



GRAND CANYON GLASS

By Michael Miller

ARIZONA'S BEST - PART TWO

The desire to find and possess the best of the best is the inevitable result in our quest as collectors. Of course in order to accomplish this it is first necessary to know what are the best of the best.

This time around we are to discuss a category of bottle, which is steeped in western folklore. The vision of the quack medicine man selling his alcohol-based potions from his wagon has been seen in countless movies throughout the years.

Although this makes for a great visual, in fact Mexican herbalist or U.S. Army doctors usually administered early medicine in the Arizona Territory.

In 1859, Charles Meyer opened the first true pharmacy in the territory and by the end of following decade drugstores had opened in all of the large to mid-sized towns in Arizona.

In 1880 the first Arizona embossed bottles appeared and in the following year Javier Yorba placed his name on a bottle marking the earliest example of an embossed Arizona druggist bottle.

Drugstore and Patent Medicines

Anyone who has begun an Arizona drugstore collection soon notices that beyond a few common bottles from Tucson, Phoenix and Prescott, Arizona pharmacy bottles are very tough to find. Even a trip to the largest western bottle show, Las

Vegas, is likely to return a new collector with disappointment in their search for the elusive AZ. bottle.

It's even tougher for those who seek out an embossed example from each of Arizona's 17 known towns, even the serious pursuers usually bog down at around 6 or 7 towns.

The point is that with the exception of a few bottles, all Arizona drugstore bottles are pretty hard to acquire.

This said, the best of the best need to combine unique qualities beyond being just very rare. Specialty, territorial and mining town bottles are all included when considering the best.

1. E. E. PROWELL DRUGGIST PHOENIX, A.T. [Fig. 1]

This bottle is almost a toss up with the #2 selection for the top spot. Both are territorial marked and are very rare but what gives this one the nod is

its picture (the only one on an Arizona territorial bottle).

All five examples of this bottle were found back in the seventies on several lots adjacent to where the Patton Opera House Building had stood. This area is now under the high rises in Phoenix as are most of the original business and residential districts of the 1890's.

E.E. Prowell opened the Opera House Drugstore on Center Street in April 1890. Prowell had moved to Phoenix from Portland, Oregon where he had also operated a pharmacy.

In October of 1891, Prowell sold his store to J.D. Thorley who in turn sold it to Dr. George Keefer the following year. In 1898, Keefer moved the store and changed its name to Keefer Pharmacy.

2. HARRY BRISLEY BURKE HOTEL BLD'G PRESCOTT, A.T. [Fig. 2]

Another very rare territorial marked bottle with some nice fancy lettering.

Harry Brisley came to Prescott from Tempe in 1890 and became a partner at Dr. Robert Robinson's drugstore. In 1893 Brisley became sole owner of the then Mountain City Drugstore.

A second store was opened in Jerome, Arizona the following year and in 1895 Brisley moved his Prescott store into the Burke Hotel.

In 1899 a further move occurred with the purchase of the old Corner Drugstore. This store as well as most of the town's business district was destroyed in 1900 in a great fire. Brisley soon rebuilt and continued to run his store until 1925.

3. PROWELL'S NO 7 LINIMENT

In 1890 advertisements appeared in the Arizona Republican for the Opera House Drug Store. These urged Phoenix residents to try products such as Prowell's Koumiss and Prowell's No. 7 Liniment.

Some eighty plus years later a single No. 7 liniment bottle was lifted from a downtown Phoenix privy along with several Prowell A.T. pharmacy bottles. Fortunately the digger involved was also an amateur historian and noted the significance of the find.

This liniment bottle stands as the only aqua patent medicine bottle from Arizona. Only it's lack of territory or town markings keep it from being the #1 medicine related bottle.

4. ARIZONA MEDICAL

[Fig. 1]



[Fig. 2]





[Fig. 3]

ASSOCIATION - GLYCO-THYMOLINE [Fig. 3]

A clear one of a kind mouth-wash bottle found in the Prescott dump. This is one of the few bottles from Arizona that advertises a specific product.

5. FRED FLEISHMAN DRUGGIST TUCSON, ARIZ. (long neck nursing bottle)

A specialty bottle sold from Fleishman's Drugstore at the turn of the century. Fleishman came to Tucson in 1880, married Charles Meyer's daughter, Carlotta, in 1883, and received Meyer's pharmacy as a wedding gift. He would run this store at 21 E. Congress Street until its closure in 1935.

6. THE BEST IN DRUGS

COOPER'S PHARMACY E.F. COOPER. PROP. SAFFORD, ARIZONA

A one of a kind clear pharmacy bottle from the farming town of Safford. This short-lived drugstore operated from 1915 to 1916. It is the only known pharmacy bottle from Safford.

6. GLENDALE PHARMACY DR. J. B. HILL, PROP. GLENDALE, ARIZONA

Another one of a kind and solitary town bottle, this time from the town known as Sugar City. At the turn of the century, what is now one of Arizona's largest cities, Glendale, was a small farming community specializing in sugar beet production. The large sugar beet plant still stands just outside the downtown district. Dr. John Hill moved to Glendale in 1909 where he both practiced medicine and operated his pharmacy. In 1915, Hill sold the drugstore to Al Pilcher.



[Fig. 4]

8. LYNN BOYD REGIST. DRUGGIST JEROME, ARIZ. [Fig. 4]

Boyd's drugstore opened in the mining town of Jerome in 1899. In 1903 Lynn added P.S. Boyd as a partner. The two operated the Store until 1909 when it was sold to E.C. Mitchell. This very rare bottle was a one of a kind until several additional examples were discovered during the construction of the Phoenix Civic Center.

9. AMERICAN DRUG STORE JESUS SALDAMANDO, PROP., NOGALES, ARIZONA

This one of a kind bottle came from the border town of Nogales but was found in a ghost town in New Mexico. Jesus Saldamando opened his store in 1905 after years of working for the International Drug Store, also of Nogales. He would continue as owner until his death in 1946.

10. DRUGGISTS BROADWAY & MOEUR TEMPE, ARIZ. [Fig. 5]

A one of a kind bottle until recently when a second example (along with a rare Laird & Dines bottle) were excavated in a backyard in Tempe.

Noah Broadway & Dr. Benjamin Moeur opened their store in 1899. By 1902 Moeur was sole proprietor and the store's name changed to Valley Drug Store. This venture was short-lived and by the end of that year Moeur closed the pharmacy. Moeur continued to practice medicine in Tempe (as he had done since 1896) until 1926. By the 1930's he became involved in politics and in 1933 Moeur became governor of Arizona.

10. CRESCENT DRUG CO. DRUGGISTS MESA, ARIZ.

A very rare bottle with great pictures of a star and crescent moon from a very tough town to find. Opening in 1909, the Crescent Dug Company was located at 117 Main Street. Frank A. Cluff was the original manager and continued in that capacity until 1916. The store was sold to Arizona Drug Stores Inc. in 1930 and became part of the Buy-rite chain of stores. [Fig. 6]

Other bottles which certainly could have been included are the Timerhoff bottle from Flagstaff, W.W. Ross extract style bottle, Owl Drug from Yuma, Douglas Drug Toilet Lotion, either of the two additional pharmacy bottles from Mesa, and the large size Worner's Rattler Oil bottle.

I'm sure I've forgotten a few. Well these are the rarest of the rare in Arizona medicine and pharmacy bottles. Next time we'll talk 'Hutch"sodas.

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[Fig. 5]



[Fig. 6]