

FORMER ALLIANCE BARBER MAKES BIG FORTUNE IN OIL FIELDS; GETS \$100,000 ON \$170 START

Remarkable Story of Warren J. Jones, Former Partner With A. P. Brown in Barber Shop Under Alliance National Bank—He Helped Locate Famous Elk Basin—Was Brakeman on the Burlington

FORMER ALLIANCE BARBER

Do you remember Warren J. Jones when he lived in Alliance? Perhaps you have heard the barbers talking about him. Some 15 years ago Jones and A. P. Brown were partners in a barber shop which they conducted in the basement of the Alliance National Commercial Club now holds forth. A. P. Brown is now operating a barber shop on Box Butte avenue, across the street from the Herald office, between Rodgers grocery store and Siefferts cigar store, or to be exact at 120 Box Butte avenue. Every once in awhile Jones comes to Alliance to visit his old pal, Brown. He ought to be sleeping in here almost any time now and his friends wonder if he'll look like a bloated "plute," for Jones has the kale now. Charles F. Carter writing in the Rocky Mountain News on Sunday tells the story of Jones' good fortune in the following language:

Sleepy Jones yesterday, Warren P. Jones today; a drowsy barber in a one-horse town yesterday—yesterday a brakeman on the Burlington railroad yesterday and the owner of \$500,000 cash today—and oil, greasy sleepy not-to-be-confused-with-soap oil, the stuff that gushes mightily from the ground sometimes and quite often doesn't gush for a darn, accomplished the metamorphosis.

Clear, then, the story of the rise of Sleepy Jones, one of the original locators of the now famous Elk Basin oil field in Wyoming.

Sleepy was a barber and not such a whisp of a barber, either, in Greybull, Wyo., when that town was young. Sleepy was there on the bush league haircut beyond the shadow of a doubt, but he couldn't get by when it came to a 1917 feather-edge pompadour. Trade languished at times, and when it did Jones alone languished—half asleep in his one lone chair—hence the handle "Sleepy" that became attached to his name.

Sleepy's health didn't improve in the barber shop. Maybe he slept too much; maybe the odor of his own toilet waters gave him nasal catarrh. Whatever it was, the doc told Sleepy to get outdoors and shake a leg. So Sleepy grabbed a job brak'ing on the Burlington road under Conductor Jim Phelan.

Jones becomes alert. Keeping awake to avoid being "beaned" by cement viaducts developed a mental alertness in Sleepy Jones that had to have some outlet—and that brings us to the naming of seven of Sleepy's Wyoming friends, to wit: James T. Hurst and Mary E. Hurst, both of Greybull; M. A. Kent, L. E. Laird, J. D. Cook and C. C. Worland all of Worland and C. D. Markham of Basin.

These seven—pioneers as they proved to be—and Sleepy all had the

same idea about the same time—that oil, large quantities of nice, gooey oil, lay under the Elk Basin ground. Each agreed to raise \$170, go to Elk Basin together and drill a well. Sleepy didn't have \$170 but Sleepy's wife did. So Sleepy (you know the way a husband has of persuading his friend wife to part with a little kale "for a business venture?") managed to grab that \$170—and the party started.

There were others in that Elk Basin field, but they got disgusted as winter was coming on. Sleepy Jones and his band stuck, and struck—struck moreoil than they had believed Wyoming held.

The eight locators leased the 2,000 acres on which they had filed and later sold their holdings to the Greybull Refining company. With the development of the field Sleepy and his fellow locators began to receive returns upon their royalty interests, these returns frequently running as high as \$2,000 per month.

But Sleepy was beginning to become an ambitious rascal. He was dissatisfied with the price he was getting. He talked refinery and talked it so darn hard that three of his comrades also got enthusiastic to such an extent that the four of 'em even started a plant to refine their one-eighth of the production.

The Midwest Refining Co., sent for Sleepy Jones and his revolutionary associates. The company offered \$1,000,000 for the royalty interests. "Talk five millions and we'll listen," quoth the ex-barber.

The Midwest people didn't talk 5 millions, but they made a noise like large sums of money with this known result: That two weeks ago W. J. Jones, alias Sleepy Jones, went back to Greybull from Denver on the same train on which he used to brake, brake, brage—and W. J. Jones showed the conductor the Midwest company's check for \$100,000. The conductor is still talking about that check.

Others Sell Interests. Mr. and Mrs. Hurst and C. D. Markham also sold out to the Midwest company, while Kent, Worland, Laird and Cook retained their royalty interests and still continue to draw down their monthly "rake-off."

But here's one safe bet to play: That Sleepy Jones and his comrades got considerably more for their interests than their individual checks for \$100,000 each represented. That statement is based on the word of a Denver man who sold the four locators the machinery for their proposed refinery and who has kept "in on the know" on the entire deal ever since Sleepy quit his job as a brakeman.

Anyway, if Sleepy received only \$100,000 that's more than most brakemen earn in a year—and today Warren J. Jones tips barbers very

liberally and always slips something to the handsome Pullman porter. He doesn't run into brakemen often enough to do them many favors, but force of habit makes him occasionally say "Slurp" to a conductor.

Spring Colds Are Dangerous
Sudden changes of temperature and underwear bring spring colds with stuffed up head, sore throat and general cold symptoms. A dose of Dr. King's New Discovery is sure relief, this happy combination of antiseptic balsams clears the head, soothes the irritated membranes and what might have been a lingering cold is broken up. Don't stop treatment when relief is first felt as a half cured cold is dangerous. Take Dr. King's New Discovery till your cold is gone. Adv.—1

BURLINGTON TO BUILD A SERVICE STATION AT CODY

The Burlington has started the construction of a \$20,000 restaurant and service building in Cody, Wyo., its purpose being for the accommodation of Yellowstone park tourists. The building is being erected close to the depot and about one-half mile from the town. It will contain a large rest room for tourists who start from Cody to make the automobile trip through the park.

You Need a Spring Laxative
Dr. King's New Life Pills will remove the accumulated wastes of winter from your intestines, the burden of the blood. Get that sluggish spring fever feeling out of your system, brighten your eye, clear your complexion. Get that vim and snap of good purified healthy blood. Dr. King's New Life Pills are a non-gripping laxative that aids nature's process, try them tonight. At all drugists, 25c. Adv.—1

FISHER TO ENTER NEWSPAPER FIELD

Former Alliance Commercial Club Sec. Secured Interest in Sterling (Colo.) Enterprise

W. D. Fisher, former secretary of the Alliance Commercial Club, and always one of the liveliest of live wires has determined to enter the newspaper field and has just accepted a fine proposition from his uncle at Sterling, Colo., taking a half interest in the Enterprise. Mr. Fisher will become business manager of the paper. The two, uncle and nephew, worked together for some two years at East Radford, Va., and are familiar with each other in a business way as well as by relationship.

Mr. Fisher on leaving Alliance went to North Platte where he was offered a better proposition as secretary of the Commercial Club there. He was getting \$1,800 a year as secretary of the Alliance Commercial Club and was worth it. North Platte offered him \$300 a year more or \$2,100 a year and he accepted it. Then he received a call from the Boise (Idaho) Club and he left North Platte for that place.

The Idaho Statesman, published at Boise, in telling of Mr. Fisher's new venture says:

W. D. Fisher who for some months has acted as secretary of the Boise Commercial club will enter the newspaper field shortly, at Sterling, Colo. Mr. Fisher will become part owner

and managing editor of the Sterling Enterprise, a member of the Associated Press.

C. E. Fisher, editor and present owner of the Enterprise, an uncle of the club secretary, has for some time been after his nephew to take the management of his paper, that will shortly be made a daily, and in a communication to Mr. Fisher, just received, the secretary is urged to come at once. He expects to leave for his new post about April 26.

Mr. Fisher has made many friends while in Boise and has done considerable constructive work for the Boise Commercial Club while connected with it. It was said Wednesday by several prominent members of the organization that he will leave Boise with the regrets of many and the good wishes of all. He came to Boise as the successor of Richard W. Childs, who resigned to become manager of the Portland hotel at Portland, Ore.

Mr. Fisher will be succeeded as club secretary by Byron E. Hyatt, who for 8 years has been chief clerk in the office of the secretary of state.

NEBRASKA EDITORS STATE IOWA AND SO. DAKOTA BOYS

Omaha, Neb.—Iowa and So. Dakota editors will mingle with their Nebraska brethren at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Press Association which will be held in Omaha, June 18, 19 and 20.

Of course the big night for the pencil boys will be Ak-Sar-Ben, when a touch of high life will be distributed judiciously where it will do the most good. That goes for the male members of the profession. The ladies will be provided for in a manner befitting their stations and "ills" in life.

Then on Tuesday comes the regular speaking and with two nationally known newspaper men, Walter Williams of Missouri University, and Herman Black, publisher of the Chicago American, on the program the local newspaper boys are sure to her something worth while.

The Nebraska newspaper men are anxious to have their Iowa and So. Dakota co-workers with them, and Omaha joins in the cordial request. If any Iowa or South Dakota man thinks he isn't welcome, he will have to come to Omaha and find out.

HOUSE REFUSES TO ALLOW NEAR-BEER

Nebraska Solons Say They Will Stay In Session All Summer Rather Than Betray Voters

Lincoln, April 16.—The two houses of the Nebraska legislature are deadlocked over the prohibition bill, the fate of the bill hinging on whether or not the manufacture and sale of "near beer" is to be allowed in the state. The House has decided that the people of the state and have put the final decision up to the Senate.

On Saturday morning Representatives Norton, Thomas and Flansburg, the members of the House conference committee, after a week of almost continuous conferences, turned in an extended report to the House, signed by these three, with the statement that the Senate conferees, Senators Mariarty, Mattes and Robertson, had refused to sign the same. Just before the report was tendered to the House, Governor Neville sent a message to the legislature advising that he would not submit a new bill and that if this legislature adjourns without passing an effective measure he will call a special session.

Only in the matter of possession of intoxicating liquors after May 1 did the House conference committee yield to the senate committee in the report. All other principal senate amendments were rejected.

Among them were:
Amendment eliminating provision for private citizens bringing suit in abatement proceedings.
Amendment eliminating the right to employ private counsel to assist in prosecuting law violations.

Elimination of the clause holding cities, towns and counties liable for damages due to illegal sale of liquors.
Sections giving saloonmen and manufacturers time to dispose of liquor after May 1.

The governor's message follows:
"I am informed that the conferees on House Roll No. 793 are about to report a disagreement, although they have reached a satisfactory agreement upon all points save one. I have carefully considered the advisability of submitting a new bill as suggested by members of the legislature, and I am of the opinion that to do so would be inexpedient, unnecessary, and would only cause additional delay.

"It is therefore proper that I at this time inform you that I will not submit a new bill, and that should the legislature adjourn without having passed an act calculated to render effective the prohibitory amendment adopted by the people at the last election, I shall immediately call the legislature into a special session for the purpose of enacting such legislation.

"I would suggest that the conferees be instructed to continue their labors, or that their report concerning the sections upon which they have reached an agreement be accepted and new committees appointed."

The House does not favor the appointment of a new conference committee, the members believing that the three men now composing their committee are the best posted on the bill, having been interested in it from the start. If a new committee is asked for they will undoubtedly ask the speaker to reappoint the same members. Inasmuch as the committee was not discharged it will continue to exist until the work on the bill is finished.

House members after the governor's message was read declared they would never accept the "near beer" clause. They said they would stay

until July 4, if necessary.

The House adopted the report of its conference committee on the prohibition bill without a dissenting vote. Roll call was not asked. This action lines the house up solidly behind the committee report, and against any proposition that may afford a loop-hole for manufacture of near beer. The senate committee charged that house conferees in changing the title and first section of the original house bill went further than constitutional amendment adopted last fall.

"We changed the wording of the title and the first section because we understood the original form might open the bars to near-beer manufacturers," said Representative Norton, chairman of the house committee. "We are determined not to permit the making of near-beer."

The House will send its committee report to the senate and ask concurrence. This will bring up the fight in that body.

A number of minor senate amendments were accepted by the house conferees. Most were merely technical or corrective words or phrases and, in the opinion of the house conferees, improved the bill.

In addition to rejecting all the important senate amendments, for the section relating to possession of liquor is not the senate amendment by any means, the house conferees took the opportunity to strengthen the law in several particulars.

In the matter of enforcement of the law as drafted by the senate conference committee is more drastic even than the measure which left the house. The bootlegger will find that instead of the bars being taken down they have been nailed up higher and closer together.

The clause relating to possession of liquor has been indorsed by practically all the dry leaders in the state, including E. E. Thomas of Omaha, W. T. Thompson, A. G. Wolfenbarger and H. F. Carson of Omaha and Mrs. M. M. Claffin, president of the Nebraska W. C. T. U.

The senate amendments regarding the possession of liquor, which permitted unlimited quantities to be kept anywhere, was not even seriously considered by the house conferees.

The new section, while it does not prohibit the possession of liquor, does provide that, in any action brought under this law, the possession of liquor shall be prima facie evidence of intent to violate the law.

Representative Thomas, of the house committee, after the report was given in, gave a statement to the newspapers explaining the same, covering the following points:

The senate amendment providing that "a room in a lodging house or hotel" shall be included in the definition of a private dwelling also was rejected, but the proviso added to the house that a single room, as well as a suite of rooms, in an apartment house would be considered a private dwelling if used solely for residence purposes.

Section 11 of the bill, which the senate sought to amend, which covers the possession of liquor, was amended to allow the possession by citizens in their private dwelling houses, but making possession prima facie evidence of intent to evade the law if charges are filed against the person having the same. The original section read as follows:

Sec. 11. Possession of liquor. Any person may purchase and keep in his possession for medical purposes ethyl alcohol treated as required by this act so as to be unfit for use as beverage. It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase, receive, accept, deliver or possess any intoxicating liquor, whether the same was obtained by such person before or after the taking effect of this act, except alcohol which has been rendered unfit for use as beverage. This section does not apply to wholesale druggists, retail pharmacists, common carriers, manufacturers of alcohol, church goods houses, as in this act defined, or persons purchasing and keeping alcohol for use in scientific laboratories or hospitals, or wine for sacramental purposes, who have complied with the provisions of this act for the purchase, sale, keeping or use of such intoxicating liquors.

The above section was stricken out and the following inserted in its place:

Any person may purchase and keep in his possession ethyl alcohol treated as required by this act so as to be unfit for use as a beverage. It shall be unlawful for any person to have, possess or permit any intoxicating liquor to be in, upon or about any room, office, building or in any other place except in such person's private dwelling house, and except when and where and in the manner especially authorized as herein otherwise provided; and no person shall keep or possess intoxicating liquor in his private dwelling house in an amount more than is reasonably sufficient for his personal use and needs; provided, however, that in any action brought under the provisions of this act, or based upon complaint of any violation thereof, or in any civil action growing out of any such actions, the possession, in and of itself, of any intoxicating liquor in a private dwelling house by the person against whom the violation of the act is charged, shall constitute prima facie evidence that such liquor was kept by such person with the purpose of unlawful sale, use or disposition in violation of law.

The title to the bill was broadened and changed so as to read:

"For an act to regulate, restrict and prohibit the sale, giving away, barter, carriage, possession and use of malt, spirituous, vinous, alcoholic and intoxicating liquors."

In order to prevent any possible question as to the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of malt liquors, "near beer," fermented or other liquors of that sort, the word "other" is stricken out of the first section of the original house bill, which defined intoxicating liquors as follows:

"The words 'intoxicating liquor' or 'intoxicating liquors' as used in this act shall be construed to embrace all malt, fermented, vinous or

spirituous liquors, wine, porter, ale, beer, or any (other) intoxicating drink, mixture or preparation."

This was done because of the report that the word "other" in the foregoing section was the basis for the hope that manufacture of "near beer" might be permitted under the law as originally drawn.

Section 2 of the original house bill, regarding the prohibition of liquor in general has been strengthened and now reads as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, keep for sale or barter, give away, barter, exchange, transport, purchase, or to sell or barter, under any pretext, any malt, spirituous, vinous and intoxicating liquors, except only certain liquors used in medicinal, mechanical, scientific or sacramental purposes, by persons specially authorized in the manner and the extent only as hereinafter provided. It shall be lawful, however, for any person to make keep or sell sweet cider, unfermented wine, wood alcohol, denatured alcohol and vinegar."

The section covering the search for and seizure of liquors, referring particularly to bootleggers, has been materially strengthened by the addition of the following clause:

"Possession by any person of any intoxicating liquors, except under permit as in this act authorized, shall be presumptive evidence of the keeping for sale, selling, use or disposal of such liquors in violation of this act, unless after examination he shall satisfactorily account for and explain the possession thereof and that it was not kept for unlawful purpose."

The law as changed by the conference committee also requires monthly reports from retail druggists to the county clerks of each county.

The senate amendments allowing saloons and brewers and distillers time to dispose of their stock after May 1 were not accepted. All stocks of liquor held after May 1 will be in violation of law, unless in private dwelling houses.

The report also has replaced the emergency clause, which was eliminated in the senate.

Representative Flansburg, of the house committee, prepared and gave out the following statement, representing the views of the house conference committee on the point at issue, the "near beer" proposition:

The constitutional amendment prohibits the sale of "any malt, spirituous, vinous or any other intoxicating liquor."

The word "other" as used in this connection in such statutes is technically capable of two constructions: one, to indicate a differing from or an addition to the thing or things immediately in contemplation; or, second, as indicating other things "of a like nature and not differing in quality or in character from those specifically enumerated."

The senate has attempted to place the latter construction upon the amendment and claims that since the word "other" refers to "intoxicating liquors" only, that this fixes the character of all those liquors previously enumerated and that only intoxicating "malt, spirituous and vinous liquors" are therefore prohibited.

If that were the meaning of the amendment, then all liquors containing less than about 2 per cent alcohol and nonintoxicating, in other words, "near beer" would not be covered by the amendment. When, however, the amendment is construed by a court it is the court's duty to take into consideration the existing laws and all the facts and circumstances leading up to the passage of the amendment. And in the light of all these surrounding circumstances it would be almost impossible for a court to follow the senate's interpretation.

For thirty years under the laws of Nebraska the sale of "malt, spirituous and vinous liquors" which contain any amount of alcohol whatsoever have been prohibited except under saloon license. And at the election the people undoubtedly voted against the sale of all those liquors which the saloons were then alone allowed to handle.

A "malt" liquor as defined by the courts is a brewed liquor which contains alcohol.

The senate in its bill provided for the sale of all liquor not intoxicating, at the same time in section 2, unintentionally, they claim, they left out the word "other," so that its section 2 prohibits the sale of "malt, spirituous, vinous or any intoxicating liquor." The senate now wishes to put back in this section the word "other" before the word "intoxicating" and refuses to stand by this section unless that is done.

The house bill as originally drawn follows the wording of the constitutional amendment and has used the word "other" in connection with intoxicating liquor, but because of the questions as to the meaning of the amendment raised by the senate, the house has amended, striking out the word "other" and clearing the matter of any possible ambiguity.

The senate, knowing that it cannot now get a "near beer" provision in the law, is attempting to do what is in their minds the next thing to it—leave the law capable of a possible double meaning in the hope that the courts will help them out.

The whole issue is the sale of "near beer."

At one stage of the negotiations Senator Robertson virtually agreed to the report which was submitted today by the house committee, but later refused to do so, unless the wording of the title and first section was changed.

It is expected that the senate will take final action on the report rendered by the house committee on Tuesday. It is rumored that Senator Robertson will render a report to the senate with the "near beer" provision untouched. However, the house will refuse to accept a report of this kind.

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