

Cuz's Corner By Bagley

Audio Radiance

The folks and I spent a week-end in the Big A-Atlanta to you-not long ago. Some week-end! I spent a lot of my time hitting the bottle while I was there.

Strange thing, though, my unrestrained bouts with the bottle didn't do a thing for me. Absolutely nothing. However, when I got up mighty early on the Sunday morning and began listening to the radio to see if we had won or lost the war while I'd been fighting the Battle of The Bottle, that's when it occurred to me that, maybe, the stuff I had been drinking had, after all, gotten to me.

I thought I understood the announcer to say, "Good Morning, Audio Radiance."

When Mary, my sister-in-law got up, just to make sure which one of us bottled-that announcer or me-I told her what I thought he had said. She laughed and told me that he always said that instead of saying, "Good morning, radio audience."

That relieved my mind on account of I's about to decide that I'd either had too much, or that that announcer hadn't had quite enough.

And before we left Atlanta, I discovered why that bottle I'd been hitting hadn't done anything for me. You see, it was the MILK BOTTLE.

Ah ha, I'll be that a lot of you were saying to yourselves, "That ole Scalawag is a sot after all."

Well, I'm happy to report to you that I never touch the stuff. Unless I'm alone or with some-body.

I've got a friend who is kinda peculiar about his drinking habits, too. He won't touch a drop unless the flag is either up or down.

That's why you never see either of us drinking anything separately together.

And that reminds me of a very brilliant letter I got the other day. In act, I was so impressed by its contents that I thought I would just share it with you in this column. I'm sure you will agree with my thinking on it: Much deep thought had gone into its composition.

Dear Cuz, Nell & Sherrynn, I just heard about it and was sorry to hear it was so magnificently unsuccessful. However, remember the old sayings, "a bird in the hand saves nine," and "a stitch in time may save two in the bushes."

So much for that. I must tell you what happened to my person last week. I know you won't believe it, but it's true, so help me Allah. Well, needless to say I was shocked and after it was all over I just stood in disbelief. It's my fervent wish (as LBJ might say) that his will never happen again. Of course, it could happen, but maybe not; I'm just not sure and neither is my brother—who has gotten over it in the future.

By the way, that fine offer that was made me last month. Before I forget, Kathi and I have entered into the new program he recommended and we have progressed with vigor (as RFK might say).

However the final results are yet to come. Of course, the structural differences pose in surmountable problems which are easy to overcome. And provided we live through it, can only assume we won't die.

Well, I hope this brings you up to date on what has transpired but not taken place or happened.

With loving hate, Boyle, John T. and Kathi the second, o number two.

P.S. I have agreed to terminate the beginning of the termination as of the beginning termination date on which termination was to begin. End

Now do you think you are confused? Well, lemme just tell you what that letter did for me. I stopped off in the basement on my way back from the mail box, sat down in a special chair I keep there, reserved for sitting in only to read extra ordinary brilliant letters, an I read that one.

Afterward I was so durn confused that I took a piece of rope out of my pocket and didn't know whether I had found the rope or lost my mule.

Now this John T. Boyle, the second, is a college professor. That's right! Just goes to show you how bad off some colleges are for professors.

What about a crazy letter: like that? Made me so mad I know what I'll do! Next time I see that bum I'll just kill him and I'll tell God he died



Around Capitol Square

By WILLIAM A. SHIRES

Scout Raleigh Bureau

RALEIGH — The old struggle of wets-versus-drys which has marked liquor legislation for years was spotlighted again during the governor's six day statewide ban on sale of alcoholic beverages in North Carolina.

It was pointed up in quite a different way. The ban, of course, was applauded widely by the dries but it was imposed for a reason other than the bedrock of their traditional argument, moral principle.

Also, both wets and dries deplored the situation -- violence and rioting -- which caused the governor's decision.

Nevertheless, it accomplished for a brief period what the dries have always urged, abolishing the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages. And it gave the state a glimpse of what might then result.

DRYS ARE FORMIDABLE

It should be remembered -- and politicians do -- that the dries are a large, formidable and persuasive political force in North Carolina.

To a large extent, they continue to dictate or strongly influence legislative policy on state alcoholic beverage control which, in North Carolina is stricter than most. State law provides for strict supervision through rigidly controlled outlets, limits quantities and now, since the 1967 legislative session, requires ABC permits for "brown bagging" establishments.

The underlying principle of North Carolina's liquor legislation is control, and this was demonstrated vividly during the ban period.

MORE PERMISSIVE

Other nearby states and areas which experienced even more violence, rioting and burning than North Carolina have more lenient and less rigidly controlled liquor laws.

Liquor continued to flow in Baltimore, Richmond, and Washington, D.C., except for very brief periods last week. In South Carolina, the "red dot" roadside liquor stores remained open from sunrise to sunset selling unlimited quantities. A ban finally was imposed in three border counties of South Carolina because of the statewide ban clamped on North Carolina's ABC sales.

North Carolina meanwhile lost an estimated \$500,000 or more in state ABC revenue during the six day period and other retail businesses suffered many times over.

Curfew in a number of cities contributed to the business slowdown, but ABC store closing and halting of the sale of beer and wine put brakes on restaurant and tavern busi-

ness over the state. After a few days economic pressure rose and the test of wets-versus-drys really began.

To the credit of Governor Moore, a staunch advocate of strict control of alcoholic beverages, the ban was effective. The state was dry, really dry.

It proved that such a ban could be effective at least for brief periods. It also demonstrated possible effects, economic and otherwise.

Bootlegging became profitable -- very lucrative, if you would get away with it. Reports were that hard liquor was being bootlegged at anywhere from \$8 to \$15 per pint and even a can of beer was bringing \$1 during the ban.

But bootleggers were caught by surprise and in short supply. Their supplies ran out after a few days, even at premium prices. And, unlike the Prohibition era, there was no bathtub gin and even "creek liquor" was scarce.

Until the ban was lifted, North Carolina's Jews were concerned about obtaining wine for observances. Jewish representatives petitioned the governor's office to lift the ban for their ritual needs.

RUM-RUNNING

There were attempts at rum-running. Some undoubtedly were successful, but others failed. One car loaded with pints of whisky bought in Virginia was

intercepted at the Raleigh city limits and the driver wept at his arrest and confiscation of his highly profitable cargo and car. Another rum-runner was nabbed with a load of liquor which officers said had been looted from a store in Washington.

At Lenoir, someone broke into a service station and stole four cases and 12 additional quarts of beer. The thief also hauled off a bubble gum machine and a newspaper dispensing rack.

Larry Kenneth Wilmoth, 17 and Beverly Joan Sanders, 1, both of Marietta, Ga.

Creed O. Hooles, 31, Lancey Tenn and Brenda Mae Terry, 19, Sunbright, Tenn.

Donald Edward Holcomb, 18 Athens, Tenn., and Linda Kathy Young, 18, Sheffield, Ala.

Thomas Overton Batey Jr., 20, and Marion Kay Mouldin, 20, both of Lubbock, Texas

Jimmy Morrow, 18, and Lind Lou Greene, 16, both of Murphy

Fred William Renker, 20, and Bobbie Sue Dickerson, 18, both of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Backward Glance

40 YEARS AGO, APRIL 13, 1928

Cliff Passon, of Charlotte, was a visitor in Murphy Friday.

Mrs. S. E. Cover and daughter, Frances of Andrews are visiting relatives and friends in Washington, D.C. Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Nichols and little son, Lee Jr., of Andrews left Saturday morning for Villa Rica, Ga.

Miss Fannie Odum and Mrs. W. O. Odums spent several days shopping in Atlanta last week.

Mrs. Roy Campbell and little son, of Newport, Tenn., are expected to arrive this week to visit relatives.

30 YEARS AGO, APRIL 21, 1938

Quay Ketner made a business trip to Athens, Tenn. Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mauney announce the birth of a son, Mrs. Mauney and baby are doing nicely.

Buddy Dickey returned to the Georgia Military Academy in Atlanta, Sunday to resume his Easter holidays with his mother Mrs. Lella Dickey.

20 YEARS AGO, APRIL 15, 1948

Miss Virginia Hall visited friends in Bryson City over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Cooper of Atlanta, spent the weekend here with Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Mattox.

Lorene Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Taylor of Letitia was married to Vincent D. Elister of Atlanta, Ga., March 27 in the First Baptist Church in Blairsville, Ga. The couple will reside in the vicinity at present.

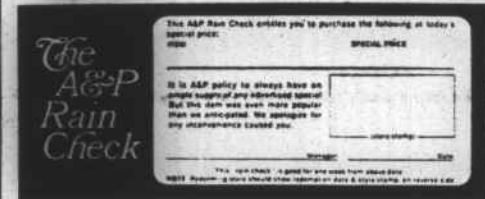
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