

Soft Drinks/pop, water-

Cullen, James; Brainerd Bottling Works; Brainerd Beverages; Cibuzar, artesian wells-COMPILATION:

TIMELINE, condensed from articles below:

1871: **Adam Brown**, one of the first-comers in 1871, owned land that had a flowing spring in the south bank of this creek. Brown sold that water to peddlers who drove tank wagons for delivering drinking water around town.

1880?: **James** (“**Jas.**”) **Cullen** started a small pop factory on 2nd. Ave. NE, making a few cases a day.

1888: Brainerd City Directory: **Cullen, James**, Pop mfr 27 2nd ave, res same

1892: An artesian well is accidentally struck at the end of S. 7th St., having a capacity of 40 barrels an hour, is known as **Adam Brown’s Artesian Well**. It was also used by Johnson’s Pharmacy on E. Front St. for his “Pure Artesian Soda Water.”

1895: **J. Cullen**, Because of Brainerd's miserable water, moved his bottling plant to the south END of 7th St.

1898: Due to less than healthful water supplied by the city water works, several doctors endorse the H. J. Spenser spring water (formerly Adam Brown’s): **JAMES L. CAMP**, President Board of Health., **A. F. GROVES**, **GEO. S. McPHERSON**, **WERNER HEMSTEAD**, **WALTER COURTNEY**. Chief Surgeon **N. P. Ry.**, using the water in our hospital. Also, a 371’ artesian well was sunk at the N. P. Shops, producing 70 barrels an hour. Water drawn from the river was losing favor fast now.

1902: **Brainerd Bottling Works**, owned by James Cullen on 8th St., floods causing major damage.

1903: Brainerd City Directory: “**Cullen, James**, agt **Mpls. Brewing Co.**, res 211 N 6th st”

1914: **Brainerd-Cuyuna Mine** shaft 68 feet deep, whose two pumps, a 10 and 9 horsepower Cameron sinking pump, are pumping up 250 gallons a minute from the shaft, drained the Adam Brown Spring dry. This also dried up several neighbors’ wells, and Joseph Roskow Sr.’s spring.

1921, March 1: **Joseph Cibuzar** buys the Cullen plant, renaming it **Brainerd Carbonated Beverage Company**. Cibuzar bought all three* small bottling plants in Brainerd and merged them into one at the existing James Cullen Bottling Co. site along a creek in south Brainerd. *(What were they? Was Enterprise one?)

1936: **Cibuzar** built the home across the stream and south of the bottling plant in an area called Meadowbrook.

1938: Two artesian wells at the site provided the basic ingredient for Cibuzar's **Brainerd Spring Beverages**. He later sold the soft drink portion of the business in 1938 to focus on beer wholesaling. March 1, Cibuzar sells his plant to **T. A. Holmes**, renaming it Brainerd Coca Cola Bottling Company.

1946-7: This plant shut down bottling operations in about 1946-7 (?), when the latter built on NP trackage on 1st. & Washington Sts. *[Much of this information was gleaned from Ann M. Nelson’s **Special Features** sections on the CWCHS website. Find the whole story and get ready for a good read here. Thanks, Ann!*

http://www.crowwinghistory.org/brainerd_stuff.html#ARTESIANWELLS

CULLEN BLOCK (MAP #72)

Built by James Cullen, who starts a small pop factory on Second Avenue in northeast Brainerd in the 1880's, later moving it, in 1895, to Meadow Brook/Slaughter House Creek on South Seventh Street and selling it in 1921. (*Brainerd 1871-1946*, Carl Zapffe, Colwell Press, Incorporated, Minneapolis, Minnesota: 1946; p. 133)-AMN

1880's (?): **Joseph (James) Cullen** started a small pop factory on 2nd. Ave. NE, making just a few cases a day.

1888 Brainerd City Directory: **Cullen, James**, Pop mfr 27 2nd ave, res same [I am not sure what this old address correlates to in modern-day addressing.]

1892: Artesian Soda Water.

Among the great wonders of the enlightened age is that great source of pure water supply known as the Artesian Well.

Brainerd is now the proud possessor of the only one ever tapped in this section of the country. It is known as [Adam] Brown's Artesian Well and was drilled in the old well site on the above place which is about one mile from the centre of our city. This stream was accidentally struck while drilling an ordinary pump well, and has proved to be of great value, having a capacity of 40 barrels an hour. As the water from the well has been pronounced the most clear and healthful of any in this vicinity we have found it of benefit to introduce it into the manufacture of soda water, which has been done with good results, and we now boast of the purest sparkling beverage in the city, viz: "Pure Artesian Soda Water." We can give you the very latest of all drinks, a menu of which will be found elsewhere in these columns. Remember the place.

JOHNSON'S PHARMACY,
East Front St.

(*Brainerd Dispatch*, 22 July 1892, p. 4, c. 5)

1895: J. Cullen moves his bottling plant to the south END of Seventh St., due to the miserable municipal water used as a source, buying the land from pioneer Adam Brown, who sold his water to peddlers who drove tank wagons for delivering tank water around town [B75, 1946]. Here he found a flowing (artesian) spring, plus sunk a well which produced similar water. [I believe this is the same well.] Those who desire nice, pure spring water can now secure it in any quantity, H. J. Spencer having started his water tank on Wednesday, and is supplying families from Adam Brown's artesian well. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 07 June 1895, p. 4, c. 4)]

Those who desire nice, pure spring water can now secure it in any quantity, H. J. Spencer having started his water tank on Wednesday, and is supplying families from Adam Brown's artesian well. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 07 June 1895, p. 4, c. 4)

1898: To Whom It May Concern.

BRAINERD, MINN., Jan. 11, 1898.

In view of certain rumors in this city regarding the relative purity of the water furnished through the water works and the spring water furnished by H. J. Spencer, we cheerfully state our opinion that the spring water referred to is much more free from unhealthy substances, and that its use for drinking and cooling purposes is conducive to the good health of the community. We do not hesitate to recommend its use to all.

JAMES L. CAMP,
President Board of Health.

JOHNSON'S PHARMACY,

Soda Fountain Department.

MENU.

Vanilla (Ex.) Lemon (Extra)
Claret Nectar Sherbet Ginger
Pineapple Sarsaparilla Orange
Peach Frutina Malto Strawberry
Raspberry Crushed Violets
Chocolate (Vanilla) Coffee (Cream)
Moxie Nerve Food,
Orange phosphate, Lemon phosphate

Any of the above dispensed with
our new frosted cream when desired.

Vanilla Coffee (with cream,)

Lemon phosphate (Egg)

Buffalo Meade, (extra)

Fresh Fruits,

Strawberries with Cream.

Root Beer, Ginger Ale

Ask for the professor's drink for
headache, mental exertion, etc.

Advertising drinks containing water from the newly
discovered artesian well, 29 July 1892

Source: *Brainerd Dispatch*

A. F. GROVES,
GEO. S. McPHERSON,
WERNER HEMSTEAD,
WALTER COURTNEY.

Chief Surgeon N. P. Ry., using the water in our hospital.
(*Brainerd Dispatch*, 21 January 1898, p. 5, c. 2)

An artesian well has recently been sunk at the N. P. shops. At a depth of 371 feet a plentiful supply of water was found. The flow of the well is estimated to be over a barrel a minute or 70 barrels in an hour. The well was completed last week. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 18 November 1898, p. 8, c. 2)

1902: A PERFECT DELUGE SWEEPS OVERLAND-The Heaviest Rain Accompanied by Wind That has been Seen in Many Years.-CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE DONE.-New Patek Building Gets Great-Setback—Cullen’s Pop Factory Flooded. Taken from below:

The heavy rain of last night was a record breaker and never in the history of this part of the country have the people seen its like. This too on top of the rain of Saturday and Sunday morning made it all the worse, as the gulches and ravines were all filled nearly to overflowing. Great torrents of rain fell from about six o’clock in the evening on to early morning hours, with only a short abatement at intervals during the night. It seemed more like a cloud burst, for everywhere on the streets there were rushing streams, which carried with them dirt and sand and left in its wake deep furrows, filling almost every crevice and nook. It was something terrific and with the great sheets of rain there was considerable wind that drove it on in a wild rush.

Measurements were taken this morning and it is estimated that about five or six inches fell during the night. James Cullen's old horse, which served him faithfully for 22 years, was ordered chloroformed by him and Dr. C. A. Nelson performed the act which sent the animal to horse heaven. He was 28 years old and one of the most docile horses in the city.

Perhaps one of the most unfortunate results of the damage was at the **Brainerd Bottling Works owned by James Cullen** on 8th street. Here the water did all kinds of damage. The culvert to the east of that got clogged up, and the water backed up around the factory and this morning it was full nearly to the ceiling. Bottles and other stuff floated around on top of the water and there was a great sight to behold.

1903 Brainerd City Directory:

Cullen, James, agt Mpls. Brewing Co., res 211 N 6th st, (Mary A) [spouse]

1911/11/15, 100 years ago (1911) Missing content.

1914:

MINING CHECKS WATER SUPPLY

Brainerd-Cuyuna Mine Shaft 68 Feet Deep Drains the Adam Brown Spring Dry

AFFECTS HIS NEIGHBORS’ WELLS

Mine Now Pumping Out 250 Gallons a Minute From its Shaft Workings With Two Pumps

From Tuesday’s Daily:—

The Adam Brown spring, one of the fixtures of the south side, has gone dry as a result of the mining operations of the Brainerd-Cuyuna Mining Company mine, whose shaft is now down 68 feet and whose two pumps, a 10 and 9 horsepower Cameron sinking pump, are pumping up 250 gallons a minute from the shaft.

The water streamed into the shaft when the hardpan was succeeded by a seam of gravel and it was along this stratum of gravel that the water supply for the Adam Brown spring existed. When it found vent in the shaft the

spring speedily dried up.

Mr. Brown, at present, is in a predicament. The spring which he had commercialized and whose waters he had sold since 1893 [sic] [1892], has passed out of existence. He is a mile away from the city water connections. The creek nearby, called the Brown creek and by some the Rosko creek, is charged with muck and sediment gained from the pump discharge of the mine.

“My cows won’t drink the creek water,” said Mr. Brown this morning. “I have trouble supplying my household with water. The mine is a half a mile north of my spring and I never though for a moment that the operation of the mine would affect my water supply.”

James Cullen, at some expense, piped his water from the spring to his pop factory. Mr. Brown said he expended \$3,000 or more for equipment and building.

Joseph Rosko, Sr., had a flowing well on his farm in the city limits. When first discovered the water spurted 10 feet high. It was properly capped and a system of pipes installed and the house and barn supplied with running water. Today but a small stream is trickling.

The well at H. H. Baker’s place, situated a short distance from the Rosko farm, is also dry.

As the shaft of the mining company will be sunk probably a hundred feet deep and then probably more into the rock so as to undermine the ore deposits, it follows that still more strata of water will be struck and still more territory drained. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 02 January 1914)

1921, March 1:

Joseph Cibuzar bought the Cullen plant, renaming it Brainerd Carbonated Beverage Company. [Friends of mine and grandsons to Joseph Cibuzar, Alan and Paul Cibuzar may want to do a story on the history of the Cibuzar era (they just don’t know it yet)! Al, Betty says you are supposed to do this!] Cibuzar, from Mason City, Iowa, stopped in Brainerd for several days in 1921 when his car broke down when he was en route to a vacation in Winnipeg, Canada. But the car trouble opened the door to opportunity. Cibuzar bought all three small bottling plants in Brainerd and merged them into one -- at the existing James Cullen Bottling Co. site along a creek in south Brainerd.

1936:

In 1936, Cibuzar built the home across the stream and south of the bottling plant in an area called Meadowbrook.

1938:

The creek has been known by many names over the years -- Stony Brook, Buffalo Creek, Bean's Creek and Slaughterhouse Creek. Cibuzar owned and operated the Brainerd Bottling Works, which had homemade soft drinks named Braino. Two artesian wells at the site provided the basic ingredient for Cibuzar's Braino Spring Beverages, which came in orange, strawberry, ginger beer, root beer, creme soda and lemon flavors. The recipes came with Cibuzar from Mason City. He later sold the soft drink portion of the business in 1938 to focus on beer wholesaling.

1938, March 1:

Cibuzar sells plant to T. A. Holmes, renaming it Brainerd Coca Cola Bottling Company. This plant shut down bottling operations in about 1946-7 (?), when the latter built on NP trackage on 1st. St. The building is no longer there, being demolished in _____. The land was once scheduled for townhouses, but later sold to a neighbor to the south. They made a wonderful park-like area out of it, complete with a pond fed by the same artesian well!

[A further study of James Cullen would be a fun project, and I have an interest in him for another reason. I also collect Grain Belt beer items, and he was the agent for them around 1903.]

1946:

Braino Beverages:

Brainerd 75, Carl Zapffe, 1946:

Pages 133, 134:

Back in the '80s, James Cullen started a small pop factory on 2nd Avenue in northeast Brainerd. He made a few cases a day. Because of Brainerd's miserable water, he moved his plant in 1895 to the south end of South 7th Street near what old-timers called Meadow Brook and others nicknamed Slaughter House Creek. Cullen moved there because Adam Brown, one of the first-comers in 1871, owned land that had a flowing spring in the south bank of this creek. Brown sold that water to peddlers who drove tank wagons for delivering drinking water around town. Cullen needed such water for making better pop. As his product improved, his factory grew. He bought lots in 1895 in the low part of the creek valley, erected a plant, and sank a well which produced the same kind of water. On March 1, 1921, Cullen sold his plant to Joseph Cibuzar, and it then became known as Brainerd Carbonated Beverage Company. The new owner added a new line of carbonated products, including Coca Cola, and began a delivery service to resorts at the lakes. On March 1, 1938, he sold this to T. A. Holmes who renamed it Brainerd Coca Cola Bottling Company as he specialized as an area distributor of this special products for central Minnesota. This business grew by leaps. Now, in 1946, a new plant will be built on Northern Pacific uptown trackage and when fully equipped will represent an investment of \$150,000. And all that evolved out of what was in the late '80s only a backyard soda-water bottling shed.

NOTE: This searchable document and the entire book can be found on the Crow Wing County Historical Society website here:

http://www.crowwinghistory.org/downloads/Zapffe_Brainerd_75_1946.pdf

1992:

The Brainerd Bottling Works building was taken down in 1992 to make way for the \$1.5 million 11-unit Park View Estate Townhomes. [These townhomes never materialized. -CWF]

ARTICLES:

Measurements were taken this morning and it is estimated that about five or six inches fell during the night.

With this redundancy of water there was great damage done about the city and vicinity. Perhaps the greatest loss was to the new Patek building that is being erected on Seventh street south. The brick wall on the south side of the building was nearly half way up, but this morning the southwest corner, including some twenty feet of the wall had been washed in and reduced to a pile of debris.

Around this building the water seemed to have rushed in about the foundation and little by little penetrated the wall till a large opening was made and then the water that had gathered about the building and on the lots above rushed madly down into the basement. The foundation gave way and down came the wall. It is a desolate looking place this morning. It is estimated that the loss to this building will exceed \$500, besides the loss of time that will be necessary now to complete the building. Contractor Olson had the work which he was doing by the yard so that Mr. Patek will not be the loser.

Drs. Hemstead and Reimestad also sustained heavy losses again last night. Both are building new residences, and during the rain of Saturday night both foundations were badly damaged and the rain again last night seemed to finish the job in good shape. The north wall of Dr. Hemstead's house was washed in this time as well as the south wall. The foundation of Dr. Reimestad's new house is almost a total ruin.

Considerable damage was done on Oak street at the culvert near the St. Paul track. This culvert was partially washed out and is in bad shape.

The trains which were due to reach the city this morning were late. The train from the east which is due here at about 12 o'clock did not get here until 5 o'clock this morning and the one due going east did not get here until after 8 o'clock. There are several washouts between this city and Staples, and the trains had to go around by the way of Little Falls and this of course caused a big delay.

Perhaps one of the most unfortunate results of the damage was at the Brainerd Bottling Works owned by James Cullen on 8th street. Here the water did all kinds of damage. The culvert to the east of that got clogged up, and the water backed up around the factory and this morning it was full nearly to the ceiling. Bottles and other stuff floated around on top of the water and there was a great sight to behold.

On Tenth street between Grove and Ivy there were some very bad washouts. Tom Stirrup's small house, at 606 Tenth street north, was so badly surrounded by water, that the south side of the foundation caved in completely and the occupant, George Dougherty, with his family, moved out at 11 p. m. The Minnesota & International land is badly washed out, and many places along the track are undermined by the water.

At the electric power house there was considerable damage done. The river rushed in there and played havoc and the approaches to the new wagon bridge were badly hacked up although the bridge is still passable.

Cellars all over the city are filled with water and those who did not sustain some loss are considered extremely fortunate.

The trains were all late this afternoon on account of the high water. The train from the west was several hours late.

There was considerable damage done at the Brainerd Lumber Co. mill, the track and sewerage being affected by the large amount of water, to the extent of about \$200. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 21 May 1902, p. 3, c.'s 1 & 2)

2000/11/10:

Home with history, By RENEE RICHARDSON, Senior Reporter

Web posted **Friday, November 10, 2000**

Home with history

By **RENEE RICHARDSON**
Senior Reporter

When the Kurtzmans moved back to Brainerd from Indiana, they were not looking for the Gull Lake location where they previously had lived.

Instead, house hunting goals included home and a nearby creek. Those elements, part south Brainerd.

This English Tudor home is tucked behind a stone walkway, fountain and artistic iron gates, resembling more of a country estate than a city home. The south Brainerd home is part of the Grand Old Home Tour on Dec. 2. (Dispatch Photos by Renee Richardson)



hardwood floors, an older of a 1936 estate, were found in

"I walked in here and it had everything," John Kurtzman said. "It just fit perfectly because we prefer older houses than new ones."

The English Tudor home is like a preserved piece of Brainerd's history. Tall pines, mature versions of the small, freshly planted trees visible in a 1936 photo of the home, now provide a protective border that obscures the home from side and back views. Sculpted cedar trees frame the front yard, which includes brick walkways, a fountain and hand-crafted, intricate iron gates.



Lace curtains, hardwood floors and built-in corner cabinets mark the formal dining room. The windows provide a view of the back porch, which overlooks the artesian well behind the home.

Inside, the seven-bedroom home was restored to the earlier version, which meant removing an apartment division. The home has a library and formal dining, as well as an extensive lower level with room for recreation from hot tub to pool table.

The home was a good match to Kurtzman's 30-year passion for pre-Civil War furniture. Home furnishings are from New York, crafted by 19th century furniture maker John Henry Belter. The German-born Belter was known for furniture of rich carving, handsome brocades and bold asymmetry. Belter's favorite medium was rosewood, a dark wood popular in America at the time.

In 1856, Belter patented his invention of processing laminated rosewood in many layers to achieve thin panels. Heavy steaming was used to shape the wood in molds and then the wood was finely carved. Rosewood is one of several ornamental timbers, products of various tropical trees native to Brazil, Honduras, Jamaica, Africa and India.

The house itself has nearly as interesting a past. The house was built south of a

bottling plant by Joseph F. Cibuzar.

Cibuzar, from Mason City, Iowa, stopped in Brainerd for several days in 1921 when his car broke down when he was enroute to a vacation in Winnipeg, Canada. But the car trouble opened the door to opportunity. Cibuzar bought all three small bottling plants in Brainerd and merged them into one -- at the existing James Cullen Bottling Co. site along a creek in south Brainerd.

In 1936, Cibuzar built the home across the stream and south of the bottling plant in an area called Meadowbrook. The Cibuzar family moved in on Dec. 10, 1936, and lived in the house for nearly 40 years.

The creek has been known by many names over the years -- Stony Brook, Buffalo Creek, Bean's Creek and Slaughterhouse Creek. Cibuzar owned and operated the Brainerd Bottling Works, which had homemade soft drinks named Braino. Two artesian wells at the site provided the basic ingredient for Cibuzar's Braino Spring Beverages, which came in orange, strawberry, ginger beer, root beer, creme soda and lemon flavors. The recipes came with Cibuzar from Mason City. He later sold the soft drink portion of the business in 1938 to focus on beer wholesaling.

The Brainerd Bottling Works building was taken down in 1992 to make way for the \$1.5 million 11-unit Park View Estate Townhomes. [These townhomes never materialized. -CWF]



A pair of lions guards the home's entrance. Tall trees, with pines planted in 1936 when the house was constructed, now form a protective screen.



Pre-Civil War furniture accents the living room. A wrought-iron stairway leads to the second floor and intricate spindles above the windows called fret work were used in Victorian homes typically between 1880 and 1900 to accent windows and archways.

The Kurtzmans, John and Carol, cleaned up the artesian well that once came into the basement of the bottling plant. The land, adjacent to the home site, was purchased and rejoined to the original property making it about 3.5 acres. Now the well is visible in small bubbles that erupt from a shallow rock-rimmed pond that cascades noisily down a small waterfall to the nearby creek.

The creek was once stocked with tame rainbow trout, brook trout and ducks. More recent fish stocking attempts were met with enthusiasm from a passing great blue heron.

Sited by tall pines and on a surprisingly large parcel of land, the Kurtzmans found a home that is more reminiscent of a country estate than a quiet city street and they reclaimed a piece of Brainerd's past for the future.



Small trees planted when the house was built in 1936 are now mature, sheltering the home from side and back views. The creek, which has been known by many names, is in the foreground.

2009: Cullen, James, Bottling Co.

A taste of old Brainerd (BD, June 10, 2009)

A pop bottle bearing the name James Cullen and Brainerd was discovered as crews dug through cement that has been in place since 1919. The Cullen Building stands on Front Street. Brainerd Dispatch/Steve Kohls



James Cullen Brainerd Minnesota MN Soda advertising, bar Souvenir Seltzer Bottle, eBay:

Sold for \$57.00, 4 bids, from St. Paul [About 2002.]

Shipping & Handling, \$14.00 USPS First-Class Mail®



11-1/2" tall clear bottle with etched/frosted lettering: "JAMES CULLEN BRAINERD MINN" on front. Obviously this was used as there is white crud inside.....the glass tube "straw" has broken and is missing...other than that it has NO cracks/chips/repairs. 3-1/2" across the base which does show wear. Heavy so it will cost \$14. to



ship. (pick up is always an option!)

-CWF, 4/27/2021; UPDATED: 7/25/2021