

Treasure State Lines



1975

2022

Great Falls Genealogy Society

June 2020

Volume 45—Number 1

**Treasure State Lines
Great Falls Genealogy Society
301 2nd Ave N
Great Falls, MT 59401**

**Phone 406-727-3922
E-mail: gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org
www.gfgenealogy.org**

The Great Falls Genealogy Society was founded in 1975 as a non-profit educational and research organization. Membership is January through December. Dues are \$25 for individuals and \$30 for couples. We encourage all members to participate in the activities and duties of the Society. Members receive a monthly newsletter and the semi-annual publication in June and December, plus free use of our computers for research and access to over 10,000 items - books and maps. Genealogy classes are also offered.

MEETINGS. Monthly general meetings and programs are scheduled the second Thursday of each month, September through May, at 6:00 p.m. Guests and visitors are always welcome. Currently, meetings are held on Zoom.

GENEALOGY LIBRARY. The Genealogy Library is located on the third floor of the Great Falls Public Library at 301 2nd Ave N. The genealogy library is staffed entirely by volunteers. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

President	Larry D. Spicer
Vice President	Janet D. Thomson
Secretary	Ann Dues
Treasurer	Cheryl Lucas
Trustees	Gary Campbell Diana Kirol Linda Long

PUBLICATIONS:

<i>Treasure State Lines</i>	Cheryl Lucas Janet Thomson
<i>The Falls Newsletter</i>	Cheryl Lucas Janet Thomson

Notice and Disclaimer: Articles contained in these publications may not be copied, published, or distributed for commercial purposes without the written consent of the GFGS. The editors reserve the right to edit contributions for length, substance, and grammar. The GFGS is not responsible for accuracy, errors, or omissions in articles submitted by others, but proven errors will be corrected.

Contents © 2022 All rights reserved.

CONTENTS	
Nov. 9, 1916 Election Results	1
Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918	2-11
1918 R. L. Polk & Co's List of Saloons	12-14
Great Falls Tribune Editorial Dec. 30, 1918 Goodbye Booze	15

Research Policy

Researchers will complete a comprehensive search of the records available at the Great Falls Genealogy Society library.

The fee is \$35.00 per immediate family.

Photocopies of obituaries, marriage license/ certificates and birth and death certificates are \$5.00 each if ordered separately.

Research will commence upon receipt of the fees; check or money order can be sent to our Great Falls office. Payment by PayPal is also available.

Any additional search of local records readily available at the Cascade County Courthouse *requires an additional fee and additional time.* Other fees may apply if the request is extensive.

For additional information, contact the Research Department by mail or at: gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org

Find us on



Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.

In 1916, Montana voted for prohibition to begin December 31, 1918, one year before the National Constitutional Amendment 18 goes into effect. Here are some of the details and repercussions of that vote.

November 9, 1916 Great Falls Tribune Page 1 Reporting on election results
Vote on Prohibition in 55 of 69 Districts

Precinct	Wet	Dry	Precinct	Wet	Dry
West 1st ward, Great Falls	283	262	Geysers	48	86
Center 1st ward, Great Falls	225	234	Kibbey	9	26
East 1st ward, Great Falls	333	254	Dry Wolf	9	16
West Second ward, Great Falls	420	132	Third ward, Neihart	36	52
West 3rd ward, Great Falls	304	221	Monarch	27	23
East 3rd ward, Great Falls	330	352	Riceville	5	13
West 4th ward, Great Falls	235	466	Box Elder	11	30
Center 4th ward, Great Falls	289	431	Evans	23	19
East 4th ward, Great Falls	200	241	Betts	25	21
Boston Heights	77	78	Ming Coulee	7	4
Fifth ward, Great Falls	463	214	Eden	26	18
Manchester	15	7	Orr	19	19
Vaughn	27	39	Hardy	4	11
Sun River	40	63	First ward, Cascade	21	17
Ulm	30	49	Second ward, Cascade	23	68
Castner Coulee	22	69	Third ward, Cascade	16	50
Truly	15	28	St. Peters	26	41
Sand Coulee	93	146	Fort Shaw	49	114
Stockett	108	92	Halliday	16	32
First ward, Belt	50	83	Chestnut Valley	18	64
Second ward, Belt	33	38	Bird Creek	11	29
Third ward, Belt	29	56	Wilson	18	33
Armington	49	82	Portage	35	54
Keister	8	35	Little Chicago and B. & M.	181	120
Wayne	17	35	Hackshaw	12	13
Willow Creek	20	59	Otter Creek	15	16
Davis Creek	30	32	Fieden	20	27
Spionkop	7	31	Totals	4470	4947

Editor's note—When I added the votes I got different totals. Wet—462 Dry—4845. I don't know if they were adding in parts of districts that they did not list or if they totaled incorrectly.—Cheryl

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 published by Great Falls Daily Tribune Sunday Morning December 8, 1918

By John A. Curry

Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thin often infirmities.

Explanatory of the foregoing paragraph, it need hardly be said that it is not from the platform of the prohibition party. It is older than the prohibition party. Nor yet is it of the national liquor dealers' association propaganda for it was recorded long before the liquor dealers had found organization essential. That paragraph came from the Bible, the book of books. And it is not produced here as the basis of an argument either for or against prohibition, because this is not to be a campaign for anything. If this story has to be classified, it probably would fit most closely into the statement that it is to be a requiem without music for a business that will soon be dead in Montana and for a business that is approaching a state of rigor mortis in the entire nation. This is written to mark the passing of the licensed saloon which will depart from the scene in Montana on December 31.

It will not be the purpose to attempt an accurate history of the liquor business in Cascade county, but it will merely be a friendly little story about some of the pioneers in the licensed liquor business who now must turn to another line. There will be no bricks thrown, nor yet any roses passed around, but it will be confined to statements of fact about those pioneers in the business in the city while it stood as one of the accredited lines. It will tell something of the plans of some of them, others not being ready to disclose just what they will do. For men who have been from a fifth to a third of a century in the business, it may be accepted as something of a problem to turn to new fields of endeavor, especially when the individual affected has reached his maturer years.

City's First Saloonist

Probably Spurgeon & Crowder, proprietors of the first saloon, had given serious study to the thought of the opening paragraph of this story. They were early on the scene and ready to provide the wine when the city was yet in its swaddling clothes and at that time getting water was somewhat difficult of accomplishment, notwithstanding the Missouri River wended its course along, just as today, and the water of the river ran over the falls then, as now. But Spurgeon & Crowder left no need for the water. They erected a tent saloon down on Second street south about where Third avenue now is and there they met all demands. They earned two titles. They were the first saloonists of the city and the first practical irrigationists. They furnished wine to irrigate with, however, but be it said for them they established a record for completing their irrigation project that might well furnish as example in its irrigation work in this vicinity. They got their frame lumber from Ira Myers, the well known pioneer then in the lumber business, and put up a structure for their tent canvas, and they impressed a large drygoods box into service as the bar over which the liquor was served. Doc Spurgeon was one of the well known characters of the day and probably the name by which he went may be accepted as the explanation of why he opened the first saloon. He may have forecasted the need, due to his ability to diagnose the case of the city from the angle of the words of the first paragraph.

Frye a Pioneer

But if Spurgeon & Crowder had thought of the need for the people to have a little wine, they were not the only ones whose thoughts ran in that channel. There was George Frye and the proprietors of the Carter house, the city's first hotel on First avenue south. Phil Gerlich and W. F. Wetzel, all early entrants into the liquor business in this city and thirst emporiums kept pace with the city's development until now there are 51 of the licensed liquor saloons within the city limits. The Carter house got an early start but it is stated by Pioneer Myers that the first building to be erected for saloon purposes was that occupied by George Frye and for which Mr. Myers furnished the lumber.

Old times in the city probably will remember with amusement the "open house" party that was kept in the saloon of Frye which occupied the site now occupied by the Sexton theater at Fourth street and Central avenue. That was one of the amusing things that ever was scored up to the credit of the liquor business in the county. Here is about the way the thing came about.

He Didn't Offer to Shout

Frye came to the city from the south, being a native of Tennessee, it is said. He belonged to the tight-fisted fraternity that would always allow the other fellow to buy twice and then forget that he hadn't done anything in the line of buying all evening. That proved Frye's undoing as the incident about to be related will prove.

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued

Frye secured the erection of the building at the site named and opened for business. There was a crowd gathered at the Spurgeon & Crowder bar down on Second street and someone mentioned that Frye was having an opening, so the crowd headed for Frye's place. They got there and one or two bought a round of drinks but it never occurred to Frye to say 'Let's have one on the house.' There were in the crowd two cowboys who had come to the city from Fort Benton and they bought freely, as did others, until things began to get fairly mellow in certain sections of the crowd but Frye sat tight and didn't offer any hospitality. Suddenly he ran out of some of the stock that was popular and he excused himself to go to the basement to get more. That act was Frye's fatal error for then things began to happen that made those present know it was a real western town for a few moments.

Shoot Things Up a Bit

Frye got to the basement thru a trap door entrance and as soon as he was down one of the cowboys slammed the door and then action started. With two or three standing on the door so Frye had no chance of getting out, the cowboys unlimbered their 38 revolvers and began to demonstrate their marksmanship. Their first targets were the glasses of the bar which it is related they shattered to a queen's taste, first having seen to it that everything drinkable then in the room had been confiscated. After the glasses, there was nothing to shoot up but the lights in the room. The lamps back of the bar were first picked off and then the chandeliers were put out of commission and after the room had been left in complete darkness, the crowd marched into the night.

Frye, something madder than a setting hen after the last egg has been removed and she has been baptized under the pump, came forth from the basement and aired his ill temper generally but there was no sympathy society for him. Finally he got a friend to come by his place and he left for Fort Benton to get warrants for the cowboys. The news of his departure for Fort Benton spread rapidly and Frye's place was visited the next night but the boys' didn't use guns that time. They took rocks and broke every window pane in the place and incidentally did considerable other damage. The man who was watching the place for Frye had been thru the civil war and he told friends he never went thru a worse trouble than he did dodging rocks while he was in Frye's bedroom.

Saloons Always Open.

From the time Spurgeon & Crowder opened their barroom until the administration of N. T. Lease as mayor, 1913— 1915, there was never a moment that the population of Great Falls needed to bother about drinking water, so far as the opportunity to get the wine was concerned. It is a tradition that when a saloon was opened, part of the ceremony was to carry the key to the Missouri river bridge and hurl it into the stream so that there might be no danger of the proprietor accidentally getting either locked in or out of his place by carelessly getting the key turned in the door and forgetting how to unlock. No matter whether the tradition is correct, it is a fact that the saloons kept open always and barring one or two possible exceptions there was no saloon that ever closed its doors.

The liquor business developed from those first saloons not only in the retail but along wholesale lines and also in manufacturing, there being two breweries now in operation making large quantities of beer. The Montana brewery is the pioneer of that business, the American being built shortly afterward. Both are modern plants and they have developed a business throughout the state, supplying a large part of the beer for the northern and eastern sections.

Volume of the Business

The wholesale business in liquors also has attracted three firms into the field, the pioneer house being that of Silverman-Wallensten company with Bateman-Switzer next and Charles Gies as the third to enter the field. The business of those houses would total not far from a million and a half dollars annually, basing the estimates on the last year. These are some of the business aspects presented in the change from the licensed saloon to the prohibition rule.

There will be no attempt to discuss the question of what will be done with the vacant rooms when the saloons pass out, further than to say that the present forecast is there will be no room long vacant as most of the places now are leased to be converted for other lines of endeavor.

As stated there are more than 50 men engaged as proprietors of licensed liquor places in the city but the pictures here presented are only some of the pioneers in the business or at least of the more prominent and the heads of wholesale houses and representatives of the breweries. The order in which the mention of the men is made is not arranged with any purpose to suggest their relative importance in the business but merely as they happened to be interviewed for the facts here told about them. The little personal statement about each will readily identify him to his friends and to the people who know, in a general way, something of the business life of the city of Great Falls. Then to the personal stories.

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued



John Heller

It was in a frame building on the site he now occupies at 114 Central avenue that John Heller first engaged in the licensed saloon business as a proprietor, and in that room the business was known as "John Heller's Saloon." Mr. Heller never used any other name than his own, leaving that choice to other proprietors. In due course, the frame building gave way to the brick he now occupies, so he has been on the same location since February 17, 1892, or a little more than a quarter of a century. Mr. Heller first came to Montana in 1880 and he arrived in Great Falls first in 1889. He has not fully determined what course he will follow, but he expects to engage in the soft drink business for a time, at least, in the same location.

Sid Willis of the Mint

Perhaps no man who has been engaged in the licensed liquor business in Great Falls has been more widely known than S. A. Willis, proprietor of the Mint saloon. Mr. Willis is known best among his friends and business acquaintances as "Sid" and throughout northern and eastern Montana those who have been in the state long enough to get acclimated have heard of Sid Willis and many of them have met him personally. He is a native of Kentucky but was reared in Arkansas, and thru those two facts he explains his hospitable nature and his habit of making and holding friends. He has been in Montana for 50 years, coming to Miles City in 1888 and his first experience in the Treasure state was out on the plains where he breathed in the ozone as an employee of the Home Land and Cattle company and became a thoro Montanan. After about two years he went to Glasgow late in 1889 and was employed for a time by A. J. McMillan in the saloon business.

In 1894 Mr. Willis turned his attention to the political game as a candidate and was elected sheriff of Valley county, serving in that office with credit to himself. In 1896 he had a complete demonstration that 13 is an unlucky number for his race for re-election he was defeated by 13 votes. Ever since that date he has refused, always, to sleep in room 13, take the 13th ticket in a drawing at any bazar or to sit in the 13th chair at the table when he happens to get to a banquet. And incidentally, that 13 votes caused him to leave Glasgow and come to Great Falls, so some of Mr. Willis' friends think he ought to look upon 13 as his mascot number and always pick it.



When he arrived in Great Falls in 1897, Mr. Willis went to work for the Amalgamated Copper company, then operating the B. & M. smelter and worked there until 1898 when he went to work for the late Dennis Dulin, who opened the saloon at the present site of the Mint and known as Dulin's. In 1902 Mr. Willis bought the Maverick at Second street and Central and after two years as proprietor of that place, he entered into a partnership known as Willis & Barris in the purchase of the place owned by Mr. Dulin and has been interested there as a proprietor, most of the time as the sole owner. His partner, Mr. Burris, died after the firm had owned the place for two years and since that time Willis has been the owner of the Mint.

Mr. Willis has arranged to remain in his present location and will, after from two weeks to 30 days' repair work, reopen, the place to be devoted to the cigar and soft drink business with a delicatessen store at the rear. It is Mr. Willis' plan to make this the finest place of its class between St. Paul and Seattle, and he has already ordered the furniture and fixtures for the room. They will include a handsome soda fountain, elegant cigar stands and grill room fixtures which provides seats for the tables with partitions between them about to the shoulders of the patron when seated, thus making it possible for one standing at the front to see thruout the room at all times. The installation of this furniture will mean that the building will be newly decorated thruout, the front will be taken out and a great plate glass placed there, giving it a new appearance and affording better light, and the rear, also, will be arranged so that the entire room will be flooded by natural light. The cigar fixtures will be placed at the front, with the soda fountain next and the remainder of the room given to the booths and tables and the delicatessen at the rear.

"I propose to make it a place attractive in appearance and one that will give the people service," said Mr. Willis. "It might just as well be stated here that when I say soft drinks, that is just what is meant and the place will

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued

be conducted absolutely in accordance with law; there will be no feature that the people cannot see and I propose, when the place is opened, to make it attractive to the man who works for pay and to make them feel that we appreciate their business. Some have talked about the soft drink business in places formerly operated as saloons, as being only a means of dispensing liquor or conducting games. Let me say as forcefully as it is possible that when I open the new place there will be neither liquor nor gambling about it and furthermore, I will gladly assist the officers whose duty it is to enforce the prohibition law, in every way I can in driving the bootleggers and the gamblers out, because we don't want them here. The law has said that I change; I am going to obey. Obeying the order myself, I promise the public now that no one is more anxious for others to obey than I am and general enforcement will be my best asset in making the soft drink business profitable."

M. M. (Chip) Powers

Thirty-one years in Great Falls and 22 years engaged in the saloon business with just half of it as a proprietor, is the record of M. M. Powers, better known as "Chip" Powers, the junior member of the firm of Dulin & Powers of Fourth street north. Mr. Powers has managed the business of the firm for a considerable period, having done so in the last years of his associate in the business, the late Dennis Dulin. Mr. Dulin's health having made it impossible for him to give much time to the saloon. The business is now incorporated.



Photo by Heyn.
M. M. POWERS

Mr. Powers came to Great Falls first in 1888, and engaged in the furniture business and undertaking. He sold the furniture business in 1892, retaining the undertaking line and continued in that until 1895 when he sold to B. B. Cook and W. L. Cook. The undertaking business has been continued, the T. F. O'Connor company being the present business name of that establishment.

In 1896 Mr. Powers engaged in the saloon business, being employed by the late A. J. Trigg in a saloon run by him, known as the Brunswick and located where the Kaufman Clothing company now has its home. Mr. Powers continued to be connected with the licensed business until 1907 when he entered the business as a proprietor in the firm of Dulin & Powers at a stand on Central avenue where the Fonkelsrud store now is. When the fire swept the frame buildings there three years ago, Dulin & Powers secured a lease on their present quarters and have since been in Fourth street north.

Mr. Powers proposes to retain his lease on the building and he says he will change to the soft drink business after January 1, with the hope that it will prove profitable, and he believes that it will. He says that he realizes it may be so heavily played that not all can make money but he proposes to give it a trial and determine whether he will care to engage permanently in that line. Mr. Powers is widely known and has many friends thruout this section of the state.

John F. Hagenson



JOHN HAGENSON

Altho he has not been engaged in the licensed liquor business as many years as some who will quit that line on January 1, because of the prohibition law, John F. Hagenson, proprietor of the maverick saloon at Central and Second street, is probably as widely known as any one engaged in that business in northern Montana. He is familiarly known as Johnny Hagenson.

Mr. Hagenson is a native of Marysville and his mother in now residing at Anaconda. He came to Great Falls in 1902 and has since been engaged in business here and proposes to remain in Great Falls and continue in business. Prior to coming to this city to enter business, he had been in business in Lewistown.

When he came to Great Falls, Mr. Hagenson conducted the cigar store on Central avenue at 224 now known as the Goodman cigar store, but then known as Hagenson's. In 1912 he sold his cigar business and bought the Maverick saloon which he has since conducted.

In changing from the saloon business, Mr. Hagenson has secured a lease on the premises now occupied and he will leave shortly for the Pacific coast to visit various cities, especially in the states now dry, with a view to getting an idea of fitting up a place that will be attractive in all its details and when he returns he will completely redecorate his place and change it into a soft drink and cigar busi-

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued

ness. He says he proposes to give the city as fine a place as can be found in the northwest and will expend a considerable money in new fixtures and furniture to the end that he may have an attractive place. During his absence on the coast, the business of the Maverick will be managed by his brother, George W. Hagenson.

Richard Gies



One of the veterans in the licensed liquor business of Great Falls is Richard Gies of 120 Central avenue and just as the name of his saloon indicates, he started there about 1896, but to be exact he started in the fall of 1895. He calls his place the "16 to 1 Saloon," a name that recalls the Bryan campaign of 1896 when the coinage of silver at that ratio was the paramount issue of the campaign. The saloon now conducted by Mr. Gies was opened in the building now occupied, so that he has had 23 years of uninterrupted business at that stand. There was a saloon in operation there when he came, Frank Glab being the proprietor, and after Mr. Gies bought the business, Glab engaged in the business as a partner of Mr. Gies' brother, Charles, along wholesale lines and in the adjoining building.

Richard Gies came to America from his native land, Germany, when he was but 13 years old, settling at Chaska, Minn. He got his schooling there and when he started out in life to earn his own way he struck the trail for Montana, settling at Glendive where he entered business with his brother Vincent, in 1881. Then he went to Maiden where he engaged in the restaurant business later changing to the liquor business and also having mining interests. He continued for 13 years at Maiden after which he came to Great Falls where he has since been, and all the time engaged in the business at the same location.

Mr. Gies has two sons in the military service, one of them in France. Both of them entered the service by enlistment, showing the type of their Americanism. Richard A. Gies is now a corporal with the medical corps at Kelly field at San Antonio, Texas. He was connected with the Continental Oil company at Billings prior to his enlistment. Alvin Gies, a younger son, landed in France safely one day last week, according to a card received by his parents. He is with the transport service. He was employed by the Great Falls Plate Glass company before enlisting.

After the licensed saloon passes, Mr. Gies plans to continue at the same location in the soft drink business, changing the room by putting in a new front and redecorating it and installing a soda fountain.

John Olson



Over on First avenue south, at No. 212, John Olson is the senior member of the firm of Olson & Davidson and he has been proprietor at that stand for almost 20 years. Mr. Olson came to Montana in 1889 settling at Stockett and later being located at Belt and Sand Coulee. He worked as a coal miner first and then engaged in the liquor business, his first place being in the room now occupied by the Bear hall at Sand Coulee. Except for four months he passed on a trip back to his native land of Sweden Mr. Olson has been in the liquor business since he opened the first in Sand Coulee nearly 30 years ago. He started at 212 First avenue south when the building was first constructed and has since been there. Mr. Olson hasn't determined what he will do, but he has other interest that require a considerable of his time and he says one thing is certain, he won't be idle. He has an interest in the clothing business of Roalswick & Olson and he owns a good ranch.

W. H. (Silver Dollar) Rance

If there is a saloonist in northern Montana better known than William H. Rance he hasn't been posted in the directory. They call him Bill Rance and he answers quickly by that title because he has heard it more frequently than anything else unless it were Rance. Bill Rance is almost as well known in the north country as he is in Montana. He lived for a considerable period in Winnipeg and has lived also at Lethbridge and Edmonton, but for nearly 30 years Bill Rance has lived in Great Falls. For 25 years he has been in the licensed saloon business at 221 Central avenue in the Silver Dollar. For a long period, until the death of the senior member of the part-

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued

nership, the Silver Dollar was owned by Phillips & Rance, the senior member being Mandeville Phillips, long in the saloon business in this state. After Mr. Phillips' death at Santa Monica, California, a couple of years ago, Mr. Rance became the sole owner and has since conducted the Silver Dollar as his individual property.

Few saloons in the northwest have been visited by more distinguished people than has the Silver Dollar. This has been the result of the display there of the splendid array of art that Mr. Rance has collected, chief among the features being pieces from the brush, pen and modeling table of Charles M. Russell, the city's distinguished artist. Mr. Rance and Mr. Russell have long been close friends and in this friendship has been woven some most interesting pieces of art in the form of illustrated letter. When Mr. Russell travels, either back to the gay city of Gotham, or perchance crosses over to London town, he never forgets to write to his friend Rance and when he writes he embellishes his letter with some interesting little study in color, sometimes his impressions of the travel on the boat, sometimes his picture of traffic in a busy thoroughfare and sometimes an amusing comparison of things as they are with things as they used to be. On receipt of one of those letters which already have become art treasures, Mr. Rance first reads and enjoys and then he hastens to an art studio and has the letter protected in a frame under glass. These are the pieces that have afforded many distinguished men a close view of the city's great artist and also an interesting angle of the Silver Dollar Saloon. There have been railroad presidents, statesmen, bankers, jurists, men of note in every line of professional or public endeavor as visitors to the Silver Dollar saloon to look over the art and perchance to look over the bar while they took a smile with the barkeep.

The Silver Dollar will be converted to new lines when the doors close on December 31, and Proprietor Rance will have some well smoothed silver dollars the distinguished mark of the entrance as lasting souvenirs of the fact that the Silver Dollar saloon lived up to its name for there were always silver dollars there.



J. M. (Jack) Frazier

While he would not rank as a pioneer in the business, J. M. Frazier of the Board of Trade saloon is one of the most widely known and popular men in the licensed liquor business in this part of Montana. He has been a resident of Great Falls for 10 years, having come to the city in 1900 from Greencastle, Indiana, where he was born. He had been in the liquor business there. On arrival in this city he became interested in the business and in 1905 he purchased the Cream City saloon, then one of the big money makers among the saloons of the city. He owned that place until 1912 when he sold out and went to his ranch near Augusta, expecting to remain on the ranch. He was induced, however, in 1915 to engage in a partnership with Tommy Griffiths in the purchase of the Board of Trade saloon. He has been successful there and has made money. But when the state goes dry Jack Frazier is going to the farm and from now on he will devote his attention to the management of the fine ranch he has acquired and between that and the big game hunt which he finds one of his great delights and coaxing the trout from the mountain streams, Jack proposes to know something of what the real pleasure of living from now on. He probably will return to his native heath about Greencastle in pawpaw time to get a taste of that unique fruit, for Jack has never been ashamed of the fact that he comes from the state prolific in novelists, poets and vice presidents, with an occasional politician and some who engage in the newspaper business.



Joe Matteucci

Joe Matteucci, proprietor of the California Wine house and also of a general store in Little Chicago, will go out of the liquor business on December 31, and will not engage in selling soft drinks. Mr. Matteucci says he is ready to quit the liquor business and is taking the change in a philosophic sort of way. He will turn his entire attention to the mercantile business and to looking after his properties after January 1.

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued

Mr. Matteucci came to America in 1885, landing at New York on January 25, and he then traveled to Montana, settling near Butte. But he didn't get into the saloon business for a long time, however. He was engaged for a time in ranching and mining, working in Butte. He came to Great Falls in 1893 and went to work in the copper refinery at the B. & M. smelter in the department over which Dan Tracy was in charge and he continued to work there for more than five years when he quit and started in a store in Little Milwaukee, a small colony at the lower end of the smelter property on the north side of the Missouri river. Just as someone might guess, there was a pilsener attachment to the store, for Mr. Matteucci conducted a licensed liquor business with the mercantile line.

After two years at Little Milwaukee, Mr. Matteucci built the building in which he now has his business at Black Eagle, then called Little Chicago, and started there. In 1900 he bought the California Wine house and has since been the proprietor of that place. Mr. Matteucci has a family and is one of those citizens who believes that Great Falls is a good place for a home because he says he has prospered here and has always been glad that he selected this for his place of residence a quarter of a century ago.



George A. Poole

Getting hard earned dollars into harness to work for him early by starting as a common laborer at two dollars for 10 hours work in digging mains for the Great Falls waterworks made it possible for George A. Poole, in 23 years, to build a number of substantial buildings and also to own a saloon which he could sell for \$10,000 spot case with nothing to do but put on his hat and walk out. That may not be typical of the experience of saloonists and in fact it is not, but that is George Poole's case. And there are some facts in the story that stand out as interesting and also emphasize the advantage of a person being thrifty in getting dollars together and then putting them to work for other dollars.

There are some people who may be skeptical when it is said there ever was a time when a fellow had to work for \$45 a month in Great Falls and board himself. But George Poole did. As stated, he first worked 10 hours a day at digging ditches for the water mains to be laid in. He worked at this for almost two years. Then he got another job that was real work, going to the employment of the Great Northern road at \$45 the month. But he was as persistent in his efforts as the railroad was tight-fisted in pay and he kept right on working for more than nine years, finally getting up to the pay of \$2.50 a day when he bought out the Montana laundry and conducted that business for eight months when he showed some ability in the line of a trust promoter, for he got all the laundries of the city together into one organization of which they made Poole president and manager. It was a case of Poole pooling the laundry business in the city and the pool being operated by Poole. He continued that as the Cascade laundry until 1910 when he sold the stock in the laundry pool and bought the fixtures which Herman G. Luther had used in a barroom he had conducted, and Poole then opened what has since been known as the Old Home saloon at Fourth street and First avenue south. He continued there for 11 years, when in 1912 John Denham gave him \$10,000 spot case. Poole took his hat from the peg and walked out of the saloon business. But it was not for long, as he bought the Montana saloon on Central avenue two and a half years later, in partnership with Leonard Lambkin and has since been engaged in the business there. When the state goes dry on December 31 George Poole will again walk out of the saloon business, this time for keeps.



Mr. Poole was born in England. Probably that was why he called a laundry he started as a side line after he first came to the city the Old English laundry. His wife, he says, always was his best friend and wisest partner. She helped him make the fortune they have acquired and he still has unlimited faith in her business judgment. Mr. and Mrs. Poole, have six daughters, four married. He says when he quits this time because of the dry law, he will retire to enjoy the fruits of his labor and will do that right here where he has gathered it together. They have built a handsome home at 830 Second avenue south and in addition to their residence he has some apartment houses that provide a steady income.

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict

D. W. Bateman

When the change wrought by the prohibition law is made December 31, it will mark the retirement from business of one of the pioneers in the wholesale liquor business, D. W. Bateman of the firm of Bateman & Switzer. Mr. Bateman has been in business in Great Falls since 1890 and he has been a dealer in Montana since he came to Marysville in 1881. Mr. Bateman is one of the best known dealers in the state, having traveled his territory for his house for a third of a century and he has always been known as a man of genial disposition and one of the popular men of the business. Mr. Bateman has leased the building in which he has been conducting the firm's business and will quit business and look after his investments.



Photo by Heys.
D. W. BATEMAN

Charles Gies

Among those who must change business January 1, because of the prohibition law is Charles Gies, wholesaler, who has been one of the successful business men of Great Falls. Mr. Gies used to make bread and rolls, being the proprietor of a bakery. He quit making bread but it is generally conceded that he went right on making the roll and when he quits the liquor business he will have a fortune that means independence, no matter whether he engages in other business or not. Mr. Gies has been an aggressive business developer and has followed the shoemaker's advice of "sticking to the last."



Photo by Heys.
CHARLES GIES

Charles Gies came to Montana in 1887, locating at Maiden. In 1888 he landed in Great Falls and became the proprietor of the Vienna bakery which was located on Third avenue south near the Dunlop store at Second street. He continued in that line for about four years when he sold it and engaged in the soda water business on Third avenue south. This he continued for four years when he consolidated that line with the business of Frank Glab, who was conducting a family liquor store where the Gem theater now is getting into that business in 1896. He remained in that line until 1899 when he sold his interest to Mr. Glab and returned to Third avenue south, opening the soda water business and carrying a line of whisky which he sold wholesale. He continued to develop at that stand, featuring the liquor line until 1904 when he moved to his present location at 504 Central avenue and with the larger quarters and better location he emphasized the wholesale liquor business.

Mr. Gies employs nine people in the conduct of his business and handles a complete line of liquors and goods found in a first class wholesale liquor house. He has also retained his soda water business and has developed that into most satisfactory proportions. He carries a line of mineral waters, also, and he contemplates handling soda water and soft drinks in connection with the mineral water for a time, though he says it is his intention in due course to retire from active business, the time depending on opportunity to turn his business without sacrifice.

Mr. Gies says he has made his home in Great Falls too long ever to care to leave it and whatever he does in the future, it is a pretty safe forecast that his postoffice address will be this city. He has one of the attractive residences of the city and an interesting family, two sons being in the students' army training corps at St. Charles college at Helena. They are Arthur, aged 20, and Oliver, aged 18. His other children are Miss Catherine, Noel, and Rosemary, all at home.

American Brewing Company

For the year 1917, the last full year for which a record available, the American Brewing company brewed 36,545 barrels of beer, or in gallons a total of 11,511,675. Reducing that to glasses of beer, it probably would be about 184,000,000 glasses which would be enough to furnish plenty for half a dozen peace celebrations. But it will not be brewing when peace is formally declared for brewing beer ceased on December 1. From now on the brewery will be engaged in reducing its stock by making the beer meet the requirements of the two per cent law for all not disposed of upon January 1.

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued

The America Brewing company was organized on April 5, 1895, and the first board of directors consisted of G. F. Lampey, Joseph Horn, H. W. Grunwalt and Edward A. Reichel. The brewery built had a capacity of 240 barrels daily and with the additions that have been since made, it employs normally in making beer between 35 and 40 people and when engaged at capacity in brewing and bottling, including the office force, the brewing company employes about 50. In making the 36,454 barrels of beer in 1917, it bottled 11,000 barrels or almost one-third, so it was running a third of the time at capacity.

The product of the brewery has been sold throughout northern Montana and it has been rapidly building up a big trade for its line. The report of the brewery for 1917 shows some interesting figures as it is passing out. There was paid by the company in 1917 for taxes of all lines \$80,135 while the wage item in its expense account amounted to \$75,800. It paid for just three items of raw material—corn, hops and malt—\$82,100 and in addition there were the items of coal and light, and power, and a dozen other important factors in the expense account. It uses 40,000 bushels of malt yearly. The brewery used about 100 carloads of 5,000 tons or 10,000,000 pounds of coal a year. The value of the plant as a going institution, operating at capacity as a brewery has been rated at \$405,000 but what it would be worth to be changed into some other line is a problem for the mathematician with a sharp pencil. Due to the uncertain condition presented by the future for the licensed liquor business, the management of the American Brewing company declared it was not possible to forecast what they might determine upon. They propose to use the six months intervening between January 1 and July 1, the period when they may handle two per cent goods, before they finally make their decision.

George H. Stanton is the president of the American Brewing company, the late John Baier was the vice president and Wayne W. Wheeler is the secretary-treasurer and manager.

Montana Brewing Company

While they were interested in the organization, the present owners of the Montana Brewing company, S. R. Jensen and Fred G. Johnson, were only stock holders when the company was incorporated in April, 1894. Mr. Jensen and Mr. Johnson were then engaged in the laundry business, being interested in the Cascade laundry as owners. They quit the laundry business in 1901 when they acquired control of the Montana Brewery and have since devoted their efforts to that institution, building up the business until its capacity when it is closed by the law is approximately four and one-third times what it was when the brewery was started 24 years ago.

The Montana Brewing company's plant now has a capacity of 65,000 barrels annually compared to 15,000 barrels when it was started in 1894. The brewery, when working at capacity, employed about 40 people and had an annual payroll of \$50,000. It has been paying \$99,000 annually for malt, corn and hops, alone, the other items of expenses including the coal, power and other features not being included in that item. Its revenue on beer in 1917 amounted to \$43,600 and in addition to that feature there was the property tax and the income tax which would materially increase the total until it probably would run not far from \$75,000 to \$85,000.

The Montana's plant has a storage capacity of 5,000 barrels of beer and the plant is well equipped throughout and is a valuable property as a going concern making beer for the trade. The company has not determined what the future will be devoted to getting the stock now on hand on to the market, in the form of two per cent goods if there is any left on hand when the law goes into effect Dec. 31.

One of the features of the Montana Brewing company of which the proprietors have been duly proud is the fact that many of their employees have long terms of satisfactory service in the company's employee, one having been there more than 20 years and there are half a dozen who have served for almost a dozen years and with the change must turn to other fields.

Silverman-Wallenstein Co.

When the Silverman-Wallenstein company went out of business on July 1, in anticipation of the coming of the dry rule in Montana, that company had the record of being dean of wholesale liquor dealers in this part of Montana, having been established here since 1888. Its place of business at 214 Central avenue had been the center from which goods had been distributed to all northern Montana and to some extent, at times, to other sections of the state and the business career of the company had been marked by large and abundant success. The company was the first liquor house in this city to step aside and bow to the mandates of the voters as expressed two years ago. Shortly after the business activity ceased at the former headquarters a petition was filed with the court to dissolve the company, all its obligations having been met, and it probably will happen that the entire proceedings will be history when the state actually goes dry.

Joseph L. Silverman, now deceased, came from his home at Gallipolis, Ohio, in 1888, and established the business. The following year William Silverman, now residing in this city, arrived to join his brother in the busi-

Licensed Liquor Dealers Get Ready to Obey Prohibition Edict Dec. 31, 1918 , continued

ness and it became Silverman Brothers.

In 1891, Abe Wallenstein, brother-in-law of the Silvermans, came and associated himself with the Silvermans in the company and the names was changed to Silverman Brothers company.

In 1900 Joseph Silverman died and the business was incorporated as Silverman-Wallenstein company and continued by the other members of the firm with no further change until 1911 when William Silverman retired from the business, but it still carried the same corporate name, no change being made until the dissolution. When it quit business, Abe Wallenstein was the only member of the company who had been with it for longer than seven years ago, the time when Simon and Leon Silverman came from their homes in Ohio to join their brother-in-law in the business at the time their brother, William, retired to private life. In 1913 William L. Wallenstein, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Wallenstein, entered the company and continued actively with it until he joined the colors more than a year ago.

Something of the plans of the people of this company was told by Mr. Wallenstein when the company retired from the field. He then stated that it was not the intention of himself to again enter business but that the other members probably would later engage in some business pursuits but it seems apparent, he thot, that they would continue in Great Falls. The members of the firm are all well known over the state and during its career it was a popular wholesale house in its line of business.

Going from the basis of the licensed saloon to the rule of prohibition is going to present a number of problems, one of which, and in the eyes of many persons the smallest one, will be the question of government finance to meet the needs that have been met by license and other taxes on the liquor business. The legislature will have something to do with that problem at the coming session. City officials will have their share in working out the local end of that part of it. But there is another angle that devolves upon all persons. That is the question of giving the law practical effect. The men who have been conducting saloons and who are now compelled to make a change to meet the requirements of the law say they propose to obey the mandate and they are entitled to the acceptance of that statement at its face. They say they propose to give the law the support it merits and having been forced out of business, that is a view they would reasonably hold, so that the one who attempts illicitly to dispose of liquors under the new rule should expect to start with the licensed saloon men against him.

The law is a very strict one. The officers have their mandate in the statute and in the opinion of men who have studied it they have a very strong incentive to get busy and keep busy, unless they want trouble for themselves. That being the case, the duty falls to the shoulders of the people in seeing to it that itinerant and other bootleggers and blind-pig proprietors are driven out as fast as they appear. That is a matter of justice to those who under the licensed system have been paying their license fees but who by the law are forced to quit. It will depend on the officers and the people jointly as to whether the prohibition law is effective or whether it is a miscarriage of legislative effort. It won't require many days of dry rule to determine which it is going to be. Enforcement of the prohibition law will require a different policy to that now being pursued in handling the social evil in Great Falls. The city winks, figuratively speaking, as it takes \$25 in cash bail from a fallen woman, but lets her continue about the street until she is picked up again. It cannot afford to handle the bootleggers on the basis of contributions to the police funds as a means of keeping the cash available for city expenses. Coffeyville, Kansas, tried that system a few years after Kansas voted prohibition and gained the unenviable name of the "outlaw city" of Kansas with a smell of graft and a stench of inefficient and lenient officers that ought to have caused shame to any believer in honest government. Starting right will keep Great Falls from that danger and the licensed saloon men now going out declare their purpose to support the effort to prevent that sort of name coming to this city because of negligence in enforcing the law.

Persons who study problems of the character that will be presented to the officers by the prohibition law say that there is more danger of restaurants undertaking to dispense liquor illicitly than to expect it from the men who have been paying license and obeying the law governing their business. Those who have been guilty of violating the law by selling in cafes after hours, according to that view, are already professional bootleggers in every sense of the word, and that they will still be brazen enough to attempt it is believed to be quite possible. Such persons say that running a blind tiger in dry territory is no sense different to running a blind tiger at night after the salons close, and there have, it is declared, been numerous occasions when cafes in the city have been bootlegging liquor between midnight and 8 o'clock in the morning, the hours when the says that liquor should not be sold.

1918 R. L. Polk & Co's List of Saloons

Name	Address
Adolphson, Oscar	Sand Coulee
Anderson, Mrs. Hannah	1923 8th av N
Arcade Saloon	Belt
Bahrenburg, F. W.	Geyser
Ball, Frank	Ulm
Ball, Martin	Stockett
Baum & Trinastich	124 3d S
Baumgartner & Harper	221 1st av S
Bergeron & Heuer	Geyser
Board of Trade Saloon	14 3d S
Boboth, Andr	Belt
California Wine House	13 3d S
Central Saloon	114 Central av
Carlson, Chas & Co.	Belt
Collins, Elmer	Cascade
Cook, Carl	Belt
Cream City Saloon	401 Central av
Danielson & Vinton	Monarch
Davenport Bar	516 Central av
Denham, Jno	403 1st av S
Doura & Engman	Sand Coulee
Dulin-Powers Co	13 4th N
Five Taps Saloon	117 1st av S
Franson, C. O.	206 1st av S
Gies, Richd	120 Central av
Glen, P. G.	211 Central av
Gold Bug, The	500 4th av SW
Goodman, Frank	Fort Shaw
Great Falls Hotel	217 1st av S
Hagenson, J. F.	126 Central av
Hanks & Miller	501 5th av SW
Heller, Jno	114 Central av
Hoermann, Henry	115 Central av
Hoffman Family Wine & Liquor Store	12 4th s
Honsinger, F. A.	Belt
Hotel Rainbow	Ed sw cor 1st Av N

1918 R. L. Polk & Co's List of Saloons Continued

Name	Address
Johnson, Andr	Belt
Johnson & Hurley	224 1st av S
Kernaghan, Wm	Spionkop
Klimas, Stanley	24 2d S
Linguist, C. E.	220 1st av S
Ludwig, H. W.	Cascade
Lynn, Leonard	Cascade
McClintock, Jos.	318 1/2 1st av S
McCollin, R. B.	Cascade
McKeever, L. R.	16 2d N
McPherson, J. J.	12 2d S
Mangone, D. M.	227 1st av S
Matteucci, Joe	Smelter av Black Eagle
Mihelich, Mrs. Lucy	313 2nd av S
Milwaukee Hotel	318 2d av S
Minneapolis House Bar	410 av S
Mint, The	220 Central av
Montana Buffet, The	317 Central av
Mora, Cesare	200 1st av S
Nelson, L. C.	516 Central av
Olsen, Norris	Smelter av 15th Black Eagle
Olson & Davidson	212 1st av S
Palace Bar, The	211 1st av S
Park Hotel	102 Central av
Popovich, Peter	407 Central av
Porter, J. W.	Cascade
Porter, J. W.	219 2d av S
Redden & Ledbetter	Neihart
Riamann, Otto	204 1st av S
Rowley, W. W.	300 1st av S
St. Paul Bar	316 1st av S
Sampson, A.	Vaughn
Sherich, Paul	201 1st av S
Silver Dollar Saloon	Belt
Silver Dollar Saloon	Sand Coulee

1918 R. L. Polk & Co's List of Saloons Continued

Name	Address
Silver Dollar Saloon	221 Central av
Sixteen to One Bar	120 Central av
Thielbar & Polich	111 1st av S
Tillery, L. R.	4 2d S
Trinastich & Marc	112 1/2 3d S
Turnbow & Marcoux	Cascade
Tuss Bros	15th Black Eagle
U and I Bar	24 2d S
Velebir, Andr.	Belt
Votila, Gust	Geyser
Waineo & Tuomi	Sand Coulee
White House Bar	205 1st av S
White House Inn	4 miles s of city
Wixon, W. H.	Armington
Woinir, Jno.	Sand Coulee
Young Bros.	115 4th S
Zunchich, Jos	117 1st av S
Montana Brewing Co	Central av w end 1st av bridge



Great Falls Tribune Editorial December 30, 1918

Good-Bye, Booze

W. M. Bole, Editor

G. S. Warden, Manager

This is the last day you can legally purchase a drink of anything capable of being used as a beverage which contains alcohol in any quantity, or give it away unless you are a minister of the gospel of Christ's religion and give it at a communion service. Even lemon or vanilla extract is barred from sale or gift by the law after today, as a good many householders are apt to discover to their surprise when they wish to renew the stock on the pantry shelf. The state of Montana will go dry, very dry, after today so far as gift, sale or import of anything that contains alcohol is concerned. The prudent drinker has perhaps put away a secret hoard to taper off on and rests in security for a time, but he need not be too sure of his ability to temper the drouth of the immediate future, for the prohibitionists that made the present law in Montana are talking of amending it in the legislature before they have even tried it, with the purpose of seizing and confiscating all such secret hoards family, will ever inspire any poet or any near so that he will have no chance to enjoy the fruit of his foresight and saving. We would not wonder if such legislation got in the statute book soon. But we have no desire to create a panic in the breasts of the owners of secret hoards. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof says the scriptures. Then why worry?

Poets by the scores and hundreds have sung the praises of "inspiring, bold John Barleycorn," as Bobby Burns calls him. We wonder if any poet will compose a poem in commemoration of his death in this state. We hardly think so, tho we doubt not he will have sincere mourners tomorrow when the cold ground covers his grave. Nor do we think that his successor, the frisky "pop," or any of his relatives in the soft drink family, will ever inspire any poet or any near poet to break into song. There is nothing inspiring about "pop" that we could ever discover. It lacks the respect that was paid old King Booze by his ardent admirers. Pop is a silly fellow at best. Old King Booze will be laid away tomorrow night, and it is probable that we shall never see his like again. The prohibition voters have so decreed it, and like good citizens his friends and admirers will bow to the decree of the majority and obey it as democrats should.

Some people think there will be a vast litter of "blind pigs" in the state. We doubt it, and we sincerely hope not. Those who try such method of violating the law and the will of the majority are sure to get into much trouble. A pig is not a silent animal, and a blind pig cannot be kept in city or country very long without squeals that betray its locality. So far as this county is concerned our information is that the peace officers of the city and county are fully determined to enforce the law strictly and make it unhealthy for blind pigs or bootleggers, and that the saloon men who go out of business today are inclined to aid the officers of the law to the best of their ability in seeing that any man less law-abiding than themselves does not profit by defying the law.

And we believe that this represents the spirit of the whole community, including a very large proportion of those who voted against prohibition at the referendum election. They want the law rigidly and sternly enforced to the last letter. They want the citizen punished who brings a bottle of lemon extract into the state or who sells it or gives it away as well as the bootlegger. They want the law enforced both strictly and impartially and they have an open mind to note results. These may not be so rosy and beautiful as we were told they would be by the advocates of prohibition, but they may show improvement in social conditions on the whole. If so we will be glad to note it and make due acknowledgement of that fact. Let us have a full and strict enforcement of the law at least so that any good or bad results from the law may become evident.

One of the first results that we must face is the loss of about \$60,000 a year revenue in this county. That loss we were told would be made good manyfold in lesser expenses for police, jail and court costs. If so we ought to be able to decrease city and county tax levies. The time is drawing near when these items of expenditure are fixed for next year. We shall note with satisfaction any decrease in the estimate totals that will save us \$60,000 decreased tax revenue and perhaps a great deal more as we have been led to expect from the pre-election arguments of the prohibitionists. It will afford the latter perhaps their first chance to say "I told you so," and we are quite sincere in saying we hope they will have that gratification, and that the loss of this revenue in the coming year will not involve any increased tax burden, but the contrary. The change from wet to dry in this state comes at the best possible time from the prohibition standpoint, for after next July the whole country will have to go on a dry basis and stay that way for a year at least, as a war measure. And there is every indication that before that war measure ceases to operate we will have national prohibition by statutory enactment. That is a very different thing from state prohibition so far as enforcement is concerned at least. It removes a number of practical objections to state prohibition and should aid greatly in demonstrating the virtues of prohibitory legislation in the state. Incidentally it will make the way of the transgressor against the law more thorny. In fact it is good-bye Booze for the whole nation before long anyway, and the inflod of all the virtues and benefits of total abstinence we have had pictured to us will follow no doubt. Good-bye Booze. Good-bye poverty. Good-bye crime and wickedness.

Because of COVID and the uncertainty it brings, the last couple of years have been difficult for the Society. A number of our librarians, both in the GFGS library and the Montana Room, have had to remove themselves from our list of volunteers, so we are finding ourselves short-handed. If anyone has been considering contributing to our Society, this may be an opportunity for you. We are in need of volunteers to staff the GFPL's Montana Room, which is open 4 hours each day, Monday – Saturday. We are also in need of GFGS library volunteers, again Monday – Saturday, 12 noon – 4 p.m.

There's also an opportunity to work on various projects that the Society has. Some must be done at the library, but others can be done from home.

If anyone is interested in any of these opportunities, you can contact us, either by phone or by email, for more information.

