

Interview Provides Treasure Trove Clues

Maple Valley, Wash., May 19, 1978. A 103 year-old former Rainier brewery worker now living at the Firs of Joy rest home here, claims that the secret to the exact location of the buried ancient Rainier Brewery is contained in the placement of an old cast iron statue standing near the present-day brewery.

Ormie Stultz, who worked at the brewery in the late nineteenth century, and who was present at the statue's rededication at Rainier's Diamond Jubilee in 1953, told brewologist "Hap" Holstetter that the statue, the sun, and the buried brewery are intertwined in a precise but obscure geometric relationship. "Why else would they have put that statue up in back on the hillside, where nobody can see it?" Stultz demanded.

Holstetter and Professor Horton Lacombe of the Tacoma Institute of Parahistorical Research have been excavating the presumed site of the ancient brewery, approximately 50 yards north of the old statue, for the past month at a location where several relics were found earlier.

The additional evidence provided by Stultz seems to confirm that Lacombe and Holstetter are working in approximately the correct area, but casts doubt on the precise location of the initial exploratory digs.

According to Stultz, the statue was moved to its present location at the insistence of another old brewmaster whose hobby was astrology. "He claimed that when the sun shone on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 15th of October, the pilsner glass held by the figure would cast a shadow on the buried fermenting cellar," said Stultz. "He also claimed that if there was a full moon within four days, the shadow cast would show where the old bottles were washed. His name was Elvin Dalton. He wasn't German, but he was strong-willed like all those old brewmasters. I guess that's why the Rainier brass did what he said—they were afraid Elvin would get mad if they didn't."

Stultz claims that he actually saw the original brewery, now the subject of the extensive excavations, as a small boy. Stultz was 3 when the brewery was founded in 1878.

"There was no Airport Way in them days," Stultz recalled with a chuckle. "Heck, there was no airport. No planes. The Duwamish River kinda wandered around under Beacon Hill. Heinrich's old Rainier Brewery was at the end of a muddy wagon road. But it was a beautiful sight to see. All shiny and golden and copper in the sun. What a brew-

ery it was! Course, it seemed bigger to me than it was actually, because I was just a kid."

Stultz later was employed as a bottle-washer in another Rainier brewery near the same site. A bachelor, he served in the Spanish-American War and later became a labor organizer for the International Workers of the World. In the 1920's he worked on the Great Northern Railway as a brakeman, and during the depression joined the Merchant Marine, where he finished a long and varied life of work as an engine room wiper. He retired in 1951 to devote more time to his hobby, raising geraniums. He has resided at Firs of Joy since 1968. "The nurses are real nice and the food ain't bad at all," Stultz said with enthusiasm.

The old brewery worker recalls his invitation to the 1953 dedication of the statue with affection. "It was real nice of them, because hardly anyone except Elvin Dalton remembered that I had worked there. Boy, it was a real whing-ding. Plenty of free Rainier and lots of Big Shots. Old Elvin had 'em put that statue exactly where he wanted it. He wanted to be sure that if anyone wanted to dig up the old brewery sometime in the future, they'd have a way of locating it."

Holstetter said that Dalton's calculations would be

incorporated into future digs, but that it was unfortunately impractical to wait until October or November and see if

the shadow would be cast as predicted. "It's too risky. Besides, the sun hardly ever shines around here in Novem-

ber," said Holstetter. Meanwhile, excavation is continuing near the statue.



Centenarian Ormie Stultz, left, tells brewologist "Hap" Holstetter his theories about the lost brewery.

Stultz's souvenir tiepin commemorates the 1953 Diamond Jubilee of Rainier Beer.

The "Lost Brewery"—What Scientists Believe Now

Rainier Beer was brewed at the old brewery of Stultz's recollection from 1878 until expansion caused the brewery to be moved to larger quarters at the Bayview Brewery nearby. It was a time of mammoth geological movement in the Duwamish River basin. Many acres of tidelands were filled in, creating the Duwamish Waterway and Harbor Island.

In 1904 Rainier had grown to become the largest industrial installation in the state, and the brewery was moved to new and larger quarters in Georgetown, a few miles south. An ornate cast-iron statue of a Rheinmaiden was commissioned and cast in Germany, then shipped to Georgetown where it became the centerpiece of a fountain at the new brewery, until Prohibition.

Meanwhile, rubble and dust began to collect around the original brewery. It suffered additional decay during Prohibition, and after repeal, it was buried under rubble as the Bayview Brewery nearby was completely rebuilt. Freeway con-

struction during the 1960's buried the ancient brewery even deeper under the strata of the ages.



DOES THIS STATUE UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE ANCIENT BREWERY?