

Women Make Best Dry Agents Says Nemesis of Rum-Runners

BAYSHORE, N. Y., July 24.—Women make the best prohibition agents.

So says Miss Isabella Premm, 19-year-old girl who became the nemesis of many rum runners operating along the Long Island shore. During the past three months of her work as prohibition agent she has enough thrills to satisfy most persons for a lifetime. But she wants



MISS ISABELLA PREMM, NEMESIS OF THE RUM RUNNERS

more.

"And I'll get 'em, too she says determinedly, "for the authorities will have to realize soon that they made a mistake when they dropped the women from the force. They are much better agents than men. They are less easily bribed; less easily fooled, less easily shaken from a trail. And besides, they have an uncanny sense which makes 'em follow up a clue that most men pass up."

Had Knowledge and Nerve

Miss Premm's knowledge of the coast made her a most valuable member of the forces trying to stop the growing rum running off Long Island. And her nerve made her one of the most daring.

Fired at by bootleggers, she began carrying a revolver while on duty. But she says she wasn't afraid.

"Bootleggers are such poor shots," she says. "Their nerves aren't steady—and no wonder, if they drink their own stuff."

She wouldn't talk about her experiences as long as she was on active duty.

"But now that I'm out of the service temporarily," she said, stressing the adverb. "I may tell how we operated."

"It was my job to scout around from inlet to inlet, keep track of 'suspect' boats going in and out, find out which seamen could steer in the dark, which knew our shore line; I had to watch trucks and bootleggers, help in the seizures, and

guard the confiscated liquor or prisoners.

Led Owl's Life

"While I was working I led an owl's life—awake at night and asleep during the day."

Miss Premm's big dark-fringed hazel eyes, twinkled with excitement. Every freckle on her sun-browned face seemed to grow bigger, as she went on:

"The bootleggers took a tremendous interest in me—but it was no greater than I took in them."

"One gallant rum runner threatened to throw me overboard if I came aboard to search his ship."

"Go ahead," I told him, "for I'm coming."

"I did, and he didn't."

"Once I was loitering around the docks. Some of the bootleggers saw another woman nearby. They thought it was I, so they pushed her into the water. But they had made a mistake. She was the wife of one of the chief rum runners, and there was some row afterwards."

Fearing that her father might object to her joining the service, if she asked for permission, Miss Premm didn't tell him until she had all her papers certified.

"That day," she says, "we captured 'The Virginia' in broad daylight, with 650 cases of the finest whiskey aboard. Then I told my dad and he was proud, instead of being angry."

"Once in a while the rum runners had some fairly good ideas. But they never fooled us a second time. Sometimes they'd try to run their liquor in small boats with the water lines painted high. Or they'd try to disguise their boats as fishing snacks or oyster boats. Then sometimes they'd drop fish in the water back of their boats so the gulls would follow it as they do fishing boats."

"But we would see through all this, and go after them strong."

HEAVY WIND DAMAGES HOOD RIVER GARDENS

HOOD RIVER, July 24.—Heavy wind yesterday caused severe damage to orchards and truck gardens here. Pears, apples, tomatoes and sweet corn suffered.

Kodak finishing at Sisson's. 811

RICH BOYS ROAD MONITORS

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., July 24.—One priest, the Rev. A. Serra, and thirteen wealthy young men of Montecito, a suburb, have been appointed special deputies to keep thoroughfares leading to fires clear of automobiles when alarms are sounded.

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