



Fruitport Time Capsule

Larry J. Pellet



Get ready to enjoy some time traveling, of a different sort, due to arrive at the Fruitport Library in the spring of 2019. Thanks to visionary and

perennial traveler Fruitport native Jerry Alger, a large piece of Fruitport's history is suddenly set to be unearthed and unveiled...as ceremoniously as it was buried 50 years ago in the summer of '69 - Fruitport's centennial.

Alger, a Fruitport native involved in Fruitport renovation, politics, council meetings, community events and city planning for over five decades, says the idea to plant a time capsule dawned on him after watching the city of Montague plant a similar one during their centennial celebration just prior to Fruitport's 100 year birthday.

"I've always been interested in Fruitport history", he observed. However, getting the ball rolling for a time capsule "didn't go as fast as it should have originally". There were set backs along the way, but Alger, a former pattern maker, was focused. Shrewdly crafting two brass cylinders together, he gathered mementos, yearbooks, newspapers, music, and more collectibles into a four-foot container, and air sealed it with nitrogen for posterity's sake.

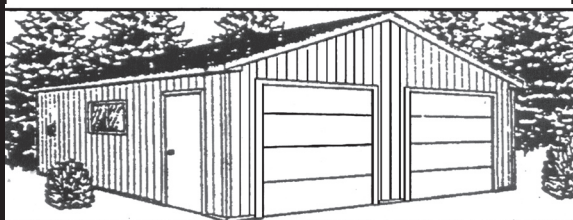
Beer was 25 cents per draft in those days, and Alger remembers fondly putting in a few dollar bills..."worth about 12 drinks," he chuckled.

Knocking on doors, and finally receiving help from four or five "pillars of the community," and more specifically, Lew Hendershot from NK Trucking Service, Alger crafted a plaque from Noren Pattern, and set it on a stone donated by the Fruitport Stone Company.

Happy with the outcome, he remembers



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