REEDS INC Form 10KSB April 16, 2007

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-KSB

(Mark One)

x Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.

OR

Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 0 1934

For the transition period from ______ to _____

Commission File Number 000-32501

REED'S, INC. (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or

35-2177773 I.R.S. Employer Identification Number

organization

13000 South Spring Street Los Angeles, California Address of principal executive offices

90061 Zip Code

(310) 217-9400

Registrant's telephone number, including area code Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: None

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: Common Stock, par value \$0.0001

Check whether the issuer (1) filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the past 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes x No o

Check if there is no disclosure of delinquent filers in response to Item 405 of Regulation S-B is not contained in this form, and no disclosure will be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-KSB or any amendment to this Form 10-KSB.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes o No x

The issuer's revenues for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 were \$10,484,353.

The aggregate market value of the voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the issuer as of March 30, 2007 was approximately \$22,626,123 (computed based on the closing sale price of the common stock at \$6.18 per share as of such date). Shares of common stock held by each officer and director and each person owning more than 10% of the outstanding common stock have been excluded in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of the affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

The number of shares of Common Stock of the registrant outstanding as of March 30, 2007 was 7,143,185.

Transitional Small Business Disclosure Format (Check One): Yes o No x

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION

This Annual Report on Form 10-KSB, the other reports, statements, and information that we have previously filed or that we may subsequently file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and public announcements that we have previously made or may subsequently make include, may include, incorporate by reference or may incorporate by reference certain statements that may be deemed to be "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are intended to enjoy the benefits of that act. The forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this Annual Report and those reports, statements, information and announcements address activities, events or developments that Reed's, Inc. (together with its subsidiaries hereinafter referred to as "we," "us," "our" or "Reed's") expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future. Any statements in this document about expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or future events or performance are not historical facts and are forward-looking statements. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "may," "should," "could," "predict," "potential," "believe," "will likely result "expect," "will continue," "anticipate," "seek," "estimate," "intend," "plan," "projection," "would" and "outlook," and similar Accordingly, these statements involve estimates, assumptions and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in them. Any forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the factors discussed throughout this document. All forward-looking statements concerning economic conditions, rates of growth, rates of income or values as may be included in this document are based on information available to us on the dates noted, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

The risk factors referred to in this Annual Report could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by us, and you should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made and we do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict which will arise. In addition, we cannot assess the impact of each factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

Management cautions that these statements are qualified by their terms and/or important factors, many of which are outside of our control, involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results and events to differ materially from the statements made, including, but not limited to, the following, and other factors discussed elsewhere in this Annual Report, including under the section entitled "Risk Factors:"

- · Our ability to generate sufficient cash flow to support capital expansion plans and general operating activities,
 - · Decreased demand for our products resulting from changes in consumer preferences,
- · Competitive products and pricing pressures and our ability to gain or maintain its share of sales in the marketplace,
 - The introduction of new products,
- Our being subject to a broad range of evolving federal, state and local laws and regulations including those regarding the labeling and safety of food products, establishing ingredient designations and standards of identity for certain foods, environmental protections, as well as worker health and safety. Changes in these laws and regulations could have a material effect on the way in which we produce and market our products and could result in increased costs,

• Changes in the cost and availability of raw materials and the ability to maintain our supply arrangements and relationships and procure timely and/or adequate production of all or any of our products,

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- · Our ability to penetrate new markets and maintain or expand existing markets,
- Maintaining existing relationships and expanding the distributor network of our products,
- The marketing efforts of distributors of our products, most of whom also distribute products that are competitive with our products,
- Decisions by distributors, grocery chains, specialty chain stores, club stores and other customers to discontinue carrying all or any of our products that they are carrying at any time,
 - The availability and cost of capital to finance our working capital needs and growth plans,
 - The effectiveness of our advertising, marketing and promotional programs,
 - · Changes in product category consumption,
 - · Economic and political changes,
 - · Consumer acceptance of new products, including taste test comparisons,
 - · Possible recalls of our products, and
 - Our ability to make suitable arrangements for the co-packing of any of our products.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements.

PART I

Item 1. Description of Business

Background

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We develop, manufacture, market, and sell natural non-alcoholic and "New Age" beverages, candies and ice creams. "New Age Beverages" is a category that includes natural soda, fruit juices and fruit drinks, ready-to-drink teas, sports drinks and water. We currently manufacture, market and sell six unique product lines:

- · Reed's Ginger Brews,
- Virgil's Root Beer and Cream Sodas,
 - · China Colas,
 - · Reed's Ginger Juice Brews,
 - · Reed's Ginger Candies, and
 - · Reed's Ginger Ice Creams.

We sell most of our products in specialty gourmet and natural food stores, supermarket chains, retail stores and restaurants in the United States and, to a lesser degree, in Canada. We primarily sell our products through a network of natural, gourmet and independent distributors. We also maintain an organization of in-house sales managers who work mainly in the stores serviced by our natural, gourmet and mainstream distributors and with our distributors. We also work with regional, independent sales representatives who maintain store and distributor relationships in a specified territory. In Southern California, we have our own direct distribution system.

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We produce and co-pack our products principally at our company-owned facility in Los Angeles, California, known as the Brewery, and at a contracted co-packing facility in Pennsylvania. We also co-pack certain of our products at smaller co-packing facilities in the United States and in Europe.

Key elements of our business strategy include:

- increased national direct sales and distribution,
- · increased store placement with mainstream stores and retailers,

· strong national distributorships,

- stimulate strong consumer demand for our existing brands and products,
- develop additional unique alternative beverage brands and other products, and
- specialty packaging like our 5-liter party kegs, our ceramic swing-lid bottle and our 750 ml. champagne bottle.

Our current sales efforts are focused in three areas:

• sales to mainstream, natural and specialty food stores in the United States and, to a lesser degree, Canada, through our regional distributors and sales representatives,

· direct sales effort to large national retailers, and

· direct distribution by our trucks and drivers to retailers in Southern California.

We believe that these marketing efforts have contributed to our growth. We intend to continue to expand our sales personnel in each of these marketing areas.

In addition, since 2003, we have introduced new products and offer specialty beverage packaging options not typically available in the marketplace into the marketplace that have contributed to our growth in sales. These products include a 5-liter "party keg" version of our Virgil's Root Beer and Cream Soda, 12-ounce long neck bottles of our Virgil's Cream Soda, 750 ml. size bottles of our Reed's Original Ginger Brew, Extra Ginger Brew and Spiced Apple Brew and a one pint version of our Virgil's Root Beer with a swing-lid. In addition, we have recently introduced a new flavor, our Black Cherry Cream soda in a 12-ounce bottle. These new packaging options are being utilized in our marketing efforts.

We create consumer demand for our products by:

- \cdot supporting in-store sampling programs of our products,
 - · generating free press through public relations,
- advertising in national magazines targeting our customers,
- · maintaining a company website (www.reedsgingerbrew.com); and
 - participating in large public events as sponsors.

Our principal executive offices are located at 13000 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90061. Our telephone number is (310) 217-9400. Our Internet address is (www.reedsgingerbrew.com). Information contained on our website or that is accessible through our website should not be considered to be part of this Annual Report.

Historical Development

In June 1987, Christopher J. Reed, our founder and Chief Executive Officer, began development of Reed's Original Ginger Brew, his first beverage creation. After two years of development, the product was introduced to the market in Southern California stores in 1989. By 1990, we began marketing our products through natural food distributors and moved our production to a larger facility in Boulder, Colorado.

In 1991, we incorporated our business operations in the state of Florida under the name of Original Beverage Corporation and moved all of our production to a co-pack facility in Pennsylvania. We began exhibiting at national natural and specialty food trade shows, which brought national distribution in natural, gourmet and specialty foods and the signing of our first mainstream supermarket distributor. Our products began to receive trade industry recognition as an outstanding new product. The United States National Association of the Specialty Food Trade, or NASFT, named Original Ginger Brew as an "Outstanding Beverage Finalist" in the United States, and the Canadian Fancy Food Association, or CFFA, awarded us "Best Imported Food Product."

Throughout the 1990's, we continued to develop and launch new Ginger Brew varieties. Reed's Ginger Brews reached broad placement in natural and gourmet foods stores nationwide through major specialty, natural/gourmet and mainstream food and beverage distributors.

In 1997, we began licensing the products of China Cola and eventually acquired the rights to that product in December 2000. In addition, we launched Reed's Crystallized Ginger Candy, a product which we manufacture in Fiji under a proprietary, natural, non-sulfured process. In 1999, we purchased the Virgil's Root Beer brand from the Crowley Beverage Company. The brand has won numerous gourmet awards. In 2000, we began to market three new products: Reed's Original Ginger Ice Cream, Reed's Cherry Ginger Brew and a beautiful designer 10-ounce gift tin of our Reed's Crystallized Ginger Candy. In December 2000, we purchased an 18,000 square foot warehouse property, the Brewery, in Los Angeles, California, to house our west coast production and warehouse facility. The Brewery now also serves as our principal executive offices. In 2001, we changed our state of incorporation to Delaware and also changed our name to Reed's, Inc. We also introduced our Reed's Chocolate Ginger Ice Cream and Reed's Green Tea Ginger Ice Cream products and expanded our confectionary line with two new candy products: Reed's Crystallized Ginger Baking Bits and Reed's Ginger Candy Chews. In 2002, we launched our Reed's Ginger Juice Brew line, with four flavors of organic juice blends. In November 2002, we completed our first test runs of Reed's and Virgil's products at the Brewery and in January 2003, our first commercially available products came off the Los Angeles line. In 2003, we commenced our own direct distribution in Southern California and introduced sales of our 5-liter Virgil's party keg. In 2004, we expanded our product line to include Virgil's Cream Soda (including in a 5-liter keg), Reed's Spiced Apple Brew in a 750 ml. champagne bottle and draught Virgil's Root Beer and Cream Soda. In 2006, we expanded our product line to include Virgil's Black Cherry Cream Soda. Progressive Grocers, a top trade publication in the grocery industry voted this product as the best new beverage product of 2006.

On December 12, 2006, we completed the sale of 2,000,000 shares of our common stock at an offering price of \$4.00 per share in our initial public offering. The public offering resulted in gross proceeds of \$8,000,000 to us.

Industry Overview

Our beverages are classified as New Age beverages, a category that includes natural soda, fruit juices and fruit drinks, ready-to-drink teas, sports drinks and water. According to Beverage Marketing Corporation, in 2004, total wholesale dollar sales in the New Age segment were approximately \$16.5 billion in wholesale dollar sales, an increase of 11.3%

from 2003. (Source: Beverage World Magazine, April 15, 2006)

Annual confectionary sales (including chocolate, non-chocolate and gum sales) in the United States were approximately \$27.9 billion in 2005, of which approximately \$8.7 billion was non-chocolate candy. (Source: National Confectioners Association, 2006 Year in Review)

According to the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), total U.S. sales of ice cream and frozen desserts were estimated at approximately \$21 billion. The packaged ice cream industry includes economy, regular, premium and super-premium products. Super-premium ice cream, such as Reed's Ginger Ice Creams, is generally characterized by a greater richness and density than other kinds of ice cream. This higher quality ice cream generally costs more than other kinds and is usually marketed by emphasizing quality, flavor selection, texture and brand image. The International Ice Cream Association attributes almost all of the market growth over the past 10 years to sales of super-premium and premium ice creams, particularly the innovative products. Sales of premium and super-premium styles account for approximately 42% of the total industry revenues, versus approximately 15% for all the "light" formulations combined. (Source: CNN/Money, July 29, 2005.)

Our Products

We currently manufacture and sell 15 beverages, three candies and three ice creams. We make all of our products using premium all-natural ingredients.

We produce carbonated and non-carbonated products. Most sales of our beverage products are of our sodas. According to Spence Information Services (SPINS), which is the only sales information service catering to the natural food trade, for the year 2003,

- Reed's Ginger Brews and Virgil's Root Beer held three of the top ten items based on dollar and unit sales among all sugar/fructose sweetened sodas in the natural foods industry in the United States, with Reed's Extra Ginger Brew holding the number one position, and
- Reed's Original Ginger Brew and Virgil's were two of the top ten brands based on dollar and unit sales among all sugar/fructose sweetened sodas in the natural foods industry in the United States, with Reed's Original Brew holding the number one position.

Our carbonated products include six varieties of Reed's Ginger Brews, Virgil's Root Beer and Cream Sodas, China Cola and Cherry China Cola. We also sell four varieties of a new line of non-carbonated Ginger Brews called Reed's Ginger Juice Brews.

Our candy products include Reed's Crystallized Ginger Candy, Reed's Crystallized Ginger Baking Bits and Reed's Ginger Candy Chews.

Our ice cream products include Reed's Original Ginger Ice Cream, Reed's Chocolate Ginger Ice Cream and Reed's Green Tea Ginger Ice Cream.

Beverages

Reed's Ginger Brews

Ginger ale is the oldest known soft drink. Before modern soft drink technology existed, non-alcoholic beverages were brewed at home directly from herbs, roots, spices, and fruits. These handcrafted brews were then aged like wine and highly prized for their taste and their tonic, health-giving properties. Reed's Ginger Brews are a revival of this home brewing art and we make them with care and attention to wholesomeness and quality, using the finest fresh herbs, roots, spices, and fruits. Our expert brew masters brew each batch and age it with great pride.

We believe that Reed's Ginger Brews are unique in their kettle brewed origin among all mass-marketed soft drinks. Reed's Ginger Brews contain between 8 and 26 grams of fresh ginger in every 12-ounce bottle. We use no refined sugars as sweeteners. Our products differ from commercial soft drinks in three particular characteristics: sweetening, carbonation and coloring for greater adult appeal. Instead of using injected-based carbonation, we produce our carbonation naturally, through slower, beer-oriented techniques. This process produces smaller, longer lasting bubbles that do not dissipate rapidly when the bottle is opened. We do not add coloring. The color of our products comes naturally from herbs, fruits, spices, roots and juices.

In addition, since Reed's Ginger Brews are pasteurized, they do not require or contain any preservatives. In contrast, modern commercial soft drinks generally are produced using natural and artificial flavor concentrates prepared by flavor laboratories, tap water, and highly refined sweeteners. Typically, manufacturers make a centrally processed concentrate that will lend itself to a wide variety of situations, waters, and filling systems. The final product is generally cold-filled and requires preservatives for stability. Colors are added that are either natural, although highly processed, or artificial.

In addition, while we make no claim as to any medical or therapeutic benefits of our products, we have found friends and advocates among alternative, holistic, naturopathic, and homeopathic medical practitioners, dieticians and medical doctors, who tell us that they recommend Reed's Extra Ginger Brew for their patients as a simple way to ingest a known level of ginger. The United States Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) include ginger on their GRAS (generally recognized as safe) list. However, neither the FDA nor any other government agency officially endorses or recommends the use of ginger as a dietary supplement.

We currently manufacture and sell six varieties of Reed's Ginger Brews:

- *Reed's Original Ginger Brew* was our first creation, and is a Jamaican recipe for homemade ginger ale using 17 grams of fresh ginger root, lemon, lime, honey, fructose, pineapple, herbs and spices. Reed's Original Ginger Brew is 20% fruit juice.
- *Reed's Extra Ginger Brew* is the same approximate recipe, with 26 grams of fresh ginger root for a stronger bite. Reed's Extra Ginger Brew is 20% fruit juice.
- *Reed's Premium Ginger Brew* is the no-fructose version of Reed's Original Ginger Brew, and is sweetened only with honey and pineapple juice. Reed's Premium Ginger Brew is 20% fruit juice.
 - *Reed's Raspberry Ginger Brew* is brewed from 17 grams of fresh ginger root, raspberry juice and lime. Reed's Raspberry Ginger Brew is 20% raspberry juice and is sweetened with fruit juice and fructose.
- *Reed's Spiced Apple Brew* uses 8 grams of fresh ginger root, the finest tart German apple juice and such apple pie spices as cinnamon, cloves and allspice. Reed's Spiced Apple Brew is 50% apple juice and sweetened with fruit juice and fructose.
- *Reed's Cherry Ginger Brew* is the newest addition to our Ginger Brew family, and is naturally brewed from: filtered water, fructose, fresh ginger root, cherry juice from concentrate and spices. Reed's Cherry Ginger Brew is 22% cherry juice.

All six of Reed's Ginger Brews are offered in 12-ounce bottles and are sold in stores as singles, in four-packs and in 24-bottle cases. Reed's Original Ginger Brew is sold by select retailers in a special 12-pack. Reed's Spiced Apple Brew is now available in a 750 ml. champagne bottle.

Virgil's Root Beer

Over the years, Virgil's Root Beer has won numerous awards and has a reputation among many as one of the best root beers made anywhere. Virgil's Root Beer won the "Outstanding Beverage" award at the NASFT's International Fancy Food and Confection Show in 1997.

Virgil's is a premium root beer. We use all-natural ingredients, including filtered water, unbleached cane sugar, anise from Spain, licorice from France, bourbon vanilla from Madagascar, cinnamon from Sri Lanka, clove from Indonesia, wintergreen from China, sweet birch and molasses from the southern United States, nutmeg from Indonesia, pimento

berry oil from Jamaica, balsam oil from Peru and cassia oil from China.

We collect these ingredients worldwide and gather them together at the brewing and bottling facilities we use in the United States and Germany. We combine and brew these ingredients under strict specifications and finally heat-pasteurize Virgil's Root Beer, to ensure quality.

We sell Virgil's Root Beer in four packaging styles: 12-ounce bottles in a four-pack, a special ceramic-swing-lid style pint bottle, a 5-liter self-tapping party keg and a draught "pony keg."

Virgil's Cream Soda

We launched Virgil's Cream Soda in January 2004. We make this product with the same attention to quality that makes Virgil's Root Beer so popular.

Virgil's Cream Soda is a gourmet cream soda. We brew Virgil's Cream Soda the same way we brew Virgil's Root Beer. We use all-natural ingredients, including filtered water, unbleached cane sugar and bourbon vanilla from Madagascar.

Virgil's Cream Soda is currently sold in 12-ounce long neck bottles in colorful 4-packs, a 5-liter party keg version and in our draught format.

In 2006, we expanded our product line to include Virgil's Black Cherry Cream Soda in a 12-ounce bottle.

China Cola

We consider China Cola to be the best tasting and most natural cola in the world. We restored China Cola to its original delicious blend of raw cane sugar, imported Chinese herbs, essential oils and natural spices. China Cola contains no caffeine. It comes in two varieties, Original China Cola and Cherry China Cola.

Original China Cola is made from filtered water, raw cane sugar, szechwan poeny root, cassia bark, Malaysian vanilla, oils of lemon, oil of lime, oil of orange, nutmeg, clove licorice, cardamom, caramel color, citric acid and phosphoric acid.

Cherry China Cola is made from the same ingredients as Original China Cola, with the addition of natural cherry flavor.

China Cola and Cherry China Cola sell as singles, in four-packs and in 24-bottle cases.

Reed's Ginger Juice Brews

In May 2002, we launched a new line of Ginger Brews called Reed's Ginger Juice Brews. They are 100% juice products that are non-carbonated and brewed from organic fresh ginger root and sweetened with organic juices. We created this product, in part, in response to a strong trend we have seen toward organic ingredients and non-carbonated beverages in the marketplace. We intend to extend our Ginger Brew line and believe that these new flavors will cater to the growing market for organic non-carbonated beverages.

All four of our Reed's Ginger Juice Brews contain: filtered water, organic fresh ginger root, and organic white grape juice from concentrate. Specifically,

· Reed's Lemon Guava Ginger Juice Brew adds guava juice from concentrate and lemon juice from concentrate.

- Reed's Strawberry Kiwi Ginger Juice Brew adds organic strawberry juice from concentrate and organic kiwi juice from concentrate.
- Pineapple Orange Ginger Juice Brew adds organic pineapple juice from concentrate, organic orange juice from concentrate, and organic lime juice from concentrate.
- Reed's Cranberry Raspberry Ginger Juice Brew adds cranberry juice from concentrate, and organic raspberry juice from concentrate.

Reed's Ginger Juice Brews drinks come in a 16-ounce juice bottle as singles or in cases of 12 and 24 bottles.

Reed's Ginger Candies

Reed's Crystallized Ginger Candy

Reed's Crystallized Ginger was the first crystallized ginger on the market in the United States to be sweetened with raw cane instead of refined white sugar. Reed's Crystallized Ginger is custom-made for us in Fiji.

The production process is an ancient one that has not changed much over time. After harvesting baby ginger (the most tender kind), the root is diced and then steeped for several days in large vats filled with simmering raw cane syrup. The ginger is then removed and allowed to crystallize into soft, delicious nuggets. Many peoples of the islands have long enjoyed these treats for health and pleasure.

We sell this product in 3.5-ounce bags, 10-ounce enameled, rolled steel gift tins, 16-ounce re-sealable Mylar bags, and in bulk. We also sell Reed's Crystallized Ginger Baking Bits in bulk.

Reed's Ginger Candy Chews

For many years, residents of Southeast Asia from Indonesia to Thailand have enjoyed soft, gummy ginger candy chews. We sell Reed's Ginger Candy Chews individually wrapped in soft-packs of ten candies and as individually wrapped loose pieces in bulk. Reed's has taken them a step further, adding more ginger, using no gelatin (vegan-friendly) and making them slightly easier to unwrap than their Asian counterparts.

Reed's Ginger Candy Chews are made for us in Indonesia from sugar, maltose (malt sugar), ginger, and tapioca starch.

Reed's Ginger Ice Creams

We make Reed's Ginger Ice Creams with 100% natural ingredients, using the finest hormone-free cream and milk. We combine fresh milk and cream with the finest