

Alois Bube would be amazed



This photo was taken around the turn of the century.

Alois Bube, who built a large brewery in Mount Joy nearly a hundred years ago, would surely be amazed if he could see it today.

Bube's catacombs, deep underground vaults for aging vast vats of beer, have been turned into the area's most extraordinary place to dine by Henry Gingrich, proprietor of the Central Hotel.

Bube's wasn't the only brewery in the area back in the last century. In Mount Joy there was also the Philip Frank Malt House and the Kieff Brewery, and in Marietta were the Koch-Sander-Heaffner and Frederick Maulich breweries. Columbia also had a few.

The following interesting paragraphs about the history of Bube's Brewery were culled from the pages of the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. 70, No. 1, written by Charles Lynch and Jack W. W. Loose:

"Alois Bube was born in Bavaria in 1851, and came to the United States in 1869. In 1874 Bube met and married Pauline Kurn of Lancaster. Citizenship was granted to Alois in 1878. At first he was employed at Lawrence Knapp's brewery, but in 1878 he had his own brewery in Mount Joy, thought to have been a small brewery operated for some years by Philip Frank, the maltster. The Bube family lived at first in a small residence, later the site of the Central House Hotel. In 1889 Bube erected a larger brewery and the Central House Hotel, with financial backing by Philip Frank. Large vaults were dug under the brewery, hotel, and adjacent land. In 1893 a fire damaged the roof and part of the brewery. Bube employed the most modern methods of brewing then known for his small but well-equipped brewery.

"According to Walter (Dutch) Kramer, who was a

beer deliveryman for Mr. Bube. Alois was a large portly man with a long white beard. Daily deliveries of beer were made to Columbia, Elizabethtown, Ironville, Sporting Hill, Landisville, Milton Grove, Mastersonville, Union Square and Mount Joy. Beer was delivered to Middletown to King McCord, a distributor; and to Manheim twice weekly. Three horses were used to draw each wagon. Mr. Kramer recalls the names of the horses: John, Dick, Doll, Harry, Major, Red Pet, Bill, and Frank. Work was begun at 4:00 a.m. for Bube's nine employees: Henry Engle, George Frank, Harry Frank, John Horstik, Samuel Sheaffer, Oliver Mateer, William Walker, Carl Garman, and Walter Kramer. Sheaffer, Mateer and Horstik were boilermakers. Mr. Kramer admits with little modesty that in the seven years he worked at the brewery, he "drank only two gallons of water." Eight stops were made every morning in Columbia, and seven stops (equal to the number of churches. Mr. Kramer remembers) were made in Mount Joy each Saturday. He earned \$12 a week delivering beer.

"Bube produced beer in both Pilsener and Bavarian varieties; ale; and soft drinks.

"The Bube Brewery was located in the point formed by the intersection of Old Market Street and Market Street, opposite the Frank Malt House. In the immediate vicinity, in addition to the Malt House, were John Baumbach's blacksmith shop, Benjamin Greena-

helped Mrs. Bube in the hotel kitchen at times. Mr. Bube also owned a saloon in Columbia.

"Alois Bube died 20 April 1908 after which his estate operated the brewery. Mrs. Bube died about 1918. In 1914 John R. Hallgren bought the brewery and operated it until 1917 when business conditions and the impending Prohibition Era forced him to close and sell the plant. Hallgren's wife was born in the same town in Sweden a John Forstberg (see Rieker Brewery), and Hallgren worked for Forstberg at the Chester Brewery until 1914. Forstberg's thorough knowledge of brewing markets and the local situation without doubt influenced Hallgren to purchase the Bube Brewery. Mr. Hallgren left Mount Joy to become a merchant in Harrisburg and later in Hershey. He died in 1927.

"Henry Engle, a son-in-law of Alois Bube, took over the brewery and hotel property about 1920. Mrs. Engle was Josephine Bube. Alois had five daughters: Annie, Maidie, Josephine, Pauline, and Tekla; and one son, Karl. The Central House Hotel was operated by the Engle family to many years, in fact, up to Mr. Engle's death in 1965. Employees of the Engle family were Kearsy Frank, a hired man named "Rudy" who was followed about the neighborhood by a pet goose, Margaret Funk, and a colored lady named Ada."

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