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Pennington Raids Brewery After $3,000 Excavation Bares Pipe Line Laid to Beer Plant from 'Drop'

Trenton Times 11/21/31

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 21 (AP).—A raid on the old Hensler Brewery here has stilled the prohibition department shovels, which for the past 24 days have dug up the adjoining street in an effort to discover a hidden pipe line between the brewery and a raided beer drop.

The brewery was raided late yesterday by ... the ... per... ...nder John ... prohibition ... sey, Penn...

... warrant, ... is being ...facturing ... permit to ...ges, and ... the firm

...ave been ... brewery ...ssued 19 ...m from ...action.

Commander Pennington declared that he had a right to enter the brewery today because of the discovery of a four-inch pipe, allegedly connecting the brewery with the garage across the street, raided 24 days ago. Pennington said the pipe had been traced to the garage.

The men arrested—Harry E. Weber, president of the firm; Matthew A. Golden, vice president, and Frank Knierieman, secretary and treasurer—were held in $5,000 bail by U. S. Commissioner Holland for conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws.

The cost of the 24 days' digging done in search for the four-inch pipe, which the prohibition department says definitely links the brewery with the beer drop at 69 Alyea Street, is, in Commander Pennington's estimate, $3,000.

The commander termed the expense "an excellent investment," and said that he expected to obtain an order padlocking the brewery as a result of the excavations, which removed over 1,000 tons of soil and went as deep as 21 feet in the 24 days of digging. Other officials also pointed out that besides being "an excellent investment" the digging helped alleviate the unemployment situation.

The search for the pipe line started after the raid of the beer drop garage. Agents discovered a pipe line leading from the loading platforms of the garage through a side wall and into the cellar of a house at 67 Alyea Street. The line was discovered again by excavators at a depth of 11 feet below the surface of the street as it led out of the house at the curb of Alyea Street, and then allegedly located leading into the rear of the brewery. A jury will decide whether beer flowed through that pipe.

PENNINGTON BLAMES NEW JERSEY'S PUBLIC OFFICIALS FOR FAILURE TO ENFORCE PROHIBITION AMENDMENT

Trenton Times 11/18/31

Accuses Trenton Authorities of Unnecessary Delay in Still Explosion

BACON DENIES HE IS BREWERY COUNSEL

CAMDEN, N. J., Nov. 18 (AP).—Commander John D. Pennington, Prohibition Administrator for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, blames public officials of New Jersey for failure to enforce the prohibition laws in this State.

Addressing the Citizens' Federation of New Jersey for Temperance and Law Enforcement, Commander Pennington said Camden is one of the most intemperate cities in his district, while Philadelphia is one of the cleanest, due to the efforts of Director Schofield.

The laxity with which the 18th Amendment is enforced in New Jersey, he said can be attributed directly to the presence of attorneys who represent traffickers.

"If what I have to say of New Jersey is treason, they may shoot when ready and make the most of it," declared Pennington.

"In Hoboken, my men seized 18 five-ton trucks loaded with 2,500 barrels of beer. A mob set upon them and got some of the trucks away. When these confiscated trucks were sold in Newark, some racketeers got them for $150 each.

"At the Elizabeth brewery, where Agent Finiello was shot to death by gangsters, the man who shot him down first offered to my agents $1,000 a week if they would lay down their jobs.

"It is my intention to padlock every brewery in the State and I will not be compromised. When they asked for a compromise, and they are asking for it, I know they are licked."

Accuses Trenton Officials of Neglect

Commander Pennington criticized Trenton officials for their delay in investigating the dynamiting of a building which his agents had raided.

"Four of my agents were maimed and one innocen man killed by a bomb which exploded he plant," he said. "That was several months ago and I am still awaiting word from the Trenton authorities as to who installed the plant and who set off the bomb."

In attacking public officials who, he said, at the same time represent the breweries, racketeers and gangsters, Pennington said:

"I question the ethics of the legal profession. I am not surprised at the lax enforcement of prohibition when we consider that in New Jersey, Walter Bacon, the assistant attorney general, is the attorney for a Camden brewery.

"And Congressman Benjamin Golder, a lawyer of Philadelphia, represents nearly all men arrested on narcoting and bootlegging charges in this entire area. Mr. Schofield, director of public safety in Philadelphia, is driving racketeers and their ilk from that city to Camden—where they are welcome.

"I have an average of 100 letters this month from residents of Camden complaining about conditions and asking me to do the work of your prosecutor and police. However, the Federal Government is not a village cop."

Pay Compliment to Bourquin

Commander Pennington paid a tribute to Federal Judge George M. Bourquin, of Montana, now sitting in Trenton, for his disposition of liquor cases saying that the Western jurist had instilled more respect for law in New Jersey than any man preceding him.

The administrator declared that, without the influence of public officials, the late Mickey Duffy, murdered racketeer, could not have attempted to monopolize all transportation in New Jersey except the railroads "for his nefarious schemes."

Newark News

Pennington Says Wil... J. Egan Has Power of ...torney for Concern...

It will be up to a jury to ... whether a pipe line carried bee... the old Hensler brewery to the ... drop" across the way which was raided October 27. This was declared today by prohibition agents who yesterday afternoon at the end of twenty-four days of excavacation in Alyea street, at the rear of the brewery, dug up what they say is sufficient evidence.

As soon as the agents discovered that the pipe eleven feet below the street surface led to the brewery, another of ...

... October 27 resulted in the seizure of three large trucks containing barrels of high-powered beer outside the alleged "drop" in the rear of the brewery. The place is a large manufacturer's garage with a loading station running along one side. It is from behind this loading station that the prohibition agents assert they have traced the pipe line.

A few months ago agents from Philadelphia, with a search warrant, raided the garage, but no beer was found there.

The digging in Alyea street which resulted in the location of the pipe-line was started nearly a month ago. After tracing an iron pipe line from the wash room of the garage to the garage wall in the rear of the George Paglie property the agents were halted because they were unable to enter the private premises.

A search warrant was obtained from Commissioner Friedmann to search the rear yard and outbuildings and the pipe was traced to the rear cellar wall of the home of Paglie, whose house also faces the brewery at 67 Alyea street.

First Opposed Entrance.

William Harris, attorney for Paglie, opposed the entrance of the agents into the yard and appeared before Federal Judge Clark to have the search warrant quashed. During the course of hearings he dropped the opposition and agreed to allow the agents to enter the yard and house. The agents went into the cellar and found the pipeline terminated in a coupling on the inside of the wall.

Bricks in the floor of the cellar in a line from the pipe terminal to the front of the house had been removed and replaced.

While the agents had had the street in front of the house opened for 200 or 300 feet they went back to the front again and started going deeper than on the first attempt. They dug down eleven feet before coming on the iron pipe which, they say, leads into the brewery.

The seizure of the brewery affects only the brewing equipment and the materials and not the real estate. It was arranged that refrigerator processes would be kept going in the seized brewery pending subsequent litigation to preserve the materials.

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...y Advertiser 11-22-31

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...posed of 746 ...guilty pleas, ...l by juries. ...of guilty, 111 ...rials without ...onvictions, 34 ...rial.

...cerned with violations of the Eighteenth Amendment.

So firm was Judge Bourquin in handling liquor trials that only 22 acquittals were returned as compared with 85 convictions.

Liquor cases alone brought in a harvest of $135,525 in fines and resulted in sentences of 1,086 months and 25 days in jail.

Other criminal cases resulted in 68 pleas of guilty and 42 trials by jury, in which there were 29 convictions and 12 acquittals. In this division a total of $45,479.87 was collected in fines and sentences aggregated 644 months and 25 days in jail.

"The Government business," said Mr. Forman in his report, "transacted at the September term of the United States Court at Trenton before Judge Avis of this district and Judge Bourquin, especially designated here by Chief Justice Hughes, was exceptionally heavy and aggregated as much,

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Handle Ma... In Federa...

Newark ...

Judges Avis and ... Ten Weeks Dispo... Usually Requi...

Figures showing the ... cases disposed of in Tre... Judges John Boyd Avis ... Bourquin, visiting jurist ... during the September ... nounced today by Uni... torney Philip Forman.

CITY-COUNT... EDITI... Wall S...

... ing the Bears ... A siren ... everyone in the ... agents found in ... gallon stills, a large ... and 200 proof alcohol. In addition to the two ... which were square instead of ... cylindrical form and which occup... section of the main floor, a large re... flying column had been erected in the rear which gave the alcohol so fine a quality.

The agents said they learned the plant imported molasses from Porto Rico and shipped out alcohol in tank car lots. The building was formerly part of the dye plant of ... Merz Co.