

the clink, for jail, derives from one of a "string of hideous London gaols"

(God's Scretaries, Nicolson, p. 87)



# Notes and Queries

Wm Folklore

[The editors will welcome as contributions to this section of *Western Folklore* small items of traditional materials and inquiries designed to elicit information about such materials. In general, discussion of the materials here offered will be brief. Records of facts likely to be lost or overlooked and inquiries which our readers may be able to answer will be the typical items.]

*Barroom Slang from the Upper Rio Grande.*—Terminologies and expressions from the bartender's side of the bar dominate the compiler's annotations to tipplers' language. (See *Western Folklore*, Vol. IX, No. 4, and Vol. X, No. 1.)

*Animal*: A silent customer. One who does not talk either to the bartender or to another customer. *Baby*: Under-age drinker of either sex. *Baby face*: One old enough to be served, but who does not look his age. *Back*: A mix, non-alcoholic. See *Side* and *Wash*. *Bar*: The back bar as opposed to the front one. See *Plank*. *Barfly's kid sister*: A young female potential alcoholic. *Baron*: A person who comes into a bar and creates a big fuss about the way his drinks are prepared or the temperature of the wine, etc. *Barrel head*: Cash register. *Beback*: One who avoids paying for a drink. "Excuse me, I'll be back in a minute." *Beef*: An argument at the bar. *Beer jockey*: Barmaid; waitress. *Be witched character*: An unusual character. *Bing*: A drunk. *Bottle of heads*: A bottle of cheap whiskey. *Booze bandit*: Habitual drunkard who cadges drinks. *Brand drinker*: A customer who always names a particular brand of liquor. *Brats*: Trouble makers of unspecified age or sex, as in "a table of brats." *Character in spades*: An unusual character. *Chicken*: A female under legal age. Usually a girl who tries to bluff about her age or who uses her charms to get a drink. *Chief*: Bartender. *Chit*: A drink on credit, as "Give me a chit." See *Tap*, *Tab*, *Paper*, and *On the cuff*. *Church key*: A bottle opener. *Cock of the bar*: "That stupid joker thinks he's cock of the bar." *Cutie*: One who acts up; one who thinks he is a "character." *Cut up*: See *Cutie*. *Dead beat*: One who doesn't pay up. *Dead soldier*: An empty bottle. *Deemer*: A dime. *Doctor (Doc)*: bartender. *Drip*: See *Baron*. *Eighty-six*: A code word used between the bartender and the waitress. It means: A customer is drinking too much; the drinker is a potential source of trouble; the bartender is to cut down the potency of the drinks; the bartender is to watch the customer; the bartender is to refuse to serve the customer more drinks. The term also means club soda or water, as "an 86." *Elephant head*: A bartender who remembers a customer's name and his favorite drink. *Fagin*: A person who buys drinks for under-age

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people. *Female*: The metal bumper cap. See *Male*. *Fink*: A term of approval used by one bartender about another. *Flapper*: A homosexual. *Garbage*: Fruit which goes into certain drinks. *Garney*: See *Garbage*. *General*: Bartender. *Glorified swamper*: Daytime bartender. *Gold fish*: A twist of lemon peel put into a drink. *Groan box*: See *Juke box*. *Hero*: A customer in uniform who expects special attention because of his garb. Also a person who talks "big money," but who is absent when the check comes. *Horse*: A girl or woman who dresses up and makes up in order to visit a bar. *Humming bird*: A noisy person who is otherwise ineffective. *Jelly*: A good fellow. *Jelly bean*: A person who doesn't tip. *Jerk*: A smart kid; a young show-off. See *Squirt*. *Jewish piano*: A cash register. *Joe*: A bartender. *Juke box*: A mechanical music box or record player. *Jute box*: See *Juke box*. *Lush*: A person who will drink anything alcoholic. A term used by bartenders to mean a person who will drink any "given" quantity so long as he doesn't have to pay for it. *Lushwell*: A wealthy drinker. *Mac*: A bartender. *Mahogany*: The bar proper. *Male*: The shaker glass. See *Female*. *Mother's boy*: A sissy. *Murphy*: A tip. *Nickel snatcher*: See *Juke box*. *One shot tourist*: A one-time customer; one passing by who stops for a drink. *On the cuff*: See *Chit*. *Paper*: See *Chit*. *Pink alec(k)*: See *Cutie*. *Plank*: The entire bar. See *Bar*. *Poor man's champagne*: Beer. *Professor*: A bartender. *Push*: A rush of business, more than the bartender can cope with easily. *Quail trap*: A cash register. *Saloon keeper*: The owner of the bar. *Side*: A mix, nonalcoholic. *Skunk*: An acquaintance, not a good friend of the bartender. See *Twister*. *Slot machine*: See *Juke box*. *Slug box*: See *Juke box*. *Smarty pants*: See *Cutie*. *Sport*: A free spender. *Squirt*: See *Jerk*. *Stick*: The bar proper. *Stiff*: A customer who avoids tipping. One who puts away his change quickly. *Swamper*: The person who cleans up the barroom. *Swizzle stick*: Stirring rod. *Tab*: See *Chit*. *Table hopper*: Waitress. Also a person who goes from table to table to greet friends, thereby picking up free drinks. *Tab*: See *Chit*. *Tizzy priddle*: A sissy. *Token*: A tip. *Twinkle box*: A cash register. *Twister*: A customer in a bar who is also a good friend of the bartender. *Wash*: A mix, nonalcoholic. See *Back* and *Side*.

*To be a society man*: To be second-rate, second-grade. *To be in the snow*: See *To be snowed under*. *To be snowed under*: To have more business than can be cared for easily. *To be tapped*: To be broke. *To bump us loose*: To be unusually busy at the bar. "They bumped us (or it) loose, last night." *To chop garbage*: To prepare to open the bar for the day. *To dust*: To steal from the owner of the bar. *To echo*: To repeat an order. Bartender's request to waitress, "Echo!" *To get stiffed*: Not to be tipped. *To get the nod*: See *To get the tip*. *To get the tip*: To find out who somebody is. *To grab for the book*: A bartender who does not know how to mix a drink which was ordered. He looks up the information in the bartender's guide. *To graduate*: When a man quits



being a truly hard drinker, he is ready to become a bartender. "When you graduate, you go behind the bar." *To knock down*: See *To dust*. *To pull a Bogart*: To act tough. *To pull down*: See *To dust*. *To pull the bar*: To take all the cold bottles of beer from the coolers, and to put warm stock on the bottom, returning the cold stock to the top. *To push a tip*: To return change upon a tray in such a way that the customer gives more than he intends to. *To put a cap on somebody*: To stop serving a customer. *To rake down*: See *To dust*. *To scratch stamps*: To put away whiskey. The stamps must be destroyed according to the law. *To thumb a drink*: To dirty a drink on purpose. *To work the plank*: To work at a bar. "I've worked the plank at the Ritz Hotel for eight years now."

Sandoval, New Mexico

WILLIAM J. WALLRICH

*Sandhill Remedies and Cures*.—The following collection was compiled for Professor Levette J. Davidson's course in folklore at the University of Denver. The Sandhill country is in the vicinity of Oshkosh and Ashby, Nebraska. The young people laugh at these ideas of the old folks, but in a pinch we use them too. Precise ascriptions about the origins of the cures cannot be made. Most came to Nebraska a generation or two ago from Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, New England, England, Germany, and France.

*All diseases*: A small leather bag filled with asafetida and hung around the neck will ward off all diseases.

*Blood poison*: Cut open a chicken gall and spread the contents over the area of infection.

*Blood*: To clear the blood, eat a mixture of sulphur and molasses. A favorite concoction to be taken in the spring.

*Boils*: Smear fresh manure over boils. They will heal rapidly. Beet leaves pressed upon a boil will also draw out the infection. Press dry unboiled prunes upon boils. An old Bohemian cure.

*Cactus infection*: As soon as you remove the sticker, rub the wound with juice from the cactus.

*Croup*: Take internally one teaspoon of kerosene. Skunk oil rubbed upon the chest is very good.

*Chest Cold*: Rub turpentine and lard upon the chest. Skunk oil is also recommended.

*Colds*: Eat onions to cure a cold.

*Cuts and Scratches*: Spit tobacco juice into the wound. An old German used this cure on his grandson at Ashby.

*Diarrhea*: Drink a tea made from the roots of rhubarb.

*Earache*: The patient must lie in bed with his ear resting upon a bag of hot salt or sand.