



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM TRIPSAS

Sam Tripsas found this 1890s Sattely soda bottle during a recent house renovation and excavation project on Grove Street in Oradell. The neighbor across the street, Jim Sattely, is the great grandson of John Sattely, the man who owned Sattely's Beverages in New Milford (1890s-1970s). Sattely gave Tripsas a Sattely wooden soda case from the 1960s to enhance his bottle collection.

Bottle opens up historic discovery

BY ANTOINETTE RAINONE

The message wasn't *in* the bottle. The message *was* the bottle.

When Oradell resident Sam Tripsas dug up an old bottle with the name "Sattely Beverages" on it, he wondered if a neighbor with the same last name was related to the family who owned the New Milford soda company back in the 1890s.

"Yes," Jim Sattely told Tripsas. "I'm the last Sattely living in the area. My great-grandfather, John Sattely, came from Germany and opened Sattely Beverages on the corner of Grant and Boulevard."

For Tripsas – a member of the Oradell Historic Committee who is also an avid collector of old bottles – this was a rare double-find. It's not every day you find a historic treasure and the living descendent connected to it.

House renovations – especially ones that include outdoor excavation work – are a perfect time to dig up treasures from long ago. So when Tripsas' sister-in-law's older home on



Grove Street underwent a renovation, Tripsas was sure to be there.

"Oradell has many underground cisterns," explained Tripsas. "When you dig deep enough, you can find a lot of old bottles that people threw out a long time ago."

That's when he found the Sattely bottle – and the Sattely who lives across the street.

The story behind the soda

John Sattely was born Aug. 9, 1861 at Donaueschingen, Baden, Germany, to a father who was a prosperous farmer. Sattely left Germany in 1876 to learn how to manufacture "soda water" in Brooklyn, N.Y. He then traveled throughout the United States for 14 years before settling in Peetzburg – now New Milford – in 1894.

According to "History of

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