

**Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors****President :**

## ***President's Message***

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### **May-June President's Message**

This will be my last message in *Bottles and Extras* while I am President of the FOHBC. I have decided to step down at the end of my term in August. It won't be the last that you will see of me as I will remain for two years on the Board of Directors as the outgoing President.

It all started in 1989 when then President Gene Bradberry asked me to write the Federation Newsletter until he left office. Wouldn't you know it, he remained in office for another two years and then, he talked me into running for President. Of course, I stayed on for a second term as President. I remained on the Board of Directors continuously until two years ago when I again took the office of President. When I finish out my two years as outgoing President I will have served straight through for 21 years. My good and loyal friends, that is long enough to hold a non-paying job. Early in my Navy career I was told "Never Volunteer." I guess that's one thing that didn't sink in.

I have had several members ask me why the FOHBC does not have a museum of their

own. At one time we did, however we did not have the financial backing to continue its operation. What a lot of the members do not know is that beginning in 1997 at Wheaton Village in New Jersey a part of their glass museum was made available to the Federation to display bottles. The displays have been changed each year, utilizing FOHBC member's bottles. Even though the name has changed to Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, there is a continuing bottle display at their museum. At present this year's display is Mason Jars. As this is the 150 anniversary year of Mason's first patent, it was felt appropriate. Dan Corker of Virginia arranged for this Mason jar display. Those of you who have never been to this museum should stop by if you are ever in the area. It is located on Glasstown Road in Millville, N.J. I hope to have an article in the September/October issue of *Bottles and Extras* letting you know what Federation displays have been set up at Wheaton. The museum personnel there also have FOHBC handouts for visitors that want them. Dick Watson has been the coordinator of our

displays at Wheaton. He has made sure that members arrange for their bottles to get to the museum and properly set up to best display them.

The economy is on the minds of everyone at the present. I have noticed that bottle sales still seem to be strong. The good bottles remain high in price with buyers still picking them up. The lesser bottles seem to holding up pretty well also. I seem to have noted some loss of attendees at the shows in the past year or so. Membership in the Federation is creeping up month by month. I believe the main reason is the great magazine that we are publishing. I constantly hear from members as to what a super publication it is with articles for everyone.

I will remind you again, dig hard or buy wisely and watch your collection grow. When you have been collecting about 50 years, as I have, you can look back and see that many of the lowly bottles have attained a much higher value than you would have ever thought possible.

*J. Carl Sturm, President FOHBC*

