim's homemade Jersey Lightning from his 330-gallon whiskey still. From 1923, when he built his house until Prohibition ended in 1933, Maher operated his still without being detected. Never arrested, he later served as Holmdel Fire Chief. *GJ*

Holmdel Historical Society

Glisson, Doris Maher, daughter of James Maher, conversations with George Joynson, 2010.

“Holmdel News,” *Red Bank Register*, October 29, 1924, p. 8.

Maher, James M., Certificate of Death, December 15, 1989, New Jersey State Department of Health.



GIVENS & DUBOIS

7 EAST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, N. J.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY }
COUNTY OF Monmouth } US.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

This is to Certify, that the chemical analysis of specimens received by Edward M. Givens (of the above firm) on April 17th 1930 from Detective Merritt B. Kent, gives the following results:

No.	MARKED	Spec. Grav. At 60° F	ABSOLUTE ALCOHOL	
			By Weight	By Volume
669	John Krapka, Pullentown.	.9957	8.05 %	10. %
			%	%
			%	%
			%	%
			%	%
			%	%
			%	%

Remarks: Full five Gallon Tin Can.

Analysis made by,

Edward M. Givens

Date: April 17th 1930

John Krapka Found Not Guilty for Manufacturing Liquor, 1930

Was farmer John Krapka surprised by his arrest for illegal manufacturing and possession of liquor? In any case, he claimed that he rented out his barn to two men and didn't know what they were doing in there. The jury believed him and he was acquitted. Krapka lived in a rural corner of Upper Freehold Township in Monmouth County. According to the indictment, the barn was "at a farm near Pullentown on the road leading from Allentown to Imlaystown." There, claimed the prosecutor, he "unlawfully did manufacture and cause to be manufactured certain spirituous, vinous, malt and brewed liquors, intoxicating and fit for the use for beverage purposes." There was no doubt that alcohol was being produced: The report on display by chemical analysts Givens & DuBois of Freehold states that they had sampled a full five gallon tin can and found that it contained 10% alcohol by volume. *GS*

Monmouth County Archives

"Acquitted on Liquor Charge," *Red Bank Register*, Oct. 1, 1930, p. 10.

State vs. John Krapka [various documents], Court of General Quarter Sessions, 1930, Monmouth County Archives.



TROOPER CHASED BY BULL

CORPORAL LEO GALCHER of the State Police "stumbled" upon a whisky still of 200 gallons capacity at Newton, N. J., while being chased by a bull on a farm at Sparta. The corporal was accompanied by a county detective and two troopers.

When the four reached the barnyard the bull charged them. The three others scurried over the fence while Galcher, closely pursued, ran for a pile of straw and disappeared in it. The straw was a "blind" for a trap-door leading to the still under the cow barns. The corporal investigated, found the still and arrested Albert Freschi of New Milford, who later was held in \$1,000 bail on a charge of manufacturing liquor.

State Trooper Galcher, Chased by Bull, Discovers Whiskey Still, 1931

Chased by a barnyard bull in Sparta, New Jersey, Corporal Leo Edward Galcher of the State Police ran into a pile of straw and discovered a trap door that led to a still under the cow barns. He then arrested Albert Freschi of New Milford on a charge of manufacturing liquor. Galcher was born in Paterson in 1904, the son of Lithuanian immigrants. A resident of Newton, he graduated with the 15th State Police Class on November 21, 1927. Active throughout the state, Galcher was responsible for finding a major still at the Michaelson farm in Farmingdale, on a back road to Asbury Park, where he found one 1,200-gallon still and two with 350-gallon capacities, along with three tons of sugar and 16,000 gallons of mash. In another remarkable incident, the daring trooper infiltrated a craps game and held twenty men at gunpoint until other troopers entered the building. Galcher began a temporary appointment as a borough police officer in Freehold in 1933. He resigned from the State Police in 1935 to accept a permanent appointment in Freehold and was promoted to Captain in 1942. Galcher served as Police Chief, 1944-1945, and 1962-1969, before his death in Freehold in 1987. His successor, Captain Steven Sarafin, recalled, "He was one of the best, most tolerant teachers I ever had. To me, he was a father, a guidance counselor and a friend." *GS*

New Jersey State Police Museum

"Former chief's career provides tales of adventure," *News Transcript*, January 13, 1988, New Jersey State Police Museum. [Includes 1931 date for bull incident.]

George Joynson [great nephew of Leo Galcher] to Gary D. Saretzky, email, May 4, 2013.

"Leo E. Galcher, former Freehold police chief," *Red Bank Register*, December 7, 1987, p. 4.

"Leo Galcher Is Named Police Chief," *Red Bank Register*, April 16, 1963.

Photograph, Corporal Leo E. Galcher with barrels and automobile [1927-1933], New Jersey State Police Museum.

"Trooper Chased by Bull" [Source unknown, 1931]. Clipping, New Jersey State Police Museum.

WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

Prohibition

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NV184 NPR=J NEWYORK NY 7

GOVERNOR MORGAN F LARSON, STATE CAPITOL=

1931 JAN 7 PM 7 34

=TRENTON NJ=

GOVERNOR CROSS OF CONNECTICUT IN INAUGURAL MESSAGE TODAY
URGED STATE LEGISLATURE TO JOIN WITH LEGISLATURES OF OTHER
STATES IN APPLYING TO CONGRESS TO CALL A CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPEALING THE EIGHTEENTH
AMENDMENT GOVERNOR CROSS ASSERTED THAT THIS PROCEDURE NEVER
BEFORE USED TO AMEND THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION OFFERED A
LOGICAL WAY TO SETTLE THE PROHIBITION QUESTION BY BRINGING
IT DIRECTLY TO A DECISION BY THE PEOPLE WILL YOU EXPRESS
YOUR VIEWS ON THIS SUGGESTION AND STATE IF YOU CONSIDER
SIMILAR PROPOSAL COLLECT REPLY WILL BE APPRECIATED=

=CITY EDITOR NEWYORK AMERICAN.

New Jersey Governor Larson Urged to Support Repeal of 18th Amendment, 1931

By 1930, there was widespread support for either reforming Prohibition laws or repealing the 18th Amendment outright but there was still lack of agreement on the best method to do it. This telegram of January 7, 1931, was sent by a New York newspaper editor to New Jersey Governor Morgan F. Larson, informing him that Governor Cross of Connecticut, in his inaugural address, urged his state legislature to apply to Congress to call a Constitutional Convention in order to repeal the Prohibition Amendment. As it turned out, on February 20, 1933, Congress itself proposed the 21st Amendment to repeal the 18th. Instead of voting on it, which was the way all previous amendments had been decided, it was approved by state ratifying conventions, an alternate method provided in Article 5 of the Constitution. New Jersey was the fifth state to approve the 21st, on June 1, 1933, and enough states approved it for ratification on December 5, 1933. By that time, New Jersey voters had already repealed the Hobart Act, which enforced the 18th, on Election Day in November 1932. The 21st is the only amendment that repeals an earlier one. *GS*

New Jersey State Archives

City Editor, *New York American*, to Governor Morgan F. Larson, January 7, 1931, telegram, Governor Larson Papers, Box 21, Folder 151, New Jersey State Archives.



County Detective Harry Bernard Crook, Sr. Holds Bullets from Lillien Crime Scene

In 1930, newly appointed Monmouth County Prosecutor Jonas Tumen hired Harry Crook, Sr. (1891-1973) as a county detective. Tumen promoted Crook to Chief Detective a year later, which irked 7-year veteran Detective Felix Santangelo so badly he sued the county. In 1933, Crook investigated the murder of Al Lillien, reputed mastermind of New Jersey bootlegging operations at his headquarters in the Oscar Hammerstein mansion in Atlantic Highlands. Lillien, whose auto weighed six tons and had one-inch thick glass all around, sixteen-ply tires, and mounts for two machine guns on the rear, was shot three times in the back of the head. The murderer left a pair of white gloves and an upturned king of spades. Photographer Joseph Lippman of Asbury Park, who was at the crime scene before Lillien's body was removed, probably took this picture of Crook holding 3 bullets. The photo did not appear in the local newspapers. Crook spent all day questioning Lillien's bodyguard Walter Gerleit, and gardener William Feeney, who said they had no idea who did it. To this day the case remains unsolved. On January 3, 1935, Crook was removed from office by a special prosecutor who cited nine charges against him including incompetence, neglect of duty, and stealing money from the County. *GJ*

Joynson, George. *Wicked Monmouth County*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2010.

"A Lawsuit Over Auto Collision," *Red Bank Register*, April 11, 1934, p. 14.

"Spade King Clue in Lillien Slaying," *New York Times*, March 25, 1933, p. 11.

"Al Lillien, Shore Rum King, Murdered," *Asbury Park Press*, March 24, 1933, p. 1.

Convinced At Last!



TELEGRAM



**MOCK BURIAL OF
(PROHIBITION)**

TONITE

Come and Enjoy the Fun
Lunch Will Be Served

Jack & Bob's

Moss Convery
802 South Warren, cor. Mill
Not Connected With Any Other Place

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Repeal of Prohibition, 1933

As Prohibition dragged on, there was a growing feeling that the attempt to ban alcohol was a failure. A sarcastic 1931 poem summed up Prohibition this way:

It's left a trail of graft and slime,
It don't prohibit worth a dime,
It's filled our land with vice and crime.

In the 1932 Presidential election, Democratic candidate Franklin Roosevelt campaigned on the promise to repeal Prohibition, and in 1933 Congress sent to the states the 21st Amendment that, if ratified, would do just that. New Jersey was in the forefront of wet states favoring repeal, and observers correctly predicted that the vote on the amendment would be a "mere formality." The advertisement shows how a speakeasy in Trenton threw a mock funeral for Prohibition. The cartoon, "Convinced at Last!" predicts that with repeal, many gangsters would go into legitimate businesses -- a prediction that came true. *MM*

"Convinced at Last!" *Trenton Evening Times*, November 8, 1933. Courtesy Peter Mazzei, Office of Legislative Services, State of New Jersey.

"Mock Burial of Prohibition," *Trenton Evening Times*, Dec. 1, 1933. Courtesy Peter Mazzei, Office of Legislative Services, State of New Jersey.

Okrent, Daniel. *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. New York: Scribner, 2010.

"Jersey Expected to Vote Repeal," *New York Times*, May 14, 1933.

"Wet New Jersey's Vote Mere Formality," *Reading Eagle* (Reading, PA), May 16, 1933.



Irving Wexler, a.k.a. Waxey Gordon, New Jersey Bootlegger (left in the photo)

Born in 1888 to an immigrant Polish-Jewish family on the Lower East Side of New York, Gordon began his criminal career as a pickpocket and tough guy in the labor union wars. Early on in the Prohibition era, he profited by smuggling liquor from Europe and used the profits to invest in Manhattan real estate. He became sufficiently wealthy to buy a ten-room apartment on Central Park West and a posh summer home in Bradley Beach. In 1929, Gordon expanded into controlling breweries in New Jersey, including operations in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Monmouth, Passaic, and Union counties. As he assembled this empire, Gordon lived for a time at the Alexander Hamilton Hotel in Paterson, and then moved to a house at 308 18th Avenue in the city. His gang operated out of a hotel in Elizabeth. But then came trouble. In 1933, a gang war erupted in the course of which two of his partners were murdered and he barely escaped with his life. To add to his woes, he was investigated for income tax evasion, for which he was sentenced to ten years in prison. Once released, he returned to a career in crime and was again imprisoned. Gordon died of a heart attack in Alcatraz in 1952. *MM*

Mappen, Marc. *Prohibition Gangsters: The Rise and Fall of a Bad Generation*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2014.

[Waxey Gordon in police line-up photo.] *New York World Telegram and the Sun* Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

“Waxey Gordon Made 4 Million, Paid U.S. \$2,010,” *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, November 29, 1933, p. 3.

1000

DETECTIVE DIVISION
REGULAR NO. 1
JANUARY 15, 1934

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK

CLASSIFICATION

WANTED FOR VIOLATION OF Federal Income Tax Law

PLEASE CLASSIFY AND FILE WITH YOUR FINGERPRINT RECORDS

RIGHT HAND



LEFT HAND



ARTHUR FLEGENHEIMER
ALIASES DUTCH SCHULTZ, ARTHUR SCHULTZ,
GEORGE SCHULTZ, JOSEPH HARMON AND
CHARLES HARMON

DESCRIPTION—Age 31 years; height 5 feet, 7 inches; weight 165 pounds; medium build; brown hair; gray eyes; fair complexion. B-50149.

Wanted by the Internal Revenue Service, United States Government, New York City. They hold warrant for indictment of the above charge.

Kindly search your Prison Records as this man may be serving a sentence for some minor offense.

If located, arrest and hold as a fugitive from justice, and advise Detective Division, by wire.

JOHN F. O'RYAN,
TELEPHONE SPring 7-3100 Police Commissioner

Dutch Schultz on the Lam in New Jersey, 1934

The boldface name on this 1934 wanted poster was Arthur Flegenheimer, but he was better known to the world as Dutch Schultz, a nickname acquired while a rising young Bronx criminal. Schultz engaged in several different illegal activities, most notably bootlegging beer, labor racketeering, and the numbers game. He cultivated an image as a hot-tempered, violent tough guy and had a reputation for murder, beatings, and gunplay. As happened to many major criminals from the Prohibition era, law enforcement authorities used the charge of income tax evasion to bring Schultz to justice. To avoid prosecution, he moved to New Jersey, where he fought in the courts to prevent being extradited to New York City. On the night of October 23, 1935, Schultz and three members of his gang were fatally wounded in an attack by gunmen in the back room of a Newark, New Jersey, restaurant. It has been theorized that the rubout was launched by rival mobsters who regarded Schultz as an unstable character whose outrageous behavior was giving organized crime a bad name. *MM*

Library of Congress

Sann, Paul. *Kill the Dutchman! The Story of Dutch Schultz*. New Rochelle, NY: Arlington House, 1971.



Two Killers: Albert Anastasia and Vito Genovese

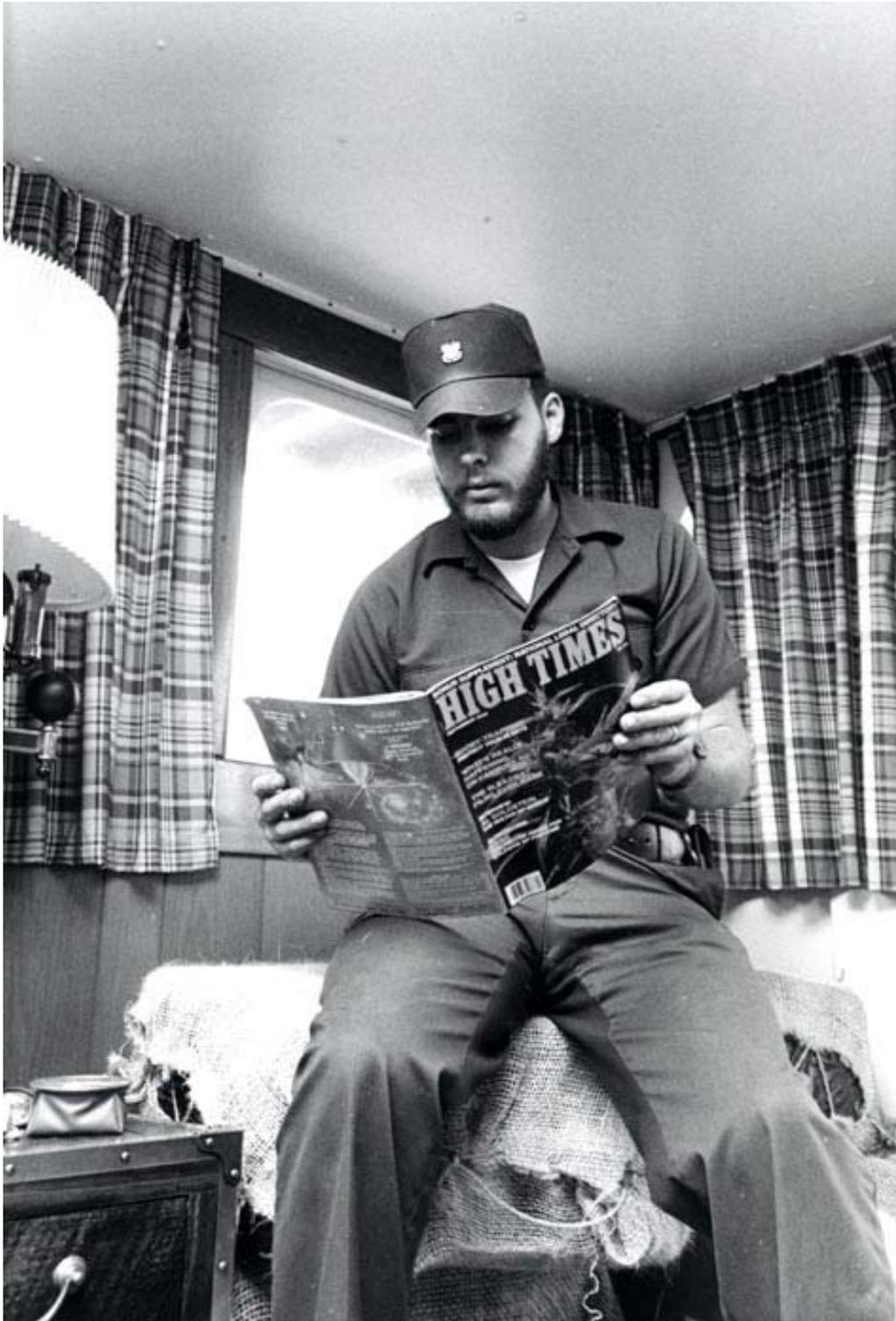
Albert Anastasia was a Brooklyn boy who became a gun for hire during Prohibition and a figure in the waterfront longshoreman rackets. He had a penchant for killing, and by the 1930s was a principal figure in the blood-soaked Brooklyn mob that came to be known as Murder Incorporated. He was also an underboss in the New York mafia. Like other New York crime figures, he bought a home in Fort Lee. Anastasia was best known not for how he lived but how he died. On October 25, 1957, he was shot to death while getting a haircut in a Manhattan barbershop. When a reporter asked a detective why Anastasia had been murdered, the lawman cynically replied, "Maybe somebody didn't like him." Crime historians believe that the person who didn't like him was Vito Genovese. During Prohibition, Genovese specialized in smuggling drugs. On the eve of World War II, Genovese, wanted on a murder charge, fled to his native Italy where he ingratiated himself with the Mussolini regime. Back in the United States after the war, he lived in an Italian style villa in Atlantic Highlands. He climbed the ladder in the mafia by having his rivals killed; Anastasia was one of those rivals. But Genovese never did make it to the top; instead he died in prison. Perhaps he was better than Anastasia at dodging bullets, which he did while sitting in front of the Abbott Hotel in Red Bank. Three shots fired by Guerino Napolitano narrowly missed him. *MM*

Library of Congress

Mappen, Marc. *Prohibition Gangsters: The Rise and Fall of a Bad Generation*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2014.

New York World-Telegram and *The Sun* Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

"Shooting on the Street; Guerino Napolitano Arrested on Charge Made by Vito Genovese," *Red Bank Register*, August 22, 1923, p. 1.



U.S. Coast Guard Seaman Keith Enright Sits on Stack of Marijuana Bales, 1982

The passage of the Twenty-First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, repealing the Eighteenth “Prohibition Amendment,” which banned most alcoholic beverages, did not completely end either prohibition of other banned substances or bootlegging. Illegal trade in alcohol continued, since it was cheaper than taxed spirits, as well as drug trafficking. Although most states by the 1930s had laws regulating cannabis, the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 made possession or transfer illegal throughout the United States under federal law, excluding medical and industrial uses. The Jersey Shore, which was a principal rendezvous for bootleggers during Prohibition, continued to be a destination for drug smugglers. In this August 27, 1982, photo from the Monmouth County Archives taken by *Red Bank Register* photographer Carl Andrews, Seaman Enright peruses a copy of the magazine, *High Times*, after the Coast Guard boarded the 65-foot *Margaret R.* off Sandy Hook and found “close to ten tons of unmanicured marijuana” with a wholesale value of \$8 million. Four men, including two Colombians, were arrested. As in Prohibition days, most such boats operated off a “mother ship,” a large freighter far out to sea. Including the *Margaret R.*, the New York regional authorities had seized 29 tons of what was then commonly called “grass” since October 1981. *GS*

Monmouth County Archives

Glading, Jo Astrid, “Arrestment Slated in Marijuana Haul,” *Red Bank Register*, August 29, 1982, B1. [Photo printed from Red Bank Register Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives, 1982-08-005RBR.]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_history_of_cannabis_in_the_United_States