

Prohibition & Organized Crime:



By Tabitha

Speakeasies:



Info:

- Speakeasies were formed in the 1920's.
- The Speakeasy was an establishment institution.
- Speakeasies were one of many ways, during the 1920's which obtained illegal Alcohol.
- There was 100,000 Speakeasies in NYC alone.
- Speakeasies were illegal, but it was many benefits to those who took the risk of ownership.
- Speakeasies provided an entertainment atmosphere.

Bootleggers:



Info:

- People who illegally made, imported, or sold alcohol during the 1920's were called Bootleggers.
- Bootlegging came in after the prohibition of liquor.
- Bootleggers were amateurs, they did this to make income.
- Basically the bootleggers would sell illegal alcohol to people who have money to paid for it.
- By the 1930's this has become one of the largest illegitimate industries in America.
- Cops had no idea on what the bootleggers were doing.
- It was held in the famous Moose Jaw tunnels.
- Moose jaw was underground, and it was unknown to all officers.
- It was one great entertainment of society.

Al Capone



Info:

- Born January 17, 1899. In Brooklyn, New York.
- He was Baptized “Alphonsus Capone”
- Al Capone grew up in a rough neighborhood.
- He was part of two “Kid Gangs” They were the Brooklyn Rippers and the Forty Thieves.
- He quit school in the 6th grade (age 14).
- He was a clerk in candy store, Pin boy in bowling alley, and he was a cutter in a book bindery.
- His nickname was “Scarface” when he insulted a patron and was attacked by her brother.
- 1918- He met an Irish girl, Mary “Mae” Coughlin at a dance.

More Info:

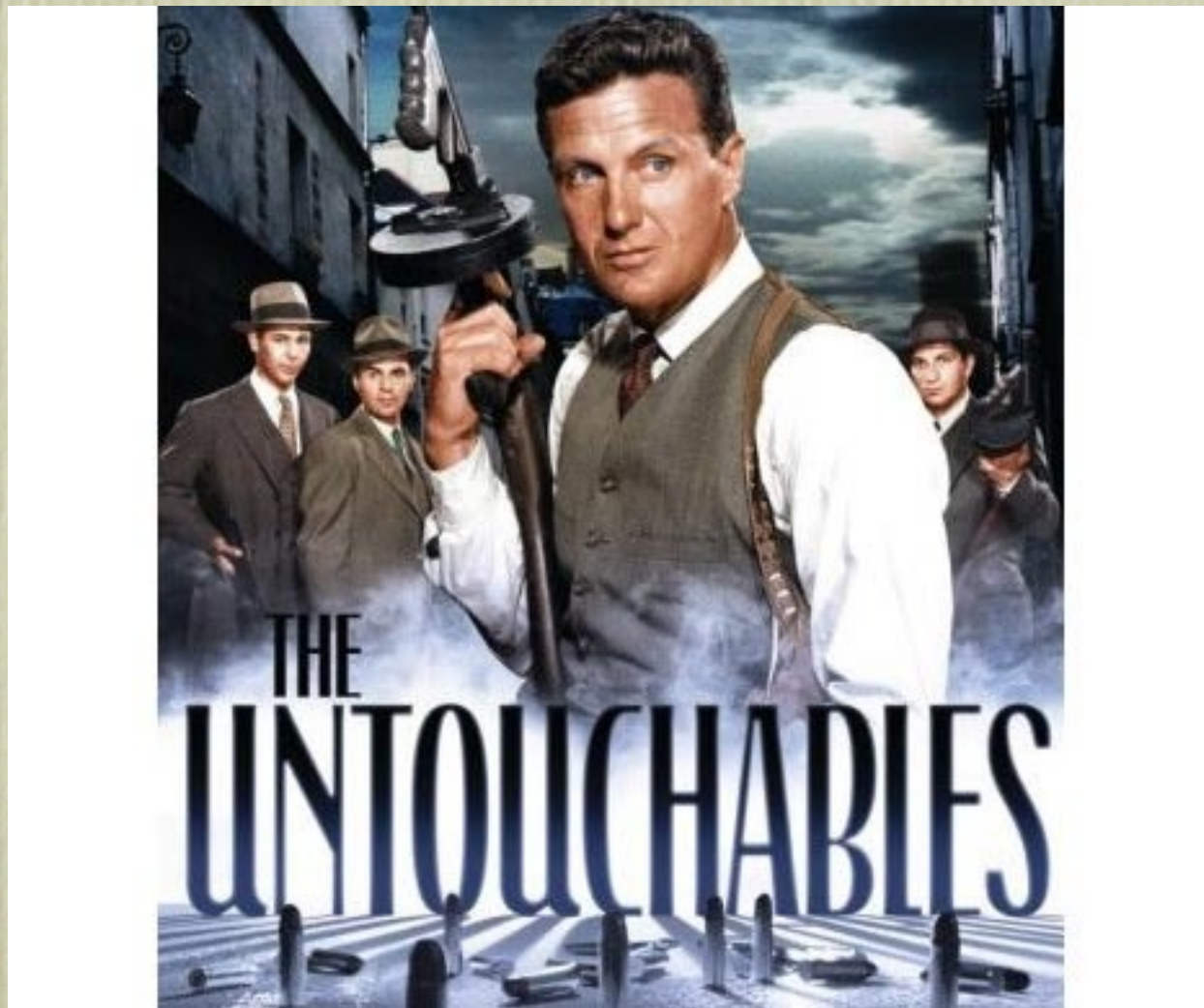
- December 4, 1918, she gave birth to their son, Albert “Sonny” Francis.
- They got married on December 30th, 1918.
- He moved his family to Chicago in 1919, also in South Prairie.
- He murdered two men while he was working in New York.
- He was convicted with conspiracy to violate prohibition laws from 1922-31.
- He was arrested for actually killing three people in 1926.

Capone's work with Torrio:

- Capone went to work for Yale's old mentor, John Torrio.
- Capone was helping John manage his bootlegging business.
- 1922- Capone had ranked as Torrio's number two man and he became a full time partner in the saloons, gambling houses, and brothels.
- When Torrio was shot, Capone inherited the "outfit" and he became boss.
- Al Capone controlled speakeasies, bookie joints, gambling houses, brothels, horse and race tracks, nightclubs, distilleries and breweries at a reported income of 100,000,000 dollars a year.
- The mayor Thompson basically decided Capone was bad for his political image, so he hired a new police chief to run Capone out of Chicago.
- In 1928, he bought a house in Florida, because he realized he wasn't much popular in his country anymore.
- He died on January 25, 1947. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Chicago far South side.

Elliot Ness(Untouchables)

April 19, 1903 - May 16, 1957



Info about him:

- Born April 19, 1903 in Chicago, Illinois.
- He was the youngest of five siblings.
- He attended Christian Fenger High School in Chicago.
- He went to the University of Chicago. This is where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Graduated from there in 1925 with a degree in business and law.
- He was an investigator for the Retail Credit Company of Atlanta.
- He was an American Prohibition agent.
- He earned a master's Degree when he returned back to the University of Chicago.
- He joined the U.S treasury Department in 1927, working with the 300-strong Bureau of Prohibition in Chicago.
- He was the leader of a legendary team of law enforcements called "The Untouchables"

Eliot Ness: Top “Untouchable”

- Elliot Ness was head of “The Untouchables.”
- He was making it difficult for Al Capone’s bootlegging operation and also contributed to his eventual arrest and conviction for tax evasion.
- He was transferred to a new Prohibition Bureau.
- By October 1929, Ness hired 9men respected not only their investigative skills but for their personal honesty and integrity.
- Basically he was the leader of the untouchable, that was charged with making sure people did not manufacture, buy, or consume alcohol during Prohibition.

Untouchables: The Movie!!!

- Elliot Ness played the role of Kevin Costner.
- Al Capone was also in this film as Robert De Niro.
- In this movie, Elliot Ness was a federal agent who assembles a personal team of mob fighters to bring Chicago boss Al Capone to justice using unconventional means during the mob wars of the 1920's.
- Al Capone was basically a gangster in this movie.
- Elliot Ness first came to Chicago during the Prohibition Era. Which is also when corruption in the local department is rampant.
- Elliot was planning on putting Capone out of business, but Capone, however was too powerful, and was much more popular than Ness, so the law didn't take Ness seriously.
- That has been a little summary of the movie.

St. Valentine's Day's Massacre



Info:

- It was on a february evening in North Carolina, when there were seven well-dressed men which were found riddled with bullets inside the S.MC Cartage Co. garage
- They were lined up against a wall, and they were shot to death.
- Those men became part of the Valentine's day: the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.
- During Prohibition, there was a never-ending competition between "gangster" Al Capone, and George "Bugs" Moran.
- Bloody warfare was nothing new to the authorities of Chicago.
- Investors found Valentine's Day Massacre very well puzzling.
- They were mobsters, with an endless supply of weapons and well known capability for brutality.
- Al Capone was the only suspect in this infamous crime.

More Info:

- A big thanks to Prohibition- Al Capone had become the crime czar of Chicago, running gambling, prostitution and bootlegging rackets, while he was expanding his territories by getting rid of rival gangs.
- He got 60,000,000 dollars, with this kind of money, gave Capone one of the oldest and most common motives in murder mystery history.
- Moran was not that easy to get rid of. So Capone started at the bottom by getting rid of his outfit and leaving him defenseless.
- They found dead bodies. And some people said they weren't going to talk.
- Capone wasn't even charged for any of the crimes. He wasn't even arrested either.
- Al Capone mentioned to one of the associate his plan to take down Moran. The associate said that he would have to kill a lot of people to take down Moran. And Al Capone said that he would send a lot of flowers.
- In any case, Al Capone was going to kill people, just to take down Moran.

Texas Guinan



Info:

- Texas Guinan was one of five siblings born in Waco, Texas.
- Her parents were Michael and Bessie Guinan, and they were Irish-Canadian immigrants.
- Texas Guinan attended parochial school at the Loretta Convent in Waco.
- 16 years old- her family moved to Denver, Colorado where she was in amateur stage productions and played the organ in church.
- She married a guy named John Moynahan, a cartoonist for the *Rocky Mountain News*, on December 2, 1904.
- His career took both of them to Chicago, and this is where Texas studied her music before she divorced him and started her own career as a professional singer.
- She was known less for her singing than her entertaining “wild west” related patter.

Career Wise:

- 1906- She moved to New York. This is where she found work as a chorus girl before making a career herself in national Vaudeville and in New York theater productions.
- 1917- Guinan made her film debut in a silent film called *The Wildcat*. She became the first girl in the United States first movie cowgirl, nicknamed “The Queen of the West.”
- She had claimed she had a sojourn in France, entertaining the troops during the World War I.

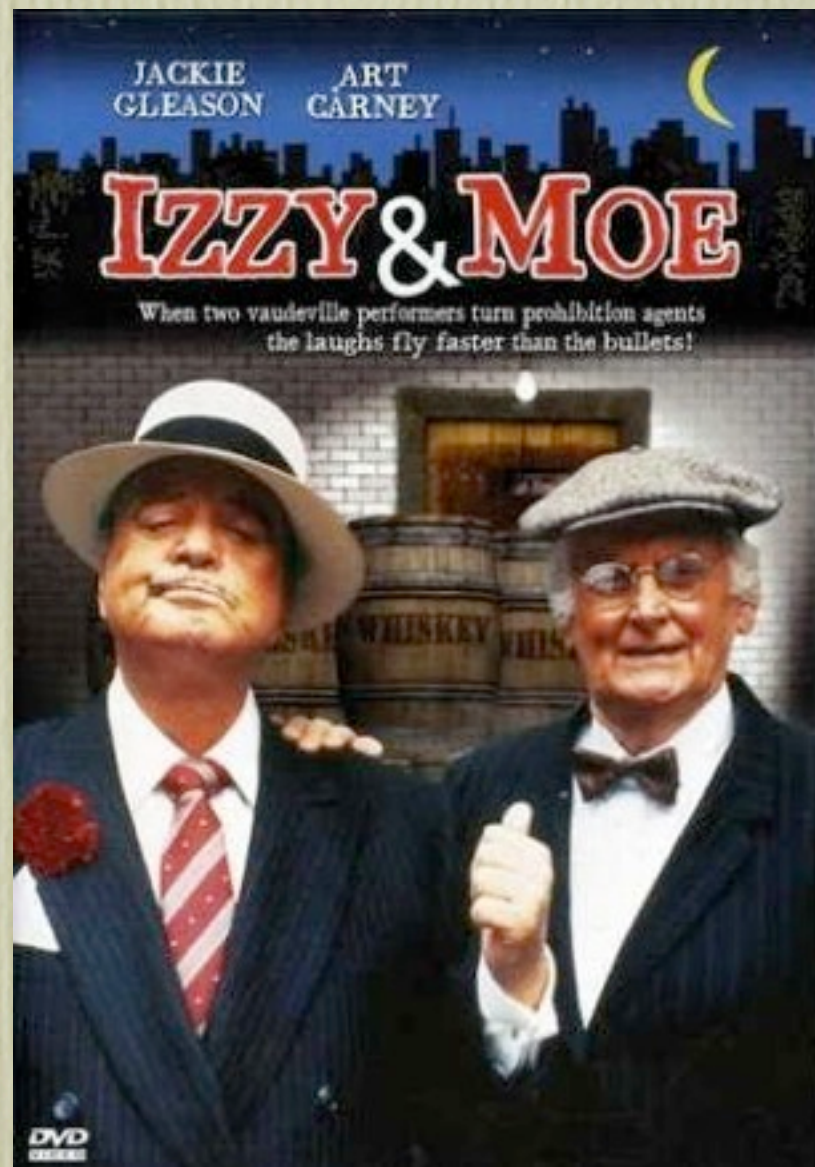
Prohibition years, “300 Club”

- She was the first female emcees.
- She opened a speakeasy called the 300 Club at 151 W. 54th Street in New York City. It became famous for its troupe of forty scantily clad fan dancers and for her distinctive aplomb. Which that made her a celebrity.
- Walter Winchell credited Guinan with opening the insider Broadway scene and cafe society to him when he was starting as a gossip columnist.
- She earned 700,000 dollars in ten months in 1926, while her clubs were routinely being raided by the police.

Films and her death:

- Two films were *Queen of the Night Clubs* (1929) and *Broadway Through a Keyhole* (1933 written by Winchell) shortly before her death.
- She was in Vancouver, British Columbia, and she died there on November 5, 1933 at the age of 49.
- She died about one month before Prohibition was replaced.
- About 7,500 people attended her funeral.

Izzy And Moe



Info:

- Izzy Einstein and Moe Smith were two federal agents in the Prohibition Era.
- They became famous for their devotion to enforcing the law.
- They were both short men, and weighed over 200 pounds.
- They were able to catch many bootleggers and bar owners through trickery and disguises to enforce the law in New York.
- Them and ten other agents all dressed in disguises and barged into a speakeasy in the Bronx.
- The bartender served them drinks and were arrested. They became famous for their sense of humor and for their effectiveness.
- In New York City, they were responsible for 20% of the arrests. Around 4,932 people were arrested because of them.
- Moe W. Smith died in 1960. Izzy Einstein died Feb. 17, 1938.

Sites where I got the pictures:

- <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/photos-americanhistory/Speakeasy.jpg>
- http://acontinuouslean.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/speakeasy_5.jpg
- <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/bootlegging.aspx>
- <http://williamthecoroner.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/eliot-ness.jpg>
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- <http://www.clown-ministry.com/images/izzy-and-moe-jackie-gleason-art-carney.jpg>

More:

- American Decades, By Judith S. Baughman, ©1996.
- The Roaring Twenties **Biographies**, By Kelly King Howes and Julie L. Carnagie, ©2006.
- Through the Decades: The 1920's, by Erica Hanson, ©1999.