"We want the Coast Guard to seize the TOMOKA and her cargo of liquor anywhere within the 12 mile limit and arrest her crew. Be sure that Wm. F. McCoy does not get away if he should be on the vessel. Report progress."

—Department of Justice message, November 15, 1923

Before "Dutch" Schultz, before Jack "Legs" Diamond, before Al "Scarface" Capone, the U.S. Government's most wanted outlaw was Florida boatbuilder William "Bill" McCoy.

When Prohibition became the law of the land, Bill McCoy bought himself a schooner, sailed to the Bahamas, loaded her to the gunwales with scotch, rye, gin and bourbon, and began transporting liquor at sea for money and adventure.

For nearly four years he slaked the thirst of a nation while leading authorities on a merry chase. He pioneered new smuggling methods, founded the notorious Rum Row, and built a bootlegging empire that made millions of dollars. In all his dealings McCoy remained personable and trustworthy and true to his standard that the liquor he carried be the best… "the real McCoy."

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