

RENO, NEVADA - AUGUST, 2006

The FOHBC National Show - A Lucky Day!

By Ralph Van Brocklin



The crowd began, then quickly increased to standing room only by the time the doors opened for those eager to get the first peeks.

Awesome... great... fantastic... best show in years... These were some of the superlatives which were continually iterated to me over the course of the 2006 FOHBC National Show in Reno, August 18-20, 2006. And, under the guidance of FOHBC Conventions Director Wayne Lowry, Show Chairman Marty Hall and members of the Reno Sparks Club, the accolades were hard-earned and well-deserved!

This was the first National Show held in a Western state since the 2000 EXPO in Denver and the enthusiasm for having a show in the West was readily apparent in the crowd attending. It has been a while since I have seen crowds at the door for early admissions in a "non-EXPO" event, but they were there for this opening. 287 early admission and 315 general admission tickets were purchased. There were no chants of "storm the doors," but the aisles

were instantly filled once the doors opened.

Preliminaries

The preliminaries to the actual show always include a meeting of the FOHBC Board, a membership meeting and a banquet the day prior. Significant Board actions this meeting included a vote to move into a bimonthly publication of *Bottles and Extras*, beginning in 2007, and announcement of Collinsville, Illinois, as the site of the 2007 National Show. York (Pennsylvania), Hartford (Connecticut) and Manchester (New Hampshire) are under consideration for the 2008 EXPO.

Banquet

With Richard Siri as the featured speaker, no Western collector would be surprised to learn that the 2006 FOHBC Banquet had the largest attendance ever.

122 collectors were treated to a talk that focused on the Hostetter's Bitters Company and the roughly 190 variants Richard has in his collection. Spanning the period from pontiled to screw top closure, the variety is amazing! No, they are not all just \$5.00 bottles— If you had the opportunity to see some of Richard's or the light pinkish one owned by Bill Schwarting and featured as a one bottle display at the 2002 Syracuse National, you'd certainly understand why! Portions of Richard's collection of Hostetter's bottles and advertising have been displayed at Western shows in the past and the grouping is always a feast for the eyes!

At the banquet, the Federation was pleased to present awards to a variety of authors and clubs and to a very special member who has been instrumental in assisting with membership and in the



The highlight of the banquet was featured speaker, Richard Siri (L). The banquet crowd listened intently as Richard spoke of the Hostetter's Bitters Company and its variants.

success of our publication, *Bottles and Extras*. Receiving the President's Award for his contributions was Bill Baab, of Augusta, Georgia.

Awards presented:

- President's Award Bill Baab
- Club Newsletter Contest
 - First Place *The Ohio Swirl*, Phyllis Koch – Editor
 - Second Place *The Whittlemark*, Randy Selenak – Editor
 - Third Place *Jersey Shore Shards*, Rosemarie & Dave Triplet – Editors
- Authors Contests
 - First Place "Battery Insulators, Oil Insulators and Chloride Accumulators" - Charlie & Sandi Irons
 - Second Place "Beech-Nut Packing Co." - Bill Heroth
 - Third Place "Jacob Welsh/Welch" - Bill Koster

Saturday Morning – Seminars and a Flask Sale

Collectors were treated to a wonderful grouping of seminars this year, presented by some of the preeminent collectors from the West and, in one instance, from the East! Robin Preston made the flight out from Philadelphia and was gracious enough to give an authoritative presentation on collecting Pre-Prohibition shot glasses. Our readers will recognize his name from the *Bottles and Extras* column "Random Shots."

As has been the case at the last three FOHBC Shows, choosing which seminar to attend became the biggest problem. And, that led to the only complaint I heard... 'why can't you spread the seminars out and not have them overlap?' Good question — difficult answer... the Federation likes to offer a nice variety of seminars, but the only non-competing time slot available when everyone is at the show venue is the morning that the show opens. So, unless the seminars are held the day prior (which limits the number of collectors who might attend), held during the show (tried at Denver to the complaints of many) or held in competition with the preview for the auction on Saturday evening, collectors may have to continue to make the hard choices! Not meaning to make light of the issue... We are still happy that we were able to provide the Reno attendees some hard choices in each time slot!

Speakers at 9:00 included Jess Jones (Belmont, California) who gave a presentation entitled "American Round Bottle Mineral Water and Soda Bottles" and Tom Jacobs (San Francisco) who lectured on "The Art of Historical Bottle Research."

This writers greatest regret this show was being so wrapped up in the Western flask get-together and sale that I was not able to attend Tom's talk or get it recorded.

I have previously tried to scrawl down all of his suggestions about how to research for my book on Western flasks and three quarters of it has always ended up eluding my frantic attempts to scribble the information down. I even went to the length of purchasing a digital recorder prior to the show only to get engrossed and didn't get over to the seminar room to leave the recorder. Well organized and well presented are the comments I heard! Tom probably wishes I had been there, as he'll now have to continue to field questions from me every time I get stymied in my research efforts!

The 10:00 presenters were Stan Paher (Reno), who gave a talk "Western Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps" and Ralph Finch (Farmington Hills, Michigan) who lectured on target balls and associated collecting. Ralph's talk was entitled "Taking Aim at America in the Late 1800s." Rounding out the 11:00 slot was Robin Preston's seminar "Pre-Prohibition Shot Glasses: An Unabashed Account of One Collector's Obsession," in which he detailed the history of shot glass manufacture, the change in value the glasses have recently undergone and the use of the databases on www.pre-pro.com in researching one's glasses.

I was able to look in on some of the seminars in this time slot and the slide presentations demonstrated the topics beautifully. Anyone fortunate enough to have see Ralph Finch's display at Grand Rapids last year would have seen some of the most stellar pieces of "Wild West Show" material and target balls imaginable. Anyone not fortunate enough to have seen them in person would have been treated to some very nice pictures of them during this seminar.

The final grouping of presenters (11:00) included Ken Salazar (San Francisco), Bill Ham (Lakeport, California) and Eric McGuire (Petaluma, California.) Each of these collectors is readily known in the West for their ardent love of Western glass and their willingness to share their expertise.

Ken Salazar gave a very nice presentation "Early Pontiled Western Sodas," showing the result of years of digging in "The City" and years of chasing this category of bottle. I understand that the examples he shared were absolutely gorgeous!

Bill Ham is widely known to collectors of bitters, having revised and updated *For Bitters Only* (Carlyn Ring), publishing it as *Bitters Bottles* and adding an additional book *Bitters Bottles Supplement*. His presentations on bitters bottles demonstrate an intense love of the category blended with suggestions on how to research and photograph.

Eric McGuire's presentation was entitled "The Beginnings of Glass Manufacturing in the West" and I understand that it was stellar. Another presentation I hated to miss (but, Marty Hall probably would have shot me if I had not gotten my display up!)

Flask Get-Together and Sale

Specialty meetings are often a facet of the National Shows. This year the only such gathering was a get-together of Western flask collectors who were treated to the opportunity to purchase 118 clear pumpkinseed, coffin, shoofly and Olympia-style flasks from my collection. Decision to hold such a gathering was made in order to allow collectors to visit and discuss their collections, to try and entice some collectors to attend the show who might not have otherwise done so, and to avoid mass confusion if the bottles were put out on tables in the show.

Apparently the decision was a sound one— 21 individuals registered to buy and a number of other collectors were in and out of the room at various times. The visiting was over once the preview period of 7:00 am to 8:30 am drew to a close, however. After that, the buying instinct took over and the sale ran a quick course. Happy buyers from Eureka, Nevada City, Sacramento and San Bernardino in California and another from Oregon took home bottles from their locales. Several others bought multiple flasks that fit into their more generalized collections. It was



Flask Get-together and sale, where 88 of the 118 clear pumpkinseed, coffin, shoofly and Olympia-style flasks went to new homes.

nice to see Wayne Larson (Phoenix Arizona) whom I had not seen in a number of years and even nicer to see him happily packing out a couple of “saloon”-embossed flasks.

Highlights of the sale included:

- Mint Saloon, Marysville pint pumpkinseed \$535.00
- Fred Dunck, Napa City pint pumpkinseed \$560.00
- F J Corbett, San Mateo pint pumpkinseed \$585.00
- H. Otersen, San Francisco ½-pt pumpkinseed \$590.00
- Pilot Bar, San Francisco pint pumpkinseed \$620.00
- Club Saloon, Rawlins WY ½-pint shoofly \$685.00
- WT Wilson, The Tivoli, Mendocino pint pumpkinseed \$820.00
- Billy Winters Log Cabin, Portland ½-pt pumpkinseed \$1395.00

Many of the bottles went to new homes at the posted minimums, giving everyone a chance at some bargains. 88 of the 118 bottles changed hands.

Displays

One of the highlights of the show for many was the opportunity to see some outstanding displays. I was extremely impressed by the displays at Syracuse in 2002 and Grand Rapids in 2005, but this was — hands down — *the best* group of displays I have ever seen at a show!

For many, the display of bottles with brilliant opalescence entitled “Benecia Glass – Nature’s Tiffany,” represented the epitome of the displays. This display was a joint effort of 49’er Historical Bottle Club

members Dan Bell, Mike and Karen Peart, Barbara and Tom Moniz and Mike Lake. The display was well-designed, with signage detailing information regarding the history of the area surrounding the Benecia mud flats, the digging which took place there and the process which leads to the lovely staining known as “Benecia effect.” In an antique cupboard were some of the nicest examples of this glass which I have laid eyes on in 25 years of attending Western shows. To the left of the display was a very appropriate case for displaying another grouping of bottles — a “treasure chest”! At the risk of sounding like I am hyping the displays, I have to say that not only do I feel this show had the best group of displays I’ve seen, but this may very well be the best overall display I’ve ever seen, with educational merit, attractive design and layout and wonderful bottles. Gene Baker, of Shaver Lake, California, summed the display up nicely, calling it a “work of art!”

The other group effort was a display entitled “The Best of The West.” In a series of back-lighted panels were many of the top specimens of the top bottles from the West. Tom Jacobs displayed a number of his early San Francisco beers, including a champagne top Nick Zuck with embossed eagle, a champagne top A. Capelli with embossed stag and almost yellow examples of the Goepfert Beer Steam and Philadelphia beers. A panel of eight stubby half pint Swan Brewery XXX Ales (with embossed swan) in different colors and a half pint W.B. Co S.F. (with embossed sun) added even more eye candy for the beer collector.

Medicines were well represented in the display, with Dale Mlasko contributing a

blue and a green Dr. Henley’s Indian Queen Hair Restorative. These rare Hair bottles were joined by light cobalt and dark cobalt examples of the cone-topped Fish’s Infallible Hair Restorative. Add to that a unique large size cobalt Pratt’s Abolition Oil and three examples of Indian Tra-Quillaugh’s Balsam Dr. R. Parker SF (in copper, copper puce and green!) and you’ve seen some of the Best of The West in that category!

One of the most appealing panels was for the bitters category. A panel of five Wonsler’s bitters included a bluish square, examples of the Dr. Wonsler’s USA Indian Root Bitters in amber, green and aqua and an aqua square. The green example of the USA Indian Root ranks near the top of all Western bottles, not merely the Western bitters! Other bitters in the display included a wonderful teal colored Lacour’s Sarsapariphere, a green Wideman and Chappas ladies leg from Marysville and a nice green M. Keller from Los Angeles. Some nice squares, and a bottle classic in form for a Western bottle, the aqua cylindrical fifth Chalmer’s Catawba Bitters, rounded out this area.

Fifths... Did I mention fifths? What a great selection of these in the whiskey category!!! A panel devoted to Gold Dust whiskeys certainly caught the eye. Then there were all of those cylinders in the Top 25 list. A green Evan’s and O’Brien, a Laurel Palace, a Marx and Jorgensen, a green Thos. Taylor Virginia N. and an olive-colored Jockey Club in one panel... Green and aqua Teakettles in another... And, then a green S. T. Suits and a green Pride of Kentucky adjacent. Incredible!

Flasks... The Nevada bottles in the display, which included several bottles from



Benecia Glass – Nature’s Tiffany: This display, illustrated in the top three photos, represented the epitome of the displays, a joint effort of 49er Historical Bottle Club members Dan Bell, Mike and Karen Peart, Barbara and Tom Moniz and Mike Lake.



The Best of The West display below showcased beers, medicines, bitters, fifths, inks and other bottles from “the West” from the collections of many Western collectors to make an impressive display.



^ Best of the West: Green Pride of Kentucky, green S T Suits and green Thos. Taylor fifths included in this panel of Choice Western fifths.



Dale Mlasko looking over the Van Brocklin Western Flask Display, which would transfer to him at the conclusion of the show.

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Above: Best of the West medicines. Below: More Best of the West.



Top Nevada inks. >



Below: A nice mixed panel with Dr. Wonsers Bitters, Fish's Infallible, Chalmers Bitters. Next, it is a panel of Best of the West sodas.

< Kevin Isihikawa's display of colored sodas drew attention at the show.



the Top 25 of Nevada survey (see article this issue), included the only flask in the display— the one of a kind The Crystal, a nice amethyst tinted flat flask from Reno. Other bottles from Nevada included a nice Geo. P. Morrill Apothecary Virginia City, a large size The Owl Pharmacy Co Seven Troughs (with embossed owl) and examples of each of the three R.L. Higgins Virginia City inks — the green cone, the amber master and the aqua master.

The flasks were there, just not in the Best of The West Display. Why not??? Because I agreed to put in a separate display of prime examples from my collection! 39 bottles were presented in this display, including three clear picture pumpkinseeds (Kolb & Denhard SF with embossed stag, Iron Front Neff and Duff Austin with embossed longhorn's head and Brearley & Uniacke Reno with embossed owl.) These clear flasks are all very rare, but the yellows and greens of the colored flasks are what captured the audience! Typically found in amber shades, this display represented 20 years of continual upgrading and many of the finest examples of any given flask currently known. The collection was a joy to put together and it is now being enjoyed by new owners and good friends Dennis Eastley of Nevada and Dale Mlasko of Oregon.

Russ Umbraco provided collectors with an extensive array of Cyrus Noble collectibles, including early Crown Distilleries and Lilienthal cylinders, flasks, shot glasses and advertising. Several early lithographs accented the whiskey receptacles, but the eye-catcher to this writer was the display barrel containing embossed and labeled examples of the flasks associated with this concern, including the clear coffin and pumpkinseed flasks and all the variants of the amber flasks. This display was so extensive that it was impossible to focus on everything. It took the trained eye of Robin Preston to spot the labeled in the bottom Hawaiian shot glass from Lovejoy and Company in this display, a glass which I had no idea existed.

Two displays dealt with Nevada collectibles. Bob Ferraro shared examples of Nevada souvenir china and examples of all of the known Nevada stoneware items (the Winnemucca mini jug from C B Brown & Co, the James Gioga Goldfield jug, the H. Marcotte jug from Ely, the Lowell & Pringle Virginia Nevada Territory crock and the Rochester Short Line ginger beer



More Best of the West: Gold Dust whiskey fifths.



Bob Ferraro shared examples of Nevada souvenir china and examples of all of the known Nevada stoneware items



Most Educational and People's Choice Awards went to Dennis Rodgers for his Cathedral Pickles display.



San Francisco Milks - Ken Morrill

from Lower Rochester.) Ron Bonmaritto's display featured two absolutely killer Nevada signs, including a painted on glass sign for Benton's Livery and Stable (displayed with a boxed example of Dr. J M Benton's Liniment, number 14 in the Top 25 of Nevada survey) and a brass corner sign for The Crystal, the Reno firm which gave us the amber cylinder at number 5 in the survey and the clear flask ranked number 12.

Other Western displays included Len Gratteri's display of back bar bottles, a super collection of San Francisco tin-top milks put together by Ken Morrill, a beautiful grouping of Western poisons and an exceptionally nice display of Pacific Congress sodas by Willy Young.

John O'Neill offered up a dynamite collection of Napa sodas, nicely arrayed and presented with some advertising signs, a very nice early calendar and shipping crates.

Rounding out the displays with a strictly Western theme was a display by David Hall entitled "Western Glass Manufacturing Co - Denver." This company is well known to Colorado collectors for the "belt buckle" mark on the base. The company was in production from 1900-1909 and items presented in this display included flasks, beers, a wonderful assortment of Hutchinson sodas and a couple of pickles.

The pickles in Dennis Roger's display predated those in the Western Glass display by a few decades. His display, "Cathedral Pickles," featured a variety of cathedral pickles with colors ranging from aqua to amethyst, to dark green and into blue and amber. This display was extremely well received by show attendees, receiving both the Most Educational award and the People's Choice Award, awards presented to single-exhibitor displays.

One of the most intriguing of the displays was a grouping of twelve bottles presented by Show Chairman Marty Hall. Entitled "Swirls, Streaks and Striations," it was a lovely example of different bottle forms and colors with the common thread of swirls of different colors of glass running through the bodies of the bottles. Lovely!

From Reno Bottle Club members came two additional displays - "Wellman Products Co" was a nice grouping of bottles, tins and advertising signs presented by Don and Opal Wellman. Walt and Helene Walker shared a wonderful and colorful display of cone, umbrella and teakettle inks that drew considerable attention.



Western Glass Mfg. Co., 1900-1909, display by David Hall.



Pacific Congress sodas by Willy Young.



Lilienthal & Co., San Francisco, 1871-1895, display.



Swirls, Streaks and Striations by Marty Hal.



Colored fruit jars - Darrell Plank



Napa Sodas - John O'Neill



Wellman Products Company - Don and Opal Wellman



< The ladies at the registration table await the crowd.

Color was certainly not lacking in the displays of John Slowiak (“Fire Grenades”), Kevin Ishikawa (“Colored Sodas”) and Darrell Plank (“Fruit Jars”). John’s display included 16 grenades in a variety of colors and forms presented in a fire alarm case. It included the ever popular California Fire Extinguisher with the walking bear pictured. Comprised of colored hutches and tenpin sodas, Kevin’s display never fails to capture attention.

For the jar collector and the non-jar collector, alike, one could not help but focus on the display of Darrell Plank! Talk about color and rarity - this display had it! Although I knew that I liked what I saw, I had to call on June Lowry for help in describing what he had. Five-figure jars abounded and among the rarities were five jars considered unique: an olive Lyman, cobalt Independent, amber Protector, amber Woodbury Improved and amber Potter & Bodine. Others of note... Amber Van Vliet Improved, cobalt Mason’s 1858, cobalt Hemingray, cobalt Mason’s CFJ Improved, cobalt Lightning, cobalt Canton Domestic, amber Millville, amber Airtight barrel and cobalt Millville. Now that’s a lot of cobalt!!!

Auction

One of the appealing facets of the National Shows is the inclusion of an auction for show attendees. In a world where live auctions are rapidly disappearing, it has been the Federation’s pleasure to provide a yearly tribute to this type of sale.

The auction has been graciously called by Norman Heckler for the past several years. With his absence this year, and the inability to secure an auctioneer with a Nevada license to run the sale, decision was made to have the items for sale available for inspection and conduct a silent auction. When circumstances caused the auctioneer originally slated to run the sale to step out, Randy Driskill and the staff of bottleauction.com stepped to the fore and ran the sale for us. Placed in the difficult position of trying to garner consignments and get the sale up and running in only a couple of months, their effort is to be applauded.

In order to have an adequate number of consignments, the Federation allowed reserves, an opportunity typically not extended. Although it did assist in bringing in the necessary items, it also resulted in a lot of items going unsold and a little

frustration on the part of the buyers present at the sale. That and a few other procedural glitches will be worked out between now and the next Federation auction, should it be conducted in a similar format.

A total of 56 lots were presented for live and internet bidding. Among the notable items selling at the auction were:

Lot #7: Preston's Veg. Purifying Catholicon Portsm NH, \$897.50.

Lot #8: Sweet & Boies Drug Co Turlock Cal, 8 ounce green, \$357.50.

Lot #18: Dr. Renz's Herb Bitters (large letters), yellow-green, \$ 1550.

Lot #21: GIV-14 Masonic/Eagle, light green ½-pint, \$1800.

Lot #22: Dr. Leon's Electric Hair Renewer, dark amethyst, \$300.

Lot #28: Geo. Benz & Sons Appetine Bitters, sample size, \$600.

Lot #36: Distilled Soda Water of Alaska, hutchinson soda, \$650.

Lot #37: Compound Extract of Manzanita, op Sacramento med, \$900.

Lot #38: Dr. XX Lovegood's Family Bitters, \$3500.

Lot #43: Wormser Bros. San Francisco, golden amber barrel, \$2000.

Lot #46: GX-4 General Taylor/ A Little More Grape, \$2800.

Lot #53: GV-2 Success to the Railroad, olive green, small lip bruise, \$4000.

The Show

Collector Finds, Comments and Observations

The comment "What a show!" by Garth Ziegenhagen of Oregon seemed to sum up the general feelings of collectors I spoke with about their experiences in Reno. There were even folks who expressed to Show Chair Marty Hall that they felt that the show was entirely too compressed, time-wise—now when was the last time that you heard that???

Up to a year prior to the date of the show I was hearing enthusiasm from Western collectors about holding this show in Nevada. The large attendance demonstrated that enthusiasm and for the 180 dealers taking the show capacity 266 tables, all the collectors flooding the hall made the show a tremendous success. Sales were brisk. Collectors and dealers, alike, were beaming.

I heard from a number of collectors comments similar to that of Gene Baker of Shaver Lake, California who advised "I want to compliment the members of the



Russ Umbraco's Cyrus Noble Whiskey display.



2006 FOHBC Banquet and Guest Speaker: Richard Siri

"Hats off" to Richard Siri, - the Federation's new 2nd Vice President. Richard was also the guest speaker for the 2006 National Show Banquet and provided a very informative talk on one of his many collecting specialties, - Hostetter's Bitters.

Hostetter's Bitters bottles are certainly something that many of us, whether young or old, new collector or advanced, can relate to. They are found in all parts of the country and can range in value from a few dollars to several thousand dollars for a few of the extreme rarities. Richard is one of the foremost authorities on these bottles and has garnered what is likely the most significant grouping of Hostetter's ever assembled!

By early 2002, Richard had already amassed what was more than likely the most significant collection of Hostetter's west of the Mississippi when approximately four years ago, he added considerably to that collection by purchasing another collection of Hostetter's numbering close to 100 different examples from fellow collector (and childhood digging friend of mine!), Bob Skibbe of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Even if you don't collect Hostetter's bottles or even bitters, you certainly would have appreciated, and the folks in attendance at the FOHBC Banquet certainly seemed to appreciate Richard's talk and his knowledge and passion for collecting these interesting, if somewhat ubiquitous bitters bottles.

John Pastor

Above: Richard is welcomed to the podium by incoming FOHBC president, Carl Sturm.

National Bottle Show Committee – Marty Hall, Wayne and June Lowry, et al. — for a great job done. The show was well organized and reflected many, many hours of work. The folks who dedicate this amount of time for our hobby deserve all the praise they can get.” I certainly agree—the efforts of these individuals and all of the members of the Reno-Sparks Club led to a show which was well organized and,

consequently, smooth flowing. Dealer entry was easy and displays went up quickly and efficiently. In large part due to starting registration the day prior to the show, the usual panic of trying to get folks ready to enter for early admissions was avoided. Smooth!

I was particularly taken by a comment from Audie Markota of Sacramento about how this show had the feel of the old shows

where collectors took the time to visit and it was more than just a ‘get the item and go’ crowd. This sentiment had a lot of company—Dale Mlasko of Medford, Oregon, opined “The show was one of the best I have attended for the fellowship, as well as the killer glass.” And, Sheldon Baugh of Russellville, Kentucky, indicated that the banquet afforded he and his wife “the time to meet old friends, as well as making new,” including Audie and Peck Markota!

John Pastor indicated “I was very impressed with the quality and variety of bottles available...my overstuffed bags (and box) of bottles that accompanied on the long plane ride back to Michigan will provide testimony to the fact that I had a good time buying and found some very nice items to add to my collection. In addition to several nice flasks and a wonderful pattern molded example from Ohio, I was able to find a couple of whiskeys, a nice medicine and a few other assorted items of interest.”

Nice bottles and other items certainly did abound at the show. It is a testimony to the show that Midwestern collectors such as John found items that fit into their collections. Tom Knapik, who is an ardent collector of Saratogas, added one of which there are less than five known examples (Tucker S30B with monogram). He was not totally oblivious to the Western glass, however, adding a Western bitters which many would drool over— a dark green, crude and iron pontiled Catawba Wine Bitters. Seller James Campiglia made him one happy collector!

There were some outstanding bitters available at the show. Eastern bitters included a nice assortment of barrels, including a variety of colors of the Old Sachems, Greeleys and Bourbon Whiskey Bitters. There were also some nice cabins scattered throughout the show, and I sent a whittled Keystone barrel home with Jeff Burkhardt. Don and Bonnie McLane offered a beautiful aqua vertical Greeleys and I believe that that is the one that a broadly grinning Gerry Forbes took home to Carmel with him.

At least two Cassin’s Grape Brandy Bitters bottles found new homes at this show, leaving the new owners and dealers Roger Terry and Ted Siri happy. Roger’s went to collector Warren Friederich, who also added a very nice yellow-green Lacour’s offered by Robert and Vince Sierra. For those who may not know Warren, he is a collector who put together



Wayne Lowry (FOHBC Conventions Director); Marty Hall and Willy Young (Show Chair and Host Club Representatives)

2006 FOHBC Show – A short synopsis

I was very impressed with the quality and variety of bottles available at the FOHBC 2006 National Show. It was exciting to see such enthusiasm on the part of collectors and my overstuffed bags (and box) of bottles that accompanied me on the long plane ride back to Michigan will provide testimony to the fact that I had a good time buying and found some very nice items to add to my collection. In addition to several nice flasks and a wonderful pattern molded example from Ohio, I was able to find a couple of whiskeys, a nice medicine and a few other assorted items of interest.

Conversely, as a result of being limited in the number of bottles I could safely carry on the plane, my sales table offerings were somewhat limited. However, I was pleasantly surprised in the number of items that I did sell at the show and that in turn helped to make room for some of the aforementioned purchases!

It was nice to visit with a number of friends that I do not often get a chance to see and it was also nice to get

acquainted with some folks that I had not previously had the opportunity to meet. I had a pleasant conversation with Betty Zumwalt who was at the show selling copies of her informative and well-researched book, “*Ketchup, Pickles, Sauces, 19th Century Food in Glass.*” Other authors with books at the show included Bill Ham, Steve Abbott, and Jeff Wichman (*please forgive me if I have missed anyone*).

What helps to make a Federation National or EXPO Show special are the numerous informative educational seminars and many, varied wonderful displays. The 2006 National was most impressive in this regard and I hope that you will take the time to check out the photos and to read more about these later in this issue.

Thanks to Wayne Lowry, FOHBC Conventions Director; Marty Hall, Show Chairman, and to the rest of the Show Committee and especially to all of the dealers and collectors who helped to support this endeavor and to make it such a tremendous success!

John Pastor

The Glassmaster's Show

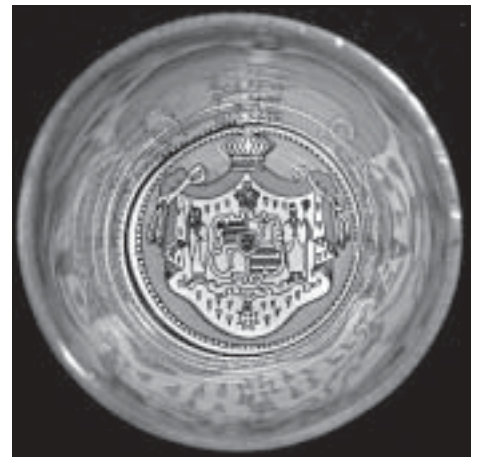
My show:

This was only the second west-coast show I've had a chance to attend and I was not sure what to expect. Western shot glasses usually sell at a premium so I had low hopes of adding to the collection, but I was greatly looking forward to meeting collectors who I've talked to via e-mail for many years but never looked in the eye.

As it turned out, I was greatly impressed by all aspects of the show!

The hotel was well-situated and very comfortable, and I ended up returning there after traveling in California for two days prior to flying back East. I also secured a room at \$25 per night less than show rates using internet discount sites, so it turned out to be a relatively inexpensive stay.

The show itself was, without doubt, one of the best I've ever attended – perhaps even better than the Baltimore show, which routinely sets the bar for clubs on the east coast. I was greatly impressed by both the number and quality of vendors, always the hallmark of a great show. There was much to look at, and even after having made the rounds at least 20 times (no exaggeration), I was still finding more things to look at. I was there to buy shots and I was astounded by both the number available and by the condition of virtually everything on offer: with few exceptions, the glasses were mint or very close to mint. The range of glasses available forced some tough choices, but I still came home with an even dozen to



add to the collection and a couple more to bring home as traders.

My major coup was an etched label-on-the-bottom Cyrus Noble from Crown Distilleries in San Francisco. I'd never seen one of these until Ken Schwartz introduced me to his e-collection a couple of months ago, and never dreamed of finding one for myself. The best part was it cost me about one sixth of what I might have expected to pay for it on eBay! Ken Schwartz was a formidable opponent in the hunt for shots and he beat me out on a Cupid Pure Rye by

just 30 seconds. Ken also managed to land an unlisted label-under (Old Jeff C. Taylors) shot from Portland on the way down to the show, along with a handful of other rare glasses.

Kudos are also due to the collectors who organized the displays. I was trying to snatch some good photos of Cyrus Noble relics that feature in Russell Umbraco's collection, when the owner came over and introduced himself to me. It turned out that three of the shots on the display table were from Hawaii, two of



them label-unders. Russell was most gracious in allowing me time to retrieve my tripod, camera, and lighting assembly and then watching as I took photographs of his precious glasses as they balanced precariously on a chair on a dolly in front of a closed door. We both had a very nervous moment when two dealers tried to barge their way in via the blocked door past a security guard, but all turned out well in the end and I got some great pics. Many thanks, Russell, you're a TRUE gent.

My post-show:

I spend a breathtaking day in the Ken Schwartz Temple of Glass, located in northern California, less than four hours drive through pine-covered hills from Reno. If you've never visited Ken and didn't take this opportunity to enjoy his and his wife's warm hospitality, then shame on you, because this was a once-in-a-lifetime treat. Ken showed me rare \$40,000 amber whiskies and even rarer \$50,000+ flasks and regaled me with tales of collecting and collectors he has known. Bottles I can take or leave, but the 500+ advertising signs hanging from the walls and ceiling of the Temple were difficult to ignore. But shots are my thing and Ken has around 900 of the rarest of the rare. I fondled about half of them, lusted after the rest (and all can shortly be viewed in the databases at www.pre-pro.com), and escaped the Temple after about ten hours, still in a feverish sweat.

Many thanks to Ken and his wife, and I can't wait to go back for the twice-in-a-lifetime experience!

Robin R. Preston



a super grouping of Western square bitters back in the 1990s and then got engrossed in other areas of collecting—it was great to see him at a show, again!

Ted Siri had quite a show selling, for not only did he sell a Cassin's, but he also sold a The Genuine N. Grange Sole Agent For Pacific Coast flask (the only known undamaged example of this variant) and an amber California Club House fifth. Both of these are top notch Western bottles and Ken Schwartz certainly had to be happy on his drive back to the "Ken Schwartz Temple of Glass" (see insert on the left with Robin Preston's comments about his experiences at and following the show.)

Over-and-above the flasks being made available from my collection, this show was an excellent one for availability of flasks. I certainly would have been pulling my wallet on multiple occasions had I not made the commitment to sell my amber union oval and strap flasks! Walking through the door was a beautiful variegated amber Jesse Moore (offered at \$7500.) I am not sure if it sold, but it certainly would have in normal circumstances. Unfortunately for the seller, these were not normal circumstances... It took me 7-8 years to acquire my first Jesse Moore flask— there were four at this show and at least three of them sold! My friend Ivan Oakeson (Salt Lake City) took home a very nice one from Roger Terry's table at a price unheard of at the bottles peak 4-5 years ago.

Also walking into the show was a half pint Peruvian Bitters flask offered by Mike Parrish of Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the time since I had originally seen it he had hand-cleaned much of the frosting and it really looked nice. He and I were supposed to get together so that I could introduce him to a couple collectors who might have interest, but we did not again make connection. I would have to think that it sold to someone in the show.

One other amber flask stands out in my mind— Pete Hendricks had dug a half-pint King & Lowry amber strap flask from Butte, Montana. It had the original rubber inside screw thread stopper, generic and from a London manufacturer.

For examination only, was a very rare half-pint amber coffin embossed John S. Bowman & Co Old Comet Bourbon S.F. I had known of the existence of this bottle for several years and I certainly appreciated the owner bringing it in for me to see!

My additions at this show included a very rare Gilroy, California, pumpkinseed

embossed Riley Brown Liquors Gilroy, Cal. and five clear coffin and pumpkinseed flasks from my friend Gary Ingle. Gary brought one of the really unique pieces in the show in with him—a glazed over Albany slip ovoid jug stamped Sacramento Pottery. This super piece went to the happy home of John O'Neill.

Overall, the offerings in stoneware were limited. Tom Chambers had a nice table of mini jugs, but many had repairs. I was fortunate to purchase a Monroe, Oregon mini from my friend Dale Mlasko, as well as one amber and two green Gaslight Ammonias. Rounding out my purchases were three Cutter fifths from Jack LaBaum.

For a Nevada show, I did not hear of a lot of great Nevada items changing hands. Bob Ferraro did indicate success (hard to do when you have the Nevada collection he has!) advising "I felt that my greatest acquisitions consisted of finding two unknown variants of a Reno pharmacy bottle, both in near mint condition. Also, I was able to buy three large medicine bottles in pristine condition from Eureka, Nevada. Besides these items I added two Nevada hunting licenses, several Nevada trade tokens, an early Nevada bottle opener and two different Nevada milks."

Ken Edward of Carmel, California, summed the show up as "fabulous" and added "my sales were strong and all categories sold well. The brisk sales kept me at the table more than I would have wanted but I still was able to pick up a few choice items. I brought home two pontiled pickles (a cathedral and a teal W.D. Smith), a canary-yellow Binningers and a Stockton Port Wine Bitters."

Summary

When you have a happy bunch of collectors and a satisfied group of dealers, you've run a great show! This was a well-lighted, comfortable venue for what proved to be an expertly conducted show. Show Chairman Marty Hall's comments speak for every collector and dealer at the show, "I was extremely pleased with how well things went with the show. I have never seen so many great bottles in all categories at a show before. At least 50 people told me it was the best show they had ever been to — and some of these folks have been attending shows for 35+ years."

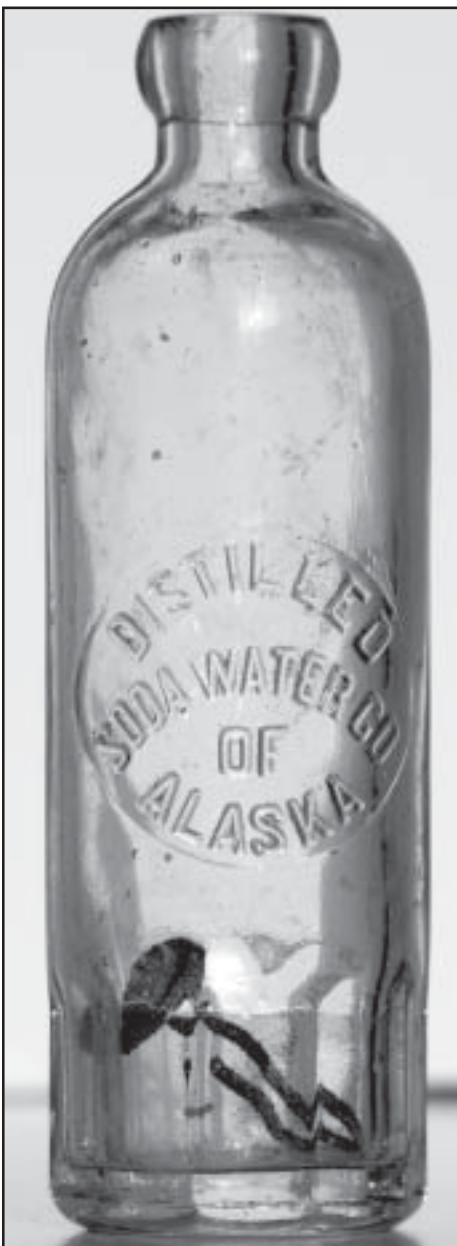
Ralph Van Brocklin



Helene and Walt Walker shared a nice selection of cone and umbrella inka.



Early on day two of the show.



Auction Lot #36: Distilled Soda Water Co. of Alaska Hutchinson soda, \$650.

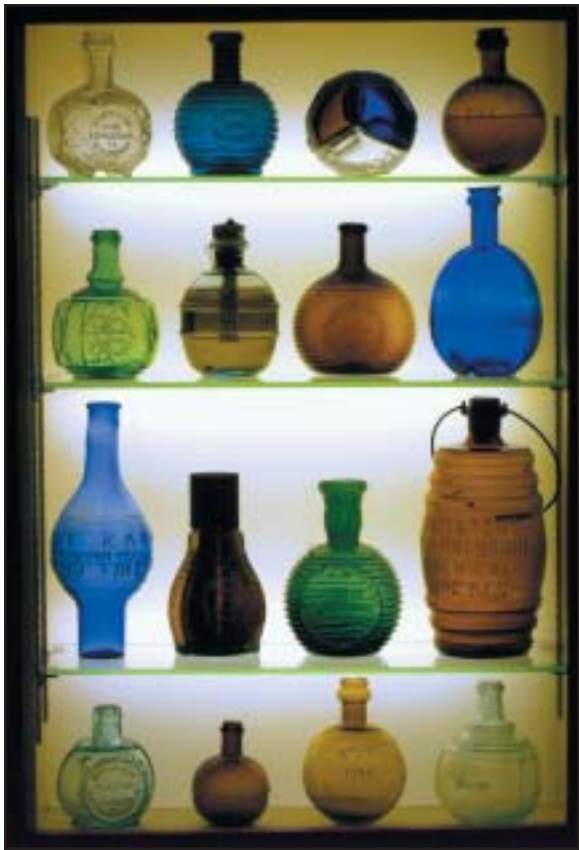


And the crowd continued on into the day.



Auction Lot #7: Preston's Vegetable Purifying Catholicon Potion, Portsm, N.H. ended for \$897.50.

The photographs illustrating the Reno, Nevada National show were provided by Ralph Van Brocklin, Robin Preston and June Lowry. Tom Moniz provided photos of the Benecia display and Randy Driskill provided photos of the auction bottles.



John Slowiak's fire grenade display.



Auction Lot #28:
Geo. Benz & Sons Appetine
Bitters, sample size. \$600



Auction Lot #37: Compound
Extract of Manzanita,
op Sacramento. \$900



Auction Lot #46: GX-4 General Taylor /
A Little More Grape. \$2800



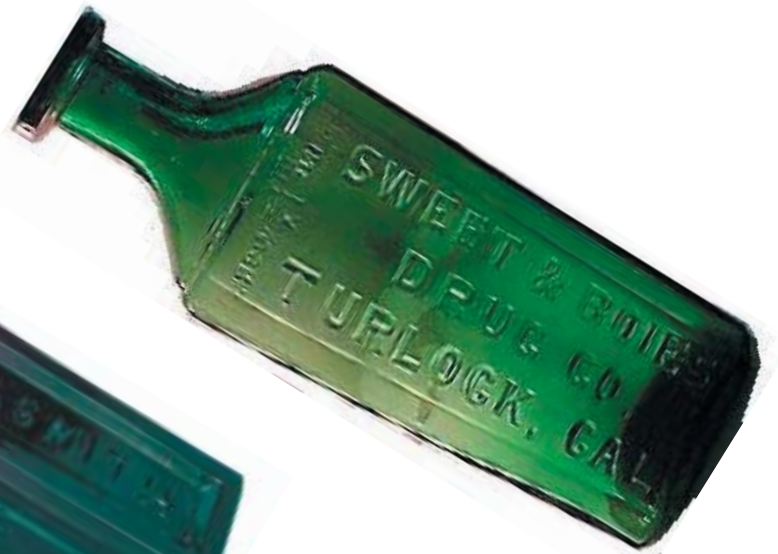
Auction Lot #21: GIV-14, Masonic Eagle
in light green, 1/2-pint. \$1800



Auction Lot #53: GV-2, Success to the
Railroad in olive green. \$4000



Auction Lot #22: Dr. Leon's
Electric Hair Renewer
in dark amethyst. \$300



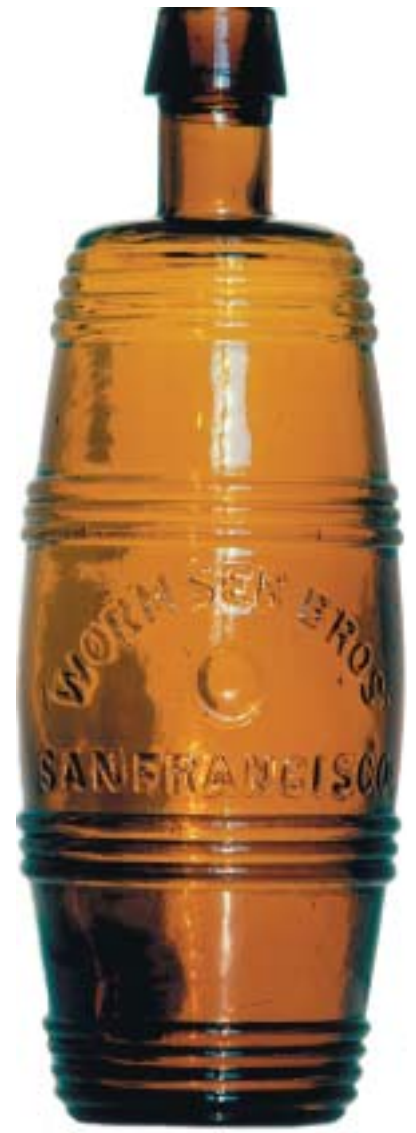
Auction Lot #8: Sweet & Boies Drug Co.,
Turlock, Calif., 8-ounce in green. \$357.50



Auction Lot #18: Dr. Renz's Herb Bitters
(large letters), yellow-green. \$1550



Auction Lot #38: Dr. XX Lovegood's
Family Bitters. \$3500



Auction Lot #43: Wormser Bros. San
Francisco, golden amber barrel. \$2000



This shot glass made its new owner proud as a peacock.



Bruce Silva, from Oregon, had two tables of offerings.



Jim Dennis, the "Western Whiskey Merchant," poses behind his table at the show.



Above and below: The Benecia Colored Bottles display from the Auburn 49er Bottle Club was beautiful indeed.



During the auction, the bottles were offered on tables off to the side for viewing.

