

Northeast Regional News

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The Applied Lip

Finger Lakes Bottle Collectors Association, Ithaca, N.Y.

Check out the FLBCA website:
www.fingerlakescollecting.org

The Finger Lakes Bottle Club's show was Oct. 2nd. It was held in Dryden, N.Y., in a picturesque area east of Cayuga Lake. A fine array of dealers filled every part of the local fire hall. Some dealers even filled up the vestibule with an assortment of antiques. The show drew from several neighboring bottle clubs and Pennsylvania. One dealer came from Florida, on his way to the Keene, N.H., show the following weekend. Enthusiasm ran high, even if the attendance was down some from last year. The club display theme was "Bring Your own Great Bottle."

The "First Frost Flea Market" was held at the same location on Nov. 13th. It was a full show, with 48 tables. The crowds were good, as this is a highly anticipated event every year. It seems free admission might help push the attendance up. Variety is what this show offers. There are always plenty of bottles and jars, along with antiques, collectibles and more.

Tom Kanalley organized a flea market at the Ithaca Antique Center this past summer. Thirteen dealers set up on the grounds on a very hot day. Free bottle appraisals and information helped draw people. The first-time show was successful and will be held again next summer.

U.S. Randy Weaver gave an interesting program on Nurser Bottles, from the 1700s through the present, along with Invalid Feeders. He also touched on Formulary Bottles with their boxes. In November, Ted Sobel spoke about Ithaca Potteries.

Bits and Pieces

Empire State Bottle Collectors Association, Syracuse, N.Y.

Charles Betts presented "Clyde Glass Works' Products Other Than Bottles." Clyde is known for fruit jars, sodas, beers, and whiskey flasks, but produced other glass items toward the end of its history in the 1900s, including pickle jars, decanters and candlesticks.

Barry Haynes was the speaker in October. He spoke on Oswego, N.Y. Deep Rock Springs. His display of bottles was outstanding. November's speaker was well known local collector Ed Kantor on "Rare Syracuse Whiskey Flasks." Many bore original paper labels, which often did not survive as long as the bottles and are therefore rare.

The annual Fall Show in Scriba on Oct. 16th drew 174, with 48 tables. It was another sellout. The fall colors were brilliant and made for a nice drive for those who visited the show. One out-of-state dealer did the show - Dave Olson, of Mass., who brought several tables of high quality bottles and flasks. The show offered something for everyone it seemed, with milk bottles, insulators, coins and advertising, along with bottles and stoneware, for sale by dealers from across New York State. A fine exhibit with a digging theme was done by Mark Yates, which drew rave reviews.

most of the dealers look at the shows as a success based on the money they make, but the club should consider shows a success when they're well attended and there are a lot of people visiting and asking bottle-related questions. Sales are nice, too, but we are charged as collectors and as a club with educating people on the hobby and getting new people interested. This show always seems to accomplish that objective."

Traveler's Companion

Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

The October issue was a "Special Show Edition," made available to all who attended the show held Sept. 25th, as well as all the dealers. It has been traditional for the club to provide the enhanced and expanded newsletter as part of the show experience. Included in the pages, of course, is information on how to join the club and a listing of some of the benefits of being a member. The past meeting was illustrated with many photos of a typical meeting: show & tells, displays, sales tables, the speaker, and business meeting. Amazing what can go on in a few short hours. That's not to mention the networking and sharing of knowledge. Each newsletter also has a page or two dedicated to business cards and ads, primarily for wanted items. I think the club has a good idea. It offers two membership levels instead of the usual one: local memberships, and long-distance.

A major article for the Special Show Edition was "Broadway/Steins Breweries, 1852 - 1958: 797 to 815 Broadway, Buffalo, N.Y.," by John Eiss. The opening sentence read, "Buffalo was an ideal location for brewing beer in the mid-1800s

Erie." There was also a growing population of beer-loving German, Prussian and Alsatian immigrants arriving by way of the Erie Canal. All the right ingredients were there for a thriving beer industry. Buffalo's location for shipping couldn't be better either, as it was located between the Great Lakes region and the Erie Canal and points east. Buffalo even had the world's first grain elevator. Plenty of electricity was provided by Niagara Falls. The beer bottles and advertising are highly collected, and the history is revered. Club president Peter Jablonski leads tours of brewery sites, past and present, throughout the year.

Programs have featured author Greg Wital on Stained Glass Windows in Buffalo. Greg's book is titled "The Windows of Corpus Christi Church." December featured the Christmas Party, with Bottle Bingo for entertainment. The bottles were purchased at the annual show.

The Jersey Shore Shards

The Jersey Shore Bottle Club, Toms River, N.J.

Visit the club website: www.BottleClub.org

Programs have featured "Finds and a Mini Auction." Auctions can be very fun programs.

Several club members were asked to help identify shards at a recent Sea Glass Festival. Sounds like an interesting event. Those at the festival were amazed at the knowledge of bottles provided by members Bob Randolph and Monte Boshko.

The newsletter included a story and many photos of Banjo Bottles, along with Viobots (violin bottles). The website, for more information, is www.viobot.tripod.com

Baltimore Bottle Digger

Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Baltimore, Md.

Visit the club website: www.baltimorebottleclub.org

An interesting and well-attended program, in conjunction with Oktoberfest, was on "Home Brewing." It was presented by Marc Turner and Nic Queen. There were many questions, and much interest generated in this growing field. The next month's talk was given by Mark Benbrow on "Basics for Bottle Diggers." This one must also have generated great interest. It's best to find out all you can before your first time digging.

The club made a donation to the Wheaton Museum of Glass. A new meeting site was been found, and John Handley was thanked. Something to shoot for: BABC has 160 members (one up from last year), 23 out-of-state. The club sends out 17 newsletters to other clubs and museums each month.

Capitol Area Antique Bottle Club, Albany, N.Y.

The club met at Holmes & Watson's Pub in Troy, N.Y. The display theme was "Colors of Fall Bottles," and "Bring Your Find of the Month!" The club gets around. In August, they met at the National Bottle Museum, appropriately, in Ballston Spa, N.Y. The display theme that month was "Vegetable Bottles," which brought forth items including a pumpkin candy container, a Vaughn's Vegetable Lithonriptic Mixture bottles, a Bunker Hill Pickle and Paine's Celery Compound in aqua and amber.

October's display theme was "Local Stoneware," including all forms such as bottles, crocks, jugs and so on. The meeting was held at

Rotterdam Junction, N.Y. Changes in advertising strategies are being considered for next year's show, if it is to be held.

Applied Seals

Genesee Valley Bottle Collectors Association, Rochester, N.Y.

Check out the club website: www.gvbca.org

Programs during the fall months have included Trade Tokens and Antique Textiles. Ann and Joe Moore's talk on textiles concentrated on Samplers. These were typically created by young girls as a way to practice sewing techniques in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Some fantastic examples have survived and can be very valuable in today's market, not be mention extremely historic.

November's meeting was the 21st Annual Benefit Auction, along with a pizza party. The club raised over \$2,000 for the second year in a row. All items were donated by members, including a variety of bottles, antiques, collectibles, wines, reference books, holiday items, gift certificates (donated by the club, good at area malls. Four gift cards valued at \$25 (2), \$50, and \$100 are auctioned but amounts are not revealed until the end of the auction!), and more. There were some cash donations, including \$300 by one member. All money is split between Mercy Flight Central (emergency helicopter transport), and Bethany House (shelter for battered women and their children). Top lot was \$300 for a rare blue decorated script jug from Canandaigua, N.Y. Thanks to members Doug Nicot, auctioneer, and Joanne Washington, clerk.

The club has gained four new members since the Summer Break. The editor, Jim Bartholomew, asked

newsletter have included Urbana, Ohio, Buffalo, Albany, Dryden, N.Y., Heckler's, Woodstock Valley, Conn., Keene, N.H., and Scriba, N.Y. by clubmembers.

Bottles Along the Mohawk

Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club, Utica, N.Y.

Check out the club's website:

www.mohawkvalleybottleclub.com

Programs have included "Unlisted Utica Milk Bottles," by Carl Scarano. Collector Roger Thomas attended all the way from Cortland, bringing a fine selection of Utica milks from his collection. In November, "Old Utica Breweries & Bottlers" was given by members Fred Capozzella and Ron Weir.

The October newsletter included the most comprehensive article ever written on "The Life of Dr. Thatcher, The Glass Milk Bottle & Other Famous Inventions," by Williams Sawyer, in 1946! Thatcher is considered the inventor of the milk bottle and lived in Potsdam, N.Y.

Midwest Regional News

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ing Martin Van Zant, 208 Urban St., Danville, Indiana 46122. Monthly meetings are held at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis on the last Wednesday of the month. Membership dues are \$10 per year.

on occasion, wine. Many of these glasses have Ohio origins.

For more information on joining the OBC, please contact Berny Baldwin (treasurer), 1931 Thorpe Circle, Brunswick, OH 44212. The club also has a new website which can be found at: <http://www.ohio-bottleclub.com>. Details about their milk bottle book can be found there also.

Hello, bottle collectors! Welcome to another installment of the Midwest Region news report. We love to hear from the Midwest bottle clubs – so keep sending in those news items... please, please, please and thank you!

Findlay Antique Bottle Club

Marianne Dow maintains the club's website, which has news items posted almost weekly as well as pictures from the club's past shows. You should check out the club's website: <http://finbotclub.blogspot.com>.

Richard Elwood is president. Annual dues are only \$12 for individuals or families. Monthly club meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month at the University of Findlay. They meet in the ENDLY ROOM in the Student Union Building which is on the corner of Frazer and Cory.

Circle City Bottle Club

Dave Berry is president and Sonny Mallory is vice president.

Ohio Bottle Club

Phyllis Koch (editor) and Dennis Peine (secretary) are doing a very nice job with *The Ohio Swirl*, the OBC's award-winning newsletter. Terry Crisp is president.

It was reported in the November newsletter that member Howard Sussman passed away on November 10, 2011. Howard was a long-time member of the club and retired from Reiter Dairy in 1991, where he had proudly served as a home delivery man. Besides milk bottle collecting, he enjoyed his family, fishing the Outer Banks, gardening, cruises and travel. He will be missed by his bottle collecting friends.

Jack Sullivan submitted an article on "Buckeye State Tall Barware" in the November issue. The name "highball," according to experts, originated sometime in the late 1890s and probably derives from "ball," an English term for a drink of whiskey and because the drink is served in a high glass. Highball glasses were used as merchandising items for

Antique Bottle Club of Northern Illinois

Dorothy Furman is newsletter editor and Jeff Dahlberg is president. The club has been holding its meetings at the Antioch Senior Center, 817 Holbeck, Antioch, IL.

For information on joining the ABCNI, you may contact: Dorothy Furman, 26287 W. Marie Ave., Antioch, IL 60002.

Kalamazoo Antique Bottle Club

Al Holden is the newsletter editor. Here is an excerpt from the November newsletter, written by Al Holden:

Another bottle we saw was "Liquid Opodeldoc," have you heard of that one? Brent had a nice example at the meeting, and it was another one Chuck purchased. That name was familiar to me, but I am not sure why. A quick look at my personal collection on display, and it doesn't show up. I had been polishing bottles

All that came to a screeching halt in 2010 when I started cancer treatment. Half of my collection is still hidden away in boxes, and I don't recall what all is there. I am pretty darn sure I have a pontiled Liquid Opodeldoc somewhere.

They are a pretty cool little bottle and we saw a beauty at the meeting. In a copy of the American druggist from 1893 they printed two formulas for Opodeldoc. The solid soap liniment version was: 2 lbs. White Castile soap chips, 5 oz. Camphor, 1 oz. Oil of Rosemary, 1 oz. Oil of Origanum (Oregano), 1 gal. Rectified Spirit, and 11 oz. Water of Ammonia. Dissolve in corked bottle by the heat of a water bath and when quite cool strain; then add water of ammonia. Cork lightly and tie over with bladder. It will be very fine, solid and transparent when cold.

The liquid soap liniment version was: 1 qt. Alcohol, 2 oz. Castile Soap Shavings, 1 oz. Camphor, ½ oz. Oil of Rosemary, and 2 oz. Ammonia Water. Dissolve the soap shavings in alcohol by the aid of gentle heat then add the other ingredients. Pretty cool I think! I made up a batch for the trick-or-treaters, and it was a big hit!

Joan Kaiser's book, "The Boston Glass Industry," showed that Liquid Opodeldoc bottles were being sold for \$9 a gross in 1813. That works out to a little over 6 ½ cents each. I was once told that in manufacturing a product like this, back then, the cost of the bottle far exceeded the cost of the contents! As near as I can tell, these bottles were pontiled up to 1850 and remained in production with a smooth base until the 1900s.

Chuck Parker is president and you can contact him for more information about their club at 607

reach Al Holden by phone: 269-685-1776, or email: prostoc@net-link.net. The club meets regularly at the main downtown Kalamazoo Public Library, located at 315 S. Rose Street. They meet on the third floor in the conference room. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. The club has a website: <http://www.kalamazoobottleclub.org/>

Wabash Valley Antique Bottle & Pottery Club

Martin Van Zant is newsletter editor for *The Wabash Cannonball*, the WVABPC's monthly newsletter. Doug Porter is president.

The October meeting of the WVABPC was well attended to hear a great presentation given by Doug Porter on West Terre Haute. He had great stuff to show the history of the town's growth. Ed Newman reported the following details for November:

What a great weekend! The auction / get-together on Friday evening (Nov. 19th), and the show on Saturday at Shadow Auction Barn was the best yet. A big Thank You goes out to John and Mary Newman for setting up the barn and doing the auction. I was there for a while visiting with people that came to the auction on Friday and sampled the food (homemade vegetable soup was good, lots of finger foods, meat trays and desserts) and a lot of good bottles and things for the auction.

There were a lot of good items, including a Coca-Cola porcelain button sign four feet in diameter, a Vicksburg Hutch candy bottle, which they said was the predecessor to Coca Cola, many good fruit jars and bottles, along with Terre Haute beers and soda bottles. There were four tables full of sale items, and 13 fold-up Coca Cola and race car

the auction.

The doors opened at 7 a.m. Saturday morning with dealers and early-birds ready to go. We had 40 tables sold, the barn was full and we made a lot of money. There were a lot of good items at the show and the smiling customers 7 p.m. closing were carrying out a lot of bags of purchases and so were the dealers.

The WVABPC holds monthly meetings at Shadows Auction Barn, 1517 Maple Ave., Terre Haute, IN. Club dues are \$10/yr. For more information, please contact Tony Stringfellow (treasurer), P.O. Box 690, Farmersburg, IN 47850.

Iowa Antique Bottleers

Mark Wiseman is the newsletter editor, and he does a great job each month. Mike Magee does the minutes quarterly, and supplies Mark with articles that Mark selects for the newsletter. Tom Southard is the club president. October meeting highlights:

The meeting was held at the new Colfax Historical Society Museum. We were honored to be the first group to use the new meeting space. Kevin Williams gave us a tour of the stored items and display areas that are still being constructed and developed. Kevin Williams gave the program on the historical Colfax Hotels associated with the Colfax Mineral Water industry. The attendance swelled at this point for Kevin's program attracted local historical members and Colfax residents (approaching 40 people at our meeting). The program provided the history of the mineral water industry and described with historical photographs each of the hotels/sanitariums: The Grand Hotel, The Mason House, Fry Hotel, Hotel Colfax,

Spring, Turner Sanitarium and Rest Home; and the Mills House Hotel, Fry's Bottling Works, and the other parts of the mineral water bottling industry were also described. Kevin's presentation fit in with the show and tell session that followed. The theme of the meeting was of course Colfax Items.

In the December newsletter, the following old newspaper article was submitted by Mike Magee; Iowa State Reporter, Waterloo, January 25th, 1882, "How Bottles are Made:"

The manufacture of glass bottles is very simple in itself, though for the production of fine work great skill is required. The finest bottles now made are blown, as they were in the earliest days of bottle-making, without the use of a mould, the operation being performed by simply gathering a proper quantity of molten glass upon the end of a metallic blow-pipe, and forming it into shape by holding it in various positions while expanding it by blowing through the tube, and occasionally applying pressure with some tool of very simple form. Generally however, bottles are made with the use of a mould in which glass is blown because in this way time and labor are saved. It may be said that all the bottles, and jars, etc., in common use and made in the United States are blown in moulds. Occasionally bottles will show by a seam on the side where the parts of the mould come together. The finer glassware bottles are blown. The mould is usually made of iron, and is in two parts which are hinged, and can be opened and closed instantly. For making the smaller bottles a boy is required to open and shut the mould, as required.

closed by means of a lever, which is moved by the foot of the operator. In the case where the lever is employed, three hands are needed – one, a boy, to gather the molten glass on the end of the blow-pipe, one to blow the bottle and shape it to them mould, and a third to finish the neck and mouth and correct any defects in form. After the mouth is finished, the bottles is taken to the annealing furnace, where it is placed upon a pan, which, with several others attached together in the form of a chain, which is drawn slowly through a long horizontal oven. When the pan arrives at the opposite end of the oven, its load of bottles is removed, and it is returned to the mouth of the oven to receive a new load.

The IAB newsletters always contain wonderful digging stories by Mark Wiseman. He has a regular column, "The Digger's Scoop," that tells of his local digging adventures with his dog, the old truck, and various digging friends that join him. You can find out more about IAB membership (\$15/yr.) from: The Iowa Antique Bottleers, c/o Mark C. Wiseman, 3505 Sheridan Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.

Minnesota's 1st Antique Bottle Club

Barb Robertus is editor of the MFABC newsletter, *The Bottle Digger's Dope*. Linda Sandell takes care of the printing and mailing. Membership in the MFABC is \$10/yr. For more information, please contact Linda Sandell, 7735 Silver Lake Road #208, Moundsview, MN 55112.

Jelly Jammers

Pat Van Dyke is the club presi-

website available at: <http://www.jellyjammers.com> You can also find out more about the Jelly Jammers by contacting Margaret Shaw: 6086 W. Boggstown Rd., Boggstown, IN 66110, email: meshaw@franklinisp.net. Membership is \$15 per year.

Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club

The MAFJBC has members nationwide and is heavily fruit jar focused. Their meetings are generally held the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Cantina at Minnetrista, which is located in Muncie, Indiana. Dave Rittenhouse is president and Joe Coulson is editor. The show and tell theme for the November meeting was Fruit Jar Shipping Cartons and Wooden Box Ends. Club members also bring recent purchases.

Mike Mosier shared a wooden shipping box for pint Ball (3-L logo) Mason fruit jars; and a wooden box with the following printing: "From Ball Brothers Co. Muncie, Ind." Joe Coulson shared a cardboard box from the Sterling Glass Co. (one dozen quart fruit jars); and a cardboard shipping box for Midland Mason Jars (8 quart jars).

Gusty and Mike Monaghan displayed an amber pint Trademark Lightning. The jar was purchased from an estate auction of a 92-year-old neighbor. They were able to purchase a few jars at the auction, but this was the beautiful one to share.

At the December meeting, Dick Cole donated a copy of "A Christmas Carol" to the club library. This edition was privately printed for Ball Brothers in 1926. Dick shared an urban legend about this book: Ball used to give away hams at Christmas. One of the executives went to

Christmas Eve afternoon. He saw lots of hams on the bar. He was told that Ball employees brought the hams in and traded them for booze. The following year Ball gave away the book instead of a ham. Dick shot this story down by pointing out that Prohibition started in 1919.

The MAFJBC has a website: <http://www.fruitjar.org>. Future meeting details as well as lots and lots of pictures from their semi-annual shows can be found there. Membership is \$15 per year.

Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club

The Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club, founded in March 1971, has been actively meeting again since January 2010. Mike Brodzik is the newsletter editor as well as club president.

From the November Slug Plate: MDABC Show 2011. Since our last show was back in 2004, I think the club did a wonderful job to put on a successful show that was enjoyed by one and all. Many were happy to see a show back in the Detroit area and were pleased with the geographical selection of Royal Oak. We had 32 dealers and covered 36 sales tables in the room. There was a wide selection of all types of glass that anyone's heart could desire. Official count at the door was 123 visitors. A most sincere thanks to those that volunteered their time, including Femia Alberts, Jim Clancy, Steve Kinney, Marko Tomko, Richard Neisch, Joe Varani, Tom Schnichtel, Rick Ryan and of course Jackie Brodzik. The show had three displays. One was Faygo Through the Years (Mike Brodzik), two Labeled Beers (Bruce Heckman), and three Mount Clemens Glassworks

ribbon went to Labeled Beers with 7 votes, Faygo received 6 votes and Mount Clemens Glassworks received 4 votes. The People's Choice vote and cash prize went to Faygo with 24 votes, Labeled Beer received 20 votes and Mount Clemens Glassworks received 19 votes. Mike Brodzik elected to donate the \$25 prize back to the MDABC treasury.

You can find out more about the MDABC and its monthly meeting schedule by contacting Mike Brodzik at 26251 Koontz, Roseville, MI 48066 or by email at: bottlemike@wowway.com. MD-ABC dues are \$10 yearly.

1st Chicago Bottle Club

Ray and Peggy Komorowski are the newsletter editors. Carl Malik is president. The following news update titled "Digging in Chicago" appeared in the November Midwest Bottled News:

The pottery hoard continues to give up secrets slowly. A few more tidbits of information have surfaced:

1. We can now confirm the location where all the pottery came from is the actual basement of the J.A. Lomax / Chicago Consolidated Bottling Company. By using a 2011 Google Earth map along with the true location of old Congress Street we were able to dash in the 1886 location of the factory. The old plant is in the middle of the new Congress Parkway!

2. OK, now the question of exactly how many pottery bottles were harvested from the site. I know that at least 200 to 300 are in the hands of various club members. The unconfirmed rumor is that one construction worker may have around 1,500 of them. So, it looks to me like we may be looking at a spread

of pottery to say the least!

3. From Greg Watt – add the following bottlers to the list: Fred Seibt, C.T. Pagels (2 variants), F. Lehmann and L. Wagner. That brings the total up to 23 different company names.

4. From Doug Wagner – the following article may explain why so many different names have come up: TROUBLES OF A BOTTLING COMPANY, Chicago, November 15, 1888. Judge Shepard has granted an injunction restraining Thomas Hennessy, Herman Pomy, Patrick Hayes, Cornelius Ryan, W.A. Hausburg, A.L. Hoffman and Louis Sass from selling, leasing, or transferring any property of the Chicago Consolidated Bottling Company, upon application made by John A. and George Lomax, Arthur Christin, and August, Henry, and Louis Mette, who own a majority of \$600,000 of stock of the company. The company was organized in 1887 and does a business of bottling and selling soda, mineral, and aerated waters amounting to about \$500,000 a year. The injunction suit appears to be the result of a quarrel between the stockholders of the company, which was organized a year ago last March by a consolidation of the various interests engaged in the bottling business. The stock was fixed at \$600,000, and the stockholders turned in their old bottles and other chattels, the idea being that in union there would be strength, but the contrary has been the result. The Lomaxes put in \$31,000 worth of stuff, and for the first year had control of the destinies of the organization, a dividend of 3 ½ percent was declared. Considerable dissatisfaction had grown up with the management, however, partly because many of the stock-

the March meeting of the directory the minority members elected new officers throughout, Thomas Hennessy succeeding John A. Lomax as president. The effect of the change was to intensify the quarrel, and it has been finally taken to the courts, the supposition being that the directory was about to lease or otherwise dispose of the company's property.

Additional note by Ray Komorowski: As you may know, I collect "Lomax" bottles, so for me this story does not get any better than this. And for the 1st Chicago Bottle Club, especially our club's pottery collectors, it doesn't get any better as well. The idea that a small remnant of the Lomax factory still existed is mind boggling. For all these years, it turns out that the Congress Parkway was protecting this area – who would have imagined this?

For more information on the 1st Chicago Bottle Club you may contact Ray and Peggy Komorowski by phone: 708-848-7947, or email: midwestbottlednews@gmail.com

North Star Historical Bottle Club

Susy Olsen is newsletter editor for the *North Star Historical Bottle News*. Dennis Nygaard is president.

Dave Labno introduced the program for the October club meeting by saying he had been at a dig site and found a lot of Mrs. Stewart's bottles. His research led him to call the Mrs. Stewart Company. Ron Dubis from the company was then invited to be present at this month's meeting.

Bluing contains a finely powdered iron particulate that acts as a non-toxic, non-bleach whitener for laundry. It has also been used in creative ways over the years to whiten other things, and if misused can also result in turning materials blue. One of the more amusing anecdotes sent in to the company was from a customer who used the product to dye an ox for a parade.

The company was started by Al Stewart in 1883 and continues today using essentially the same recipe at a plant in Bloomington, Minnesota. Later on, the recipe was acquired by Luther Ford, who expanded production considerably. Hand-blown

bottles were used until 1904. A consensus of those present was that the "L.F. & Company" on some bottles refers to Luther Ford. Glass bottles were likely used into the 1960s. The company now also makes dyes for the medical industry, to dye tissue samples for biopsies. The Norman family purchased the company and owns it today.

For more information on joining the NSHBA, you may contact Susy Olsen at ga2hafun@gmail.com. The club meets on the third Sunday of the month at the Hiwatha YMCA, 4100 28th Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Flint Antique Bottle Club

Tim and Angie Buda are the newsletter editors, and they produce a colorful newsletter. The club meets regularly at the Grand Blanc Heritage Museum, 203 Grand Blanc Road, Grand Blanc, Michigan on the second Thursday of the month from 7 – 9 p.m. You can find out more about the club by contacting Bill Heatley (810-214-1850) or Tim & Angie Buda (989-271-9193).

Western Regional News

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Dear Readers:

Ken Lawler asked that I remove his name from the above listing. He has been dealing with advanced stage 4 prostate cancer since January 2011. We took on this editor role challenge together about four years

deeply involved with another project at that time so I soon took over. I left his name in place because he had been helping me proof and has more computer skills than I do, if something goes "south" with our computer. Some of you may

see Ken and I pop up at a bottle show here and there, depending on how he feels at the time. Meanwhile, he and I both suggest that you folks keep on digging, collecting, writing articles for your club newsletters and support

Dump Digger's Gazette

Antique Bottle Collectors, Inc.

A club dig was set up by Sam and Sammie Thatcher. They obtained permission from the property owners of the Leadville Dump. The successful dig was held last August. Over 90 people were "digging like a bunch of maniacs." The club gained 13 new members at that time. It was reported that not as many bottles were found at that dig as were in past digs, but the overall feeling was that it was just great to have the opportunity to dig.

their talent in using a backhoe to open up the earth so diggers could jump right into the open ground and “start digging.” Mike Watral’s name was added to the names of those who are pretty handy with a backhoe. If those three guys had not opened the ground for the diggers, the comment was made that the club would probably still be digging in Leadville trying to get down to the bottom layer. There are pictures in the club’s September 2011 newsletter indicating a sunny day, and wide open trenches filled with folks in dirt-stained clothes peering up at the camera with wide grins on their faces.

Bottle Bug Briefs

Forty-Niner Historical Bottle Association

A “wish we had been in the audience” type of program was presented by Mike Peters. An animated Mike took members through the adventures he and Rubye have been having in “Diving for Bottles in British Columbia.” They have been going to Vancouver Island for 12 years to dive for bottles! He mentioned “how few bottles there are to collect and how much treasured are minor variants.” Not only did bottle diving impress him, but he pointed out that British Columbia is a great place to visit.

During show and tell, Herb Yue showed bottles he found while diving in British Columbia. Mike McKillop showed a SALUTARIS BITTERS that he purchased for \$10 at a garage sale. It was considered Mike’s “lucky find.” Here comes the kicker: Some 2010 Downieville attendees mentioned that Mike sold that bottle “for enough to make half a down payment on a new Camry or Accord.” Now that is impressive!

Golden Gate Historical Bottle Society

Included in the last issue for 2011 was an article entitled, “Dating a Mining Camp or Dump Site.” As Reference: “Corker Memory” appeared in January 1972. Reprinted from *The Pontil* – based on an article by Mr. Charles Hunt from *Geological Times*.

There is usually an interest in knowing a little history on what is found while poking around in old mining towns, ghost towns or other abandoned home sites. Dating the site is the most important factor because this fact alone will help you determine how much time you want to spend poking around the area. Some dating can surface by checking the dates sometimes found on old newspapers or magazines that were used as insulation in some old buildings. This article lists a series of items that might be found in an era before 1900 such as soldered seam tin cans, square nails, bottles with hand-finished necks with pontil marks and beer bottles made for cork closure rather than metal crown caps. These beer bottles would most likely be embossed with the name of the brewery. Finding any of the listed items would indicate that this type of location would be an older location worth investigating.

This article actually takes the reader through what items might be found in a particular area from before 1900 right up through the 1920s and 1930s. Any items that would be found after the 1900s would probably not be of interest to the person looking around, because the most interest for the serious collector is in finding bottles with “hand-finished necks.”

The Whittlemark

Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club

think that one of the most interesting parts of any show is the displays. This year, some members joined forces and loaned some of their finest for “A Club Display.” The sign describing the display explained it best: “The Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club presents this joint display to demonstrate the diverse collecting interests of our valued members.” One member showed his examples of early American pattern molded glass. Another brought in pot lids. There were nine bottles that were from different “Gold Rush Towns.” There were Los Angeles area cylinders and liquor bottles as well as non-glass items such as an extensive corkscrew collection and mining items. The participation in the club display was much appreciated with those members loaning some of the best examples from their collections to be enjoyed by show attendees. Individual displays were recognized as some of the best as well. A very colorful collection of scroll flasks showed vibrant in a backlit cabinet. There were bottling machines complete with glass bottles to indicate the process. Roman bottles from the 1st Century to the 4th Century A.D. were a complete surprise.

I enlisted the help of club president Dave Maryo as to what he observed as he checked out the tables. He clearly stated that “there were a variety of bitters from lady’s leg to figural bottles. There were also some rare Los Angeles whiskeys, wines and beers and I noticed that club member Mike Polak had some rare Nevada bottles on his table.”

The Stumptown Report

Oregon Bottle Collectors Association

What started out as “it might not

article called "Digging News" that related the story of a slow start that ended up with an unexpected ending. Permission was granted only after much conversation took place. Four club members met on a Sunday in July 2011 "to check things out." They were "privy-minded." Test holes that were dug were challenging because of concrete footings and large roots, and the opinion was that what they had investigated had probably already been dug. The gang gave up on the first day. However, one hardy member returned to the site a few days later and talked with a contractor who mentioned that an old concrete slab had been removed from the fourth privy (the privy that seemed the least promising). That intrigued the hardy member so much that on that very evening he stuck his shovel in the ground and soon decided that he needed help. A club member who originally wasn't in on the dig was called and when the author of this article finally arrived it was 9 p.m. There was dirt flying, but there was still some uncertainty as to whether the privy held promise. However, when a couple of Bromo Seltzers appeared, that was when the author decided to hook up the electric lights. As the author predicted, the three of them were in for the long haul.

One digger dug down to the heavy trash layer, cleaned out his tailings, and asked for the 10-foot ladder. When the author got a chance in the hole it was written that, "I was in the bottle digger's dream." Buckets of bottles and dishes were hauled up out of that hole. The process of "dig and haul" went on for about four hours. What the article did not reveal was what kind of bottles was dug. However, what was learned was that there

some from the 1880s. "By the time fill in and clean-up was done it was 4:30 a.m. and the sun was rising." An "all-nighter" had not been experienced by these folks for quite awhile. It was further said that, "We were doubly pleased that we found some interesting bottles and things – and that we still had the stamina for such foolishness."

Garth Ziegenhagen takes us on a walk through his decades of bottle adventures in his article, "My New Frontier of Collecting." He writes about his walks in the late 1940s with his brothers on early wagon roads along the hills of the Deschutes River where a railroad was completed in 1910 and many dumps were discovered. He reveals that most of the bottles they found were not embossed. He goes on to cover the early 1950s where he got "third choice" of bottles found. They turned out to be purple and clear ones. They were found at the Shaniko Dump. Imagine him and his brothers rummaging around in Shaniko, a stage stop in the 1870s that had also had a railroad until 1900. He mentioned that they found many bottles around homestead dumps. During the 1960s, the Ziegenhagen brothers started realizing that some embossed whiskeys were more valuable if in good condition and contained color and crudeness. Garth left the 1970s and 1980s with fewer bottles being added to his collection.

With the earlier years left behind, in 1990 he was told about bottle shows and the Oregon Bottle Collectors Association. He started attending bottle shows and started picking up embossed Oregon flasks. His interest in flasks accompanies his interest in collecting Oregon tokens.

history is why I collect flasks and tokens obviously have a lot of history connected to them."

The A-Z Collector

Phoenix Antiques, Bottles and Collectibles Club

Club members Craig Carlson and John Niemiec presented a program on American Brilliant Cut Glass at a meeting the latter part of 2011. They belong to the American Cut Glass Association (ACGA). Their interest in collecting cut glass goes back over twenty years. While attempting to learn more about Dorflinger Cut Glass, they saw an article in a 1911 Pottery and Glass Magazine that mentioned Macy cut glass. After asking around, no one had heard of Macy's cut glass, so as the old saying goes "one thing leads to another." It was at that point that Craig became interested in researching information about cut glass.

Craig turned his attention from being a collector into becoming a well known and recognized authority on American Brilliant Cut Glass. It took a few years of intense research using various resources before a Macy-Straus catalog was produced by the ACGA along with five volumes of Research Notes. Through his program presentation some of what he covered was the cut glass making process and the type of items produced. Both Craig and John had displayed samples of the finished product. Not only was the program informative glass-wise, it also enlightened members as to the important part of our American Industrial production.

digger's dirt

Reno Antique Bottle Club

Even though this club is devoting

members still stay focused on some pretty cool items to bring to meetings for show and tell. Loren Love lugged in his collection of all different sizes of his blue Bromo Seltzers. A little brown pottery pig with a railroad map on his tummy was shown by Russ Umbraco. This little "piggy" was produced somewhere between 1859 and 1893. Marty, the renowned club digger, brought in three rare bottles he dug: an A.G.P. Morrill soda, a Buffalo crown top Reno Bottling Company and a Silver State Liniment.

There is club news that Fred Holabird will be giving a program in February 2012 regarding the "super size gold nugget found in the Gold Rush Country." It has been stated that he will have details on what happened with the nugget that was supposedly "misrepresented." (Editor's Note: A mention in your newsletter covering some of the highlights from Fred's presentation would be appreciated.)

The Bottleneck

San Diego Antique Bottle and Collectibles Club

Here's an experience told by this club's president, Mike Bryant, that might remind some of us of a danger that lurks "out there." It is for those of us who roam around on foot, looking for a good dig site. Actually, this could apply to any of us across this country. He calls his two-paragraph write-up, "The Curse of the Linda Vista Dump." The setting is out here in Southern California. It starts with

the fact that in the 1950s his dad would "often shoot bottles on the dump site with a 22 rifle from our backyard." Fast forward many years to later when Mike had become interested in bottles and decided to dig at the site. This desire was based on the fact he'd heard success stories about "digger finds" from that dump. So one time Mike spent a day roaming about the site. (Editor's Note: Learn to recognize poison oak or poison ivy before you tromp around in an area where this danger exists, especially if you are deadly allergic to the "stuff."). Mike got a severe reaction to poison oak and ended up in an emergency room three times in one week! His end result was that he did find some bottles, but that "the cost wasn't worth it."

An aside from the editor: On one of our past digging experiences in upstate New York, Ken Lawler and I found poison ivy. A friend we were digging with found bees. We witnessed our friend screaming and running while waving his cap above his head shouting, "Bees, run!!!" He disturbed the bees in the ground under an old rotting log while attempting to claw under it with his potato fork! While I realize that many of you have probably had similar experiences, this incident with Mike is a reminder of these types of "uncomfortable" dangers. The way Mike ended his article was to say, "Ah, the life of a bottle collector."

Ghost Town Echo

Washington Bottle & Collectors Association

Ellen Levesque, webmaster for the club, sent an e-mail to club members in August 2010 announcing that the club would need to find a new volunteer editor and why. She had originally volunteered to help keep the newsletter going after the death of the former editor. However, obligations mounted and Ellen had to enlist the help of club members. Thankfully, club member Scott Gibbons stepped forward accepted the challenge and wrapped his arms around the project and put out his first issue in October. It starts right out with eye-catching information and pictures. Scott's newsletter should prove to be an interesting asset to the club. As with any club, member articles are always welcome.

Scott's humor shows up in the advice found on the first page of his October issue. Suggestions are made to those of you who are "diggers" (and have wives) of how to change your wife's perception of your hobby. He writes that there is a way of including her in the "thrills of privy digging" (without actually taking her along). He points out that you can tell your wife about some of the treasures that can be found in a privy such as, "glass buttons, marbles, and doll parts." Further suggested is that after you sell a bottle or two, use the proceeds to take the wife "out on the town."

Southern Regional News

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The Tulsa Antiques & Bottle

Barry Parks gave the program for the club's October meeting. The program featured Barry's collection of ceremonial and religious masks from all over the world and was well received by those attending.

1500s. Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for the animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals lived in the roof. When it rained it, became slippery and the animals would fall off the roof, hence the saying: It's

into the house so people started adding big posts and a sheet to protect their beds. That's how canopy beds came into existence. Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guest got the top, or the upper crust!

The November newsletter announced that Henry Tankersley will be giving a program on collecting dental items for the November club meeting.

The newsletter also had more information about life in the 1500s. England is small and folks started running out of places to bury their dead. They would dig up coffins, take the bones to a bone house and re-use the grave. When reopening the coffins they found that 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside indicating that the person had been buried alive! A string would be tied on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and tied to a bell. After a burial someone would sit in the graveyard listening for the bell; thus, someone could be saved by the bell or was considered a . . . dead ringer.

On a sad note it is reported that long time club member Rick Carte had passed away after battling cancer for several years.

The Glass Bubble, edited by Linda Buttstead, a newsletter of **The Suncoast Antique Bottle Collectors Association**, from the Tampa & St. Petersburg, Florida area, reported that the September meeting was fun! To start with only four members showed up on the stormy evening. Since four bottles were being offered in the raffle, they thought that each attendee would get a bottle to take home. However, later four more members showed up so only

es Historical Museum and those attending reported they had a very enjoyable time. They started off the evening with a visit to the Hurricane Restaurant where they found the food not so good but the service great. After eating, everyone proceeded to the museum. After viewing the exhibits they were treated to stories of the area which included how the Indian Mounds had been destroyed to make room for condos, dumps that had been discovered as progress was made, how fossils had been discovered when "fill" was moved from point A to point B, and plenty of other information.

The weather must have been better for the October meeting as 19 members attended.

The club is making preparations for its upcoming bottle show. Accordingly, they have 4x6 cards for members to distribute at antique stores, flea markets, bottle shows, etc. giving information about the show.

The club is asking for members to volunteer for club offices and responsibilities as some of the current officers will not seek another term in office.

The Oklahoma Territory News, a newsletter of the **Oklahoma Territory Bottle & Relic Club** edited by Johnnie Fletcher, featured a story about a bottle dig in Abilene, Kansas by Fletcher and Kenny Burbrink. They dug one pit behind an 1880s house that resulted in the finding of 516 marbles and a Civil War era whiskey bottle. They also had a visit by a reporter from the local newspaper who did an article on the dig.

A second story in the same newsletter was about a dig in Abilene with Francis Wiltz, Ed Stewart and Fletcher taking part. This was the

end! After digging a few bottles in Abilene and encountering hard ground and few permissions, the trio decided to move operations to Atchison, Kansas. During the move, there was much lightning, rain, hail and tornadoes! Fletcher wondered for a while if maybe the prediction was coming true.

The November issue showed a photo of a severe case of poison ivy that Ed Stewart had caught when digging a pit. It's just another digging hazard not to be taken lightly. Ed commented that the poison ivy was a worthwhile price to pay for digging a pontil pit!

There was a story about a bottle dig in Abilene, Kansas with Kenny Burbrink, his sons Owen and Casey, Francis Wiltz and Fletcher. The first day, several pits were dug but few bottles were found. The second day only Burbrink and Fletcher took part. They found several Abilene drugstore bottles in the morning and finished the day by digging a pit near the original saloon row of Abilene. This pit yielded more than fifty unembossed, large sized, drugstore bottles. Since Kansas was a dry state during the time the bottles were used, it was theorized that the bottles contained "prescription liquor." The only way you could legally buy liquor during the 1880s and 90s was with a doctor's prescription and filled by the local druggist.

Another story was about a bottle dig in St. Joseph, Missouri. Dan Moser and Ed Stewart joined forces to dig some empty lots where the 1868 panoramic map showed houses had been located. The best bottle dug was a Kelly's/ Old Cabin/ Bitters// Patented 1863 in good shape.

edited by Marshall Clements, was again full of color photos of all types of bottles brought to the meeting by club members. There was a very unusual 6-pack Orange Crush Carrier that featured a sliding slotted arm that locks the bottles into place brought by Witt Stalling. Pem Woodlief presented what appeared to be a picture of Robert E. Lee. However, on closer examination you could see it actually was an ad for Dr. D. Jayne & Son patent medi-

cine manufacturers. Jack Murdock had an unusual whiskey bottle that advertised both groceries and liquor from Raleigh, N.C., while Donnie Medlin had nice torpedo-shaped Indian Rock Ginger Ale with a Pepsi logo distributed by the Richmond Pepsi Cola Co.

Members were asked to do better on providing the club raffle bottles. It seems the raffle has evolved into a collection of junk and seems to get worse each month. If a member

wouldn't give \$5 for a bottle, then don't bring it for the raffle . . . recycle it.

Club president David Tingen gave a very informative presentation of beer bottles that were in circulation from 1829 to around 1870. David said that if anyone had any questions about early beer manufacturers, just give him a call. He's always ready to "talk beer." (919) 848-4387