

It's impossible to get
real mad with a pipe in
your mouth.

PINE PLAINS

The Register

AND HERALD

MILLERTON

Careless makes people
interesting and successful.

VOLUME LI

No. 42

Established April 7, 1882.

PINE PLAINS, N. Y., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1932

\$2.50 a Year in Advance

Number 2639

FEDERAL AGENTS SEIZE STILL ON RYAN ESTATE

**\$25,000 Distillery plant raided
by Department of Justice of-
ficers—equipment confiscated
and destroyed.**

A \$25,000 alcohol distillery plant, in full operation, was seized Monday afternoon when four department of justice investigators visited the Ryan estate, Harvest Homestead Farm, about a mile north of Pine Plains. The farm is situated on a cross road between the Pine Plains-Silvernails road and the Pine Plains Lafayetteville road.

Two men, arrested on charges of illegal manufacture and possession of alcohol, were committed to the county jail in Poughkeepsie Monday night to await before U. S. Commissioner Platt. The men who were held are Pellegaino Lombardi, 69, of 1227 St. John Place, Brooklyn and Paul Laetsch, 39, of Stamford, Conn. They both gave their occupation as laborers.

The raiders reached the farm at 6 o'clock, finding two stills in operation and in charge of the two men who were arrested. The agents seized the following:

Two 2,000 gallon stills, columns and condensers, two high pressure boilers, thirteen 1,000 gallon vats of mash, one 2,500 gallon vat of mash, two 150 gallon vats of mash, one 1,000 gallon storage tank of alcohol, one 500 gallon steel tank of alcohol, one 500 gallon wooden tank of alcohol, an electric motor, agitator, copper coils and other incidentals, 10,000 pounds of sugar, 12 quarts of ammonia, one case of charred oak chips, one 25 gallon jug of sulphuric acid, 10 pounds of powdered charcoal, two Ford trucks, one Reo truck and one Lincoln sedan.

All of the above were confiscated by the agents and destroyed on Wednesday morning. A force of twelve federal men were guarding the premises on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The plant was located in the old cow barn down under the brow of the hill. On the first floor two stills and several vats were located. There were thirteen vats on the second floor of the building. The third floor was used as a storage room and there were also some vats on this floor. The basement of the building, in what was formerly the cow stables, a large high pressure boiler was found.

It was one of the most extensive and elaborate layouts ever found in this part of the country. It is believed that the still had been in operation less than six months but during the time of its operation there was a tremendous daily output of distilled liquor.

The raid followed a long investigation and was the largest in Dutchess county since that on a still near Camelot several months ago.

ber of curred ys. ere, it at the about ar the ending istruc- l been Unless Yunda e wid- year. o. has d esti- cerned. It became known yesterday, over the heavy and mounting accident toll on 30 foot highways. With the middle strip to permit passing by vehicles in either direction, terrific head-on collisions of cars driven at high speed have been frequent, with an unusually high rate of deaths and serious injuries. At division headquarters here it was said yesterday that the accident at Staatsburg on Saturday in which a Philadelphia woman suffered a fractured skull and other injuries was typical of what the engineers hope to eliminate. In (Continued on Last Page)

ASSAULT SYSTEM TODAY

Says Hoover Can Be Elected Only if the Republicans Adhere to Allegiance

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 17.—(AP)—Terming party regularity "one of the greatest evils confronting our government," Nebraska's independent Republican senator, George W. Norris, told a Pennsylvania audience tonight that President Hoover cannot be re-elected except through the votes of "people who do not believe in him but who vote on account of party."

"If the people of this country," he said, "will think only of the happiness of our people, the welfare and the perpetuity of our homes and firesides, Governor Roosevelt will be elected by a majority which will be more outstanding and more overwhelming than the majority which put Theodore Roosevelt in the White House."

It was the opening speech of Norris' recently disclosed active campaign on behalf of the Democratic candidate for the presidency. The senator spoke in Philadelphia's Metropolitan Opera house, under auspices of the Roosevelt independent state committee.

Taking "partisanship" as his theme, Norris quoted Abraham Lincoln:

"I will stand with any man who stands right. I will stand with him as long as he is right and I will part from him whenever he goes wrong."

Blames Party Bosses

"The modern slogan of political bosses," Norris said, "is, 'Stand by your party right or wrong. Be regular though the government falls.' And these same bosses try to teach the rising generations that party regularity is the very essence of citizenship, when, as a matter of fact, party regularity is very often the concealment of crime and debauchery—the covering up of evil and the robbing of the people of their very fundamental rights of human freedom. x x x

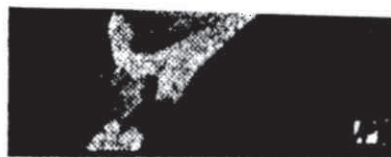
"It puts part above country and, in the logical end, it means the destruction of democratic government."

Mr. Hoover today is the embodiment of that partisanship. Without its sinister influence, he has no chance of being re-elected president. He must be elected by people who do not believe in him but who vote for him on account of party, or he cannot win. x x x

"We once had a Roosevelt in the White House and he stood manfully for the rights of the people against monopoly. He did not hesitate to cross the party line whenever he believed the welfare of the country demanded. The politicians and the machines reviled him—condemned him, and used all their power to prevent him from carrying out the principles of government in which he believed. He called himself a Republican. x x x

Another Roosevelt

"Now we have another Roosevelt who stands for practically the same things: who believes in the same kind



SENATOR GEORGE W. NORRIS

STILL IS SEIZED AT PINE PLAINS

\$25,000 Alcohol Plant Raided, Two Men Arrested and 4 Automobiles Taken

A \$25,000 alcohol distillery plant, in full operation, was seized yesterday afternoon when four department of justice investigators, working out of the office of Prohibition Administrator McCampbell in New York, visited the Ryan estate, Harvest Homestead Farm at Pine Plains. The farm is situated on Route 82 near the Dutchess-Columbia county line.

Two men, arrested on charges of illegal manufacture and possession of alcohol, were committed to the county jail overnight to await arraignment before U. S. Commissioner Platt today. They are Pellegrino Lombardi, 69, of 1237 St. John Place, Brooklyn, a laborer, and Paul Laetach, 36, of Stamford, Conn., also a laborer.

Agents who made the raid were Walter Tobias, Paul Sarlo, M. Reardon and E. Keating.

Still in Operation

They reached the farm at 6 o'clock, finding two stills in operation and in the charge of the two men arrested. They seized:

Two 1,000 gallon stills, columns and condensers, two high pressure boilers, 13 1,000 gallon vats of mash, one 2,500 gallon vat of mash, two 350 gallon vats of mash, one 1,000 gallon storage tank of alcohol, one 500 gallon steel tank of alcohol, one 500 gallon wooden tank of alcohol, an electric motor, agitator, copper coils and other incidentals, 10,000 pounds of sugar, 12 quarts of ammonia, one case of charred oak chips, one 25 gallon jug of sulphuric acid, 10 pounds of powdered charcoal, two Ford trucks, one Reo truck and one Lincoln sedan.

All were confiscated and held pending further investigation.

The raid followed a long investigation, and was the largest in Dutchess County since that on a still near Camelot several months ago. That raid was made by one of the agents who participated in yesterday's foray.

ROOSEVELT CORRECTED ON BURNING OF CORN

Corn instead of coal is burned in schools of Nebraska because corn is cheaper and not because the people

McKee's P In Salar City

NEW YORK that political pushed the ch of a precipice, plunged today ing next year

Charles E. the board of appeared before morning session "real cuts" w crumbling ma curities "would credit would; b

Members of lunch, came b an initial swi ping off \$40,734 Comptroller C year subway fi Fellow J

Warning to members then salaries along Mayor Joseph

Within a sp amount of mounted to al city owned lin inated from ti

Under the mayor will r instead of \$4 \$25,000 instea dent of the be instead of \$25, borough pres \$20,000.

Other cuts left against tioners and earning more

The warni who appears the bankers depended for for a discre Takamany members of penes

Berry Mitchell hearing, whi after a brief troller Berry wanted Mit by Winthrop the Chase N

New York orably in Wi speech, gai points.

Mitchell's for Berry in City Nation few days for 000,000 and him down.

"Today it possible in a "to obtain a trial am Even a mill not be float rifice. Ther New York (is worth am

2 KILLED, 4 HURT IN NEVIS CRASH

Puff Eagle News Oct. 18, 1932
New Rochelle Woman and Son Dead, Husband in Critical Condition in Hospital

Two lives were lost yesterday in a two-car automobile crash on the slippery Albany Post road, a half mile north of Nevis in Columbia county. Mrs. Laura C. Bombace, 26, of 61 Second street, New Rochelle, wife of a prominent Westchester county contractor, died instantly of a fracture of the skull and other severe injuries. Her son, Frank Bombace, Jr., 4, died in Rhinebeck hospital at 5:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Frank Bombace, Sr., 29, driver of a Plymouth sedan, was reported near death in the Rhinebeck hospital last night. John Bombace, 7, another son, was reported considerably improved although suffering from severe injuries. Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Butler, of Wellesley, Mass., passenger and driver of the other car, a Packard coupe, suffered only superficial injuries.

Car Skids on Curve

According to reports furnished to Coroner William Finley of Hudson and state troopers, Bombace was driving north and his car skidded on a wet curve and smashed into the southbound Butler Packard coupe, operated by Mrs. Butler.

Mrs. Butler told Coroner Finley she and her husband had travelled from Wellesley to Albany and were heading for New York when the crash occurred. The Bombace family was enroute from New Rochelle to Saratoga Springs.

Mrs. Bombace suffered a skull fracture, a fracture of the pelvis, and severe lacerations of the head and body. The boy died of a punctured abdomen. Mr. Bombace is suffering from a fracture of the skull and other serious injuries. The extent of John Bombace's injuries had not been determined.

State police from Columbia and Dutchess counties cooperated in the investigation.

KING ATTACKS TARIFF IN DEBATE AT OTTAWA

1,000.00
1,100.00

two cases are completions brought by Simon and Simon V. DuBois enthal and Elsin com- o trial. W. MacAffer is ne plaintiff and W. Har- ry for the defense. The vere selected this morn-

IR SILENT SPRUCE ST.

lic Works Hasn't ard Report

ident Lawlor of the pub-
partment had nothing to
oncerning a report made
rday of the results of a
sewerage conditions in
et, conducted by an en-
the State Department of

no official report of the
d Mr. Lawlor. "The board
d the report."

rt concluded that all roof
water connections with
street sewer should be
Mr. Lawlor will proba-
hat this will not include
in the territory east
street and that water
ield street is not contribu-
e condition.

e survey was made at the
Alderman Fallon, who
port read before the Com-
ill last night. On motion
ncill, copies of the report
red sent to the Board of
orks and the Board of
th a request for "immedi-
ion."

PERSON BETTER

n of Ernest Dorach, 23, of
Ferry street, Brenner Milk
driver found wandering on
road Saturday morning
in his underwear, and tel-
lanted story of having been
robbed by three men in a
in, was reported as some-

tion in Beacon tomorrow. Approx-
imately 100 bankers from both coun-
ties are expected to attend. Sessions
will open at a luncheon at Mount
Beacon at 12:30 o'clock. Following
the luncheon an executives' meeting
will be held, with a general discus-
sion on banking.

In the afternoon a golf tournament
will be held on the private course at
the Craig House, and at 6 p. m. a
dinner will be held at the Holland
hotel. Speakers will be Ronald
George of New York, and George W.
Chase of the Central Hudson Gas
and Electric corporation, this city.

Thomas Delaird, cashier of the
Fishkill National bank, is president
of the association, and William W.
Maloney, III, vice president of the
Fallkill National bank, is secretary-
treasurer.

STILL IS SEIZED AT PINE PLAINS

Federal Agents Also Raid Two Places in City

Federal agents who of late have
shown some apathy in their local ac-
tivities returned to the vicinity with
a vengeance yesterday, seized a \$25,-
000 alcohol distillery plant in Pine
Plains, and "knocked off" two places
in this city. The Pine Plains job, lo-
cated on the Ryan estate and known
as the Harvest Homestead farm,
yielded two arrests but at least five
more got away, agents said today. The
raid was made by four Department of
Justice investigators working out of
the office of Prohibition Administra-
tor McCampbell, New York. It was

(Continued on Page 12)

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

Bargains! Bargains! Bargains! Ethel Law-
rence Shop, 24 Liberty St. O 14-17-18

K. OF C. BARN DANCE, FRI. NITE

At Hunter's Orch., K. of C. Hall. Mo.
O 11-31

PALATIAL DINNER, STEAK SUPPER

Wed. nite. Dining. Dancing. Entertainment.
O 11-31

2 ARE HURT IN 3-CAR COLLISION

*Poughkeepsen Evening
Star and Enterprise*

Albany Man Accused Reckless Driving

Oct. 18, 1932

(Special to The Evening Star)

FISHKILL—Lillian Scott, Newa:
N. J., suffered lacerations on t
right side of the face and neck a
abrasions of the knee, and An
Scott, also of Newark, suffered abi-
sions about the head and knees,
a three-car collision at the entra
to the Fishkill cemetery Sunc
afternoon at 4:20. Paul Lewis,
Halstead street, Albany, driver
one of the cars, faces a reckl
driving charge lodged by st
troopers. Other cars involved w
a machine owned by William C
ney, Highland avenue, Peekskill,
driven by Eldoris Hadden, Peeksl
and a car owned and driven
William Scott of Newark.

Troopers said that Hadden stop
opposite the cemetery entrance
await an opportunity to turn
the driveway, and Scott slowed d
when he approached the parked
The Lewis machine crashed
the rear of the Scott car and d
it into the parked Hadden car
was said. Lewis is to have a h
ing October 25.

POLICE ASSERT LIQUOR FOUL

Make Discovery W Called to Get Intrude

Police, answering a telephone
complaint made shortly after 4 o
this morning, found Robert Smith
laborer of 124 Avenue A, Albany,

dictment charged that without having disposed of the Chestertown life, he married Mrs. Florence Cade of the town of North East, a widow with five children. Subsequently a child was born of the second marriage, but that child died. George W. Davids, director of the Child Welfare board, told the court that the county has been called upon to support the Dutchess county family of Harpp.

STILL IS SEIZED AT PINE PLAINS

Continued from Page 1

the second time that a strike has been made on the place, the former one having been futile, the plant being cleverly secluded in a huge barn.

Agents from the Kingston office, meanwhile, raided the Liberty lunch, 23-A Washington street, arresting Joseph Dorsey, and a place at 141 Mill street where George Card was taken into custody. Both appeared before U. S. Commissioner Platt this morning, waived examination and were released on bail to await hearing before the federal grand jury. Card was charged with sale and possession, and Dorsey with maintaining a nuisance and possession.

Captured at Pine Plains, one of the largest seizures ever made in this county, were Pellegaino Lombardi, Brooklyn, and Paul Laetsch, Stamford, Conn. Both needed interpreters when arraigned before Commissioner Platt today and waived examination.

In lieu of \$1,500 bail they were remanded to the county jail and unless able to obtain bond by tomorrow, will be taken to New York by a United States marshal. Questioned this morning by one of the investigators, they said that they knew the owner of the farm only as "Tony."

Appearances at the farm when the investigators made the raid indicated that other men there had left in a hurry, clothing and jewelry having been left in their haste to get out. The raid was made soon after it started to get dark and two stills were found in operation.

The agents seized two, 2,000-gallon stills, columns and condensers, two high pressure boilers, 13 1,000-gallon vats of mash, one 2,500-gallon vat, two 250-gallon vats, one 1,000-gallon storage tank of alcohol, one 500-gallon steel tank of alcohol, one 500-gallon wooden tank of alcohol, agitator, copper coils and other incidentals, 10,000 pounds of sugar, 12 quarts of ammonia, one case of charred oak chips, ten pounds of powdered charcoal, one 25-gallon jug of sulphuric acid, two Ford trucks, one Reo truck, and a Lincoln sedan.

According to the investigator who appeared in court, the plant was hidden at the far end of a barn with the still in a basement. It was necessary to break through hidden doors to gain access to it.

LIVE POULTRY

NEW YORK—(AP)—Live poultry nominal; no quotations.

IT'S A WONDERFUL WAY

Mrs. Vlack, Poughkeepsie; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller, and James Harmon, Hopewell Junction, Mrs. Anna Krochmal, and children, Mr. Weiss, Remsen Van Vlack, and Harold Sheeley, Sylvan Lake.

D. A. R. CHAPTER PLANS BRIDGE-LUNCHEON.

A bridge-luncheon, Saturday afternoon, November 12, at the Nelson House, was planned yesterday afternoon by members of Mahwenawasih chapter. Daughters of the American Revolution, at Case chapel, Reformed church. Mrs. A. Wesley Triller, chairman of the ways and means committee is in charge. A report of the recent D. A. R. conference in Buffalo was given by Mrs. J. J. Thompson, delegate. Following the meeting, a Washington bicentennial program, was presented by the Matinee Musicale club of Beacon, under direction of Mrs. Ernest Davies. The pageant was entitled, "Women Who Helped Make American History," and those taking part were: Mrs. Judson Jaynes, Mrs. Leonard J. Supple, Mrs. Francis K. Howell, Mrs. Harry G. Heaney, Mrs. M. Smith Webb, Emily Atkins, Mrs. T. R. Harrington, Mrs. F. W. Heaney, Mrs. R. T. Van Tine, Mrs. C. J. Fingarr and Sallie E. Straney. Rita I. Tompkins was the pianist, and Mrs. Davies, the narrator. A group of songs was given by Mrs. Clifford F. Cook, contralto, which were written between 1737 and 1791 by Francis Hopkinson. Alberta Matthews, pianist, was the accompanist. Tea was served, with molasses cookies made from an original recipe of Martha Washington. Hostesses were Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck, Mrs. George W. Polk, Mrs. Arthur G. Smith, Mrs. Thomas W. Barrett, Edna Clark Albro, and Hannah Burr Polk.

Pick up Star
Interphase Oct. 18
MRS. FRED DILLER
CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY
Mrs. Fred Diller of 6 Davis avenue, was given a birthday surprise party at her home last evening. Halloween decorations were featured, and a large birthday cake formed the centerpiece for the table. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Orman and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hicks, Wicopee, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Blythe, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Van de Bogart, and son, Harold, and Mr. and Mrs. Diller.

MRS. E. B. STRINGHAM WILL ENTERTAIN.

Mrs. E. B. Stringham of Fishkill Plains, will entertain the members of the Reformed Sunday school association of Hopewell Junction, 7:30 o'clock Thursday evening, at her home.

MR. AND MRS. BARTH HOSTS AT PARTY.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Barth entertained at their home, 79 South Cherry street, last evening, in honor of the 78th birthday of Mrs. Fred Barth, Sr. Guests at supper and the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bub, Sr., Margaret Bub, Mr. and Mrs. William Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bub, Jr., and daughter, Janice Marie; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Traupel, Dorothy and Edna Traupel, all of this city, Edna Barth, Wassail; Mrs. Esther Hildebrandt, Kingston, and Mrs. John Leddy, Brooklyn.

Briggs will visit her cousin, Mrs. Mrs. John Sanford Peck of the Boulevard, Scarsdale.

Mary B. Ahearn of King's court, entertained Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ahearn of New York over the weekend.

Mrs. Lawrence B. Smith of Millbrook, is registered at the Hotel Barclay, New York city.

Ruth Weyant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Weyant of this city, is attending the New York School of Design. Miss Weyant was graduated from Arlington high school, class of '31, and also the Mt. Ida Junior college at Boston.

Albert Palmer of 90 Cedar street, Fairview, has embarked for Bermuda, Florida and South American countries as second pilot on the "Mandrake," a yacht owned by Howland Spencer of Crum Elbow. The vessel left New York Friday and is expected back next May.

Mrs. W. H. Johnson, 115 Church street, is recuperating at St. Francis hospital from a serious operation performed last week by Dr. C. J. McCambridge.

Mrs. Katherine Gottlieb of 27 Baldwin avenue is convalescing from injuries received from a fall in her home October 8.

ROOSEVELT OFF ON SECOND TOUR

(Continued From Page 1)

was at Syracuse at 12:30 p. m. He was there only a few minutes. Rochester was reached at 1:55 p. m. He was due to speak in convention hall, leaving that city at 4 p. m. The Governor's special will arrive at Buffalo at 5:30 p. m. and leave at 12:30 a. m. The scene of his Buffalo talk will be Elmwood hall.

The Roosevelt special is due to reach Pittsburgh tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. He will motor to Wheeling, West Virginia, for an address before his night speech at Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Roosevelt will join the party at Pittsburgh and remain on the train until it reaches Atlanta. Her teaching duties at Todhunter School for Girls prevents her from making the entire trip.

Nine United States senators will at various times join the party. They include Senator Matthew M. Neely of West Virginia, Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, keynoted of the convention that nominated Mr. Roosevelt; M. M. Logan of Kentucky, John S. Cohen of Georgia, Key Pittman of Nevada, James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, and Kenneth McKeller of Tennessee, John H. Bankhead of Alabama and Harry Hawes of Missouri. A senatorial nominee, R. B. Russell, Jr., now the Georgia governor, will ride with Mr. Roosevelt from St. Louis to Atlanta.

Brass Band Performs

A brass band stood on the platform and took a thorough drenching in order to send the presidential candi-

is on parole in the sheriff's a perjury charge lodged with mitted the affidavit was that he merely signed it in of ridding himself of private investigators.

It never was disclosed Governor Roosevelt's request district attorney to call a discussion of an attorney investigation of the Germond was an aftermath of the situation, but report had Governor wanted to know of Leko in the investigation.

Explains Trio's Story

Mr. Schwartz made it Mr. and Mrs. Kovics and not being detained in connection the Germond case, but merely re-examined for information the murders, in the hope that information may be gleaned explained whenever there and whenever any possible information might be gained for the authorities and re-examine persons knowledge of the Germond.

Kovics-Nemis told a story when he was examined inquest. He explained to owner Paul G. Roberts, that been working at the farm Fisher at Ancramville county at the time of the murders; that he had staying there November 5, didn't get to the vicinity until about two weeks murders, when he drove a visit at the home of Mrs. Andrew Nemis, S. ceased. Mrs. Nemis before marriage to Nemis, was Mrs. Kovics-Nemis before her first marriage.

Kovics-Nemis said at that he couldn't get at step-father Andrew Nemis cause his step-father "g said some words I didn't said he knew Husted in February, 1930, asked a job but was refused. He knew other members of by sight but never talked. He said he never had his with the Germonds.

Called About F

He testified at the first heard about the Mrs. Fisher the Saturday Thanksgiving in 1930, that that subsequently Lucian Taylor of Stamford terminate the truth of a man had been arrested.

Steve Leko, boarder house for a time, whose sudden prominence in was poked up for Kovics-Nemis character testimony as "very quiet and very talkative when."

He told the investigator that his own father murdered in 1909, who two months old. Kovics he was told by his father was murdered by a man who stabbed him was given 17 years; said at the inquest.

Mr. and Mrs. Kovics were apprehended by when they spotted Hudson special sedan, of which had been the teletype. It is said

Bootleg still in Pine Plains during Prohibition

This article written by Dennis Kipp appeared in the Feb. 6 and 13, 1975 Register Herald.

It was the era of Elliot Ness, Al Capone, prohibition and gangbusters and what a better place to hide from the law than the secluded Dutchess County Town of Pine Plains.

Times were tough but they were also exciting. Stories are still told of all the bootlegging that went on in this area, but one operation gained more than the usual notoriety.

Records and memories are sketchy for the period but in the late 1920s a large tract of land, relatively close to the hamlet of Pine Plains was bought from Walter Righter. The new owner, Patrick Ryan, brought prosperity to Pine Plains in the form of money and employment. Local men were immediately hired to build several structures, run wiring for lighting (something very few of the local people had at the time) and dig ditches.

William Fahey was the manager of Deuel's Lumber Company at the time and much of the building materials for the Ryan farm were bought there. Mr. Fahey remembers Ryan coming to the yard on occasion to pay the considerable bills being run up. Ryan always paid in cash, recalls Fahey, who visited the land several times, remembers there being some 13 buildings and though he never saw anything illegal, it was a constant mystery.

From outside it was a small chicken farm and small shacks stood in rows along what is now Ryan Road. But there were stories of tunnels running through the building area and a huge room, with concrete walls 24-inches thick, built into a hill and covered over.

A number of local people worked at the farm, Charles Adams, who now runs the Ford dealership in town, picked potatoes there, but few got near the cluster of buildings where the still was being built. The grounds were patrolled, recalls Vincent Wright, by men dressed rather sharply in coveralls and ties, leading Airdale dogs. The reason was said to be that chickens were being stolen, but the guards were always there stopping everyone who approached and escorting those with business.

Construction of the complex was done in such a way that no one working there ever saw the entire picture. Crews were brought in to complete one part of the job, paid, and sent on while another crew was hired to construct another part.

Construction was finished shortly after 1931. Although Ryan was the organizer in Pine Plains, it is believed that the celebrated "Prohibition Beer Baron," Dutch Schultz, was involved in the Ryan farm. One of Schultz's lieutenants, Leggs Diamond, was occasionally seen in town. He wasn't hard to pick out! A black limousine would pull into the local gas station (now Power Test) and four men would get out, posting themselves at the corners of the car. Leggs would exit and stretch, the car would be serviced and they would be on their way.

Schultz was one of the original Jewish bosses in New York pre-dating the Cosa Nostra. Born Arthur Flegenheimer in the Bronx, he had a reputation for being a ruthless gangster. In the late 1920s he had absolute control over beer distribution in the Bronx, ran a numbers racket in Harlem that reportedly grossed some \$80,000 per day, and formed the Metropolitan Restaurant and Cafeteria Owners Association, a reputed protection racket.

Schultz and the Cosa Nostra did not get along and in 1935 a contract was put out by Charles "Lucky" Luciano to eliminate "the Dutchman." Schultz was shot down in a Newark, N.J. bar and grill on October 23 of that year and

his empire was divided. Ironically, the contract was carried out by gunmen of Lepke Buchalter (one of Schultz's own men). Shultz died several days later, his last words said to have been "Let them leave me alone."

Few people actually saw the huge still that was located in the concrete underground room, but it must have been a plumber's dream. Heat escaped through air vents that can still be seen rising out of the grass covered landscape. A loading dock was close by where the shipments of sugar used in the fermentation process were brought in.

'He didn't make as much as he expected.'

Water was pumped from springs on the property, furnishing a more than adequate supply.

A tunnel system was built for quick escapes. Measuring about 4-feet by 4-feet-square, a man crouched over could move quickly through them. One led from the side of the still house to the cellar of a nearby wooden building. A second led to a shed and the main dormitory building. These still remain and in recent years have been explored extensively by local youngsters.

Oldtimers say that yet another tunnel ran from the building complex, under a field and up a hill to what appears to be a swimming pool. The pool is still there today and is thought to have been used as a water reservoir for the booze making. Just south of the pool and on Ryan Road is the main house used by Ryan and Schultz in those days. Beneath the living room of the house is a large tank, also thought to have held water.

One of the roads entered the property near Patchin's Mill and it is this route that the many sugar trucks took, arriving in town early in the morning. Those who lived around the area said that a red flag was hung near the road whenever a truckload of sugar was to arrive, a signal to the driver of where to turn.

There are very few alive today who remember the Ryan farm for what it was. Those who worked closely with Ryan were mostly foreign and according to Mrs. Edward Sadler, would not tell anyone their business. Mrs. Sadler, who was town clerk in those days, has a good recollection of Patrick Ryan.

"He always had a bottle in his pocket," she said. The bottle contained some of the product of his farm evidently, and though she never drank any, Mrs. Sadler recalls she "heard it was the best." Ryan, said to have been a former New York City policeman and fingerprint expert, was described as a "smart Irishman." "He never took advice," said Mrs. Sadler, "he always gave it."

The End Near

The still was not in operation very long. Details of the amount of production were closely guarded but shipments of sugar arrived at the farm frequently. Some local people say the still blew up at one time, but others say not. Mrs. Sadler believes the still never exploded. "They took good care of it," she noted. Her husband was a contractor in those days and did quite a bit of the construction work.

"It wasn't too long an operation," related William Peck. "As I recall," he said, "they did some (production) but it was a very short period." The best estimates are that the still was in production for not much more than three months.

"He didn't make as much as he expected," said Mrs. Sadler of Ryan and

it was probably the size of the operation that led to its demise.

There are several stories told about a raid of the farm. Vincent Wright recalls that the tip-off was waste from the still running into the Shekomoko Creek. Local fishermen, he said, noticed a proliferation of dead fish and at first thought the Ancram Paper Mill was responsible. But the water of the stream was tested by conservation officials and found to contain alcohol, clearing the Mill, but rousing suspicion about Ryan.

Others say it was the late night deliveries that supplied the clue that

goings-on at the Ryan Road farm.

On October 17, 1932 the Ryan Road bootleg business was ended by a raid. According to the official records, two operating stills were found by Department of Justice officers when they arrived on the property at 6 a.m.

Included in the haul taken by agents and destroyed, were two 2,000 gallon stills, two high pressure boilers, thirteen 1,000 gallon vats of mash, one 2,500 gallon vat of mash, two 150 gallon vats of mash, one 1,000 gallon storage tank of alcohol, one 500 gallon steel tank of alcohol, one 500 gallon wooden tank of alcohol, 10,000 pounds of sugar, 12 quarts of ammonia, a case of charred oak chips, a 25 gallon jug of sulfuric acid, 10 pounds of charcoal, two Ford trucks, a Reo truck and a Lincoln sedan.

The confiscated items were destroyed three days after the raid and in the meantime 12 federal agents guarded the property. It was said to have been the biggest raid in Dutchess County.

With the end of the stills, the farm was used to raise turkeys. David Remsburg and Louis Gnocchio worked there at the time. Nothing more was heard from the infamous partners such as Dutch Schultz and Leggs Diamond except for one incident.

Shortly after the federal agents had finished at the farm, a black limousine arrived on the property. Several men got out, equipped with shovels and picks and said they were going to look for a chest. The men were looking for Dutch Schultz's buried treasure, thought to be a trunk filled with either coins or paper money valued at close to \$1 million, buried somewhere on the property. If there is such a treasure, no

(Please turn to page 33)

WE ARE OFFERING THE BEST INDUCEMENTS EVER KNOWN!

The Clothing Trade!

TO CAREFUL BUYERS, WHO ARE IN SEARCH OF

RELIABLE GOODS, IN MAKE, FIT, Etc.

THIS NOTICE IS OF INTEREST

It will pay you to inspect the large stock

WE HAVE, AND

See the Low figures they are marked at.

All Goods of our Own Make,

WHICH ENABLES US TO

Guarantee Every Garment we sell.

M. SHWARTZ & CO.

One-Price Clothing House

303 and 305 Main Street, - - - - - Poughkeepsie.

The above ad appeared in The Register Herald: December 1, 1932
REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF M. SCHWARTZ & CO.

m Schwartz & co.
The Fashion Store
MAIN MALL, POUGHKEEPSIE
DUTCHESS MALL, FISHKILL
"THE HOME OF GOOD CLOTHES SINCE 1867"

WDAN buys Ryan farm as safe retreat

one has ever admitted to finding it.

WDAN

While the turkey farm was in business in Pine Plains, a group was being formed in New York City that would buy the property that once again made the Ryan Road farm controversial.

Wenn Das Alter Naht (WDAN) is translated from the German as When Old Age Approaches. The name, according to Arnold Deppe, one of the original founders and today the owner of The Pines in the hamlet of Pine Plains, came from a letter written in a New York newspaper. German people had seen hard times in the city and they were concerned about their future. The letter suggested they join together to collectively improve their lot, building something for their approaching old age.

"Our final aim was to start a commune," said Mr. Deppe. All of the more than 100 members had one thing in common: they were afraid of New York City. The year was 1937 and war with Germany was nearing. "People were nervous," recalls Deppe, and they were nervous toward Germans. The group began looking to a more peaceful life in the country.

The organization set up by-laws, elected Deppe the first president and in 1941 bought the Ryan Road farm from a woman known as both Rosaria Bevasi and Rosalie Vavasi, believed by Deppe to have been the wife of one of the bootleggers. They paid \$16,000 for the farm, another \$600 for the abandoned railroad right of way and ended up with a little over 536 acres.

Paul Hesse was another of the original founders of WDAN. He died six years ago, but his 80-year old wife still

lives in the home the couple built while members of the organization. Mrs. Hesse was the first woman in WDAN to come to Pine Plains. She brought her daughter and took up duties as housekeeper and cook.

As more members came, buildings were renovated to house them (the long building presently on the property was used as a dormitory) and the extensive farm land was put into cultivation. The underground room used by Ryan for his still was called the cellar and utilized for storage while the huge water system Ryan had developed was converted for irrigation.

"We tried everything," said Mr. Deppe. They raised corn, kept cows, pigs, horses and chickens and what they could sell, they did. An average day, recalls Mr. Deppe, included 12 to 15 hours of work but, he said, they did it cheerfully singing. "It was nice," said Mrs. Hesse, "we liked it."

The War

The war grew and with the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. officially entered. It was only a few days after Pearl Harbor that the Dutchess County Sheriff arrived at WDAN to search the property. After that, according to Mrs. Hesse, "cars went by very slowly, always looking."

In early 1942 an order went out for aliens of Japanese, German and Italian nationality to turn over their radio transmitters and cameras.

Even the FBI was skeptical of WDAN and asked local businessmen to visit the community to check for stores of ammunition and weapons. "We were always watched," said Mrs. Hesse, "and we didn't even know why."

Where the townspeople had always been pleasant with members of WDAN

before, they now treated the German speaking group with cold toleration.

The End

Recalling one of the weekly meetings in which members would speak their minds, hashing out the problems, Mrs. Hesse remembered one WDAN member who had warned the idea of a commune would never work. "They were right," she said with a disappointed look. With the war and the growing talk in town that WDAN was nothing but a subversive front, everything at the farm stopped.

But the weekly meetings of the organization continued to be held in New York. On their way to one of these meetings Deppe and Hesse were in an automobile accident near Ossining, N.Y. Deppe was badly hurt and spent considerable time in a hospital. He resigned as president and he, his wife and the Hesse family went back to New York. The by-laws of WDAN, according to Mr. Deppe, were at this time discarded.

It had been difficult enough to keep the group together and Deppe seems to have been the holding force. When he left "the whole organization took a new picture," he said. The group was not entirely German, it also had Italian members, nor were they all united behind the idealistic plan of the founders. One group wanted to continue as a commune, while another wanted to be more business oriented.

The factions split and an effort to coax Mr. Deppe back as president failed.

By 1945, the commune idea had ended. Gasoline was scarce and New York members were not coming as frequently on weekends. Paul Hesse had returned and was serving as

president. It was also at this time that another membership corporation was formed under WDAN. It was called Harvest Homestead, Inc. (a name that had been used by Ryan) with Ernst Schneider as its president.

The second corporation was formed to carry out the most important aspects of WDAN — the ownership by members of a parcel of land. So that members could apply for mortgages, almost 80 acres were separated from the WDAN deed through Harvest Homestead.

In 1950 the Bottenbergs rented the building complex where Ryan's stills had been. The Bottenbergs never were members of WDAN but they ran a guest home in much the same fashion as the corporation. Mr. Bottenberg, a former tool and dye engineer, worked on the buildings while his wife cooked and baked for guests. They had as many as 50 New Yorkers at one time, recalls Mrs. Bottenberg. "It was a very nice time," she said.

When WDAN rented the property, they gave the Bottenbergs an option to buy it for \$54,000 but they never took it. Although it was hard work, Mrs. Bottenberg (who now cooks in her own restaurant) said she feels "sometimes sorry we didn't take it."

After Bottenberg, the tunnels, underground rooms and property once visited by Dutch Schultz and Leggs Diamond was sold to a butcher who ran his business in the same building that had been used by Ryan for his stills.

The property was sold to Janet and Charles Adams in 1969 for just over \$32,500.

The tunnels and cellar remain along with a few of the original buildings, leaving only a hint of the history played out there.

Police report

May 16, 1884 - Pine Plains: A woman stole a horse from Mr. Hinsdale in Gallitan. Hinsdale procured the services of game constable Wheeler and together they caught the woman. She was known as a lost dove.

Jan. 11, 1889 - Stanford and Pine Plains: A man by the name of Red Nose Mike was arrested for the murder of a man in Pennsylvania. Mike was working laying tracks between the two towns. While working in Penn. he, along with a gang of thieves robbed and killed a paymaster of \$14,000. Mike then got as far as this area and went to work laying track. When this was learned, one of Pinkerton's men came and disguised himself as a laborer. In time he received enough evidence to warrant Mike's arrest. Once in the hands of the law Mike confessed and implicated two others, who had been working near Stissing. When several officers came out to arrest them, they had already fled. Rumor had it they had gone back to Italy.

Sept. 2, 1892 - Pine Plains: A town woman commenced an action for divorce from her husband, and the alleged cruel and inhuman treatment and adultery. The defense included the charge of adultery on the part of the plaintiff and that development made an exceedingly sensational character.

Jan. 12, 1894 - Bangall: Lewis Carman, station agent of the N.D.&C. Railroad went to Poughkeepsie and swore out a warrant for the arrest of a boy

who had been robbing the railroad ticket office. Mr. Carman placed a man in hiding in the ticket office and shortly afterward, the boy raised the window and entered the office. The watcher caught him in the act of opening the money drawer.

June 15, 1894 - Silvernails: A party of tramps broke into a store. They stole a lot of goods and \$3. They then boarded a freight train on the P.R. & N.E. Railroad. The tramps left the train when the train stopped at Boston Corners for water. They then broke into Charles Burch's store and took about \$20 worth of goods. The tramps then boarded another freight train and when the conductor asked them to leave they refused. The conductor then telegraphed to Winsted for officers. The officers met the train and took the entire gang into custody. There was about 20 in the gang.

Aug. 21, 1903 - Milan: Ward Rifenburg shot and killed William Decker near Pulvers Corner Monday night, police said. Rifenburg, a cripple and beggar, was being teased by Decker and others. In a panic, Rifenburg pulled out his revolver and shot Decker through the heart.

Oct. 7, 1920 - Pine Plains: Arthur Lovell, who cut the throat of Anna May Scott at Shekomoko some time ago, was on Saturday last sentenced to imprisonment at Sing Sing for not less than ten nor over twenty years.

March 12, 1931 - Pine Plains: The

citizens formed a posse and tackled down a burglar from Scranton, Pa. who had entered and robbed more than 40 homes in Dutchess County. John Wesler, 32, of Scranton, Pa was shot in the leg Roy Moore, an expert marksman from Pine Plains

Feb. 11, 1937 - Pine Plains: Three Pine Plains youths were convicted of third degree assault and sentenced to 30 days in county jail for assaulting a Rhinebeck motorist after being involved in a minor crash with him on the Rock City Schoolhouse Road. They beat the man till he was unconscious. A fourth youth was convicted of leaving the scene of an accident and a fifth of public intoxication.

Sept. 1, 1938 - Pine Plains: Two men dead from injuries in auto crash. One man was killed outright and another died at Northern Dutchess, following a car-truck crash Saturday afternoon on the Pine Plains - Rock City Road at a point known as Links Corners, in Milan. Named responsible for crash was John Anderson 42, father of seven and Walter Cooley, 36, both of Dover Plains. Anderson was thrown from car and killed instantly. Cooley died Sunday. Excessive speed and drinking by the two was given as cause of crash. Beer bottles and a case were found in wreckage. Anderson was driving without a licence. On June 25 in LaGrange, he pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated and was fined \$25. He was also fined \$25 for operating without a license.

Feb. 4, 1943 - A local farmer pleaded guilty to assault charges in connection with an incident with a 14-year-old Millerton girl and a Connecticut teacher. He was sentenced to 7½ to 15 years at Sing Sing.

Feb. 4, 1954 - Pine Plains: The safe in the Hutchings Farm Equipment Shop on lower Main Street was forced open and \$315 in cash was stolen. A sledge hammer was used to force the safe open.

Feb. 16, 1967 - Stanford: It was suggested that volunteers fight crime and vandalism in the town.

Oct. 19, 1967 - Pine Plains: Vandalism at its worst five Pine Plains bothers ages 9 to 15, State Police, officers of Dutchess completely wrecked the inside of the lovely home of Mr. & Mrs. Behnke this week.

March 14, 1968 - Pine Plains: Tragedy struck Terstenyak Family - The bodies of Mrs. Steffina Terstenyak and her mother Mrs. Antona Berezniak, were found at 6:15 p.m. found by Mrs. Terstenyak's husband & son Stephen Jr. They were killed with a semi-automatic rifle which was found in the woods near the Terstenyak home, where a 15 year old boy had told them it was hidden.

July 4, 1968 - Pine Plains: Many arrests on narcotics charges, and two Pine Plains teenagers appeared before Frank Alm charged with fourth degree criminal possession of a dangerous drug, marijuana.

Aug. 21, 1969 - Stanford: Plagued by vandalism Robert J. Willis, owner of the Home Plate Drive-in on Rt. 82 closed down the Stanford Club Room, which had been used by the public, especially young people

Jan. 22, 1970 - Stanford: 12 people were arrested in a drug raid on the home and headquarters of the NRBQ Music Co.

Oct. 24, 1974 - Three teenagers from Clinton, Red Hook, and Columbia County were arrested late Monday afternoon in connection with a \$4,000 armed robbery at the Stissing National Bank branch in Stanfordville. A massive two county search by State Police, officers of Dutchess County and Columbia County Sheriff departments and FBI agents from Poughkeepsie led to the arrests near a corn field in the town of Greenport.

Nov. 20, 1975 - Pine Plains: Vandals wrecked the Stissing Mountain High School; and two youths were arrested. They left the school looking as though a bomb had exploded in it. A 16-year-old youth from Red Hook and a 15-year-old Pine Plains companion faced court charges stemming from the devastating spree that caused at least \$25,000 in damage and dashed several education programs for many of the 800 students of the school. They broke into the school through the carpenter's shop and took off on a sledge-hammer wielding spree that left the school in a shambles.

