

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

*President's
Message*

President:

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For those who don't know me, I started collecting bottles back in the 60s and have been at it ever since. Digging, trading, buying and selling. I tell a lot of folks I collect home town bottles - I was born in San Francisco. I go after western bitters, whiskies, U.S.A. Hospital Department bottles, Lash's and Hostetter's bitters and the advertising that goes with them. Enough about me.

As president of the FOHBC, I will do my best to grow the membership, insure that our magazine maintains the quality it has achieved, and is put out in a timely and consistent manner and promote the hobby whenever and wherever I can.

The economy is tough and a lot of people are having a hard time making

ends meet, let alone spending money on hobby items. Travel is costly, with fuel at record prices, motel and food costs on a trip is also way up there. Still, bottle auction prices are holding, if not going up. Ebay sales are a little off, probably due to the quality of the items not being as stated. The sellers who give return privileges for a full refund do well and every once in awhile you can get a real deal. I'm always adding to my Hostetters collection from Ebay.

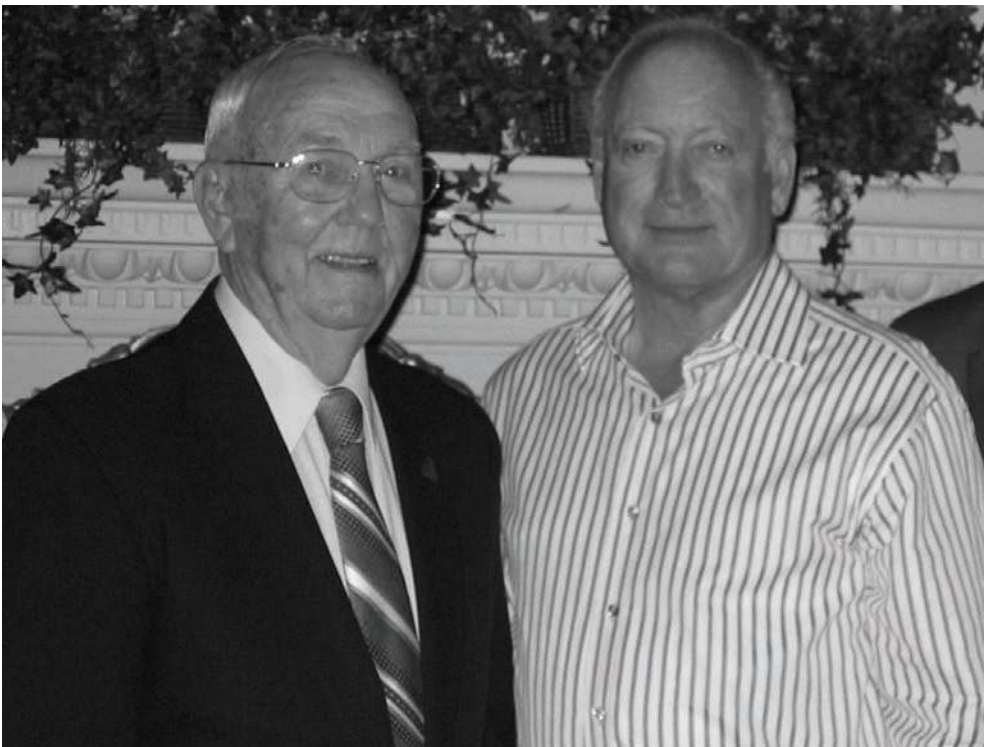
Show attendance is off some because of the economy, but show sales here in the west have been pretty good. Maybe the dealers are taking less of a profit to move their stock and the customer base is down so you have to deal. The economy will get

better and things will get back to normal, whatever that is, and the hobby will survive.

In the meantime, keep connected, check out the web site, keep your membership up so you can continue to get the magazine which will prove to be the glue that keeps the hobby together and moving forward. Maybe this is a good time to research that find you dug or bought, do an article and have it published in *Bottles and Extras*. Digging stories are fun, too.

Be safe and stay well.

Richard T. Siri, President FOHBC



FOHBC

Outgoing and Incoming Presidents

Carl Sturm, outgoing on left
2006-2008

Richard Siri, incoming on right
2008-2010