

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS? TAKE A GUESS

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This was our side yard at 1041 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor. No, my wife did not wash my kid's diapers and put them out on the line to dry. You can do better than that. Let me give you a hint.

This was in the late 1960s to early 1970s area of time. Does that help? Would it help if I told you that I designed the logo for Eden Organic Foods and also picked the date and time for them to first open (using astrology)? That was November 4th, 1969. You should have it now.

What you are looking at is a whole LOT of seaweed being hung out to dry before going into storage in our basement. I can't see it too well but it looks like Wakame to me. Too stringy for Kombu (Kelp). Back then organic and whole foods were just trying to take hold. You couldn't buy seaweed. You couldn't buy tofu either. We had to make tofu in our kitchen which took many hours and was hard work. There was no tofu. Anyone else ever do that?

And it was not only seaweed. In our basement way back then were all kinds of wooden barrels or kegs imported from Japan. Down there we had omeboshi plums, Tamari, a variety of miso, and other things, each in their own wooden keg, not to mention pickled daikon, and so on. There were no stores for this yet! That is why Eden Foods was opening one.

Sure, there was chemical-ridden soy sauce from the local Chinese restaurants, but no authentic, pure, organic, good-tasting stuff like Tamari. How about Tekka? Anyone know what that is? Has anyone beside me ever made it? What's in it? We used to do all of this stuff back in the early days of whole and organic foods.

Sure, some of all those kegs sat in the basement too long and we stored more than we could eat because it was so hard to get. I write this just to touch base with those out there who remember and to let you younger folks know that things like Whole Food stores, etc. stand on the shoulders of people who went to great lengths to get whole and nourishing foods. Eden Foods is still going strong and may be the last large organic food wholesaler who has not sold out to some giant agri-corporation. Eden foods was started by Bill and Judy Buldoc, Ronald Teegarden, Michael and Carol Potter, Bob Thorson, Nancy Retzloff, Tim and Pattie Redmond, and others.

I salute these pioneers and all of the rest of us who supported (and still support) the natural food movement.

