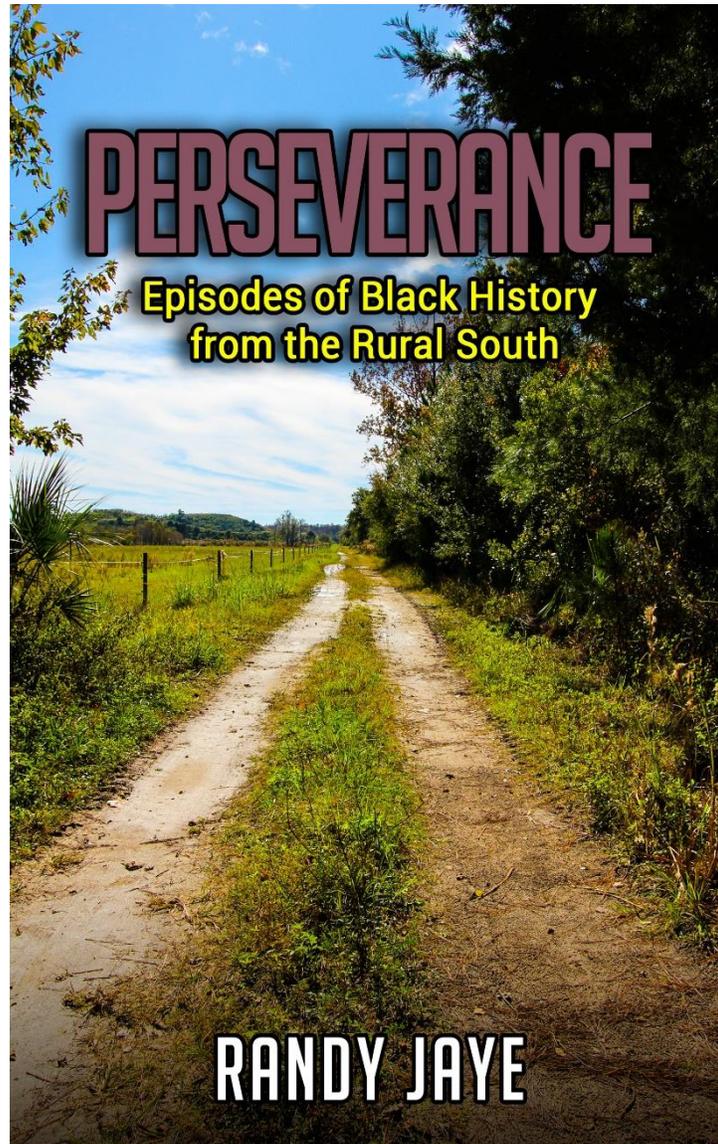


This article is an excerpt from chapter 8 - **Opportunities and Tragedies of Prohibition** - in the book:

Perseverance: Episodes of Black History from the Rural South

by Randy Jaye



[The book is available for purchase on Amazon:](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1655315617)

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Opportunities and Tragedies of Prohibition

Prohibition (sometimes referred to as the “The Noble Experiment”) was a nationwide Constitutional ban on the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States that lasted from 1920 to 1933.

On January 17, 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution enabled legislation, known as the Volstead Act, to go into effect and it set down the rules for enforcing the federal ban and defined the types of prohibited alcoholic beverages.

After Prohibition started organized criminal gangs soon gained control of the illegal beer and liquor supply for many cities as masses of people ignored the nationwide ban, which actually increased the demand for alcoholic beverages.

This significant increase in the demand for alcohol was quickly met with a host of illegal means to supply it that included moonshining (the illicit production of high-proof distilled alcoholic beverages), bootlegging (the making, selling and smuggling of illicit alcoholic beverages over land), and rum running (the illicit transportation and smuggling of alcoholic beverages over water).

By the late 1920s, a new opposition mobilized nationwide that blamed Prohibition for increasing violent crime, lowering local revenues, and imposing “rural” Protestant religious values on “urban” areas of the United States.

The results of Prohibition were not what the temperance activists (people dedicated to promoting the moderation or complete abstinence in the use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages) envisioned. Many believed that Prohibition would lead to a richer, healthier, and more moral and safer society. They also believed that it would lead to a radical reduction in crime and violence, which would reduce the tax burden created by prisons and poorhouses. Some economists actually predicted that Prohibition would increase productivity in the workforce. The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)¹ believed that Prohibition would create happier home lives and would provide better environments for children. All of these predictions were proved wrong by the actual effects that Prohibition had around the United States.

As the Great Depression² began in 1929, the lost tax revenue due to Prohibition added to the economic hardships that plagued local, state and federal government agencies.

Supporters of Prohibition grew weary of its negative effects on society, and as every year passed, more people began to demand its repeal.

On December 5, 1933, Prohibition in the United States ended as the Twenty-first Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, which repealed the Eighteenth Amendment.

From Turpentine to Moonshine in Flagler County

Early in Flagler County's history turpentine camps were scattered about in many locations including St. Josephs (now Palm Coast), Haw Creek, Neoga, Dinner Island, Roy, Espanola, Bunnell and Favoretta.

A typical turpentine camp included living quarters for managers, workers and their families and usually a company store (commissary). As many as 100 people lived in the larger camps. Blacks were the majority of the workers in Flagler County's turpentine industry. The equipment and buildings necessary to run the turpentine still included a barn, wagon shed, cooperage (barrel) shed, cup-cleaning vat, rosin yard, glue pot, spirit shed and fire still.

The pay for turpentine workers was mostly by piecework and a field worker received credit for every 1,000 trees harvested in an assigned area.

Prohibition brought new opportunities to the area as turpentine workers were accustomed to working with stills in rural, secluded and wooded areas. The amount of money that could be made by distilling and distributing illegal alcohol during Prohibition far exceeded the pay of a typical turpentine worker.

As a result, many local turpentine workers, both black and white, began setting up illegal bootlegging operations in out-of-the-way wooded areas around the county.

Since these bootlegging operations were illegal and secretive it is not known exactly how many were actually in operation in Flagler County during Prohibition, but from the amount of arrests, local stories and publicity their numbers were likely quite significant.

Fast Bootlegging Route through Flagler County

Another factor that made Flagler County a hot bed for moonshine operations was its proximity to the Dixie Highway's³ Eastern route, which connected Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan with Miami, Florida and ran right through Flagler County. It was a fast automobile route for bootleggers to transport moonshine over land from the sizable still operations in Florida to large cities, including Chicago, in the northern part of the country.

Many bootleggers modified automobiles so they could evade and outrun police. Many of these modified automobiles were eventually used in stock car racing. Today's popular sport of NASCAR got its roots during Prohibition with these modified automobiles, and some of sport's early drivers were known to have transported illegal moonshine in order to make a living.

Prohibition Related Arrests in Flagler County

There were many moonshining operations and stills destroyed, and bootleggers and rum-runners arrested in Flagler County during Prohibition. Several of these incidents are following.

Moonshining Stills Destroyed

In a July 28, 1921 article “Sheriff Destroys Three Shine Plants” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Sheriff Johnston has during the past ten days destroyed two large distilleries and many gallons of sour mash from which liquor is run, one plant having 200 gallons ready for the still, and one small plant – all located along Black Branch near Bunnell.”

“No operators were taken in the raids, they having escaped before the sheriff’s arrival.”

“For this work, where operators are not apprehended, the sheriff receives no compensation and that officer is out many dollars and much time to no personal benefit to himself.”

“It is asserted that certain ladies of Bunnell recently made up a purse of \$300 and contributed same to a party representing himself as a government detective for the purpose of locating the stills in this county, but the party left shortly after getting the money and has not returned. It seems the wrong man, in this instance was rewarded.”

In a December 13, 1923 article “Big Distillery Taken by Deputies” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Deputies Pellicer and Stucky hauled in a big copper still Friday last which was found in a swamp about one and a half miles northeast of Espanola. They found the still and about twenty barrels of mash almost ready to run and promptly destroyed the later. They dismantled the still, said to be of about 150-gallon capacity, and brought it to Bunnell, where it was partially destroyed and placed in the county jail for safe keeping. Several other stills have been located and these deputies are busy trying to round them up, along with their owners and operators. No arrests were made when this raid was made, but it is said that the parties are known and that arrests will likely follow.”

Bootleggers Arrested

In a May 27, 1926 article “Sheriff Captures Negro Woman with Liquor Saturday” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“On last Saturday when Train no. 29 rolled into Bunnell a Negro woman, giving her name as Martha Anderson, got off with a hat box containing 20 half-pint bottles of moonshine. She was immediately arrested by Sheriff Hall, who had been tipped off the Saturday before that whiskey was being transported here from Jacksonville, and when she asked what price she received for a half-pint, she replied that she was charging seventy-five cents per bottle.”

“She was tried before Judge W. Lee Bartlett, and pleaded guilty, receiving a fine of \$50 and costs. It is understood that she remained in jail until Sunday, until some of her friends paid her fine.”

In a May 15, 1930 article “Big Liquor Haul Made by Coast Guards Friday” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Last Friday night the Flagler Beach Coast Guardsmen, under the direction of C. D. Toler, officer in charge of the station, succeeded in capturing an unusually large amount of bootleg liquor, men and equipment, according to the Flagler Beach correspondent.”

“Four hundred twelve bags of liquor, two Studebakers and two Ford automobiles, a large dory [a lightweight boat with high sides, a flat bottom and sharp bows], one white man and two Negroes were taken into custody. The first car was seized while passing the coast guard station and the three others were soon brought in, it was stated, all of the cars being loaded.”

“Sheriff J. H. McKnight carried the prisoners to Bunnell where they were locked in the county jail and held overnight. The next day they were carried to St. Augustine and after a hearing were released under bond.”

“The captured automobiles and the liquor were sent to Jacksonville.”

Rum Running Incidents and Arrests

In 1925, an unidentified British two-masted schooner wrecked eight miles north of Flagler Beach loaded with quality liquor. The only known survivor was its black skipper. He refused to identify the name and owner of the ship or himself. He died soon after he was escorted ashore. He was buried in an unmarked grave west of the Flagler Beach Coast Guard Station. The mystery surrounding the identity of the ship and its skipper has never been solved.

Clarence D. Toler of the Flagler Beach Coast Guard Station had at least two dangerous encounters with rum-runners during Prohibition.

On April 22, 1930, Toler noticed a deserted 40-foot white boat anchored about a mile offshore just north of Ormond Beach while driving an automobile along the beach with his wife. He swam out to the suspicious boat and found it to be loaded with illicit liquor. Toler sent his wife to get a deputy sheriff for assistance while he waited onboard. Twelve rum-runners soon returned with gas and supplies and boarded the boat. They told Toler to get off the boat or come along with them. He managed to cut the anchor rope, which led to the boat grounding on the seabed. When the deputy sheriff arrived, the rum-runners fled the scene and evaded arrest. The boat was seized and taken to the Fernandina Coast Guard base, but was never claimed by its owner.

On May 30, 1930, Toler was driving in his personal car when he spotted a large sedan passing him loaded with liquor cases. He chased the car, ran it off the highway, and arrested the driver. He suspected that there was a rum running landing party nearby expecting to pick up the illicit alcohol. The prisoner was taken to the Flagler Beach Coast Guard Station where Toler’s wife guarded him with a 30-30 rifle. Eight miles north of Flagler Beach Toler encountered three cars that were being used by a group of rum-runners. One of the rumrunner guards exchanged gunfire with Toler. During the melee, the rum-runners fled leaving Toler with the three cars and a sea skiff on the beach. Toler heard a whistle and then fired shots, which led to the capture of two black rum-runners and 280 cases of illicit liquor. The two prisoners were taken to the Flagler Beach Coast Guard Station and later transferred to a jail in Jacksonville.

Black Bootlegger Kills Flagler County Sheriff Perry Hall

On August 20, 1927, Flagler County Sheriff Perry Edward Hall went to Roy, which was a predominately-black settlement in the rural and swampy northeast section of Flagler County, on a Prohibition raid to make an arrest of a suspected bootlegger named James Smith. With his pistol drawn, he

entered a one-room shack, which housed several men that were drunk on moonshine, and ordered Smith to raise his hands. Smith spun around and smashed a whiskey bottle into the temple area of Hall's head, which fractured his skull. Hall died several hours later. His death ignited wild-west type posses to form and a manhunt for his assailant began. Sheriff departments outside of Flagler County mobilized to join the manhunt including St. Johns County Deputy A.P. Turlington. Armed posses began their search in three counties near where the incident took place.

Florida Governor John W. Martin offered a \$200 reward for Sheriff Perry's assailant. Additionally, Sheriff R.C. Baker, president of the Florida Sheriff's Association, announced a \$100 reward.

The *Tallahassee Democrat* newspaper reported on August 22, 1927 that, "Henry Williams, Negro, at whose home Smith is alleged to have hidden for several hours following the slaying is being held in jail under heavy guard because of threatened mob violence."

While chasing a lead in the hunt for Sheriff Perry Hall's assailant in Greenland, Duval County, Flagler County deputy sheriff, George W. "Son" Durrance, conducted a stakeout of a man fitting the suspect's description and ordered him to raise his hands. This man pulled out a shotgun and exchanged shots with deputy sheriff Durrance. Both men were wounded but deputy sheriff Durrance died from his wounds at age 34 just three days after Sheriff Perry Hall was killed. It turns out that this man was not the suspect as he was a night watchman for the local post office. In another twist of fate, the night watchman was then killed a few weeks later while waiting for trail for the murder of deputy sheriff Durrance.

A man known as George Jones was tracked down in Tift, Georgia, by that town's entire sheriff department and a civilian posse, and it was discovered that he was really James Smith, the suspected assailant of Sheriff Perry Hall.

In a September 12, 1927 article "Florida Negro Shot in Georgia: Posse Kills Man Believed to be Slayer of Sheriff Hall" the *News-Press* of Fort Myers reported:

"A Negro believed to be George [Jones] alias Jim Smith wanted in Flagler County, Florida for the murder of Sheriff Perry Hall on August 20, [1927] was shot and killed near Brookfield, [Georgia], it became known today."

"A sheriff's posse had surrounded the Negro in a house officers said, and the Negro attempted to flee through the back door when he was shot."

"The body will be taken back to Florida for positive identification."

Confiscated Illegal Alcohol Stolen in Flagler County

There were at least two occasions that confiscated illegal alcohol that was stored in Flagler County facilities was stolen. Incidentally, none of this illegal alcohol was ever recovered.

In a December 31, 1925 article "Clerk's Vault Is Robbed of" the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“The vault in the office of the clerk of circuit court was robbed Saturday evening of about 100 cases of liquor and gin, 36 burlaps of beer and 22 partial burlaps, by unknown parties who entered the courthouse, robbed the vault and made their escape. The liquors were left there some time ago for safekeeping. No clues are available, yet, as to the identity of the parties, but the sheriff and his force are working on the case. This is the second robbery, the first having been about five years ago. The county commissioners, at their meeting on Monday, after carefully going over the robbery of the vault, decided that the storage facility at the courthouse are now inadequate and ordered that all liquors confiscated in the future to be stored in the county jail.”

The Twenty-first Amendment Finally Ends Prohibition

After 13 years of Prohibition, it was obvious that it was counterproductive to society as it created crime instead of reducing it. The health of the millions who drank moonshine was endangered due to lead and other toxins that were used in some of the unregulated production processes. It became fashionable for women to drink alcohol during Prohibition, which led to harmful and frequent overconsumption. Occasionally, some moonshine actually caused blindness, paralysis and led to painful deaths.

On December 5, 1933, Prohibition was repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment to the United States Constitution. One of the most harmful and senseless laws in American history ended. The people of Florida were so tired of Prohibition that over 80% voted for its repeal.

The Many Negative Effects of Prohibition

Prohibition not only failed to stop the consumption of alcohol, it led to serious problems on a national scale including health, crime, unemployment, lost tax revenue, increase of alcohol and drug use and the popularization of the Ku Klux Klan. Following are some of the most negative results of Prohibition.

Speakeasies (saloons and nightclubs who sold alcoholic beverages illegally during Prohibition) were quickly established by gangsters, and they promoted gambling, prostitution and excessive consumption of alcohol.

It was reported in some areas, including New York City, that the number of speakeasies was double the number of saloons, bars and nightclubs prior to Prohibition.

Toxic moonshine was often produced during Prohibition in illegal stills (*figures 8.1 & 8.2*). Poisons seeped into the moonshine from stills that used lead coils or lead soldering. Some bootleggers also added dangerous chemicals including iodine, creosote (a toxic, potentially harmful, yellowish liquid product used for commercial purposes such as wood preservatives), and embalming fluid. These toxins are known to have caused paralysis, blindness, nerve damage, sores and ulcers and led to the death of some people.

In 1927, approximately 12,000 people died from drinking toxic bootleg alcohol.

Since industrial alcohol was legal during Prohibition it was commonly consumed. The Prohibition Bureau⁴ wanted to stop people from drinking it so they intentionally ordered manufacturers to add soaps and toxic poisons to make it taste terrible. The main problem with this governmental policy was that industrial alcohol was often stolen, relabeled and sold as regular moonshine. According to some estimates,

federally poisoned industrial alcohol caused the death of at least 10,000 people during the years of Prohibition.

The rise of organized crime during Prohibition was due to the business demand for illegal alcoholic beverages that could be sold for high prices. In addition to domestic bootlegging and homemade bathtub gin⁵ operations, organized crime during Prohibition set up international importation of illegal booze from places such as Canada, Saint Pierre, Miquelon, various Caribbean islands and several European countries.

By 1930, the U.S. government estimated that smuggling foreign-made liquor into the country was a \$3 billion industry (\$46.2 billion in 2020 dollars).

Gangsters such as Al Capone⁶ were making as much as \$100 million per year (\$1.54 billion in 2020 dollars), and were spending half a million dollars a month to bribe police officials (including administrators, patrol officers and detectives), politicians and federal investigators.

The enormous amount of money made by organized crime during Prohibition was used to diversify into other illegal operations such as drugs, gambling, prostitution and loansharking.

Prohibition was responsible for the establishment of one of the nation's worst criminal traditions.

Increased crime and corruption during Prohibition was significant as it actually created more crime, and diverted money and resources from the enforcement of other laws. During the first 10 years of Prohibition the murder rate increased by 78% nationwide. With the amount of cash controlled by organized crime during Prohibition, widespread corruption of public officials plagued many towns and cities as gangsters were often able to conduct their illegal operations without fear of prosecution.

The closing of breweries, distilleries, saloons and various supporting industries caused significant unemployment. Retail, hospitality, factory, trucking, barrel making, glass making and many other jobs disappeared or were drastically reduced because of Prohibition.

Revenue loss due to the elimination of alcohol excise taxes had a significant effect on all levels of government. It is estimated that Prohibition cost the federal government \$11 billion (\$200.3 billion in 2020 dollars) in lost revenue, while it cost \$300 million (\$5.4 billion in 2020 dollars) to enforce its laws. The federal government, and most states, turned to income taxes to increase their revenue.

The criminal justice system became flooded with Prohibition related cases, which seriously affected the administration of justice and increased prison populations.

There was a significant increase in illegal drug use and alcohol abuse. Illegal drugs such as opium, cocaine, hair tonic and sterno (called "canned heat" which is a fuel made from denatured and jellied alcohol) became very popular during Prohibition. Alcohol use increased, especially by women, as it was considered a luxury item during Prohibition. Many people abused illegal alcohol when they were able to purchase it, and many tended to drink excessively in speakeasies.

The Ku Klux Klan made a resurgence during Prohibition as a defender of the temperance movement. Members of the KKK raided speakeasies and destroyed bootlegging operations. The organization gained many members due to their anti-Prohibition campaigns.

Moonshining after Prohibition in Flagler County

Decades after Prohibition was repealed, there was still a demand for illegally produced alcohol around the country, and in Flagler County as well, as the following raids and arrests indicate.

In a February 4, 1960 article “King Resigns; Gov. Collins Suspends” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Herschel C. King of Bunnell who was arrested here January 12, [1960] by Federal and State authorities on charges of moonshining, was reported to have submitted his resignation as a member of the Flagler County School Board to Gov. Leroy Collins Monday afternoon.”

“Earlier in the day, the associated press reported from Tallahassee that Gov. Collins had suspended King as a member of the board.”

“The governor did not name a successor in King’s place at that time.”

“Mr. King and Millage Weeksfell, both of Bunnell, were arrested by Federal and State beverage agents on the charge of moonshining on the King farm north of Bunnell. January 13, [1960] King waived preliminary hearing before U.S. Commissioner Hawkins in Daytona Beach and was bound over to the U.S. District Court in Jacksonville. He is at liberty under bond.”

“Kings automobile and the still, reported to be capable of producing 100 gallons a week, were confiscated by the agent in the raid, it was reported.”

Herschel King was considered a local champion of education and served on the Flagler County School Board for 33 years. He was also a successful local potato and cabbage farmer.

In a September 28, 1967 article “Moonshine Stills Found in Flagler” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Federal and State Beverage agents and the Flagler County Sheriff’s department located and destroyed two moonshine stills in Flagler County Monday morning. The stills were located 10 miles north of Bunnell and one-half mile east of I-95.”

“According to Sheriff P. A. Edmonson the two stills, one 600 gallon and one 279 gallon, were situated within 600 feet of each other.”

“The agents arrested Alton Jessie Kersey, 25, St. Augustine for making illegal whiskey. He was taken to Jacksonville by the federal agents.”

“Confiscated in the raid were one pick-up truck; one 1962 Chevrolet car and 480 pounds of sugar.”

Prohibition’s Long Lasting Effects

Prohibition was created by public policies that were based on dreams, hopes and desires to reshape society by eliminating alcohol, which was blamed for many evils and inefficiencies of both people and government. It was not planned or analyzed with logic and common sense, and did not forecast many of

the unintended consequences that burdened the entire country. Many of the negative effects of Prohibition are still creating problems today.

After Prohibition was repealed, organizations such as the United Brewers Industrial Foundation circulated advertisement campaigns (*fig. 8.3*) that promoted the positive effects on society from beer taxes. These were most certainly an attempt to avoid another Prohibition of alcoholic beverages.

In an April 27, 1939 advertisement “One Income that’s increased mightily since 1932!” the *Flagler Tribune* printed:

“Beer helps even those who do not drink it! To the tune of a million dollars a day nation-wide, beer tax revenue reaches back into every community, to help pay for relief, for public works, for education...and to lift a burden that would otherwise rest directly on the taxpayers.”

“To this, add a million new jobs made by beer, and a 100 million dollar farm market.”

“How can we keep these benefits...for you and for us? Brewers of America realize this depends on keeping beer retailing as wholesome as beer itself. They want to help public officials in every possible way. They cannot enforce laws. But they can – and will – cooperate!”

“Beer...a beverage of moderation.”

Figures

8 – Opportunities and Tragedies of Prohibition



Fig. 8.1. Men surrounding a captured moonshine still in St. Johns County, Florida - ca. 1920s. Source: Public Domain (Florida Memories).



Fig. 8.2. Men gathered at moonshine still after raid in Tampa, Florida – ca. 1920s. Source: Public Domain (Florida Memory).

THE RECORD... Facts That Concern You No. 6 of a series.

ONE INCOME THAT'S INCREASED MIGHTILY SINCE 1932!

**FLORIDA'S INCOME
FROM BEER TAXES
IN 1938
\$1,361,213.13***

IN 1932 (last year before
repeal) BEER'S TAXES
WERE PRACTICALLY NOTHING!

*Data from State Beverage Dept., includes excise
tax and license tax.

BEER helps even those who do not drink it! To the tune of a million dollars a day nation-wide, beer tax revenue reaches back into every community, to help pay for relief, for public works, for education... and to lift a burden that would otherwise rest directly on the taxpayers.

To this, add a million new jobs made by beer. And a 100 million dollar farm market.

How can we keep these benefits... for you and

for us? Brewers of America realize this depends on keeping beer retailing as wholesome as beer itself. They want to help public officials in every possible way. They cannot enforce laws. But they can—and will—cooperate!

May we send you a booklet telling of their unusual self-regulation program? Address: United Brewers Industrial Foundation, 19 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y.

BEER...a beverage of moderation

Fig. 8.3. The Record....Facts that Concern You. One Income that's increased mightily since 1932! Florida's Income from Beer Taxes in 1938 \$1,361,231.13. In 1932, (last year before repeal) beer's taxes were practically nothing! United Brewers Industrial Foundation. *Flagler Tribune* - April 27, 1939.

Notes

8 – Opportunities and Tragedies of Prohibition

¹ The **Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)** was founded in 1874 with a stated purpose to create a “sober and pure world” by abstinence, purity, and evangelical Christianity. The constitution of the WCTU called for “the entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.” As the WCTU grew internationally, it developed various approaches that helped with the inclusion of women of religions other than Christianity. However, it was always primarily, and still is, a Christian women's organization.

² The **Great Depression** started in the United States because of the stock market crash on October 29, 1929 (known as Black Tuesday.) This led to a severe worldwide economic depression where unemployment in the United States was more than 25% and in some other countries, it was as high as 33%. It was the longest and most widespread economic depression of the 20th century. Some countries experienced economic recoveries in the mid-1930s, but the United States and many others did not recover until the beginning of World War II.

³ The **Dixie Highway** was an early automobile highway that connected the Midwest with the Southern United States. It was first planned in 1914, and was part of the National Auto Trail system. It was actually a network of connected paved roads, rather than one single highway. It was constructed and expanded from 1915 to 1929. Today, one of the longest original stretches of the road (10.6 miles) runs through Flagler and St. Johns County (most of it is in Flagler County) called the Dixie Highway-Hastings, Espanola and Bunnell Road (known also as County Road 13). It is one of the most historic roads in the country. Locally, it is referred to as the “Old Brick Road.” On April 20, 2005, the “Old Brick Road” was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

⁴ **The Prohibition Bureau** was also referred to as the Prohibition Unit. It was a federal law enforcement agency that existed during Prohibition (1920 to 1933). Its main function was to prevent the sales, distribution and consumption of alcohol. Agents raided illegal bootlegging operations and speakeasies, and arrested many offenders of Prohibition-era laws.

⁵ The term **Bathtub gin** was coined in Prohibition-era United States. It refers to poor quality alcohol that is homemade by amateurs using non-commercial equipment. It was made using cheap grain alcohol, water and flavorings including fruit juices, glycerin and various sweeteners in an attempt to give it a tolerable taste. The types of bottles that were used sell booze during Prohibition were too tall to be topped off with water from a typical kitchen sink, so they were filled from a bathtub tap.

⁶ **Alphonse Gabriel “Al” Capone** (1899-1947), also known by the nickname “Scarface”, was an American gangster and businessman who attained notoriety during the Prohibition era as the co-founder and boss of the Chicago Outfit (Italian-American organized crime syndicate based in Chicago, Illinois). Capone lived a lavish lifestyle and never filed tax returns. His seven-year reign as crime boss ended when he was sent to prison at age 33 for income tax evasion.

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