



Henry Weinhard and the one that got away.



In 1887, an acquaintance of Henry's was elected mayor of Walla-Walla. Over the years, Henry had been roundly cheered by the man's robust good humor. So Henry decided to applaud the good sense of the people of the town and contracted the Cowlitz River Canoe Line to deliver to the mayor and his constituents, three small kegs of his best beer.

Because of what happened, it should be explained that the Cowlitz River Canoe Line had never attempted an endeavor like the one Henry proposed.

They had gone above Cowlitz Creek on the Columbia but never above The Dalles, the most treacherous stretch of river anywhere in the world.

Here, every drop of rain that has fallen within the five million acres drained by the Columbia forces its way through a split in the earth only fifty yards wide.

It was a great ditch.

Later, a portage company was available to handle the passage, but on this trip, the two men from the Cowlitz River Canoe Line would have to make do. Bolstered by the promise of an amber bonus, they took the job, and headed up river, the three heavy wooden kegs clunking between them in the large canoe.

At The Dalles, the issue was, where to hide the canoe until the second half of the portage. The only spot that suited a compromise was a wild and wooly rapid that

was too close for comfort to the terrifying spout of The Dalles.

As the men fought to land their craft, they capsized. And as there were only two men, only two kegs of Henry's beer could be rescued from the wild water.

They watched the third disappear in a hurry down the Mighty Columbia.

Several months later, a paddle-wheeler from the Pacific Mail Steamship Company was hurrying north on a run from San Francisco to Seattle. Just off Astoria, the tiny fishing village at the mouth of the Columbia, crewmen spotted a battered, bobbing keg and fished it from the sea.



It was a beer! They shared the contents, nicely chilled, remarking on the fine flavor and excellent character. But had no idea where it came from.

ABOUT HENRY'S BEER.

In 1865, Henry Weinhard made a beer using only the finest hops, the most-expensive two-row barley, and a brewing process that was measured in results instead of time.

Favorably compared to the finest beers of the world, it was unfortunately so costly to produce, that it remained a beer he reserved for the private enjoyment of his close friends.



Henry Weinhard's Private Reserve.