Michigan Brewery Information

(for years 1930's – 1970's producing beer in cans)

On The Cover

1	Detroit	Altes, Drewry, Eckhardt Becker, National, Old Dutch, Pfeiffer, Regal, Schmidt, Stroh, Tivoli		
2	Houghton	Bosch, Haas		
3	Frankenmuth	Carling, Frankenmuth, Geyer Brothers, International		
4	Hancock	Copper Country, Haas		
5	Battle Creek	Food City, Honer		
6	Grand Rapids	Fox Deluxe		
7	Menominee	Menominee		
8	Bay City	Phoenix		
9	Sebewaing	Sebewaing		
10	Flint	Valley		
11	Dowagiac	Randy home town		
12	Ann Arbor	Chris home town		

On The Back

Bosch Brewing Company

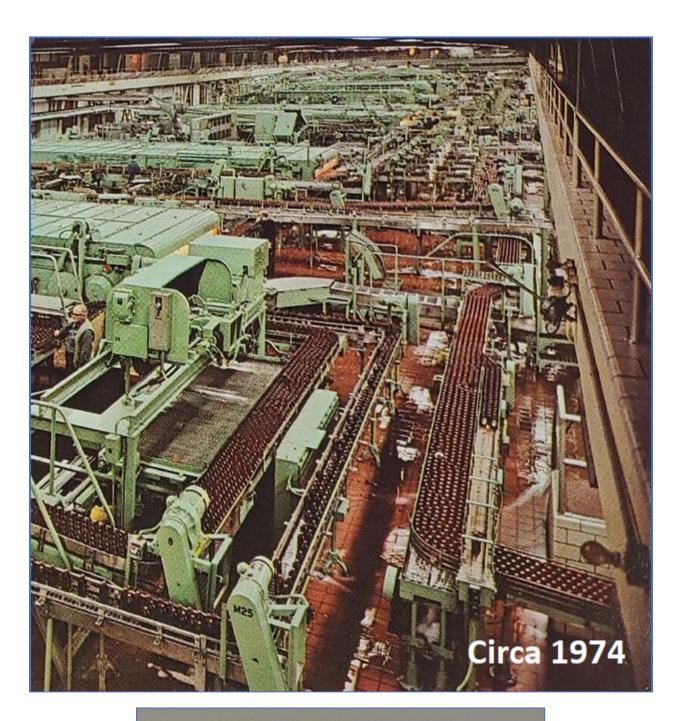
Ekhardt Becker Brewing Company

Goebel Brewing Company

Sebewaing Brewing Company

Sebewaing Brewing Company

Stroh Brewing Company



THE STROH BREWERY CO. PACKAGING CENTER

Millions of bottles and cans of Stroh's Bohemian Beer are packaged each week in this modern packaging center.

The Stroh Brewery Co., Detroit, Michigan 48226 Established 1850

Michigan Brewery Information

This reference is an accompaniment to the publication Michigan Beer Cans, that listing most every variation produced in our home state between 1935 until the mid-1970's. This document provides brewery information and a number of newspaper advertisements used to help determine Michigan beer can production dates.

The Michigan Beer Cans project was started in 2002, first photographing all Michigan beer cans in Randy's personal collection (actually photographed THREE times, starting over due to better camera and better photo box configurations). The first Michigan specialist visit was to Chris Taylor in Ann Arbor, whom had been dumping/collecting cans with his father Michael for years. That one visit turned into something like six total visits, numerous discussions at beer can shows with Chris bringing more and more variations to be photographed, and countless emails and phone calls. It is Chris' (and Dave Wheaton) extensive Michigan expertise and research which gives very high confidence the noted beer can production dates are accurate.

Please see https://www.mbcinfo.com/MBC for complete and up-to-date details, both regarding freely viewable digital content as well as content available in real, hardbound printed book.

Randy Karasek (RB #636) Chris Taylor (RB #417)

Using This Reference

Hopefully fairly simple, with each significant brewery started on its own page, with name and years of production. Each brewery will have a CanDB collage of all brands known to have been produced in beer cans, with the first production year listed underneath a given can image. Some brewers had either great in-house artists or good advertising firms, since a number of amazing advertisements were created, even starting in the 1930's many years pre-computer. We have attempted to include a good quantity both for accurate "was first available" dates as well as simply fun to look back at a different advertising world.

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Collage images of a brewery's set of beer cans with dates underneath produced by CanDB operating on Randy Karasek MBC content. Majority simply point/click/copy/paste, not a chance going to try this manually!

About the authors

Randy Karasek - RB #636



James, James, James, not James (Father, 1st Grandson, Son, Me)

Started collecting in 1974 when parents brought home a six pack of Iron City pirates cans. Married almost 40 years now, wife Deanna, two great kids, two dogs, two cats. Home was in beautiful Pebble Beach, California, never any "polar vortex" or that white stuff that falls from the sky. After living in CA for thirty years, in 2017 moved to Granger, IN to be closer to family.

Used to have a pretty strong Michigan collection, many pictured in the Michigan Beer Cans project, got rid of that in 2007, and now just collect California straight steel tab tops. Manager of a small aviation software company in Monterey, CA (working remotely).

Author of the BMV and CanDB software and website https://www.mbcinfo.com

Chris Taylor - "Longopener" - RB #417



As many kids in the 70s, I started in 1975/1976 and dug around the small southern Michigan town of Hudson for a few years until my dad got hooked by reading Lew Cady book of beer can collecting, which expanded my digging range and finances.

I discovered the Rusty Bunch through collector Don Wild in 1995 who told me about a local can show taking place the next weekend. I met Dan Bora at that show, who was set up at the table next to mine. I also met RBer Marc Tracy and others who were the Michigan core of the Rusty Bunch. I was Rusty Bunch editor for a total of 11 years and have written 118 articles. I have also managed the club's roster since 2011.

I have penned Vintage Can Closeup and Beer Can Archaeology in the BCCA magazine since 2013 and in October 2015, took over as author of Beer Can Archaeology (for a total of 80 articles). My current focus is tougher variations of 1930s - 60s cans, early 90s - 2000s Strohs and Schlitz export variations as well as more recently, heavy metal themed microbrew cans and Mockubrews (parody labelled cans).

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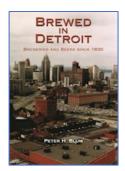
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1 Introduction

1.1 Dates for Michigan beer can production



While some of you may have been alive in the 1930s-1940s and purchased some of these cans first hand, most of us need to do research regarding brewery and beer can history. The late **Peter H Blum** published the book "**Brewed In Detroit – Breweries And Beers Since 1830**". While it is Detroit centric, he does cover many other breweries within the state of Michigan.

Peter Blum's book is an absolute must read for any Michigan collector or frankly anyone interested in brewery history. Very well written, easy read, and fortunately still available!

1.2 Brewery records

Of course, the best way to authenticate dates would be access to brewery records. Brewers kept recorded details of everything, down to the barrels produced and ounces sold, since the IRS must ensure proper taxes are paid! However, chatting with Ed Stroh, when the Stroh brewery was acquiring brewers, full filing cabinets or libraries of information simply discarded to landfill. They weren't historians, their purpose was to sell beer and make money. Unfortunately, few printed brewery records have survived.

1.3 Newspaper advertisements

The next best option is viewing old newspaper advertisements. While pictured cans are many times "artist renditions", not actual photographs of real beer cans, they do often provide a very good estimate of when the brand was first marketed to the public. Within this document you will find copies of a number of newspaper ads provided by **Chris Taylor** research, and Randy countless "addicted hours" searching/pulling ads from www.newspaperarchive.com, www.newspapers.com and other sites.

1.4 Other resources

There are a number of web sites, such as **Tavern Trove** or **Old Breweries** that have good historical information. For American Can Company cans, **Robert Porter's** research can identify exact date of the can design using a small symbol after the canning code. Dates were also borrowed from the Bible and Cone Top Bible if no others known. Finally, simply educated "best estimate" as discussed among Michigan collecting experts, often times "dumped alongside" other items that could be dated with a high degree of confidence

1.5 Missing / Incorrect information

As with any historical documentation, information may be missing or later found to be inaccurate. Please let us know if anything obvious missing/incorrect so can be fixed in a later revision. Happy Michigan reading...

2 Beer Can Production Limits / Requirements

2.1 Restricted during World War II: 1942-1947

In 1942, domestic beer can production stopped due to the "War Production Board Order M-81", an effort to conserve metal for the United States war program. However, in 1944, the US military contracted with over 40 of the largest breweries to produce beer in olive drab (OD) camouflage cans to be sent to troops all around the world. Beer cans didn't become available again for civilian use until early 1947. Hard to believe searches have so far found zero advertisements of "We proudly support our US military". All Michigan OD are dated 1944.



2.2 Internal Revenue Tax Paid – Pre-March 1950

As the saying goes "Only two certainties in life are death and taxes", the US government made sure they "got theirs" as part of beer production. All beer produced was subject to taxes, and containers such as bottles and cans were required to carry the statement "Internal Revenue Tax Paid". This requirement was dropped March 1950, so clear year delimiter for IRTP versus non-IRTP cans.

Note there are some exceptions with earliest beer cans not yet carrying this IRTP statement. Schmidts for example, we have dated their earliest cone top as 1941 though it does NOT carry this mandatory statement. Simply because the can has been dumped often with other items dateable around the same year, and the can is for certain many years pre-1950.

2.3 Withdrawn Free Of Internal Revenue Tax



One would think if the government contracted for WWII beer can production, they could have simply waived the IRTP. However, the IRS still existed, and some brewers used muddled statements stamped on their OD cans "Disregard Statement Withdrawn Free Of Internal Revenue Tax For Exportation Internal Revenue Tax Paid". Lid on the left is on a Pfeiffer OD.

Note that a few Michigan cans have "Withdrawn Free" that are not for WWII usage, but these must have been for exportation to nearby Canada.

War Board **Orders Cut** In Tin Cans

Forbids Canning Of Many Items As "Secondary"

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 - (A) -The war production board today ordered a drastic reduction in the manufacture and use of tin and prohibited the canning of such products as beer, dog food, pork and beans, coffee, tobacco oil after March 1.

The board also directed manufacturers to eliminate small-size cans, and established priorities on future production. Experts estimated the orders would cut consumption of tin by can manufacturers about 40 per cent compared awith 1941 figures - a saving of at least 15,-500 tons.

Unlimited production of cans will be permitted for packaging the principal items on which the agriculture department has set production goals and which would spoil if not canned while fresh. These include fruits, vegetables, tomato juice, milk and fish.

Production of cans for "secondary products" and "special products" as the board designates them, will be limited to the 1940 output. The secondary products cover fruits and vegetables not regarded as of primary importance, including apples, peaches, pineapple, prunes and similar items. The special products are medical, chemical, dental and industrial necessities.

SweepingWar Order Bans Aetal Use

Durable Goods Piants

To Shut Down In 90 Days

Washington, May 5 (A) - The iron and steel that go into the product of peaceful and pleasant living today were ordered poured into the crucibles of war.

General conservation order M-126, the most sweeping yet issued by the War Production Board, directs thousands of manufacturing plants to stop within 90 days all use of the metals needed for guns and planes and tanks and bullets.

Manufacturers of more than 400 common products in every day use were affected, along with thousands of wholesalers, distributors, jobbers, retailers and their employes.

The consuming public was warned against receiving articles known to have been produced in violation of the order. Violation was made a crime, punishable by

fine or imprisonment.

The order was regarded as a knockout blow to the durable goods industry. Any plant that can not shift to the manufacture of war materials must shut down, There were some exceptions, such as the making of certain articles needed for repair or maintenance work, hospital equipment, etc., but the over-all effect was to ban the manufacture of such common products as bath tubs, cash registers, cigaret lighters, mail boxes, fountain pens, pie plates, waste basakets, tea pots, swivel chairs, slide fasteners, voting machines, and all novelties and souvenirs and Christmas tree ornaments.

Limited production will be permitted for 90 days, but after that no metal may be used "ex-cept gold or silver."

"Violation War Order Not to Save Tin Cans

"Saving tin cans and putting them out where they can be picked up by a collector" is as much war-time work as if each housewife had a signed certificate of graduation in an army training In İt camp. reality, violation of a war order to dispose of cans in any other way, or to "hoard" them, according to William L. Schupp, chairman of the tin can drive for the city of Liberty.

Again, we give a summary of the rules and regulations of this war order, and urge the cooperation of every woman in this important salvaging.

Separate all cans from other trash and garbage, place them in a separate container so the salvage crew can pick them up with the greatest speed and efficiency. Put them on the curb each Friday morning, if the container is full, when the truck makes the rounds. If for some reason they are missed call No. 84 and a truck will be sent.

2.6 Beer Cans Poised To Return – February 18, 1947

LIMITED SUPPLY

Beer in Cans Expected in Two Weeks

Brewers and tin can manufacturers estimated in New York Monday that beer in cans would be back in the stores in a couple of weeks, but local brewers were not so optimistic.

A system of allocating cans to all industries it has served was announced by the American Can Co. in January replacing the wartime standards of "essential industries." Associated Press reported.

YEAR TO CATCH UP

This formula will provide brewers with some cans, but it will be at least a year before the supply will equal the demand.

However, Charles E. Kiewel, president and general manager of the Minneapolis Brewing Co., indicated that although his company has cans ordered, the date of delivery is uncertain and then the company will receive only a limited quantity.

GLUEK USES OTHER CANS

The Hamm Brewing Co. plans to produce canned beer, DeWalt Ankeny, vice president of the company, said, but the date is uncertain.

Arthur L. Gluek, vice president of the Gluek Brewing Co., said his company has been putting out a small quantity of beer in cans which are not made from tin for about a year.

3 Robert Porter – American Can Company Research

MPC Canning Code – Production Dates

The following information is based on research of **Robert Porter** and **Kevin Lilek**, used with their permission. Randy only created an HTML page and the digital JPEG images based off handwritten canning code symbols shared at a Blue/Gray show. Robert was working on a BCCA article with details of how he determined the symbols to production year (really the year artwork was produced)

Most canning companies producing beer cans will include a small "code" somewhere on the beer can sheet, indicating not only the manufacturer but possibly physical plant location, and in some cases the date/year, in which the can sheet was printed. American Can Company specifically provides all three pieces of information, at least for the time periods from 1935 through 1953. This code is also called an "MPC", or "Manufacturer's Printing Code".

For many American Can Company cans, the text of "AM. CAN CO" will be printed very boldly, along with a small text code in the form of:

A.C. CO [two-digit number] [A] [small symbol]

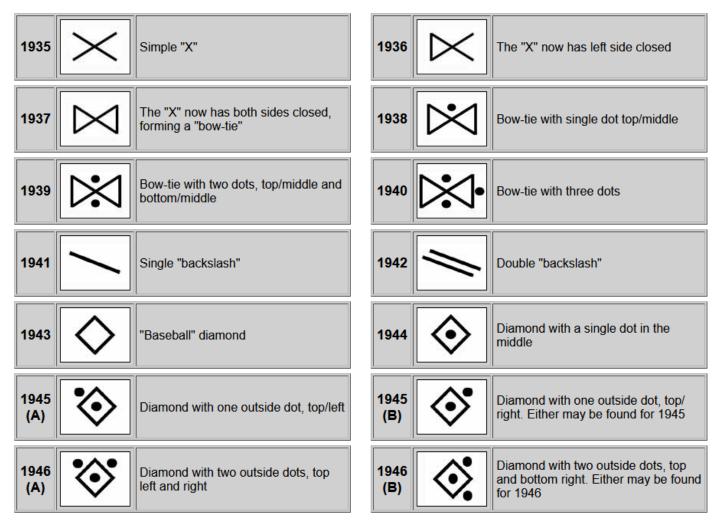
The two-digit number represents a code of where the beer can sheet was physically printed, with the following table borrowed from Kevin Lilek's book "United States Beer Cans with Opening Instructions":

10 - Greenwhich, CT	44 - New York City, NY	83 - Omaha, NE	
17 - Philadelphia, PA	47 - Atlanta, GA	90 - Salem, OR	
23 - Baltimore, MD	50 - Cleveland, OH	91 - Los Angeles, CA	
34 - Pittsburgh, PA	68 - Chicago, IL	94 - San Francisco, CA	
38 - Buffalo, NY	70 - St. Louis, MO	98 - Saccramento, CA	

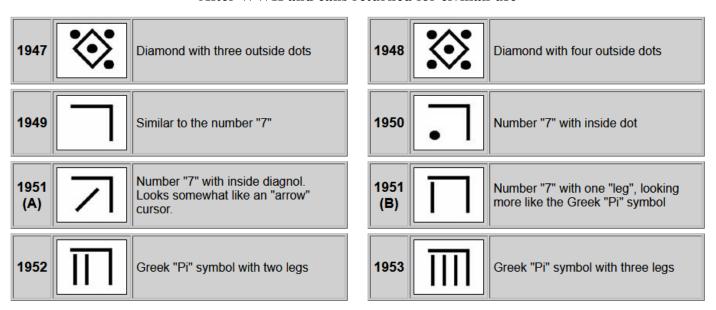
The next part of the symbol always seems to be a constant "A". For example, "68 A", or sometimes with a dash, "68-A". Not sure if the "A" is yet another indication of "American" or was planned to vary depending on something such as manufacturing shift, or possibly a specific building if more than one plant in the same city, but "A" seems to be the only letter used.

The final "small symbol" is more interesting, and through the research of Robert Porter indicates a calendar year in which the beer can sheet was produced. Actual beer production may slightly lag the artwork creation, for example, the 1946 codes were not filled until early 1947 when cans returned after WWII.

The following symbols are <u>digital creations</u> and are at best close approximates to the actual printed canning code symbols. Even with high resolution digital cameras these actual printed symbols are difficult to represent!



After WWII and cans returned for civilian use



Many thanks to Robert Porter (RIP) for the research on production dates and for Kevin Lilek publishing the production plant information.

3.1 Examples using American can MPC symbols – Chuck Starrett

The following are great examples of applying the American Can Company MPC symbols to real Michigan beer cans. This is information provided by Chuck Starrett, December 19, 2024. As part of the MBC content update there were numerous email exchanges, one Ann Arbor get together, and two Zoom meetings between the four of Randy Karasek, Chris Taylor, Chuck Starrett and Dave Wheaton.

Chuck's Bantam 8oz review

MBC	Name	Date	Notes
36-121	Bantam Ale (enamel)	1952	New can to MBC, rooster feathers with enamel paint. MPC
			Pi with two legs
36-120.1	Bantam Ale (metallic)	1952	Rooster feathers metallic paint. MPC Pi with two legs
36-120.2	Bantam Ale (metallic)	1953	Rooster feathers metallic paint. No code, Keglined box
36-122	Bantam Beer	1949	MPC right angle
36-124	Bantam Beer Extra Dry	1949	Missing from MBC review content. MPC right angle
36-126.1	Bantam Beer	1953	Canning code 68-A, no MPC
36-126.2	Bantam Beer	1952	MPC Pi with two legs
36-126.3	Bantam Beer	1951	MPC Pi with one leg

Chuck's Gold Goebel Extra Dry review

MBC	Name	Date	Notes
36-10.1	Right From The Cypress Casks. Withdrawn Free	1948	Diamond with center dot and four outside dots
36-11	Right From The Cypress Casks. IRTP	1948	Diamond with center dot and four outside dots
36-12	Right From The Cypress Casks. Non-IRTP	1949	Right Angle
36-13	Nationally Famous For Good Taste. Non-IRTP	1949	Right Angle
36-14	Nationally Famous For Good Taste. Non-IRTP	1950	CCC but no can code MPC

3.2 "Five tooth seam" flat tops – Chuck Starrett

Yes, teeth do matter!!! For these, best to show with pictures, provided by Chuck, December 19, 2024

The first set are all "five tooth" seams, MPC two outside dots, top and bottom right. Dates artwork to 1946, production 1947, when cans available again to civilians after WWII. These are the earliest variations post war.



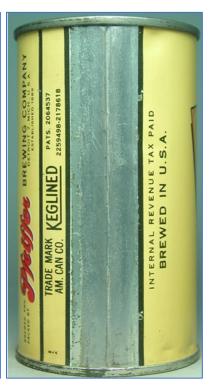




The second set of pictures, same brands, have now switched to newer "straight" seams

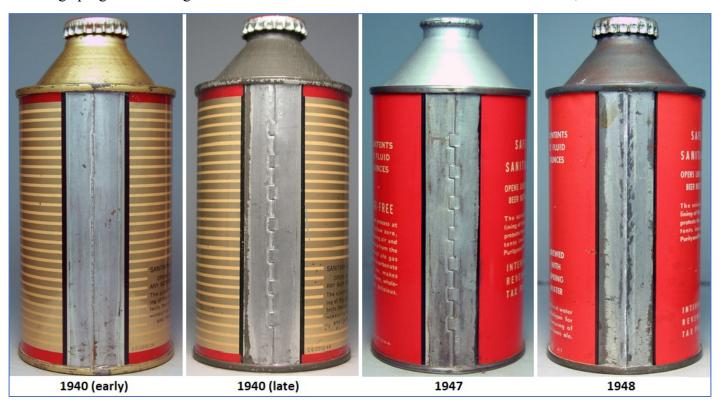






3.3 "Seven tooth seam" cone tops – Dave Wheaton

Of course, cone tops may have "toothed" seams as well, but a bit of flip/flop usage. The earliest 1930's cans had "straight" seams. From 1940-1947 (includes the war years and cans reintroduced) **both** American and Continental can companies used "toothed" seams. Early 1948, went back to "straight" seams. The following shows age progression using the E&B Golden Bud Ale and Frankenmuth Air Free cones, oldest to newest.



3.4 Cone necks also matter? Bulb or no bulb



Note the two E&B Special, same can design but different spouts. The can on the left has earlier "bulb top" with small ridge below the cap. The can on the right the later, more traditional spout.





1950 1951





The following is a collection of information with each brewery starting on its own page, some history text, a CanDB generated collage of the brands produced, and then numerous ads/info to explain assigned dates.

Hope you enjoy...

4 Altes Brewing Company, Detroit: 1948-1954

The Tivoli brewery was renamed Altes in 1948, likely due to the popularity of its Altes Lager brand. While Altes itself was acquired by National in 1954, the Altes brand name continued with National, then Carling, and finally with G Heileman. Altes itself took over the Aztec Brewing in San Diego 1948, closed it 1953.

This cleanly defines all brands with the Altes Brewing Company mandatory to be between 1948 - 1954, earliest being the Altes crowntainer. Conversely, the red Altes Sportsman Ale trivia cans came out in 1954, their last year of brewing operations. Anything with brewery also San Diego limited to latest 1953.

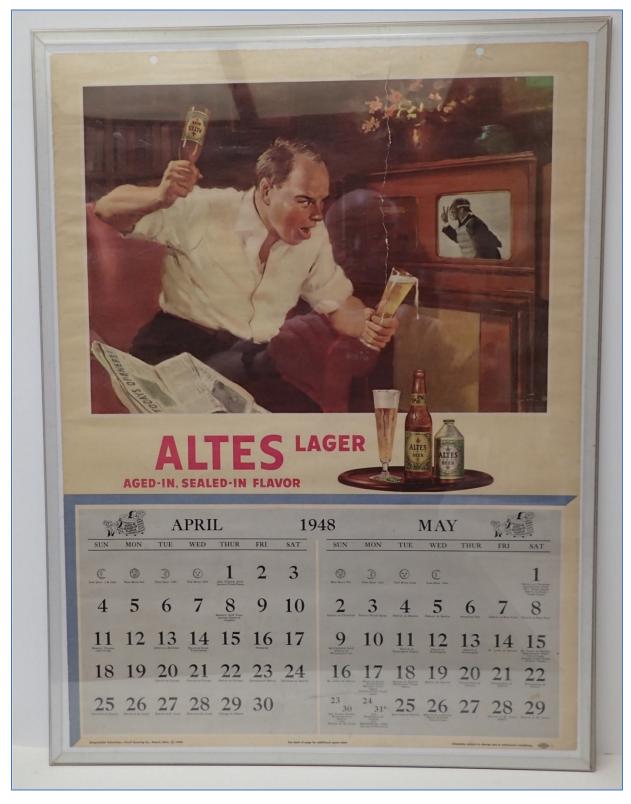


4.1 Tivoli Brewing changed to Altes Brewing – December 15, 1948

The name of the Tivoli Brewing Co. has been changed to Altes Brewing Co.

Small blurb found in the Detroit Free Press, December 15, 1948. Not sure this enough time to have the Tivoli mandatory changed to Altes within the 1948 calendar year. Seems earliest Altes cans should be 1949 dates.

4.2 Altes Lager crowntainer (calendar) – 1948



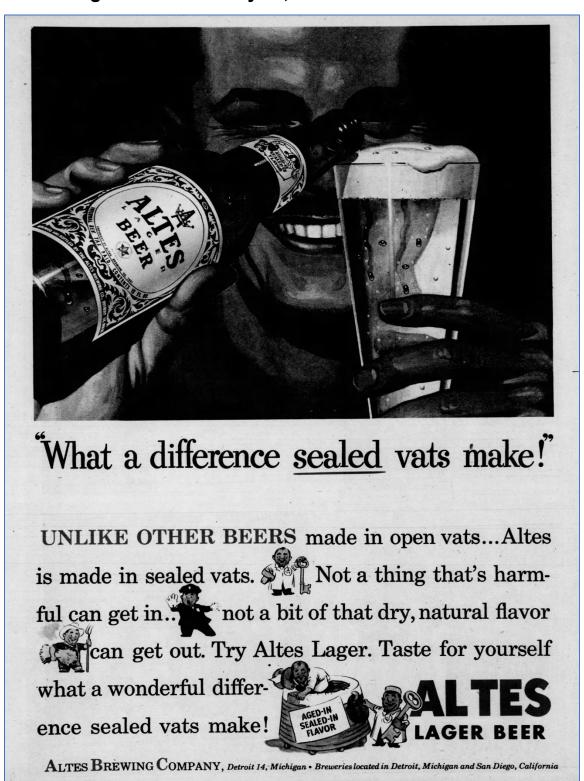
Tivoli or Altes? The rename didn't happen until late 1948, but was Altes able to use the Tivoli crowntainer canning line "as is" and simply changed the beer can mandatory?

4.3 Altes Lager crowntainer (newspaper) – Mar 26, 1949



First advertisement found showing the Altes Brewing Co, Detroit 14, and pictured with the Altes crown. There are some other ads dated 1948, but those are still Tivoli Brewing Co. We have dated the crown as 1948, but it may not have appeared until early 1959.

4.4 Altes Lager Beer – January 23, 1949



First ad found listing the Altes Brewing Company, Detroit, Michigan. Note the label design which matches the earliest known cone tops and the only crowntainer with Altes, Detroit. While a bottle, not can, seems earliest for Altes cans would be 1949. Seems consistent with the chronology assumed about the beer cans.

4.5 Altes ABC Lager Beer – May 28, 1949



Wait a minute!!!

Tivoli renamed Altes end of 1948, and earlier ad in January, 1949 shows the label found on the early Altes cones and only crowntainer.

Now four months later the same bottle label, but the neck label has "ABC" and the ad clearly is hyping the ABC theme.

Still no ads picturing beer cans found but sure seems like Altes marketing strategy a bit muddled here.

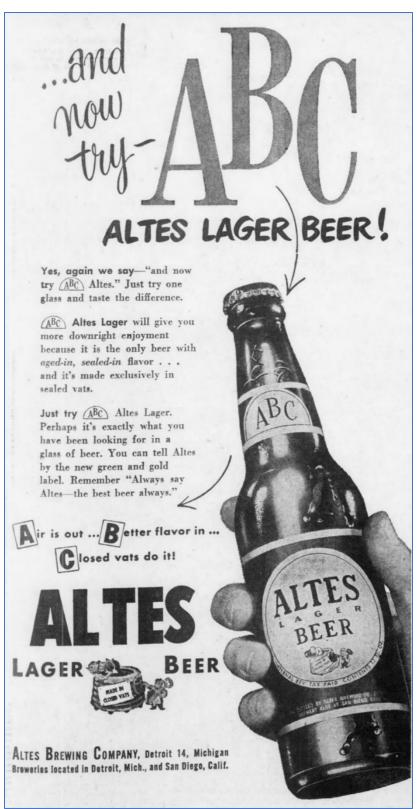
4.6 Altes ABC Lager Beer – August 13, 1949

What is going on here?

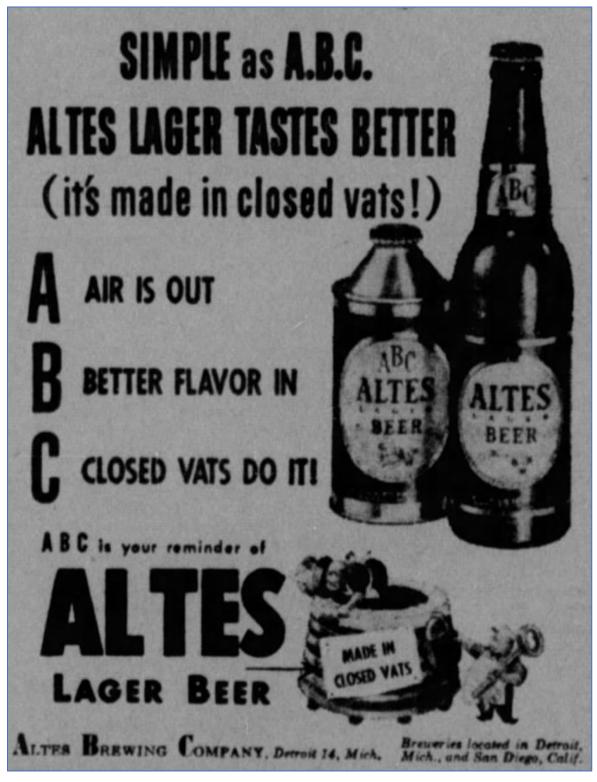
This has even more differences than the first beer can design found on bottle labels on the previous pages.

Note the "ABC" neck label and hard to view but bottom line has "Brewery Also At San Diego". Also, the "A" above Altes has been replaced with a closed beer vat logo toward the bottom of the label.

No known beer cans have this specific design, and why months later moving back to "ABC"? Even more muddled.



4.7 Altes ABC Lager Beer cone top – November 26, 1949



Yeah, finally an ad with a beer can and listing the new Altes Brewing Company, Detroit. However, it pictures a cone top "ABC Altes" of which no known Detroit or San Diego of this design. The old Aztec Brewing in San Diego (owned by Altes years 1948-1953) did produce "ABC" cones, but not this design.

ALTES PLAN HUGE SALES CAMPAIGN

A hard-hitting, hard-selling advertising and sales promotion campaign for 1950 will be launched by the Altes Brewing Company within the next few days to focus public attention on "brisk" Altes beer, Howard H. Colby, president of the brewery, said this week.

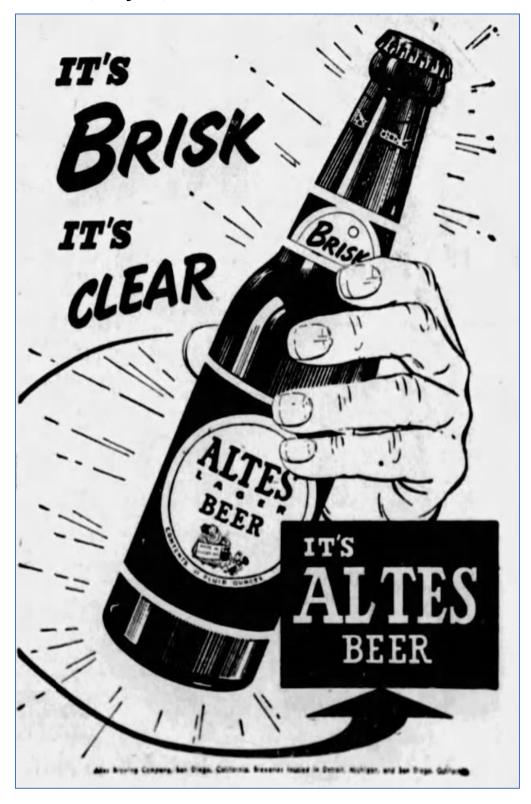
All mediums of communication and new point-of-purchase material will be utilized by Altes in conducting its biggest promotion campaign since the pre-war era of competitive selling. The Altes Company recently completed an expansion program to provide for facilities to brew 1,000,000 barrels of beer a year in its Detroit plant. Altes markets its products in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and California.

"The day is past when a minimum of effort was needed to get business," Mr. Colby stated. "Ahead of us is an era more highly competitive than the prewar years. To get a fair share of business a firm, to be successful, must go after it. Our advertising and sales promotion campaign for 1950 has been designed with that in mind."

4.9 Altes Brisk - May 20, 1950



4.10 Altes Brisk, May 30, 1950



Could not find any ads showing the "Brisk" beer can, cone top or flat, but multiple examples showing the bottle with dates consistent with Altes new 1950 marketing campaign.

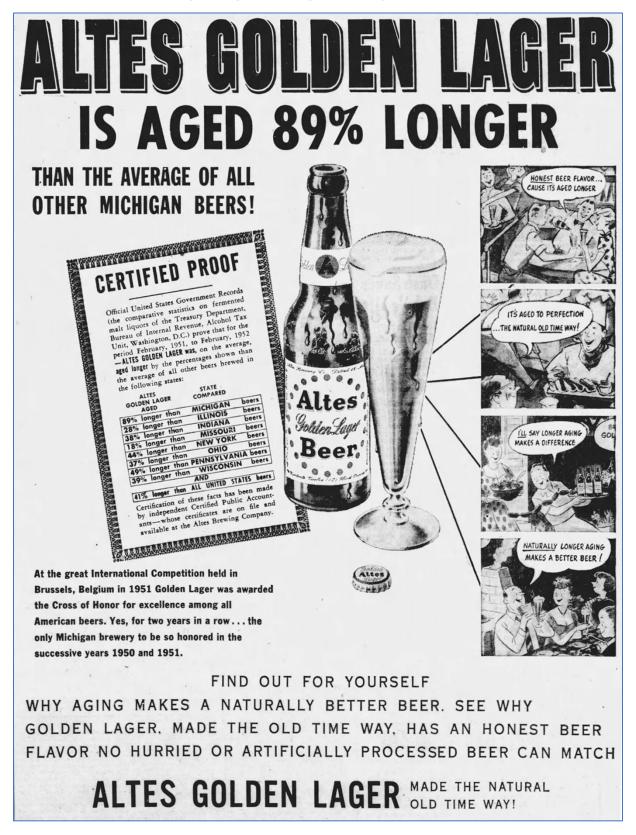
4.11 Altes Golden Lager (Enamel) - May 05, 1951



GOLDEN LAGER, the new beer introduced by the Altes Brewing company, is new inside and out, the firm states. New label was adopted, the company said, after submitting numerous designs to public opinion polls. It is striking combination of gold and red on white background. The new, light beer is available in 12-ounce bottles, cans and quart bottles.

First ad featuring the Golden Lager enamel as flat top, helping establish transition from cones to flats. Randy found this ad early in his searches but using the same keywords, NOT able to find this again!!!

4.12 Altes Golden Lager Aged Longer – May 24, 1952



Unfortunately bottle, not can, but this still looks like the enamel can, just one line of text at the bottom

4.13 Altes Golden Lager Packaging (Enamel) – November 22, 1952



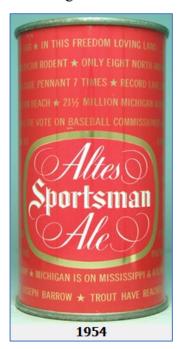
Still the same enamel design, you can see the brown band at the bottom with brewery information. This picture has been included since shows the "E-Z-Kary Pak" for six pack of the flat top cans.

4.14 Altes Golden Lager (Metallic) – September 25, 1954

While this only displays the bottle, note the label design change with now two lines of text under the dotted oval. The metallic version came out several years after the enamel variation.

Additionally note the ad features both Golden Lager beer and Sportsman Ale. Assumption is this refers to the red Altes Sportsman Ale trivia can, not the green National Sportsman Ale can.

Assuming the ad means the red, not the green





but would it have broken the budget to show either of the cans ANYWHERE in any newspaper/magazine???

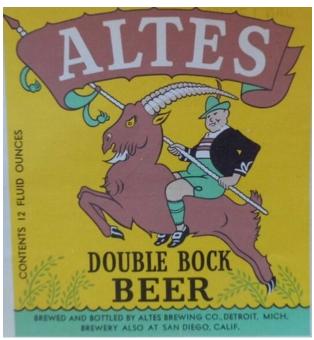


4.15 Altes Sportsman Ale - April 10, 1954



Thus far unable to locate a Sportsman Ale ad showing the red trivia can itself (or the later green), but this is representative of numerous ads that do mention the brand. National acquired Altes in 1954, but many ads can be found starting 1954 and still advertising the Sportsman Ale brand available for sale into 1955. But, red or green?

Too bad there is not a matching beer can for this double bock label.



4.16 Altes 7-11 Natural Brew – May 05, 1952



Found no pictured can searching Michigan or California, but this showed in the Logansport-Pharos-Tribune of Logansport, Indiana! Fine print does have Altes Brewing Company – Detroit, Mich and San Diego.

4.17 Altes 7-11 Natural Brew – June 13, 1952



Still mentions both Detroit, Mich and San Diego, Calif. Simply included since weeks of search finally uncovered several bottle ads in Indiana. Did they not want to sell this anywhere near the brewery?

4.18 Very little else for Seven / Eleven – 1952-1956

From the Los Angeles Times, July 22, 1954. Makes sense they are advertising "Brewed in Detroit" since the San Diego plant closed in 1953.

7-11 Boor
"It's a Natural." Browed in Detroit

212 m. 254 and \$295 ft

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

From the Palm Springs Desert Sun, December 22, 1952. A separate public relations department for a brewery?

From the Californian, August 14, 1953. Selling so well that inventory can't be kept on the shelf!!! LOL..., at almost a full \$1.00 (25%) discount.





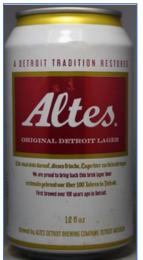
From the Decatur Daily Review, October 05, 1956. No pictures.

Decatur, Michigan is not even a city but just a "village", with population of 1,664 based on the 1950 census.

Why did Altes brew/fill this "Seben Leben" beer? And why this type of terminology for a small farming area three hours from Detroit?

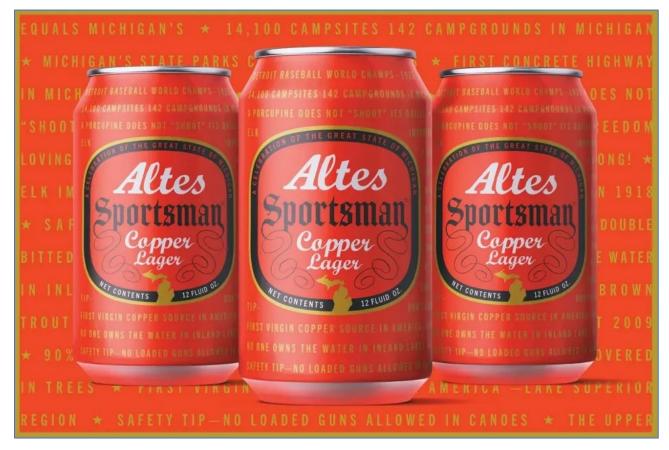
4.19 Altes retro labels - 2024







Retro can and already two variations! The left version has four lines of text, gold/red starting in German. The right version same four lines, but now red/gold and starting with English.



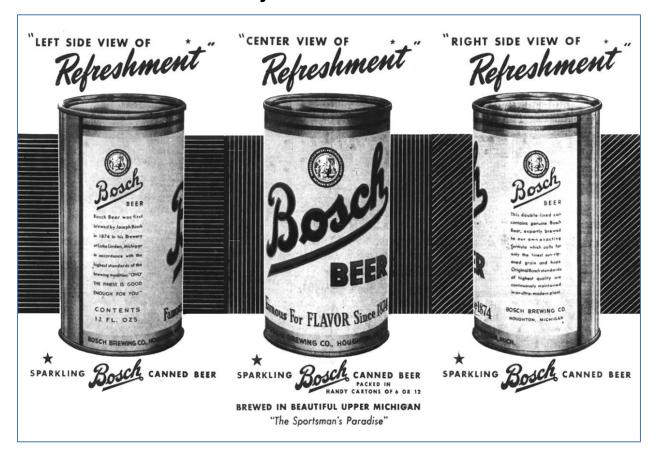
5 Bosch Brewing Company, Houghton: 1934-1973

In 1952, to unveil their first beer in cans, Bosch ran a series of full-page ads in local newspaper over consecutive weekends showing a single side of their new can. The following is a digital consolidation by Chris Taylor to better view all three. This clearly defines the white Bosch as 1952.





5.1 Bosch White - June/July 1952



5.2 Bosch White Packaging – December 18, 1953



Cool ad to see both the beer can and bottle AND the packaging in which both were distributed!!!

5.3 Bosch Beer – August 11, 1955



Shows both the gold "Bosch Beer" flat and six pack packaging

5.4 Bosch Beer - May 27, 1958



Still Bosch Beer, included to show both the cool ad, packaging, and still same design into 1958

5.5 Bosch Bock - March 07, 1956



Note the artist depicts both bottles and cans! While there are no known "Bosch Bock" beer cans, there are examples of the gold Bosch flat top with "Bock" stamped on the top lid. This would make those stamps legit. Similar ads can be found spring of 1954 – 1957 across Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin

5.6 Bosch Beer – Bock and Strong stamped on the lid

Companion to the previous page, no Bosch Bock cans are known, but there is the uncommon normal gold can with Bock on the lid. The following are lids of some Chuck Starrett Bosch cans, one "bock" plus two "strong".















The cardboard holder unfortunately bottles not cans, but clearly shows that Bosch used existing "Beer" items.

New convenience!



NOW-Gilt Edge

PREMIUM BÉER in no-deposit / no-return bottles AT POPULAR PRICES

Now, the Bosch Brewing Company combines the leader of premium beers with the convenience of non-returnable glass bottles in handy 6-packs, for you at the popular price.

enjoy the pleasure of its company GIL Edge PREMIUM BEER



Brewed & Bottled by Bosch Brewing Company, Houghton, Michigan.



Not pictures with the beer can, but the only label style ad found announcing Gilt Edge



5.8 Bosch Premium, January 17, 1968



Hard to confirm from the picture but appears early style small ring pull tab top. Note this ad ran as a very narrow tall strip, Randy split into two parts so better able to display larger size.

5.9 The end of the Bosch brewery – September 28, 1973

From Wikipedia: In the early 1970's Bosch was unable to compete with the larger breweries of Detroit, Milwaukee and St Louis. On September 28, 1973 the last keg of Bosch beer was delivered to Schmidt's Corner Bar in Houghton and the trademarks sold to Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company of Chipped Falls, WI.

6 Carling Brewing Company, Frankenmuth: 1956-1976

Carling was one of three brewers in the city of Frankenmuth, supplementing their larger location in Cleveland, Ohio. Most cans with the Frankenmuth mandatory are not rare, but they are far less common than the equivalent from Cleveland.

They definitely brewed quantity over those years, since numerous minor variations and plants added/closed in other cities/states.

St Louis 1954-1957, **Belleville** 1954-1975, **Natick** 1956-1975, **Atlanta** 1958-1973, **Tacoma** 1958-1975, **Baltimore** 1961-1975, **Fort Worth** 1964-1966, and **Phoenix** 1964-1966



Since Carling took ownership of the previous International Breweries end of November, 1956, the earliest flat top can't be before 1957. And with St Louis going under in 1957, the order/dates of the cans must be:

- 1. Five cities: Frankenmuth, also Cleveland, Belleville, St. Louis, Natick (1957)
- 2. Four cities: Frankenmuth, also Cleveland, Belleville, Natick (St Louis removed 1958)
- 3. Five cities: Frankenmuth, also Cleveland, Atlanta, Belleville, Natick (1958)
- 4. Seven cities: Atlanta, **Baltimore**, Belleville, Cleveland, Frankenmuth, Natick, **Tacoma** (1961)
- 5. Eight cities: Atlanta, Baltimore, Belleville, Cleveland, Fort Worth, Frankenmuth, Natick, Tacoma
- 6. Nine states: AZ, GA, IL, MD, MA, MI, OH, TX, WA (max locations 1964)
- 7. Eight states: AZ, GA, IL, MD, MA, MI, OH, WA (Texas removed 1967)
- 8. Seven states: GA, IL, MD, MA, MI, OH, WA (Arizona removed 1967)



Carling Company Takes Over Plant At Frankenmuth

land today took over the Frankenmuth Brewery of Inter-

Carling Brewing Co. of Cleve- national Breweries, Inc. Purchase price reportedly about \$3 million.

> The Frankenmuth Brewery. has a capacity of 450,000 barrels a year and is considered one of the most modern plants in the brewing industry.

Carling President Ian R. Dowie, here today to take formal possession of the plant, said it will be readied as quickly as possible for production of Carling's Black Label beer and Carling Red Cap ale.

He said no personnel changes are contemplated at the Frankenmuth plant. He announced that Lester M. Freidinger, former International Breweries vice-president and general manager of the Frankenmuth Division, has joined Carling as general manager of the Frankenmuth plant.

Freidinger, a Saginaw resident, is a veteran official in the brewing industry and has been associated with the Frankenmuth plant since 1937.

CARLING CONTRACTED to buy the Frankenmuth plant last July, but possession was delayed until International Breweries, Inc., completed arrangements for production of Frankenmuth brands at other plants, Dowie said.

He said Carling, which since 1949 has climbed from 62nd to eighth place in the brewing industry, regards the Frankenmuth plant as one of the most important additions to its chain of strategically-located regional breweries.

The firm has four other regional plants-in St. Louis, Boston, Belleville, Ill., and Cleveland.

"Carling is proud to join the industrial community of Frankenmuth and Central Michigan.' Dowie commented. "In each community where we have plants, Carling has developed a good record of corporate citizenship which we will endeavor to match here in your communities.

HE SAID THE CHANGE-OVER to Carling production at the Frankenmuth plant will require at least two months.

Dowie and other Carling officials were honor guests at a luncheon given today at Saginaw Club by Saginaw Division, Eaton Manufacturing Co., which also has home offices in Cleveland.

As documented above, the Carling Brewing of Cleveland acquired the former Frankenmuth Brewery which itself had been purchased by International Breweries just one year prior. Assuming some months of lead time to update/change equipment, that would put the first Carling flat top brands with Frankenmuth in 1957.

6.2 Black Label and Red Cap Ale – March 01, 1957



After months of preparation, Carling's new Michigan brewery, one of the most modern in the industry, is now producing Red Cap Ale and Black Label Beer...identical in every respect to the brews of distinguished quality you've previously enjoyed as products of out-of-state Carling plants.

CARLING BREWING COMPANY-Cleveland, Ohio; Belleville, Illinois; Frankenmuth, Michigan; Natick, Massachusetts

While bottles advertised, this is the early style green label with jockey and the "fancy scripted B and L" found on the earliest of the Frankenmuth Black Label and green Carling. Both these flat top cans thus 1957.

6.3 Frankenmuth Bock - February 02, 1961







Bummer no can or bottle pictured. This ad appeared in the Cassopolis Vigilant. Randy grew up in Dowagiac that just few miles drive over. Both cities nearly three-hour drive (today's highways) from Frankenmuth, interesting advertised such a long distance from the brewery. Nate's Beverage was well known in our small Dowagiac town...

Searches for a Bock ad in Ohio resulted in nothing...but it is that "state down south"

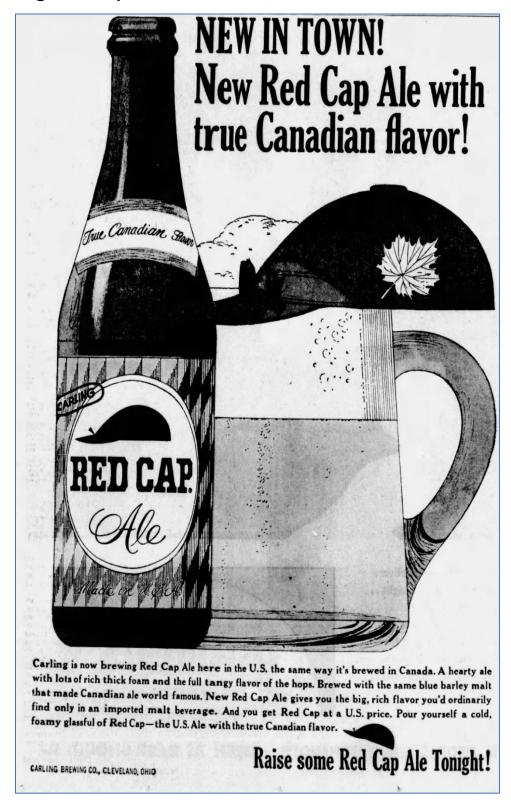


6.4 Carling Black Label – Fancy letters – January 06, 1962



Not clear exact date they switched from the fancy "B & L" to the newer scripted, but at least this artist rendering still uses the older style.

6.5 Carling Red Cap Ale – March 02, 1962



This is the newer yellow label, gone is the jockey and replaced with simple "red cap". Would put the equivalent yellow beer can design starting 1962. Could not find an ad for Frankenmuth, only Cleveland.

6.6 Black Label flat – Seven cities – May 28, 1963



Near the end of this run, still flat top, seven cities listed, before they added Forth Worth in 1964

6.7 Black Label in new zip top – June 10, 1963



OUR NEW TAB OPEN CAN -- This is our company's latest new package, the easy-to-open tab cans introduced June 10. The slick device is an aluminum pull-top designed to open beer cans without the conventional opener.

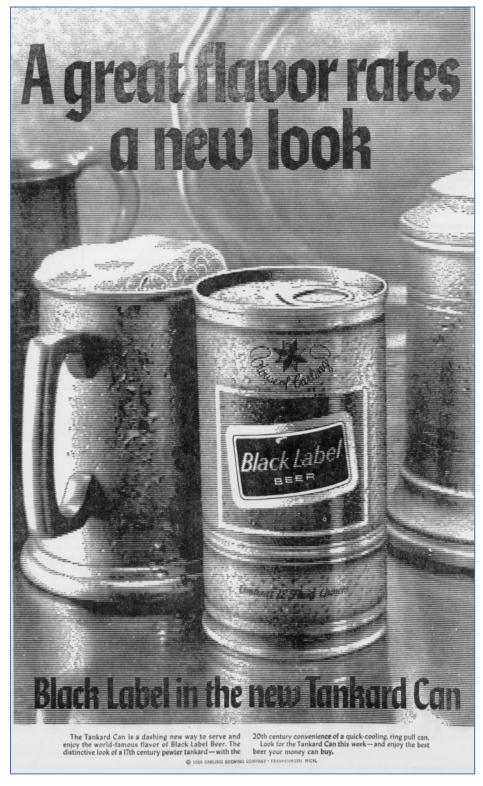
Notice the "B" and "L" on the packaging appears to be the earlier "fancy" with larger curl and flatter extension at bottom of the letters. The older style only came in flat tops. The newer "scripted B and L" on the cans in this ad is found on both the flats and zips/tabs. Consistent with other breweries using the new lid design.

6.8 Black Label zip top (color) - Summer 1964



Looks great in full color! This ad is dated summer 1964 and notice TWO different lid styles in the same ad! Middle is "Gen 4" vintage to roll the top cutting edge of the tab, the bottom right is "Gen 5" vintage, all edges rounded/smoother to help avoid the bloody fingers.

6.9 Black Label silver Tankard – June 25, 1969



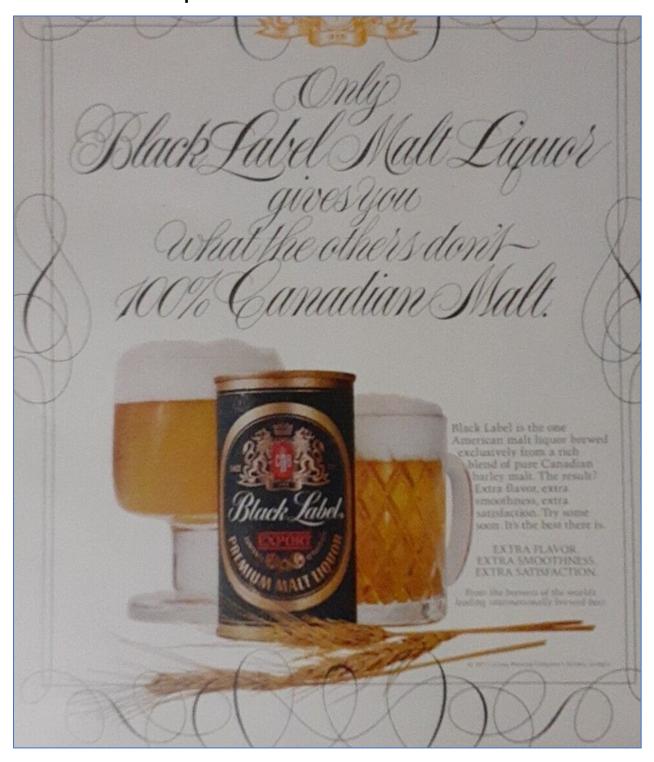
This provides at least 1969 as the production date of the silver tankard without the "from Carling" within the red square. The "from Carling" added to include extra "who is this brewed by" for other Carling plants, but no such 16oz Tankard filled at Frankenmuth with "from Carling" is currently known/photographed.

6.10 Black Label silver Tankard (color) - 1969



Full color similar to previous. This version it is clear there is the newer "from Carling" text within the red square. Now to locate such a 16oz example from Frankenmuth! Per Dave Wheaton he had both 16's at one time but well before digital cameras.

6.11 Black Label Export - 1971



Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Belleville, ILL; **Frankenmuth, MICH**; Natick, MASS; Tacoma, WASH. While multiple cities are listed, this label has been confirmed to have been brewed/packed at Frankenmuth per former plant manager Wallace Weiss.

6.12 Black Label pull tab - May 24, 1972



Newer style with the Black Label Lager Beer, "crown" above the usual angled rectangle, and standard 197x pull tab. Note the Michigan 10 cents return empty policy was signed into law 1976, not in effect until 1978.

7 Copper Country Brewing Company, Hancock: 1953-1954

Operated little over one year, so clear production dates. The "DNCMT 3.2%" was likely produced for sales in nearby Wisconsin or Minnesota. The former A. Haas brewery renamed to Copper Country. We can only speculate reason for the variation with "green finger nail polish". Very crudely done and NOT a fake since a handful of examples have been dumped. Likely they re-used existing blank sheets previously intended for MN but didn't sell well, and distributed locally to save \$\$\$. Michigan never had such an alcohol requirement.



7.1 New Copper Club Pilsner Beer – February 12, 1954



Too bad the cone top not pictured, but many collectors would gladly pay 79 cents for a six pack or \$3.00 for an entire case of these rare Copper Club cone tops. Of course \$3 in 1954 equates to \$35.19 in 2024 adjusted.

7.2 Haas renamed Copper Country – August 08, 1953

COPPER FLAVORED

HANCOCK (UP)— The Haas Brewing Co., which has been supplying Upper Michigan with beer since 1863, has changed its name to the Copper Country Brewing Co. The brewery is one of three in Michigan's Northern Peninsula. The others are at nearby Houghton and at Menominee.

7.3 Copper Country sold – September 09, 1954

Brewery Is Sold

HANCOCK, Sept. 9 (UP)—The Cohodas Paoli company, Houghton, purchased the Copper Country Brewing company here Wednesday for an undisclosed sum. Cohodas Paoli was the only bidder for the firm. The new owners said they were considering resuming operations of the old brewery.

Can't be any clearer than the above, Copper Country purchased the old Haas Brewery August 1953, and just barely a year later sold the business September 1954. Smaller market and short time frame, these beer can examples are not easy to acquire.

8 Drewrys Brewing Company, Detroit: 1965-1972

Actually, Associated Brewing Company DBA "Doing Business As" Drewrys Ltd. While Associated's headquarters were located in Detroit, items carrying the "Drewrys Ltd., Detroit, Mich" mandatory are somewhat difficult to find. Their only beer can is the red/gold/white shield can, super common from South Bend or Illinois, a very tough can listing Detroit, and a variation rarely dumped.



1965

8.1 Drewrys Muskegon ad – April 20, 1967



Comes the Spring, we get carried away.

Drewrys is the greatest cure in the world for spring fever. A single bottle is sure to cool down even the most severe cases. Naturally, our 6-pak is good for six attacks, the 12-pak for 12 attacks. However, we recommend you take precautionary measures for the entire season and stock

up with Drewrys by the carload. We've even made it easy for you to find us by putting up big "Drewrys Spring Festival" displays in taverns and carryouts. So before the fever strikes, play it safe. Pick up Drewrys right now. Better we get carried away than you.

Would really like to find an ad with the Detroit beer can itself, but this is representative of the time frame. This is from the Muskegon Chronicle, and definitely long distance from both Detroit and South Bend. A number of ads are found listing South Bend but published in newspapers far north such as Flint. Hard to read but the packaging is promoting their "Glass Cans". Nothing to do with Michigan, just a cool ad.

8.2 Drewrys 12oz Peel-Top cans – June 25, 1965

STILL YOUR BEST BEER BUY!

DREWRYS BEER

Expensive fuggle hops put Drewrys a hop ahead of all other beers . . . Because of this hop, Drewrys is able to brew a beer that doesn't have any bitterness. It's all good beer taste. The fuggle hop is more expensive than conventional hops. But Drewrys doesn't charge you for it.



SAVE MONEY!

ASK FOR

DREWRYS BEER

In 12-oz. Peel-Top Cans

From the Lansing State Journal. While doesn't state the brewery location, this is definitely the Detroit can design and correct time frame. Love the term "peel-top" cans. While the can has "Brewed and Packed By Drewrys Ltd, Detroit, Mich", this is definitely an Associated Brewing owned brand.

9 Ekhardt Becker Brewing Company, Detroit: 1933-1962



Items began carrying the "E&B" mandatory in 1944. E&B absorbed the Schmidt brewery in 1952, and E&B itself was acquired by Pfeiffer in 1962 as part of the newly formed "Associated Brewing Company".

Thus, anything with Ekhardt Becker must be between 1933-1944, anything with just the more modern E&B from 1944-1962



Note: The final two labels, the 1964 red/black/gold Schmidt's zip/fan, have the E&B mandatory but since EB ceased in 1962, obviously must have been from Associated Brewing DBA.

Fraud in Sale Of Brewery to 'E & B' Is Denied

Attorneys for former officials of the Regal Brewing Company, defendants in a fruad suit brought by the Ekardt & Becker Brewing Company, today denied that Regal sold a "worthless and bankrupt" company to E. & B. and insisted the purchasers got a bargain when they bought Regal for \$600,000.

In the suit, now being heard before Circuit Judge Arthur Webster, Le Roy Payne, E. & B. president, has charged that former officials of his company and officials of Regal entered into a conspiracy to unload the brewery on E. & B. at a profit of \$100,000.

Payne is seeking to have the sale set aside and the return of \$351,000 already paid on the contract. Defendants are Julius Burman, George Nadell and David I. Hubar, former E. & B. officials, and Joseph Zerelli, William Tocco, Anthony Dana, Sam Kert, Sam Cohen and Theodore I. Sweetwine of the Regal company.

CONSPIRACY DENIED

Speaking for the former Regal officials, Atty, Harold Shapero denied the conspiracy and said that the brewery which E. & B. purchased for \$600,000 had been

appraised at \$725,000.

"The defendants put \$440,000 in actual cash into the company," Shapero said, "and in the agreement with E. & B. they said they would pay off outstanding liabilities of \$200,000 out of the \$600,000 purchase Therefore, they actually received only \$400,000 for the brewery, and lost money on the deal."

This article included simply because of the E&B association with the old Regal Brewing Company. Newspaper search finds almost nothing with respect to Regal.

9.2 E&B Golden Bud - October 26, 1940



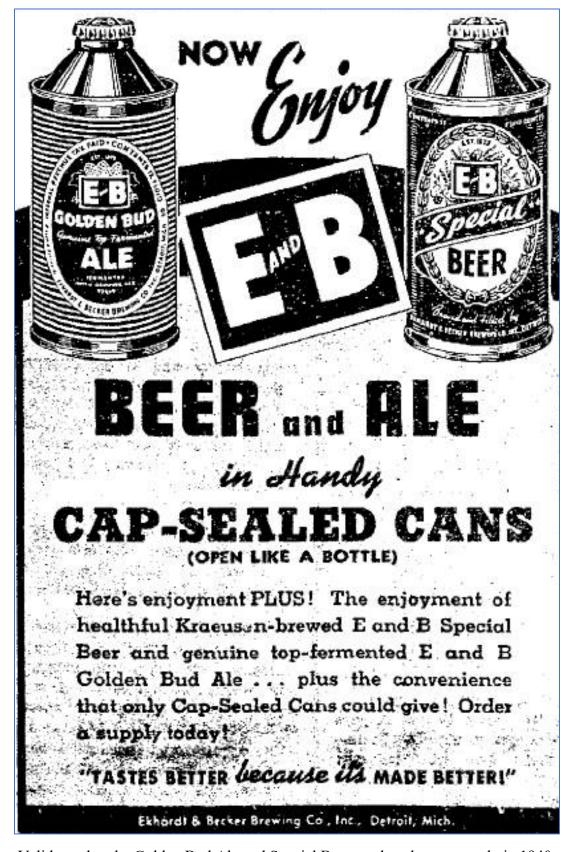
Would have been great to see this ad in full color, not black/white

9.3 E&B Special - May 17, 1940



Nice reference to the "Cap-Sealed Cans"

9.4 E&B Golden Bud and Special – 1940



Validates that the Golden Bud Ale and Special Beer produced concurrently in 1940.

9.5 E&B Light Lager – September 10, 1947



First post WWII brand. Still trying to find an ad with the beer can, but there are many ads mentioning the Light Lager brand earliest seems March, 1947. I have included this from September, 1947 simply because I like this one. Should date the E&B Light Lager cone first available 1947.

9.6 E&B Premium - May 28, 1948



Again, can't find ad with the beer can, but there are numerous ads 1948 advertising the "Premium" brand. This should date the E&B Premium cone first available 1948

9.7 E&B Brew "103" - April 15, 1952





While the ad shows the Brew "103" bottle, assumption the can introduced same year. This is the flat top design, never produced as a cone top, and should date the E&B Brew 103 flat first available 1952.

9.8 E&B Brew "103" Light - November 14, 1957



Newer label now adding "Light Beer" to the "Brew 103" brand. Note the Schmidt's on the left now carrying what looks like the Superman "S" flat top logo, but the wording to its right has "No Sugar, No Glucose Added"

9.9 Schmidt's Superman – September 05, 1958



Can't find an ad with the beer can, but this is the label with the "Superman" S-logo and they have revived "The Natural Brew" slogan as found on the can. Many repeats of this exact ad over 1958-1959.

9.10

TODAY IN BUSINESS

, Pfeiffer to Merg

BY KENNETH A. THOMPSON

Free Press Financial Writer

A preliminary agreement for merger of E&B Brewing Co. with Pfeiffer Brewing Co. has been approved by directors of the two Detroit companies.

Herbert Epstein, Pfeiffer president, and Leonard H. Simons, E&B chairman, an-



nounced the arrangement. They said terms call for a \$900.-000 exchange of stock under which E&B stockholders will receive one share of Pfeiffer common for

each five shares of E&B common now held.

E&B has 1,500,000 shares They have been outstanding. trading at 50 cents bid and 75 cents asked in the over-thecounter market. Pfeiffer shares closed at \$3 Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange.

THE AGREEMENT, the two officers said, will be submitted for stockholder approval "promptly." E&B has approximately 3,000 shareholders and Pfeiffer 3,900.

Present plans call for continuation of the E&B name Epstein and Simons said.

E&B in 1961 reported net sales of \$178,000 and net earnings of \$222,910.

Pfeiffer Brewing last year had \$16,172,000 net sales and net profit of \$148,927, but its firs half this year, as did 1961's first half, brought a net loss on operations. Both E&B and Pfeiffer have slipped this year

Pfeiffer's operates a brew ing plant in Minneapolis as wel as its Detroit plant.

The original ad was a tall, skinny column, Randy simple edited for the book

10 Food City Brewing Company, Battle Creek: 1933-1942

The history of this brewery is murky, associated with the much larger Manhattan Brewing Company of Chicago, IL. It is questionable if these were actually filled in Battle Creek or simply marketed? There are four variations documented with MBC, one two-panel OI, two four-panel OI, and an example from this brewery with the Food City information blackened paint over displaying Manhattan Brewing.



1937



1938

10.1 Food City Brewing Company photo



FOOD CITY BEER SCHEDULED FOR MARKET APRIL

Brewing Operations Are To Start in Plant Here Next Few Days.

Food City beer, the first beverage in America to be browed in
the new patented glass-lined brow
kettles will be placed on the
market for consumption about
April 1, it was announced today
by officials of the Food City Browing company, Beer will be marketed both in bottles and kegs.

Now open in its new building on Elm street, said to be one of the most modern brewing plants in the-mid-west, the Food City company is prepared to start brewing operations early in Pebruary, possibly ment Monday, with upwards of 100 employes. This would permit the company to have its product-property aged for the spring market.

Two Bix-Hour Shifts.

During construction of its new plant, recently completed, the Food City company instituted an employment feature of two six-hour shifts, which will undoubtedly be continued when brewing activity is started, company officials declared. The plant is being operated on a 100 per cent union basis and in its preliminary preparations for brewing has been receiving favorable comment, both locally and in national trade and business magazines.

At the outset the Food City Brewing company will have a capacity production of approximately 100,000 barrels of heer annually. It is reported that distributors in the state of Michigan alone have contracted for the entire first

The brewing equipment is now practically all installed. The brew kettles, consisting of two of 100 barrels each are glass-lined and are reported to be the first to be used by a brewery in America. All of the equipment is reported to be of the most recent developments in the brewing industry in both this country and abroad. The new type ice machines, the installation of which is practically completed, have a capacity of all the or see every 14 hours, and are used to keep in perfect refrigeration the storage and fermenting cellars of the plant and the racking room, which required approximately 100,

February 01, 1934

Hard to read but only mentions bottles and kegs, which does make sense since the Krueger introduction of those new-fangled "Special" flat tops was just months earlier. The Old Gold cans did not appear until 1937-1938

FIRST PRODUCT IS SOLD TODAY

Food City Brewing Co., Places Draft Beer in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo Stores.

IS HOST TO VISITORS

Claim Local Process Is 'Most Radical Change in Brewing in Century'

The Food City Brewing Co., located on Elm street, today opened its doors to visitors identified with the brewing business from all parts of the middlewest and, while planning a public opening later, introduced its new beverage to the market.

Processes devised to improve the quality of beer are now perfected and in use at the Food City Brewing Co., and today were receiving tribute from leaders in the newly-revived brewing industry.

Bottling Comes Next

Battle Creek, it was revealed, is the first to have a modern brewing plant with the new Siebel process which constitutes "the most radical change of the last 100 years in the ancient Teutonic art of brewing."

With its first batch of beer now on the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo markets, the Food City Brewing Co., according to William Shippy, general manager, will have its bottling plant in operation sometime next week and will be able to fill orders and meet inquiries from all parts of the United States. For the time being only draught beer is under production.

Already Employ 80

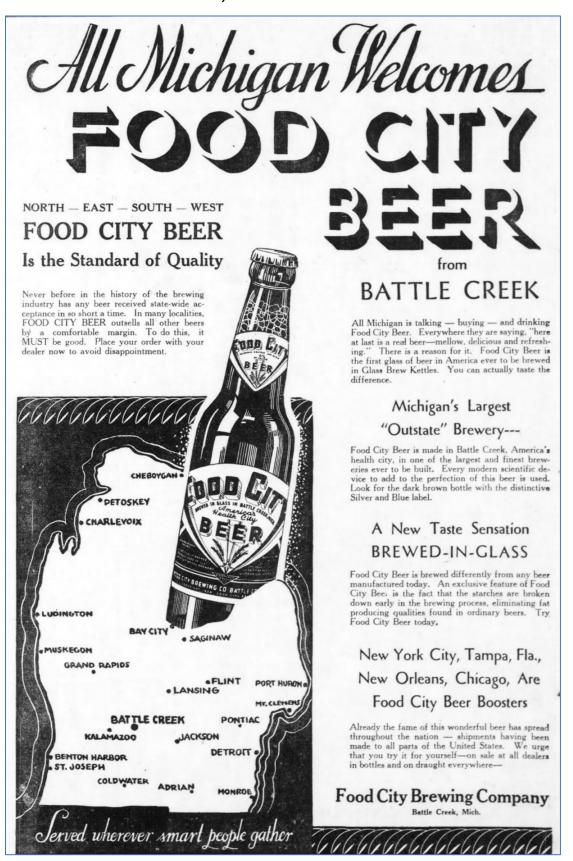
The opening of the plant, an entirely new industry for Battle Creek, has already meant the employment of 80 persons, there being three shifts in the brewing department working 24 hours a day.

The Siebel process, used for the first time here, is a development resulting from nine years research and experiment by Dr. Frederick P. Siebel, Chicago brewing scientist and son of the late Dr. John Ewald Siebel, "father of American brewing" to whom a bust was dedicated in the industrial science hall at the World's fair last year. Both Mr. Siebel, Sr., and his son were at the Battle Creek plant today to taste and inspect the first batch of beer They declared that it compared favorably with the best that Europe had to offer, and, of course, believed that it had no superior in the United States.

Attracts Wide Attention

Involving only slight changes in the chemistry of brewing the system is essentially one of processing methods and equipment—much of the latter drawn from other industries and adapted to brewery use, Mr. Shippy said.

Completed about a month ago the brewery has attracted wide attention in brewing circles, and rival manufacturers were on hand today to try out the local beverage. various scientific details of the process have been discussed in trade magazines of the brewing industry. particularly the feature which permits the new plant a twenty percent reduction in original equipment costs. The plant occupies just about half the space of a brewery of the conventional type. Among the changes are a higher percentage of enzymes left in the finished product. which act as a digestive agent and are said to lower the aging time required for beers of the finer type. The local plant expects to cut the long aging period of beer of this type to six weeks-the time allotted ordinary brews.



11 Fox Deluxe Brewing Company, Grand Rapids: 1940-1951

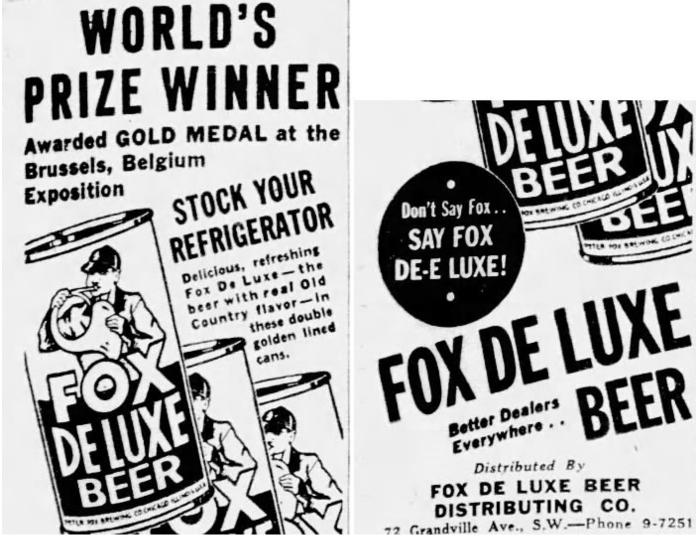
Operated for eleven years but little information found online. A variety of highly collectible cans were produced, cones and flats, including a very rare OD camouflage can for WWII.

Michigan specialist Kevin Foley published a great article in the BCCA magazine, 2004, August/September, that provides details and pictures of tough breweriana items.





11.1 Fox De Luxe Beer – August 8, 1939



While "72 Grandville Ave" is indeed a Grand Rapids address, note the "Fox De Luxe Beer Distributing Co", not "Brewing". This must be the Chicago version whose label was the first generation filled in Grand Rapids. So many ads early 1940's showing the brand in 12oz and quart bottles, yet to find any with beer cans.

11.2 Fox De Luxe Beer – December 17, 1939



Still Chicago, not Grand Rapids, but nice ad showing the Fox design team not completely without talent

11.3 Fox De Luxe - Now In Michigan - April 24, 1941



Bottle not can, but at least lists the Grand Rapids location spring 1941. Reading this ad details, earliest would have been distributed should be 1941

11.4 Fox De Luxe Beer – October 31, 1947



Ad with the Grand Rapids, Michigan location

11.5 The New Fox Deluxe – September 20, 1948

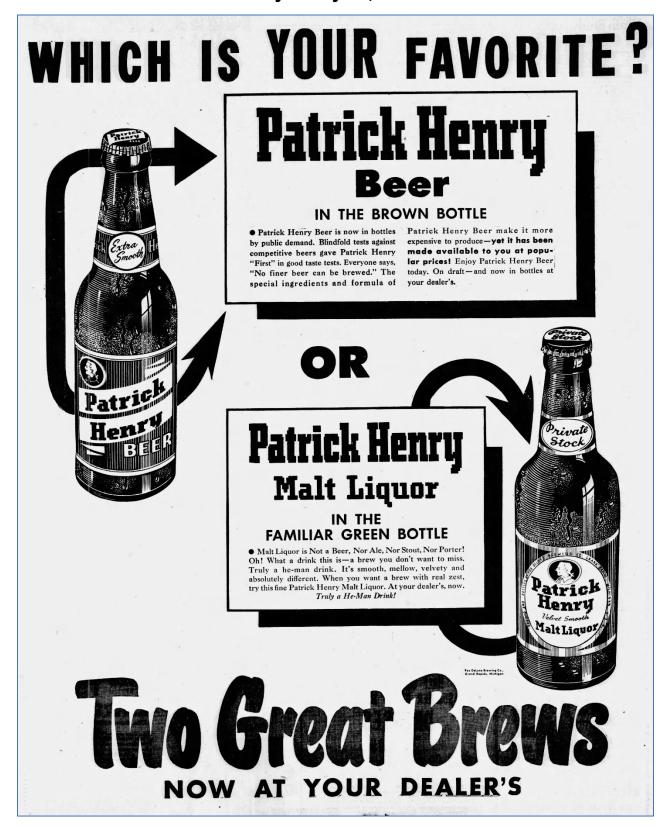


Not clear what is "new", seems same beer label as previous year. Where are the dang beer cans???

11.6 Fox Deluxe Alpine – June 16, 1950



Finally, some beer can love. This ad ran for several months earlier showing just the three bottles, but in this one the graphic designer shifted them a bit and added picture of the Alpine beer can!



Can't yet find the beer cans advertised, but this corresponds to the brown (IRTP) and green Patrick Henry cans

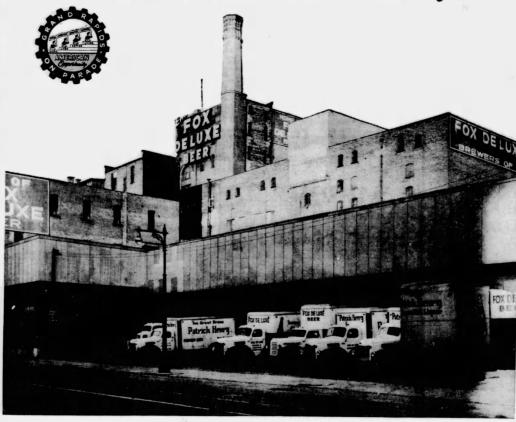
11.8 Fox Deluxe Patrick Henry – August 18, 1949



This corresponds to the Magistrate beer can. Multiple ads run concurrently asking "which is your favorite" between the three, showing Fox Deluxe was producing the labels same time period

GRAND RAPIDS' ONLY BREWERY

Moves Ahead With a Great City!



BREWERS OF

FOX DELUXE BEER

FOX DELUXE BEER is famous for its balanced flavor — never bitter, never sweet — but just right. Slowly, thoroughly aged, Fox DeLuxe with its satisfying flavor holds millions of old friends . . . wins thousands of new.

AND

PATRICK HENRY

Patrick Henry Premium Beer-

Here is an extra pale, dry beer—premiumbrewed and gold'n clear. Brewed and bottled for those who appreciate gracious living. Truly the Finest of All Premium Beer.

Patrick Henry Malt Liquor-

in the green bottle. It's different! Not beer, ale, porter or stout. You'll like its velvety smooth, mellow flavor. Try the He-Man's drink and be convinced.

A bit hard to read, but trucks advertise both Fox Deluxe and Patrick Henry

11.10 End of Fox Deluxe: Grand Rapids - December 14, 1951

Fox Deluxe Brewing Co., Grand Rapids brewing concern since 1940, will suspend operations but continue to function through distributors.

Peter Fox Brewing Co., Chicago, with which the Peter Fox concern is affiliated, will supply distributors.

12 Frankenmuth Brewing Company, Frankenmuth: 1933-1954

Operated for several decades but hard to search for information since appears now home of the modern Frankenmuth micro-brewery. A range of nice beer cans produced, from pre-war cones to post-war flats.

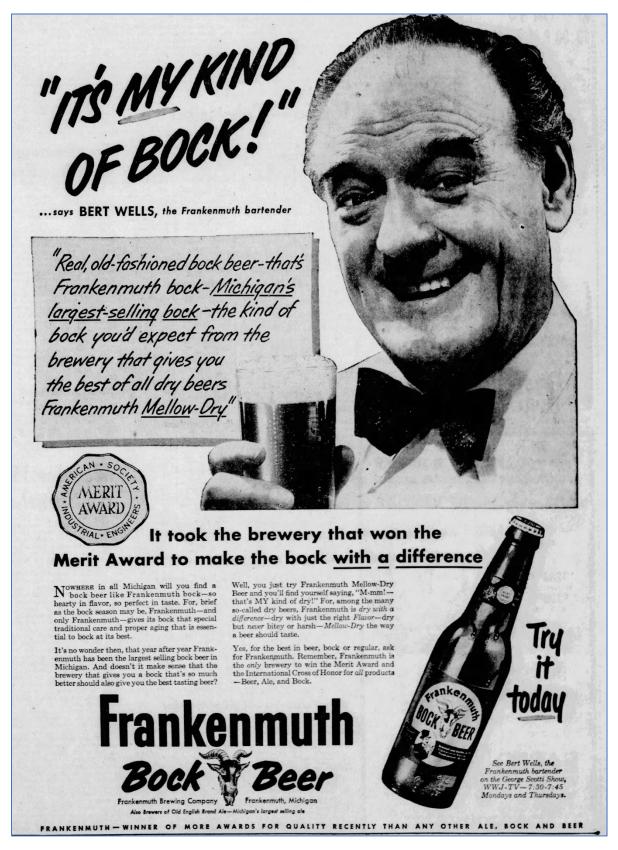


12.1 Frankenmuth Dog Gone Good – August 19, 1948



These are the "Dog Gone Good" and "Old English Brand Ale" bottles, but where are the can pictures?

12.2 Frankenmuth Bock - March 15, 1951



Too bad this goat design never made it onto a beer can

12.3 Frankenmuth Nut Brown Bock - March 1954



Great to see ad showing the bock beer can!

12.4 Frankenmuth Mellow Dry - August 02, 1951



12.5 Frankenmuth Mel-O-Dry – April 13, 1955



How did this ad show up while I was searching for National Brewing ads??? The newspaper archives are great, but software is deterministic, how can the same keywords entered on different days get different results?

13 Geyer Brothers Brewing Company, Frankenmuth: 1949-1986

Operated under the name Geyer Brothers for number of years yet only produced three beer can designs carrying the Geyer Brothers mandatory, and only the Frankenmuth Light was ever filled, and even then only 368 cases in 1974. The Frankenmuth Dark and Geyer's Lager cans were never sold to the public.

A Relationship of Sebewaing Beer and Geyer's Brothers in Frankenmuth

March 9, 2014

My sisters, brothers, and parents have been in frequent communications with me since I started this project. My father, William B. Thede has been calling me several times a week whenever he remembers something about the brewery. His last call was good for some history that perhaps never would have been revealed otherwise.



One of Many Beer Labels from Geyer Brother's Brewery

Shortly after my dad's discharge from the Army in April 1963, he was asked by his Father, Otto H. Thede to drive his



John Kintenko (holding case), William B. Thede (most right), Army Photo Stationed in Fort Polk, LA

green Jeep to Geyer's Brothers Brewing in Frankenmuth with three stainless steel buckets of yeast from the Sebewaing Brewery. That would mean in 1963, this brewery in Frankenmuth used Sebewaing Beer yeast to restart the brewery and some of the future Geyer's Brothers labeled beer!

There was interest from Geyer's Brothers to purchase the Sebewaing Brewery in 1966 when it was clear the State of Michigan was insistent on the payoff of back taxes. For whatever reason(s) and as the locals know, it never happened.



14 Goebel Brewing Company, Detroit: 1873-1964



Operated in some form from 1873 to 1964, other than closed during prohibition, until acquired by Strohs in 1964. Goebel and Stroh become major competitors in the state and had brew houses facing each other across Gratiot Avenue. There is an entire chapter dedicated to Goebel in Peter Bluhm's book.

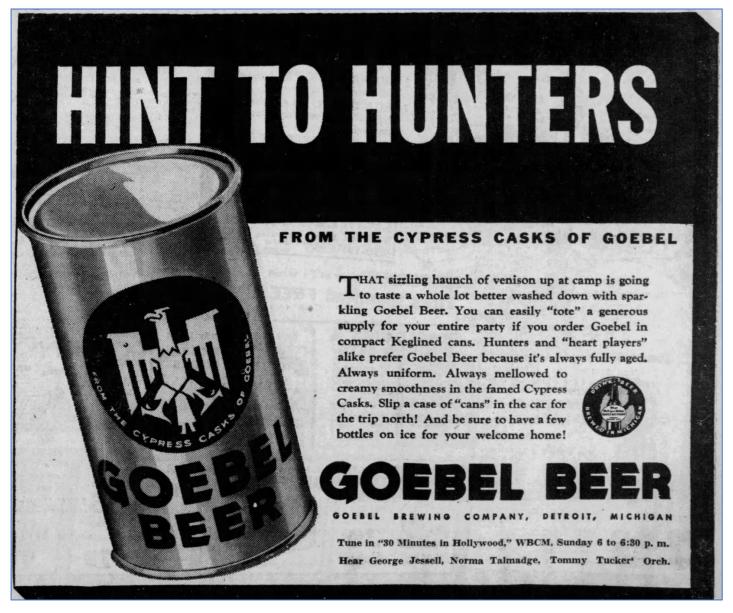
So many different beer cans produced, pre-WWII, OD, cones, flats, tabs, 8oz, rare 11oz, many 12oz through 16oz (no quarts). There is a large amount of breweriana advertisement pieces.







14.1 Goebel German Eagle - November 11, 1937



Note the earlier style German eagle. This was later changed to the more modern American eagle with the Goebel Gold Label brand due to negative publicity during WWII.

14.2 Goebel German Eagle - October 10, 1936



14.3 Goebel German Eagle – August 13, 1936



Multiple ads, same brand, since a rare can and the copper minty really pops!

14.4 Goebel Gold Label – August 9, 1939



Note the ad mentions "export" and "E-Z to carry 12 and 24 can cartons". So far unable to find any ads that actually show the packaging other than bottle carriers. And where was the "Export" going? Likely Canada.

BREWED AND PACKED BY GOEBEL BREWING CO., DETROIT, MICHIGAN "WITHDRAWN FREE OF INTERNAL REVENUE TAX FOR EXPORTATION " 12 FLUID QUINCES OR 35.5 CENTILITIES



14.5 Goebel Gold Label – August 08, 1941



Same American eagle for years, slightly different side panels

14.6 Goebel Gold Label - September 17, 1941



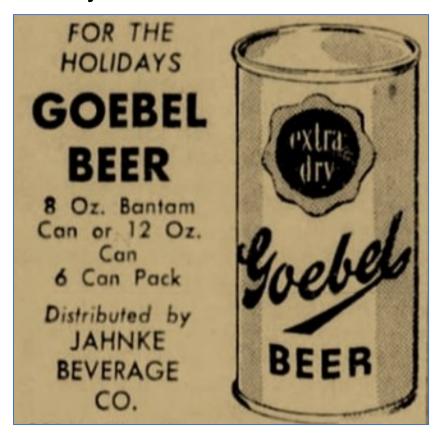
Simply cool to see an early ad with some color. Strange though not a Sunday ad, but instead Wednesday

14.8 Goebel Extra Dry - 1948



All breweries likely sent colorful annual reports to their shareholders, so few documents survive today

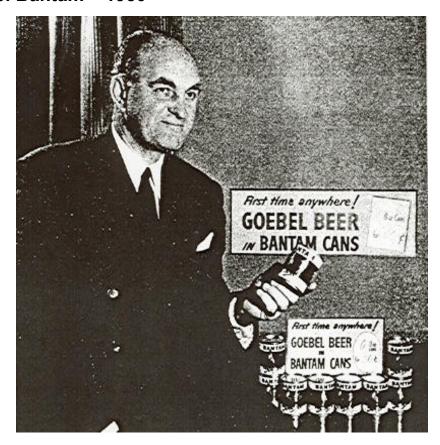
14.9 **Goebel Extra Dry – 8oz Bantam or 12oz – 1950**





For so many Goebel 8oz brands, ads featuring the actual cans are very hard to find in Michigan papers

14.11 Goebel Bantam - 1950



Goebel President Edwin Anderson, holds one of the new 8oz Goebel cans in a 1950 publicity photo. Image borrowed from Mark Benbow's Rusty Cans website.

14.12 Goebel Bantam 8oz – February 06, 1951





14.14 Goebel Bantam - Old Original - July 20, 1951



Note this is the rare green Goebel Old Original Ale. This seems clear was filled as early as 1951





14.17 Goebel 22 - Family Pak - September 15, 1954

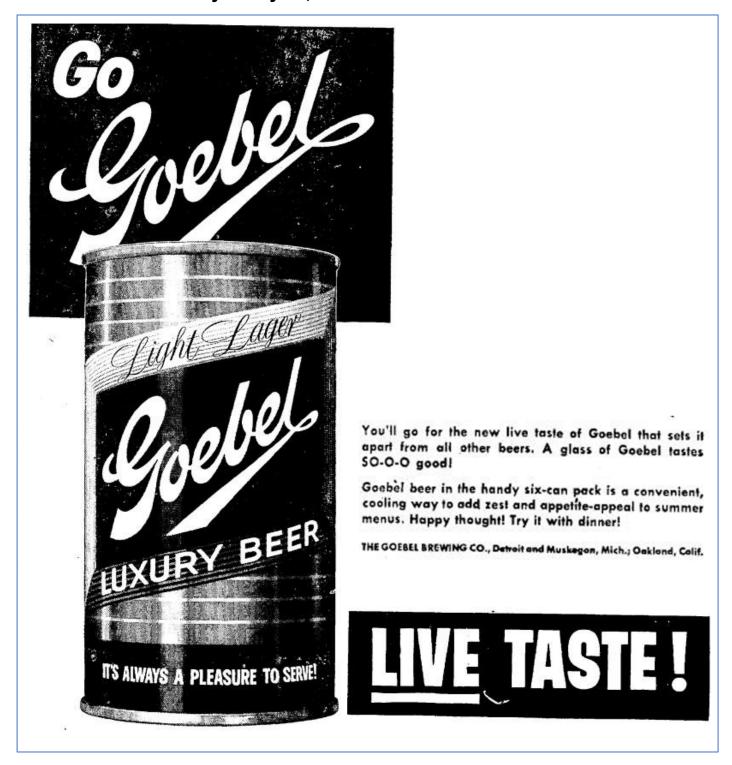


14.18 Goebel Bantam - Nationally Famous - September 22, 1954



Nice to see the "Luxury Pak" packaging for the Nationally Famous

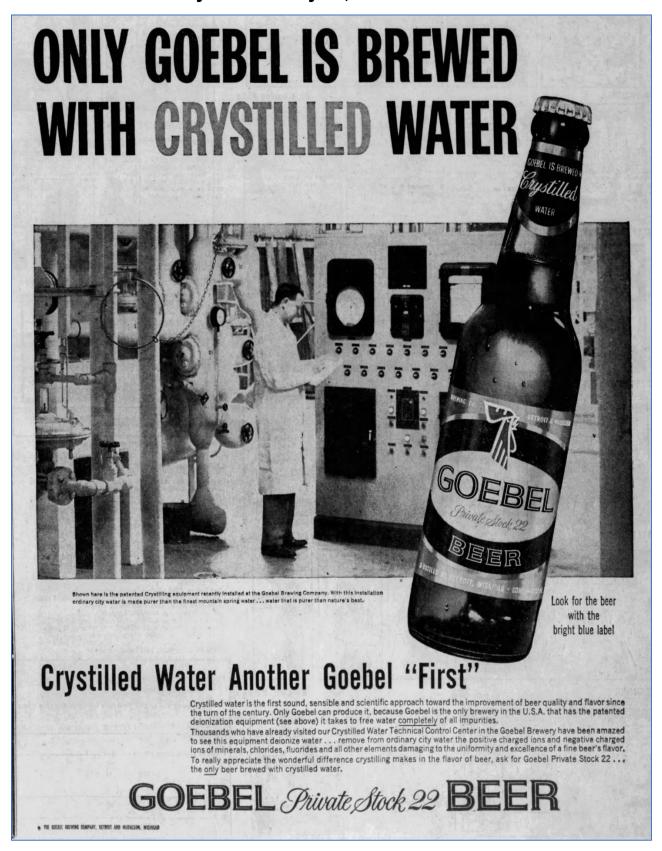
14.19 Goebel Luxury – July 26, 1955



The original ad ran as a tall vertical strip. Randy has split into three pieces and increased size of the text area to make it somewhat readable in smaller paper book size.



Chris finally found a 16oz Goebel ad, and it is the ultra-rare red/gold enamel half quart!





Drink Hearty! Drink Goebel!

CRYSTILLED TO GIVE YOU BIGHER BIGHER

Wonderful. Smooth. Satisfying. These are a few of the many ways to describe today's Goebel. It's the only beer that's Crystilled by a master brewer's process to bring out all the Big Beer Taste of the finest malt and hops. Treat yourself to Crystilled Goebel today. Discover the smooth flavor of the Big Beer Taste!



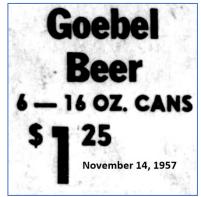
The Goobel Browing Company, Detroit, Michigan

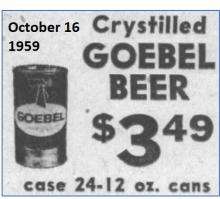


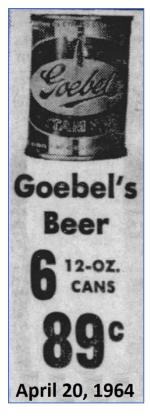
14.23 Some miscellaneous other Goebel brands

Strange that Goebel did such a good job newspaper advertising 1930-1950's but with later brands few and far between, and Chris able to find just some store/distributor mentions.













Will Produce Guinness ...

Goebel Investing \$2 Million Here

Muksegon plant of the Goebel Brewing Company is nearing completion of a large re-equipping and remodeling operation to make it a brew center for Guinness Ale and Guinness Lager Beer, brews now produced by Goebel's under a licensing agreement with the Guinness firm, of London and Dublin.

Guinness products will be distributed nationally from the Muskegon plant, which will produce only these brews. The Goebel beer will be brewed at the company's Detroit and Oakland, Calif., plants.

Edwin J. Anderson reported from Detroit today that current plans for the local brewery call for installation here during the summer of a complete canning operation to supplement the plant's modern bottling line installed last year, with other improvements, at cost of over \$2,000,000.

MAIN FEATURES of the plant conversion job are installation of air filtering and water filtering and distillation apparatus ordered by the Guinness firm. J. Wilson Smith, Muskegon plant manager, said the Guinness brew process "is exceptionally intricate and exacting, requiring much special equipment to assure the water used is free of chemical additives and foreign matter, and that air in the plant is filtered to remove industrial, diesel and other engine fumes, and aerosol matter."

He said a special yeast is used in the fermentation process, requiring considerable care and the attention of expert brewmasters. The plant already has processed several test batches of the ale and lager beer, and is awaiting opinion of a Guinness company brew expert on the result. If all goes well, it is expected the plant will be in full production within two months.

The Muskegon plant closed Nov. 10, 1954, about a month after announcement of the Guinness agreement. The closing resulted from the decision to convert the local plant to exclusive Guinness production.

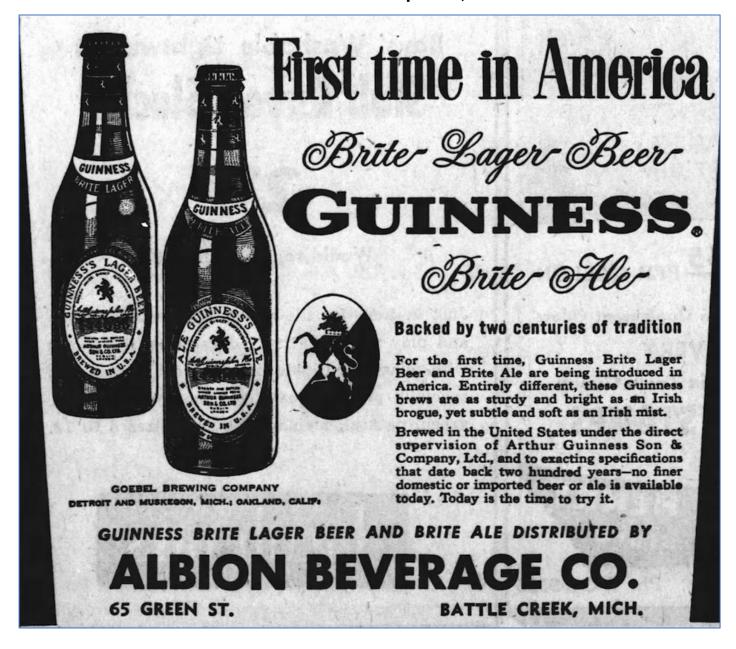
Robert Schiffler, assistant to Mr. Anderson, said ultimate capacity of the plant here has not yet been determined. The bottling lines installed last year had a capacity for processing 1,000,000 bottle cases a year, or 24,000,000 bottles. An added canning operation would expand this considerably.

The Muskegon Chronicle

The original article ran as a long column, content has been copy/paste for better book formatting.

THE PLANT now has new control switchboards, plumbing, lighting and power facilities and a new cooling room. A modern brewery taproom will be completed by time the plant is in full operation. During the six-month reequipment shutdown Muskegon area Goebel's distributors were served from the Detroit plant.

A partial work force now is on the job in the experimental phase with the new brews and yeast cultures. Mr. Smith reported when the product is approved for marketing the plant's operating staff of between 42 and 45 will be called back to work. He said production of the new brews is "sufficiently similar in process to make unnecessary any wide-scale re-training program for employes.



14.26 Goebel Guinness Bottles - July 17, 1956



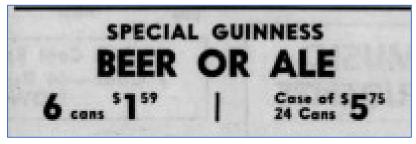
Note the original ad ran as a tall/skinny strip, edited to show the pieces side-by-side for better book format. This ad ran for many months, but depicted only bottles, why no love for beer cans!

14.27 Goebel Guinnes Ale and Beer – 1956-1957



Can you help fill in the missing lot/vat numbers? Per the Lewandowski brothers, all numbers were accounted for at one time. Also, would really love to find any advertisements that show Guinness beer cans pictured.

14.28 Guinness Beer or Ale – February 10, 1956



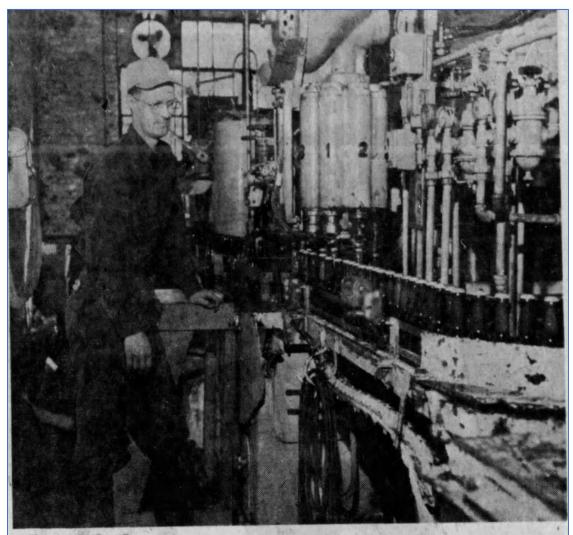
From the Times: Munster, Indiana

14.29 Oakland plant closing – January 17, 1957

DETROIT—Goebel Brewing Co. announced the sale of its idle Oakland, Calif., brewery and the discontinuance of its production of Guinness ale and beer. Edwin J. Anderson, president, said the California plant was sold for \$400,000 and at a book loss. The loss, he

added, will enable the company to recover \$500,000 in cash on its 1954 income taxes and an additional \$400,000 refund will be due the company as a result of its dropping Guinness. Substantial operating losses also will be eliminated, Anderson said.

14.30 Muskegon plant closing – September 26, 1957



End of the Line... Muskegon plant Goebel Brewing Company employe Carl Granbacka inspects and tests with meticulous care today as what will be the last brew of the local plant goes down the capping line headed for casing and shipment. The plant closes its doors tomorrow, ending the 81-year history of the brewing industry in Muskegon. Goebel personnel executives from Detroit are here to help the 60 local plant workers find new employment. The brewing company is holding a farewell party at Doo Drop Inn tonight for all plant workers. (Chronicle Staff Photo)

14.31 End of Goebel Detroit - April 1964

Goebel Brewing Sold

DETROIT (UPI)-The Goebel

Brewing Co. has been sold to

an unnamed client for \$1.9 mil-

lion, Federal Judge Ralph M.

Freeman confirmed Monday.

Strohs Proves Buyer Of Distressed Goebel

STROHS PROVES—2 _ STATE DETROIT & — Stroh Brewery Co. of Detroit disclosed Tuesday it had been the "mystery buyer" of the debt-ridden Goebel Brewing Co. The \$1.95 million sale was confirmed Monday by U.S. District Judge Ralph M. Freemen, but he withheld the purchaser's name at the time.

STROH BUYS GOEBEL

DETROIT (AP)—Stroh Brewers Co. of Detroit disclosed Tuesday it had been the "mystery buyer" of the debt-ridden Goebel Brewing Co. The \$1.95 million sale was confirmed Monday by U. S. District Judge Ralph M. Freemen, but he withheld the purchaser's name at the time.

Stroh Brewery Buys Goebel

DETROIT (UPI) — Stroh
Brewery Co., disclosed Tuesday
it was the "mystery buyer" of
the debt-ridden Goebel Brewing
Company, which once was the
leading beer producer in Michigan.

Federal Judge Ralph M. Freeman approved sale of Goebel for \$1,950,000 on Monday, but the identity of the purchaser was withheld at that time.

John W. Strob, president of Stroh Brewery, cleared up the mystery Tuesday and announced that the sale included the Goebel brands and that production and sale of those brands would continue.

However, Stroh did not specify whether 160 workers at the Goebel's plant would be retained or whether the plant would continue in operation. Stroh said it would be some time before a decision on use of the plant would be made.

Handful of articles different newspapers April 1964. This means anything with the Goebel mandatory after 1964 must be Stroh DBA

14.32 Goebel Real Draft Beer - June 30, 1966



Note the newer aluminium, taller can which would likely have the "drawn rocket bottom"

14.33 Goebel Golden Light Lager – October 1968



Earliest mention of "Light Lager", all other ads during this time period are of the "Real Draft"

14.34 Goebel Golden Light Lager – April 11, 1970



Stroh purchased Goebel April 1964, yet many later years still carried the "Goebel Brewing, Detroit" mandatory. At least this ad does mention Stroh

15 A. Haas Brewing Company, Hancock: 1942-1952

The city of Hancock is located north end of a short bridge spanning an inlet from Lake Superior emptying into Portage Lake, with city of Houghton just across the bridge on the south end. Strange the Hancock brewery address is also listed as "Atlantic & 600 Emma Streets", so must have been renamed and/or minor relocation. The only cans produced are Copper Club cone tops, and brewery renamed Copper Country in 1952.



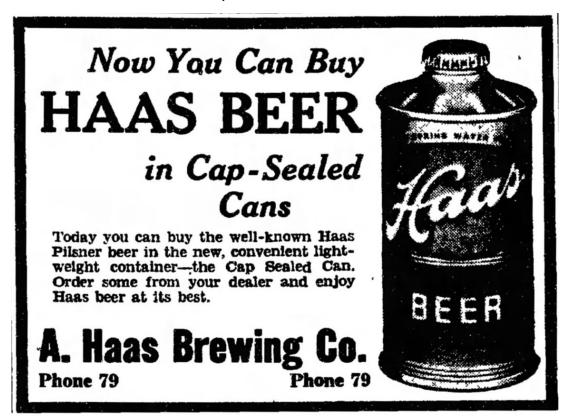


16 A. Haas Brewing Company, Houghton: 1933-1942

The Houghton brewery remained active/listed during Prohibition which makes it an oddity, likely producing "near beer" during that period. Only one beer can brand produced, Haas with large red oval, but three variations of the "water" statement above the red oval. Address listed as "Atlantic & 600 Emma Streets". Looks like the lakefront building was demolished after the company moved across the short bridge to Hancock.



16.1 Haas LP - November 12, 1937



16.2 Haas LP – December 12, 1937



By Jiminy, it DOES Taste Better!!

Beer drinkers have always agreed that they like the mellow flavor, the rich body we brew into our beer.

But such taste must be carefully protected between the brewery and your glass That's why we put our beer in Cap Sealed Can—the can that's made for beer, and made for your convenience.

Try some tonight in your own home and see if you don't agree with other good indges of fine beer that "By Jiminy, it does taste better" in its modern new container.

Also In Bottles And On Draught.

TEN REASONS WHY THE CAP SEALED CAN IS BETTER FOR BEER.

- Opens and pours like a bottle.
- 2. Special lining applied after can is made guards taste
- 3. Beer flows from a clean cap-protected opening
- 4. Small opening keeps out flavor-robbing oxygen
- 5. Can shields beer from harmful light
- 6. Cools faster
- 7. No deposits; no returns
- 8. Saves half the weight
- Takes less room in refrigerator
- 10. Drink right from can.

Haas Brewing Co. Branch Tel. 1835 or 279

-ALSO IN BOTTLES AND ON DRAUGHT-

16.3 Haas LP - July 08, 1938



16.4 Haas LP – July 22, 1938



The beer can photos in the above Haas ads are indeed hard to read, but at least they are trying to promote their brand with 1930's technology, and frankly a more attractive design than much larger Fox Deluxe...

17 Honer Brewing Company, Battle Creek: 1940-1943

Previously the Silver Foam Brewing Company, 66 S McCamly St, 1938-1940. Renamed the Honer Brewing Company. Only one brand produced, Honer's, in both J-spout and HP variations. Both very rare in top condition, and a 1+ J-spout could not be located during the years of MBC photography.



17.1 Quit until war's end – January 02, 1943

Brewery to Quit Until War's End

Honer Squeezed Between Costs and Price Ceiling; Continues Making Ice.

The Honer Brewing Co., brewer of Silver Foam beer and owner of the City Ice Co., has announced that it will suspend production of beer for the duration of the war.

The loss of six brewery trained employes who cannot be replaced, and war-time restrictions affecting the business were factors that caused officials of the firm to discontinue brewery operations, G. E. Britten, vice president of the firm, said.

Mr. Britten explained that increased material prices have raised the cost of production to such an extent that it is no longer possible to sell the company's beer at the ceiling prices set by the government.

He said equipment in the plant would be maintained in such shape that operations could be resumed immediately should the situation charge. Some of the employes of the brewery will be absorbed by the City Ice Co.

The firm is headed by William Honer, president, Mr. Britten, and William C. Berger, secretary and treasurer. The company has operated the brewery for nine years. Production last year totalled 25,000 barrels.

Unfortunately, Honer never reopened

18 International Brewing Company, Frankenmuth: 1955-1956

Operated just over one short year, so any cans carrying this mandatory pretty clear date produced. Frankenmuth Brewing shareholders sold in 1955 to a newly formed corporation International Breweries Inc, and after just one year, sold the Frankenmuth brewery plant to Carling's of Canada.



18.1 International / E&B lawsuit – September 30, 1956

Leroy Payne, president of E & B Brewing, disclosed last week that International Brewing Co. has dropped its suit for breach of contract against E & B. International had sued, alleging that E & B agreed to sell its plant at 2437 Orleans, which then left International Brewing free to sell its Frankenmuth plant to Carling Breweries. . . .

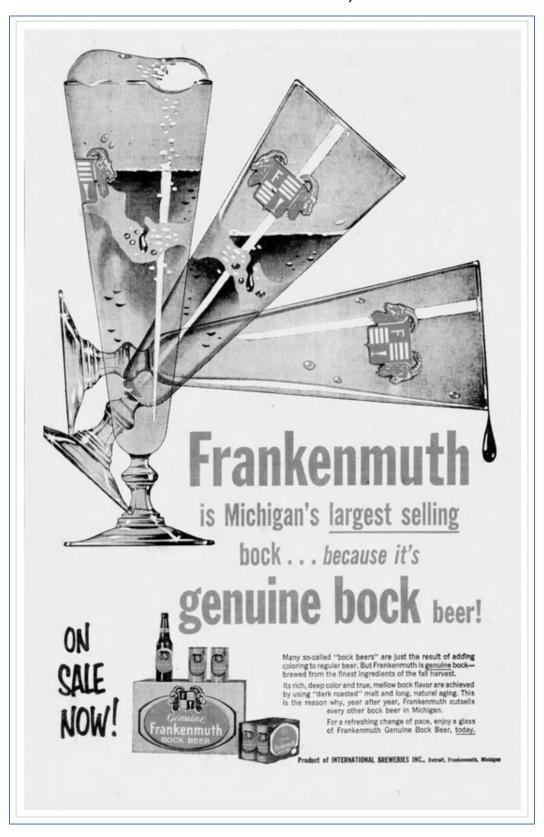
18.2 Frankenmuth Mel-O-Dry – June 08, 1955



18.3 Frankenmuth Beer and Ale "New Look" - July 20, 1955



18.4 Frankenmuth Genuine Bock – March 14, 1956



19 Menominee Brewing Company, Menominee: 1933-1961

Note: Full name is "Menominee-Marinette Brewery Company" but so dang long..

Would be great to include some additional advertisements since little can be found about brewery details. Especially would be great to see ads for the Big Mac!



19.1 Menominee Silver Cream cones – 1953



19.2 Menominee Champion – May, 1941



Left: May 03, 1941 **Right**: August 10, 1941

19.3 Menominee Champion – May, 1941



Nice to see the packaging included in the ad and the holiday still called "Decoration Day"

19.4 Menominee Champion – May 22, 1948



While brewed and filled in Menominee, this ad helps show that the breweries did distribute their beer to other states. This example, sold in Appleton, Wisconsin

19.5 Menominee Champion – August 16, 1950



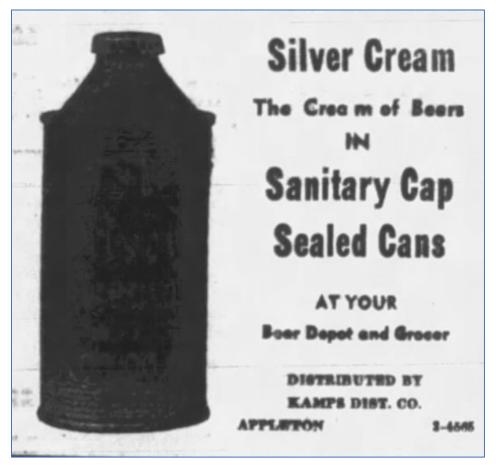
Should be the rare non-IRTP variation, since the government requirement was dropped in March 1950. This ad also confirms the Champion cone was filled for many years, and well as this ad in a Wisconsin newspaper

19.6 Menominee Bock Beer – March 16, 1950



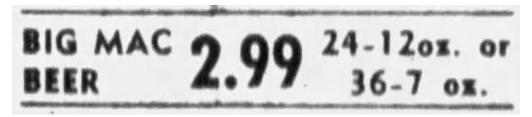
No Menominee Bock beer cans known, but an interesting ad of what could have been

19.7 Silver Cream Cream cones – June 17, 1955



Terrible picture but shows the cone tops were still available as late as 1955 and still using slogan "sanitary cap sealed cans"

19.8 At least Big Mac mentioned – September 1959



BIG MAC BEER Is In 2.99 Case 24-12-ox.

No idea if bottles or cans, but these appeared September 11 and September 17, 1959

19.9 Big Mac Nationally Advertised – February 24, 1961



What is this? Says "Big Mac Nationally Advertised By Silver Cream"? Unfortunately, the keywords "big mac" match so many items across so many states. Did you know McDonalds has a burger of this name?

<u>Summary</u>: There are many unused bottle labels for the Big Mac, and the few ads found may be only mentioning the bottles for sale. Was the can a commemorative one-off only for the bridge opening (Nov 1957) or did Menominee see the wide acceptance of this many years anticipated UP/LP connector and attempt to market on its success? Until there is clear documentation found, we have stamped the can as "ca 1958"

20 National Brewing Company, Detroit: 1954-1973

In 1954, the National Brewing Company expanded outside Maryland by purchasing a controlling interest in the Altes Brewing Company of Detroit. By that time, National was brewing 1,000,000 barrels annually at its Baltimore plant, with the Altes acquisition providing an additional 800,000 barrels of capacity.

Two years later, in 1956, National purchased the Marlin Brewing Co of Orlando, Florida, so that provides clear timeline for addition of Orlando to the brewery mandatory. The Miami, Florida plant and brands purchased in 1961, and last purchase was Carling's Phoenix, Arizona plant in 1966.







20.1 National Purchases Altes / Renamed

Brewing Company to Sell Out

BALTIMORE—The National Brewing Co. of Baltimore plans to buy controlling interest in Altes Brewing Co., Detroit, for approximately \$2,500,000 or about \$6.25 a share, it is announced by Gerald C. Hoffberger, president fo National and H. H. Colby, president of Altes.

September 21, 1954

Brewing Company Changes Name

DETROIT, Jan. 26 - (AP) - The Altes Brewing Co. of Detroit has changed its name to the National Brewing Co. of Michigan. Jeroid C. Hoffberger, president of Altes, said the firm soon will introduce National Bohemian beer in the Michigan area. Hoffberger also heads the National Brewing Co. of Baltimore where the National Behemian brand was originated.

January 26, 1955

New Brew Coming

DETROIT OF-The Altes Brewing Co. of Detroit has changed its
name to the National Brewing Co.
of Michigan, Jerold C. Hoffberger,
president of Altes, said the firm
soon will introduce National Bohemian beer in the Michigan area.
Hoffberger also heads the National
Brewing Co. of Baltimore where
the National Bohemian brand was
originated.

January 27, 1955

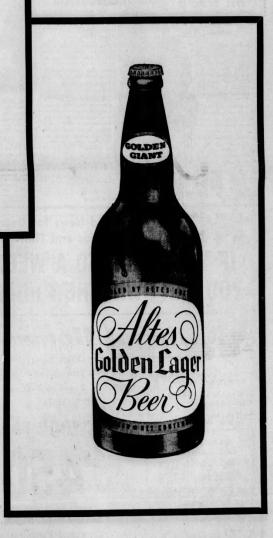
National certainly produced many different brands, carrying on the Altes label, many varieties of the National Bohemian and Mr Boh, crazy numbers of Colt and Colt 45, and even the very hard to find "Draft" in both 12oz and gallon. Some collectors have even specialized in just National cans!!!

20.2

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE Altes "Gee Gee"!

A Quarter-Gallon of Pure Pleasure That Makes Folks Say:

M-M-M The Taste...
That's What I Like
About Altes!



GET SOME ALTES Golden Lager BEER TODAY!

20.3 Introduction to Michigan – February 21, 1955



20.4 National Bohemian Pale Beer - 1955



This would look very sharp in full color!

20.5 National Brewing Buys Marlin Firm – January 14, 1956



Any can which includes the Orlando plant must be 1956 or later

FOR THIS WE CAN ALL BE THANKFUL

In the song below, you'll find all the hopes and dreams of our country, caught up in the words of "America, The Beautiful." Read them ... and as you do, quietly hum the tune to yourself.

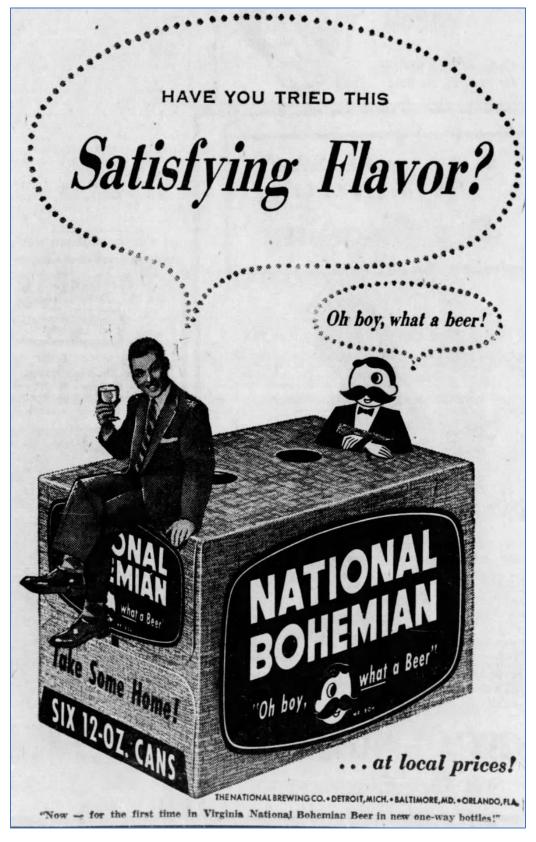
OH BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES,
FOR AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN,
FOR PURPLE MOUNTAIN MAJESTIES,
ABOVE THE FRUITED PLAIN;
AMERICA! AMERICA!
GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE,
AND CROWN THY GOOD
WITH BROTHERHOOD,
FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA.

For all of this, all of us can be thankful on Thanksgiving Day
... November 24, 1955

THE NATIONAL BREWING COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

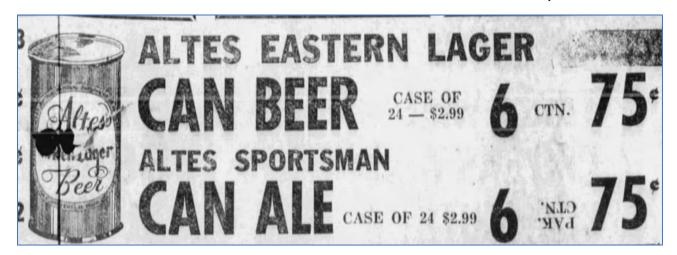
Nice ad and "The National Brewing Company Of Michigan"

20.7 National Bohemian Six Cans - September 24, 1956



Nice cans packaging, but they couldn't let a can itself peek out of the cardboard???

20.8 Altes confusion – Sold in California??? - November 15, 1956

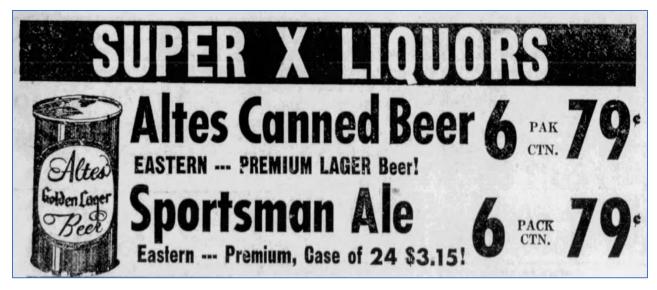


How to understand the next set of ads. Above from the "Pacifica Tribune – November 15, 1956 – page 11". Pacifica California is just a few short miles southwest of San Francisco, CA.

The Tivoli brewery was renamed Altes in 1948. Altes did have a brewery in San Diego, CA, very far south of San Francisco, but that San Diego brewery was open only 1948-1953. Altes itself was acquired by National in 1954. Thus, both the Detroit and San Diego Altes were long gone by end of 1956.

There is no "Altes Eastern Lager", dang hole punches but that is an "Altes Golden Lager". Yes, National carried over the Altes label well into the 1960's (e.g. the famous long "A" variation) so this should be the red Altes Golden Lager filled by National and correct time frame, but why the heck across the country in CA???

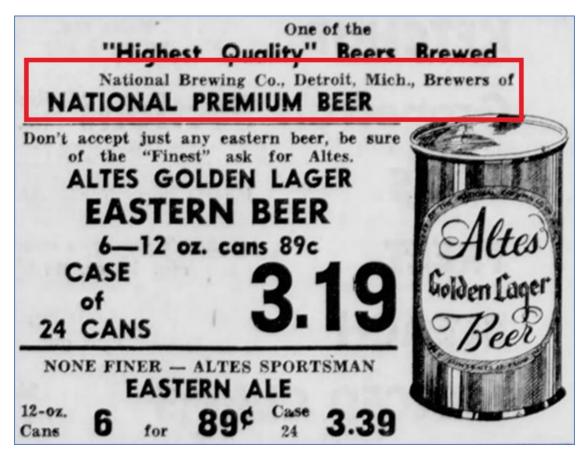
The below ad then found in the "Pacifica Tribune – February 02, 1957 – page 12". They have improved the text to state these are "Eastern" brands, and this one clearly is the red "Altes Golden Lager" brand.



But.... What is that "Sportsman Ale" advertised below both Golden Lager??? See the next page...

Sportsman Ale sold in California? Current understanding is Altes Brewing filled the red Sportsman Ale trivia cans only in 1954, their last year of operation before being acquired by Carling. However, advertisements can be found for the Altes Sportsman Ale (no cans pictured though) well into 1955 around the Detroit area.

Is this the Altes Sportsman Ale red trivia can, or possibly the green National Sportsman Ale? The red can has the Altes mandatory, the green can has National. Found in a November 1956 ad so must be the green can?



The above ad is found across multiple months, **June 20**, **1956**; June 27, 1956, July 18, 1956; September 19, 1956; October 3, 1956, October 37, 1956; October 31, 1956, November 7, 1956 and newest **January 23**, **1957**!!! All those ads/dates from the "**Daily Independent Journal**", San Rafael, California, a small town north of San Francisco, CA!

Note in the above there is no confusion, this is the "National Brewing Co, Detroit, Mich".

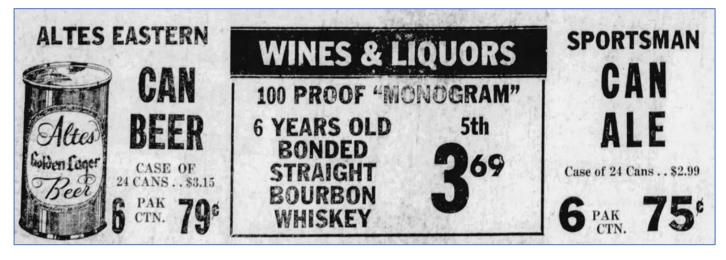
How could the Altes Sportsman Ale, supposedly filled only in 1954 as last gasp of the Altes Brewing Company still be found 1000's of miles across the country in California ads into 1959??? Question is this really the **red Altes Sportsman** or the **green National Sportsman**.

Or, was National DBA as Altes and/or trying to dump remaining Altes Sportsman Ale stock? Filled in 1954 but consumed in 1959, would that make the drinker an Iron Guts member? Regardless, how did this get sold 2,000 miles after from Detroit? And if really should be the green can, why CA? I re-read Peter Bluhm's info and it does discuss Altes failed San Diego venture, but nothing on National trying to market to CA.

And not letting this end here, see the next page...



The above found in the "**Daily Independent Journal**" – May 23, 1956. Again San Rafeal, CA. Clearly states National Brewing Co, Detroit. However, note the line "**Just arrived, 1 solid carload**". Pretty sure this would have been a full railroad car, which would be a lot of cans.

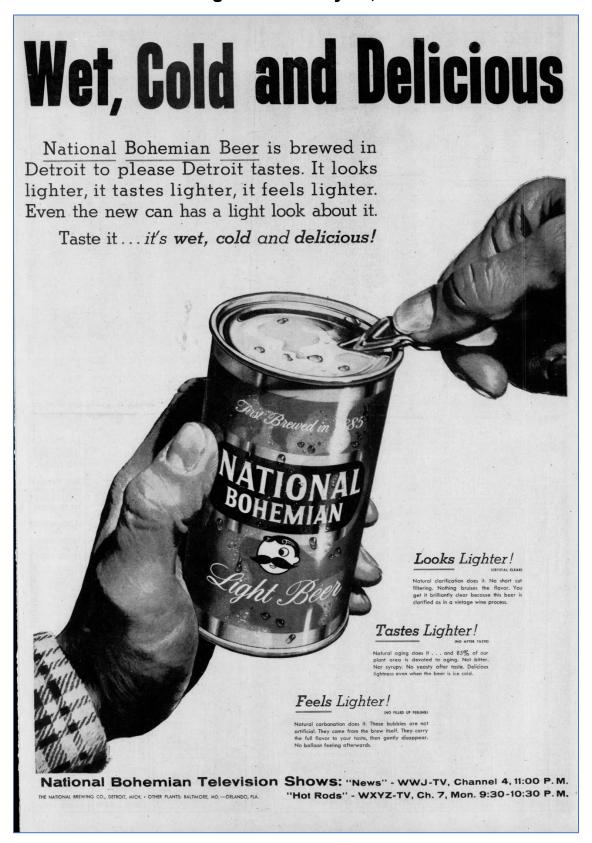


And another, "Pacifica Tribune – November 20, 1956. Still no mention of Detroit or National?



Seriously, the advertisers couldn't have used one of these pictures to make it perfectly clear!!!





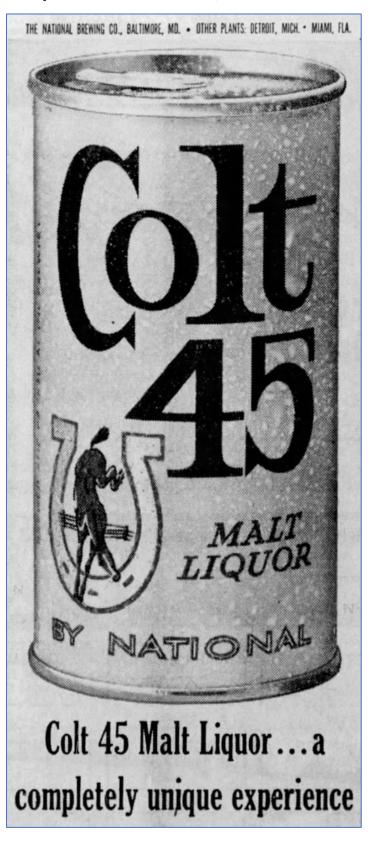
Per the ad, "Even the new can has a light look about it"

20.10 National Bohemian - New "Zip Top" - July 01, 1963



"The National Brewing Co., Baltimore, MD – Other Plants: Detroit, Mich – Miami, Fla". While not a Detroit mandatory advertisement, this is consistent with cans that are filled by Michigan. Plus, the ad shows from Baltimore but zip top lid picture listing the "Miami, Florida" location!

20.11 Colt **45** Malt Liquor – November **07**, **1963**



Can't see the exact type/generation, but that is definitely a zip tab!

20.12 National Bohemian Light Beer – White – March 1965

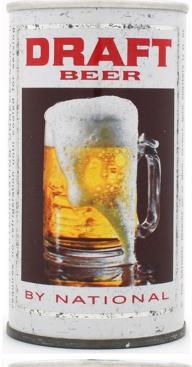




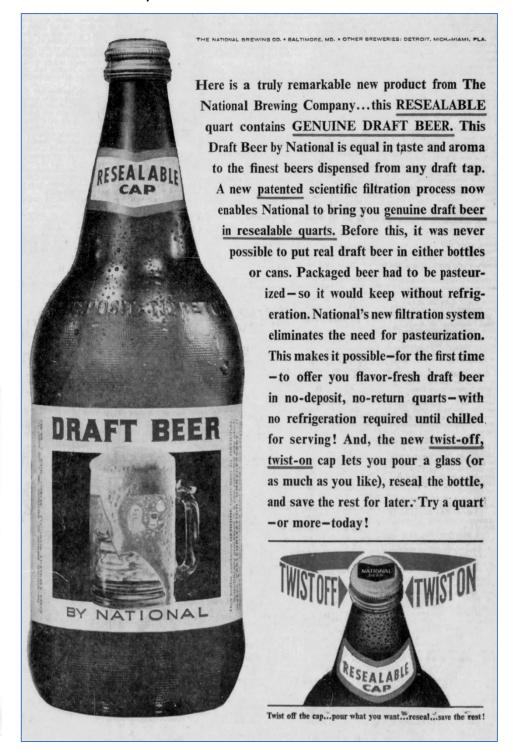


This ad shows the National transition can from the red/gold design to the newer white light beer design, sometimes called a "chevron pattern". No known transition cans are known filled at Detroit, and until Chuck Starrett graciously shared pictures of his all-white can, I had never seen this variation! Would be 1955-1956 since has newer style ring pull, not zip, not fan tab.

20.13 National "Draft" - October 15, 1965







Not the can but helps date when the "Draft" came on the scene. The Detroit gallon is definitely hard to find, but the 12oz "Draft" with Detroit mandatory recently closed in 2024 auction for a \$16,000 hammer price!

20.14 National "Draft" gallon - Michigan's only



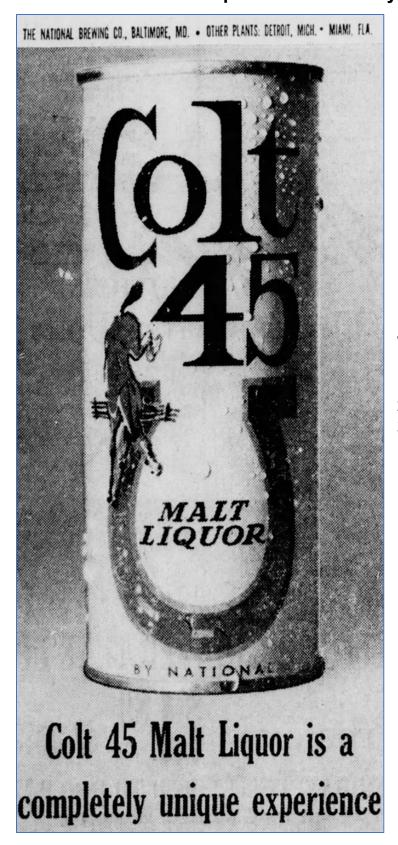
The only gallon carrying a Michigan mandatory of Detroit, Mich. Note there is a later advertisement showing the Pfeiffer gallon with Evansville, Indiana mandatory but the ad in fine print lists "Pfeiffer Brewing Co, Detroit, Mich".

20.15 Altes Golden Lager Fassbier - 1968



Full color!!!

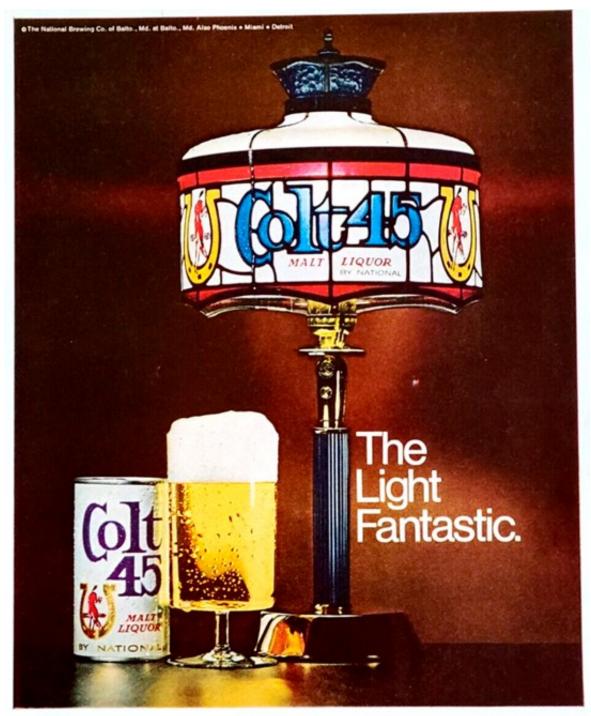
20.16 Colt 45 Malt Liquor 16oz – January 11, 1968



This ad has been included for three reasons:

- 1) So few 16oz advertised, just one ad for Goebel
- 2) The date of early 1968, likely filled in 1967
- 3) Not certain, but I don't see the silver outline

20.17 Colt 45 Malt Liquor 12oz – 1969

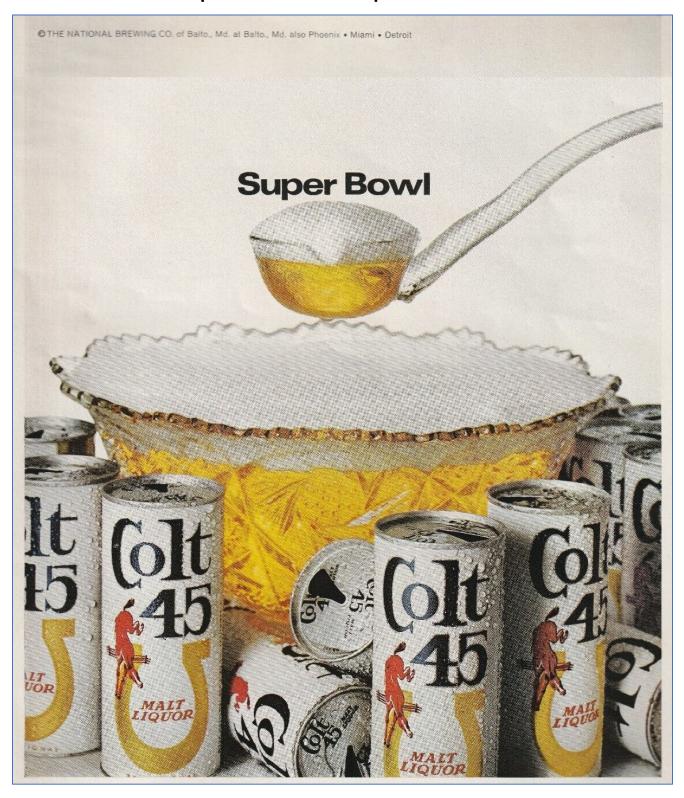


Tell people you picked it up at a rummage sale. Tell them your great grandfather willed it to you. Tell them something . . . anything . . . because they won't leave you alone until they have a good answer. Can you blame them?

A completely unique experience.

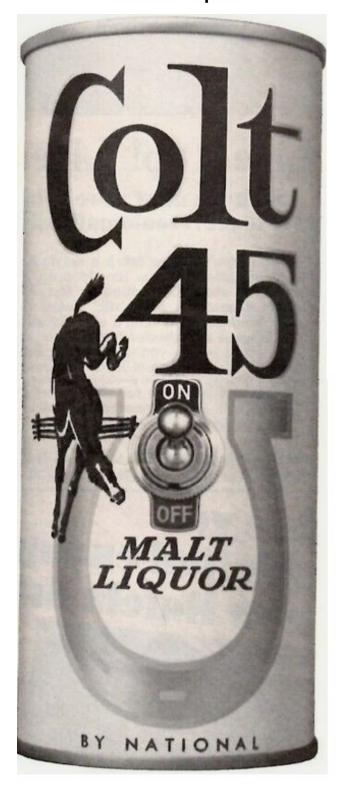
Please dust off (Quantity) I have enclosed a check or i	of your completely unique Tiffany type Lamps. money order for Check pay-
able to Colt 45 Lamp. Name	(\$10.00 ea. postpaid)
Address	
City	StateZip
Due to legal restrictions, we cannot mail this	The National Brewing Co., Box 1800, Balto., Md. 2120, other to addresses in the following states: D.C., Michigan, New Hampshire, North s. Utah, Wemont, Virginia, Washington, This offer send where prohibited by lev

20.18 Colt **45** Malt Liquor **16oz** – **1964** Superbowl



16oz pints, notice the lid stamp and early non-zip style

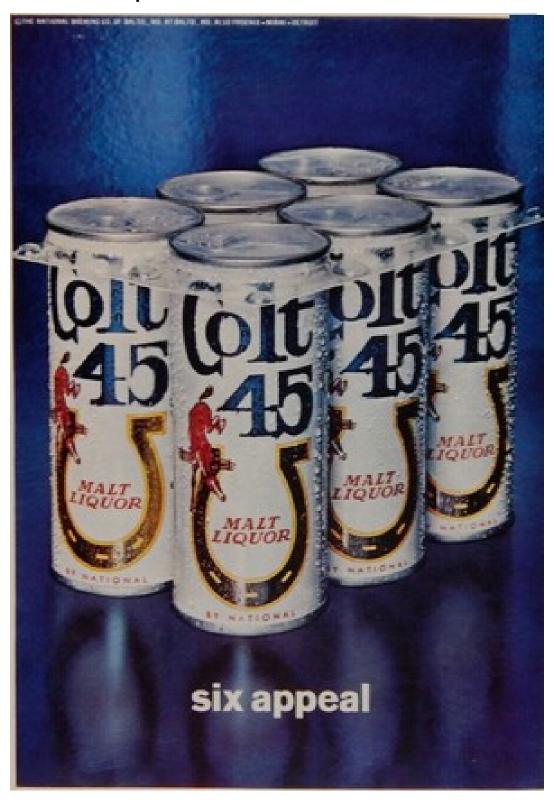
20.19 Colt 45 Malt Liquor 16oz - 1967





This ad was run in print as a tall skinny format. Randy grabbed and reformatted the three pieces to better show zoomed. Have to love the artist's addition of the "on/off" switch!

20.20 Colt 45 Malt Liquor 16oz - 1969



Lots of searching, but could only find "Malt Liquor", none with "Stout Malt Liquor"

20.21 End of National Brewing Michigan - 1973

The following is from Peter Blum's book "Brewed In Detroit", pages 210-211

BIG FISH EAT LITTLE FISH

In that year of 1949, the company tried to tap the growing population on the West Coast and acquired the Aztec brewery in San Diego. This venture had to be abandoned in 1953, and Altes itself was purchased in 1955 by the National Brewing Company of Baltimore. This was an old-line brewery owned by the Hoffberger family and brewers of National Bohemian. The Altes brewery was renamed National Brewing Company of Michigan. Advertising for the Altes brand was reduced in order to introduce the new corporate brand, "National Boh."

Oral history has it that Altes became difficult to find, while National Bohemian was everywhere. Detroit beer quaffers, to whom Baltimore was not necessarily a role model for good beer, resented being pushed to drink the new brand. Also, Altes had a no-nonsense blue-collar image—it was a man's beer—and "Mr. Boh", the symbol of National, may have

seemed foppish. National Boh just did not sell. By the time Altes was revived, consumers had switched to other brands.

The Detroit brewery, facing sagging sales, produced the popular Colt 45 malt liquor and developed the flavored Malt Duck beer. Unfortunately for the Detroit operation, the National home brewery in Baltimore also showed declining sales, and it became necessary to combine production in Baltimore.

The plant on Hurlbut near Mack Avenue was closed in 1973, much to the disappointment of the local staff, which deserved a better fate and had hopes of going it alone. A decade later, when specialty beers were being brewed under franchise, financing might have been possible. The last brewmaster was Karl Seidl; he ended his career with Stroh as head of the grain-unloading and yeast-drying operation.

21 Old Dutch Brewing Company, Detroit: 1962-1972

Actually, Associated Brewing Company "Doing Business As" Old Dutch Brewing Company. Associated was an attempt by Pfeiffer to become a regional brewer, acquiring a handful of brand names (E&B, Drewrys, Sterling, and Piels). Unsure of the reason for DBA as "Old Dutch" and just the single beer can produced.





1967

21.1 Old Dutch "The Good Beer" - September 04, 1970



FOR THE KIND OF MAN WHO WON'T SETTLE FOR JUST SIX BEERS.

Now the cold, wet, hard-working taste of Old Dutch lasts a little longer. Two bottles longer... in the Old Dutch 8-pack. Grab for one now. The good beer.

WHEN MEN WERE MEN, BEER WAS OLD DUTCH. NOW IN THE BIG 8-PACK.

22 Pfeiffer Brewing Company, Detroit: 1934-1972

In 1962 Pfeiffer changed corporate title to "Associated Brewing Company", acquired the E&B brewery on November 15, 1962 and acquired Sterling Brewers and Drewrys in 1964 and 1965 respectively. All items carrying the Pfeiffer mandatory after 1962 are really Associated DBA Pfeiffer.

The Pfeiffer olive drab camouflage was the first Johnny Pfeiffer variation, and MANY variations followed. Some great scenic cans, as well as interesting "Happy Mugs", woodgrain, gold cans and boring white tear drop. Even an "Extra Special" to boot, providing numerous brands and varieties for a Michigan collector.

From many accounts, Pfeiffer was the best-selling brand of beer in Michigan during the 1950's. A brewery workers strike in 1958 began to derail their success, attempting to compete as Associated, and the Detroit plant closed in 1966, moving to Indiana. The Pfeiffer brand name was purchased by Heilman Brewing Company in 1972, which was eventually purchased by Stroh Brewing Company in 1996.









22.1 Pfeiffer North Star - December 28, 1960



22.2 Pfeiffer North Star – January 20, 1963



22.3 Pfeiffer celebrates July 4th – July 4, 1943



Like all United States brewers, Pfeiffer ceased filling beer cans during US involvement with WWII and didn't return cans to civilian availability until 1947. Lots of bottle advertisements, with Pfeiffer's first "Johnny Pfeiffer" can being the OD camouflage during the war.

22.4 Pfeiffer back in cans - August 21, 1947



22.5 Pfeiffer 4-ways to enjoy – August 28, 1947





TASTES BETTER - BECAUSE IT'S MADE BETTER!

22.7 Pfeiffer's Famous Beer - May 11, 1954



22.8

A Message To The People Of Minnesota From The Pfeiffer Brewing Company

You undoubtedly know, the Pfeiffer Brewing Company acquired the Jacob Schmidt Brewing Company plant in St. Paul on January 1 of this year.

As anticipated, we found this plant to be basically one of the really fine brewing plants in America. In the ensuing months Pfeiffer's rigid standards of quality control were put into effect and some vitally important changes in equipment were made. Some time ago, the first brew of Pfeiffer's Famous Beer went to the aging cellars. This beer is now ready!

Next week, nearly five months after the acquisition, we are introducing Pfeiffer's Famous Beer to you folks in Minnesota. It will be available at your favorite taverns and stores.

We're not going to spend countless words trying to describe the matchless flavor of this great beer. We ask you just one favor.

Try it for yourself.

Yes, you try Pfeiffer's Beer and you be the sole judge of taste and flavor. Learn first hand, what a fine beer it really is.

There's one other thing we want you to watch for, too. Pfeiffer's is bringing you a new and intriguing first in packaging. We are even now installing the machinery which is exclusive with Pfeiffer's – the first of its kind in the entire world.

Watch for it — we are sure you will like this new Pfeiffer "first" and will like, too, the added protection it gives to a great beer.

Lastly, and certainly no less important, we want you to know that we take sincere pride in becoming citizens of Minnesota and pledge that our every act will be fully worthy of your continued confidence and friendship.

THE PFEIFFER BREWING COMPANY OF ST. PAU.



Pfeiffer Premium Beer - May 28, 1958 22.9



A PREMIU **QUALITY BEER!**

The light beer...that's real beer!

Now Pfeiffer brings you a great new beer of premium quality that's refreshingly light—without sacrificing its real beer brew at the exact moment of perfection. character and satisfaction.

- national premium beers.

- · You'll enjoy a wonderfully fresh and clean .In recent independent laboratory taste tasting beer when you try the New Pieiffer tests, today's new Pfeiffer was the winner, Premium. It's tight, but it's real beer, too! by a wide margin, over five higher-priced And we urge you to compare it with any beer at any price.
- After years of research, Pfeiffer has de Give new Pfeiffer Premium a try and see veloped an exclusive gentle brewing process if it isn't your kind of beer. If you like real to coux out all the flavor and goodness of nature's finest ingredients. Now advanced —the finest beer we've ever brewed!

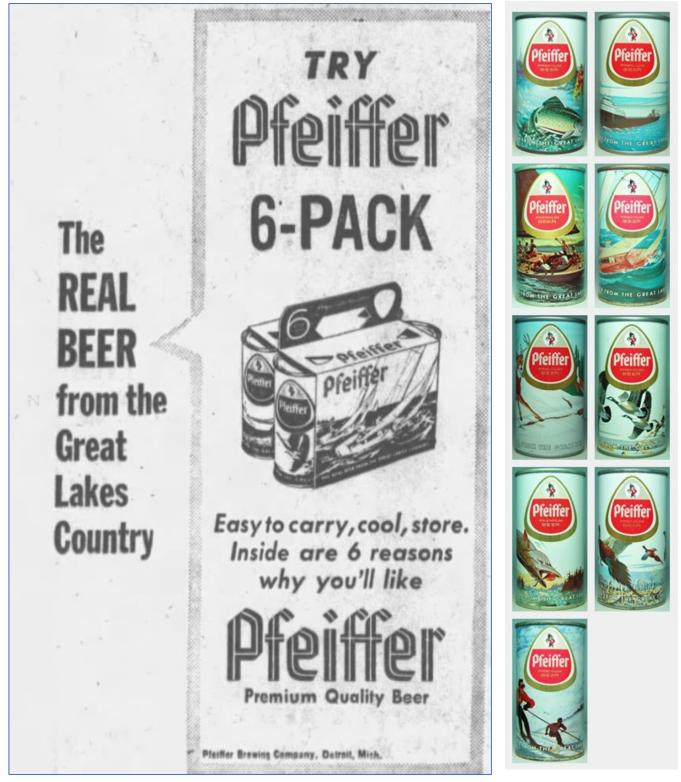
New Pfeiffer Premium sells at Local Beer Prices!

COMPANY, DETROIT, MICHGAN

Try new PFEIFFER PREMIUM QUALITY today



22.10 Pfeiffer Scene cans - November 17, 1961



Finally found an ad showing the Pfeiffer scene cans! Such beautiful cans, and appears the cardboard six pack holder had similar design/colors, I would have expected to find numerous examples. Yes, 100's of examples of the <u>SAME</u> ad ran well into late 1964, all exactly the <u>SAME</u>, Geese cans and Sailboats cardboard holder.

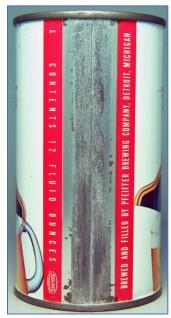
22.11 Pfeiffer Happy Mug – September 14, 1962



The Pfeiffer "Happy Mug" can as well as its cardboard carrier!

From the cans peeking out these are the flat top variations, to be replaced soon after, likely 1963, with zips.





22.12 Pfeiffer Extra Special – October 12, 1962



Unfortunately, not the beer can but this is the same "plain" can design. Can used the "It's Powerful Good" slogan.





22.13 Pfeiffer Party Keg – September 03, 1965



Not many gallon ads out there, lucky to have found this one! Unfortunately, the can was filled by Associated, Evansville, IN. The only Michigan gallon is the National "Draft", unable to locate any advertisements. Note the fine print however, Pfeiffer Brewing Co, Detroit, Michigan!

22.14 Pfeiffer retro label - 2024



While the Michigan Beer Cans project is not currently cataloguing any retro beer can releases, and the above isn't even made in Michigan (California I believe), how cool to see Mr Johnny Pfeiffer introduced again to the beer drinking world! And sweet cardboard packaging to boot!

23 Phoenix Brewing Company, Bay City: 1933-1951

Just one brand was produced, the very desirable Phoenix cone top, many good condition from a stack of 10 cans believed to been found soldered top/bottom rims to form a pyramid in the brewery's hospitality room.

Regardless of other published info, per Chris Taylor and Dave Wheaton, the Phoenix has to be 1941 because it's a bulb top with a toothed seam. By late 1941, the can would have been standard high profile. By mid-1941, Continental was already in regular high-profile cones as is evident with the Schmidts, E&B, Honer's and Haas standard HP cones. And of course, early 1942-1947, no beer cans for civilian purchase.

Beer Cans & Brewery Collectibles, 1980, March/April

'The Brand that is Always the Best'

Phoenix Beer Rose from the Ashes

Most of us aren't fortunate enough to have a Phoenix Lager Beer conetop in our collections. And, as is the case with many other sought after cans, the reason is simple — there just weren't very many of them manufactured.

The Michigan Beer Can Collectors Newsletter reports that beer was canned for only about a year during the 68-year existence of the Phoenix Brewing Co. in Bay City, Mich. That helps account for the scarcity of Phoenix cans. In fact, according to the newsletter, only 100 or so of these red, white, yellow, black and gold cans are thought to be on collectors' shelves today.

John Kohler founded the brewery in 1868 and operated it on the corner of Eighth and Water streets under the name of West Bay City Brewing Co. By 1896, capacity had jumped from 5,000 barrels per year to 12,000.

Two years later, however, a fire completely destroyed the facility, but the company rebuilt at 408 Arbor Ave. near Main Street. Ironically, this disaster helped launch the brewery on the road to success. It was from the fire that the new name of the company

— Phoenix — was derived. The word means "arising from the ashes."

And arise they did. Capacity of the new plant stood at 20,000 barrels, and the brand became known for its "high grade" quality. It even carried the slogan, "The brand that is always the best."

Prohibition halted brewery operations from 1917 through 1933. At that time, Hans Behrens started to reorganize the Phoenix Company in partnership with Fred Vollbrecht. The firm employed 21 people and had a payroll of \$30,000 a year. (That's a little over \$1,400 a year for the average worker!)

Conetops were introduced by the brewery in 1942, but production lasted only a short time, due to the nation's need for metal during World War II. By 1943 capacity had reached 35,000 barrels, but that appeared to be the high point.

Nine years later the brewery became unable to compete with the larger breweries and their nationally advertised products. The company closed its doors in 1952, at a time when there were still 768 breweries operating in the United States.



24 Regal Brewing Company, Detroit: 1935-1938

The Detroit Regal can is even rarer than the Phoenix! The small blurb below appeared September 1936 in "The American Brewer". Regal announcement they would be filling Regal in National's "Double lined" cans, but no such example was known to exist.

Two More Breweries Contract For Double Lined Cans

Two breweries making announcements that they have signed long term contracts for their can requirements are the Pitts-burgh Brewing Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., and the Regal Brewing Company, Detroit. Double lined cans of the National Can Company will be used by these breweries. The Pitts-burgh company will market "Iron City" beer and "Fox Hunt" Ale in the flat top cans while the Regal Brewing Company will market its "Regal" brand.



That changed in 1977 when Mark Bently dumped three examples, and a nice condition found in New Jersey landfill 1980 (believed to be a salesman sample, is air-sealed, but does NOT have a "Display Empty" on the top or bottom lids). That's all, just four known examples in many decades, and tons of both upper and lower Michigan Rusty Bunch dumping.

24.1 Regal Brewing vindicated – December 31, 1935

PROBE VINDICATES DETROIT BREWERS Detroit, Dec. 31. (UP)-The Regal Brewing company today was cleared of all charges which resulted in an investigation based on the allegations that the company used "strong arm" methods to sell its products. Sam Kert and Sam Cohen, part owners of the brewery. and six other men who were arrested in the case, all were vindicated. The charges were pressed by Charles Lachin, local beer garden proprietor, who accused the men of starting a series of fights in his establishment after he had refused to "get Regal beer."





ence dates back to his youth when he was educated into the brewers' art by his father and grandfather, both prominent in the industry.

Sammy Cohn and Sammy Kert, known to thousands as the "2 Sammies," are in charge of sales. Their thousands of friends in Detroit have eagerly awaited the introduction of Regal Special Lager.

T. I. Sweetwine, vice-president, was formerly with one of the largest distilleries and he, too, has had the experience of a master. These men, with the other executives, are in charge of all operations.

This imposing structure at 3220 Bellevue Avenue is the home of Regal Special Lager Beer. It in-

corporates every advanced innova-tion known to the brewing industry. From the gleaming brew kettles to the cypress aging casks to the modern bottling machines everything-is as new and modern as can be.

The aging cellars are large and spacious so that every drop of Regal Special Lager can be fully aged the slow, natural, old-fash-ioned way. Speedy, efficient delivery of cases and kegs is handled by the company's own fleet of modern, high-powered trucks to all points in Wayne and surrounding counties.

It is from this ultra-modern plant that the "King of Beers" makes its bow to the public. Practically every restaurant, cafe, night club, hotel, bar, grocery and beer store is now supplied. Everywhere you hear people praising Regal— the fully-aged new beer brought out by men pledged to make the finest possible brew-always. efforts to Regal Special Lager. No second or third grade brews will be produced, no ales or stouts, just a superb special lager beer.

Wm. C. Stempel, Brewmaster

William C. Stempel, brewmaster, started his apprenticeship in the Strelow & Lindner Brewing Company, and is recognized as one of the foremost brewmasters in America. He is District President of the Master Brewers' Association of

So little found regarding Regal Brewing, but this gives a nice overview of Detroit plant

24.3 Regal Special Lager Beer - December 02, 1935





The Better the Malt, The Better the BEER...

... Congratulations, Regal!

ESSAGE FROM OUR PR

The Ekhardt & Becker Brewing Company has acquired the plant and brewing facilities of The Regal Brewing Company.

So that all interested parties — Stockholders, Distributors, Dealers and Customers—will be correctly informed . . . these facts:

There has been no exchange of stock. There will be no new stock issue. Our capital is sufficient to finance this expansion.

This new property—to be called Plant Number Two—will be completely reconditioned to Ekhardt & Becker standards.

It will be manned and managed by Ekhardt & Becker personnel exclusively.

And most important: All brewing operations will be personally supervised by Ekhardt & Becker's Master Brewer.

Quite naturally—we're proud of our progress. The very fact that we have to enlarge our facilities to accommodate an ever-increasing market that's just reason for jubilation.

The Ekhardt & Becker Brewing Company appreciates the patronage and loyalty of its many friends in Michigan and elsewhere. We want to continue to merit this support and confidence. To this end we shall devote our entire resources and man power.

EKHARDT & BECKER BREWING CO., INC.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

BREWERS OF THE "ORIGINAL AND ONLY STEINIE BEER"

ACQUIRE COMPANY

DETROIT— (AP) —The Ekhardt & Becker Brewing Co. has acquired the Regal Brewing Co. under a 10year lease with option to buy it for \$600,000 within four years.

Wonder what breweriana might have been found when E&B took over the building???

25 Schmidt Brewing Company, Detroit: 1933-1951

Schmidt was among the brewers that were able to survive Prohibition (formerly Schmidt Products), and begin brewing again with strong sales soon after repeal. However, facing increasing competition after WWII, they were forced to stop brewing in 1951, with brand name being acquired by E&B Brewing.



Schmidt's Beer Now Available in Sealed Cans

The growing demand for beer in cans has been successfully answered by The Schmidt Brewing Company, Detroit, which has placed on the market Schmidt's Beer in cans. Schmidt's is thus made available in bottles, on draught and in Cap Sealed cans.

Lou Ransom, city sales manager, reports that after a thorough survey it was decided to use Cap Sealed cans at best filling customer requirements.

"With Cap Sealed cans," said Mr. Ransom, "no tricky special opener is needed. Every home has a bottle opener, and any type will do nicely. Also, Cap. Sealed cans have the advantaged of furnishing a clean, Cap-protected surface to drink from. Remember, too ,there is no deposit needed, and no return of empties. Cap Sealed cans have many definite advantages."

Schmidt's officials reveal that the growing demand Schmidt's beer assured the popularity of the new container, even before it was released to the public.

They pointed out that the increasing trend to Schmidt's had made constant expansion of plant facilities necessary. Now, with many people repeatedly asking for this new type of container, plus the summer season increase in picnics and beach parties, the quick-cooling, easy storage advantages of canned Schmidt's appeals to a large new market.

But as Schmidt's president, George Schmidt, states, "This new type of container will be an addition to the already popular ways of serving Schmidt's: the old familiar bottle and on draught. It will not take the place of either, but is the answer to a distinct demand for canned beer."

"Even though the containers will be new, it will be the same old Schmidt's so many know and staunchly appreciate because it is brewed the costly, natural way."





Additional ads from Chris. The left dated **June 13, 1941**, the right **June 18, 1941**. Note both cans are artist renditions since neither have the "Natural Brew" or "No Sugar – No Glucose Added".





Both can variations must have been run concurrently since both have patent info, including matching color fonts. Likely just marketed to different regions/states.

25.2 Schmidts return post WWII – April 21, 1947



WWII ended fall of 1945, but brewers didn't return to producing beer cans for civilians until 1947.

This bottle ad has the logo used from the early 1940's, though no "Natural Brew" or "No Sugar No Glucose" logo visible. Obviously, cans were not found with this label during the war, and pretty sure this logo did not reappear on cans post war.

Note the neck label has "The Natural Brew"

25.3 Schmidt's America's Finest bottle - September 09, 1947



This appears to foreshadow the change from pre-war label to post war design

25.4 Schmidt's - 75 Year Old Brewery - May 26, 1948



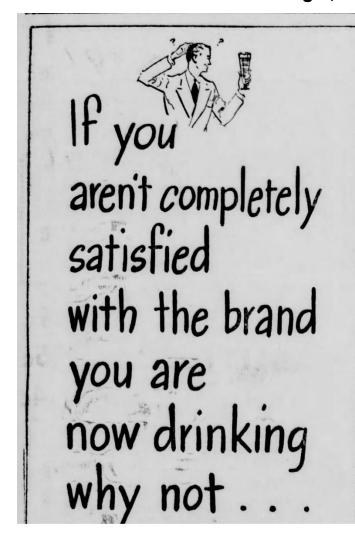


25.5 Schmidt's America's Finest – April 26, 1948



Dates the new cone top production as early as 1948, Multiple ads with this same design but different advertisement layouts available through 1948-1950

25.6 Schmidt's Beer – No Sugar, No Glucose – November 11, 1949





Similar to the previous page, but has the "No Sugar – No Glucose Added" prominently stated. Note the neck label on the bottle still has "The Natural Brew", which seems to confirm both variations popular with Schmidt's and the can designs ran concurrently.

25.7 The end of Schmidt Brewing – October 08, 1952

Brewing Firm Gets Court OK to Dissolve

The Schmidt Brewing Co. was given permission Wednesday to dissolve. The National Bank of Detroit was appointed receiver.

Circuit Judge Frank B. Ferguson granted the firm's petition, which said the company discontinued operations last Nov. 7 because of lack of capital.

An estimated \$335,000 will be distributed among the holders of 998,732 shares of stock.

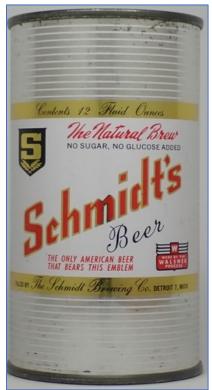
THE COMPANY'S land and building at 1995 Wilkins was sold last April. E & B Brewery, Inc., purchased the good will and trade name of Schmidt and has been brewing and distributing Schmidt beer for eight months. It will continue to do so.

Schmidt formally dissolved in 1952, and as this article states the brewery ceased operations on November 7, 1951.

Also confirms that E&B Brewing purchased the land/name, and continued filling the Schmidt beer can design at least for a few years after the transfer.

The can photographed below left is the last gasp of the Schmidt Brewing Company. The below right is similar design carried on by E&B after acquiring the brewery/brand. Note the taller/larger emphasis on the brand, not as much silver filler.

Left: Schmidt Brewing Company
Right: E&B Brewing Company





26 Sebewaing Brewing Company, Sebewaing: 1880-1966

Some good information on the internet. Sebewaing was prosperous in the late 1940's, 1950's and very early 1960's with million-dollar years around 1960. On January 1, 1962, President A.E. Mast retired, sold his stock to an outside interest, which led to a group of outsider Detroit men gaining control via a proxy battle. These outsiders may have been good business people in other trades but were not experienced in running a brewery. Interesting blurb from the Sebewaing Blade on June 30, 1996, quote:

A year ago there was hope that the patient would rally from handling by incompetent physicians. After years of successful manufacturing in Sebewaing, the brewery had fallen on evil days. A new board had taken over a few years ago, management passed into the hands of the outsiders, and one day it was discovered that the operating capital was gone and the debts amounted to around \$100,000.

The last day of the Sebewaing Brewing Company was June 4, 1966. Story from relative of a former brewery worker (from whom I acquired my yellow can) just before shutting down, a number of unused beer cans were run through the canning equipment, air-sealed, with intent to be used as "fishing net floats!







26.1 Greetings From Sebewaing – December 12, 1955



Nice ad, but couldn't they include some beer can love? So many ads listed Sebewaing Brewing as part of the "Michigan Brewers Association" but nothing showing Sebewaing beer in cans or bottles.

26.2 Sebewaing Diamond Jubilee - 1954



SEBEWAING BEER, cans, and Sport Beer are the three main lines of the local brew. Seventy-two percent, or 22,845 barrels went into glass bottles in 1954, and 16% or 4,280 barrels went into tins. The smallest amount, 12%, or 3,760 barrels was put up in kegs.

27 Stroh Brewing Company, Detroit: 1933-1999

The big boy of Michigan beer! In addition to its own brand, the company produced or purchased the rights to many other brands such as Goebel, Schaefer, Schlitz, Augsburger, Erlanger, Old Style, Lone Star, Old Milwaukee, Red River, Signature, as well as manufacturing Stroh's Ice Cream.

While once a major player attempting to compete as a national brewer, Stroh's heavy debt to finance the Schlitz acquisition and unable to compete nationally with Anheuser-Busch, Miller and Coors, Peter Stroh agreed to sell the company's operations to Coors, but the deal ultimately fell through.

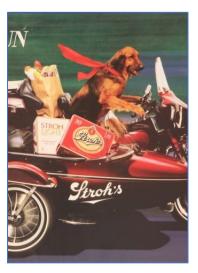
Numerous attempts to solve their cash flow problems, including real estate ventures, fruit flavoured drinks, overseas expansion and speciality beers. In 1995 William Henry assumed Peter Stroh's CEO position to become the first non-Stroh family member to hold that position. In 1996 Stroh acquired the G Heileman Brewing Company for around \$290 million. Stroh had to borrow heavily to expand, but eventually on February 8, 1999, the 149-year-old brewer sold its brands to the Pabst Brewing Company and Miller Brewing Company.

An entire book could be written on Stroh alone, and Peter Blum's book (he himself a Stroh Historian) provides much interesting information.













Numerous Stroh ads are shown, more so than other breweries. Stroh was for some time Michigan's largest brewer, and while they didn't make any radical changes to their main brand design, they did create some nice advertisements and especially showing the top lids and cardboard packaging.

27.1 Stroh lithograph prints

The following are included simply because I like them! I have two great kids, daughter Melissa and son James. These are pictured in Peter Bluhm's book, real lithographs, and chatting with Ed Stroh are in the Stroh Archive. Ed made me two high quality digital prints of which I have framed in my can room.

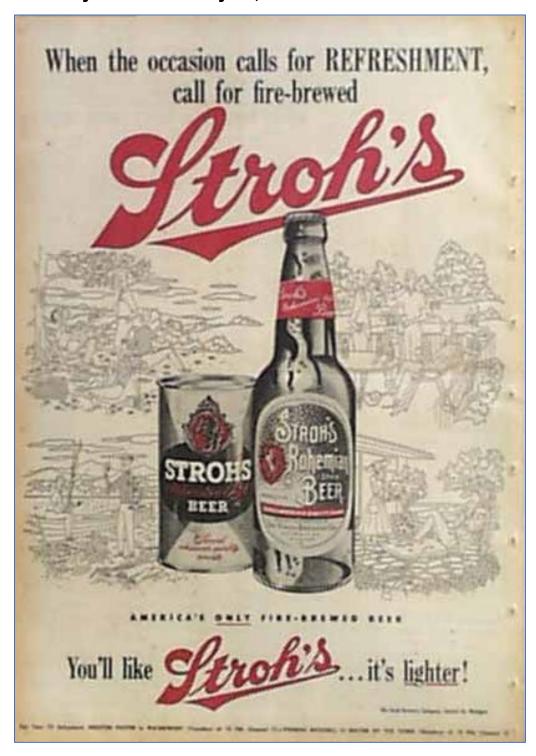


27.2 Stroh's flats – July 22, 1950





27.3 Stroh early color ad – July 19, 1955



27.4 Stroh's Fire Brewed – August 13, 1957



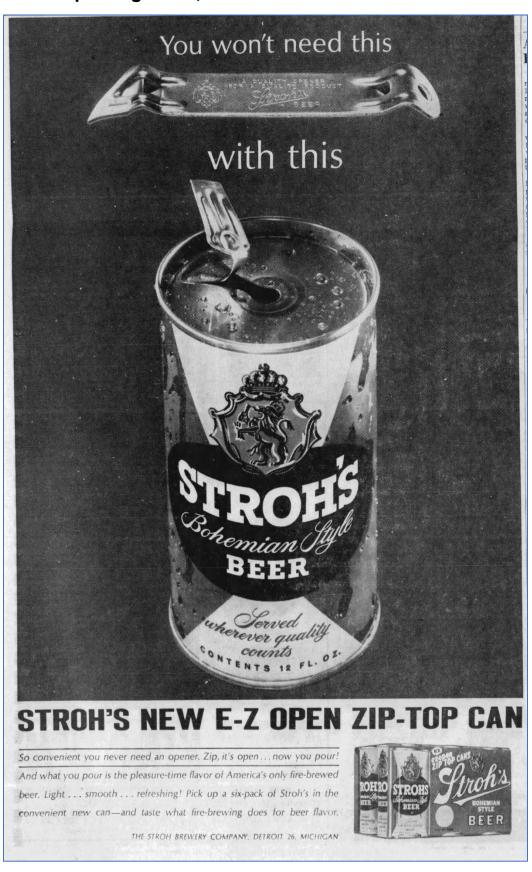
27.5 Stroh's America's Only Fire-Brewed – July 19, 1962



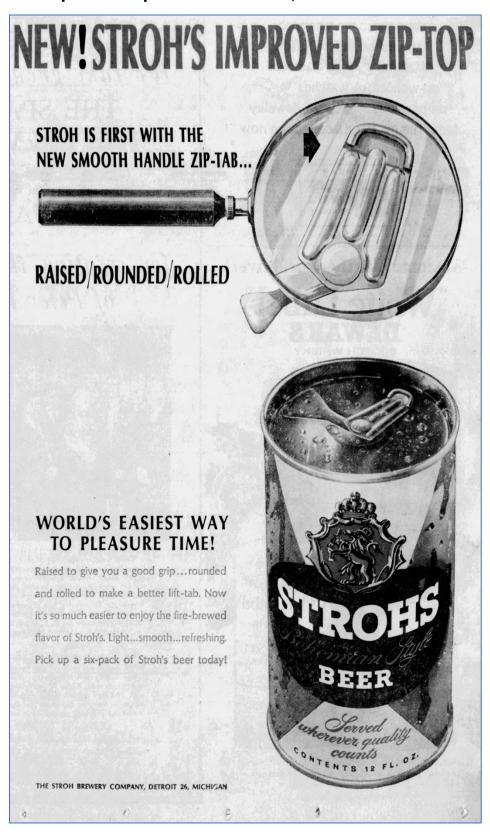
27.6 Stroh's zip (color) – August 10, 1963



27.7 Stroh's zip – August 10, 1963



27.8 Stroh's improved zip – December 10, 1963

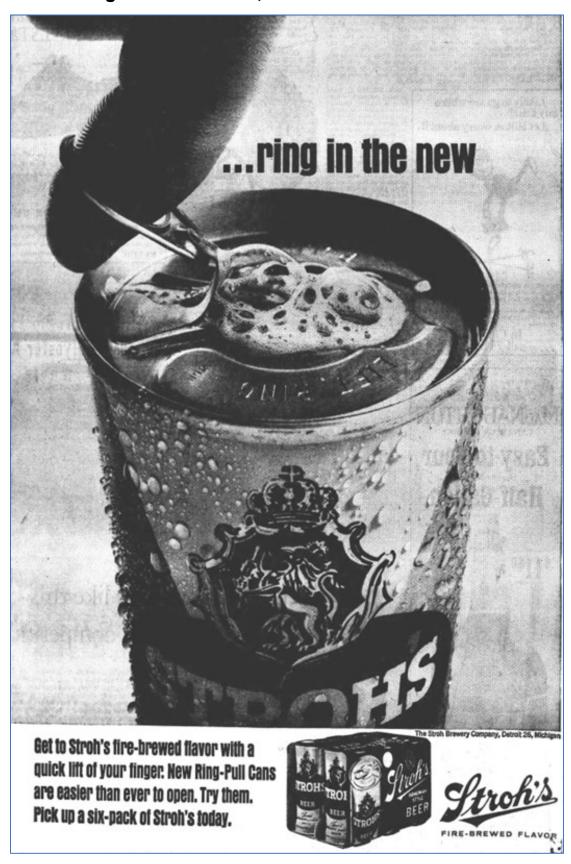


Bottom text has the "Served Wherever Quality Counts"

27.9 Stroh zip tops – January 04, 1966



27.10 Stroh's ring tabs - March 15, 1966





27.12 Stroh's mentions "ring-pull" in the text - Dec 1967

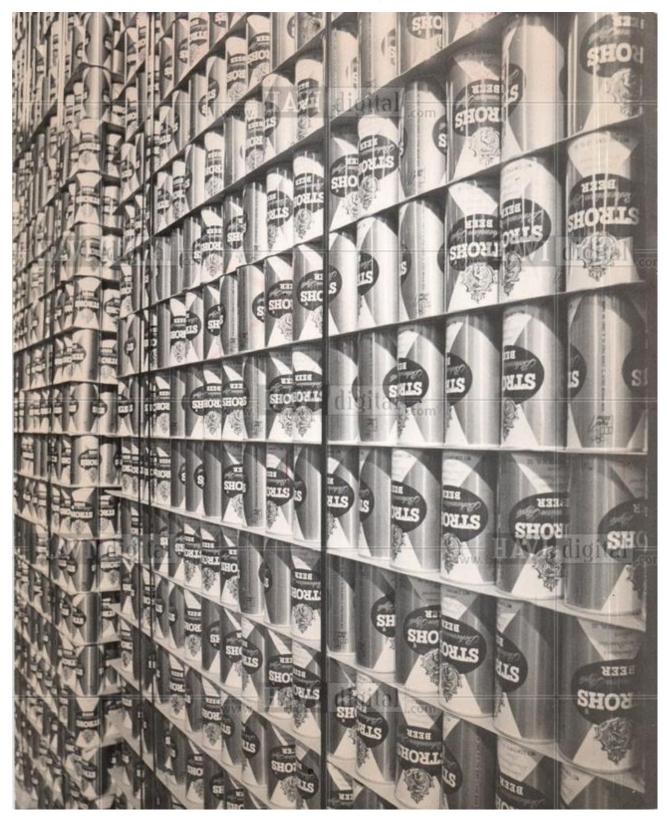


27.13 Stroh's "protective plastic top" - August 1968



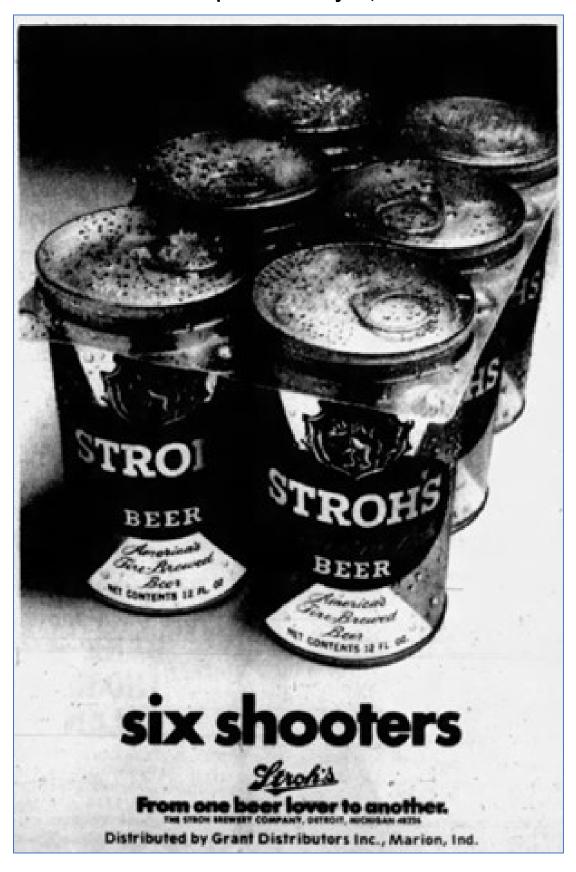


27.15 Pallets of Stroh tabs – November 03, 1970



Note all the cans upside down. Helps confirm can companies lidded tab tops and brewer filled from the unlidded bottom, and final step applying the bottom lid.

27.16 Stroh's "six shooters" pull tabs - May 11, 1971



27.17 Showing the "Fight Litter" campaign - April 17, 1969



27.18 More regarding "Fight Litter" campaign - April 24, 1969



27.19 Stroh "Pitch In" and "Fight Litter" – June 16, 1972



Start of "Fight Litter" appears 1969, the newer "Pitch In" later around 1972, and ran concurrently, possibly in response to Michigan government discussing a 10c bottle/can deposit to help stop roadside pollution. Note this can has the newer "Americas Only Fire Brewed Beer" replacing the "Served Wherever Quality Counts"

Discussions on some form of deposit to help combat litter started between government and brewers as early as 1971, but didn't get signed into law until November 02, 1976, and not enforced until December 03, 1978.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1999

BUSINESS NEWS

Stroh ends 149 years of brewing

Deal gives beer brands to Pabst, Miller

By ALEXANDRA R. MOSES The Associated Press

DETROIT — Stroh Brewery Co., ending a 149-year U.S. beer-brewing tradition, announced Monday plans to sell its beer brands to Pabst and Miller in a move that continues the consolidation of the beer industry.

Miller Brewing Co., the nation's second-largest brewer behind Anheuser-Busch Inc., has agreed to buy No. 4 Stroh's Henry Weinhard's and Mickeys brands. Fifth-ranked Pabst Brewing Co. agreed to buy the rest of Stroh's brands - including Stroh's, Old Milwaukee and Schlitz - and its brewery in Lehigh Valley, Pa.

Stroh will continue operating its five other breweries under a transition agreement until production can be shifted to a Pabst or Miller brewery. The transition is expected to last about nine months. Afterward, Stroh will seek buyers for the breweries.

Terms were not disclosed, although published reports said the deal could be worth \$400 million.

"My family and I struggled with this decision," said John Stroh III, the company's president and chief executive officer and a fifth-generation member of the Stroh family.

"However, in light of this attractive offer, and the long-term competitive outlook of the brewing industry, we concluded that it is the appropriate time to exit the beer business and focus on the family's other ventures," he said.

The company will focus on its realestate business and remain headquartered in Detroit

Stroh has about 2,800 employees. How many of those will be affected is uncertain, said Stroh spokeswoman Lacey Logan. Pabst and Miller could offer to employ Stroh's full-time workers, she said.

Several Stroh employees said they had been told not to talk with reporters about the deal.

The agreements are expected to be



BYE BYE BEER: A Stroh Brewery Co. employee looks over the copper tanks used at the company's Lehigh Valley, Pa., brewery. The company is selling its beer brands to the Pabst Brewing Co. and Miller Brewing Co.

finalized in early April, and are subject to review by the U.S. Justice Department.

Stroh began brewing in Detroit in 1850, after the family had already been brewing for two generations in Germany. During Prohibition the company converted facilities into making a variety of products, from ice cream and soda to the ingredients necessary for home brewing, and did not have to lay off anyone.

Once back in the beer business Stroh enjoyed regional dominance, and by the early 1980s, it became the nation's third-largest brewer after buying the F&M Schafer Brewing Co. and the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co.

The Stroh family put much of its profits back into Detroit, spending \$150 million in the past 20 years in redevelopment projects.

Soon after it bought Schlitz, however, the company started losing ground and found itself with too much capacity. It closed its Detroit brewery in 1985. Four years later, Peter Stroh announced the company was looking for a partner or a buyer to help pay the company's debts and add cash.

Stroh itself later fed the consolidation trend, pursuing the G. Heileman Brewing Co. for several years until it bought it in 1996. But the company continued to lose market share, dropping to fourth.

The privately held company reported a loss of \$3.9 million on net sales of more than \$243 million in the third quarter of 1998

Beer industry analysts said the move follows the industry consolidation trend, necessary because the top brewing companies carry so much weight.

"The industry is just not growing that much," said Gary Hemphill, vice president of Beverage Marketing Corp. of New York. "The middle-tier brewers (like Stroh) are the ones that have suffered the most.

Frank Walters of M. Shanken Communications in New York said the move gives Miller and Anheuser-Busch 70% of the beer market.

"It's very tough to compete with the wherewithal of a Miller or Anheuser-Busch," he said. "The specialty beer market is declining and the smaller brewers are having a tough go.

"The consumer trend is toward bigness.

Tim Swanson of AG Edwards agreed.

'The market has become exceedingly difficult with competition, especially with the big players," he said.

STROH BREWERIES

WHO GETS WHAT

■ Locations of Stroh Brewing Co.'s breweries acquired by Pabst: Lehigh Valley, Pa.

■ Brands acquired by Pabst Brewing Co. include: Augsburger Black Label Colt 45 Lone Star McSorlev's Old Milwaukee Old Style Primo Rainier Schaefer Schlitz

Schlitz Malt Liquor

Schmidt's Special Export Stroh's ■ Brands

acquired by Miller Brewing Co.: Henry Weinhard's Mickeys

■ Locations of Stroh Brewing Co.'s breweries whose fates are still to be determined La Crosse, Wis. Longview, Texas Portland, Ore. Seattle Winston-Salem, N.C.

"The bigger scale that you have, the better margins that you have, ... and better profitability.

The brands to be sold to Pabst are Stroh's, Old Milwaukee, Schlitz, Schaefer, Old Style, Schmidt's, Lone Star, Special Export, McSorley's, Schlitz Malt Liquor, and Rainier. Pabst, based in San Antonio, Texas, is the nation's fifth-largest brewer.

Besides the brewery it is selling in Pennsylvania, Stroh has breweries in Seattle; Portland, Ore.; Longview, Texas; Winston-Salem, N.C.; and La Crosse, Wis.

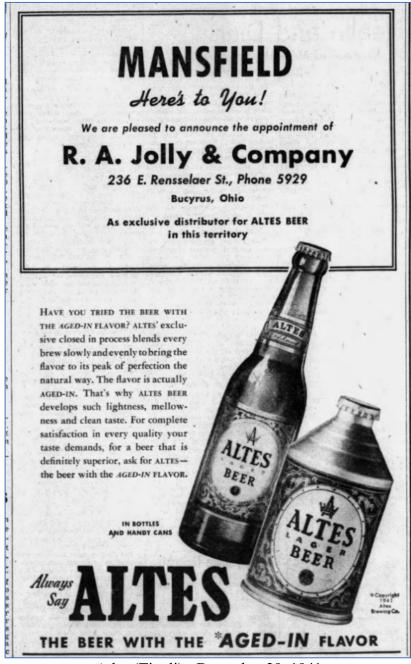
The companies also announced that Pabst has reached an agreement to transfer its Hamm's and Old English 800 brands to Miller. Pabst has agreed to expand its contract brewing agreement with Miller.

Analysts said the move will intensify Miller's share of the malt liquor category. Mr. Swanson said the contract brewing benefits Miller because it allows it to utilize their brewing capacity better, aiding profitability.

Stroh's market share shrank from 7.9% to 6.7% last year, and Pabst's from 2.4% to 2%. No. 1 Anheuser-Busch of St. Louis represented 46.7%, Milwaukee-based Miller had 21.2%, and No. 3 Coors of Golden, Colo., 10.5%. Analysts said Miller will likely increase a couple of points with the move.

28 Tivoli Brewing Company, Detroit: 1933-1948

The Tivoli brewery was rebranded Altes in 1948, likely due to the popularity of its Altes Lager brand. While Altes itself was acquired by National in 1954, the Altes brand name continued with National, then Carling, and finally with G Heileman. There were only Altes crowntainers produced by Tivoli, multiple variations, including TWO variations of the rare propeller "Victory" beer can.



Atles (Tivoli) - December 29, 1941

With WWII dates 1939-1945, the Victory can must have been produced in between those years.

There is a rare Altes "Withdrawn Free" with assumption that was produced for distribution to nearby Canada.



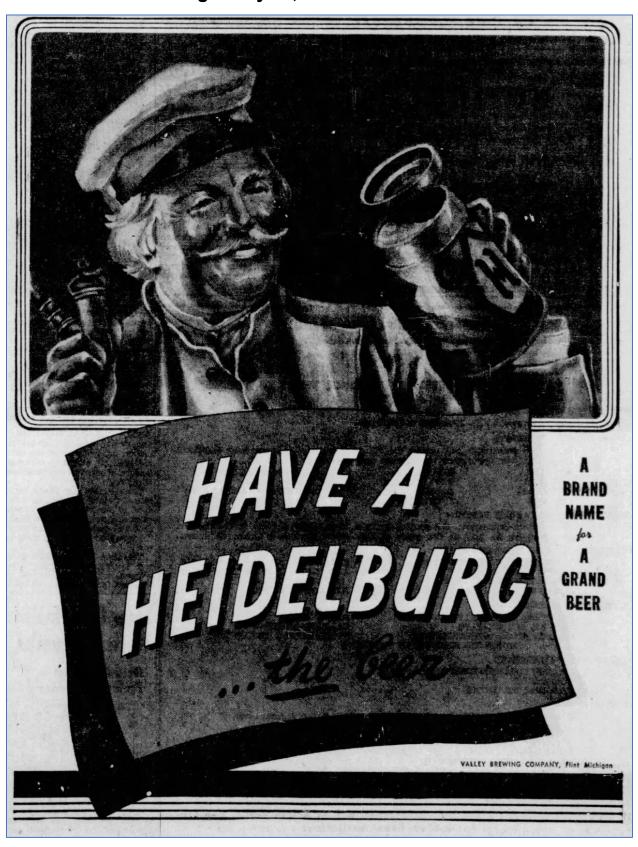


29 Valley Brewing Company, Flint: 1949-1952

Operated just three short years and only brand Heidelburg, both IRTP and tough to find non-IRTP. This does verify brewed at least before and after the IRTP requirement was dropped March, 1950 (which also dropped the "Withdrawn Free" requirement).



29.1 Have A Heidelburg – July 01, 1949



Only ad found for Valley Brewing, Flint

30 Associated Brewing Company - 1962-1966

Brewery Merger Approved

Shareholders of Associated Brewing Co. and Drewrys, Ltd., U.S.A., Inc., Tuesday approved the merger of the two brewing concerns, with Associated to be the surviving company. Associated shareholders met

Associated shareholders met in the company's Detroit headquarters and Drewrys stockholders met in South Bend, Ind. The merger will give Associated stronger competitive footing, particularly against the industry's giants, said President Herbert Epstein.

He said regional brewers generally have experienced earnings declines in the last year and that predictions for the industry's second half haven't materialized. EPSTEIN declined to estimate full-year sales and earnings for Associated, but noted that ninemonth results reflected the growing competitive pressure.

In the nine months ended Sept. 30 Associated earned \$364,314, or 22 cents a share, compared with \$621,301, including a special tax credit of \$232,781, or 38 cents a share, in the like 1964 period.

Nine - month sales increased to \$22,853,177 from \$18,107,585 a year ago.

The merger will sharply increase Associated's volume from a 1964 level of 1.5 million barrels to a combined volume, based on 1964 figures, of more than four million barrels. The merger also will give Associated a broader geographic

Drewrys, Associated To Merge

Drewrys Ltd., U.S.A., and Associated Brewing Co., Wednesday announced agreement on a merger of the two companies with Associated the survivor.

The merger is subject to approval of shareholders of both firms. Directors of each already have approved it.

UNDER TERMS agreed to, Associated shareholders will receive one share of the continuing corporation's shares for each Drewrys share they hold. 2½ shares then presently hold. Drewrys shareholders will receie one share of the continuing corporation's shares for each Drewrys share they hold.

Earnings Associated Brewing

Associated Brewing Co. reported net earnings of \$364,314 on \$22,853,177 sales in the first nine months of 1965, compared with earnings of \$621,301 on \$18,107,585 sales in the like period last year.

Associated presently brews in Detroit (Pfeiffer, Schmidts and E & B), St. Paul and Evansville, Ind. Drewrys has facilities in Brooklyn, Willimansett, Mass.; South Bend, and Chicago.

Merger terms provide for shareholders of Associated to the surviving company for each share they hold. Drewrys shareholders will receive one share of the surviving company for each share presently held.

Mixed grouping of articles about Associated Brewing Company. This is somewhat muddled since cans such as Drewry, Pfeiffer, E&B and Old Dutch never carried the Associated mandatory, but these were all Associated DBA.

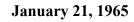
Per Peter Blum's "Brewed In Detroit", Pfeiffer had a long strike in 1958 plus large debt from purchasing the Schmidt Brewery in St Paul in 1954. With the Pfeiffer brand under pressure, management decided to become a regional brewer under the name "Associated Brewing Company". It acquired the E&B brands, Drewrys in South Bend and Chicago, Sterling in Evansville, and Piel in New York. While Associated's headquarters were in Detroit and the operation profitable, the large brewery was closed in 1966. The brands were sold to other brewers six years later.

30.1 A few ads with Associated Brewing Co





January 14, 1965





PITCH-AWAY
BOTTLES
and
CANS
CANS
Draft Brewed
PFEIFFERS
Now Available!
Try it — you'll
like it.
ASSOCIATED BREWING CO.

April 01, 1965

May 06, 1965

Strange the cans while filled by Associated Brewing Co continued to retain their original brewery mandatories. Would have though the government/IRS would not have allowed such mis-match.

31 Acknowledgements

Of course, thank you to co-author Chris Taylor, and Michigan specialists Chuck Starrett and Dave Wheaton, who put up with my numerous emails, numerous text messages, review and review, meeting at Chris Taylor place in Ann Arbor and two Zoom meetings. A good collaborative project!!!

Thank you to **Keith Kerschner** for helping with <u>www.newspapers.com</u>, and Randy also purchased a one month to <u>www.newspaperarchive.com</u>. Be warned, these are deep, deep rabbit holes, easy to become addicted, and all hours of the morning "just one more search". Also, you must resist putting fist through keyboard when search keywords work one day, same exact the next finds nothing!!!

Also, thanks to the Good Guys (**Tom** and **Dan**) for helping get in contact with a few other collectors with Michigan cans, and especially **Dr Kevin Foley** for great December 31, 2024 visit to allow Randy to photograph some long-desired Michigan beer can variations.

31.1 Chuck Starrett photos/info – December 2024



Chuck likely has the best current Michigan beer can collection, both quantity and quality, collecting Michigan for at least four decades. While he no longer attempts to collect every possible minor variation, he has switched focus to quality, and anyone who has seen his Facebook posts knows the mint/shine often requires sun glasses!

Chuck owns a home inspection company and has been taking digital pictures a long time. As part of the 2024 MBC project update, he has graciously photographed some missing pictures and provided A++ upgrade images for others. Maybe more important than a good digital camera is control of lighting, both neutral background photo box and light source to provide true color pictures. Chuck uses a 5000K LED light and backdrop/shield such that minimal "light bounce" and "reflection". Here are some pics of his setup.







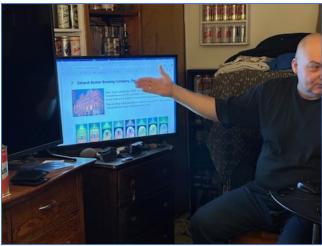
Chuck regularly posts Michigan photos and answers questions on the RB and BCCA Facebook pages.

31.2 Dave Wheaton, Ann Arbor - December 07, 2024

On that date, the two best Michigan beer can detail specialists, Dave Wheaton and Chris Taylor, met up with Randy Karasek in Ann Arbor. In Dave Van Hine style, Randy left his house 7am, roads clear of snow, pretty chilly 21 F, and gas prices were \$2.69. We met at Chris' place and had three great hours going over Chris' Michigan variations that might need to be photographed for MBC update as well as reviewing nearly every beer can date noted in this Michigan Breweries document.

Dave and Chris have been Rusty Bunchers for decades, and have extensive dumping experience of what items, what time frame. In addition, these two can speak in a language of canning codes, MPC symbols, seam style (toothed to left or the right), which generation zip lids, pressure beads, bulb top, mandatory style, etc. Really uncanny to see Dave (beer can Rain Man an honest compliment) hold a can, and based on a number of indicators able to reliably state "must be around year 19xx" purely from memory!!!







Randy brought a USB drive with couple months of work on MBC updates for end of 2024, finishing touches on two new published books, including this new document to help confirm production dates. For three hours, which seemed to pass like minutes, we reviewed much content in person. While Email/Teams/Zoom is ok, face-to-face visits much more fun.

Major thank you Dave Wheaton, Chris Taylor and Chuck Starrett. Based on your experience and multiple reviews, collectors should have high confidence in the documented Michigan beer can dates.

And bonus highlight was watching UM vs Iowa basketball, 2pm tip at Crisler arena, with the Wolverines winning a nail biter 85-83. Being back in Ann Arbor itself, priceless!!! So much so that Randy went back again December 22 with his father to watch more basketball.

31.3 Some former Randy Michigan collection pictures

What kick started the MBC project in the early 2000's! While my Michigan collection was not complete, it definitely had some super tough cans and many variations. However, long ago, fall of 2007, it made its way to other collectors. Some good memories, good shows and most importantly great friends!



More pics/info: https://www.mbcinfo.com/Randy

Special Friends / In Memory

Thank you for reading, hope some useful information. Please see website https://www.mbcinfo.com/MBC for many more details or updated content. Simply way too much to practically publish in either this or the Michigan Beer Cans reference in hard cover book form. Digital however, disk space is essentially unlimited...



Left to Right: Jack Lucas, Randy Karasek, Bob Patrick, John McGuire, Chris Taylor, Dave Launt, Dick Adamowicz. Dan Bora is shown in later pictures.

June 30, 2015

RIP (Rust In Peace) our friends:





John McGuire

Dave Launt

Neil Kanetzke

Can't end with a blank page...



Randy Karasek (RB #636) Chris Taylor (RB #417)

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