

A Toast to King Gambrinus!

FOR SOME 80 YEARS, people using W. 5th Street here in Wilmington passed and repassed—some unseeing—the heroic figure of King Gambrinus. Ever notice him? Nine feet tall, made of metal, there he stood in a niche high on the front of the old Bavarian Brewing Co. building.

The building itself is worth a trip to see, a monumental relic of the 1880s built by a German beer maker named Joseph Stoeckle. While the brewing was going strong decade after decade the building was a bit of transplanted Germany. But if you haven't seen it, and want to, it's too late now. This exuberant monstrosity of brewery architecture is being razed to make way for the Adams-Jackson freeway.

But all is not lost. The last owner of the building, Joseph Cohen, had the wreckers lower the king carefully to the ground. Now he stands in the window of Mr. Cohen's store on Madison Street

where passers-by can get a better look at him than ever was possible before.

"We feel he is a piece of Delawareana," says Mr. Cohen. We agree. And we applaud the owner's efforts to find out just what the original colors were—and to replace, if possible, the figure's arm broken off somehow at the time of rescue from aloft.

What will finally be done with King Gambrinus? Maybe that's still undecided. But this American image of the patron saint of brewers deserves to go on holding up—somewhere—his stein of beer in that big right hand of his!

Caught Here and There

If men and women are told at age 65 that they are no longer permitted to be a part of the productive economic system, society has an obligation to provide them with their needs.—Dr. Kenneth W. Clement, president of National Medical Assn., on medicare.