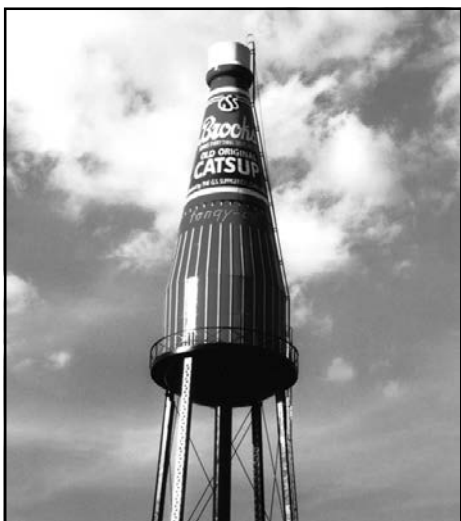


# Collinsville (Illinois) National Show 2007

“Back to where it all began” was the theme for the 2007 Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors’ show as we returned to the area of the first EXPO held in St. Louis in 1976. This year’s show was held in the Gateway Center at Collinsville, Illinois August 17-19. This was a great location, the facility was well-lit and convenient as it was located about 200 yards from the Holiday Inn, the host hotel.



There were many fine restaurants by as well as the Historic “Big Tomato,” the world’s largest catsup bottle, just south of Main Street in downtown Collinsville. This restored 170-foot tall water tower was built by W.B. Caldwell Company in 1949.



This great show was chaired by Wayne Lowry and assisted by Curt and Ellen Faulkenberry, Jim and Debbie Taylor and Pat Jett.

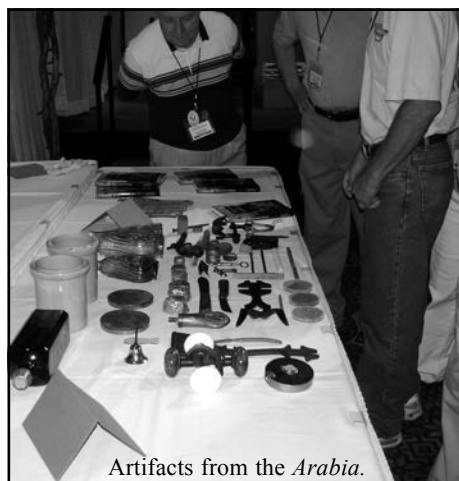
The FOHBC board met Friday morning, August 17, at 9 a.m. and a general membership meeting from 1 to 2 p.m.

The banquet was held at 7 p.m., with a reception from 6 to 7 p.m., giving time for friends to great and reminence. The food was delicious. President Carl Sturm presented plaques to contest winners and gave a President’s Award to a surprised June Lowry for her hard work on behalf of the FOHBC as well as selecting a new printer, saving many thousands of dollars for the

printing and mailing of *Bottles and Extras*.



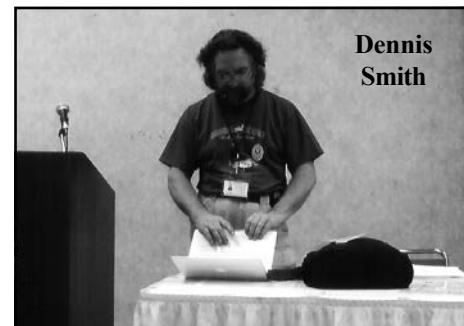
The banquet speaker was Greg Hawley, one of the treasure hunters who located and excavated the Steamboard *Arabia*. He gave a wonderful program, captivating the audience by his story of the transformation of his group from a “Get Rich Group” to a totally dedicated group of historic preservationists. He validated the service of the FOHBC members by our efforts to find and preserve our beautiful bottles and other artifacts. Everyone was all so taken with him that no one wanted the program to end. He also wrote a book, *Treasure in a Cornfield*, that chronicled the process of finding and digging this boat as well as the effort to preserve their finds.



Artifacts from the *Arabia*.

Saturday began at 7 a.m. with dealer and early admission registration. Members were treated to various seminars beginning at 9 a.m. “Something for Everyone” was presented by Jelly Jammer members Phyllis Pahlman and Margaret Shaw. “Chero-Cola - There’s None So Good” was presented by

Dennis Smith. Mike Elling was originally scheduled but had an emergency in his family, so Dennis filled in with a very informative program, giving the history of Chero-Cola that became the Nehi Company and finally Royal Crown (“RC”) Company.



Dennis Smith

The Painted Soda Bottle Association was presented by Kathy Hopson-Sathe, the publisher of the bi-monthly *Soda Fizz* magazine (and *Bottles and Extras*). John “Digger” O’Dell gave a seminar titled “Using the Internet to Collect Bottles - Dirtless Digging.” Digger has retired as a school teacher and has become a research expert on uncovering former mysteries by the use of the computer.



John “Digger” O’Dell

Keith Leeders, John Hinkel, Ed and Lucy Faulkner, Frank Starczek and Don Carroll presented the “Ink Symposium.” These six collectors are very knowledgeable about different types of inks, are enthusiastic and passionate about their category in this hobby.

Gene Bradberry and Ed Provine, two long time collectors and active members of the FOHBC since its beginning, gave a show and tell about early glass blowing methods and the tools of this trade. This was a very interesting program!

There was also a slide presentation of the 1976 EXPO held in St. Louis, moderated by Norman and June Barnett, members of the FOHBC Hall of Fame. This was well received by all attending.



The 1976 Expo's "Long Timers" pose for the camera.

At 1 p.m., the doors were opened to admit a large group of dealers and early admissions. The excitement was very evident with laughter and frenzies around tables as boxes were being unpacked. This set-up lasted until 5 p.m., but it seemed only minutes as the time passed too quickly. Buyers were hustling from table to table, looking at items for their collection as well as items to resale.



There were special pins given to those members that attended the first EXPO, called "Long Timers." This was a nice way to recognize those of us that have been around for a "long time" (not old timers), supporting the FOHBC. A group photo (shown above) was taken after the closing of the show on Saturday.

After a short period to eat dinner, the auction preview started. This event was chaired by Ned Pennington and he did a great job securing a nice variety of clean, colorful bottles. These were photographed



Col. John Newman, auctioneer.

by Greg Spurgeon and auctioned by Col. John Newman. Ned, John and Greg are all from Indiana and are very active members of our hobby.

There were 235 pieces in the auction bringing good prices. The top item was a puce National Bitters (corn) bringing \$3000. The auction was well attended not only because of the quality items, but also because Wayne Lowry brought fun to the auction with a raffle. Prizes were \$100 credit slips to be used at the show for purchases, t-shirts and programs from the first EXPO held just across the river in St. Louis - and these were a hit!



Auction action.



At the auction, real cash was also given away as Jeff Wichmann, of the American Bottle Auction, Sacramento, California, gave \$500 to five lucky winners and also consigned three bottles with proceeds donated to the FOHBC. This was a very generous gesture. Remember to thank Jeff when you speak to him.

Sunday morning came all too soon, as did the 3 p.m. show close. This was a wonderful show with dealers from New York to California, Wisconsin to Florida, and all between. A time to visit with old



Gerry Phifer (seated) talks bottles with two young collectors.

friends, make new friends, share stories about collections and reminising about previous Nationals and EXPOs.

This show saw 230 plus gate attendees as well as the early admissions. I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Dealers sold well and many people bought items to add to their own collections.

The FOHBC is proud of the education features of our shows as we had 19 excellent

displays featuring a broad list of categories. These were not hastily put together as there were many rarities in each display. The educational displays and seminars are an important part of our shows. If you did not attend these, you missed a lot. Please try to attend at future shows!

The weather was hot and dry in this area, but it cooperated for our event as a cool front came through and everything came

together to make a great show. Many people are already excited about next year's EXPO in York, Pennsylvania. Old timers remember the great shows there in the past. Let's plan for this to be our best!

Submitted by: Sheldon Baugh, past president and current director at large for the FOHBC.



Eyecups and eye bath display by Raymond Stenseth, St. Louis, Mo.



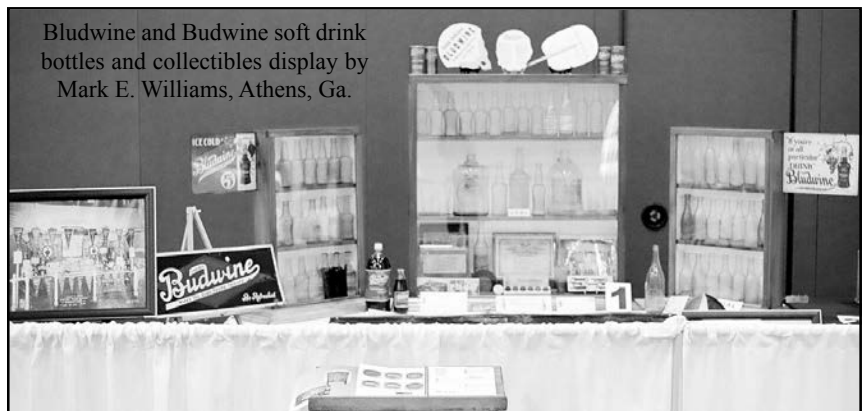
Wendell Short at his table.



Steve Hochhalter's table demonstrating his results in polishing glass.



Jim Hall holds a bottle while John Pastor (center) and Ed Gray (right) look on.





Western Medicines and Toilettries display by Alan and Vicki Weaver, Sedalia, Mo.

Just a few of the nineteen displays at Collinsville



Carl Sturm, Longwood, Fla., with his Half-pint Historical Flasks display.



Smile display from George Casnar, Festus, Mo..



Labeled Inks (L) and Miniature Bottles (R) displays by John and Sue Hinkel, Pacific, Mo.



Celery Cola display by Dennis Smith from Buffalo, New York.

Fruit jar from Alan Conner's display.



Farm-related Glass Bottles, etc., Milk-Vet-Canning display by Clinton and Sarah Davis from Milstadt, Illinois



Ed Gray (L) and Jim Hall (R).



< Dan and Judy Corker at their tables.

**Lots of glass**



Jim Scharnagel (seated) talking to Tony Stringfellow (standing).