



Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00
or by appointment**

History of Brewing In Chilton

By Debbie Barany

Let's look at the history of Brewing in Chilton, Wisconsin. There were two large breweries located in Chilton. Becker Brewery was located on what is now 220 West Main Street. The original buildings were built by J. Paulus around 1860. It was bought by Phillip Becker in 1875 on which improvements were made and a capacity of 1,000 barrels a year were produced annually. A beer garden with a circular band stand was erected next to the Brewery, in which the patrons could enjoy nice German music while drinking their beverages.

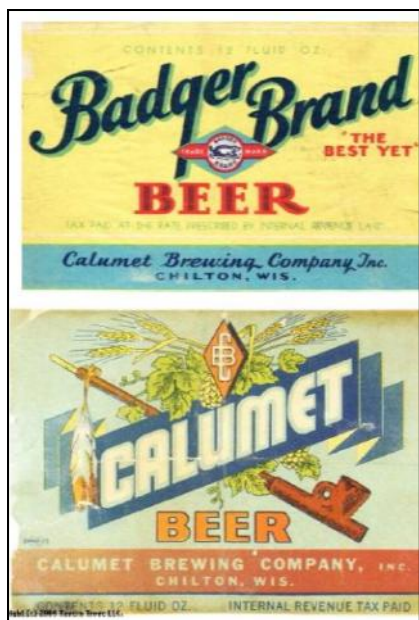
The beer was delivered by wagon and draft horses, as many as 26 horses were housed in the stables. Mr. Becker erected a nice brick home, in 1881, with a cupola on the top. That home is still standing today. In 1885 the Brewery was purchased by Jung and Borchert. In 1892 Pabst Brewery purchased the Brewery and owned it until 1918, using it mostly for storage. Becker Brewery

The second Brewery in Chilton was the Calumet Brewing Co. It was founded in 1853 by F.R. Gutheil at the corner of Park and Main Streets. It was sold to Jackels and Thomas in 1875. Operated by Thomas and Albert Freyer from 1883 to 1890, in which Albert



Freyer became sole owner in 1890. Then in 1893 it was sold again to Herman Gierow. From 1893 to 1907 it was known as the Gierow and Hoch Brewery. Herman Gierow had married the daughter of large Brewery owner in Michigan, then he came to Chilton in 1892 looking to purchase a Brewery of his own. Mr. Gierow was actively engaged in all aspects of the Brewery during his ownership and even after he sold it. Unfortunately he died in 1914 from a fall that he took while working in the Malt house.

From 1907 – 1910 it became known as the Chilton Brewery and was owned by Walter Kroenke and M. Landgraf. In 1911 it became Calumet Brewing Co. and operated as such until 1942. John N. Landgraf was the president up to prohibition. In 1934 after prohibition was repealed a new Brewing Co. was formed and became known as Steiner's Calumet Brewing. However, this venture did not prosper and was closed for back taxes and all the beer was dumped in the river. Edward Bonk purchased the real estate at public auction, and a new Calumet Brewing Co. was incorporated. The main shareholder's were Edward Bonk,

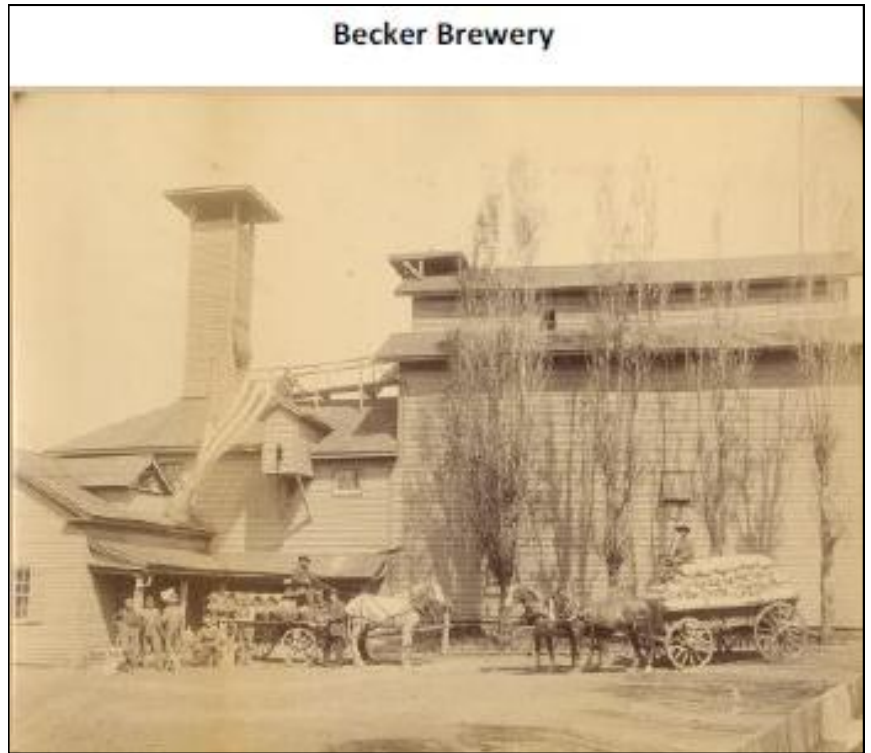


Helen Sontag, and Helmuth F. Arps. Under this new ownership the Badger Brand Beer was produced and sold.

In February of 1937 Henry Rahr III of Manitowoc, purchased the Brewery and changed the name to Henry Rahr Brewing Co. This too, only lasted a few months and in 1938, the Brewery was purchased by Herman and Gertude Rau and D.D. Humleker. The Brewery AGAIN, became the Calumet Brewing Co until it was closed in 1942

See Calumet Brewing Co. in red box in the picture. You can see it was located across the street from the present day Briess Malthouse. The building in the foreground was the Dumke mill.

So let's raise a glass to all those men before us who kept the tradition of beer making alive our little community and to the present day men like Pat Rowland. Let's also say thank you to Briess Industries who have continued the great tradition of making fine ingredients for the Craft Brew Industry. "PROST"



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