

Winter White Out's Competition for St. Clair's 2019 Bootlegger Balladeer And Poet Laureate

Contest Rules & Regulations

www.StClairOnTheRiver.com

The competition is open to all amateur and professional song writers or poets. The competition is to determine who can write the best song or poem for the "2019 Legend".

The 2019 Legend The Professionals are Arriving

Ed Swiss was law. He came by it naturally. His father had been a constable in a whistle stop with more cattle than people in eastern Wyoming. His maternal grandfather had been a ranger outside of Austin. His mom named him Edward, after her father, but no one ever called him anything but Swiss – except for Father Kromenaker on Sunday afternoon, current priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The only one surprised by his current profession was Edward. The search for adventure brought Swiss to northern Michigan where he found work as a logger. He had been a "Push" in Northern Michigan, before a stand of virgin white pine put a little hitch in his get along. With Swiss's lumberman days over; he followed the logs to St. Clair, married a serious woman and took up fighting crime. Something that until the Volstead Act had been in short supply in St. Clair.

For a long time, Swiss used to go to bed early. Lately, he had found himself waiting for the department to call. At least once a week, he was rewarded by a late-night drive to investigate the collateral damage created by the bootlegging trade. Today had marked a turn for the worst. Mayor Joachim stopped by the St. Clair Police Department to let the department know that the Michigan State Police was establishing a post in St. Clair. Apparently, the state officials didn't think the local police were doing enough to stop the smuggling of booze from Canada. In truth, Swiss wondered if the state officials might be right.

Heck, the economy was awful. What did they call it in the newspapers – "The Great Depression." Most families in St. Clair could barely scrap enough money to feed the family, much less pay rent. Mayor Joachim even let people work on the Jordan Creek drain to pay off their property taxes. How could you arrest your neighbor for trying to raise a few dollars to feed his family?

He started to smile. Frenchy and Blink certainly were not trying to raise money for their families. He was certain that they were smugglers for the adrenaline rush it gave them. He could not decide if they were lucky, crafty or very smart. He had recently heard that Frenchy and Blink gave up brewing beer when the weather got warmer. The grapevine had them meeting with "Jewish Navy" at the Cadillac Hotel. Joe Lebowitz, "Hymie" Paul and "Issy

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the Rat" Sutker were bad news. The Feds had told him that Al Capone had chased them out of Chicago for trying to collect protection money from Capone's customers. Now, they were trying to move in on Detroit Purple Gang territory. This business will get out of control, and this county will be lucky to live through it, thought Swiss as he looked out at the Pine River's first signs of ice.

Swiss was hoping Frenchy and Blink were not running any boats for those guys. The Feds told him several weeks ago, they caught Frenchy and Blink smuggling a skiff of Canadian whisky from Ontario. The way he heard the story, the weather was awful. Somehow, the custom's cutter forced Frenchy and Blink to beach their boat on Walpole Island. In the process of beaching the boats, both boats were damaged. The investigators said the bootlegger's boat had bullet holes along the starboard side and customs agents had not fired on them.

Boats with holes were common on the St Clair River, boats with bullet holes were not. The custom agents, wet and cold, left the beached boats on the island, unguarded, and took the ferry to Algonac with Frenchy and Blink under arrest. When they returned to retrieve the boats and the evidence, the booze was gone. With no evidence, they had to let Frenchy and Blink go.

Swiss wondered how dumb the agents were, to think they could leave a boat filled with booze on Walpole Island, an Indian reservation, and believe the Indians wouldn't find it.

The locals were wondering if the Indians drank the booze or sold it. Swiss wanted to know how Frenchy and Blink got caught; normally, they towed a row boat with a motor on it. If it appeared that their boat was going to be stopped, they escaped on the row boat by getting to shore over the shallows where the custom's cutter couldn't cross. The boat that had the holes was a skiff with a large hold, not the row boat.

Swiss believed that bigger players were using the locals for their experience crossing the river. Swiss was worried. When people with money hooked up with people with experience, usually the people with the money ended up with the merchandise, and the people with the experience ended up missing.

The weather was turning cold and the forecast was calling for two feet of snow tonight. Swiss flipped up the collar on his policeman's pea coat and pulled it tightly around his neck. As he approached the corner of Clinton and Riverside he saw two, well occupied, black Cadillacs, making their way south down Riverside. It sure looked like Joe Lebowitz was driving the first Cadillac. The professionals had arrived. Bootlegging was getting out of

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control, and this county will be lucky to live through it. Maybe a State Police Post in St. Clair was a good thing.

Contestants for this year's event are encouraged to do their own independent research on St. Clair's State Police Post. In the past, some contestants have uncovered unknown facts by doing research in the Port Huron Library's Michigan Room. One contestant consulted a gypsy fortune teller who used her powers to communicate with the dead revealing interesting and uncontested facts.

How a contestant obtains the facts for his or her poem or song is not relevant for this contest. Contestants will be judged on the best story of "*The Professionals are Arriving*" legend and its delivery.

1. Songs will be judged based on melody, composition, originality and lyrics (*must be based on the "2019 Legend"*). Poems will stand-on their own. The decision of the judges is final.
2. Poets are competing for the title, **St. Clair's 2019 Poet Laureate**. Song writers are competing for the title, **St. Clair's 2019 Bootlegger Balladeer**. Winner will receive a proclamation from the mayor at the St. Clair City Council's February 4, 2019 meeting.
3. In addition to winning the title of Poet Laureate or Bootlegger Balladeer, the St. Clair Rotary Club will award cash prizes in each category: \$250 for 1st place, \$150 for 2nd place and \$100 for 3rd place.
4. Each entry shall be wholly original and shall not infringe on any copyrights or any other rights of any third parties. Each entrant shall, by entering, indemnify and hold the City of St. Clair, St. Clair DDA, the St. Clair Rotary Club and the St. Clair Events Company harmless from and against any claims inconsistent with the foregoing.
5. The entrant grants the City of St. Clair, St. Clair DDA, the St. Clair Rotary Club and the St. Clair Events Company an unlimited license to use the song or poem submitted.
6. We are requesting that an "*Entry Form*" be completed by noon, Friday, January 18, 2019 with a copy of entrant's song or poem. Entry forms may be dropped off at LaCroix's Riverside Pub (314 Clinton Ave.), St. Clair City Building (547 N. Carney Dr.) or e-mailed to info@StClairOnTheRiver.com (*preferred method of receiving entry.*)
7. Entry forms, poems and songs will be accepted on the day of the event.

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Entering contest Entrant agrees to perform at these times and locations at no-charge to the City of St. Clair, St. Clair DDA and St. Clair Events Company.

Date	Time	Location	Other
Wednesday, Jan 23	7:00 pm	LaCroix's Riverside Pub	Competition
Monday, Feb 4 (1)	7:00 pm	St. Clair City Building, Council Chambers	City Council meeting

Note 1 – The winner of the songwriting and poetry contests will receive their proclamation from the Mayor at the Council meeting after performing their winning poem or song.

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Songwriting and Poetry Contest for the "Legend"

(A copy of entrant's song/poem needs to be attached.)

Entry Form

The Song/Poem

Song/Poem Title: _____

Length: _____ **Genre:** _____

The Entrant:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail Address: _____

Lyricist(s): _____

Composer(s): _____

The entrant acknowledges that the song/poem is an original work and does not infringe on any copyrights or other rights of any third parties. The entrant shall indemnify and hold the City of St. Clair, St. Clair DDA and the St. Clair Events Company harmless from and against any claims inconsistent with the foregoing.

The entrant grants the City of St. Clair, St. Clair DDA and the St. Clair Events LLC an unlimited license to use the song/poem submitted.

Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian if entrant is under 18