

Trivia: Prohibition in Scott County

1. Prohibition devastated industries related to alcohol unless they found a way to adapt. Which Scott County business actually grew during Prohibition?
 - a. Jordan Brewery
 - b. Shakopee Brewery
 - c. Ries Bottling Company
2. Most of Scott County opposed Prohibition and many speakeasies popped up around the county. These secret bars tried to avoid being discovered by authorities as they served alcohol. In which of the following businesses was alcohol secretly sold?
 - a. a barbershop in Belle Plaine
 - b. a soda parlor in Jordan
 - c. the Rock Spring Café in Shakopee
 - d. all of the above
3. Where did one innovative farmer hide his alcohol?
 - a. In his barn, covered in manure
 - b. in his attic
 - c. Under his potato plants
 - d. In mislabeled bottles in plain sight in his cellar
4. Two brothers in Belle Plaine ran a still and bootlegging business during Prohibition by creating a fake business to cover up their illegal activity. What fake business did they build?
 - a. a bakery
 - b. an auto body paint shop
 - c. a livestock feed company
 - d. a soda parlor
5. The repeal of Prohibition was ratified by state conventions in which individuals finally had a chance to vote on the issue themselves. How many people in Savage voted to KEEP Prohibition?
 - a. one
 - b. fifteen
 - c. everyone except one
 - d. fifty
6. Prohibition banned the manufacture, transportation and sale of alcohol. It did not ban consuming alcohol or using alcohol for religious or medicinal uses. How did consumption of sacramental wine change within America during the first year of Prohibition?
 - a. Increased by 50,000 gallons
 - b. Increased by 800,000 gallons
 - c. It remained stable
 - d. It went down
7. At the turn of the century, many Scott County inhabitants maintained ties to their European roots. What percentage of Scott County considered themselves German or Czech in 1930?
 - a. 50%
 - b. 30%
 - c. 5%
 - d. 70%
8. Which current Shakopee establishment used to be the location of the Rock Springs Café?
 - a. Turtles Bar and Grill
 - b. Dangerfield's Restaurant
 - c. Sit and Sip
 - d. Wampach's

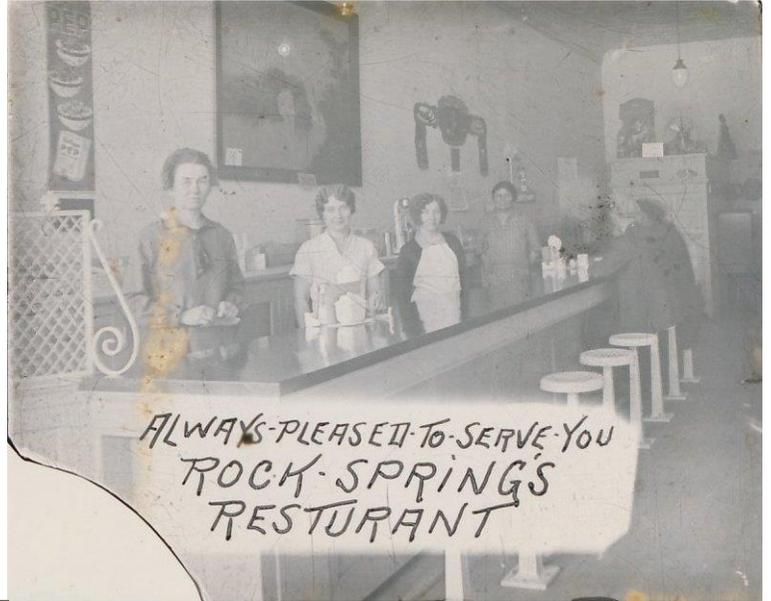


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1. c. Ries Bottling Company. The Ries and New Prague Bottling Companies both switched from bottling beer to bottling soda. Ries Bottling Company expanded their entire building from the ensuing growth. The Shakopee Brewery closed until the end of Prohibition and the Jordan Brewery became a hatchery.
2. d. All of the above. Speakeasies were all over, including in unexpected places like barbershops! One raid on a soda parlor in Jordan revealed 100 gallons of liquor.
3. c. Under his potato plants. Known as Gleason, the Shakopee farmer told buyers which row and plant to go to so they could dig up their alcohol. When authorities came to investigate, Gleason could guide them to an empty plant or just show them a field of simple potato plants.
4. b. Auto body paint shop. Built next to their house, the brothers could transport their homemade alcohol through a tunnel and into the car that was “getting painted.” They then drove out to make their delivery. After their shop burned down, they took over mom’s basement. She had no idea of their illegal activities until they burned a hole in her floor! They then moved to an old cereal factory with some livestock to cover the smell. One brother was caught and imprisoned for a year, but the other was never arrested.
5. a. One. 70 people voted to repeal Prohibition. This 70:1 ratio was so strange to officials that they recounted multiple times, but each time got the same result. In Shakopee, the ratio was 10:1 and in New Prague it was 12:1 in favor of repealing Prohibition. Most of Scott County was opposed to Prohibition at the start and remained so until the end.
6. b. Increased by 800,000 gallons. Because Prohibition did not ban consuming alcohol, many people stockpiled ahead of the ban and continued drinking throughout Prohibition. Alcohol was even served at the White House during Prohibition. Orders for medicinal and sacramental wine exploded during the decade.
7. d. 70%. Brewing and similar industries were very important in German and Czech cultures, and Scott County was home to quite a few breweries and bars. This was a huge factor in their dislike for Prohibition as it devastated their businesses. However, German connections to drinking swayed American opinion in favor of Prohibition when Germany and its culture became their enemy in WWI.
8. a. Turtle’s Bar and Grill. The Rock Springs Café was owned by the Ries family who owned Ries Bottling Company. Elizabeth Ries was the first female mayor of Shakopee and governed during Prohibition, while the family café operated an illegal speakeasy in the basement.



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Interior of the Rock Springs Café in Shakopee. The woman standing at the far left side is Elizabeth Rise. Circa 1915-1925.



Shakopee foundry workers sitting around a keg of beer in the woods. Most drinking in Scott County during Prohibition was like this – a casual meeting among friends – rather than the glamor often connected to speakeasies.



Jordan Brewery on Broadway Street just south of downtown Jordan. The building still stands today. 1940.