



THE
SUNFLOWER
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Tipsy Troubles

For many years Reno County banned the sale and use of intoxicating liquor. This issue highlights just a few of the cases related to the illegal sale & use of alcohol.

CAWN FOUND IN A WASH TUB

"I knew they used alcohol in motor cars but this is the first intimation I ever had that it was used in washings," said City Detective **Bill Darling** this morning in discussing the raid last night on the rooming house at 127-1/2 South Main street, operated by Mary Holtkamp. The place was raided by a joint city and county force. In the squad were Sheriff **Jesse Langford**, Detectives Darling and **Roff**, and Officer **Charles Alford**.

Darling found the jug of corn whiskey after the searchers were just about ready to give up, secreted in a tub hanging on the back porch. The smell of whiskey in the kitchen was strong, the officers stated, and they were certain they were on a hot scent when they arrived.

Mary Hoiltkamp and **Ethel Waer** were booked on bone dry charges at the police station. It is also likely that state cases will be brought against them. *The Hutchinson News. Friday, February 2, 1923.*

THE JURY DISAGREES

After being out more than 24 hours the jury in the case of **C.E. Quinn**, against whom a charge of selling intoxicating liquor had been made, came in and reported to Judge Galle that they had been unable to agree on a verdict. It is understood that they stood about half for conviction and about an equal number for acquittal.

This was an unusual case, as it was alleged that the complaining witness was acting for revenge. It is claimed that the trouble arose over Quinn having a man arrested on the charge of trying to beat a little board bill, and that when the defendant in that case got out of the kinks he came back at Quinn by charging him with selling intoxicating liquor. There has been considerable doubt expressed at the time of the trial of Quinn's guilt. This same question seemed to bother the jury as there was a disagreement. Quinn was proprietor of a little chili stand near the Windsor hotel, on North Main street. *The Hutchinson Daily Independent. Wednesday, April 15, 1908.*

FIND HARD DRINK IN SOFT DRINK PLACE

Morris Smith, of Hutchinson, was fined \$200 and costs and sentenced to serve 13 months in the Reno county jail by Justice **W.T. Clark** today when he plead guilty to two liquor charges, possessing and maintaining and nuisance.

Smith was arrested late yesterday by raiding officers who found a gallon of alcohol in a filling station on Rayl Hill west of the city on the Sylvia pavement. Smith was in charge of the station and admitted that the officers had him, according to Sheriff **Fay Brown**, who led the raid. Other officers in the party were: Undersheriff **Ed Cunningham, M.E. Jolliffe**, deputy; **Oscar Knowles**, chief of detectives; **Edd Woodson**, deputy.

The alcohol was in an oil can resting on the floor of the filling station.

"We intend to make it hard on the boys who run soft drink stands and sell liquor," declared Sheriff Brown who has raided three such places recently. "Those who sell pop and beer won't be bothered but this liquor business don't go." *The Hutchinson News. Tuesday, May 17, 1927.*

THIS ISSUE: PROHIBITION DAYS

STILL IN JAIL

James Rakestraw is still in the Reno county jail awaiting sentence for the crime of selling intoxicating liquor. He plead guilty to once charge and the other case was held over his head. While awaiting sentencing he ran away, leaving his bondsmen in the lurch. Only a couple of weeks ago Rakestraw was found and arrested on an alias warrant, was locked up, and is again awaiting sentence. There have been a large number of liquor sellers housed in the county jail since **W.H. Lewis** became county attorney and **Came Duckworth** became sheriff. *The Hutchinson Daily Independent, Thursday, November 21, 1907.*

ARRESTS ON INDICTMENTS

Three arrests were made this morning on the return of the indictments from the grand jury, including **Elmer Webber**, **R.O. Shepperd**, and **Fannie Ritchie**. The first two are on charge of the illegal sale of liquor, while the Ritchie woman is charged with running a bawdy house at Nickerson. Shepperd is the hack driver who was suspected of having some knowledge concerning the death of an unknown man whose body was found at the corner of Twelfth avenue and Walnut street some months ago, but was later released. *The Hutchinson Gazette, Wednesday, October 14, 1908.*

GETS SECOND MAN FROM CAFE

Sheriff **George Duckworth** arrested "**Doc**" **Philipps**, who conducts the R-Way Cafe on West Second avenue, yesterday afternoon. A state's warrant charged him with selling intoxicating liquor. He was taken to the county jail, but later gave bond for \$300. **George Winters**, the proprietor of the R-Way Cafe, is serving a jail sentence at present for violating the prohibitory law. *The Hutchinson Gazette, Friday, February 12, 1909.*

TWENTY-FIVE LIQUOR CASES

Over 50 per cent of the criminal cases that have been docketed for the coming session of the district court, are the result of arrests made by the county officials on liquor complaints. Forty criminal cases have been set for hearing. 25 of them are for liquor charges. One of them rests against **Al Meadors**, policeman. There are 4 cases where the defendants are accused of renting houses for immoral purposes. There are 23 divorce cases that will be heard at the April term of the district court. *The Hutchinson Gazette, Friday, March 29, 1909.*

LANGDON CASE DISMISSED

The charges preferred against **Ira King**, **O. Popejoy**, **Fred McClanegan**, and **Joe Bates** of Langdom, brought by **W.W. Patterson** of assault with intimidation, was dismissed in the court of **W.H. Snyder**, Justice of the Peace. The 4 men were arrested a week ago. Patterson claimed that he was attacked by them and that they threatened to injur him further if he did not leave Langdon. The trouble is said to have been an outcome of the arrest of Bates on a liquor charge. The jury found that the four men were not really serious in their assault. *The Hutchinson Gazette, Friday, February 12, 1909.*

"CALL AGAIN, CALLIGAN"

The Arlington populace wondered why Duckworth quickly departed. **Sheriff Duckworth** walked right in Arlington last night, and walked right out again. He had a warrant for the arrest of **Lige Davis** of that place on a liquor charge. When he got to Arlington he found that Davis was not there but was in Hutchinson, so he immediately came back. Davis was arrested in the meantime by **Assistant Chief Yost** and **Sergeant Johnson** at the New Central hotel and turned over to Sheriff Duckworth. *The Hutchinson News, Tuesday, May 11, 1909.*

HOSPITAL A REFUGE

While **George B. Hicks**, properietor of 26 Second west, which was raided several days ago and a large amount of whisky confiscated, lies in a hospital at Kansas City, Missouri, ill so it is said, the county officials are waiting to serve a warrant.

Hicks, it is said, was the properietor of the "joint" and in several acts contrary to the liquor acts. When the time became ripe for the officers to make a seizure, Hicks was not to be found, although evidence was gathered against his place and the partner was roped in.

The city police turned the evidence against Hicks over to the county authroties with recommendations that Hicks be prosecuted. However, the county officials remembered the adage concerning the bird in the hand and laid low, awaiting Hicks' return.

Additional evidence, it is said, has been gained, to the effect that Hicks was somewhat of a magnate when it came to dispensing liquid cheer. Officials say that Hicks, with a number of his deputies, worked the Kansas fairs. Hicks, they say, provided the liquid cheer and the other men acted as pocket bartenders for Hicks.

The condition of Hicks is serious, according to the Kansas City hospital officials *The Hutchinson News, Saturday, September 25, 1909.*

TWO ARE ARRESTED

Mr. and Mrs. **Tom Johnson** will be entertained by the city and county for a few days.

The above was not intended for the personal column. It is merely a substance of what Chief of Police **Hern** said with regards to the plans for the disposal of **Tom Johnson**, of East Hutchinson, and wife, both of whom are out on bond on liquor charges.

Tom Johnson was arrested several days ago. His wife was arrested yesterday. The police made a visit to the residence yesterday afternoon. They found several "cold ones" in the refrigerator. These 8 bottles of beer were taken from the ice at the risk of their spoiling. Mrs. **Johnson** was asked to accompany the officers. She seemed to be conducting the thirst emporium in the absence of her husband.

According to **Chief of Police Hern** there are 16 names before the county attorney of persons who have sworn that they have purchased liquor at **Johnson's** residence. The affidavits of these persons will be used provided **Johnson** and his wife plead not guilty.

Too many automobiles in front of the residence was the first hint the officers received that the **Johnson** residence was something of a business establishment. The neighbors complained that all during fair week from 6 to 8 automobiles would be stationed near the residence. Men with thirst apparent on their countenances would enter the residence. Whatever kind of an **Aladdin's** lamp was kept inside the house, the men would return with refreshed appearance.

Chief **Hern** said today that **Johnson** and wife will be prosecuted in both the city and police courts. *The Hutchinson News, Tuesday, September 20, 1910.*

FOUND TWO PINTS OF WHISKEY

A pool hall operated at 426 South Main street was raided by the police yesterday evening and 2 pints of whiskey were confiscated. The owner will be arrested on a liquor selling charge. *The Hutchinson Gazette, Wednesday, August 9, 1911.*

ARRESTED

O.L. Parkhurst, of Castleton, was arrested yesterday on a warrant which charges him with selling booze. He was unable to furnish a bond and is being held in jail. *The Hutchinson Gazette, Tuesday, October 17, 1911.*

FOUND BEER AND DRINKERS

The police arrested **H.S. Ratzlaff**, 6-1/2 Third avenue east Saturday, charged with maintaining a liquor nuisance. About half a case of beer and some persons drinking beer were found in his rooms. *The Gazette, August 9, 1911.*

NO! YES, SURE; MEXICAN JOHN IN COURT AGAIN

The new police judge, **M. Hoagland**, had his first round with "**Mexican John**" **Williams** yesterday. **John** was arrested yesterday, not an uncommon occurrence, and the charge this time happened to be selling liquor. Needless to say **John** scored heavily in his first encounter with the new dispenser of justice, but Judge **Hoagland** is not to be blamed for that. **John** gets away with most any old thing in the legal line. While normally a chili seller, the wily little foreigner is something of a lawyer, for due to his numerous encounters with the law he has absorbed some of the principles of procedure.

The police arrested **John Baca**, another Mexican, yesterday, charging him with being drunk. They had also picked the wife of Mexican **John** and committed her to jail, from which she escaped a few weeks ago. Mexican **John**, on a visit to headquarters to see his wife, heard **John Baca** testify that he had purchased his whisky of him (Mexican **John**). That was the cue for the chili dispenser to beat it back to his South Main street resort, and when the police arrived, hotfoot, there was not a trace of wet goods in sight.

And in the trial which followed, **John** acted as his own lawyer to such good purpose that the charge against him was dismissed, although **Baca** stuck to his story that he bought his joy water from the restaurant man.

There is a balance of \$14 due on the fine of **Williams' wife**, and **John** promised to pay that Monday, sure. Then there is a little matter of \$13 still against **John** from another fine which he promised to pay, but forgot. The payment of these 2 back fines was one of the conditions of the dismissal of the charge against him yesterday. But then, **John** has promised before. In fact, his batting average in the police league is topped only by that of "**Buttermilk**" **Ryerson**. *The Hutchinson Gazette, April 20, 1911.*

REFUSED TO STAND PAT

Manager Of Gambling Joint “Threw Up” His Hand Poker Layout Is Burned Blaze Christened With Bottles Of Whiskey

“Daddy” Wells Fined \$50 and End Is Not Yet Officers Stumbled Onto Room By Chance 156 Decks Of Cards Secured

Flushes and straights, And cards that aren't mates. That's what some fires are made out of.

It was only a fire and a bonfire at that. But the items constituting the blaze make it worthy of especial mention. They are as follows: Two poker tables. Poker chips, if cashable, worthy many thousands of dollars. 155 packs of cards. Christened with 6 bottles of whiskey.

The blaze at the side of the city hall this morning attracted considerable attention. It marked the grand finale to a gambling layout. The police, in a raid yesterday, secured furniture and paraphernalia that would have equipped a side room of Richard Canfield's studio in New York.

“Daddy” Wells was arrested and charged with the operation of a gambling house. He pleaded guilty in police court this morning and was fined \$50 and costs, amounting in all to \$54. The case was turned over to the county for further prosecution. Operating a gambling house is a penitentiary offense.

It was by the merest quip of fate that **Officer Olmstead** ran on to a gambling layout over the Smoke House yesterday afternoon when hunting for bootleggers. The patrol wagon was called. “Daddy” Wells was placed under arrest, he being the only person present at the time of the raid. A good deal of furniture was confiscated. The poker tables, chips, and cards were loaded into the patrol wagon. On the walls were numerous pictures, most of them spicy, some of them actual works of art as viewed from the standpoint of art, rather than morality. But the officers didn't touch these. Whatever obscenity the pictures represented, it was certain that no royal flushes lurked within their portraits.

In police court this morning **Judge Campbell** ordered the paraphernalia and furniture destroyed. He minded not that fully a million “pat” hands were represented in the collection of pasteboards. So the “crool” officers moved the outfit to the yard west of the police station and the heart-rending conflagration was soon on.

A very slender youth with a very large ax acted as royal executioner. As he chopped one of the tables, some alleged with remarked: “That's the first poker game you ever broke up.”

According to the officers, Wells will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. They say that his plea of guilty in police court will be strong evidence in district court. For safety, however, **City Attorney Tyler** took a number of the poker chips for evidence. *The Hutchinson News, Tuesday, September 20, 1910.*

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RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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