

Horse Creek Bottle Club's 4th annual Show and Sale

By Bill Baab

AIKEN, S.C. – No surprise bottles “walked in” during the 4th annual Horse Creek Bottle Show held April 28 at the H. Odell Weeks Activities Center on Whiskey Road.

Last year, John Joiner, of Newnan, Georgia, found himself in a surprise possession of a near mint cobalt Solomon's Strengthening and Invigorating Bitters from Savannah, Georgia. This year, he called the woman who sold it to him and inquired if she had any more. Her answer was in the negative.

Another Solomon's appeared at this year's show in the possession of Paul Chance, of Savannah. It was gorgeously iridescent from being buried in a privy for more than 100 years and new owner Marty Vollmer, of Columbia, South Carolina, plans to leave it that way.

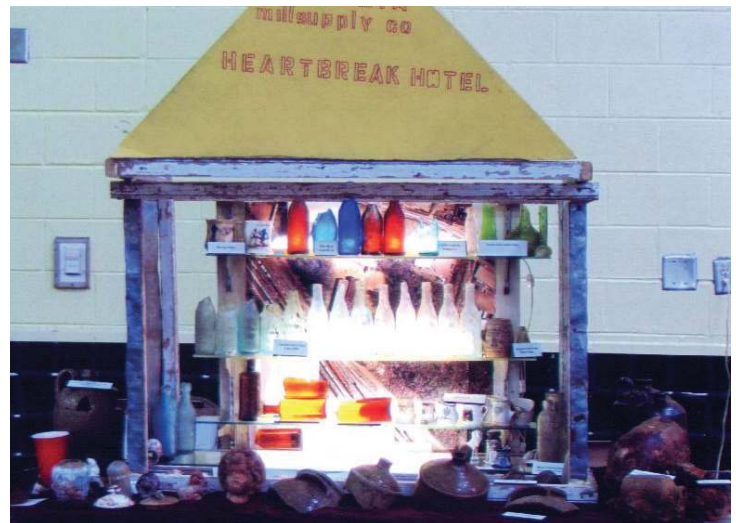
All in all, most of the 42 dealers reported satisfying sales during the 9 a.m., to 3 p.m., show held in the gymnasium of the center named for a former Aiken mayor.



Bill Baab's Koca Nola display featured red ribbons from pins affixed to cities where franchises existed leading to bottles from those cities. Amber bottle on right is from Elizabeth, New Jersey.



Dealer Jimmy Timms, of Central, S.C., is a regular supporter of the Aiken club. (Photos by Bea Baab)



Topless sodas, fragmented pottery and other “criers” featured in “Heartbreak Hotel” display by Bob Riddick, of Lexington, S.C.



Marty Vollmer (left), of Columbia, S.C., shows off Solomon's Bitters purchased from Paul Chance, of Savannah, Ga.

There were three exhibits set up by club members Bob Riddick, Gary and Kathy Swanson and this writer.

Riddick won the first-place blue People's Choice ribbon for his "Heartbreak Hotel" exhibit. It consisted of "criers" in the forms of cracked and broken pieces of bottles, insulators and pottery he's been accumulating for more than a year.

The second-place red People's Choice ribbon was awarded to the Swansons for their local milk bottle display.

The writer's display consisted of 18 different Koca Nola bottles set in front of a map of the United States with red ribbons held in place by push pins leading from the cities and towns of origin to each bottle.

The exhibit, which included rarities from La Follette, Tennessee and Elberton, Donalsonville and Hartwell, Georgia won the FOHBC "Most Educational" ribbon and the third place white ribbon for People's Choice. The Donalsonville bottle sported spelling errors of "Kaco Nola" and Donaldsonville.

Show chairman was the club's president, Geneva Greene, of Langley, South Carolina..



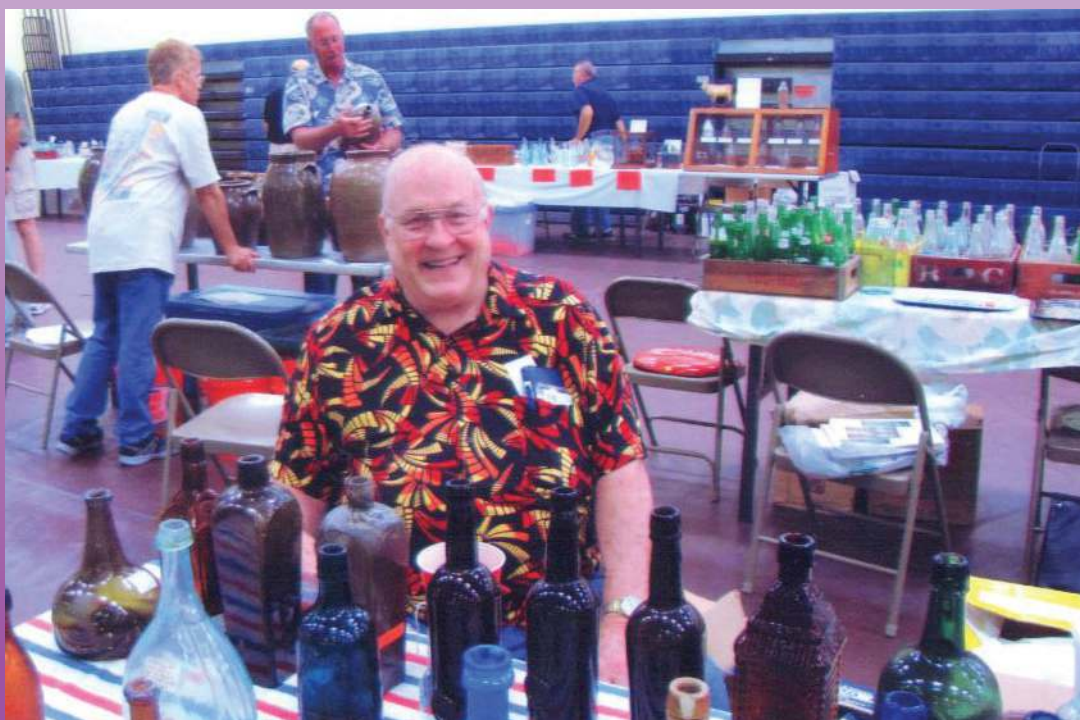
Gary and Kathy Swanson, of Aiken, featured local milks in their display.



Horse Creek Bottle Club vice president Larry Calhoun and a customer intent on reading a publication.



Vollmer plans to leave bitters bottle in its beautiful iridescence.



Black glass and a Calabash among bottles on table of Tom Hicks, of Eatonton, Ga.