

Picnics/Pumpkinseeds

By Garth Ziegenhagen

These flasks are most commonly called pumpkinseeds because of their shapes. The early bottle makers called them picnics and even embossed many of them with that label. The flasks were apparently the right size for taking on a picnic. John Thomas published an early book called "Picnics, Coffins, Shoo-Flies" which is still used as a reference by many bottle collectors. Many in my collection are in this original book. Thomas's book and Bill Lindsey's website "BLM/SHA Historic Glass Bottle Identification and Information Website" are used as a reference for this article.

The earliest examples of picnic flasks seemed to appear in the first half of the late 1870's and lasted until around 1915. These flasks usually have a crudely tooled double ring top, but some were made with a whiskey top and even a screw top with a lid. They were mostly mouth blown in a

cup-base mold. There are a wide variety of sizes, colors, embossings, tops, and for a wide variety of substances.

The most desirable picnics for most collectors are the ones that were used for liquor and were embossed with the name of the establishment or owner with an address, town and state. These picnics allow the owners to find out much about the history of the place that the flask was made for and many times where the flask was made as well as the dates it was in use. History is what most bottle collectors desire and if they pursue the history of their collections they can relive the days of the past.

Most collectors today agree that there are eleven Oregon embossed picnics even though Thomas's book lists more. Some that are listed have not been seen or photographed and it is believed that "rubs" of some flasks were

mistaken for picnics. Collectors also know that different examples of some bottles are still being discovered since the last Oregon bottle book was written in 1998. It is also possible that some that were listed but not proven might show up at any time. If you have proof that an Oregon embossed picnic exists that is not on the list below a lot of collectors would definitely be interested. These picnics make up the middle row of the display. The display was made out of two chicken feeders and does light up. It was entered in the largest bottle show in the Northwest at Canyonville. This display won the Peoples Choice Award while Bruce Silva's display of Cathedral bottles won the dealer's choice award at the Jefferson State 2008 Bottle Show October 17th and 18th.



1. G. ARATA & CO. / PORTLAND OR 1894-1906
2. MARX BAUMGART/ WHOLESALE/ LIQUORS/ ALBANY, OR. 1878-1905
3. THE BUREAU/ PORTLAND, OR. 1891-1894
4. THE A.P. HOTALING CO/ IMPORTERS/ PORTLAND, OR. 1889-1895
(Still pursuing the above picnic- Any information would be appreciated)
5. FLECKENSTEIN & MAYER / PORTLAND, OR. 1890-1899
6. GIEBISCH & MCNAMEE/ 2nd & Morrison/ THE PORTLAND 1889-1893
7. G. GINOCCHIO & CO/ 164 1st St. / PORTLAND ,OR. 1883-1886
8. RICHARD KNOLL/ WHOLESALE/ LIQUORS/ PORTLAND, OR. 1880-1897
9. THE LOG CABIN.167 3rd ST./PORTLAND ORE/ BILLY WINTERS 1903-1915
- 10 F. ZIMMERMAN/ 233 FIRST ST/ PORTLAND 1886-1895

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