

## Jack "Legs" Diamond

### Albany's Infamous Bootlegger & Gangster

Jack Diamond was an Irish American Gangster who rose in power during Prohibition, and was known for his flamboyant lifestyle, as well as his ability to survive getting shot. His nickname 'Clay Pigeon' was testament to his survival of ten bullet wounds, three from a shotgun and seven from pistols. His nickname 'Legs' could've been derived from his dancing talent, or how quick he was on his feet when out running law enforcement. Diamond was, at the time, the biggest celebrity in Upstate New York, and had his hands in bootlegging, armed robbery, kidnapping. He also ran a Club, called Hotsy Totsy. Unfortunately his club is no longer open for business, but there are plenty of other Albany locations to visit!



#### McGeary's Irish Pub

4 Clinton Square, Albany, NY 12207 | 518-463-1455

Diamond's parents emigrated from Ireland to the US, where he was born in Philadelphia into a small impoverished Irish Family. This popular pub is somewhere he would likely feel at home, with a variety of culturally inspired meals and offerings, as well as live music. McGeary's has twenty-six beers on tap, and forty bottle-numbers that would make any bootlegger jealous!

#### State Street

Downtown Albany

Take a breathtaking stroll down State Street. Heading upwards from Broadway, view the magnificent Capitol Building, and heading downwards from the Capitol, view the bold architecture of the former D & H Building. State Street embodies the feeling of a busy city, and it wouldn't feel out of place to see Diamond strolling down the street in one of his extravagant suits. State Street is a beautiful day time walk and has many great restaurants and shops.



#### Speakeasy 518

42 Howard St. Albany, NY 12207 | 518-449-2332

Beneath City Beer Hall and behind an unassuming door, is Albany's not-so-best-kept secret: Speakeasy 518. Step inside and be transported back in time to Albany during the Prohibition era. The vintage jazz bar slings craft cocktails and forbids the use of cell phones. The secrecy is so believable you might think that Legs Diamond's 'appropriated' liquors might have been brought here in the past. Cheers! *Photo Credit: Mower Associates*



### 67 Dove Street

#### Center Square Neighborhood

In one of his boldest moves, Legs Diamond hijacked a truck with applejack liquor and kidnapped and tortured driver Gordon Parks. Acquitted of all charges, Diamond stumbled drunk back to his Albany residence at 67 Dove Street, where he was held down and shot. His Dove Street home is now owned by acclaimed Albany author William Kennedy.

### Albany Distilling Co.

78 Montgomery Albany, NY 12207 | 518-621-7191

William Kennedy wrote the 1983 Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *Ironweed*. Albany Distilling Co. is the city's first licensed distillery since Prohibition and produces an Ironweed Whiskey. The distillery offers tours for a behind-the-scenes look at creating the small batch craft spirits. After the distillery tour, head over to ADCo Bar & Bottle Shop at 75 Livingston Ave. for a refreshing cocktail such as the "Ironweed Blood & Sand."



### The Kenmore Hotel

74 North Pearl Street

On the night of his death, Diamond had celebrated his acquittal at the Rainbow Room Nightclub, located in the Kenmore Hotel. While the hotel is no longer open for business, it still retains the iconic facade and awning. The Hotel is mentioned often in William Kennedy's novels, most prominently in *Legs*, his biopic about Diamond himself. *The Kenmore Hotel was recently purchased by Redburn Development, so stay tuned for exciting updates & renovations!*

## TRAVELING WITH A GROUP?

### Contact our team!



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*Jay Cloutier will assist in planning an itinerary for your groups, including the perfect hotel and cuisine choices.*

### Group Friendly Restaurant Options

Buca di Beppo

C H Evans Brewing Co.  
at the Albany Pump Station

The City Beer Hall

Dave and Buster's

dp's Brasserie

Druthers Brewing Company

The Hollow Bar & Kitchen

Jack's Oyster House

Lucky Strike Social

McGeary's Irish Pub

New World Bistro Bar

Washington Tavern



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