

# PAPER TRAIL

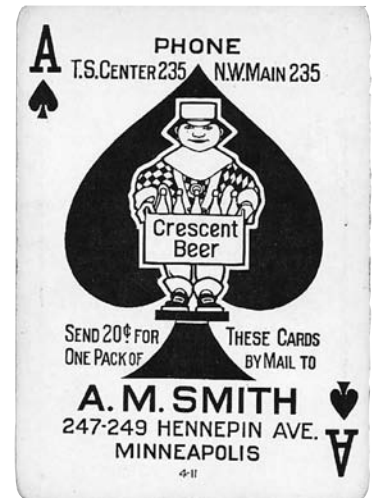
a feature showcasing the contributions  
of "Bottles & Extras" readers

Edited by Steve Ketcham



## A.M. Smith: great graphics ephemera

The story of Minneapolis liquor dealer A.M. Smith could fill a book. In fact, Smith did write an autobiography titled "Up and down the World or Paddle your won Canoe." Smith started business in the West. His Salt Lake City flask is among the most sought after early Western liquor flasks. Below are some examples of the great graphics he used on various pieces of ephemera while in business in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They include three

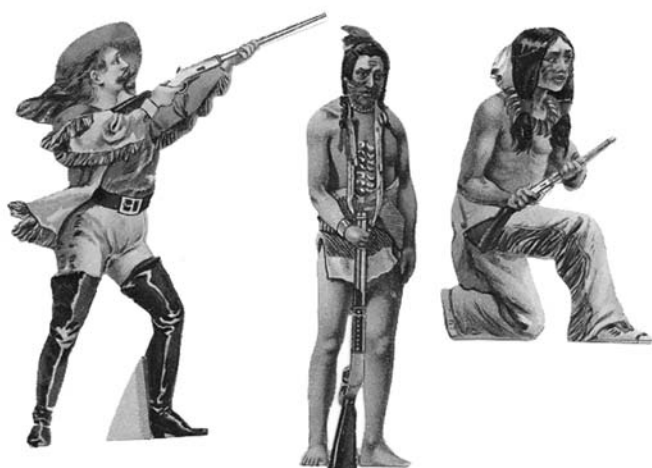


labels applied to quart flasks, a trade card, and two versions of playing cards.

A.M. Smith was a collector of rare coins. He wrote a comprehensive encyclopedia on the subject and by doing so touched many of his contemporary collectors. Ironically, his business savvy as a liquor dealer would touch collectors of another sort of metal years later in ways Smith could have never imagined.

For some reason yet unknown to bottle collectors, Smith dated his flasks. They are found with the following dates embossed beneath Smith's name: 1892, 1896, 1900, 1903, 1907, 1909, 1914.

Other useful items carrying California Wine Depot advertising include a shoe brush, yard stick, soap dish, egg separator, funnel, domino set, calendars, stoneware tea pot, three styles of pocket knives, can opener, two styles of playing cards, beer steins, and several serving trays.



### Kickapoo Indian Medicine Remedies Ephemera

Formed in 1881, the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Company released a large amount of promotional ephemera, particularly trade cards, almanacs, and "dream books." Throughout the next several issues we will explore some of the many pieces of ephemera produced by the Kickapoo folks.

Among the rarer and more dynamic items promoting the Kickapoo products is a set of die-cut trade cards featuring Native Americans and the trappings of their everyday lives, including a tepee, campfire, horses, and traditional costumes. Shown here are cards in the image of two braves and one card featuring Buffalo Bill Cody. The reverse of each card is printed with an ad for a Kickapoo Indian Medicine company product. Colonel Cody's card carries this testimonial:

CURED COLONEL CODY  
(BUFFALO BILL)

"Kickapoo Indian Sagwa is a remarkable medicine,"

said Colonel Cody. "I have known of its virtues for a long time, and on the frontier, these and the other Kickapoo Indian Remedies, are considered indispensable. I have had occasion to use Kickapoo Indian Sagwa for Malaria and Chills, and have found it far superior to Quinine in every way. I have also used Sagwa and Kickapoo Indian Oil for Rheumatism and was speedily cured. You may use my name," said Colonel Cody, "and say that for what they claim to do the Kickapoo Indian Remedies have no equal."

**"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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**!!Wanted!!**

Bitters, Beers, Whiskies, Sodas, Patent Medicines, and all manner of early bottle-related advertising from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas - especially pre-Prohibition brewery advertising trays, signs, etched glasses and whiskey shot glasses. Always seeking Red Wing Stoneware advertising jugs along with bitters, flasks, and other quality bottles from across America.

Visit us on e-Bay at [ketchthepast](http://ketchthepast).

E-mail: [s.ketcham@unique-software.com](mailto:s.ketcham@unique-software.com).

Watch for our new website - [www.antiquebottledpot.com](http://www.antiquebottledpot.com) (coming soon) [steve@antiquebottledpot.com](mailto:steve@antiquebottledpot.com).

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