

Prohibition

In 1916, Nebraskans voted to pass an amendment to outlaw the manufacturing, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors. Prohibition went into effect in Nebraska on May 1, 1917, nearly two years before Congress ratified the 18th Amendment in 1919. Not long after the law passed, illegal stills like the one in this picture began popping up across Nebraska. Prohibition is often referred to as the Nobel Experiment. It ended in Nebraska in 1933 when voters repealed the state's constitutional prohibition by a 60 to 40 percent margin. (NSHS Blog)

Doc Erickson & Kearney Floral monkeys

One episode that was unique and on the lighter side, Mary Erdine Erickson Hogsett told of a time in the 30's when her father, Doc Erickson, was on the City Council. It seems the Park Department was having trouble locating winter housing for the Park's monkeys. Doc volunteered to house the monkeys at the Kearney Floral Company's greenhouse at 2006 Second Avenue. One day someone left the cages open after feeding the monkeys, and with the vents open in the roof of the greenhouse, it was a natural exit for the monkeys and they took it. Frantically Doc called the Police and the Fire Departments to help find and corral the wayward monkeys. The result was that the Departments used their sirens for many minutes - and eventually the monkeys were captured. But! The sirens had alerted a nearby neighbor who had a stock of bootleg whiskey for sale. Thinking the sirens were announcing a raid on her house, she frantically poured all her liquor down every available drain in her house. Forever after, she blamed Doc for ruining her livelihood...

From New Era, 1885 (reprinted in Hub, 10 Sept 1963)

Loved Poor Whisky, Couldn't Make Broom

Kearney's broom factory winked out of existence after a wrestle with adverse circumstances. The great obstacle in success lay in the fact that the originators of the scheme loved poor whiskey and did not know how to make a good broom.

Kearney Daily Hub - July 15, 1890 –

New Amendment Leagues

The organization of non-partisan prohibitory amendment township leagues goes right on through the hot weather. When these leagues are organized all the townships in the county will be organized except Logan and Center. There is an organization at Elm Creek to which most of Logan Township is tributary but another will probably be organized. Buffalo county will be in good trim to fight the amendment campaign.

Nov. 5, 1890 – General election results

Boyd was running for gov.

Against prohibition 649 in city

For Prohibition 748 in city

In townships

| For Prohibition | Against Prohibition | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 74 | 40 | Armada Poor house bonds snowed under |
| 40 | 6 | Harrison |
| 106 | 5 | Center |
| 37 | 22 | Sartoria |
| | | Schneider & Cedar no vote reported |
| 90 | 58 | Grant |
| 27 | 27 | Logan |
| 69 | 165 | Garfield |
| 30 | 35 | Elm Creek |
| | | Odessa no vote reported |
| 20 | 46 | Scott |
| 48 | 70 | Divide |
| | | Gibbon & Platte no vote reported |
| | | Sharon carried by a small majority |
| 88 | 54 | Riverdale |
| 21 | 64 | Rusco |
| 34 | 65 | Thornton |
| 684 | 657 | |

May 13, 1931 – Truck containing 110 gallons of whiskey captured here.

From the Buffalo County Court Record Book –

Book 2 – January 1928 – January 1929

A man was accused of (1) having in his possession 1 quart of liquor and (2) intent to sell without a license which would allow sale for medicinal, mechanical, chemical, or sacramental purposes.

Found guilty on the first count, fined \$100 + costs and stay in jail until he paid.

Second count dropped.

A man was arrested for concealing intoxicating liquor in a building, not his residence, on a lot in Ravenna.

Found guilty, fined \$100 + costs

A search warrant was issued for a place in rural Buffalo County.

The search turned up 6 bushels of mash and other material and equipment for unlawful manufacture

of intoxicating liquors.

[Location: South of UP tracks, west of Shelton Road]

June 22, 1928 – **Karl Borgman** – search warrant for manufacture and sale of liquor in 20-11-13

Gardner Township southeast of Ravenna, north of Sometown

Found 45 gallons of whiskey, 10 barrels of mash, 1 “red hot” still, and bodies of **Robert Mackey** and Karl Borgman who were charged with possessing 1) a still, 2) mash, and count III, a quantity of liquor they had manufactured for the purpose of sale without a license from the State of Nebraska

Bond was set at \$1000 for each which neither could pay so they were jailed

[Hub – Both men were identified as being from Shelton and conducted business in Kearney, Karl at the courthouse during the thirties.

Shelton Cemetery – Robert L. Mackey – 1905-1973

Zella N. Mackey – 1913-1970

Census Mackey – 1940 – living in Shelton w/ wife and 2 children, occupation sheep shearing, 35

1920 – living in Shelton with his family, 14]

Census Borgman – 1910 – Living with sister, Mary Niederschmidt, in Gardner Twnshp]

1930 – age 46, born in Germany, imm. 1909, married at 33, living in Gardner Twnshp with wife and children. She was 14 when they married, now 25. Karl was a farmer

1941 – living in Kearney

Findagrave Borgman – Shelton, born Dec 3, 1883; died March 5, 1956

Wife remarried and was buried beside him as Mabel Mowrey, born Nov 7, 1904;

Nov 6, 2003

July 6, 1928 – **Kenneth Goodrich** stole a 1926 Buick from Mrs. Ivey Anderson. Count 1) stealing the car. Count 2) carrying a concealed loaded revolver but not engaged in a business requiring one. Arrested July 9. Count 2 dropped July 11; pled guilty to count 1, bond set at \$1000

July 16, 1928 – **Thomas Shannon** – I intoxicated; II possessed liquor – 2 quarts of moonshine aka hootch, not in private dwelling; III carried in a Ford, on his person and in his clothing.

Counts I and III dismissed, fined \$100

[1910 Census – Living in Elm Creek township on farm with family, 22, farming

1920 Census – Living in Elm Creek township on farm brother & sister, 32, farming

1930 Census – Living in Elm Creek, doing general labor, 44, single

1940 Census – Living in CCC Camp near Scottsbluff, 52, lived there in 1935]

October 3, 1928 – **Steve Richardson** – Count 1 – intoxication; Count 2 – wreckless driving at speeds over 35 mph; Count 3 – driving while intoxicated

Arrested; fined \$10 for Count 1; \$10 for Count 2; and \$50 for count 3 plus he could not drive for 1 year

October 22, 1928 – **E. P. Brundage** – Selling extract to drink

Selling vanilla extract containing sufficient alcohol to be used for the purpose of intoxication Fined \$100

[City Directories – 1924 – Grocer

1926 – Emmet P Brundage – Brundage-Lloyd Groc. 1723 Av F, with Carrie Lloyd

Not in 1939

Census – 1930 – Living in Kearney, divorced, 61, operating a grocery store]

October 23, 1928 – **Simon George** – Selling vanilla. Guilty

[City Directory – 1926 – operating a grocery store

Hub – 1910 – operating a dry goods store on the south side.

Oct 23, 1928 – police visited three grocery stores (with warrants) to determine if intoxicating liquor was sold following the arrests of intoxicated men who claimed they had been drinking extracts. Two of those three stores were Simon George's and Lloyd & Brundage's

1929 – George's wife died

Sept 15, 1933 – George sued by Joseph Chamberlin for causing the alienation of affection of his wife, Mary, over the past 3 years. Trial set for Dec. 13. The court room was crowded with spectators. Jurors returned a verdict favoring the defendant, Simon George.

Book 3 – February 1929 – May 1930

[no illegal liquor cases all winter – waiting for next crop of grain to grow and ripen??]

July 2, 1929 – **Roy Gard** – Count 1 – possession of equipment for manufacture of liquor without a state permit; Count 2 – possession of a quantity of beer for sale without a license. Arrested and bound over for district court.

Hub - July 2, 1929 – Make A Big Haul Of Beer

Still Apparently Operated in a U. P. Box Car

Finding a small amount of hootch and a few bottles of beer in the bushes on east 27th street led police to the largest haul of beer ever credited to the department. Miniature brewery in a box car on a siding near Optic yielded nearly 600 quart bottles of beer. Also brew in various stages, bottles, caps & cappers. 20 cases brought to city as evidence, car padlocked with about 32 cases left for railroad special agent to decide what action to take.

Roy Gard said no one else was involved.

Nov. 19, 1929 – Vern Gard fined \$100 + 60 days in jail for sale of intoxicating liquors (bootlegging)

Fined \$100 and car confiscated for transporting intoxicating liquors

Nov 20, 1929 – Roy Gard fined \$100 + 90 days in jail for sale of intoxicating liquors

Nov 22, 1929 – Mrs. Roy Gard, arrested in the raids Monday, is at liberty under bond pending trial in county court Saturday on charges of possession.

Dec 6, 1929 – Roy Gard is Given Fine

Sentenced to Jail When He Pleads Guilty

Fined \$500 + 30 days in jail. 50 cases of beer which he manufactured in a boxcar near Optic. A string of cars set aside for grain harvest
One of 7 arrested two weeks ago by federal, county, & city authorities

September 2, 1929 – **Buck Taylor and Edward Kennedy** charged:

Count 1 – Buck Taylor and Edward Kennedy possessed intoxicating liquor – several pint bottles and 2 kegs of corn liquor commonly known as hootch not kept in the private dwelling house

Count 2 – Buck Taylor and Edward Kennedy transported for purpose of sale in a Chevrolet [Wyoming license # and VIN given] several pint bottles and 2 kegs of corn liquor commonly known as hootch

Count 3 – Buck Taylor and Edward Kennedy did carry and transport in a vehicle for purpose of sale that liquor

Count 4 – One Chevrolet [Wyoming license # and VIN given] was used for transport of the liquor

September 2, 1929 - An arrest warrant was issued for Buck Taylor

September 3, 1929 – Edward Kennedy appeared in court. Bond was set at \$200 which he paid; trial set for September 13

October 2, 1929 – Buck Taylor, who had been driving the car, did not appear

October 11, 1929 – Neither man appeared in court. The auto was declared guilty of unlawful transportation of intoxicating liquor and forfeited to the State of Nebraska to be sold by the sheriff of Buffalo County. The proceeds were to be used to pay court costs in the case and the rest to go into the county school fund.

October 28, 1928 – The car was sold at a Sheriff's Sale on the courthouse steps. It was purchased by Lienhart & Bredenburg Chevrolet for \$71.

November 25, 1929 – Buck Taylor was arrested

November 29, 1929 – Buck Taylor appeared in court; pled guilty of Count 3, transporting liquor in a vehicle for purpose of sale; fined \$100 which he could not pay so he went to jail.

Dec. 7, 1930 – Ed posted \$300 bond

Dec. 11, 1930 – pled guilty - \$100 fine, 60 days in jail. Jail sentenced suspended in condition of good behavior and no violations of liquor law

February 21, 1930 – **S. Stanton** – illegal possession of ½ gal intoxicating alcohol not kept in a private dwelling. Plead guilty; fined \$100 + court costs of \$10.57.

December 10, 1930 – Etta Berkheimer filed complaint saying Andrew Byron Humphrey tried to influence James Humphrey who had been subpoenaed by the State as a witness in the case of the State vs. Melvin Berkheimer & Elsie Humphrey in District Court by taking James out of the jurisdiction

Book 4 – June 1930 – April 16, 1931

July 14, 1930 – Ray Saunders –

Count 1 – on July 11 illegally purchase of intoxicating liquor from George Golle and others

Count 2 – Member of Recreation Number Three Club which unlawfully kept liquor to barter sell, and use as a beverage for delivery and distribution.

Count 3 – Solicited an order for purchase and sale of liquor.

Arrested, bond set at \$200. Court date set for July 14 [must have gone to district court]

January 1, 1931 – Search warrant for farm home of _____ **Smith**, John Doe, Mary Doe for intoxicating liquor, hootch, beer, alcohol, wine, whiskey – E1/2 Sec19 T9, R18

January 8, 1931 – **Joe Williams**

1. Has a still
 2. Possessed mash designated for distilling liquor
 3. Possessed liquor manufactured in that still
- All without U S government permits
Plead guilty, bond set at \$1,000, to District Court

[Hub Jan 9, 1931 – Make Liquor Raid

A still and three or four gallons were taken at the Joe Williams home on Twentieth street and G avenue Wednesday night and Mr. Williams placed under arrest. Williams will be bound over to district court for trial. The raid was made by the city police department and the sheriff.]

January 8, 1931 – _____ **Epps**

Still manufacturing liquor and selling in frame building, used as private dwelling & outhouses, barns, sheds, caves and other bldgs on premises. Lots 94-99 Odessa

House is “place for the manufacture of and a resort for drinking intoxicating liquors”
Epps stuff in rooms and wells and beneath floors.

January 19, 1931 – 25 dozen suits of ladies underwear was stolen from the Union Pacific. The suspect lived nearby at Railroad St. and Ave E. A search warrant was issued but the stolen goods were not found.

January 19, 1931 – **Phillip Vondevourde**

County attorney believes stills and other equipment, mash and materials for manufacturing of intoxicating liquors: ale, whiskey, brandy, beer, wine unlawfully kept for sale by Phillip Vondevourde in frame building, used as private dwelling house in Collins Township across road north of Union Pacific tracks bordering west line of Kearney.

Warrant issued, no goods found

January 24, 1931 – 100 pounds of coal was stolen from the Union Pacific. Two men were arrested. They plead guilty and each was fined \$2 plus court costs of \$4.80.

February 21, 1931 – The county attorney filed a complaint against **Jake Vohland** whom he believed was keeping a still and other equipment, mash, and other materials used to manufacture intoxicating beverages, to wit: alcohol, whiskey, beer and wine at his residence in Section 20-9-13. In the last 30 days he was accused of manufacturing and selling liquor and now was concealing liquor, mash, and stills in barrels, bottles, casks, and cases in rooms, walls, or beneath the floor.

A search warrant was issued. Sixty-six bottles of beer were found.

February 23, 1931 – Vohland was charged with possession of more than 70 bottles of beer, more than is reasonably sufficient for personal use. He was arrested, plead guilty, and was fined \$100 plus costs of \$4.80.

March 17, 1931 – **Roy Coon** was accused of keeping a still and other equipment, mash, and other materials used to manufacture intoxicating beverages, to wit: alcohol, whiskey, beer and wine on the second floor of Mrs. Smith's building over the variety store one block south of the Union Pacific railroad track in Shelton, on the east side of the street. A warrant was issued that day and returned on March 20 with the report of "No goods found."

Book 5 – April 11, 1931 – March 1933

April 11, 1931 – Selma Adda Coon was pregnant with a bastard child. She named Jimmie Quinn as the father. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

June 1, 1931 – C K Nielsen filed a complaint.

1. On June 10th John Doe hit him with clods of dirt and other objects.
2. John Doe uttered grossly vile and insulting epithets.

Irvin J. Keiffer was arrested, pled not guilty, tried, found guilty of assault, fined \$1 and costs of \$4.80

[1926 City Directory - Chas K Nielsen, gardener living at 1715 E

1930 Census, 73 years old, imm from Denmark in 1872, divorced, living alone, no occupation]

1940 Census – 83 years old, born in Ohio, widowed, no occupation, same house in 1935, John & Beryl Nielson living there also. They were in Lexington in 1935

Kearney Cemetery – born Aug 27, 1856; died Nov 14, 1943; 87 years old]

June 18, 1931 – Mike Jacobs filed a complaint.

Jacob Jacob hit him and struck him with sticks.

Jacob Jacobs was arrested. Case dismissed.

[1930 Census – Jacob Jacobs, 18, born in Nebraska of Syrian parents, hired hand on farm in Shelton Township]

July 2, 1931 – Alvera Anna Thaden was pregnant with a bastard child. She named Carl Schwab as the father.

[Marriage license file – Alvera Thaden married Marvin Goerndt on Feb. 7, 1931]

Alvera and Carl had three sons, the oldest, Darwin, was born in 1932

Alvera Anna Schwab in the U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Name: Alvera Anna Schwab
[Alvera A Schwab]
[Alvera Schwab]
[Alvera Anna Thaden]

SSN: 508364299

Gender: Female

Race: White

Birth Date: 26 Jul 1912

Birth place: Sartoria Buf, Nebraska
[Pleasant Val??. Nebraska]

Father Name: Otto Thaden

Mother Name: Mary L Lammors

Death Date: 28 Apr 1990

Type of Claim: Original SSN.

Notes: May 1951: Name listed as ALVERA ANNA SCHWAB; 03 Jul 1984: Name listed as ALVERA A SCHWAB; 04 Jun 1993: Name listed as ALVERA SCHWAB

April 26, 1931 – Walter Cash and John Tappin were charged with having a still at the home of Walter Cash, 3 ½ miles southwest of Gibbon on the southwest corner of section 3-8-14.

June 27, 1931 – Charges filed

1. The two still equipment in their possession
2. They have mash in their possession for distilling
3. They had liquor in their possession

July 6, 1931 – Mabel Hadwiger was pregnant with a bastard child. She named Guy Leroy Skinner as the father. He was arrested, plead not guilty. Bond was set at \$750 but since he did not have the money, he went to jail.

Mabel Hadwiger

[1931 City Directory – living in Kearney, student

1940 Census – Mabel Skinner, 28, Divorced, servant in a Hastings household, 8 year old son, Robert]

Guy Skinner

[Hub – Dec. 5, 1930 – Guy Skinner was captain of the Kearney Green Jackets basketball team.

July 10, 1931 – “Marriage license issued to Guy Skinner and Mabel Anna Hadwiger, both of Kearney, and the county judge performed the wedding ceremony.”

Jan. 29, 1932 – Negro Quintet Here – a colored professional basketball teamk was in Kearney to play the Kearney Greenjackets, “a three-y7ear-old local semi-pro aggregation” including Guy Skinner.

April 13, 1935 – “Married Last Sunday

Hazel Johnson, daughter of M. and Mrs. C. B. Johnston, and Guy Skinner, son of Mrs. Della Skinner, were married in Council Bluffs Iowa, last Sunday, it was announced. The bride is a graduate of the Kearney High, while Mr. Skinner graduated from the A. O. Thomas High. The couple will make their home in Omaha, where he is employed.”

Dec. 26, 1936 – Mrs. Mabel Skinner and son of Wood Rive attended a 50th anniversary celebration for Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Gewecke in Kearney.

Nov. 21, 1939 – Guy Skinner was one of three coaches of the Kearney grade school football team.

Dec. 30, 1939 – The coaches were working for the recreation division of the WPA]

Ancestry.com records – 1920 – Guy, 8, lived with his parents in Lynn, Clay Co., Nebr.

1930 Census – Guy Skinner, 19, lived at 1716 Ave D with his father, Roy, mother, Della, and brother, Lloyd 7. Guy was working in a grocery store. His parents were both 17 when they married.

1931 City Directory – Guy and his mother lived at 1716 Ave D. Guy was a clerk at Safeway.

1935 Omaha City Directory – Guy and wife, Hazel, lived at 216 N 19th St. He was a salesman for Hayden Bros.

1940 Census – Guy, 29, and his wife, Darylene, 20, were living with his mother, Della, 50, divorced, at 152 Ave B in Kearney. Guy had worked sometimes in the past year for a WPA school project. Both he and his mother were living in Kearney in 1935. Darylene was living on a farm in Custer County.

1941 City Directory – Guy and his wife, Darylene, were living at 1617 1st Ave. Guy was working as a recreation supervisor.

Marriage license issued in Iowa to Guy Leroy Skinner and Hazel Johnston. First marriage for both.]

July 10, 1931 – J E Starke was charged that

1. on July 3 he had 3 gallon jugs of whiskey and 20 pints of beer in his home.
2. He manufactured this liquor

A warrant was issued. He was arrested, plead guilty to Count 1, fined \$100

Bond was set at \$500. He could not pay either the fine or the bond so he went to jail with credit for 7 days time served

[Hub, July 6, 1931 – “Police visited the J. E. Starke place, at 1316 Second avenue, over the wee-end and claim to have found three gallons of liquor and some beer. Starke is being held.”

Dec. 6, 1937 – “Cab Driver Not to Blame for Death
Exonerated by officers After Crash Victim Dies

Taxicab driver John Rosso was not to blame for the accident Friday night in which John Edward Starke, 68, was fatally hurt....Starke died at a local hospital late Saturday afternoon, as a result of the accident....occurred at ten-thirty Friday night....Starke was walking along the south side of the road east on Avenue F and south of the Burlington tracks. He walked directly in front of the cab when Rosso sounded his horn....survived by his wife and a number of children....”

Dec 11, 1937 – “Card of Thanks

We take this means of expressing our most hearty thanks to all members of the Buffalo County Improvement Club, for all kindness and sympathy shown and for the beautiful flowers which were received for Mrs. J. E. Starke; also we appreciate the comforting words of Adjutant Schaeff. Signed: Mrs. Carrie Starke, Mrs. Bernadine Compton, Mr. James Starke”]

[Kearney Cemetery – Starke, John Edward – died at Good Samaritan, buried in county owned lot 35, space 1, East field on Dec. 7, 1937. He died on December 4, 1937 in an auto accident. He was 69 years old, 3 months and 16 days.]

July 14, 1931 – J. W. Moore, a single man, unlawfully lived and cohabited with Violet Harenhoff, a married woman from June 10 to July 12 during which time they had sexual intercourse. A warrant was issued. [for Moore?]

[Hub, Nov. 5, 1935 – J. W. Moore, a carpenter, formerly of Holdrege, was living in Creede, Colo]

July 20, 1931 – Laurine Lester was pregnant with a bastard child. She named Harry J. DeViney as the father.