



FOHBCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As we go into this new year and bottle shows start picking up in frequency, I hope you will all take advantage of those closest to you and support your local or nearest club.

Without participation of all collectors, shows would cease to exist. Shows are great ways to add to your collection, your knowledge and to establish long-lasting friendships as well. Thinking back over the past 40-plus years, I think of all the friends I have made in bottle collecting. Had it not been for this hobby, I probably would have never come to know them.

I met Dick and Elma Watson for the first time in 1988 and after a few months, became a very close friend of theirs, having spent several nights in their home and enjoyed their hospitality.

Elma (I nicknamed her "Elmer") and I would go antiquing during the day while sometimes Dick had to work. She was truly a lady who knew her antiques and was a true friend. Dick would meet us later and then we would enjoy some of Elma's great cooking that evening. That was truly a great friendship that developed because of this hobby.

Elma is now gone and Dick and I chat quite frequently, remain good friends and share a lot of ideas and thoughts with each other. Dick continues to enjoy all of his great collecting, including bitters, spring waters, historical flasks, fruit jars and, guess what he really likes – ACL sodas.

That brings me to this: We will be starting a regular column in Bottles and Extras (hopefully with this issue) on applied color label sodas. Stories will be written by Mike Elling and Randee Kaiser. I also am looking for columnists who will contribute on a regular basis in their areas of expertise. I am working on several right now and hope to have them in place by our next issue.

Speaking of good friends in the hobby, we have all lost a good friend and fellow collector in Bill Agee, of Waco, Texas, who passed away on Jan. 24. Bill was a Baptist minister and was active in the ministry up until the end. He had just enjoyed performing a wedding ceremony for one of his grandsons in December.

Bill was a cure collector and author of two books, *Collecting the Cures* and *Collecting All Cures*. He also was an avid Dr. Pepper collector and was president of the Dr. Pepper Club in Waco. I first met Bill at a bottle show in Dallas in 1971 and we became fast friends. Everyone who ever met him liked him immediately. He was an avid researcher as well as a collector and truly enjoyed the people in this great hobby.

We extend our condolences to Bill's family and offer our prayers in this time of loss. Bill will be sorely missed.

Thinking back to when we first met, I was attending the Dallas club's show and it was a full three-day show. You set up on a Thursday and then attended the show for three full days – Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Oh, yes, it was much too long and I am not advocating that long a show today. It was just a passing thought as to how things have changed. I still have a great open pontil teardrop flask that I obtained at that show.

Don't forget to make your reservations early for our National Convention in Memphis, Tenn., June 24-26. It promises to be a great one. I hope to see some of you at a bottle show soon.

Until next time, good hunting and digging and, as always, LET'S KEEP THE FUN IN BOTTLE COLLECTING!

Gene Bradberry

FOHBC President

Where there's a will there's a way to leave Donations to the FOHBC

Did you know the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors is a 501C(3) charitable organization? How does that affect you? It allows tax deductions for any and all donations to the FOHBC.

You might also consider a bequest in your will to the FOHBC. This could be a certain amount of money or part or all of your bottle collection. The appraised value of your collection would be able to be deducted from your taxes.

(This is not legal advice, please consult an attorney)

I give and bequeath to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, 401 Johnston Ct, Raymore, MO 64083, the sum of \$_____ to be used as its Board of Directors determines.

The same type wording could be used for bequeathing your collection or part of it, however, before donating your collection (or part of it), you would need the collection appraised by a professional appraiser with knowledge of bottles and their market values. This is the amount that would be tax deductible.

Thank you for considering us in your donation plans.

Gene Bradberry, President

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors