



## Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

### President's Message

President:

Richard Siri  
PO Box 3818  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
(707) 542-6438  
rtsiri@sbcglobal.net

I'm writing this message while up at our cabin in Oregon. Came up to burn brush that I had piled up last summer. I pile tree trimmings, some from cutting firewood and other wood comes from trying to keep up with the beetle kill. The Mountain Pine Beetle is killing much of the forest here in Oregon as well as in other states.

Well, after making nice neat piles, I cover them in late fall to keep them dry, then in the spring I pop the tarps off and burn the piles. This year I came too early, couldn't find the piles without a lot of work. The piles were covered with one to three feet of snow at the tops and four to five feet at the bases. Not knowing if we could get back before the burn ban, I dug them out at the rate of two to three piles a day for a week. Bev helps out; that is, until she saw a wolf! Actually, it was a coyote passing through, but that ended her tending piles by herself.



What's this got to do with bottles? Timing. Yep, timing. Try probing in Santa Rosa in the summer -- you need a jack hammer. Then, some of the town has a wet winter water table at about 20 inches. I remember my brother Ted starting a hole in the west end of town and had to quit at about two feet down

because of water. He told me about it and later on in the early summer a friend and I stopped by to check out the spot. The water table had gone down in the hole, which yielded seven whole H. Brickwedel & Co. amber whiskey flasks which at the time were considered rare. Timing, that was the trick.

The guys in Nevada also have a short digging season or none at all some years. I imagine there is lots of the cold country that has this problem -- ground frozen, too much snow, dries out like concrete. Small window to dig. I didn't dig at Benicia, California, but digging there had to do with the tide. Benicia was the first capital of California and was located on the San Francisco Bay. Ships would dock there and throw their junk into the bay. A bottle collector discovered that if you dug in the mud flats at low tide you could find some really good bottles. Numerous pontiled sodas and pickles came from the mud flats. There again, not only being at the right

spot at the right time, you also had to be there at low tide. For the most part, digging in California now is confined to outhouses and construction sites. It's timing again, knowing where the job is when it starts and who to get permission from. With today's equipment, an old house can be torn down and a new one started the same day. I had a job in San Francisco a block south of Market Street where we tore down an old structure, made sub grade, based and paved it for a parking lot in one day. I had my probes with me but didn't have a chance to use them. Bad timing.

Well, enough rambling. Make sure your timing is on for taking in the national show in Los Angeles this year. It should be a good one.

Sincerely,  
Richard Siri - President FOHBC

*With this issue please note that Jesse Sailer is now the editor for Bottles & Extras .*

### 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

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors