

**ALIBIS IN  
WILL USED BY  
VAN HACCKEN**

Who Had System Worked  
Down to Balance Round Over—  
Had Non-Stop Apparatus.

John Van Haccken, 922 Eighth  
street, was bound over to the April  
term of the federal grand jury by  
United States Commissioner T. P.  
Consett Thursday afternoon on a  
charge of operating a whisky still.  
The defendant was able to furnish  
proof and was released. He was ar-

rested by federal prohibition agents  
at his home Tuesday afternoon.

Many whisky stills have come  
into possession of the federal au-  
thorities in this community, but  
never before has one been confis-  
cated that comes anywhere near  
comparing to that taken at Van  
Haccken's home.

The man had a veritable self-  
operator, once the apparatus was  
placed in action and a gas fire  
started under it.

Contrary to the practice of most  
illicit whisky makers who, desir-  
ing to increase the capacity of their  
outfit, provide a large boiler, Van  
Haccken put only a small boiling  
tank in operation. He had incor-  
porated a self-feeding apparatus  
and this worked in such a way that  
the liquor of the mash that was to  
be distilled acted as the cooling  
medium for the condensation coils.

**Apparatus Keeps Working.**  
In most stills the boiling tank  
must be emptied when the alcohol

is all taken from the liquid off the  
mash and then the tank must be  
refilled with a fresh supply of liquid  
with a kick to be distilled from it.

But with Van Haccken's outfit  
this was entirely unnecessary. On  
a gas plate on the floor stood a  
galvanized tank of about four gal-  
lons' capacity. From the top of this  
tank and extending upward for  
about five feet was a pipe six inches  
in diameter. At the top of this pipe  
a gooseneck extending to one side  
connected with a 1-inch pipe that  
entered a drum about four inches  
in diameter and about three feet in  
length, which contained the con-  
densation coils and which stood  
perpendicular alongside the main  
apparatus. Alongside this drum  
was a 1-inch pipe extending the  
full length of the drum and entered  
the drum at the bottom and at the  
top a funnel was soldered to the  
pipe. It was with this improvement  
that Van Haccken had overcome the  
old method of opening and refilling

the boiling tank at regular inter-  
vals. Above the funnel he kept an  
open tank filled with the liquid off  
the mash that was to be distilled.  
This tank had a faucet that was set  
to let a gradual flow into the  
funnel. This flow passed into the  
funnel, down the pipe to the bot-  
tom of the drum containing the  
coils and through gravity—the open  
tank being higher than the drum—  
the liquid filled the drum, keeping  
the coils cool and providing efficient  
condensation of the alcohol laden  
steam inside the coils. At the top  
of the drum was an overflow pipe  
which led to the 6-inch pipe pro-  
truding above the boiling tank.

The liquid, after serving as the  
cooling medium for the coils, pass-  
ed through this overflow pipe and  
into the big pipe leading to the boil-  
ing tank. This kept the tank al-  
ways filled and the liquid having  
passed around the coils as a con-  
densation medium was warmed so  
that in passing slowly into the boil-  
ing tank it did not cool off the mix-  
ture from the boiling point. In  
short, the liquid passing around the  
coils became the condensation me-  
dium, then passed into the tank and  
came back through the coils as  
steam to be condensed by more of  
the mash liquid passing through on  
the same route around the coils.  
With this outfit the still could be  
kept in uninterrupted operation as  
long as there was mash liquid to  
distill.

When the Van Haccken home was  
raided the officers found 23 gallons  
of finished whisky. At the draw-off  
a container was placed, topped by a  
funnel filled with charcoal, the  
theory being that in passing through  
the charcoal the fusel oil would be  
removed from the raw liquor. How-  
ever, federal agents claimed that  
this theory is wrong. They also  
pointed out that the persons who  
drank whisky made with Van  
Haccken's still were in danger of  
poisoning, due to the still being  
constructed out of galvanized iron  
instead of copper.

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