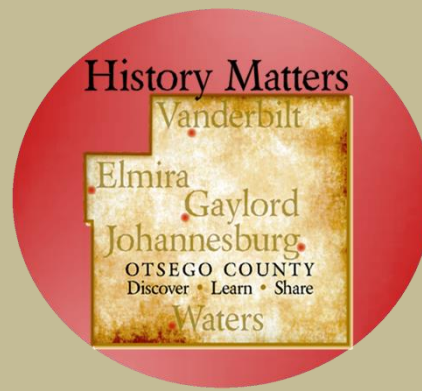


Update # 48

December 1, 2018



Phil Alexander

History Matters Detective

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Do you recall seeing the pyramid of pop bottles shown to the left the last time you visited the Otsego County History Museum? Did you know there once was a bottling company in Gaylord?

Here's what initiated that exhibit in our Business & Industry section of the museum. Several years ago, someone found a pop bottle and brought it to the museum.



It was from the Pinnacle Bottling Works in Gaylord. At first, not much information about the company was known.

Lots of questions, but not many answers. When was the Pinnacle Bottling Works in business? Who owned it? How big was the factory? Where was it located? Why did it go out of business?

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Following much research, here's what we have learned so far. The company was owned and operated by Clayton Honeywell and his sons Harold and Herbert.

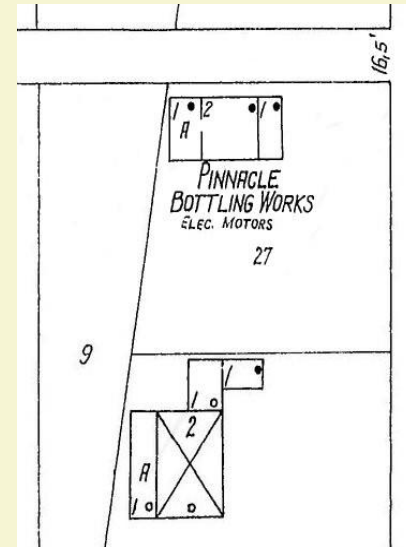
According to a Herald Times newspaper article dated July 21, 1927, they produced 4800 bottles of pop per day. Flavors included strawberry, grape, orange, cherry, ginger ale, root beer, coco-cola, and lemonade. They trucked their product to communities throughout northern Michigan. Business was booming and a bigger place was needed to keep up with demand.

Empty bottles were returned to be refilled – but first they had to be washed and sterilized. No throw away cans or plastic containers for soda pop back then. Do you think there was a 2¢ bottle deposit?



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The graphic to the right probably doesn't look like much, but it shows the location and dimensions of the factory. It was on 4th Street between Otsego and Court. There was an alley going north and south through the middle of the block. The Boyne City, Gaylord, and Alpena Railroad ran along 4th Street. This information is from the 1927 Sanford Fire Map.



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Some basic genealogy searching found that Clayton Honeywell was born in 1870. His wife, Charlotte, passed away in 1927 – a few months prior to the previously mentioned newspaper article. Harold was born in 1902 and Herbert was born in Elmira in 1907. Census records show the family lived in the Elmira area in 1910 and 1920. Clayton and his 2 sons were living in Gaylord in 1930 and still operated the bottling works company. Herbert married Marjorie Noirot the following year. Clayton died in Rogers City in 1938.

What started with a person finding a bottle turned into a multi-year history detective case. Please **share** what you know about the Pinnacle Bottling Works and the Honeywell family.

Before Gaylord became the Alpine Village, it was known as the Top O' Michigan and the Pinnacle City. Its claim to fame was its altitude of 1400 feet above sea level.