

# *The History Behind Prohibition*

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*By*

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# What Started the Project

## *Who Started the Story of The Great Big Bear Raid of July 1923*

- Rick Keppler & Kim Sweet Channel 6 History show
- Tom Core *Big Bear Grizzly Bearly Remembered*
- Syd Sullivan's story in the *Highlander*
- John Robinson from *The San Bernardino*s
- Clifford Walker "One Eye Closed the Other Red" *The California Bootlegging Years*

# What was the story?

- Two prohibition agents (husband and wife) stayed in Big Bear for a week in June and gather evidence by buying alcohol from locals.
- Federal Agents with county warrants came back in two weeks and arrest 17 people on Friday July 6<sup>th</sup> 1923.
- Those arrested were mainly bootleggers, two were moonshiners and several people arrested for possession.
- They were taken and held in county jail.
- When Feds left on Saturday they left outstanding warrants with Constable Hank Crane

# Story Continues

- A few days later the prisoners were brought back for trial to Judge Clifford Lynn's court.
- Several paid fines, others served 30 to 90 days on road crew on the Clark Grade.

*FROM John Robinson's "The San Bernardino" adds*

- A month later San Bernardino County sheriff arrested six persons for serving liquor Grizzly Inn owner Frank Johnson and T.B. Anderson were arrest for operating slot machines.

# A Review of Prohibition

- Who was behind and against the idea of prohibition?
- How were the prohibition laws enacted and enforced?
- What political and economic forces were behind it?
- Problems with the enforcement.
- Once it was enacted how did it get repealed?

# History of Beer and Alcohol Consumption

- During the Civil War the Union attempted to raise money by creating a beer tax. German-American brewers protested.
- After the Civil War the amount of liquor consumption increased.
- Several prohibition/woman suffrage groups were started- Daughters of Temperance, Sons of Temperance, World Temperance Society and the Woman Christian Temperance Union, Knights of Jericho, and the Washingtonians Society.
- In 1870 there were 100,000 saloons in the US.
- In 1900 there were 300,000 saloons.

# Women's Christian Temperance Union

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# Leaders of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union

## Annie Wittenmeyer

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- Founded in Cleveland Ohio in 1874.
- “Pray-ins” at saloons
- “Protection of the home”
- Total abstinence from alcohol, and later also tobacco and other drugs
- Watchwords were “Agitate - Educate – Legislate”

## Frances Willard

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- Change of direction in 1879,
- Use political power vrs moral persuasion
- The use of alcohol was a symptom of the larger problems in society.
- By 1894, under “home protection” the WCTU was endorsing women's suffrage.
- By 1896, 25 of the 39 departments of the WCTU were dealing with non-temperance issues.

# Children Drinking

Factory Lunchtime  
Growlers

The Idle Rich Kids



A LUNCH-HOUR BEER SUPPLY FOR A FACTORY



# Women and Alcohol

- Major concern of WCTU was women being affected by alcoholism
- Lydia Pinkham contained 15 -20 percent alcohol.

