



We have just endured what may be the dirtiest political campaign in American history. The mud flew everywhere and few politicians were missed. Enough, already!



Cigar Box: From the 1892 American presidential race, a cigar box carrying an endorsement of Grover Cleveland and Adlai Stevenson.

Let's return to a simpler time when politics were practiced quietly in smoky back rooms with a little flask of hootch to settle the dust. Pictured here are three pieces of memorabilia from the presidential campaigns of Grover Cleveland. He served as America's president twice, first from 1885-1889 and again from 1893-1897.

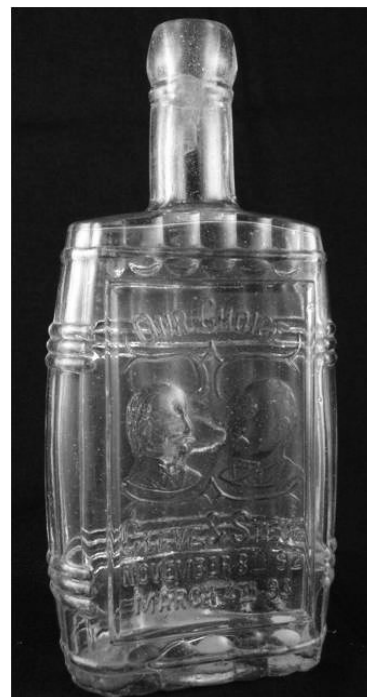
The cigar box was produced for the second campaign, when Cleveland won the election with Adlai Stevenson as his running mate. The lithographer was George S. Harris & Sons of Philadelphia. On the web site www.librarycompany.org, we found the following information about Harris & Sons under a page titled Philadelphia on Stone:

"George S. Harris (1823-1891) initially worked in Philadelphia

in the 1840s as a letterpress printer before adding lithography to his operations. By the 1870s, the firm, renamed Geo. S. Harris & Sons, had built a seven-story, "iron front" factory for their mass production of lithographic trade cards, can and cigar-box labels, circulars, calendars, and stamped envelopes. In 1889, Harris & Sons bought T. Sinclair & Son and became the largest lithographic firm in the city with about 600 employees."

The aqua half-barrel pint flask reads, OUR CHOICE (IMAGES OF THE TWO CANDIDATES) CLEVELAND & STEVE NOVEMBER 8, 1892 MARCH 3, 1893. This flask is also found in amber. The reverse is embossed with a rooster, a symbol often associated with the Democratic Party during the 19th Century.

The clear half-pint flask with threaded cap closure and ground lip is etched with the words, PUBLIC OFFICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST above an image of the candidate. Below Grover Cleveland an etched image of an eagle is found. The cap on this flask is embossed, "GEO. BENZ & SONS ST. PAUL." Benz is best known for his Appetine Bitters. Submitted by Steve Ketcham



Aqua flask: A pint flask with the embossed images of Grover Cleveland and Adlai Stevenson. Also found in amber.



Clear flask: A clear, half-pint flask acid etched with the image of Grover Cleveland, an eagle, and the words,

PUBLIC OFFICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST.

George Benz was a St. Paul liquor dealer whose amber Appetine Bitters came in quarts, pints, a two sample sizes. A black glass (deep amethyst) quart version also exists.

While brewers and bottlers large and small were once fond of publishing images of the exteriors of their establishments, often exaggerating their size in the process, the interiors of those buildings were less accessible to the public eye. This image was found in Saugerties, New York, last fall. It depicts a bottling operation which may be that of J. B. Lambert of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. We offer as evidence two marked wooden bottle cases, one at lower right and another behind the lanky chap in the middle of the room. Whether the photo depicts the Lambert facility or not, it is a nice glimpse of just what a bottling operation might have looked like before automation took over the process of cleaning and filling the bottles with product.

The fellow at left is operating a filling machine. Most likely, the product is beer, which is flowing from the keg behind him. As suggested by the two pieces of advertising on the wall behind the filler, the brew may have been either Pabst beer or Hanley's ale. We are not too familiar with the Hanley's advertising sign, but the Pabst sign is a framed, convex, multi-colored, reverse-on-glass piece that would inspire great

desire in the heart of many a breweriana collector. The bottles on the filler appear to be quarts.

The three gents at right are working around the soaking tub and bottle washer. The wooden tub is filled to the brim with bottles being soaked to remove old labels. (The pile of refuse behind the middle fellow may be the remains of the soaked-off labels.) The bottles are then placed on a device where they are washed, rinsed, and allowed to dry. It appears the bottles are crown tops, and it seems there are numerous crown caps scattered about on the floor beneath the tub. That the crew members are standing on pallets suggests the room was often damp. In fact, the water on the floor next to the tub is sufficient to reflect portions of the room.

We checked with Hutchinson soda expert and FOHBC Hall of Famer Ron Fowler to be sure there were no rare Rhode Island Hutch sodas hiding in the photo. Ron told us, "We have 12 different Hutchinsons catalogued for Rhode Island bottlers. All 12 are classified as Rare (1-10 known). This total includes one each for East Providence, Narragansett, Nasonville, and Newport, six for Providence, and two from Westernly. We have no

knowledge of any Hutchinsons from Woonsocket, or of any RI bottlers by the name of Lambert." Our thanks to Ron for this information and for helping us identify the bottling apparatus and its uses.

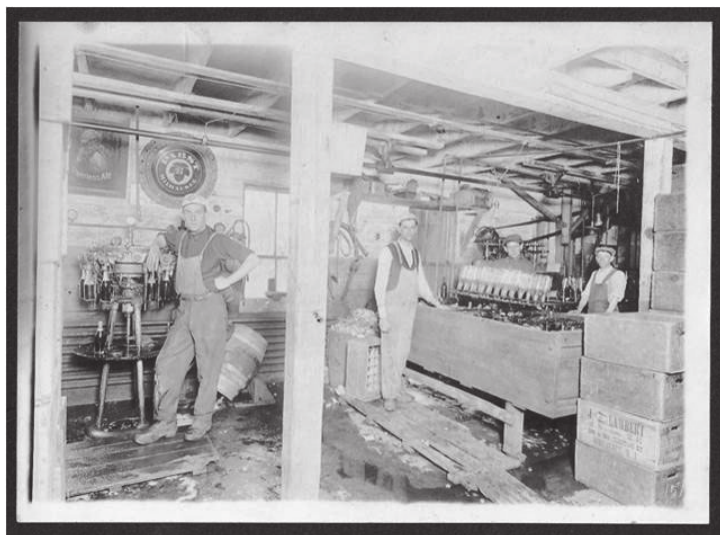
Submitted by Steve Ketcham

Notice

Jan Rutland Obituary



Janet A. (Jan) Rutland, 74, executive director of the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa, N.Y., died Oct. 26. She was born July 16, 1936 in Watervliet, N.Y. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Lawrence H. (Larry) Rutland Jr., and their four children, Linda K. Ryder, of Troy, N.Y.; Scott L. Rutland and wife Jan, of Virginia Beach, Va.; Mark S. Rutland and wife Tammy, of Maine; Eric J. Rutland and wife, Donna, of Greenfield Center, N.Y.; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Employees of the J. B. Lambert Bottling Co. of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, take a break to pose for a photo circa 1900-1910.

"Paper Trail" is a regular feature which showcases the wide world of bottle-related ephemera, from trade cards and post cards to letterheads and blotters. Readers are encouraged to submit items for publication. Simply scan or photograph your item (JPG please), add a short paragraph or two about the item, and include a photo of the bottle to which it relates.

E-mail your contribution to:

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or mail it to:

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