

Jackson, Miss., Bottle & Advertising Show-A GREAT SUCCESS

By Gene Bradberry



Ralph Green of Tequesta, Fla. (right) shows Dan Griffis of New Orleans a bottle for sale on Green's display table in the Mississippi Trade Mart during the Mississippi Antique Bottle Show in Jackson on Saturday. Aside from bottles, the show offered everything from antique signs to arrowheads and toys.



Shoppers look through a selection of beverage bottles.



Nice selection of bottles to choose from!



On a Friday morning last February, Ed Provine and I set out on a bottle show trip to Jackson, Miss., about a 200-mile, four-hour trip from Memphis, Tenn. Of course, we did the usual things one does on such an excursion and that is to make a few antique malls along the way, which we did rather hurriedly as we both wanted to get of the show on time.

As always, Ed wanted to stop for an "ALL YOU CAN EAT" breakfast at Shoney's and there we both pigged out. That was a good thing as we didn't eat again until the big feast at the show that evening around 6:30.

When we arrived, around 2:30 p.m., dealers/collectors were already setting up. We discussed setting up and decided that we would make the rounds first. We found too many things that would not fit our budgets so we went ahead and did our due diligence in setting our bottles and stuff out.

As we were making our rounds, we saw many familiar faces of collectors we have known for years, such as Tom Lines from Alabama, Sheldon Baugh and wife from Kentucky, Tom and Mabel Hicks from Georgia, Randee & Susan Kaiser from Missouri, Alan Balliet from Mississippi, Dick and Pat Smith from Alabama, Bruce & Trisha

Schad from Mississippi, Ed and Connie Tardy from Arkansas, Paul VanVector from Kentucky, Don Young from Mississippi and John Joiner from Georgia, to name just a few old acquaintances. Then in walks Jim Hagenbuch from Pennsylvania. He flew in and was scouting for merchandise for his collection and auction.

There was a free Bar-B-Q dinner Friday evening for all dealers and early admissions with all of the trimmings and it was superb. Great job, folks.

Saturday morning brought in a brisk crowd with lots of traffic which continued throughout the day. There was no admission charge and show chairman John Sharp estimated the crowd to be 600 to 750, which I would concur with.

John had 251 sales tables and 139 dealer/collectors. The show was held for the second straight year in the Trade Mart Building on the state fairgrounds. The facility was really good and the lighting was excellent. John Sharp, a collector and friend whom I have known for many years, and his crew did an excellent job in hosting the show. He and his folks are to be congratulated for their hospitality and putting on a show of which they can truly be proud. Great job, John!

