

# The York 2008 - Some "Pristine" Choices

By Darlene Furda

Ken Lawler and I shared our sense of history as we drove into the York area on Wednesday night. It turns out that during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), York served as the temporary capital of the Continental Congress. There is also the possibility that George Wash-



**Yorktowne Hotel - host hotel and site of banquet**

ington stayed at the Yorktowne Hotel during the revolution. We also learned that the fairgrounds where the show was being held dates back to the mid 1700's. While we were taken with some facts about the area, we have to admit that our excitement was building regarding our upcoming attendance at the show.

With show thoughts set aside we drove over to the Yorktowne Hotel, on Thursday morning, to attend the FOHBC Board Meeting. Our Los Angeles club President



**Board meeting**

and Vice President Pam and Randy Selenak were invited to attend the meeting and were already seated at the conference table. The usual agenda items such as reports from the

show chairman, business manager and treasurer were presented and in addition, some special items were discussed. The "Changing of the Guard" took place with the new officers starting their term in office. A General Membership Meeting was scheduled for 1:30 p.m. The newly-elected president conducts this meeting and reports on items of interest that were discussed at the board meeting. While there in the hotel we also picked up our early admission packet containing our badges and program. As I opened the program my eyes stopped on Page 2. There was Pepper Lowry, a smiling Pomeranian saying in part, "Hello, my name is Pepper and I am the unofficial EXPO mascot." We've been greeted by some great show hosts, in the past, but this had to be the best greeting ever!



Seminars were scheduled for Friday from 9:00 a.m. to



**Black Glass - Identification and Dating Seminar  
By Carl Sturm**

12:00 noon. There were at least nine seminars and four specialty meetings. The seminars covered such subjects as, The Early History of Root and Ginger Beers, Saratoga Springs Bottles, The California Perfume Company, Black Glass, Inks, The Lancaster Glass Works, Kola Wars, Collecting Applied Color Label Soda Bottles and Internal Stopped Mineral Water Bottles. The specialty meetings covered Hutchinson's Patent Spring Stopper, and the Jelly Jammers in search of finding unlisted variations. The Painted Soda Bottle Collectors Association supports and encourages the soda bottle and "go-with" collecting hobby on a national level. The Poisons specialty meeting was be-





**Ink Symposium - Don Carroll (top)  
Lynn Mitchell (bottom)**

ing held on Saturday night from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and advertised that attendees could see some of the “Rarest Poisons in the World.” This meeting was being held by the Antique Poison Bottle Collector’s Association. The pro-



**Room before show**

gram write-up said that the Poison Association has something like 111 active members from five countries.

After Ken and I attended a couple of seminars we

grabbed something to eat in the lobby area and waited for early admission to the show. Ken managed to elbow his way toward the door and shoot a picture of the huge room full of sales tables. The time finally rolled around to where the crowd of anxious folks could burst into the show and burst they did.

If you want quantity and variety, attend an FOHBC EXPO (this was the 9<sup>th</sup> one over a 32 year period). There were 414 dealer tables. It was reported that 258 dealers and their dedicated helpers managed their tables. Once inside the show room Ken and I started running our eyes over the tables. At one point I snapped a picture of Mabel Hicks holding up a Petal Fruit Jar valued at \$4,000. There were many high-end bottles and a wide range of other types. If you were looking for flasks, figurals, poisons, inks, hutches, whiskeys, pharmacies, bitters and on and on, you were in the right place! Old glass with color and crudity seemed abundant. You might say that the show provided a “quality purchase waiting to happen.”



**Mabel Hicks with  
petal jar**

Ken and I conserved some energy so that we could attend the Friday night Awards Banquet in the Yorktowne Hotel Ballroom. I believe there were 246 attendees. This was the second highest attendance for an Awards Banquet.

In keeping with a tradition established in 1980 four members of the FOHBC were inducted into the Hall of Fame for major contributions to the bottle collecting hobby. The honorees are: Tom Caniff for outstanding writing in the field of fruit jar collecting; Jim Hagenbuch who is internationally recognized as he is in the United States. He is the publisher of the Antique Bottle & Glass Collector and



**R Wayne Lowry - President’s Award from Carl Sturm**

Glassworks auction catalogs; Carl Sturm who is a retiring third-term FOHBC president who has also dedicated many years of service to the Federation and Betty Zumwalt who has celebrated many outstanding achievements among which are her co-authoring three books. She also published a book on Pickles and Sauces and is widely recognized for her dedicated research.

The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Presidents Award 2008 was presented to Wayne Lowry for his outstanding contribution as FOHBC Conventions Director.

Two Honor Roll Certificates were awarded as follows: Katie Foglesong, one of the recipients of the Honor Roll Certificates has been interested in bottle collecting since the 1960's. Katie joined the Antique Bottle Collector's Association in 1965. She also was one of the founding members of the Iowa Antique Bottleleers in 1967 and became their editor in 1968. Her generosity led to her writing a booklet entitled, "Trials and Trails of a Bottle Collector." Her booklet was a freebie for those who wanted a copy. A winning characteristic of hers was that she was not pretentious. Katie must have also been creative as it is reported that she once traded a Colt 45 for a historical flask. It is said of Steve Ketcham that "Many believe in the FOHBC, but none so dedicated and determined as Steve. Introduced to bottle collecting in the early 1970's, and then the FOHBC he was eager to represent the bottle clubs of Minnesota and subsequently volunteering for an office on the FOHBC board and became National Chairman from 1982-1984. Always positive in his thinking and promotion of the FOHBC, he has been involved with 98% of the National Bottle shows and many, many meetings in between."

As many of you know the FOHBC holds annual con-

for, "The Whittlemark." Show Flyer: The North Star Historical Bottle Association and Minnesota First Antique Bottle Club: Steve Ketcham, Designer. Author: Charles David Head, for his research article, "Proud to Be an American" that was published in the FOHBC Bottles and Extras Magazine. Charles also won for his true story article, "The Steal" also published in Bottles and Extras.

Here are the Second Place Contest Winners for 2008. Newsletter: The Midwest Antique Fruit Jar and Bottle Club Editor, Joe Coulson for, "Glass Chatter." Show Flyer: The Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club of San Diego: Mike Bryant, Designer. Author: Mike Bryant, for his research article, "Always Read the Fine Print" that was published in his club's newsletter, "The Bottleneck." Mike also won for his original fiction article, "Ask Aunt Blabby" also published in, "The Bottleneck."

The 2008 Awards Banquet speaker was Georg R. Sheets recognized author of numerous books on historic Pennsylvania. His speech added to the historical background already set by the Yorktowne Hotel and other architecture in the area. A brief biography and his article entitled, "Is York, Pennsylvania



**Georg Sheets**



**Pam Selenak accepting 1st place Newsletter contest**

tests. The winners are announced at the Awards Banquet. Here are the First Place Contest Winners for 2008. Newsletter: The Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club: Blaine Greenman, Editor and Randy Selenak, Contributing Editor



**California Perfume Company by Russ Mills**

the First Capital of the USA?" appeared in the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors 2008 National Bottle Expo



Program.

The displays were phenomenal. Hours of personal commitment brought forth 32 displays for viewing and educational enjoyment. There was almost no end to the num-

E. Lee, III also stood ready to explain his collection. He tells folks that his intention is to dig, retain and educate. He has a fast-forwarding approach to the days when the older generations of bottle folks will be gone and the young will



**Picture of Central Pennsylvania Past  
by Robert E Lee III**

ber of items and information that was available on the California Perfume Company display tables. The fact that Russell and Cynthia Mills were able to bring the massive collection from their home to the show was outstanding. Russell stood ready and willing to explain to onlookers all the fine details in the display. Pottery maker and digger Robert



**Cathedral Pickles by Terry Gillis**

be coming to the foreground. Robert wants to create an interest in these younger folks so that hopefully the bottle collecting hobby will be able to continue successfully for many years. Some people were making complimentary remarks as they admired the Cathedral Pickle bottles by Terry and Katie Gillis. Jaws went slack as people looked at



**Hostetter's Stomach Bitters by Richard Siri**

the unending tables of displays in amazement. People seem



**Teakettle Inks by Don Carroll  
And Lynn Mitchell**

to walk thoughtfully along taking in all details of each display. Our new FOHBC President Richard Siri and wife Beverly hauled his collection of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters all the way from Northern, California. One person was reported to have said that he had never seen an iron-pontiled Hostetter's Bitters before. Another eye-



catcher was the backlit teakettle ink display by Don Carroll



and Lynn Mitchell. Rare Pint Fruit Jars were displayed by Wayne Lowry. There were rare examples of pre 1840



Early American bottles by Philo Gideon. Australia's Rex



Barber flew his 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ceramic Quack Cure Pot Lids collection to York and was available to proudly point out



**Celery Soda by Dennis Smith**



certain aspects of such a collection. There were plenty of fruit jars, colored Demi-Johns, a 150 Year of Mason's 1858



**Jelly Glass by Phyllis Pahlmann**

Patents, John Roots Bitters Bottles, and Early Threadless



**Colored Demi-Johns by Michael Lehman**



**Glass House Whimsey Turtles by Berny Baldwin**



Insulators. Writing about them doesn't give the displays the justice that seeing them in person or in a picture does. There were so many more quality treasures to enjoy than I have been able to describe.



**Randy Driskill, Norm Heckler, Dave Maryo**

An auction was held Saturday night. American Bottle Club Auctions, Randy Driskill and Dave Maryo were re-



sponsible for the consignments portion. Auctioneer Norm Heckler took charge of the floor action and kept the auction moving with his fast-paced humor and expertise. A few of the bottles auctioned were, a Cobalt painted German 18<sup>th</sup> century spirits flask, Wryghte's Bit-

ters, Standard wax sealer quart fruit jar in blue, Capen & Thurston / Improved Mineral Water / Troy N.Y., and a Locomotive ink. Trademark / Pat. Oct. 1874. I think I heard that there were 80 lots. The room was packed with bidding folks.

I understand that there were attendees from countries such as, England, New Zealand, Australia, Scotland and Canada. I listened to Rex Barber from Australia talk about his pot lid collection. Ken met up with Judith Klusmeier from Dusseldorf, Germany who may be Ken's distant cousin. I took a picture of Iain and Hilary Gosling from Scotland. I also bought four of Iain's inks when he had his 50% off sale on Sunday. He requested my payment be in U.S. dollars. I gladly took advantage of his sale. He added that his sale was because he didn't want to have to pack a lot of "stuff" to take back home.



**Iain and Hilary Gosling from Scotland**



**Ralph Van Brocklin from Johnson City, TN**

I've seen many FOHBC members' names in print, either as authors of articles in *Bottles and Extras*, or listed in the "Dealers Section" of the Program, but Ken and I have not yet become acquainted with many of you. We will have to work on this in the future. I realize that you folks have had a lot of experience in this hobby. Ken and I



would love to hear the stories of your adventures throughout the years. However, I did become acquainted with Life Member, Tom Lines. Tom



**Jennifer Heatley -  
dealer from Pepperell, MA**

had a puce-colored barrel ink on his table. I made so many trips to his table to examine it that he told me, "I'm going to start charging you admission." I finally acquired his puce barrel.



### Enthusiastic Collectors

It was my observation that people stayed focused on buying and selling, but much of the Expo experience seemed to be about visiting with common-minded folks from the U.S. and other countries. While this hobby is "all about collecting" it is also "all about people." Camaraderie is an important part of a show experience.

Thanks Wayne and June Lowry for your tireless efforts in making this show possible for all of us. Thanks also to all of you who participated in some way to make this a very special collecting event.

Dar Furda  
6677 Oak Forest Drive  
Oak Park, CA 91377  
(818) 889-5451  
DFurda@roadrunner.com



### Uncle Clem Bloktop



Decorate your tree, hang up your wreaths of red berry holly, buy gifts for your family and friends, adorn yourself colorfully; then sit down, relax and reflect on the real reason we are celebrating Christmas.