illegally sided with the growers in the Valley strike. Two years later the United States Supreme Court upheld the latter decision.[58] Eugene Nelson contended that such Federal attention to the Valley situation, the result of growing pressure from civil rights, labor, church, and Mexican-American leaders, gave a "tremendous impetus" to the largely Mexican-American farm workers' movement in the Valley.[59] Clearly, mounting Mexican-American activism in Texas and other states was producing important dividends.

The emphasis on and commitment to unity, political strength and activism, and group identity among often-splintered Mexican-American organizations throughout the duration of the march constituted a milestone in the effort to reap this political and social harvest. The march held a special poignancy for many of Houston's Mexican American activists. "The expression of La Raza was there [among Mexican Americans]," Hernandez contended, but it needed "a catalyst to bring it out—the United Farm Workers."[60] Novarro likewise concluded: "If there has been an expression that solidified the Mexican-American people throughout the whole state, it was this march. It became a symbol of the unity. . .the pent-up frustration of more than one hundred years. You could say that it became the catalyst [for] . . .cooperation within the Mexican-American community on a statewide basis."[61] Larry Skoog, convinced the strike in Starr County achieved little in an immediate economic sense, nevertheless argued that "the Valley farm workers' movement in 1966 provided the underpinnings for the Chicano movement in Texas. . .and for the growth and prospering of that movement."[62] The march had aroused a "sleeping giant."[63] After his return to California, Eugene Nelson wrote Larry Skoog and identified a more basic result of the 1966 experience. "The *Tejanos*," he asserted, "no longer tip their hats to the *gabachos*."[64]

[58]*United States Reports*, 417 (Washington, 1975), 802-803, 821; Corpus Christi *Caller*, June 27, 1972.

[59]Nelson interview. See also telegram, Pancho Medrano to the President, May 10, 1967, Johnson Papers; telegram, Polly C. Baca, Chairman American GI Forum Ladies' Auxiliary, to the President, May 19, 1967, Johnson Papers; Mr. Fay H. Smith, Associate Secretary Illinois Council of Churches, to the President, June 2, 1967, Johnson Papers; Frank Osuna, Field Program Director, Arizona Migrant and Indian Ministry, to the President of the United States, May 31, 1967, Johnson Papers; telegram, Burt N. Corona, President Mexican-American Political Association, to the President, June 4, 1967, Johnson Papers; telegram, Cesar E. Chavez to the President, June 3, 1967, Johnson Papers.

[60]Hernandez interview.

[61]Novarro interview.

[62]Skoog interview.

[63]See Alfonso Vasquez cartoon, *PASO Brochure*.

[64]Eugene Nelson to Larry Skoog, undated letter, Farm Workers' Movement Collection.

More Than a Thimbleful: Prohibition in Galveston, 1919-1933

Casey Edward Greene

Some five years elapsed between the Anti-Saloon League of America's call for a prohibition amendment and the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment in January 1919. The Eighteenth, or Prohibition, Amendment was the natural outgrowth of a century of temperance practiced by evangelical Protestant churches, which viewed liquor as the cause of human illness, misery, and squalor. These churches warned that alcohol separated man from his God. The temperance movement was spurred by various organizations created throughout the nineteenth century, including the Anti-Saloon League organized in 1893.[1]

Congress first took up the issue of prohibition in December 1914. World War I fueled the movement with its spirit of self-sacrifice and conservation.[2] Congress adopted temporary wartime prohibition measures in the Lever Food and Fuel Control Act (August 1917), which banned production of distilled spirits, and the War Prohibition Act (November 1918), which prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages of more than 2.75 percent alcohol.[3] On August 1, 1917, the Senate approved an amendment prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transportation, import, and export of intoxicating liquors. The House approved the amendment on December 17 after adding modifications that gave federal and state governments enforcement authority. After the Senate accepted the House revisions, the Eighteenth Amendment went to the states for ratification. This was achieved by January 16, 1919.

The Eighteenth Amendment needed teeth to be effective. Congress provided them by adopting the Volstead Act in 1919, which specified intoxicating liquors as those which had more than 0.5 percent alcohol. The Volstead Act thus prohibited beer and wine as well as distilled spirits.[4] It

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[1]David E. Kyvig, *Repealing National Prohibition* (Chicago, 1979), 5-13.

[2]*Ibid.*, 10.

[3]*Ibid.*, 11.

[4]*Ibid.*, 13.

allowed production of industrial alcohol to continue by permit, although denaturant was now to be added to make it unfit for human consumption. The Volstead Act authorized the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to enforce prohibition. Enforcement was lodged with the Treasury Department, involving the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, and the Prohibition Bureau. Federal penalties for bootleggers included a fine of $1000 and six months in jail for first offenders, while repeat offenders could receive fines of up to $10,000 and five years in jail. The Volstead Act also permitted authorities to padlock establishments which served illicit liquor. In addition, it permitted the seizure and forfeiture of personal property, such as boats and trucks, which were used in the transportation of intoxicating liquor.[5]

In Texas, the state legislature adopted a similar measure for prohibition enforcement. Sponsored by W. Luther Dean of Huntsville, the Dean Law took effect in October 1919. Like its national cousin, it prohibited the production and sale of intoxicating liquors except for medicinal, religious, and industrial uses. There were differences between the two laws, however. Violation of the Dean Law was a felony, while infractions of the Volstead Act were misdemeanors. The Dean Law defined intoxicating liquors less strictly, as those with one percent or more alcohol content. The Dean Law required doctors prescribing alcohol for a patient to conduct a phyiscal examination beforehand, while the Volstead Act was more lenient.[6]

Despite their success in the legislature, Texas's prohibition proponents had little cause to rejoice when Galveston came to mind. Galvestonians had shown an early desire to flout prohibition restrictions. On November 26, 1919, the Galveston *Daily News* reported that state inspection of 107 samples of alcoholic drinks taken from Galveston showed much higher levels than the Dean Law allowed. In some cases, the alcohol levels of the drinks went as high as ten percent.[7] Galveston was beginning its "open era," in which it became a major center for bootlegging, gambling, and other criminal activities. By 1924 the city was the second leading port in the United States in terms of exports.[8] Its large, diverse immigrant population included Germans, Irish, and Italians, forming a reservoir of opposition to prohibition.

Galveston's first nightclub, the Hollywood Club, opened at the corner of Sixty-First Street and Avenue S in 1926. The club was run by the Maceo

[5]Andrew Sinclair, *The Era of Excess: A Social History of the Prohibition Movement* (New York, 1962), 168-169.

[6]Jeanne Bozzell McCarty, *The Struggle for Sobriety: Protestants and Prohibition in Texas, 1919-1935*, Southwestern Studies monograph no. 62 (El Paso, 1980), 7.

[7]Galveston *Daily News*, November 26, 1919.

[8]*Ibid.*, May 11, 1924.

brothers, Sam and Rosario ("Rose"). The Maceos had arrived in Galveston in 1910, working as barbers, but with the advent of prohibition they took up the more lucrative profession of bootlegging. The Maceo brothers headed the Beach Gang, while preserving their community standing by supporting civic and charitable causes. George Musey, a Syrian, headed the rival Downtown Gang. Violence between the two factions was minimal. The Maceos kept the peace, since neither group wanted to bring outside authorities to the island who would interrupt their operations.[9] The general atmosphere of tolerance toward vice progressed to the point that, in 1928, the grand jury of the Fifty-Sixth District Court criticized lax law enforcement and proclaimed Galveston a city "wide open" to crime.[10]

During the prohibition years, Galvestonians relied on a combination of rum running and moonshining to satisfy their liquor needs. Nationally, rum running was a major problem along the Canadian border and in the waters off New York, Boston, Florida, the Virginia Capes, the West Coast, and New Orleans. As Malcolm Willoughby commented in *Rum War at Sea*, the joint efforts of the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, and federal prohibition agents to stem the offshore liquor influx were "like trying to stop a flood with a rake."[11] Although Galveston Island's miles of open beaches and numerous inlets and bayous invited rum smugglers, rum running was not as serious a problem there. On one hand, bootleggers in Galveston were neither as organized nor as involved in other forms of criminal activity as gangs in other cities. On the other, local prohibition authorities were successful in seizing vessels laden with illicit liquor.

The most celebrated rum running vessel in Galveston waters was the British *Island Home*. Customs authorities seized her with 865 cases of whiskey and two barrels of beer aboard on November 23, 1923, about five miles off San Luis Pass.[12] The American embassy in Havana had tipped them off some days before that she was coming.[13] The *Island Home* was travelling from her home port in the Grand Cayman Islands south of Cuba when customs took her and towed her into port. They stored the 1709 burlap bags which contained her liquor cargo in the customs appraiser's warehouse at Twenty-First Street and Avenue A.[14]

[9]Garland Roark, *The Coin of Contraband: The True Story of United States Customs Investigator Al Scharff* (Garden City, NY, 1964), 238-240. This book is a popular account and should be used with care. Sam Maceo died in Galveston in 1951 after federal investigations into his gambling interests. Rose Maceo died there in 1954. George Musey was fatally shot outside a Galveston restaurant on July 25, 1935.

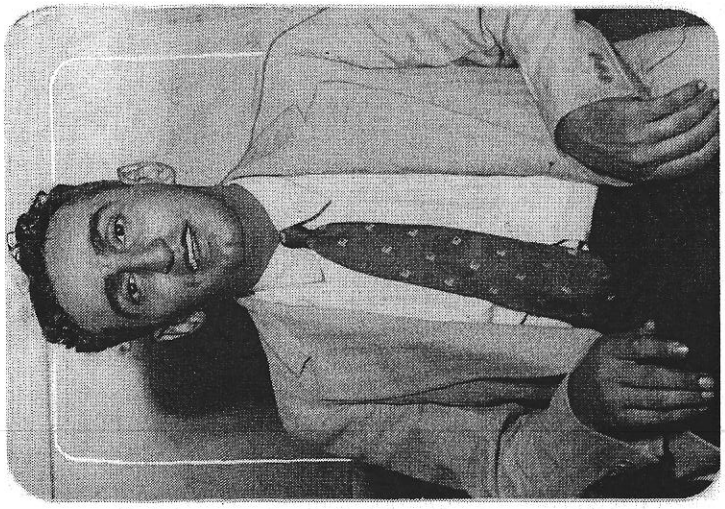
[10]Galveston *Daily News*, July 31, 1928.

[11]Malcolm F. Willoughby, *Rum War at Sea* (Washington, 1964), 16-17.

[12]Galveston *Daily News*, November 24, 1923.

[13]*Ibid.*, November 9, 1923.

[14]*Ibid.*, November 29, 1923.



George Musey (left), head of the Downtown Gang, was sentenced on several counts in 1929 but jumped bond and continued to direct the gang until his capture in 1931. Federal agents charged Sam Maceo (right) with forming a narcotics ring after the repeal of Prohibition. Sam and his brother Rose, who headed the Beach Gang, established a gambling empire which lasted until 1957.

The *Island Home* case was one of a series involving, for the first time, prosecution of ships' crews for smuggling liquor outside the normal three-mile search and seizure limit.[15] In July 1922, the United States had proposed a reciprocal agreement with Great Britain which permitted each nation to search the other nation's vessels outside territorial waters up to twelve miles from shore. In November 1923, however, the three-mile limit still remained in effect, so the *Island Home's* captain, W. H. Farrel, protested the seizure.[16] Captain Farrel, his mate, and his purser were charged with unlawfully discharging merchandise within twelve miles of shore, instead of being charged with violation of the prohibition act or customs law.[17] Farrel proclaimed his innocence. He stated that the *Island Home* had developed engine trouble, forcing her to stop off San Luis Pass in heavy fog. The next morning, the fog lifted, and the captain saw how close he was to shore.[18] Customs authorities disputed his account, pointing out that the fog had not been a problem until after they had towed the *Island Home* into port.

Federal Judge J. C. Hutcheson ordered the vessel's release on $6000 bond. He prohibited her from further liquor smuggling and warned that, if she was caught again, he would order her confiscated and sold. Her crew, however, was still held on bond awaiting the action of the federal grand jury.[19] The defense tried to show that the *Island Home* had not entered the three-mile limit. One crew member, R. D. Thompson, testified that a storm had forced her to hug the Texas coast. He was emphatic that "not a drop of liquor had been unloaded" from her during the voyage. The defense also contended that prohibition authorities had confused the *Island Home* with another vessel of similar size and construction.[20]

Government prosecutors drew on the testimony of Captain William Steinhart of the Coast Guard, who described how he had witnessed two motorboats leave the *Island Home* within the three-mile limit. He recounted that one motorboat had headed off in the direction of San Luis Pass.[21] Assistant customs collector Sam T. Zinn testified that he ordered the seizure on the basis of the information Captain Steinhart had given him.[22] Prosecutors also tried to link the *Island Home* with two motorboats, the *Otter* and the *Lena*, which the government alleged planned to transfer the

[15]Galveston *Daily News*, June 20, 1924.

[16]Willoughby, 32; Galveston *Daily News*, November 26, 1923.

[17]Galveston *Daily News*, November 28, 1923.

[18]*Ibid.*, November 25, 1923.

[19]*Ibid.*, December 23, 1923.

[20]*Ibid.*, June 24, 1924. According to newspaper articles several years later, the *Island Home* was still running rum under a different name.

[21]*Ibid.*, June 24, 1924.

[22]*Ibid.*, June 25, 1924.

liquor to shore.[23] The trial finally ended, and the crew of the *Island Home* received sentences ranging from four to eighteen months and fines ranging from $250 to $5000.[24]

Authorities caught other British vessels trying to smuggle liquor into Galveston. In May 1924, the Coast Guard cutter *Comanche* stopped the motor sloop *Panama* with 1972 half-cases and one hundred full cases of liquor on board.[25] Her home port was in Belize, British Honduras, and on this voyage she had left Havana bound for Guanaja, Honduras. *Panama* was 400 miles off course when seized twelve miles off the south jetty beyond the eastern tip of Galveston Island. Seven crewmen were charged with conspiring to violate the tariff act of 1922 and the national prohibition act.[26] A federal grand jury also indicted twelve men from the British auxiliary schooner *Muriel E. Winters* for conspiring to bring liquor into American territorial waters. Her cargo consisted of 9552 bottles of whiskey.[27]

The *Island Home*, the *Panama*, and the *Muriel E. Winters* were the largest rum runners taken off Galveston. These three vessels were mother ships which stayed offshore with their liquor stores. Smaller motorboats carried their liquor to shore.[28] The motorboats had high-power engines, for evasive action. When they encountered prohibition authorities, however, the results could be deadly. The customs launch *Kalita*, for example, captured the motorboat *E-301* off the north jetty fishing pier after a running battle in August 1923. Fourteen shots were fired, and the motorboat's operator, Frank E. Sherban, was killed. Along with the *E-301*, customs officials seized some 340 cases of whiskey.[29]

The motorboat *Cherokee* was a major thorn in the side of prohibition authorities. She was taken in prize three times. On March 11, 1922, she was captured in Offat's Bayou with 350 cases of liquor on board. Her owner, John L. ("Johnny Jack") Nounes, a leading rum runner, was fined $1000. The *Cherokee* was seized again in January 1924 with the *E-873* as they unloaded liquor beyond the west end of the island. The *Kalita* caught her the last time on June 7, 1924, as she tried to slip past the south jetty with her lights off. Jack Kominski and Joe Landi were charged with violating the tariff act of 1922 and the prohibition act as well as with conspiracy.[30]

[23]Galveston *Daily News*, June 24, 1924.

[24]Willoughby, 121

[25]Galveston *Daily News*, May 25, 1924. The *Comanche* was finally taken out of service in 1931 after being in Galveston waters for 35 years and replaced by the new cutter *Saranac*.

[26]Galveston *Daily News*, June 1, 1924.

[27]*Ibid.*, April 6 and June 12, 1924.

[28]Willoughby, 17.

[29]Galveston *Daily News*, August 27, 1923.

[30]*Ibid.*, June 8, 1924.

"Johnny Jack" Nounes was also indicted. He received a fine of $5000 and a two-year prison sentence.[31]

A participant in the first seizure of the *Cherokee* later became a rum runner himself. Tom L. Cobb, a former Galveston policeman, was linked to the motorboat *Lena*, which the Coast Guard captured in March 1924 off the north jetty at sunset with 484 cases of whiskey on board. Although her crew dove overboard and swam to shore, special customs agent A. F. Scharff and superintendent of customs inspectors Henry F. Brunkenhoefer found Cobb's clothes still in the boat and arrested him.[32]

The motorboats carried foreign spirits. The *Lena's* cargo, for example, included Canadian Club whiskey, Bacardi rum, and wine.[33] The *Cherokee* was carrying almost 400 cases of foreign liquor, including French wine, Canadian Club, and Gordon's Gin. Her cargo was stowed in wood crates and burlap sacks.[34] The *Rosalie M.*, captured offshore in August 1924, carried a cargo including 25 cases of Bacardi rum, 25 cases of champagne, and 100 cases of Canadian Club. Her liquor cargo was stored on her deck and in the forward hold and engine room. The haul was estimated to be worth $10,000.[35]

In handling their valuable cargoes, the rum runners off Galveston relied on deception as well as speed and stealth. Customs officers in one instance found thirty cases of liquor and wine aboard a vessel, with most of the cases stored in the engine room in a tank normally used for holding lubricating oil. They also found a five-gallon tin can which had been cut open, filled with liquor bottles, and resealed.[36] A customs raid on the *Steadfast* in July 1923 yielded cases of liquor hidden beneath fifteen feet of water in the vessel's forepeak tank and concealed inside a lathe in its machine shop.[37] Garland Roark, in *The Coin of Contraband*, mentions other instances in which liquor was concealed on board under floor planks and within a false

[31]Galveston *Daily News*, June 13, 1924; Roark, 221. The *Cherokee* was then placed in service as a customs launch at Galveston. Nounes was yet again convicted of rum running with George Musey in 1929 following the seizure of the launches *Lena* and *Imperator* at Seabrook. The liquor haul was valued at $70,000, according to the Galveston *Daily News*, February 14, 1931. Nounces died in Galveston in 1970.

[32]Galveston *Daily News*, March 23 and 28, 1924. Scharff was Galveston's premier customs inspector. He resided there for six years until his transfer to San Antonio in 1931. Politics resulted in his departure from Galveston. He had ordered his agents to stop a Spanish businessman whom he suspected of transporting liquor in his car. The Spaniard was innocent and protested to the Spanish ambassador in Washington, according to Roark, pp. 276-279.

[33]Galveston *Daily News*, March 28, 1924.

[34]*Ibid.*, June 8, 1924.

[35]*Ibid.*, August 27, 1924.

[36]*Ibid.*, February 3, 1921.

[37]*Ibid.*, July 13, 1923.

smokestack.[38]

Despite the rum runners' best efforts, the Coast Guard and the Customs Service were successfully containing the offshore liquor trade. On November 3, 1925, the Galveston *Daily News* announced that the seizures of the *Island Home*, the *Panama*, and the *Muriel E. Winters* had cost liquor smugglers more than $1 million. Sam T. Zinn proclaimed the absence of a rum row off Galveston. Most of the liquor now entering the city was believed to be coming in overland from New Orleans.[39]

Greater interagency cooperation was the thrust of a conference of seventeen representatives of the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, and federal prohibition agents in Galveston in November 1926. The conference set the future direction of enforcement against rum running. Henceforth, the Coast Guard would provide the first line of defense, followed by the Customs Service, and finally by the prohibition agents. Federal agencies were to handle major violators, while local law enforcement officers would police minor infractions.[40]

The conference was apparently a success. By the late 1920s, the Galveston *Daily News* featured scattered reports of small vessels caught trying to smuggle liquor. The Coast Guard captured the motorboat *Elizabeth* in Campbell's Bayou in April 1929, with 750 cases of liquor on board.[41] The launch *Emmy* was seized with 400 sacks of whiskey aboard as she lay off San Luis Pass in November 1928. Her cargo, which also included 180 cases of raw alcohol, was valued at over $30,000.[42] Although the Beach Gang continued to land liquor shipments at Galveston Island, the Downtown Gang began to run shipments into other parts of the bay and then drive them back via Houston in trucks. The trucks were frequently hijacked by rival bootleggers in a feud within the gang.[43]

As federal authorities dried up the offshore liquor trade, Galvestonians turned increasingly to moonshining. Moonshining was not a new activity, but it increased dramatically during the prohibition years. Twelve times as many stills were seized in 1929 across the United States as had been seized in 1913. Although early moonshine was contaminated with poisonous by-products, it became safer to drink once moonshiners shifted to using corn sugar. Organized crime figures and ordinary citizens alike practiced making

[38]Roark, 246-247.

[39]Galveston *Daily News*, November 3, 1925.

[40]*Ibid.*, November 9, 1926.

[41]*Ibid.*, April 25, 1929.

[42]*Ibid.*, November 23, 1928.

[43]Roscoe Wright, "Liquor Above Law," *The Houston Gargoyle* 4 (March 22, 1931):8-9; Wright, "'Big Shots' Go Free," *The Houston Gargoyle* 4 (March 29, 1931):14-15; Wright, "$1,750,000 In Booze," *The Houston Gargoyle* 4 (April 5, 1931):10, 16.

home brews such as bathtub gin.[44]

The Bureau of Internal Revenue divided the United States into ten prohibition districts, and agents of the Bureau's Prohibition Unit swept through their assigned district seizing moonshine and distillation equipment and raiding establishments which served intoxicating beverages.[45] The Galveston *Daily News* provided frequent accounts of captured stills and moonshine. The sizes of the seizures in the following selected items published in the *Daily News* suggest the vast amount of moonshine produced in the city, most of which probably went undiscovered:[46]

- May 1923: Six large stills, 1000 gallons of mash, and ten gallons of raw whiskey confiscated.
- June 1923: One fifty-gallon still, 27 gallons of liquor, five barrels of mash, and paraphernalia seized.
- July 1923: A hundred-gallon still, four barrels of mash, and some whiskey captured in a raid on Avenue P½.
- November 1923: Four small stills and 25 barrels of mash seized in a raid at Sixteenth Street and Avenue N.
- August 1924: The largest working still captured to date in South Texas seized in a house on the west end near Offat's Bayou. The residence contained a miniature brewery, including two 75-gallon stills, one 36-gallon still, 6300 gallons of mash, and 60 gallons of whiskey.
- June 1926: A raid on a house turned up a three-hundred-gallon still, nine hundred gallons of mash, sixty gallons of whiskey, thirty gallons of beer mash, 165 bottles of beer, and ten cases of empty beer bottles.
- November 1928: A five-hundred-gallon still discovered on the west end, the largest in the district to date. Agents poured mash on the floors and hacked up barrels and distillation equipment.
- December 1928: A five-hundred-gallon still and 3500 gallons of mash seized on the west end.

[44]Sinclair, 201-205.

[45]Willoughby, 9-10. On March 3, 1927, the Prohibition Unit became the Prohibition Bureau. It continued to operate under Internal Revenue until 1930, when President Hoover, with Congressional consent, transferred it to the Justice Department. In practice, the Prohibition Unit and its successor never lived up to their billing. One estimate placed the cost of enforcement at $2.25 billion annually, but the unit's funding averaged only $8.8 million per year throughout the 1920s. The total number of agents who served with the Unit and the Bureau never exceeded 4500. According to Sean Dennis Cashman, *Prohibition: The Lie of the Land* (New York, 1981), 46, the agents were underpaid, earning $1200 to $2000 annually in 1920 and $2300 annually in 1930.

[46]Galveston *Daily News*, various issues, 1923-1928.

The increasing sizes of these moonshine seizures suggest that after authorities slowed the offshore trade by capturing the *Island Home*, the *Panama*, and the *Muriel E. Winters*, Galvestonians made more and more of their own liquor. The extensive seizures reported in the *Daily News* were probably just the tip of the iceberg, since residents could more easily conceal their activities in the privacy of their homes.

Prohibition agents periodically raided liquor establishments in Galveston as well. In many instances, soft drink stands appear to have been nothing more than fronts for liquor bars. The Galveston *Daily News* occasionally published the names of persons charged with liquor violations, and several of those arrested were soft drink stand proprietors.[47] Galveston city directories from 1919 to 1934-35 reveal a sharp rise in the number of soft drink establishments up through 1923. The decline of such establishments after 1923 suggests the degree of success prohibition agents had in locating and closing illicit establishments and a concomitant decline in their popularity.

Soft Drink Establishments Listed in Galveston City Directories 1916-1935

Year	*Number*
1916	none
1919	70
1921	76
1923	101
1924-25	74
1926-27	55
1928-29	59
1930	40
1932-33	31
1934-35	24

Note: No city directories were published for Galveston in 1917, 1918, 1920, 1922, or 1931.

Federal authorities had an important weapon at their disposal in dealing with establishments serving liquor. They used injunctions which allowed them to padlock the businesses. After filing the injunctions, they gave the owners and operators twenty days to reply. If they answered, the case was then set for a hearing at the next term of federal district court, although the temporary injunction still remained in effect. Authorities immediately padlocked establishments if the owners and occupants failed to reply. The injunction restrained them from selling liquor on the site for one year.

[47]Galveston *Daily News*, August 23, 1924; *ibid.*, July 24, 1926. According to John T. Flynn, writing in *Collier's* (September 1, 1928):49, soft drinks were an important means of satisfying a population made thirsty by prohibition.

Persons whose premises were released from the temporary injunction and reopened had to post $500 as a guarantee that they would remove bar fixtures and no longer sell liquor. Federal penalties for violating the temporary injunction included a jail sentence of thirty days to six months or a fine of $500 to $1000, or both. On at least one occasion, federal agents used deception in obtaining liquor injunctions.[48]

Such injunctions were a serious threat to many businesses, and proprietors were quick to proclaim their innocence. For instance, George King, manager of the Hotel Galvez, declared, "Why, you can't squeeze a thimbleful of liquor out of the Galvez."[49] Zealous prohibition agents raided homes and commercial establishments with an intensity apparent in the frequent reports in the Galveston *Daily News*.[50]

- October 1923: Agents arrested eight people during raids on soft drink stands.
- December 1923: Agents seized eighty cases of liquor in two raids on homes on Avenue M and Avenue Q. The first house was, in truth, a liquor warehouse; a truck could be driven under the house and liquor loaded into it through a trap door. The liquor taken in both raids was kept in burlap sacks similar to those seized on the *Island Home*.
- April 1924: A truck which carried twelve cases of whiskey, nine cases of Bacardi rum, two barrels of beer, and three five-gallon jugs of wine seized in a private garage on the beach.
- June 1924: Approximately two hundred cases of liquor seized in a camp on an island across from San Luis Pass.
- June 1925: Agents seized 1232 pints of beer, 431 quarts of wine, and 230 one-gallon capacity barrels of beer mash on the west end
- July 1926: Agents raided approximately sixty establishments and residences, arresting over seventy persons including many women.
- September 1927: Hundreds of bottles of beer and whiskey taken in a raid on the Princess Hotel.
- January 1931: Five hundred cases of liquor valued at $35,000 seized at a residence at 4608 Avenue O½. Officials concluded that the house was a warehouse for a Gulf Coast smuggling ring. The haul included an estimated one hundred cases of champagne, four hundred cases of whiskey, and fifteen cases of pure alcohol.

The unwillingness of Galvestonians to accept prohibition mirrored similar dissatisfaction across Texas and the United States. The election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 on an anti-prohibition platform heralded the

[48]Galveston *Daily News*, July 23, 1925; *ibid.*, August 1, 1926; *ibid.*, July 19, 1928.

[49]*Ibid.*, December 28, 1923.

[50]*Ibid.*, various issues, 1923-1931.

dissatisfaction. In April 1933, the Texas House and Senate approved a proposed state constitutional amendment that would end statewide prohibition of beer having up to 3.2 percent alcohol content. The proposition was to be submitted to the voters in a special election on August 26, 1933. Texas voters would also elect delegates to a state convention that would ratify the Twenty-First Amendment, repealing prohibition.[51]

Houston Congressman Joe Eagle spoke in Galveston at Menard Park the day before the special election. He praised Galveston, along with New Orleans and San Francisco, for remaining bastions against prohibition. Eagle distinguished "natural law," such as laws against murder, from "artificial law," which he considered prohibition to be. He spoke of states' rights, arguing that the framers of the Constitution never intended for the federal government to exercise close control over people's private lives. Eagle pronounced prohibition a failure and called on his audience to remove alcohol production from the hands of organized crime.[52]

Galvestonians took Eagle's comments to heart. Rank-and-file voters in Texas and especially Galveston County also heeded his message. The urban areas went wet overwhelmingly. Fort Worth, Dallas, and Austin turned in two-to-one majorities in favor of 3.2 beer and repeal, while Houston voted four to one in favor. Galveston County supported repeal and 3.2 beer by a majority of over thirteen to one.[53] The state convention in Austin ratified the Twenty-First Amendment on November 29, 1933. National prohibition ended on December 5 when Utah became the thirty-sixth state to ratify the amendment.[54]

The prohibition era demonstrated the failure of an outside agency to legislate morality without the consensus of the community's residents. Galveston's status as a major port and its ease of access from the various Caribbean islands made it an inevitable center for rum running. Anti-prohibitionist sentiment among the island's inhabitants ensured a favorable climate for such activities. Even though federal enforcement agencies closed down much of the offshore liquor trade and numerous drinking establishments, moonshining presented Galvestonians with yet another avenue to violate restrictions. Criminal activities involving liquor in Galveston were only ended when prohibition itself was repealed; no amount of law enforcement sufficed to stop the flood of alcohol demanded by the city's populace.

[51]McCarty, 42-43.

[52]Galveston *Daily News*, August 25, 1933.

[53]McCarty, 46; Galveston *Daily News*, August 28, 1933. The final tally in Galveston County showed that 9535 voted for repeal and only 765 against, while 9463 voted for 3.2 beer and only 698 against.

[54]McCarty, 47-48.

Book Review

Chambers County: A Pictorial History. By Margaret S. Henson and Kevin Ladd. (Norfolk/Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1988. Pp. 320.)

This attractive volume was drawn largely from the photographs, documents, publications, and other research materials donated to the Wallisville Heritage Park, established in 1979. The co-authors, Margaret S. Henson and Kevin Ladd (Director of the Wallisville Heritage Park), have divided their responsibilities in an unusual manner. The first nine chapters, written by Dr. Henson, recount the history of the county in chronological periods from the prehistory of Galveston Bay up into the 1980s. Mr. Ladd's contribution, chapters 10 through 20, concentrates on the history of the towns in Chambers County, beginning with Wallisville and then running from Anahuac through Winnie-Stowell in alphabetical order, followed by a final chapter on "Communities and Settlements."

The split in authorship works better than one might suppose. Dr. Henson takes a broad approach, generally placing the county's history in the perspective of the European exploration of the Gulf Coast area, the Texas Revolution, and the periods of the Republic and of statehood. Mr. Ladd focuses in greater detail on local history: families and individuals, the growth of municipalities, the development of businesses and industries, education, agriculture, natural disasters, politics, crime, and religious and social life. There is some inevitable overlapping, such as accounts by both Henson and Ladd of the August 1915 flood as recalled by the Beauregard LaFour family of Wallisville, but this is not a serious defect.

The book, especially the "History of Towns" portion, is too densely packed with facts to permit relaxed armchair reading from cover to cover. Its wealth of historical detail, accessible through its eleven-page index (mostly proper names), will make it a handy reference volume for students, historians, and genealogists.

Anyone tempted to characterize *Chambers County* as a "typical local history" should note that the work is well documented with footnotes (from 6 to 392 per chapter). Although secondary works make up the majority of the references, both authors tapped original sources, such as the Chambers County Commissioners Court Minutes and archival records at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center and the Texas State