

RENO EXPO

Displays and Displayers at the 2012 FOHBC Reno Expo

by Bob Ferraro

Twenty-two remarkable displays surrounded two sides of the huge sales area at the Reno Expo. These displays focused on many categories of glass collecting such as bitters, insulators, foods, fire grenades and even early hyacinth vases. There were also specialty displays of rare Nevada artifacts, Sacramento bottles, a 50-state collection of Hutchinson soda bottles, an entire display of bottles related to the human kidney and an exceptional grouping of miniature bottles.

“Did you see the exceptional gazebo with more than 100 rare bottles?”

The variety of displays was a crowd pleaser since they were all extremely informative. Looking at just the displays gave the viewer a sense of wonder and an insight into life during the 1800s and, of course, the early 1900s. All were colorfully displayed with considerable historical information that made each quite different.

Even more remarkable than the number and variety of displays was the broad representation of glass from America and Australia.

Comments such as, “Did you see the exceptional gazebo with more than 100 rare bottles?” These bottles appeared on back-lighted shelves that created a spectacular array of color and unusual shapes. More than once the spectators whispered, “I have never seen such rare and colorful glass.”

Additionally, participants were heard saying that all shows should include displays to help inform the public of how glass played such a significant role in developing the world of commerce. Perhaps the wealth of information that was



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presented through these displays will enhance the organizers of other bottle shows to include and promote displays.

The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC) did its part by awarding a “Peoples Choice Award” to the display that received the highest number of publicly cast votes. This display was entered by Lou Pellegrini of Los Gatos, California. Additionally, the Federation presented a second ribbon for “Most Educational” to an extremely unusual display of bottles containing colorful swirls in the glass. This display was entered by Dwayne Anthony of Highland, California.

Rex Barber from Australia entered his pot lid display that created considerable interest.

Richard Siri, a co-chairman for this show, donated a walnut plaque engraved by the Reno Bottle Club to each displayer. This was a great way to say thank you to each person submitting a display.

In all, this was a great way to exhibit some exceptional glass and related collectibles. The following pictures were taken by show photographer, Scott Selenak and FOHBC member, Alan DeMaison who is also compiling a video.



▲ Lou Pellegrini and his award winning, and popular, "Colored Food Bottles"

▼ Gazebo display with a Bryant's Stomach Bitters cone and ladies leg. Look at that pickle!





▲ Dwayne Anthony and his award winning and most educational "Swirls, Whirls, Twists & Twirls"

▼ David Hall with his outstanding and eye catching "E.G. Booz and North American Log Cabins Too"





▲ Dennis Bray and his gorgeous and colorful "EC&M Insulators"

▼ Russell Umbraco and his educational "Early Heinz Bottle" display



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▲ Rex Barber from Australia, and his great "Quack Pot Lids"

▼ Bob Ferraro and his "Rare Nevada Artifacts" display





Ken Morrill and a display for "XL Dairy Bottles and San Francisco history"

Ron Barns and his fantastic "Miniature Bottles" display





Don Dwyer stands proud in front of his "Western Bitters" display

Ron Ireland and his informative "Kidney Bottles" display





▲ Colin Jung has a really neat display on "California Insulators"

▼ Rick Pisano and a really wonderful display of great "IXL Bottles"

