

In The Horn Saloon

The Dalles, Oregon

By Garth Ziegenhagen

Most western whiskey collectors will associate The Dalles with C.J. Stubling and the famous Umatilla House. Stubling was best known as a distributor and produced The United We Stand cylinder. The famous Umatilla House was built at the boat landing in 1857. The dining room seated 250 people. Meals and rooms were both 25 cents and there were 123 rooms that each had its own heating stove. Also stored in the basement were 2,500 gallons of whiskey.¹

Charlie Frank arrived at The Dalles before Stubling and opened the Farmer's and Butcher's Exchange Saloon across from the Umatilla House. He later opened the In The Horn Saloon in 1889.² This saloon was frequented by a motley group of frontiersmen, miners, packers, Indians, gamblers, teamsters, cattlemen, sheep men, hunters and local merchants. Many of these local patrons were known for exchange items to add to Charles' collection for steins of beer or shots of whiskey. More than likely, it was never known where some of the items originated, but it was the beginning of a collection of over 700 items, including Indian relics, primitive antiques, firearms, steins and taxidermy. At the time of Charles Frank's death in 1906, he had accumulated a collection that was sought by many, but his heirs refused offers, even up to \$35,000 for his collection alone.³ Apparently, they knew it was an attraction unequaled even in most museums.

Charles Jr. and his brother Rudolph took over the operation and ran the saloon until prohibition, when they changed it to a billiards and beverages operation. Hence the Frank Bros. on one of the mugs. Eventually the contents and business were sold to the McClaskey brothers, who continued to operate it until 1942, when fire destroyed the pioneer landmark and the collection without a peer in the Pacific northwest.⁴

Fortunately, some of the steins from the saloon were collected over the years by people of The Dalles and their descendants. Many of these are in the collections of Pete Dennis, Jim and Julie Dennis and the author of this article. Without these mementos, the history of the west would not be relived nearly as often. Cylinders, flasks,

shot glasses, corkscrews and other advertising, including mugs, are truly a part of the sentiments of this country and are obviously becoming more valuable each year.

If you want to know the history of an area, ask a serious bottle collector and they can probably tell you some interesting facts. If they can't, it is probably because they haven't completed their research yet.

References:

¹ *Oregon's Golden Years*, Miles Potter (Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho), 1976.

² *The Dalles Chronicle*, April 23, 1942.

³ "In The Horn" (pamphlet), Wm. H. McNeal, The Dalles, Oregon, 1933.

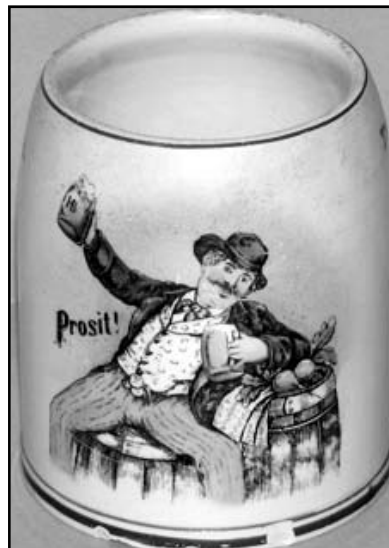
⁴ *The Dalles Chronicle*, April 23, 1942.



In The Horn Saloon, 215 East Second St., The Dalles, Ore.



Translation: A happy heart
cures all pain.



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