

# Knew Dry Men, but Sold Drinks On Boss's "O. K."--Three in Bail

*news* 10/10/29

A bartender who recognized three federal prohibition agents but served them with liquor because his boss told him they were "O. K." was held with the boss and another defendant in \$2,000 each for the grand jury when they were arraigned yesterday before United States Commissioner Joseph F. Holland.

Fritz Klein of 231 Ridge street, who operates a restaurant at 195 Bloomfield avenue, was the boss, according to testimony of agents, who said he was behind the bar with Armin Rothenstein of 80 West Kinney street when they entered. They asked for liquor and Rothenstein asked Klein if it was all right and the latter said it was.

After being served at the bar, the agents said, they went to the dining room and were served dinner and more liquor by Steve Krum of 219 Blaine street, Millburn.

The agents went back to the bar and had some more drinks and then asked Rothenstein if he knew who they were.

"Sure you're government men, that's the reason I asked the boss if it was all right," Rothenstein was quoted as saying.

A charge against Anthony Sturbin of 80 Rutgers street and Robert Lewis of 37 Mercer street, who were arrested after agents seized a carload of beer in the Lehigh Valley freight yards in

Irvington, was dismissed by the commissioner.

The agents testified they found no one in a truck backed up to a freight car or in the freight car but saw two men about seventy-five feet distant, walking away from the truck. They arrested the two.

The commissioner also dismissed a charge of transportation against George Nicewinter of 87 Alyea street, Newark, who was arrested in a raid in the Lehigh Valley yards in Wilson avenue. Nicewinter was caught after a chase and the agents were unable to identify him as being on a truck which was transporting beer to the freight car. He was held in \$2,000 bail, however, on a charge of possession after it was testified he had been arrested in another raid under another name.

Commissioner Holland also dismissed a charge against Richard Vocardo of 35 Newark avenue, charged with manufacture. Vocardo's wife owns the property at 37 Newark avenue in which two colored men were fatally injured when a still exploded. The commissioner said the manufacturing charge was not sustained by the agents.

Paul Bullis of 221 Haywood place, Wallington, was held in \$1,000 bail by United States Commissioner A. L. Friedmann today on a charge of selling and manufacturing liquor. He was arrested at the "Buck and Bull Quick Lunch," 39 Main avenue, Wallington.

## TRENTONIAN WINS DELAY IN PENALTY

*Trenton Times*  
Vitaliere Admits Charges Arising from Seizure of Still  
Near Here 10/10/29

James Vitaliere, of Trenton, pleaded guilty before Judge William Clark in the Federal Court here today to charges arising from his arrest at a still on the farm of William Kopec, Yardville. Vitaliere said he was destitute at the time he started to work at the booze plant, and declared that he did not know the name of the man who hired him.

Judge Clark postponed sentence, pending a complete investigation of Vitaliere's connection with the distillery.

Kopec, also arraigned for pleading, told the Court through an interpreter that he had rented his farm to some men whose identity was unknown to him. He said he did not know the men planned to run a still on his place. He was dismissed by the judge, who ordered that his story be investigated.

J. T. Hickey, Edward McNulty, Carl Carlson and John Hammerstone, of Phillipsburg, stood trial on charge of possessing a large quantity of beer. The case went to the jury late today. The men were arrested in a raid which uncovered a beer cache in an establishment owned by Hickey.

Angelo Pennulla, of Newark, was sentenced to 10 days in the Hudson County Jail on a plea of guilty to possession of liquor, manufacture, and possession of a still. Nearly a score of other defendants, from various parts of the State, pleaded guilty to violating the dry law and will be sentenced later. Bench warrants were issued for several defendants who failed to appear for trial.

## Big Liquor Haul by Trenton Policeman

*news* 10/9/29

TRENTON (P)—One hundred and ten cases of liquor valued at nearly \$10,000 was taken from a truck at Broad and Perry streets early today by Patrolman Thomas Jones. The driver, Jacob Bernstein, was arrested and the cargo taken to police headquarters.

Suspicion of the patrolman was aroused by the slow pace at which the truck was proceeding and the fact that all the doors were locked.

The driver refused to tell the source or the destination of the liquor.

## BERNSTEIN IS HELD IN BOOZE SEIZURE

*Trenton Times*  
Bail of \$5,000 Fixed for Truck  
Driver—Ownership Is  
Denied

Arrested yesterday while driving a truck loaded with 110 cases of gin, John Bernstein, 36 years old, of 934 Stuyvesant Avenue, is at liberty under \$5,000 bail, pending Federal Grand Jury action.

The arrest was made by Patrolman Thomas Jones. The officer saw the truck in East Trenton and, suspicious of its contents, set out in pursuit. He overtook the vehicle at Broad and Perry Streets and ordered the driver to stop. Bernstein surrendered without resistance, but asked the patrolman to give him a "break," according to Jones' report. Bernstein told Jones the truck contained whiskey, but analysis showed the cargo to be gin.

Bernstein denied ownership of the booze, maintaining that he was merely hired to drive the truck. The vehicle is said to be owned by Abe Mogul, of 159 Cooper Street. Federal agents and police are at work today trying to trace ownership of the liquor. The gin, at current prices, is worth about \$8,500.

Lieutenant Sigafos, head of the Trenton police dry squad, notified the Federal enforcement authorities at Newark, and the case was turned over to the government for prosecution. Bernstein was arraigned before United States Commissioner Richard S. Wilson, who fixed bail pending Grand Jury action under the Jones "5 & 10" Act on charges of transportation. Under the act, Bernstein, if convicted, faces a penalty ranging from a small-term jail sentence to a maximum sentence of five years in the Atlanta Penitentiary and \$10,000 fine.

Yesterday's seizure brings to nearly \$35,000 the loss sustained by Trenton bootleggers in the past few days, including the huge alcohol seizure at the garage of Tony Maggio at Whitaker and Cummins Avenues and the confiscation of another large booze plant in a garage on Roebing Avenue.