LOCAL HISTORY

18 Years Ago: In November 1998, Kathleen Haberle Symes made a generous donation to the Onondaga Historical Association, allowing for the restoration of the 11-foot-tall statue of Gambrinus, the mythical patron of beer. Symes is a descendant of the Haberle family that brewed beer in Syracuse for 107 years. The statue of Gambrinus sat in an alcove outside the Haberle Brewery on Butternut Street for decades until the brewery closed in 1962. Up until then, the Gambrinus left the Haberle brewery on only one occasion — an anti-prohibition parade in 1932. The restored statue is currently on display on the second floor of the Onondaga Historical Museum in downtown Syracuse.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association

An 11-foot statue of Gambrinus, the mythical king of beer, parades down Salina Street on the back of a rail car in 1932. One year later, the nation voted to repeal prohibition. Onondaga Historical Association photo