



SHARPSVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

The commemorative bricks are here! After supplier delays—some COVID related, but some not—and a wait for reliably warm weather so the bed they are placed in could be prepared, they were at last installed on June 1st in the town park. We are grateful to the Borough Street Department for their work in laying the bricks. We are also thankful for those of you who ordered bricks, and especially for your patience while we awaited their installation. Be assured that future orders will be able to be processed and installed in a more timely manner.

This is an important fundraiser for the Historical Society with the proceeds going toward the ongoing restoration of our historic headquarters as well as a planned mural on Main Street celebrating Sharpshville’s history. If you have not done so already, please consider purchasing a brick to:

Remember a loved one

Honor a milestone for a family member or friend

Publicize a local business

Order forms can be picked up at Mehler Insurance or found at this link:
<http://sharpshvillehistorical.org/pdfs/BuyABrick.pdf>

4” x 8” bricks with three lines of inscription—\$75
8” x 8” bricks with six lines of inscription—\$125

The bricks are placed around the Shenango Furnace Ingot Mould in the town park.

**Stop at Mehler Insurance or call 724-962-2392
or email sharpshvillehistorical@hotmail.com**

Upcoming Events

GAMBLING SPREE BUS TRIPS

Seneca Niagara Casino, July 21st

Live! Casino Greensburg, August 25th

Call 724-813-9199 for info and reservations

Participant are encouraged to have their COVID-19 vaccination



Our historic headquarters is open to visitors. Come see our displays and the building’s unique architecture on the first and third Saturday of the month.

1:00pm to 3:00pm



Our monthly meetings have resumed.

The first Monday of the month at 7:00pm

Whether you have lived here for decades or are new to town, please stop by to see what we have planned. We are always welcoming to new faces and new ideas.



Borough worker Gino Guerino is here installing the bricks, along with the completed installation.



A Look Back

Speakeasies in Sharpsville

The term “speakeasy” is generally thought of as an artifact of Prohibition. The word, however, refers to any unlicensed drinking establishment and thus predates the 1919 enactment of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution. While the exact etymology of the term remains somewhat murky, its origin is popularly thought to date back to the 1880s and Kate Hester of McKeesport, Pa. who would warn the patrons of her unlicensed saloon to “Speak easy, boys! Speak easy” lest the authorities be alerted by a raucous drinking party. Traces are indeed found of speakeasies in Sharpsville.

While a full examination of the state regulation of sales of alcoholic beverages and the Temperance Movement, in both Pennsylvania and nationally, is far beyond the scope of this article, some background is in order. The early nineteenth century saw astonishingly high consumption of alcohol. Between the years 1800 and 1830, Americans 14 years and older consumed on average between 6.6 and 7.1 gallons of pure alcohol per year. (Current consumption is 2.8 gallons.) Farmhands would be given a half-pint to a pint of rum each day while they worked the fields. During his Presidency, John Adams had a tankard of hard cider with his daily breakfast. Yet much of this drinking was in moderate doses throughout the day with fellow workers or at meal with family; excessive drinking was limited to a few communal celebrations a year. Only toward the end of this era did drinking patterns change with binge drinking, either alone or in taverns, become more frequent among American men.

Pennsylvania’s enactment in 1887 of the Brook’s Act or “high license” law was the most sweeping statute here prior to national Prohibition. (Further amendments were made in the Wholesale Act of 1891.) “High license” laws were enacted in several states and referred to the almost punitively-high fees that were assessed for a liquor license. They were intended to drive out the “low dives”; though the 1887 Act’s other restrictions on licensees—that they be native born and without a criminal or unsavory background—probably did more to reduce the number of drinking establishments in the state. One of the Brook’s Act’s provisions was the prohibition on Sunday sales. In one of our short-lived newspapers, *Sharpsville Times*, was included a report that, in response, “In the city of Altoona, the liquor men have clubbed together and subscribed a fund to prosecute the first minister who administers the sacrament by the use of the ordinary wines.”

In the decade preceding Prohibition, under Pennsylvania law, the authority to grant liquor licenses rested with a county’s Quarter Sessions (now Common Pleas) judge. The wording of statutes gave judges wide latitude in their decision; though, over time, case law provided guidance. The approval of licenses hinged on whether the license was “necessary for the accommodation of the public and entertainment of strangers or travellers.” Even existing establishments were required to reapply for a license every year, though case law favored current licensees who could show the amount of lawful business they had done the previous year. The statute specified, moreover, that licenses be granted only to those of “temperate habits and good moral character,” who could provide signatures of a dozen “reputable, qualified electors of the ward” vouching for the character of the applicant. A peculiarity of Pennsylvania’s procedure allowed for two opportunities for the public to offer their input on the granting of licenses. Those in favor would number among the dozen, if not more, petitioners signing for the license applicant. Those opposed could sign an opposing petition, known as a remonstrance. The other opportunity would come in the witness box, as license hearings included testimony by members of the public as to the fitness of the license applicant.

As an example, in 1894, the liquor license applications of Thomas F. Farrelly, proprietor of the Pierce House and Michael Knapp, proprietor of the Knapp House in Sharpsville, were opposed by temperance people canvassing the town for signatures of remonstrances against the granting of license. The applicants, in turn, had to scramble to canvass for their own signatures, narrowly getting more in favor of the license. Farrelly was able to submit 510 signatures in his favor against 495 remonstrances; Knapp’s count was 520 for and 505 against. No results were given for Daniel A. Zuschlag’s restaurant license application, but it was thought to contain similar numbers. While it may seem that the collection of signatures was a referendum, at least in theory it was merely evidence, to be weighed by the court, of whether the establishment was a necessity for the locale. Court decisions, however, made the counting of signatures for and against more of a vote-tallying. From rulings in Washington, Crawford, and Philadelphia Counties, respectively: “The necessity of the license to sell is determined by the number and character of the petitioners for



The Welch House, corner of Main and Fourth, about 1905. This was one of Sharpsville's licensed drinking spots, with the bar more of an attraction than the hotel side of the establishment.

Collections Update

Sandra Aepli donated a souvenir 1961 plate commemorating the First Methodist Church's sesquicentennial.

Laurel Alexander donated newspaper clippings relating to the controversy of the 1995 move of the Raisch Log Cabin to Sharpsville and a scrapbook of the 1995 Pierce Dedication Dinner here.

Petie Kelly donated a ca. 1920 photo of a Sharpsville store interior, a Mercer County Public Schools yearly report from 1919-20, a Girl Scout whistle from the 1960s, and an invitation and program for a 1905 Masonic Lodge reception in Sandy Lake.

If you have a document, artifact or photograph relating to the history of Sharpsville, let us know. We can also scan items if you want to keep the original.

With Gratitude

We received a donation from

Joanne Z. Miller

As well as a donation in honor of Bob Rannard from

Anthony Ruggiero

Contact Us

website: www.sharpsvillehistorical.org
 email: sharpsvillehistorical@hotmail.com

see our website for officers' phone numbers

Headquarters: 131 N. Mercer Ave.,
 Sharpsville, Pa.

Mailing address: 955 Forest Lane,
 Sharpsville, Pa. 16150

Meetings are held the First Monday of the Month at
 7:00pm at our headquarters

Speakeasies, cont'd.

and against the application,” and “The petitions for or against a license to sell intoxicating liquors are evidence of the necessity of the license, and the court should be governed, in granting or refusing the license, by the number and character for or against,” and “In the absence of absolute public necessity, the prevailing sentiment of the neighborhood ought to determine the action of the court.” Temperance advocates clearly considered the collecting signatures for remonstrances vital. In a 1913 report from Mercer in *The Sharpsville Advertiser*, the Men’s Bible Classes throughout the county aimed for the refusal of all licenses in the county through the circulation of several hundred remonstrances. “There are now several counties ‘dry’ in Pennsylvania by the remonstrance method, and it is the aim to have Mercer county join the list next year.”

The other set of evidence was the testimony of witnesses as to both the necessity of the license and the fitness of the applicant. The tavernkeeper of course would have his cronies serve as character witnesses, while those against him could take the stand out of perhaps a personal grudge, commercial rivalry, or to advance the cause of teetotalism generally. Accounts of these hearings made for entertaining reading in the local newspapers and the annual license-granting hearings were undoubtedly much anticipated by editors hoping for a tumultuous courtroom and a salacious allegation. For example, the Greenville newspaper heralded 1914’s opening of the first License Court hearing with the news that it was delayed an hour to accommodate a late-arriving train containing 300 witnesses, applicants and attorneys. A front-page article on the hearings spilling over to later pages was repeated for five days. Though much of the testimony seems tedious and inconsequential, the outcome of the

Myer Frank
WHISKIES
BRANDIES
WINES
GINS
-BARTHOLOMAY'S-
ROCHESTER
BEERS
ALES
PORTER
SHARPSVILLE, PA
BOTH PHONES

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Newspaper ad for Myer Frank's
wholesale liquor store, 1907

hearings meant their livelihood to the license applicants, or else the success of a moral crusade for those termed the “Drys.” Nonetheless, the proceedings were livened when a Farrell applicant for a wholesale license testified that the large number of foreigners in Farrell made additional licenses a necessity. He stated that “foreigners drink beer like Americans drink water.” When a peal of laughter followed testimony that more liquor is sold in the county by those not holding a license than by licensed dealers, Judge Williams angrily threatened to, clear the courtroom: “This is not a vaudeville.” On the last day, Sharpsville

PIERCE HOUSE!

SHARPSVILLE, PA.
RATES, \$2 PER DAY.

REFITTED AND REFURNISHED.
POLITE ATTENTION AND QUICK SERVICE
THOS. F. FARRELLY, Proprietor.

Newspaper ad for the Pierce house, 1911

Speakeasies, cont'd.

establishments came under scrutiny. The Knapp Hotel was faced with the allegation that they served Walter Trump after being warned by his wife that he was a habitual drunkard. While his name was written on the black list, Walter was not recognized when he showed up the next morning. The angry wife later phoned, "I thought I told you not to sell to my husband. I'll have some money out of the Knapp house before night; or you will lose your license." The Pierce House faced testimony from "dry detective" Carl Matta that they had served liquor to an intoxicated man "whom he was unable to name." It was further reported that "Matta is an Italian and had considerable difficulty in describing the location of the Pierce hotel and he could only give the name of the man whom he saw served in his own language." Other allegations by the Drys against the Pierce House fell apart when two minors denied allegations they were served there. Matta also testified against the Welch House in Sharpville; specifically, that he witnessed George Jones served there while intoxicated. Jones countered that he had been intoxicated but once and it was not at the Welch House.

The contending parties in these license hearings reflected in the division of American society in the decades prior to Prohibition into two camps, the "Wets" and the "Drys." Though there was at one point a Prohibition Party, the question was non-partisan with both Democrats and Republicans largely split on the question. Class, ethnic and religious identities, however, were strongly aligned on the matter. Abstinence was mainly taken up by the rural, native-born Protestant (excepting Episcopalians and Lutherans). On the other hand, among the Wets the immigrant urban industrial laborer, particularly the Catholic and Jew, predominated. The divisions over the evil of drink were thus sharpened. So, if an occasional visit to the bar was something you could live with or without, it was entirely something else for it to be an attack on your people.

The newspaper advertisement below points out another element of the debate.

Facts Versus Fallacies

FACT is a real state of things. FALLACY is an apparently genuine but really illogical statement or argument.

EXPERIENCE has taught that Prohibition is a FALLACY, and where Local Option (or local Prohibition) has been applied in counties of Pennsylvania, through Judges refusing all licenses, FACTS and figures have shown no lessening of indulgence in liquors. For instance, in 1915 J. A. McLaughry was elected Judge in Mercer County, and he refused all licenses under his jurisdiction for 1916. With what result? Read what authoritative witnesses testified at License Court on December 4 and 5 last:

"J. M. Cundy, freight agent for the Erie Railroad, testified that 374 cars of liquor were shipped into Farrell, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, during the nine months the county has been 'dry.' These consignments included 242 barrels of beer, 396 half barrels, 38,248 quarts, 94,687 cases of two dozen bottles each, and 7976 packages of whiskey."

"W. W. CARTRIGHT, freight agent for the Erie railroad, testified that seventy-five carloads of liquor were shipped to the valley towns in six months."

"G. K. MOORE, Erie freight agent at Sharpville, said 28,162 packages of booze had been received at Sharpville."

"O. L. LATIMER, a railway clerk, testified that within two weeks something like 750,000 glasses of beer, 200,000 glasses of whisky and 50,000 of wine were shipped to Sharon from outside points, the per diem cost of which was \$4000."

"CHIEF OF POLICE MILLER, of Mercer, stated that arrests were running about even. In the eleven months of 1916 the police arrested 487 persons from intoxication, while in 1915 for twelve months, when the county was 'wet,' 426 persons were arrested for the same cause."

THE above FACTS in evidence are quoted from the news columns of a Philadelphia daily paper that advocates Prohibition, and the testimony shows conclusively the FALLACY of "dry" conditions in Mercer County. Likewise did the Venango Herald, of Franklin County (a Prohibition organ), editorially confess to no betterment of conditions in Venango County, after Judge Criswell had refused all licenses.



DRY(?)
MERCER
CO.
SHARPSVILLE
SHARON
FARRELL
MERCER

Pennsylvania State Brewers' Association

109

While taken out by the Pennsylvania Brewers' Association, which had an obvious bias, it correctly notes the utter failure of prohibition to stop the flow of intoxicants. Dating from 1917, this was before national Prohibition. The year before, however, a *de facto* prohibition was imposed on Mercer County. The newly-elected county judge, J. A. McLaughry, was considered to have been the candidate of the Drys. While reasoning within the discretion granted him by the law, his personal sympathies likely influenced his refusal to grant any of the 47 liquor license applications in the county. A banner headline screamed: "Mercer County Goes Dry." To be fair, the public sentiment—insofar as it was expressed by those who signed petitions for and those signing remonstrances against a license—had shifted much in favor of the Drys. In Sharpville, remonstrances outnumbered petitioners by two to one. Sharon's remonstrances exceeded those in favor of a license by an even greater proportion. Only in Farrell and Wheatland did the license applicants get more signatures. On the other hand, the law prescribed that Judge

Cont'd. on page 6

Speakeasies, cont'd.

McLaughry take into account the “character” of the petition signers, which he defined as the ability to judge or know the facts. The tenor of his decision indicates that he discounted the “character” of the petition supporters in Farrell and Wheatland (perhaps not coincidentally home to the largest number of recent immigrants) by their support for “hotels in name only.” (In contrast, he noted the established hotels in Sharon saw greater opposition by remonstrance signers.) In the hearings for each of the license applicants (spanning eight days and involving 300 to 400 witnesses), the testimony of many in favor of a license was disregarded on account of friendliness toward or being in the employ of the barkeep. Opposing witnesses, motivated by a high-minded concern over the evils of intemperance, though, were given full credence. McLaughry had also set aside a 30-year rule in Mercer County courts that attorneys questioning a Dry witness could ask whether he was opposed to the granting of any and all licenses. In the end, the Court ruled that there was no legal necessity for any of the liquor license applications. As it turns out, the large amount of illegal alcohol sales cited in the Brewers’ Association ad had been predicted by Wet witnesses in the hearings the year before, when they were dismissed by McLaughry as speculative.

To be clear, by the close of the nineteenth century alcohol abuse was recognized as a prevalent problem affecting society, magnified by industrialism’s dislocations. In contrast, the slower pace and more-ordered social conventions of the agrarian society at the beginning of that century could accommodate the farm-worker’s half pint. In 1892, “a disgraceful row occurred on Main Street near Sixth on Tuesday afternoon of last week, in which several men were engaged, the result of too much ‘booze.’” Continuing into the next century, we gain a glimpse at the problem from Pennsylvania death certificates, which were first recorded in 1906. For, say, in 1906 and 1907, out of 55 deaths in Sharpsville for those age 21 and over, five list alcohol as a direct factor: acute alcoholic mania, acute dilation of heart from alcoholism, protracted drunken spree, killed laying on tracks in drunken sleep, while the fifth is likely another inebriate hit by a train, “killed on railroad tracks of B&O (alcoholism).” Not counted are the deaths by liver cancer and other diseases associated with alcohol abuse.

Pete Joyce, in his role as our town’s local historian, had once related that places like the bar of the Welch House at the corner of Main and Fourth were frequented by the furnace workers of the day during a break or lunch hour. Beer or stronger drink was typically ordered with a state of mild inebriation more or less the norm for the era’s workingman. Sharpsville’s blast furnaces, foundries, and rail-yards were already dangerous places to work without the added hazard of slowed reflexes and impaired judgement from one or a few drinks. In his urgent tomes on public and industrial safety, Sharpsville’s own Thomas D. West warned that: “When saloons are in such close proximity to industries and business houses that men can get to them and back again within five to fifteen minutes they can slip out occasionally without being missed. Under such circumstances a ‘boss’ may not have reason to suspect there has been any drinking until he hears loud talk, a quarrel begins or someone is injured or killed.” Elsewhere, he says:

Drinking causes the majority of bosses or supervisors more anxiety, worry, and often an exasperating perplexity, to prevent accidents or keep their works a-running th[a]n many times all other difficulties and trouble that are possible of compilation into any day’s record. . . . Its effects in causing accidents outside of industrial occupations, is no doubt much greater than in it. One can hardly pick up a paper without reading of some frolic, domestic trouble, carousal, brawl or murder, caused by intoxicating drinks, that down to involve some maiming, killing or conflagration.”

West’s views on the danger of drink were most fully expressed in his book *The Competent Life*. “There is no vice more injurious to the welfare and competency of man than the habit of drinking. It would be a great blessing to mankind were it possible to annul the manufacture of all intoxicants.” Moreover, with divorce then difficult to obtain and economic independence for a woman almost impossible, wives and children were trapped when a husband’s alcoholism led to non-support or abuse. Many of the lyrics of the temperance song genre, while melodramatic, reflected the reality of broken homes:

But O, my soul is very sad,
My brain is almost wild;
It breaks my heart, to think
that I am call’d a drunkard’s child.”

Speakeasies, cont'd.

My house was once a cheerless home,
Where tear-drops oft did start
From eyes that beamed with love for me
And tenderness of heart

My wife and children oft became
The prey of grief and woe
For Brandy, Rum, and Gin, alas!
Have proved my overthrow.”¹

My father is a drunkard; My mother she is dead,
And I am just an orphan child, No place to lay my head . . . We all were once so happy, And had a happy home,
Til dad he went to drinking rum, And then he gambled some.

He left my darling mother; She died of a broken heart,
And as I tell my story, I see your teardrops start.”

Two main groups that crusaded against alcohol arose in the latter 19th century. The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) focused mainly on educating the upcoming generations on the evils of drink. The Anti-Saloon League, on the other hand, dwelt in the political and legal arena. These were far from being the only temperance groups. In 1914, an advocacy group called the Three Million League sent its national superintendent to speak at the Methodist Church here on nationwide prohibition. The proliferation during the late 19th and early 20th century of local chapters of fraternal organizations included two that required abstention from drink: Sharpsville Council No. 27 Royal Templars of Temperance, and a chapter of the Independent Order of Good Templars. The “dry detective” was another innovation of the era. A private investigator hired by prohibitionists like the Anti-Saloon League, the dry detective worked undercover to find and bring testimony against violators of liquor laws. Carl Matta was employed as a dry detective and testified against several bars in the Shenango Valley including incidents already noted of inebriates being served at the Pierce House and Welch House in Sharpsville. This was a dangerous job and involved crossing the interests of many a rough sort. Three weeks after his testimony, Matta was found in Farrell badly beaten with an iron pipe, clinging to life. Four years prior, Newark, Ohio was the scene of a lynching of a dry detective that gained national attention. On the other side, despite their self-professed righteousness, the temperance cause did not shy away from underhanded tactics. In a 1914 hearing over hotel licenses in Greenville and Sharpsville, a Greenville hotel owner testified that dry detective Schoonover would change his testimony in exchange for a bribe. The same year, a New Castle dry detective was sent to the penitentiary for breaking and entering and forgery; and a Wheatland dry detective was arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Against this background we turn to some cases of speakeasies in Sharpsville. In 1913, Frank Joe of Sharpsville was arrested for operating a speakeasy. He and his wife kept a boarding house and purchased beer for their boarders. While that was allowable as part of room and board, selling beer to the public could not be done without a license, as dry witness Joseph Patton alleged. The quantity of beer the Joes purchased—two kegs daily, with four or five on Saturday—perhaps aroused suspicion. The liquor wholesaler, Myer Frank, testified that Joe claimed the brew was for eighteen boarders; though, when Frank Joe was questioned under oath, he admitted to having just three boarders. (Joe ended up pleading guilty, but the District Attorney agreed to a suspended sentence out of sympathy for Joe's wife and little daughter. With “no place to go and no one to provide for them,” the family had been confined in jail with him.) In 1916 “a disorderly house” in Sharpsville was raided. Five Americans and three foreigners were arrested and “a quantity of ‘booze’” was confiscated.

After Prohibition was enacted, with any sale of alcohol now illicit, the incentives for profit and penalties for getting caught were now dramatically increased. While Sharpsville didn't have the mob influence of notorious speakeasies in, say, nearby Hubbard and Masury, Ohio, there are several instances of raids and arrests. In 1925, the home of Mike DeSantis, next door to the Presbyterian Church (when it was on Main Street) was raided. Fifty gallons of moonshine and nineteen barrels of mash were found, but no evidence of a still. Sharpsville constable Jack Hurl, though, had a nose for sniffing out the illegal still throughout the county. Following his unexpected death in 1925,

Cont'd. on page 8

Speakeasies, cont'd.

his obituary characterized him as “for the past three years the terror of Mercer county bootleggers.” Previously, the same newspaper editors had not held back in colorfully depicting his exploits: “A half gallon jug of moonshine securely hidden among the vines of a potato patch, which came into view through the prying foot of Constable Hurl, of Sharpsville . . .” “Eighty-seven barrels and 174 half barrels of 3.8 percent beer in all was released from the custody of the law yesterday afternoon, and permitted to flow freely in to the Shenango River. Sheriff W.A. Bone, Parole Officer W.T.K. Thompson, County Detective Taylor, and Constable Jack Hurl were the arms of the law which with eager sledges broke in the barrel heads with almost the precision of a guillotine all afternoon.” “Although kept busy in Greenville [with another liquor raid], Constable Hurl had time Saturday afternoon to motor to the vicinity of Fredonia, where he raided the farm of Krit Besthoff, finding two barrels of mash and a complete still. The still was nestled into the back seat of the constable’s auto, Besthoff was put into the front seat, and the party returned to Sharpsville, where the information had been made.” “[Redmond] was the only person arrested in the raid, the proprietor and his wife making their escape from Constable L.L. Shaw of Mercer and the late Constable Jack Hurl of Sharpsville. The liquor plant was one of the most ingeniously hidden of any that have been found in Mercer county. A cave had been dug in the cornfield to which access was had through a trap door. This had all been covered over with earth and the corn was planted over it. When it was opened by the officers they found 15 barrels of mash and a still in operation. In a fence corner of the cornfield, 15 gallons of mule whisky were found.” “Hurl went to a tenant hose on the farm of Snodgrass and found a complete outfit for the making of liquor but no one in possession of the house. He waited at the place all night and as no one appeared, took samples of the liquor and then with an axe, smashed in the heads of nearly a score of barrels of mash found standing in the house. The semi-liquid was allowed to run over the floors as it willed and presented a scene of devastation.”

In 1927, John Hawthorne of Sharpsville was fined \$1 and sent to the workhouse for six months for obstructing a liquor raid at his premises. (This was a comparatively light sentence for liquor violations handed down on Mercer County men at this court session. One Farrell barber was fined \$2,000 and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.) A Sharpsville man and woman were held for possession, following raids on several Shenango Valley locations including the Sharon and Greenville Country Clubs. The raids were ordered by the Mercer County District Attorney whose home was recently bombed in reprisal for his anti-liquor zeal. Brought to trial in 1930 was Clarence Towne of Sharpsville, for possession of “white mule” and home brew. Also that year Ernest Cannon of Sharpsville and Fred Brown of Sharon were “apprehended by officers patrolling the highway with a truck load of a malt preparation which is alleged to be the ‘makings’ of beer by adding yeast.” The grand jury failed to indict them, though indictments on liquor charges were handed down for thirty others.

December 5, 1933 marked the repeal of Prohibition when Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Utah were the last of the needed 36 states to ratify the 21st Amendment. In Pennsylvania, at least, Repeal did not mean an immediate opening of the taps and jubilant carousers with glass in hand. Largely because Gov. Gifford Pinchot was a committed Dry, the special session of the Legislature he had hastily summoned in anticipation of Repeal implemented a highly regulated system for the sale of alcohol. (Pinchot’s oft-cited quote that the Liquor Control Board was set up to “discourage the purchase of alcoholic beverages by making it as inconvenient and expensive as possible,” though, is quite probably apocryphal.) Even today and much to the puzzlement of out-of-state visitors, the Commonwealth’s arcane liquor laws largely remain a relic of Pinchot’s influence. Locally, this was seen in the proliferation of clubs in post-Prohibition Sharpsville. The Sharpsville Athletic Club (incorporated November 6, 1933), The Pioneers of Sharpsville (June 5, 1934), The Sharpsville Independent Club (April 2, 1935), the Parkway Social Club of Sharpsville (July 8, 1935), the First Ward Social Club of Sharpsville (September 6, 1936), and the Northside Social Club of Sharpsville, Pa. (June 11, 1942) all appeared to have liquor licenses. While most were short-lived, they were formed presumably because the 1933 law gave them a leg up over restaurant (i.e., public bar) licenses. The license fee for a club was \$50; for a restaurant in a town the size of Sharpsville, it was \$200. Restaurants, moreover, were required to have a kitchen with at least three persons regularly employed in food preparation, no bar service, and tables and chairs that could accommodate at least 50 people. Clubs did not need to meet any of these requirements.