

Legal At Last

30 Years Ago Today

Beer Got a Heady Welcome

By MARVIN TIMS
Of the Register-Guard

Eugeneans bubbled with excitement. They were about to quench a 13-year thirst with recently legalized 3.2 beer.

The manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors had been illegal since 1920, outlawed with the enactment of the 18th (Prohibition) Amendment to the Constitution.

But on April 7, 1933, exactly 30 years ago today, the first legalized beer in more than a decade was to flow from Eugene taps. Congress a few weeks earlier had passed special beer legislation to legalize that beverage almost immediately. The legalization of other alcoholic beverages was to come later.

The Eugene City Council, readying the city for the sale of beer, passed a special ordinance on April 4, 1933, prohibiting its sale on the University of Oregon campus, at dance halls or at skating rinks. Beer was also banned from card rooms and pool halls, and could not be sold to minors under 18 years of age.

As the waning hours of April 6 ticked off, the parched throats in Eugene and the nation became increasingly drier, anticipating the substitute for the hated "near beer," a mild concoction that was suddenly selling as cheaply as eight bottles for a quarter.

As April 7 dawned in Eugene, hundreds rushed to the local eating establishments for liquid refreshments. And throughout the nation, thirsty Americans were lifting glasses in celebration of the death of the 18th Amendment.

But to the dismay of many of the Eugene citizenry, the city was still dry. Not a drop of beer dripped anywhere. Merchants, shrugging their shoulders, said expected beer deliveries were late.

About 4 a.m. on the 7th, 75



cases and 10 kegs of beer arrived by train. The precious fluid was quickly dispersed to retail outlets and by 7 a.m. many citizens, who hadn't yet gone to bed, were smacking their lips.

But within three hours the supply was gone, a development which created consternation among those who had planned to sip after lunch. Some 25 carloads of beer scheduled for delivery from San Francisco hadn't arrived. Eugene was again as dry as it was during prohibition days.

While the supply lasted, beer was selling for 10 cents a glass. Merchants said they later intended to lower the price to a nickel.

An April 8 news story was somewhat critical of Eugene's opening-day beer-selling activities. The story said:

"At some of the dispensaries yesterday where draught beer was put over the counter, there was every evidence of plenty of spilling or total waste of the precious fluid. Old-time bartenders, and there were quite a few still in the city, watched with some interest just how the new generation of lads in white jackets, and lassies now too, handled the faucets. There is no doubt that there is an art and science to drawing beer to save profits and not allow too much to go down the drain instead of in the glass."

By Tuesday, April 11, beer was flowing again. That San Francisco shipment had finally arrived and now supplies were beginning to trickle in from Washington state.

Springfield, meanwhile, was still dry. The city council hadn't yet passed an ordinance to license taverns.

Instead of concentrating on beer, the council on April 10 passed an ordinance banning roller skating on Main Street. It would be another two weeks before the city fathers legalized 3.2 beer in Springfield.

Throughout the nation

Security Rules Often Hurt Public, Oppenheimer Says

NEW YORK (AP)—J. Robert Oppenheimer, recipient of the highest award given by the Atomic Energy Commission, was quoted Saturday by the New York Times as saying that the public is often misinformed or misled because of security regulations.

The scientist was named Friday as winner of the Enrico Fermi Award of the AEC—the same agency that declared him a security risk in 1954. He was interviewed by Times correspondent Walter Sullivan at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J.

Oppenheimer, who has headed the institute since 1947, made a strong plea for freeing science from the shackles of unnecessary secrecy, the Times reported.

The newspaper quoted Oppenheimer as saying that secrecy in regard to a neutron bomb could lead the public to believe that nuclear war could be made more tolerable. This, he said, could lead to a relaxation of

efforts to avert such a war.

The Times also said Oppenheimer declined to discuss his past difficulties or the award even though it was obvious that he and his academic colleagues were delighted.

It was the AEC's interpretation of security regulations nearly a decade ago that led to Oppenheimer's removal as chairman of the agency's general advisory committee.

In the 4-1 vote that took away his security clearance, three AEC commissioners based their decision on "his persistent and continuous association with Communists."

A fourth said Oppenheimer was disloyal in that he disregarded security regulations of a man in a sensitive position.

On the occasion of his interview, Oppenheimer released a prepared statement saying: "Most of us look to the good opinion of our colleagues and to the good will and the confidence of our government. I am no exception."

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