

The Bottle House BnB 110 West Murphy Street, Alpine 79830

The Bottling Works was founded in the early 1920's by Basil Matthew's father and uncle, Walter Matthews. It was the original Alpine bottling plant, "...next door to Thain's Studio, a little garden and then the bottlin' plant alongside it....the plant was about 60 feet wide and maybe about 100 feet long. It had a porch with a loadin' dock out on the north side...facin' the depot, the railroad tracks...there was no sign...people just knew. There was no street signs in Alpine and everybody knew everybody..”*

This original plant, The Bottling Works, was the hand bottling kind that used to be called a **foot stomper**. "...it's the machine that has no electricity, no power. The power is all in your feet and in your hands...the bottles had to be taken off the bottle (washing) machine, put on crates and carried over to the bottlin' machine. We'd have a stack of clean bottles here and then (we'd) bottle them. It was just a one man operation....well, actually...one man runnin' the washing machine and one doin' the bottles.. our trucks couldn't carry but about 50 cases in them, those ol' Model T trucks..just me, my dad and my brother...of course, one of us would be there all the time...but we didn't run the bottlin' process every day...about 2 days a week, you'd bottle up enough for that weekBasil Matthews p.22 -24

"..we ordered extract from these extract companies..and we'd mix it with sugar and water..one of our biggest expenses was the sugar..the extracts were strawberry, lemon, lime, vanilla and Delaware Punch...and at times we'd run Orange Crush...but it didn't take much carbonation and we had trouble with the yeast forming in it....by not having the carbonation, it tended to get bad and formed this yeastit made sort of a wave, it looked like a piece of paper floating in there..."

"(In 1929)..my mother drank some Dr. Pepper up there in Waco and she just insisted on it...we just hounded the Dr. Pepper company to start it here..they finally sent a man out here...and he told me, 'Well, now you've got to put Dr. Pepper signs on your trucks and you gotta git a new bottlin' machine.' We was using a foot stomper. Used to be, you did a bottle of beer with it (laughing)...The Coca Cola plant was in

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Marfa...Coca Cola was the leadin' drink then and eventually Pepsi-Cola caught up with it...we made the first Dr. Pepper ever in West Texas here!...the first wood barrel of (Dr. Pepper) syrup came to Alpine...we mixed our own syrup on everythin' else..

At that time, we didn't have a refrigerated water system. So I took a barrel and put a copper coil in it and put a 50 lb block of ice in there to cool the water that was goin' to the machine. Because the gas will not mix unless you've got cold water.... It was a one man job..we'd set a case of empty bottles down there and just pick one bottle at a time. ...

*Oral History, Basil Matthews 04 M438cu 1988, p.7-24, SRSU Archives

Celia Valdez and her husband, Raul Cano Valdez, owned and operated Big Bend Cleaners here for 35 years (talk to Caral and Bob) Basil Matthews oral history BOTTLING WORKS
born Jan 8, 1912 south of marfa ranch

Valdez Cleaners for 35 years
Taxidermy Shop

John Blackman had a pottery studio here for about a year

Bob Bell had a studio here for 4 or 5 years 1996-2001

RC Toler bought it - poured the concrete floors and remodeled it.

Mike & Lisa Weathers, son Zac