

# Gambrinus Brewery named after Mythical German King Gambrinus, Inventor of Brewing and the Toast

By Garth Ziegenhagen

Many immigrants began to move to the Oregon Territory in the late 1840's. Next came one of the first brewers Henry Saxer to open an Oregon brewery in 1852. The rest of the brewers could either be considered a great moment or a minor moment in Oregon history depending on whether you are interested in old bottles and the "Old West". Surely everyone in Oregon has heard of Henry Weinhard, a fellow immigrant who opened an Oregon brewery in 1856. In fact, Henry Weinhard would become the real king of brewers in Oregon but Louis Feurer was a close second until a few years before prohibition arrived.

Louis Feurer entered the beer trade in 1870 as a bartender in the Germania Saloon on first street in Portland. In 1875, he purchased the New York Lager Bier Saloon in the German section of Portland which was a very lively area of all kinds of night life.

In 1879, Louis opened the Gambrinus Brewery outside of town next to a large spring with lots of acreage. Louis wasn't satisfied with just brewing beer. He created a park for all kinds of activities including a beer garden, hot air balloon rides, dance hall, saloon, bowling lanes, and many other things. The area became one of the most popular retreat for



Portlanders and Louis expanded his holdings until 1901 when he was forced to sell. One of the reasons he was forced to sell was because the Henry Weinhard Brewery had become such a big success.

Henry Weinhard was a fierce competitor. In 1889 he even offered to send beer through fire hoses to a dedication of the Skidmore Fountain a dozen blocks away near the waterfront. The city decided their fire hoses were too valuable to run them close to Portland's Skid Row, especially since the hoses would be full of beer. It was the promotions and growth of Henry Weinhard before prohibition and his



ability to convert successfully to bottling soda pop until 1932 that drove the Gambrinus Brewery out of business. The Henry Weinhard Co. reentered the beer business after prohibition and became the real king of beers in Oregon until the relative recent explosion of microbreweries is even starting to force the company out of business.

Many other Oregon towns had breweries prior to prohibition in 1915. Some of their embossed bottles are shown below.



## IN REMEMBRANCE

### Barbara Harms Tribute

By John Panek

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: John Panek, of the 1st Chicago Bottle Club, was a longtime friend of Barbara and Bob Harms. He wrote this touching tribute following her death because of cancer for The Midwest Bottled News, the club's newsletter. He shared his thoughts with Bottles and Extras readers.)*

The 1st Chicago Bottle Club mourns the loss of longtime member Barbara Harms. She passed away on September 27th after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Harms family.

Barbara was the backbone of our club. For more than 35 years, she served in numerous capacities as a club officer and member of our executive board. Perhaps her most important role was as the longtime editor of our club newsletter, *The Midwest Bottled News*. She was supremely dedicated to our club and was always concerned, even in the last week of her life, about the condition and future of our club.

Barbara was also a dedicated collector who pursued her specialties in a determined fashion. Among her specialized collections were Carter's inks, Piso's Cures, Clayton Dog Remedies, Jumbo jars, ladies' compacts, beaded handbags, multi-view postcards, spice tins, miniature glass creamers and others.

And, Barbara had many opportunities to start and add to these collections because she and Bob would attend or set up at more than 20 bottle shows a year! They would be seen from Los Angeles to St. Petersburg to Ballston Spa and all points within the U.S. where there was a bottle show. Their overseas trips included attendance at bottle shows in Australia, New Zealand and England.



**Barbara Harms chats with Ed Herrold during the 2008 FOHBC Expo in York, Pa.**

(Photo courtesy of June Lowry)

The common thread at all these shows she attended or participated in her life was that she made lifelong friends at all of them. She was a "people" person with the innate ability to connect on a personal level with you. Thus, in the mid 1970s, Barbara became our close and dear friend. She and Bob were our Caribbean cruise ship companions, annual Las Vegas and Reno bottle show attendees with us since 1988 and, of course, our legendary gambling casino buddies.

With all of the above said, Barbara found time to serve a few terms as the treasurer of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, the president of her church parish's Women's Club and was an active participant in the local historical society and library board. All this while being the devoted wife of Bob and mother of eight children, four stepchildren, 30 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

We have tried to provide a brief glimpse into the life of an extraordinary and remarkable woman who will be deeply missed, not only by her family and us, but by countless others who she befriended during her life. Godspeed Barbara Ann. Love, John and Claudia Panek