

Another "story" on early Lake Worth – hope you enjoy and is "verbatim", another challenge – this is courtesy of the "*Lake Worth Herald*"

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June 12, 1913

**BATTLES SHERIFF'S POSSE
IN WHISKY RAID**

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Cook are Taken From Their
Lake Worth Resort.

Officials and Prisoners Engage In Desperate Ten Minutes Fight.

A desperate battle sparked a raid by the sheriff, Saturday night on the building in Lake avenue occupied by Leo Cook, dealer A J cool drinks, cigars, etc." The place was raided on the ground that a "blind tiger" was being conducted there, and after the fight was over Cook and his wife were prisoners in the hands of the officials. Both Cook and his wife made a strenuous resistance, yd the Sheriff and his party had their hands fylj in subduing them In the County Court Monday Cook was fined \$500 or six months in jail. His wife was fined \$100 or sixty days in jail.

Several days ago complaint wos* made to the sheriff that beer and whisky were being sold by Cook. Before then a committee of the Lake Worth Chambef 6f Commerimeree had visited the place and requested Cook to refrain from selling strong drink.

The committee was given a cool reception. After complaint had been made to the sheriff, that official sent a man out in search of evidence. He reported that he had found no trouble in obtaining liquor at the Cook place.

Friday night Sheriff Baker sent another man to the place, and was given a report that beer and liquor was being sold openly. Saturday, two other men in the employ of the sheriff visited the place, and their report, made to Chief Deputy Robert Baker, caused him to take immediate action. He ordered his two men to return to the Cook place in the evening and to remain there, drinking, until about 10 o'clock. At that hour Sheriff Bayker, accompanied by Deputies Frank Whidden and M. H. Rolfe, dropped, into the resort. ' • "You are under arrest," announced the sheriff, addressing himself to Cook, who, it is charged, was in the act of serving liquor to the two detectives.

Cook instead of heeding the order, made a rush for the officers, and in a second the fight was on. Deputy Sheriff Whidden drew his revolver, and commanded Cook to

surrender. Cook continued to fight# and the officer, not wishing to kill him, threw him to the floor. Suddenly there was a scream, and Mrs. Cook appeared on the scene. With a shriek, she attacked the officers, and for a few minutes there was a lively fight, in which the woman and the sheriff and his remaining deputy were all tangled up. Finally the woman was overcome, and, with her husband, handcuffed. A search of the place was made by the sheriff, and he is authority for the statement that he found several sacks full of beer bottles and a trunk full of whisky and beer bottles. All of these were confiscated, and, with the prisoners, taken to West Palm Beach, the county seat, where they will be kept as evidence.

Cook and his wife came to Lake Worth from the North several months ago, and opened the place from which they were taken Saturday night. Many of the residents of Lake Worth have complained to the authorities that all was not right there, but no real evidence was given, and the officials were powerless to act, especially as at that time Lake Worth was not an incorporated town. It is asserted by several members of the Lake Worth Chamber of Commerce that when a committee from that body visited Cook and requested him not to sell liquor he told it he would do as he pleased, and that no one could stop him. It is believed that this raid will bring, at the next election, a vote as to whether Lake Worth shall be "wet" or "dry."