

# Brewing in Medford, Oregon

by Dave Scafani

Beer was first brewed in Medford in 1893 at the Southern Oregon Brewery & Ice Works, located at the Northwest corner of Fourth and F Street (later renamed Fir). The owner was G. W. Blasford and production was about 500 barrels.

In 1897 Elias Merc acquired the plant and changed the name to Medford Brewing Company.

In 1902 the brewery was sold to Henry Weinhard, the Portland beer baron. He closed the brewing operation and used the

facilities to produce ice and for storage and distribution of his Portland brewed beer. It was known as The Medford Agency, Henry Weinhard Company of Portland.

The operation closed down in 1916 when Prohibition was enacted in Oregon.


After Prohibition was repealed in 1933, the brewery was one of the few Oregon breweries to reopen. It was purchased by an investor group, remodeled and modernized with a capacity of 1500 barrels.

Its new name was Southern Oregon Brewing Company Inc. The brands were Gold Seal, Gold Seal Bock and Old Rogue Lager.

**Henry Weinhard Brewery**

Brewers and Bottlers of Finest Quality Table Beers

Columbia  
Export  
Kaiserbräu  
Malt Tea  
(See Analysis)



Our Malt Extract Is an Invigorating Nerve-Building Tonic With Exceptional Value As a Tissue-Builders

Guaranteed by Henry Weinhard Brewery, under Food and Drug Act of June 30, 1906. Contains 16 oz. per bottle. Made in U.S.A.

Telephone Main 51

Medford Agency, West 4th, Northwest Cor. Fir St.

From Polk's Jackson County Directory, 1911

**BEER BREWING IS A LIFE STUDY**

**WEINHARD'S COLUMBIA**

Purity Is the Result of Age 50 Years' Experience  
Flavor That's Why It's So Good

Order a case of your dealer. If he can't supply you, call Phone 51

**H. WEINHARD**  
Beer and Ice Depot  
Medford, Oregon

From Jackson County Fair Brochure, 1913

COMPARE THE NEW  
**WEINHARD Bottle Beer**

With any one on the Market and note its SUPERIORITY



SPARKLING INVIGORATING

BREWERY'S OWN BOTTLING  
BEST WEINHARD BREWERY Portland, Oregon

Portland Automobile Club Tour Book, AAA, 1911

**GOLD SEAL**  
OREGON'S FINEST  
**BEER**

SOUTHERN OREGON BREWING CO.  
MEDFORD, OREGON

BYRRHILL SEVENEE TAX PAID  
NET CONTENTS 11 FLUID OZS.  
CONTAINS 100% MALT BEVERAGE BY WEIGHT

Oregon's Finest  
**Gold Seal Beer**

SOUTHERN OREGON BREWING COMPANY  
MEDFORD, OREGON

Southern Oregon Brewing Co., 1933-1938

PHONE **51** **WEINHARD'S** **ICE**  
BEER AND ICE DEPOT  
Pure Distilled Water Ice

1913

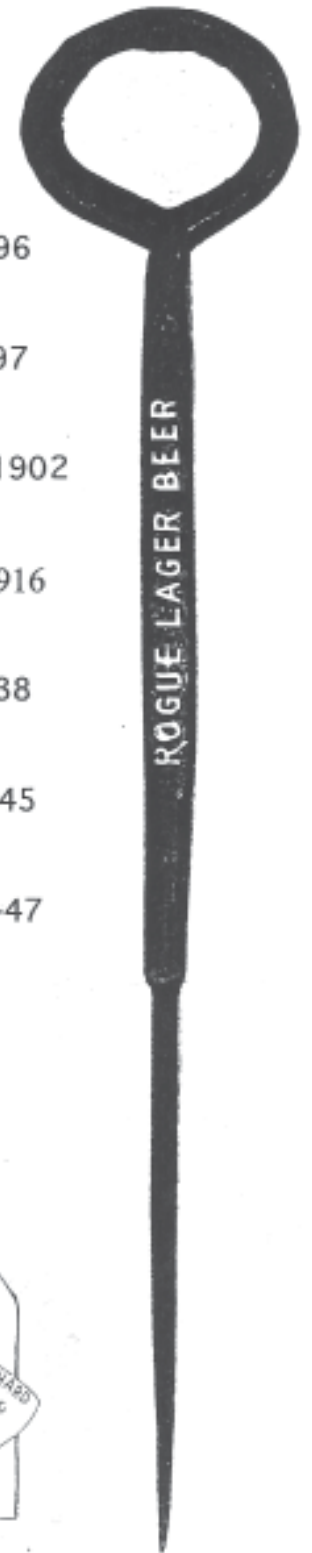
In 1938 the name changed to A-One Brewing Company with the brands A-1 Beer and Old King Cole. A-1 soda was also bottled at the plant. Bill Chrysler was named general manager.

In 1945, with Bill Chrysler still in charge, the name was changed again to Chrystal Beer. Mission Orange and Clicquot Club sodas were bottled as well as beer. The business ended in 1947.

Today only the front steps and part of the foundation remain as the property is now a plumbing supply store and storage lot.

BREWERS AND AGENTS

<b>MEDFORD</b>		
SOUTHERN OREGON BREWING, ICE, & COLD STORAGE	corner of 4th and F Street	1893-96
G.W. BLASFORD	Corner of 4th and F Street	1896-97
MEDFORD BREWING COMPANY	Corner of 4th and F Street, Phone 51	1897-1902
HENRY WEINHARD BEER AND ICE DEPOT	Corner of 4th and Fir, S.A. Kroschel, Agent	1902-1916
SOUTHERN OREGON BREWING COMPANY, INC.	301 North Fir Street	1933-38
A-1 BREWING COMPANY	301 North Fir Street	1938-45
CHRYSTAL BREWING AND DISTRIBUTING COMPANY	301 North Fir Street	1945-47



BIMAL  
amber  
split  
very scarce



BIMAL  
amber/aqua  
split  
scarce



BIMAL  
amber/aqua  
split  
scarce



BIMAL  
amber  
quart  
rare



BIMAL  
amber  
quart/pint  
very scarce



BIMAL  
amber  
pint  
rare



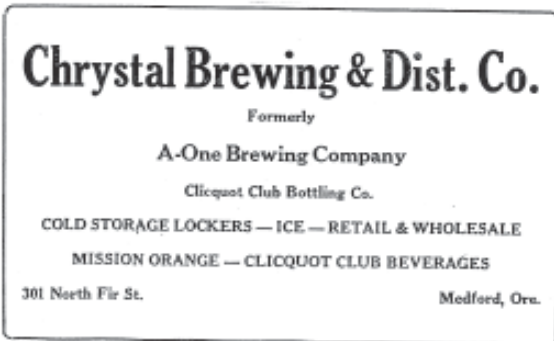
Southern Oregon Brewing Co., 1933-1938



A-1 Brewing Co., 1938-1945



Southern Oregon Brewing Co.



1946



Chrystal Brewing & Distributing Co.

A-One Brewing Co.