

H. E. LEVY AND THE SEATTLE SODA WORKS
FIRST SODA WATER MANUFACTURERS IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY

by John Cooper

A number of years ago I dug up a crude aqua-colored old soda bottle on Bainbridge Island. It was embossed in the glass "L.BROS.". It is identical in shape to several dug on Vancouver Island but none found there are embossed like this one. The Canadian collectors were puzzled by it but believed it

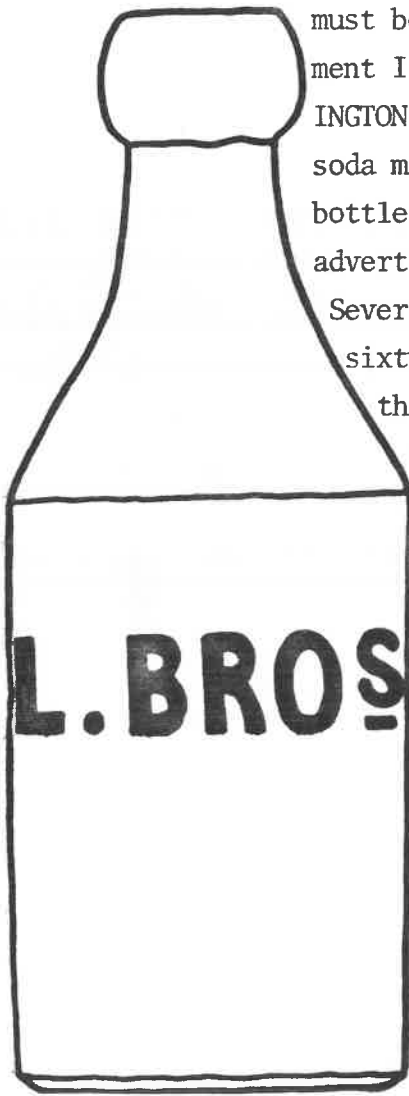
must be from their area. I disagreed because of a short statement I had read in Clarence Bagley's "HISTORY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON" which made reference to Levy Brothers as a Seattle-based soda manufacturer. Ray Frederick, one of our most knowledgeable bottle collectors in the area, confirmed my belief by producing advertisements and articles from early newspapers of Seattle.

Several more of these bottles have now been uncovered within a sixty mile radius of Seattle. I have turned from digging in the ground to digging in libraries and have uncovered considerable information about the Levy Brothers, mainly the principal owner of the enterprise, H. E. Levy. In the following article I have included much about his early life before he arrived in Seattle because it is an excellent glimpse at the times and difficulty that beset children of that era. Be patient as you read, you will eventually arrive in Seattle.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank the Seattle Public Library for the excellent resource they are for those of us searching for information about Seattle's early citizens. It was their files that pointed me in the direction of the Provincial Archives in Victoria, B. C. and a copy of Mr. Levy's memoirs.

Such a rare document could not be hoped for and its discovery was a great delight to me. I would be amiss if I didn't include a "thank you" to our Canadian



neighbors for so willingly and promptly responding to my inquiry. I also want to thank my friend, Ron Fowler, for his help and encouragement in such research. I also thank him for his meticulous restoration of the old advertisements that appear in this article. The excellent drawings of the bottles are also the result of his pen.

CHAPTER ONE: FROM BIRTH TO AN EARLY MANHOOD

Henry Emanuel (Manny) Levy was born in Wellington, New Zealand on June 9, 1843. Fate seemed to dictate that he would become a sailor. By the time he was fifteen he had traveled half way around the world four times with a few side trips thrown in as well. His family did not start out to be world travelers voluntarily. When Manny was three they left New Zealand, his father decided he had a better purpose in life that to help put down the native Maori Rebellion. The elder Levy was a carpenter and cabinetmaker by trade and found ready employment wherever they went. Australia was the first stop, a penal colony of the British Empire.

In 1849 the news of the California gold discovery reached all ports of the world and the rush was on, including the Levys. By the time they reached the Golden Gate, another baby had joined them. It seemed that each year another child was added until there were a total of seven. The wages in San Francisco were high, but so were the prices of food and housing. Mr. Levy did well enough in two years to allow him to ship his family and a tidy sum of savings back to his original home, London. The year was 1851 and Manny was eight years old. They spent less than two years there, according to his memoirs. Dad was an easy touch and there were too many relatives reaching out. They soon ran low on funds and packed up to sail for California once again.

Young Manny never had a chance to attend a formal school. Too much moving. He was quite a bright boy so he must have picked up the elements of reading, writing and "ciphering", as arithmetic was then called, from his parents. It held him in good stead. In later years in Seattle he won a spelling bee while competing against forty "educated" adults. On this fateful second trip his father died two days out of Acapulco. In those days their ship from England docked on the east coast of Central America and the passengers either walked or traveled on mule to the west

coast to board another waiting ship. The trip through the jungle quite often was the downfall of travelers. Tropical diseases were awaiting them.

Manny's widowed mother was now the sole support for her six children, she gave birth to the seventh about six months after her husband's death. Their second stay in California was also short-lived. The widow was not about to raise her children in the wild society of San Francisco. In those years it had one of the highest crime rates in the world. Gold attracts such types. Before the year was out, they were on their way back to England. An interesting sidelight mentioned in his memoirs was the rarity of white women and children in California in those early days. Miners coming to town for the first time in months, would stop and talk to them. Many had families back east and they were terribly homesick. Often they would give the children small gold nuggets or coins. On one occasion the world-famous Jenny Lind was singing before an audience of these miners when she and the musicians were "shushed" to a silence because a baby was heard crying in the audience and the miners so hungered for such a sound, they silenced this great artist.

The family arrived in London dead broke and on the verge of starvation. If Manny had been a gentile, he would probably have never been known in the Pacific Northwest. He was greatly interested in studying mechanical engineering but all the London machine shops were owned by gentiles and so he would have to work on Saturday, an impossible situation for a boy whose mother was determined to bring up her family in the Jewish religion and traditions. At fifteen, his family still very poor, Manny was determined to get to the New World again. He knew his opportunities for success were much better there than in London. He scraped up sufficient money to buy passage to New York City. After a short but unsuccessful stay there, he borrowed funds from friends in San Francisco to buy passage back to California. And so for a third time in his short life, he sailed through the Golden Gate, this time very much alone but determined to make a better life for himself and his family back in England. He had no way to go but up. His optimism soon faded and he was compelled to accept an offer of a friend to take a position as assistant porter in a store in Victoria, British Columbia. And so begins his life in the Pacific Northwest.

VICTORIA, B. C.

In this growing, bustling town in Western Canada, Manny had difficulties holding a job. His strong will and personality emerged in a clash with the store owner. Within a month he quit and took employment with Alexander Phillips, the operator of a soda water factory. Although this job too was of short duration (ill health proved his undoing) it introduced him to a business that later brought him to a small town of 3,000 in Washington Territory called Seattle, but I am getting ahead of the story.

In the year 1859 Manny was sixteen and big for his age. It must have been hereditary, it certainly wasn't because he had been eating regularly. He applied for a position on the Victoria police force, lying about his age, and was accepted. He had many exciting adventures with wild Indians and drunk or deserting sailors, but the main benefit was for the first time he could send money to his mother in London to help support his younger brothers and sisters. He stayed in law enforcement for four years, also serving as a partner in a merchant police association. At one time during these years a gold strike in the Leach River mines fired his ambition and imagination and off he went. Friends had arrived there earlier and staked out a claim for him. One day of panning convinced him he was a fool to give up his Victoria position which was paying \$250. a month, so back to Victoria he went.

CHAPTER TWO THE LEVY BROTHERS PARTNERSHIPS

Henry's brother Joseph arrived in Victoria in 1865 and they formed the first of the Levy Brothers partnerships. Their restaurant, which lasted for 75 years in Victoria, was first known as the Arcade Oyster Saloon, then the Arcade Restaurant and Chop House, and finally Levy's Restaurant. Their dishes had an oyster shell painted on each with the name "Levy's / Victoria, B. C. / 1865" written in the shell. This eating establishment became one of the most famous of its day and undoubtedly was the source for the funds needed when Henry started expanding into other schemes. Levy's memoirs describe its location as near the New England Hotel. This writer had a most interesting experience while on a weekend visit to Victoria in search for more information concerning the Levy family. On a

bright Sunday morning after a terribly wet Saturday night, I was seated in a restaurant on Government Street. While waiting to be served, I looked out the window and there, across the street, stood an old brick building with the name clearly visible, "New England Hotel".

You will note that I now refer to our main subject as Henry. He is a young man of business and it seems appropriate to address him by his first name rather than his childhood nickname. Henry had five brothers and he managed, one by one, to get them all to Victoria. His mother eventually lived there too. I have not discovered what became of his sisters. He had a grand scheme that each brother would have a business of his own, but all would be partners in the whole. Only Joseph and he succeeded, they jointly owned the restaurant and the soda works in Seattle.

SEATTLE, W. T.

Henry's memoirs state that in 1870 he left brother Joe in charge of the Victoria business and went to Seattle "and commenced a soda water factory and bottling works". Production did not start until 1871. The largest newspaper in Seattle, The Weekly Intelligencer, recorded the event in their January 30th edition:

"A Soda Factory in Seattle - We are informed by Mr. H. E. Levy, of Victoria, that he will in a short time start in this city a factory to supply Puget Sound with Soda Water, Syrups, Cider, Ginger Beer, etc., which will excel anything of the kind north of San Francisco. He has already brought here and stored with Stone and Burnett first class apparatuses for the manufacture of all these refreshing and desirable beverages, and will have them in operation in the course of a month or six weeks. An establishment of this kind is needed on the Sound, and there is every reason to believe that its products will be in great demand, and find ready sale at remunerating rates. It will have the entire field to itself, and by the way rather an extensive, and, it is to be hoped, profitable one."

The illustrated ad on the top of page 6 appeared in the newspaper on March 27th.

Young Henry's business acumen(or good luck) became evident in this venture. He surely scouted the Puget Sound area thoroughly before making his decision to set up the business in Seattle, with its sawdust streets that were muddy beyond belief in the winter and dusty in the summer. All its structures were one or two story wooden buildings. What did he see in Seattle that was not evident in other struggling towns on the Sound? One obvious advantage was that Seattle is due west

of the lowest and most accessible pass through the rugged Cascade Mountains that lay about sixty miles to the east. It was logical that the first transcontinental railroad through to the Northwest would select this route and Seattle's future would be forever secure as the western terminus. The Northern Pacific Railroad in later years confounded all reason and logic for the greed of Tacoma land and brought that first train over the mountains considerably south of Seattle, but that is another story better told by others. The most obvious reason Levy might have considered when selecting Seattle was its large number of saloons. These were the major customers of the early soda businesses. Seattle in those days had a reputation as a wide open city.

In this first year of business another brother, John(better known around early Seattle as Jack), served as the bottler in the plant. The December 11, 1871 issue of The Weekly Intelligencer listed the businesses in Seattle and under "Soda Manufactory" is Levy, J., Plummer's Stable, Main Street. Their products might have had a strange taste, considering where they were prepared...

In those early days Seattle had a very poor water system and with all those wooden buildings, the threat of the town burning was a frequent subject in the newspapers. Every few months brought a report of a major fire in a western city. Seattle's fire prevention system included an ordinance that required each building to have a full barrel of water on its premises. In 1872 this probably saved the Levy Brothers from losing their business. It caught fire but the flames were doused before much damage was sustained.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE CORRECT THING!

LEVY'S

SODA WATER, LEMONADE,

SARSAPARILLA,

&c., &c., can be had at every Saloon in town, and
Wholesale at

LEVY BROS.,

MINERAL WATER WORKS,

PLUMMER'S HALL, COMMERCIAL STREET.

Seattle, W. T. 1871

Each year an Industrial Fair was held in Olympia, the Territorial Capitol, and Levy always won premiums and diplomas for his excellent products, but then, where was the competition? There was none until 1875. Early in their venture, the business was moved from the stable to a small room on Yesler's Wharf. In a few years Henry Yesler, the major property owner in that part of town, built a two-story building with full basement for Levy and the IOOF lodge, of which Henry and Jack were active members. The bottling equipment and cider press were set up in the basement. An interesting sidelight to the construction of the building is worth mentioning. After the framing had been completed (or nearly completed) a reporter for the newspaper who happened to be new to the Northwest and its Native Americans, heard quite a commotion outside his office and upon investigating the source, became alarmed when he found about a dozen of the Original Americans shouting in their native tongue and pointing at the construction. The reporter's fear was allayed when a white resident informed him the Indians were betting whether the building was indeed, square. Someone won money that night because it all came crashing down. Yesler was out several hundreds of dollars in labor and material.

In the fall and early winter of each year the Levy Brothers Soda Works, now also known as the Seattle Soda Works, would crush hundreds of bushels of apples into cider. The aroma in the bottling plant must have been overwhelming.



This bottle is referred to by collectors as the "longneck Seattle Soda. It is the rarest variety.

PORTLAND, OREGON

In 1873 Henry decided it was time to set up his youngest brother, Abraham, in a partnership in Portland, Oregon. Another soda plant. This youngest of the clan was but twenty one, but with assistance from Henry and Jack, he made his entry into the Portland market. With a thud... Within a few months they closed up shop. Henry wrote of this failure in his memoirs, "I closed out to my

opponents at a loss and gave up my partnership idea..." Ron Fowler, our resident expert on the history of Oregon soda bottlers, also claims the business was damaged in a major fire. Abraham's poor health was a contributing factor to the failure. He died the following year of consumption in Grass Valley, California.

SEATTLE SODA WORKS FOR SALE

The 1874 newspapers in Seattle contained an advertisement, "A Profitable Business For Sale. The plant and material of the Seattle Soda Works -- the only Soda Factory of Puget Sound, established for the past four years. Satisfactory reasons can be given for the present owner quitting the business. Persons not in the trade can acquire a perfect knowledge of it in one month..." That same year Jack Levy left for Victoria, "where he expects to reside for some time" according to the newspaper account of his departure. So Jack has left the business and 108 years later we can only speculate why. Jack was to return to Seattle within two years and set up his own business, independent of his brothers, a cigar stand that also served as a ticket agency for most of the theatrical productions that came to Seattle. He also became the ticket agent for the major steamship line. To draw prospective customers, he erected a huge bulletin board on which he hung news items that had just recently arrived over the telegraph line. He got a one-day jump on the newspapers and those eager to keep informed would visit "The Grotto". All of Jack's employment for his remaining years in Seattle gave him a great amount of public exposure. His name appeared in the newspapers in the middle and late 1870's more frequently than most prominent citizens. It is obvious that Jack was an outgoing, funloving person. Being cooped up in a basement bottling plant was definitely not to his liking. The Northwest Collection at the Suzzallo Library on the University of Washington campus has a leatherbound edition of the several small four-page newsletters he edited and published in 1878. His newsy gossip reveals his good humor.



(This Matthews Gravitating stopper bottle is Oregon's earliest known embossed soda and is rare.)

Back to our main subject, Henry Emanuel Levy. The soda plant is for sale. He must have placed quite a high price on it. In March, 1875 a Seattle citizen by the name of John S. Anderson determined to enter the soda water business, but not at Levy's price. He found it cheaper to purchase and have shipped from the East "the most complete apparatus in all its appointment for the manufacture of soda water..." again quoting the Intelligencer. He also advertised champagne cider, syrups and sarsaparilla. Levy by this time had added to his line of goods by offering foreign and domestic malt liquors, ale and porter. He also advertised for sale root beer and sarsaparilla. Anderson's decision is a curious one. If he had paid a premium price for Levy's business, he wouldn't have any competition, since he would be buying the only soda plant in the area. But to bring in another one only divided the trade. I can only conclude that Levy's price was discouragingly high or his equipment decrepit or outdated.

ENTER CHARLES FREDERICK RILEY

By 1876 the soda bottling business in small but bustling Seattle was becoming crowded. Mr. Charles F. Riley stepped from a ship complete with another soda manufacturing works. And Mr. Riley meant to get his share of the market. This increased competition might have made Levy move faster in order to cover all his bases, at least I will use that excuse to tell of his accident. Runaway teams of horses and smashed wagons was not an unusual event in those early days but Henry had a slightly different problem. The newspapers reported in their October 11th issue, "Mr. Levy, of soda water notoriety, met with an accident yesterday while driving along with his delivery wagon in the upper portion of town. The axle broke, and precipitated Mr. Levy and his load of soda into the street. No particular damage was done, however."

Levy was aggressive in selling his products. When he first attempted to line up the Olympia saloons, he failed with his sales pitch to the first six potential customers. He tried another technique. At the seventh saloon, he offered the owner all the soda water he could use, free for the first three months. Within a month the others were his steady customers.

In March, 1877 John Anderson dropped out of the competition and sold his equipment to Levy. Henry stated his intention of setting up a branch plant in Port Townsend. An article in the Daily Intelligencer also mentioned that a complete outfit was on the way from the East and would be located at some point up Sound, "proposing thereby to better supply the local demand at these points, and monopolize the soda business in Western Washington." But first we must dispose of Mr. Riley, the only competition...

ILL HEALTH FOR H. E. LEVY

Henry, who from his photos appears to be quite robust, must have pushed himself too hard now that he had rivals in business. It was announced in early 1877 in the newspaper that "H. E. Levy, the well-known soda water and liquor man, has concluded to take a trip to London, to recruit his health, which is perceptibly failing." You will note that I refer to many newspaper articles about our subject. When your business is next door to the newspaper I would guess that you would get more publicity than someone across town. Who wants to walk through the muddy, smelly streets when a story can be found next door? So at age 36 Mr. Levy takes a break from his business and starts on the first leg of his trip, which will take him to San Francisco. But such a driven man cannot stay away from business. In California he contracts with the owners of the Pacific Congress Springs mineral water plant and becomes their sole agent in the Puget Sound area. The article in the Daily Intelligencer states "by a free use of them(the mineral water) vitality is regained, the entire system built up, the blood purified, the liver invigorated, the kidneys strengthened, the bowels regulated and dyspepsia cured and that is in addition also a refreshing beverage and invigorating tonic." Levy must have freely imbibed of it because his absence from Seattle was too short to have allowed a trip to London and back. Before leaving on his sea journey, he left instructions to drive Charles Riley out of town by means of a price war. He was determined to regain his monopoly. On September 5, 1877 the following advertisement appeared in the Daily Intelligencer and ran for a period of weeks:

If you wonder at the significance of "37½ CTS.", remember that "two bits" is a quarter and so they were selling a dozen bottles for "three bits". Local numismatists tell me that no such coin was ever minted in the United States. They were used in Central and South America, but were cut from a silver dollar.

Mr. Riley had no choice but to match the price. Three days after Levy's ad first appeared, a reporter paid Riley a visit to view his new equipment for making soda water. At the end of the article that recounted the visit, is a quote from Riley: "He will serve customers at the lowest living prices." And somehow he hung on, and hung on...

In late September of that year the First Annual King County Industrial Fair was held. It is interesting to analyze the wording of the newspaper account of the results of the judging between Riley and Levy. Levy was awarded the First Premium Diploma for "Best Display soda water, ginger ale, cider, root beer, syrups and sarsaparilla." He had arranged his display in an eye-catching pyramid-shape, but Mr. Riley won the diploma for "Best root beer and soda water." It would appear that he had the better product.

THE SEATTLE BAZAAR

Within a few weeks of the fair, brother Samuel Levy arrived from London via Victoria and went to work in the soda works plant. By trade he had been a book-binder but apparently there was not sufficient business in frontier Seattle for his success in this line. Samuel's presence allowed Henry a freer hand at other business schemes he had been planning. Shortly before Christmas he opened a luxury variety store. These are the only words I can use to describe the Seattle Bazaar,

SODA WATER, 37½ cts. per doz.

ROOT BEER, 37½ cts. per doz.

(**Owing to late improvements in soda water apparatus, and buying our supplies for cash in the cheapest market, we have greatly reduced the price of our manufacture, and hasten to give our patrons the benefit. **)

Our Terms are: Cash on Delivery.

Yearly Contracts Made at the Above Rates.

LEVY BROS.,

Seattle Soda Works.

(**Owing to late improvements in soda Water)
(Apparatus and buying our supplies for cash)
(to the cheapest Market, we have greatly)
(reduced the price of our Manufacture, and)
(hasten to give our patrons the benefit.)

his most successful venture in Seattle. In his memoirs, Levy refers to his store as the forerunner to the department store. The street level of the new building he occupied was now to be used for this business. The soda business was still for sale, but no takers, and Riley was still hanging on. But how could he ? Both were losing money because of the price war.

OLYMPIA, W. T.

In June of 1878 Henry received a shipment of new soda manufacturing equipment. This was shipped to Olympia and set up in another effort to strengthen his grip on the Puget Sound market. In the fall of 1878 he began his first venture in salt packing fresh salmon and shipping it to San Francisco and the East Coast. This seasonal business would spark Levy's imagination, dreaming of world markets and great profits. In the fall and winter of 1880 he invested \$80,000.00, which was the greater part of his wealth, in preparing and shipping 300 barrels of salmon to England. He accompanied the shipment. Disaster struck. He had committed a cardinal business sin, placing "all his eggs in one basket". The ship carrying his perishable cargo was detained for several weeks in a tropical South American port, held in quarantine because a crewmember was stricken with yellow fever. When the ship finally arrived in Southhampton the fish were rotten. Levy had worked for so many years building up that nest egg, driving and wading through the terribly muddy streets of a remote little town on the remote Northwest coast of the North American continent, delivering his soda water and beer. And here he stood on a wet and miserable dock in Southhampton, looking at all those barrels of rotten fish. How could he return and face his business associates and family ? How could he start anew ? He seriously considered suicide. Quoting from his memoirs, "Through this I lost \$80,000.00 and felt the blow so keenly that I contemplated ending everything. After thinking things over and calling myself several names, decided to return to America and try once more..." He wrote these words in 1929 at the age of eighty-six. His thoughts on that English dock made a lasting impression on his mind, plus with the slow transportation of those days, he had weeks on the return trip to consider these harsh events.

The following advertisements are from The Intelligencer and illustrate the simultaneous use of two different company names. The "Levy's Soda Works" ad is from



November 2, 1878 and the "Seattle Soda Works" ad is from November 12th of the same year.

CHAPTER THREE

HENRY ON HIS OWN

Back to the year 1879. We find Mr. Levy with several irons in the commercial fire. In addition to his soda business, his retail store, the seasonal fish packing, home building in Seattle and Victoria, he is also involved as a one-sixth owner of a 1300 acre hop farm near Snoqualmie Falls. He had an interesting responsibility in this latter venture. He was to recruit hundreds of Indians from Vancouver Island each year to harvest the hops. They traveled from their homes to the farm in their large canoes, bringing everything they could possibly need including their chickens!

TRUCE

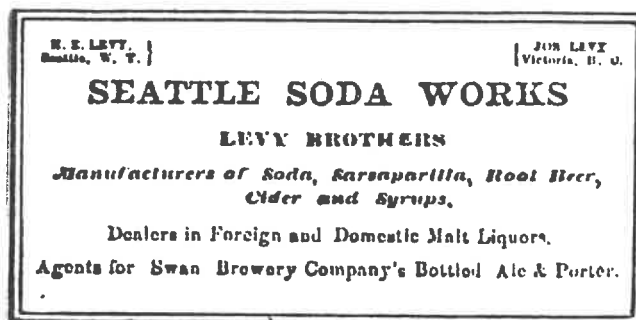
In February after seventeen months of profitless soda operations due to their price war, Levy and Riley got together and called a truce. Riley had survived this first attempt to drive him out, he wouldn't be so lucky in the near future. The Intelligencer of February 8th reports "A Combination - Messrs. Levy and Riley have entered into a combination by which the price of soda water has been raised from the rates recently charged to the price at which it was formerly sold. After a long time they found that the low rates would eventually bankrupt them, so they wisely agreed to live and let live, each one controlling so much of the trade as favors them with its patronage. No partnership has taken place as has been stated, and each will keep the even tenor of his way as formerly, only both

will sell for the same price."

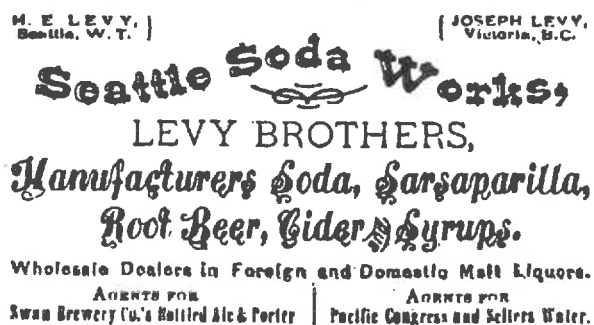
SEATTLE SODA WORKS SOLD

I believe Henry had another reason for ending the price war. He had been trying to sell his soda business for several years. With his other enterprises taking such a large amount of his time, he wanted to get this one behind him. But pricing his bottled products with no profit margin would make the business very difficult to move. To prove my point, within three months after the end of the "war", the George T. McGinnis Co. of San Francisco purchased the Seattle Soda Works. The April 26, 1879 Weekly Intelligencer reports "Patronize Home Industry - We have already announced the sale by Messrs. Levy Bros. of the Seattle Soda Works to Messrs McGinis(sic) & Co. of San Francisco. These gentlemen have now taken full possession of their new purchase, and if we mistake not will turn out a quality of soda, root beer and champaign cider superior to any ever heretofore manufactured in this city." I wonder if the lack of Riley ads in the newspaper had anything to do with such a strong endorsement of this newcomer.

Sam Levy, who had been operating the plant, is now out of a job. He announces in the newspaper that he is leaving Seattle, not to return... he heads east, but not too far. I suspect he is the same Sam Levy that shortly afterwards started a hardware and crockery business in Cheney, Washington Territory, near Spokane. Sam eventually ate his words and returned to Seattle to again work for his older brother, Henry. Within a few months of Maginnis entering the Seattle market, Charles Riley gave up his Seattle business and moved on to Tacoma. That effort did not last long, nor his venture into the Portland market. He finally settled



(Seattle City Directory - 1879)



(Business calling card, courtesy the Archives of British Columbia)

in California where he remained in the soda business for many years.

And so the 1880's roll in, the Seattle Soda Works, along with the Pacific and Puget Sound Bottling Company held the leadership in their business which they were to retain until 1917 when Prohibition would close down their best customers, the saloons. Soon after both would fade from the business scene, leaving little but their beautiful bottles that are sought by local collectors.

Henry Levy continued on with good success in his other ventures, except for that one disastrous trip to England. In 1882, at the age of 39, he married Eva Rostein, the daughter of one of his competitors in the variety store business. Eva must have had a good effect on her ambitious husband. Each year Seattle had a Grand Masquerade Ball and the Levys attended. The newspaper reporter undoubtedly had a good time writing up this event. There was a listing printed of who was present and what they wore. Mr. Levy dressed as a tambourine girl ! Burly, mustachioed Henry Levy dressed as a girl ! What a sight. Jack Levy and a friend attended one of these dances as a team, Jack was an Italian organ grinder, the friend as the monkey with tin cup.

Seattle's early history is marked with many anti-Chinese incidents. The editor of the Intelligencer promoted such mentality by printing long and inflammatory editorials. They are quite startling to read today, one hundred years later. It would be easy to point an accusing finger in his direction, but given the time and circumstances of that day, how many of us would come through as we would like to think we would ? Mr. Levy was a most liberal-minded man, truly an equal opportunity employer. A reporter who visited his fish packing plant in the late 1870's remarked in his newspaper article on the divergence of color and national origin of the employees. Another article refers to Levy's "Mongolian" clerk at the soda plant. In later years Governor McGraw recognized Henry as one of the first to volunteer for the "Home Guard" which was organized to protect the Chinese during the riots of 1886. But even liberal Henry at one time called a dead Indian a good Indian.

All through the 1880's, Levy's Seattle Bazaar was active in its trade. The list

of goods sold was long and exotic. With the newspaper located next door, the reporters were invited to inspect his new shipments and they wrote long articles describing his store. A great location in those days, next to the leading newspaper. In the 1880 census, Henry listed his profession as "Fancy Store Owner". As best as I can ascertain, Henry did not become an American citizen. Because of the restaurant and his relatives in Victoria, he kept close ties with that city. In 1889 when the great fire destroyed the greater part of downtown Seattle, he lost his store and most of its contents. Most merchants either carried no insurance or very little because of the high premiums charged by the insurance companies. All those wooden buildings. Surveying the smoldering ashes, Henry decided to move back to Victoria and concentrate on home construction and the restaurant. He sold what was left of the business to his brother Sam and left. In the following years his Victoria friends would kid him about building "Yankee houses" in town, but he did an excellent business.

And so as this story ends, I gaze at the crude old bottle on my desk, the one marked "L. Bros." and wonder, "did that ambitious Manny Levy once hold it in his hands ? Did he wash it out, fill it and wire the cork down tightly, possibly gluing a label on it ?" I truly have a rare treasure of early Seattle.

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SEATTLE BAZAAR
FANCY GOODS, NOTIONS, ETC.
 SEATTLE, W. T.
 H. E. LEVY. P. O. Box 136.

JUST THINK OF IT!

Two Bits Will Buy

Bucket of Collars
 2 Pair Socks
 2 Handkerchiefs
 Woollen Shaker Socks
 4 Glass Sauce Plates
 Handsome Lot of Paper
 5,000 Toothpicks
 Brush and Blacking
 Bar Perfumed Soap
 6 Cakes Fancy Soap
 3 Flower Pots
 Bottle Florida Water

BUT AT THE

BAZAAR

WANTED

5,000 Bushels

Cider Apples,

In large or small quantities at

Seattle Soda Works, under Bazaar

31447

Opening Day

AT THE

BAZAAR

**Lamps,
 Chandeliers,
 Vases,**

**Toilet Sets,
 Majolica ware,
 Glassware,**

50 SINGING CANARY BIRDS

LEVY BROS.

General Agents for the

**REMINGTON
 SEWING MACHINES**

Sub-Agents and Commission-
 will be paid a liberal commission

Pure Sweet Cider

—AT—

SEATTLE SODA WORKS,

Under the Bazaar,

50 Cents per Gallon.

FAMILIES SUPPLIED.

NEW GOODS

AT THE

SEATTLE BAZAAR

WAX FLOWER MATERIAL AND
SHADES At the Bazaar.

TOILET SOAPS—AN ELEGANT
LINE At the Bazaar.

CLOCKS! CLOCKS! CLOCKS!
At the Bazaar.

ALBUMS, FROM 75c TO \$20.
At the Bazaar.

JAPANESE GOODS—A SPLENDID
INVOICE At the Bazaar.

GARDEN POTS—ALL SIZES—
At the Bazaar.

REAL TORTOISE SHELL BACK
COMBS At the Bazaar.

WHITE SHIRTS, HOSIERY AND
UNDER-WEAR At the Bazaar.

TABLE AND POCKET CUTLERY
At the Bazaar.

SILVERWARE, MERIDEN CO'S
AND ROGERS', At the Bazaar.

SPLINTS, WALNUT, COLORED,
AND WHITE At the Bazaar.

HAIR, TOOTH, CLOTHES, AND
BLACKING BRUSHES At the Bazaar.

STATIONERY OF ALL KINDS—
CHEAP— At the Bazaar.

CHINA DINNER AND TEA SETS
At the Bazaar.

COAL OIL LAMPS—A FINE AS-
SORTMENT— At the Bazaar.

CHROMOS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND
FRAMES At the Bazaar.

And heaps of things too numerous to
mention. Call in. No trouble to show
goods. H. E. LEVY.

TO THE FRONT!

For a first class and elegant assortment of goods, suitable for the Holidays, do not fail to visit the original SEATTLE BAZAR. Our Mr. Levy, during his recent visit to San Francisco, spared no pains or expense to secure every novelty, which, added to our immense stock, makes a show to which we cordially invite the public. We keep no trash or damaged auction goods; we offer no baits, but rely strictly on the merit of our goods. This is no idle boast or business puff, but the fact, to which we challenge all legitimate competition.

THE ART ROOM

ALWAYS OPEN

FREE!

LEVY'S SEATTLE BAZAR

Let there be light!

CHANDELIERS,

Bracket Lamps,

Student Lamps,

Hall Lamps,

Chamber Lamps,

Parlor Lamps,

Cigar Lamps,

Burners, Chimneys, Wick

And all the Etceteras

TO BE FOUND AT

THE BAZAAR.

13-21

NOTICE.

THE

Seattle Bazar

AND THE

Branch Crockery Store

WILL CONSOLIDATE IN THE

Mammoth Store

In the Opera House Block
on or about Oct. 1st.

H. E. LEVY.

13-21