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Trenton Times 7/10/31

Trentonian, Accused As Sales Agent, Cleared. Evidence Is Lacking

Samuel Lavine, of 564 Bellevue Avenue, Trenton, accused by the Government as a sales agent of the mammoth liquor ring that operated at Atlantic Highlands, was cleared by a directed verdict in the Newark Federal Court yesterday afternoon. Fifteen others of the thirty-seven defendants on trial were freed by direction of Judge J. Lyles Glenn

For weeks before the trial, secret operatives of the Department of Justice conned bank accounts in Trenton in an effort to secure evidence linking Lavine with the ring. A Trenton bank clerk has been at Newark under subpoena since the trial opened several days ago. The Government failed to substantiate its charges against Lavine, and Judge Glenn directed the jury to adjudge him not guilty. The fifteen others similarly cleared have also been released. The remaining 21 defendants are still on trial.

Lavine said today that the Government never had any evidence to connect him with the Atlantic Highlands case.

NEWARK, N. J., July 10 (AP).—Federal Judge J. Lyles Glenn today reduced the number of defendants on trial in the Atlantic rum ring cases to 17, freeing six more men.

Originally 37 of 51 indicted men reported for trial which began three weeks ago. Sixteen were cleared yesterday on recommendation of United States District Attorney Phillip Forman on the grounds that they had no connection with the alleged conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws. Those freed today were released for the same reason.

Judge Glenn yesterday announced he would strike out 22 of the 36 overt acts charged in the indictment, but in court this morning would not reveal exactly how many he had stricken out.

The additional men freed were: Edward F. Bitter, an alleged leader; Thomas Ross, Jr., Adolph Koch, George Fay, Thomas Calandriello and Henry Bockhorn.

A renewed plea for the direction of a verdict of asquittal for the remaining defendants was made in vain by Frederic M. P. Pearse, defense counsel.

Sumations were expected to be made this afternoon, with the possibility that the case may go to the jury tonight.

Those still on trial include Alex Lillien, Jr., branded by the Government as the master mind of the syndicate which is charged with the operation of a huge rum fleet along the Atlantic, and Walter McMasters, operator of an alleged unlicensed radio station in the old Hammerstein mansion at Atlantic Highlands.

Lawyers Clash at Trial Of Alleged Liquor Ring

U. S. Case 'Haphazard and Ill-Conceived,' Defense Contends

Special to the Herald Tribune

NEWARK, N. J., July 3.—A bitter attack on the manner of presentation of the Government's case against thirty-seven men on trial for alleged conspiracy to violate the prohibition law as the result of a raid on an Atlantic Highlands mansion said to be their headquarters in October, 1929, was made today before Federal Judge Glenn by Frederic M. P. Pearse, defense counsel.

Mr. Pearse clashed with Philip Forman, United States Attorney, about the "haphazard and ill conceived" way of putting in the evidence.

"There must be some systematic effort to show what these defendants have to face," Mr. Pearse said. "It would take a superman to figure this thing out."

Judge Glenn asked Mr. Forman if in his "honest judgment" the facts presented would later tend to prove dealings in liquor by the defendants. Mr. Forman replied affirmatively. Eight bank officials testified to identify the accounts of these defendants: Edwin Bitter, George Fay, Thomas Ross, Samuel Levine, Samuel Lerner and A. Weisman.

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NEWARK... government... tic Highla... evidence i... leged syn... address th... dence wh... radio tran... used to direct the operations of the rum fleet.

Records from the New Jersey State Department of Vehicles was introduced through John A. Meagher, an inspector, showing that Alex Lillien, Jr., alleged "master mind," James F. Murphy, "marine superintendent," and Harold Lindauer, another of the 37 on trial for conspiracy, listed, in applications for auto licenses, 33 Shrewsbury Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, as their home.

Judge J. Lyle Glenn, of South Carolina, presiding, also admitted in evidence truck registrations in the name of Murphy and two other defendants, Michael Krock and Walter F. Gerleit. The court pointed out, however, ...e was no proof the vehicles were ...ed in unlawful enterprises.

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...Four ...ed for ...Rising ...ree in ...5,000. ...abeth, ...abeth, ..., and $5,000 ...terday ...A. L. ...es of ...made ...and Victor Liotta, Nick Delmore, Edgar Wallace, Samuel E. Grossman, Julius R. Rissel, James Casico, Samuel Brownstein, Michael and William Weisman, Albert I. Silberman, Jack Newman, John L. Liebert, Harry Goldberg, Mike Roe, Stanley Novak and Anthony Wasilewsky.

John G. Finiello, Philadelphia prohibition agent, was fatally shot in the raid on the brewery, September 16, last.

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Trenton ... 7/9/31

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...the indictments ...c M. P. Pearse, ...he ground the ...proved its case. ...nsented to the ...names of 16 of the defendants, after which the defense rested without offering any witnesses.

Federal Judge J. Lyles Glenn ordered a recess until tomorrow morning.

The motion for a direct verdict of acquittal was denied. Judge Glenn said he would announce his decision on numerous other motions by the defense tomorrow.

...vacation.

Two More Surrender In Brewery Raid

Two more of the twenty-one persons indicted in connection with the manufacture of beer at the Rising Sun Brewery, where Federal Prohibition Agent John G. Finiello was slain during a raid, surrendered to Deputy United States Marshal James Donnelly today. Two others surrendered to United States Commissioner Pfaff of Elizabeth yesterday. All are charged with conspiracy to violate the national prohibition act.

The two who surrendered today are Stanley Novak and Anthony Wasilowski, who were held in bail of $5,000 each when arraigned before United States Commissioner oseph F. Holland. The others who were held in the same amount of bail are Vincent and Victor Liotta. Eight of those indicted are now under bail.

FINES OF $15,000 FOR ERIE RAILROAD

Trenton Times 7/10/31

NEWARK, N. J., July 10 (AP).—Pleading guilty to violation of the Elkins' tariff act, the Erie Railroad today was fined $15,000 by Federal Judge Bascom Dever. The railroad pleaded to 15 out of 25 counts in an indictment charging it gave rate concessions on flour shipments. The fine was $1,000 per count.

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