Drowning in a Dry Town

Where Prohibition-era New Yorkers got drunk.

Making wine at home was permitted, so every fall, California vineyards loaded thousands of tons of table grapes on giant railway flatcars. The Pennsylvania Railroad would unload these cars at the New York City freight terminal to accommodate the surge (about 30,000 boxcars in 1928).

Dune Beach, behind the plasterboarded party room of the now-closed Beatrice Inn, a low door leads to an alley off Eighth Avenue—likely a speakeasy escape route. Ironically, we shot the club last April was the lack of fire exits, 202-203, 26th Ave., nr. W. 4th St. 14-16 W. 42nd St.

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An unidentified speakeasy on Water Street converted a bowling alley into a 100-foot bar.

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