



Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

*President's
Message*

President:

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What a winter! California is dried out and the rest of the country looks frozen. Either way, bottle digging is a tough if not impossible chore. I went to probe a lot the other day and the ground was dry and hard. The moisture was only a mere eight inches down and, having had shoulder repairs on both sides, I can't pound the probe down like I used to. I remember going to visit my brother in western New York during the winter and (at that time he lived in a Victorian house) tried to probe his yard. It was frozen rock-hard. So in these times it's shows, fleas markets, auctions, or the internet etc. to get your bottle fix. Oh, yeah, there's also advertising in the FOHBC magazine.

I'm still somewhat active in the construction business; at least, I hope to be when the economy gets better. When going over the bid documents and contracts nowadays, you see a lot of specs regarding archeological, historical, botanical, clean water, air, bugs, bats and whatever written into contract forms. I remember when there were none of these things in contracts. Now don't get me wrong, I believe we do need to protect these things, but within reason. Lots of organizations go way over board on some, actually doing more harm than good in my opinion.

But it's a darn good thing bottle collectors (read diggers) were around and worked their tails off digging up those old pits and outers before their contents were hauled

to the dumps and landfills. Can you imagine the amount of historical items saved by bottle diggers during redevelopment projects and new construction over old sites that would have been lost forever? None of the lettered folks cared about old bottles before bottle digging started in the late 50s, 60s. In fact it took them years to catch on to what they were missing. (I'll make that point in the next issue.)

It's kind of funny that the archaeologists who rant and rave about bottle diggers rely on the books that bottle collectors and bottle diggers have written to identify their finds. I don't recall a book here in the west on old bottles that was written by an archaeologist. I know for a fact that the local counties around here have had most, if not all their information, about local bottles provided to them by bottle collectors (read diggers).

To the diggers: Make sure of your permission before starting to dig, share your finds with the local museums and historical societies and do a good job of clean up. Bottles will be dug for many years to come -- just look at the cities and all the old buildings and houses that will be redone and torn down. Hopefully, there will be a bottle collector around to save the old bottles that surely would be lost forever.

Richard Siri, *President, FOHBC*

Where there's a will there's a way to leave collections to 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.

An example of a bequest would be:

(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.

Richard Siri, President

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