

# Revenuers Make Things Rough On 'Moonshine' Distillers

Cubed sugar and auto inertibles are extreme that moonshiners are being driven to by the enforcement efforts of Internal Revenue's Alcohol and Tax Division.

Denied ready access to bulk supplies of sugar, roughly 10 pounds of which are needed for each gallon of spirits, moonshiners are using more household-sized sugar packages in their distilling operations. And to obtain the containers needed to bottle their product, moonshiners are raiding junkyards for cans, jars, bottles and whatever else they can find. One even poured his brew into old auto inertibles.

THIS RAW materials control program helped make the 1962 fiscal year a successful year for Internal Revenue's enforcement effort according to Dwight E. Ayis, Director of the Alcohol and Tax Division. Substantial progress was made toward eliminating production of illicit spirits in East Coast metropolitan centers, the moonshiner's operations in the South.

In 1962 fiscal year revenue agents seized a total of 6,890 stills, destroyed 175,000 gallons of moonshine and 3,424,472 gallons of mash, arrested 9,126 persons and confiscated property worth \$27.5 million. The potential revenue loss represented by the mash and moonshine seized was over \$5 million. These figures show a slight increase in the number of still seized and inroads were made in their uses, but are lower in other seizure categories.

Director Ayis said that the volume of mash seized declined 7 per cent last year indicating a lower level of moonshine activity.

Approximately 95 per cent of the illicit whiskey production uncovered in 1962 occurred in the 14 southern states, the traditional stronghold of the moonshiner. The large numbers of people living in "dry" or local option counties, added to a demand for cheap spirits, make this a difficult enforcement area.

WHILE THE southern moonshiner is generally an independent, small scale operator, moonshine activity in East Coast centers is run by syndicates on a well-organized, high volume basis. A special drive to curtail these syndicate operations started several years ago.

Heavy financial losses were inflicted on members of these syndicates before they could show a profit. Several huge, continuous process units were seized less than a month after they started up.

This constant pressure on the syndicates, enforcement officials believe, has disorganized their operations, disrupted lines of supply, and forced the cost of moonshine

up. Closely related to the syndicate crackdown is the drive on major and persistent violators of the law. Approximately 25 per cent of the known major violators were arrested in 1962.

In its enforcement work, agents have sought the arrest of the still operator as well as the destruction

of his still. This practice has produced a higher percentage of arrests in relation to the number of stills seized than in previous years.

THE RAW materials program, which has cut off moonshiner's essential supplies, also resulted in the arrest of dealers who refuse to comply with the ban on sugar and container sales to known or suspected moonshiners. In one case, a dealer who supplied large quantities of raw materials to moonshiners in Alabama, Maryland, Mississippi and Tennessee, was

arrested and sentenced to a year in jail.

A growing deterrent to the moonshiner is the severity of the sentences convicted violators of the liquor laws are now receiving in federal courts. Sentences of up to 5 years are becoming common for major violators.

An unusual case of moonshine activity discovered by Internal Revenue involved the establishment of a still in a Rhode Island textile plant. While many textile firms have moved to the South, here was perhaps the first instance where this traditionally northern industrial activity had been replaced by one traditional to the South. The still, a 750-gallon, twin column unit, was seized after it had been running 24 days and the principals received stiff jail sentences.

## Local Families Move To Upper Income Group

(Special to the Eccentric)

NEW YORK — Rising incomes in Birmingham in the last few years have resulted in significant shifts in family income brackets.

Many local families, formerly in the \$1,000 to \$7,000 category, are now to be found in the \$7,000 to \$10,000 group. Others, who had net earnings previously of \$2,500 to \$4,000, have moved up a notch and entered the \$4,000 to \$7,000 bracket.

The upward shift has been taking place at all points along the income scale. As a result, there are now more families than ever

in the middle- or better brackets and fewer at the lower end.

THIS PROGRESS augurs well for business. It means that more people are finding it possible to upgrade their standard of living.

The income breakdown are set forth in a copyrighted study, produced by Sales Management.

It shows just how earnings were divided in each area of the United States in the past year.

It also reveals whether the so-called "average income" of a community really consists of a small number of high-income families compensating for a much larger number in the low income brackets, or whether the distribution is more even.

THE FIGURES for Birmingham show that 87.9 percent of all local households can point to cash incomes of \$4,000 or more, after payment of taxes.

This was a high ratio. Elsewhere in the United States it averaged 57.4 percent and, in the East North Central States, 64.8 percent.

Since the study was based on cash income, it reveals a wide disparity between farm dwellers and urban residents. If allowance is made, however, for lower living costs on the farm and for food grown and consumed by farm families, the difference becomes much smaller.

Just how other income groups in Birmingham fared last year, is also noted.

In the \$7,000 to \$10,000 bracket were 11.6 percent of the households. They collected 8.9 percent of all local income.

Those in the \$2,500 to \$4,000 class represented 5.4 percent of the households and 1.3 percent of the income.

The 87.9 percent in the \$4,000- and-over brackets accounted for 98.0 percent of the income.

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## National Wildlife Federation Provides College Scholarships

The National Wildlife Federation will provide several thousand dollars in grants to natural resource management, conservation education, journalism, sources conservation students again this year, according to Federation president Paul A. Herbert.

Deans of education in colleges across the country are now receiving the Federation's official announcement that it plans to provide undergraduate scholarships of up to \$500 and graduate fellowships of up to \$1,000 to college

students majoring in such subjects as natural resource management, conservation education, journalism, radio and television, and landowner-sportsmen relations.

APPLICATIONS may be submitted by students having completed one year of college and who are citizens or nationals of the United States, or will be by March, 1963. Awards will be made in March, 1963.

8-B THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC Sept. 27, 1962

1961, for the academic year 1963-64.

Additional information and application forms are available on request from the Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. Completed applications must be returned to the Federation postmarked no later than midnight, December 1, 1962. Since 1951, a total of 180 individual student grants and four or more organization grants have been made by the National Wildlife Federation. Grants made by the Federation for this purpose and for state-affiliated administered conservation education projects such as teacher workshops in conservation now total almost a quarter of a million dollars.

AS WITH other conservation education efforts of the National Wildlife Federation, these awards are made possible through contributions received in exchange for Wildlife Conservation Stamps, individual student grants and four or more organization grants have been made by the National Wildlife Federation. Grants made by the Federation for this purpose and for state-affiliated administered conservation education projects such as teacher workshops in conservation now total almost a quarter of a million dollars.

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