

## **The Giddings News**

June 16, 1922

### **Prohibition Officers Visit Lee County**

Driving from Austin in two autos Monday a squad of officers composed of one U. S. marshal, two Texas rangers and three federal agents visited about Giddings and Lincoln a few hours and then returned as quietly as they came.

While here, they found sufficient evidence to justify their taking back with them Jim Warren Sr. and Jim Jr. and also Chas. Bittner and one still. It is reported that they searched the premises of the Warrens in securing the evidence and found enough to justify the two arrests. Bittner was at his home when the visitors came that morning, sitting on his front gallery with a couple of bottles in his pocket ready to "go to the creek", so he said.

An odor quite distinct from that of a vegetable dinner cooking, was first detected before the officers left the car at Bittner's house and upon entering they found a copper still about two-thirds full boiling on the cooking stove. There were about ten gallons of strained mash in the room and also "whiskey" of various grades and colors. The party with the three additional persons returned to Austin that afternoon.

Considerable attention was soon attracted on their return trip to Giddings because the presence of so many rifles of the highest type, and of automatic pistols, all bright and loaded and even cocked in the wearer's belt is unusual here. However, as soon as it became noised about that there was a still in a garage, the crowd was soon attracted to the presence of something which was a curiosity to many. A copper boiler the kind and size that our mothers "used to" use on wash day was fitted with an air tight top from which a copper tube several feet long, led off. It was evident from the odor of the "contraption" and from the top as adjusted on it that it had been many a day since it had either been washed or been used for washing.