RUM AND CRIME "BIG BUSINESS" IN PHILADELPHIA
TOM PETTEY
Chicago Daily Tribune (1872-1963); Sep 19, 1928; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986) pg. 21

RUM AND CRIME "BIG BUSINESS" IN PHILADELPHIA

13 Million on Deposit; 93 Gun Victims.

BY TOM PETTEY.
Philly, Pa., Sept. 18.—[Special]—Grand jury men and a little Irish prosecutor are piecing together the jigsaw puzzle of prohibition in Philadelphia while a startled and exceedingly thirsty city looks on in quiet amazement.

Meanwhile, gangland's guns continue to bark as bank deposits drop and "protection" becomes a matter to be spoken of only in the past tense. But this of minor concern to the delivery men, the bootleg industry so long as the bad men confine their target practice to one another. Today "Mose" Flannery, gangster, is dying with a pound of buckshot in his back. Gunmen shot him in Camden, N. J.

"Game" on Death Bed.

This was his parting message to detectives: "I know who got me, but you guys don't and that suits me." His good-by to a younger brother was: "Don't ever get mixed up in this gang racket."

Flannery, if the dies, will be number fifteen. Ninety-three persons have died by the bullet or the knife in Philadelphia since Jan. 1. Not all of them, of course, have been gangsters, but the percentage runs high.

It was gang war out of bounds that started the present investigation into the alliance between bad men, bootleggers, police, and politicians.

The present grand jury investigation under District Attorney John Monaghan resulted. Its aim was to determine whether the murders were those of jealousy or gang warfare. The trail led into the dark places of Philadelphia's underworld, and presently into the city's police ranks. Then it reached out into high circles and touched banks and politicians.

Philadelphia's attempt to rid itself of gang rule and liquor grafting is of its own invention and for that reason has won the respect of a large part of its citizenship.

Monaghan State Official.

Mr. Monaghan is a state district attorney and his office is the same as that of state's attorney in Chicago. He, so far as is known, has asked no aid of federal officers, but has depended entirely on county detectives and what little assistance the city police have given him.

Three detectives were arrested yesterday. Today three more and a patrolman were charged with taking shakedown money.

Meanwhile Mayor Harry A. Mackay, just back from a conference with Senator-elect William S. Vare, convalescing from his recent illness in Atlantic City, today moved to back up his recent order to police to clean up the town.

They didn't clean it up, so he started a drive of his own, beginning with the suspension of two police captains whose districts are said to be among the most liquid ridden in Philadelphia.

Around the grand jury room little importance was attached to Mayor Mackay's latest drive. The belief was expressed that he was "trying to steal some of the thunder and beat the jury to the men on his force who have been under suspicion."

Papers Make Charge.

Today Philadelphia newspapers and many of those most interested in the liquor investigation charge that Mayor Mackay did not keep his pledge and that he permitted conditions to grow even worse. Two weeks ago the mayor met this challenge with an order to the police force to clean up every one of the 13,000 saloons in the city and to keep beer trucks off the streets.

The district attorney's office has obtained the liquor ring's most carefully guarded secrets.

One of the familiar figures sitting outside the grand jury room waiting to be called is Max "Boo Boo" Hoff, so-called bootleg czar of Philadelphia.