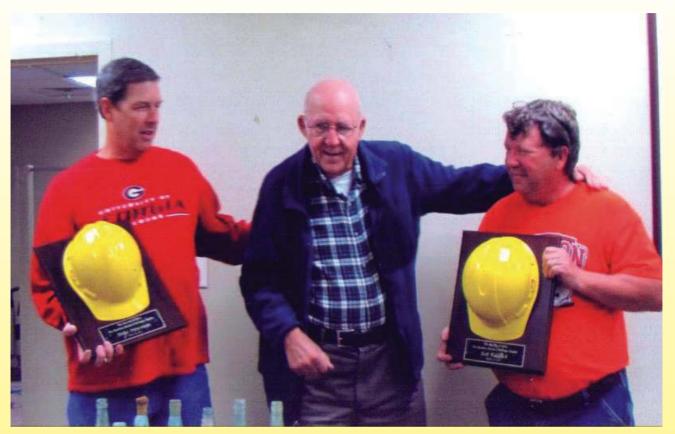
## The Big Dig of 2011 (Part 2)

By Bill Baab



Left to right: Mike Newman, Bill Baab, Bob Riddick with Backhoe Bucket Challenge Trophies presented by Baab. Each of the "honorees" was hit by the bucket during The Big Dig of 2011. (Taken Dec. 3, 2011)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second and last part of the story of the dig of a lifetime for five collectors from the Augusta, Georgia area.

This landfill is so extensive, it is likely that our adventures will continue through 2012. Since the dump sits on a hill, standing rain water really hasn't been a problem.

Jerry Newton's backhoe boasts an extended arm which allows the bucket to scrape the hard gray clay bottom of the dump. Depth averages between 10 and 20 feet.

Let's continue the day-by-day digging account:

SEPT. 3, 2011: Seven Augusta Chero-Colas, a like number of Dixie Carbonating Company crown tops, two Augusta Mint Colas and two aqua E. Sheehan Hutchinsons were among the prizes dug on this hot, sweltering day. A blobtop Cochran / Belfast round-bottomed ginger ale was joined by five aqua Augusta Bludwine slug plate bottles, three E. Sheehan crown tops and a Baldowski Bottling Works from Augusta.

A Frog Pond Chill & Fever Cure, an XXX Dandelion Bitters (it looked like a common pre-Prohibition amber flask until Mike Newman rubbed off the mud), along with emerald green Dr. Thatcher's and Piso's Cure for Consumption were among the finds.

Five LANDs, a Willett Drug Company, C.T. Goetchius & Bro., a Gardelle, Matheny, Cabaniss and Hansberger's Pharmacy were among the drug store bottles found.

Twenty-eight straight-sided, intact Augusta Coca-Colas and three Nashville, Tenn., amber straight-sides were joined by a Coca-Cola Soda Water. A round quart South Carolina Dispensary (SCD monogram) was unearthed.

Pottery finds included a killer "tobacco spit" glaze, round-shouldered jug of the Crawford County, Ga., type. Bob Riddick scraped off what appeared to be a one-gallon nondescript stacker jug and was surprised to see W.F. Hahn / Trenton, S.C. impressed on one shoulder. A Lewis Miles stacker jug from Aiken County, S.C., was joined by three Thomas Hahn stackers and (surprise!) an intact Jackson & Phelan brick (circa 1880s-90s) from Augusta.

Sept. 11, 2011: Before the day was over, some of the guys were moaning that this dig was probably the worst we experienced. You be the judge. Here's what we found: Two Augusta Ice & Beverage Company crown tops, five Augusta Chero-Colas, eight E. Sheehan crown tops, one Camilla (Ga.) Ice & Cold Storage Bottlers crown top (the second one



Blobtop and Hutchinson sodas, S.C. Dispensary flasks, round quarts, occupied this table. Cobalt blobtops were embossed Quinan & Studer / 1888 / Savannah, GA. (Taken Dec, 3 2011)



A few of the more than 450 straight-sided Coca-Colas excavated. Amber ones at far end of table were from Nashville, Tenn(Taken Dec. 3, 2011)

of the dig), a straight-sided Pepsi-Cola from Asheville, N.C., and an aqua E. Sheehan Hutchinson.

A Simmons Liver Regulator from St. Louis was joined by a Foley's Kidney and Bladder Cure in amber. Drug store bottles found were from Gardelle (2), LAND (3), Perrin's, West End Pharmacy, Cabaniss and Lake Pharmacy.

Twenty-two straight-sided Augusta Cokes emerged, bringing the grand total to 263 for the dig so far. Three Augusta Brewing Co., Bottling Dept. crowns were joined by three aqua Robert Portner blob tops and one Portner blob top quart.

Whiskeys found included a Harvard Rye, a Wright & Taylor, Louisville, Ky., an amber Robert Steel Importer, and a Southern Distilling Co., bottle from Baltimore. A tall, emerald green, base-embossed Congress Water and a Bitterquelle were found.

Miscellaneous bottles included a Wright Brothers Pond Lily Wash, two amber poisons, an aqua Carter's master ink quart, T.P. Marshall, Macon, Ga., two different variants of emerald green Palmer perfumes, two sample bottles of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root Kidney Cure, the top of a milk glass hen on a nest, an Augusta Ice & Beverage Co., Imperial Chocolate Milk half-pint, a Newbro Herpicide – Kills the Dandruff Germ, a Sol Bear (figure of a bear) wine from Wilmington, N.C., and a porcelain Georgia license plate, badly rusted, probably from the 19-teens.

Ceramics included four Thomas Hahn-type jugs, two Chinese ginger jars, a mini jug (sans handle) stenciled Sweet Mash Corn, Atlantic Coast Distilling Co., Jacksonville, Fla., a mini jug with floral decorations (probably Oriental) and a round-shouldered jug of undetermined origin. Sept. 18, 2011: Pat Oliver reached down into the muck and pulled out what might be the dig's best bottle – a Dixie Carbonating Company Hutchinson! Only one was known to exist (in the author's collection). The company was chartered in 1905 so the "Hutch" was probably the earliest bottle used. There are two or three variations of crown tops that followed. Now, if only we can come up with a Dixie Carbonating Co., Pepsi-Cola in great condition. We've dug a damaged example of this ultra-rare bottle, so who knows?

So, here's how we fared the rest of the day, which was cloudy and cool for a change: a clear Bludwine (in a circular slug plate) from Jacksonville, Fla., five E. Sheehan aqua Hutches, a like number of E. Sheehan crown tops, 12 Dixie Carbonating Co., crown tops, seven Augusta Chero-Colas including one with the early script lettering, an aqua Clinton Bottling Works Hutch and a cobalt Quinan & Studer / 1888 / Savannah soda with its top broken by the backhoe.

Two Frog Pond Chill & Fever Cures, a large Horsey's Antidote for Malaria, and three Simmons Liver Regulators from Macon, Ga., were joined by Augusta drug store bottles from Matheny (2), LAND (3), C.T. Goetchius & Bro., Gardelle, C.H. Howard, King & Hubbard and Perrin's.

Another amber Coke from Nashville, Tenn., was followed by 70 Augusta straight-sided aqua Cokes (bringing the total to 312 for the dig). A tall Hayner Distillers with three cities (Dayton, Ohio, St. Paul, Minn., and Atlanta) embossed on its side was the only whiskey found (other than a bunch of plain pre-Prohibition types which we don't record). The lone mineral water found was an amber Harris Lithia Springs from Harris Springs, S.C.



Ceramic decorated rolling pin, probably originated in Germany, surfaced during one of the digs.

Miscellaneous bottles found included a tall, clear bottle embossed Scalp Food, Cranitonic Hair Food, Cranitonic Hair Food Co., Paris, London and N.Y. A Walton's Dairy pint and a pair of hock wines completed that category.

Mike Newman, who is a banker by trade, came up with a ceramic savings bank (alas, no money inside). It later was attributed to the South Carolina Pottery Company. Two Thomas Hahn stacker jugs from North Augusta, an E.C. Brown stacker (Atlanta area), a ceramic pitcher with pour spout stenciled Armour's, were joined by a Miles Mills round-shouldered jug. Brown was listed as a potter in the 1900 census in the Howell's Mill area of Atlanta.

Crier of the day (actually, loud sobs!) was the bottom portion of a pot attributed to Pottersville (near present day Edgefield, S.C.). Had it been whole, it probably would have been worth \$10,000!

S ept. 25, 2011: It was another slow day of digging, with only five straight-sided Augusta Cokes, another amber one from Nashville, Tenn., but no rarities among the sodas dug.

Cabaniss Drug Co., bottles large and small, joined C.T. Goetchius & Bro., N.L. Willett and a sunken paneled T.G. Howard with TGH monogram, different from previous ones known. Unfortunately, it was cracked.

A quart Augusta Brewing Co., crown top was joined by a "short" Hutchinson beer and a Robert Portner aqua quart.

Best find of the day was an aqua strap-sided flask with the embossed features of President Grover Cleveland. It was manufactured in the 1890s by the Atlanta Glass Co. Miscellaneous finds included a honey amber cone ink embossed Carter's and 1897, a miniature Duffy's Malt Whiskey and a miniature Garrett's Wine.

Three Chinese ginger jars, two Thomas Hahn-type stacker jugs, an ugly brown and white jug with an abnormally long pour spout and a green-glazed stacker attributed to William F. Hahn of Trenton, S.C., were among ceramic items found. A clay pipe also found its way to the surface.

Oct. 2, 2011: One of the exciting times in the lives of us diggers is when somebody hollers "Jug!" The ceramic creation is either inside the backhoe bucket, or has been spotted in the hole. If it's the latter, one of us (not me!) either rides the bucket into the hole (if it's 10 feet or more down), or jumps into the hole (if it's shallow and safe enough to do so).

That was the scenario late Sunday afternoon when Pat Oliver probed a huge, green-glazed jug and then dug it out. There was another one behind that one, but not as good. It wasn't long ago when the sight of a Thomas Hahn stacker jug from North Augusta (1898-1906) generated some excitement. But so many have been dug that the sight of yet another generates groans and a few four-letter words (but not from me!).

In addition to three Hahns, a Chinese soy sauce pot and ginger jar came to light after more than 100 years, but what could have been the best find came out in fragments. An Augusta merchant's jug – pieces of it – were salvaged. The top part said "Compliments of" and the bottom part said "1019 Broad St., Augusta, Ga." The part with the name was a no-show. The author checked Augusta city directories from 1895 through 1903. John C. Scott, Furniture & Stoves, occupied 1019-21 during 1895-96. He had become a grocer by 1896-97. In 1898, Caple & Co., Grocers had taken over at 1019 and the business continued until 1903 when grocer T.P. Beale took over. He lasted just a year. If I had to pick the name that was on the jug, I'd have to go with Caple & Co., since it was in business longer than the rest.

Among the sodas found were four E. Sheehan crown tops, seven Dixie Carbonating Co., crowns, a W.C. Terrell, Sylvania, Ga., crown (a Terrell from Wadley, Ga. is in the author's collection), a Star Bottling Works, Oxford, Pa.,



Spittoon (front left), "thunder mug" amoung 130 pieces of pottery dug from mill supply dump. (photos by Bea Baab) (Taken Dec. 3, 2011)

Hutchinson, an aqua Clinton Bottling Works blobtop, a clear E. Sheehan Bottler Hutchinson, a ten pin-shaped Hire's Root Beer, a Baldowski Bottling Works and two Augusta straightsided Pepsi-Colas.

Six LANDS, a "From King's Pharmacy," Broad & 13th (a rare form with a lip chip), three Mathenys, a Parr's Pharmacy, three Watson Drug Stores. two Gardelles. two C.T. Goetchius & Bro., a Cabaniss and a rare amber LAND were among drug store bottles found.

Twelve Augusta straight-sided Cokes joined the 312 already excavated. There may be fewer because I have discovered some damaged bottles among the ones I've been washing. Beers included Robert Portner, Alexandra, Va., quart and pint blobtops.

Two S.C. Dispensary half-pint flasks, one pint flask and a round quart, all with the SCD monogram, plus a Paul Jones Whiskey with applied seal were found.

Mineral waters included an amber S.A.W. (Saratoga Arondack Water) crown top and a clear Glenn Springs crown top.

Miscellaneous bottles included a small, honey amber bottle embossed Physician's Sample / Not To Be Sold. A large Garton's HP Sauce and a small sample of the same stuff joined an aqua A-1 Sauce bottle, a marble desktop ink well and two tops to cobalt Wyeth dose bottles.

Oct. 16, 2011: We never know what's going to come out of the dump. This time, 10 ten pin-shaped beers or sodas embossed CARL H. SCHULTZ / C-P (embossed crown-like emblem) M-S / Pat. May 1, 1868 / NEW YORK were among the dig's surprises.

Also found were a bottle embossed Pride of the Farm Tomato Catsup, a green gin with applied seal embossed Av. NIESSEN, a Pompeian Massage Cream jar, two cobalt lattice-work POISON bottles and an Abner Royce Pure Fruit Flavors, Cleveland, Ohio bottle.

Three "As You Like It" horse radish jars, three Thomas Hahn-type Albany slip stacker jugs and a jar stenciled Homemade Brand Preserves / Manufactured by / H.A. Johnson Co. / Boston were among the ceramic finds.

The usual straight-sided Cokes (16), two ice blue, machine-made 1915 Cokes, a Glenn Springs Mineral Water, Glenn Springs, S.C., seven E. Sheehan aqua crown tops, five Dixie Carbonating Co., clear crowns, a straight-sided Augusta Pepsi and a clear E. Sheehan / Bottler / Augusta, Ga. Hutch were among the parade of bottles.

We had a slight delay when two of the backhoe's tires went flat. But Jerry Newton, owner of J & R Contracting & Design in Harlem, Ga., brought in a dump truck with built-in compressor and within a short while the digging continued.

Oct. 23, 2011: Six straight-sided Augusta Pepsi-Cola headed the list of sodas found. Two Baldowski Bottling Works bottles from Augusta (story is, he turned down the Coca-Cola franchise in 1902 because he thought his drinks tasted better!) joined four E. Sheehan crown tops and another E. Sheehan / Bottler / Augusta, Ga. Hutchinson.

The first Hostetter's Stomach Bitters was unearthed, coming just after I commented to Mike Newman: "I am surprised that we haven't dug any bitters!" A tiny bottle embossed Dr. King's New Life Pills was found, as was a Simmons' Liver Regulator, this one from Philadelphia, joining others embossed Macon, Ga., and St. Louis. A Globe Medicine Co., Spartanburg, S.C., also was found.

Large and medium-sized Cabanisses, two LANDs, two