

MEMPHIS BOTTLE SHOW REPORT

by Sheldon Baugh

The Memphis Bottle Collectors Club's annual show last September 29 was held at a new site, the Aggri Center in the Germantown area of Memphis. A festive atmosphere prevailed since there was a farmer's market with fall produce and a corn maze in the field by the center.

We met on Friday afternoon for set up and early admission with five displays and 97 sales tables.

The displays were stoneware jugs from Memphis and northern Mississippi, put together by Ed Provine from his collection; Memphis Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Colas by Tom Phillips; Tennessee Colas by Gene Bradberry; Nehi bottles by Mike Elling, and an insulator display by Allen Hart. These were rare examples, educational, interesting and cleverly assembled and displayed. I think this reminded us that shows should be about "showing collections" as well as the sales tables we like.

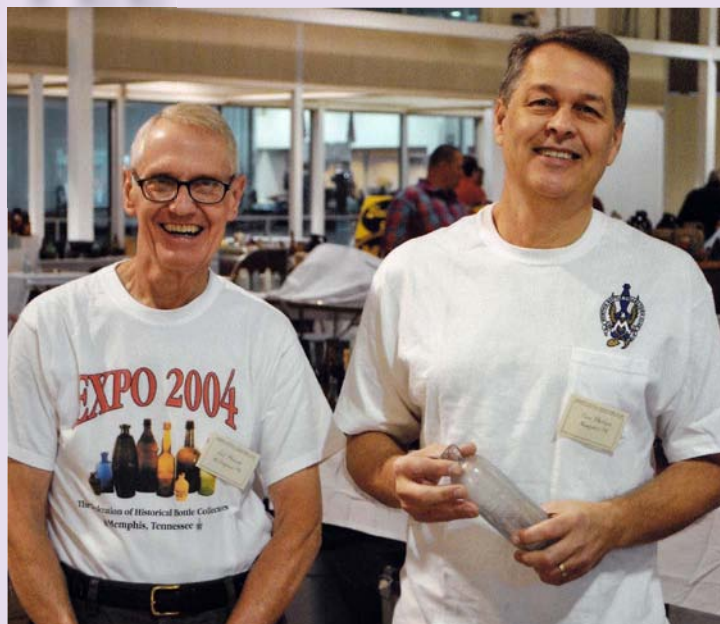
Friday evening brought the Famous Memphis Barbeque that we were waiting for. It was delicious, with plenty for everyone.

This show reminded me of the old shows in the '70s, not many of the heavyweight bottles, or flasks and bitters, but an array of all types. I didn't add any bitters or Shaker bottles to my collection, but was happy to buy a nice peppersauce from John Sharp, a Civil War bond (nicely framed) from Tom Phillips and several sodas that I was happy to find.

Federation officers in attendance included Tom Phillips, our convention director, with several tables; past president and director at large Gene Bradberry; Midwest Region Director Randee Kiser and myself (merchandise director).

Randee and Sue Kaiser from Missouri had tables of his painted label sodas. He bought a collection recently and many are now sold. He said that he was selling bottles like "hot cakes," including 37 the first hour of setup.

Carol and Dave Waris, of New Hampshire, won the prize of traveling the farthest (prize is "Thank You") and had a good show. Bill Johnson, of Snellville, Georgia, also thought it was a good show. John Sharp from Mississippi as always had a good show, having fun buying and selling. John chairs the famous Jackson, Mississippi show. Bruce Schad, from Greenwood, Mississippi, noted it was a good show. He bought several



Ed Provine and Tom Phillips from Tennessee



Tom Hicks talking bottles



Carol and Dave Waris from New Hampshire

pieces, but didn't know about sales since he hadn't been at his table. He left his wife in charge as I did mine.

Rufus Buie from Arkansas was set up. I think I met him at a Memphis show in 1972. Both of us collect bitters and both agreed we have trouble adding new examples to our collections. Ed Tardy from Arkansas with his digging buddy and FOHBC Hall of Fame member Johnnie Fletcher were set up. Johnnie has just completed his newest book on

Arkansas bottles.

Tom Hicks and Jim Scharnagel from Georgia both had great pieces to sell, but were late due to the interstate closing. Jerry McKinney and Tony Hayes from Kentucky with their stoneware had a good show and are excited about the FOHBC 2014 annual show in Lexington which is near their home.



Bruce Schad



Mr and Mrs. John Sharp from Mississippi



Jim Scharnagel from Georgia



Bill Johnson from Georgia



Gene Bradberry at his table



Randee and Sue Kaiser