Medford’s first successful commercial dairy’s roots were planted with the arrival of John and Maude Snider in Medford during December of 1904. John and proposed marriage to Maude in Xenia, Ohio, with the idea that they would move to Medford and manage the Warner Ranch. She accepted and one week later they were married and on a train headed west to Oregon.

Upon arriving in Medford, they found their house was not completed, so they stayed at the Nash Hotel. John completed the house in 1905 at what is now 2241 West Main between Rosario’s and the 7-11 convenience store.

The business was known as Warner and Snyder (sic) until late in 1910. They sold milk, dairy products and chickens, both locally and to The Southern Pacific Railroad. The first phone number was Farmers 2148, but that changed in 1910 to 7118. This phone number shows on the first known photograph taken of John and his delivery wagon circa 1910 or 1911.

In 1911, the name Medford Dairy first appears in the phone directory with John Snider as the proprietor. The spelling of John’s last name seems to be changing, although as late as 1913, an ad in the county fair brochure spells the name “Snyder.”

In 1912, John and Maude moved The Medford Dairy to the “Ish Ranch,” owned by William H. Gore, the president of Medford National Bank. The new Jacksonville Road address came with a new telephone number of 201 J3.

At first, the 250 cows were hand-milked by John and a crew of Swiss milkmen, who yodeled to the cows, claiming that they gave more milk that way. There is no record of any changes in production when machine milking was introduced. The milk filtered through cheesecloth as a method of cleaning it before it was delivered to the customer.

Before 1910, all milk deliveries in the Medford area were made door-to-door using a wagon with five-gallon cans and a ladle to dip out the milk for the customer. The first known embossed milk bottles probably were used by Southern Dairy in 1910-1911. The initial order for Medford Dairy bottles was for 1500 bottles and was probably first used in 1912.

Maude got up every morning at 2:30 am to cook breakfast and make preparations for lunch and dinner. She often rode the wagon with John on his morning milk deliveries, sometimes returning half-frozen.

Two children were born to the Snider’s during their years at the Gore Ranch. Mary, born in 1913, and John, born in 1918. Their only playmates were children of the ranch hands. Some ranch hands, like Little George, would bring back Hershey bars for the children when they went into town.

IN 1916, the dairy’s name was changed to Snider’s Dairy. In the middle of 1918, the Snider’s bought the Independence Creamery at 601 North Grape for expanded processing. The phone number at the creamery was 755R. D.O. Fredericks was hired to run the creamery.

John and Maude continued to live at Gore Ranch until 1920 when they left the ranch to move into town on Pennsylvania Avenue. In October of 1921, they bought a larger creamery from Eldridge Dairy at 28–32 North Bartlett, with a new phone number of 203. The Snider’s also opened a short-lived branch at 319 South King Street in Ashland. Another branch was opened in Grant’s Pass in 1926, but it didn’t last long either. John died in 1930.

The North Bartlett Street address remained the heart of the business for Maude and her children, John and Mary, who added produce and soda to their dairy product line. Originally they bottled Whistle Soda, Green River, Sunkist, root beer and seltzer water. They even had a soda bottle and two different bottles designed for their business. Eventually, they became Medford’s first Pepsi-Cola
Bottles and Extras

John Snider with his first delivery wagon.

28-32 North Bartlett Street, circa 1921.

distributor. In 1963, the creamery was sold to Arden, but John and Mary continued in the Pepsi bottling and distributing business.

Right: 1913 ad for Medford Dairy, J. W. Snyder, Prop.

Below: Medford Dairy advertisement from 1912.

Snider’s Seltzer Siphon Labels

Black Pryoglaze
1935-1963

Black Pyroglaze
1935-1963

Etched
1921-1935

Soda Bottle
1920s - 1930s
John Snider (top right) and the staff of Medford Dairy.

Snider’s Dairy Timeline

**Warner Ranch Location**

1904  John and Maude move to Medford from Xenia, Ohio

1905  House and barn finished. Address: 2241 West Main.

1909  Name “Warner & Snyder,” phone Farmers 2148.

1910  Warner & Snyder, phone changed to 7118.

1911  Medford Dairy, John W. Snider, Prop., phone changed to 201 J3 (late).

**Gore Ranch Location**

1912  Medford Dairy moves to Gore Ranch (old Ish place), Jacksonville Road.

1916  Snider’s Dairy, Jacksonville Road, phone 201.

**Medford Location**

1918  Snider’s Dairy, 601 North Grape, phone 755R (mid-year); D.O. Frederick, manager (bought Independence Creamery)

1921  Snider’s Dairy and Produce Co., 28-32 North Bartlett, phone 203 (October) bought from Eldridge Creamery. Ashland Branch, 319 South King. Snider family moves into town to Pennsylvania Ave. Farm produce and soda bottling are added to Snider’s inventory. Brands: Whistle, Green River.

1926  Branch office opened in Grant’s Pass.

1930  John Snider dies. Maude and children, Mary and John, carry on.

1937  Company officers listed as president, Maude Snider; secretary, Robert C. Hart; treasurer, Eugene Thorndyke; manager, Charles Clay. Bottling of Pepsi-Cola, Sunkist, Mug Root Beer, Schweppes and near beer.

1942  John W. Snider, Jr., vice-president; Mary Snider, secretary-treasurer.

1963  Snider’s Dairy & Produce sold to Arden. John and Mary continue bottling Pepsi-Cola.