

June History on the Channel

Your Monthly News Flash from the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum

BREWERY IS DISCOVERED IN DOUGLAS

Douglas, May 31, 1918— Officials raided the residence of William Schwartzberg last night about eight o'clock, securing 101 bottles of beer, one or two gallon jugs, a pitcher and a three- gallon crock of the brew, together with a wash tub full of hops. All the necessary paraphernalia for the manufacture of beer.

The officers have been quietly at work on evidence furnished them for some time on this case, while securing the necessary evidence yesterday for the issuance of a search warrant.

When the officers first knocked at the door of the Schwartzberg home, no one answered the summons, so the door was forced. Mrs. Schwartzberg then making her appearance, who stated that her husband was at work at Thane. She admitted making the beer and said they had been doing it for some time, but called it a "root brew," instead of the genuine article. A test, however, disclosed the fact that the brew ran 5 percent in alcohol.

More than 100 bottles were found in a shed, while other receptacles containing the brew and several hundred empty beer bottles were in readiness for filling. More than a wheelbarrow-load of the evidence was taken to the US Commissioner's office, where the complaint was sworn. Schwartzberg and his wife were accused of manufacturing alcoholic stimulants, contrary to and in violation of the Prohibition Act of January 1, 1918.

Both the accused are German alien enemies, and if tried and convicted under the federal jurisdiction pertaining to aliens, they will be no doubt sentenced to internment in addition to the heavy Territorial fine or imprisonment for violation of the Prohibition act.

They were arraigned this afternoon and will have a trial tomorrow.



In the pre-prohibition years (before January 1918 in Alaska) William Schwartzburg is reported to have run the Eagle Brewery, on Main Street, Juneau. He then seems to have taken his trade underground in Douglas, and to have lost his touch.



SCHWARTZENBERG BREW IS NOT INTOXICATING IS VERDICT OF JURY

Douglas, June 11, 1918— According to the verdict of 12 true and tried men, the output of the Schwartzberg Brewery which was raided last Friday night, when something like 100 bottles containing a muddy-looking substance were confiscated, the contents of the bottles was not an intoxicant. But just what it would do to the imbiber is a problem to some of the jury who sampled it. They, it is declared, had but little appetite for breakfast this morning.

Druggist William Britt of Juneau was the expert witness in the case. His testimony was that, with the crude instruments at his disposal, he was unable to discover any perceptible traces of alcohol in the stuff, and on his testimony the jury based its verdict.

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