



# GRAND CANYON GLASS

By Michael Miller

## ARIZONA'S BEST - PART FOUR

The New Year has just begun but there has already been a very exciting find in the realm of Arizona bottles that has prompted me to take some time away from the other projects in my life to finish the final segment of Arizona's Best.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January I received an email from Karl Harrar who has been doing some digging in Prescott. Much to my surprise this gentleman, who six months earlier had just begun in the hobby, had found the first undamaged example of the only Arizona pumpkinseed flask. It now seems quite ironic that I had jokingly told him, when I had learned of his intentions to dig Prescott, to go out and find us a couple of Thorne's Palace bottles.

Call it beginner's luck or perhaps the deserved result of his hard work, but all I can say is "way to go."

Since this find has gotten my blood pumping again, it is only right that I should address the area of Arizona whiskey bottles and stoneware.

Now you may say, "Hey, this is supposed to be the top ten Arizona Whiskey bottles," like the other "best of" articles, but to tell the truth we don't have that many, so humor me.

### Whiskey Bottles and Stoneware

Through the years, we have all seen the reoccurring scenes of the old west saloon with its bottles of rot gut whiskey. Though it may be true that the Arizona territory was ripe with dance halls and saloons, it seems that very few of them took the time or expense to emboss their names on to bottles. To date only five different bottles have surfaced, and all but one of these are very rare. More obtainable than the bottles, though still very scarce and desirable, are the stoneware jugs, which various saloons, liquor dealers and groceries supplied and come in sizes ranging from mini jugs to three-gallon.

**1. JULES BOURBON JULIUS GOLDBAUM, INC. TUCSON A.T.** - Julius Goldbaum opened his liquor distributing business in the city of Tucson in 1887. Located at 182 W. Congress, the business

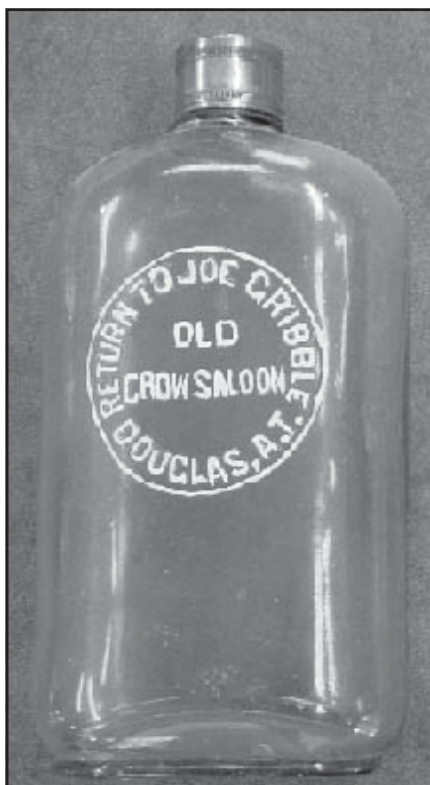
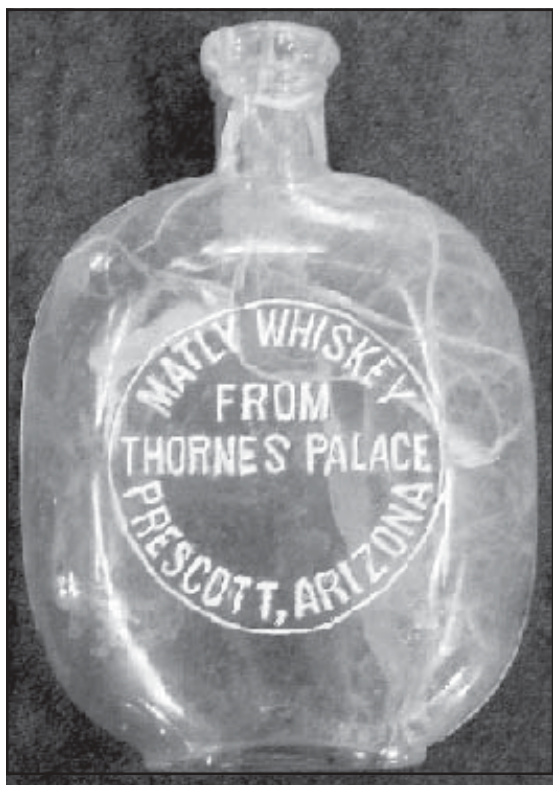
soon became the largest of its kind in the city.

Goldbaum continued in the liquor business until 1903, when he became part owner of the Tucson Grocery Co. By 1906 he had moved into real estate and purchased several large buildings in Tucson.

The "Jules" backbar bottle is very rare with three known examples and is very attractive with its gold and white enameling and six stars.

### 2. MATLY WHISKEY FROM THORNES PALACE PRESCOTT, ARIZONA -

The Palace Saloon is located on the historic whiskey row in the town of Prescott. Once the territorial capitol of Arizona, Prescott perhaps best represented the picture of the old west that comes to mind in the world of Hollywood. Frequented by miners, soldiers, cowboys, railroaders, thieves and respectable businessmen the Prescott bars were a microcosm of the changing west.



Built in 1877 and operated under a different name, The Palace opened in 1882. That year, Daniel C. Thorne had purchased two adjacent buildings with the second becoming The Cabinet Chop House. The following year both buildings were damaged by a large fire. Re-opening soon after, Thorne continued as owner until 1891. The Palace continued as a saloon and was rebuilt after its complete destruction by fire in 1900. Only prohibition closed the saloon but The Palace later served as a restaurant and hotel. It exists to this day on Whiskey Row.

As mentioned earlier, only three examples are known of this bottle and just one of those is undamaged.

**3. OLD SOUR MASH A. HITTINGER TUCSON A.T.** - Anton Hittinger opened his liquor business in 1881 at 326 Meyer Street. He later operated his store under the name Tucson Liquors, which it stayed until its closure in 1899. After the turn of the century, Hittinger is listed in Tucson directories as a capitalist and he died in 1921.

The one of a kind Hittinger jug is one of only two known Arizona Territory marked jugs.

**4. COMPLIMENTS OF TUSCON GROCERY CO. TUSCON ARI** - Gust A. Hoff had worked previously in Tucson as a clerk for Seligman Co. and later operated a fruit supply business. In 1893 he opened the Tucson Grocery Co. at 43 E. Congress St. A decade later the company was moved to 19-25 Stone Avenue and Hoff took Julius Goldbaum as a partner. Goldbaum had operated a successful liquor distributor business in Tucson and soon the company's ads listed the business as "wholesale & retail dealers in groceries, liquors, cigars & tobaccos, delicatessen." In 1906 Goldbaum left the business and Hoff continued alone until the company's closure in 1908. These mini jugs are very rare and can be found with Tucson both spelled correctly and misspelled.

**5. RETURN TO JOE GRIBBLE OLD CROW SALOON DOUGLAS A.T.** - A very rare ground screw top flask with only three known examples, this flask has been found in both half-pint and pint sizes. All of these flasks were found in a single privy back in the 1970s.

At this time, no information has been found on the Old Crow Saloon. We do know that Joe Gribble operated another saloon, called The White House, in Douglas in 1903. This saloon was located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street as was operated by Gribble until 1905.

**6. VOGES WHOLESALE WINES & LIQUORS PRESCOTT A.T.** - Herman Voge began in Prescott running an ice and cold storage company called Kleiner & Voge

in 1895. Several years later Kleiner left the partnership and Voge continued under the name Voge Bottling Works selling beer to Prescott until the company's closure in 1903. The following year Voge went into the wholesale liquor business. Naming the business simply "The Wholesale Liquor Company," Voge solely ran the company until 1911.

This one of a kind half-gallon jug is the only wire bail handled jug from Arizona.

**7. JULIUS GOLDBAUM INC. TUCSON ARIZONA** - Several examples of this clear brandy style bottle were found back in the seventies but were put away in a shed and left for re-discovery years later. The bottles were very sick in nature and since the shoulder seal area revealed no embossing, it was thought that these bottles were unembossed. Later while inspecting to determine whether the box of slicks contained anything worth keeping the owner noticed the embossing on the reverse side from the seal. Even though both examples were damaged it was rightfully determined that these bottles were keepers. Since that time a third mint specimen has surfaced in a local Tucson museum.

**8. DIAMOND CROWN WHISKEY. NOTHING NEW BUT THE JUG THE W.A. WATTS CO PHOENIX ARIZ. or "DIAMOND CROWN" THE WHISKEY WITHOUT A HEADACHE THE W.A. WATTS CO. PHOENIX, ARIZ.** - This mini jug can be found in two stenciling patterns with different mottoes. These are the only mini jugs from Phoenix and both variants are very rare.

In 1898 the W.A. Watts Company opened at 110 W. Adams in the O'Neil Building. The following year H.W. Berryman was added as a partner but the company was short lived and by 1901 it had closed its doors.

**9. THE F.G. MCCOY CO INC. THE WELLINGTON SALOON PRESCOTT, ARIZ.** - Located on S. Montezuma Street, The Wellington Saloon was opened in 1902 by J.E. & F.G. McCoy. By 1904 B.L. McCoy was added to the partnership which continued until late 1906. Though not listed from 1907-1911, F.G. McCoy resurfaced running a Prescott saloon in partnership with F.C. Whisman in 1912.

These Olympia style flasks can be found in half-pint and pint sizes and are scarce (half-pint) to rare (pint). Even though these are the most common whiskey bottles from Arizona, they still rarely come up for sale and are highly prized by collectors of Arizona bottles and western flasks.

**10. GOLDMAN & CO. PHOENIX, ARIZ.** - Leo & Charles Goldman began

selling groceries, liquors and hardware in Phoenix in 1878. Located at 2-4 E. Washington Street, their store was one of the very first in what would become the state capitol of Arizona. In the 1890s the Goldman's had expanded into the farm implement business. In 1895 they sold their liquor stock to Louis Melczer. The brothers continued with their other businesses and later changed store locations and added Eugene and Sydney Goldman as partners.

In 1916 the business was split and the grocery concern was moved to 114-118 W. Adams. By 1918 the Melczer Brothers had begun taking over the grocery business. In 1923 Leo and Eugene Goldman closed their implement store and Leo Goldman became vice-president of the National Bank of Arizona.

This one of a kind one-gallon jug is desirable for its uniqueness and its company's place in early Arizona history.

Well that's the story on Arizona whiskey containers. For the bottle purest rest assured that I left no Arizona whiskey bottles off this list. For you jug collectors - if you want to know more, please feel free to contact me or buy the new updated Arizona book when I finish it.

One last note: One unique Arizona bottle was left off of these listings. It is an extract bottle belonging to the Barkley - Berryman Mercantile Co. of Phoenix, A.T. Since this bottle was no easy fit with any of the categories discussed it was omitted, but would easily rank as one of Arizona's Best.

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