



(L-R) Ralph Hollibaugh, Dennis Bray and Bruce Silva - Whiskey Judges

The Shootout



by Pam Selenak

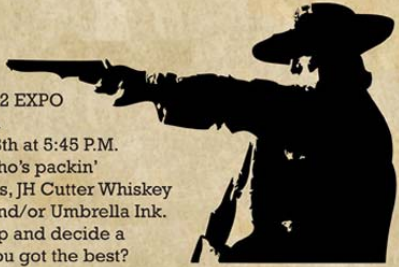
So what exactly, is a shootout? You've seen the cowboys on the big screen in the middle of the dirt street facing each other then they draw their guns and one of them falls dead. Well, with a bottle shootout, people bring in their finest examples of a specific category. They are lined up and the judges slowly and methodically eliminate one after the other until there is one left.

The only other bottle shootout I've seen was at the Auburn show. It was an IXL Bitters shootout. As an Expo, we would expect something on a grand scale. This one did not disappoint anyone.

I was asked to stand by the door and make sure only federation members, dealers, and early lookers were allowed in. I wasn't sure how this was going to happen

Join the FOHBC and Norman C. Heckler & Company
for a

DRAKES, WHISKEY & UMBRELLA INK SHOOTOUT



WHERE: The FOHBC 2012 EXPO
in Reno, Nevada
WHEN: Saturday, July 28th at 5:45 P.M.
WHO: Any collector who's packin'
WHAT: Your Best Drakes, JH Cutter Whiskey
(Thomas #43) and/or Umbrella Ink.
We'll line 'em up and decide a
winner. Think you got the best?
Bring it to Reno!

A fun time for all! Come enjoy complimentary Hors d'oeuvres and available
cocktails. Go to hecklerauction.com/shootout.html for more information.

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because when I came down the hall there was a mob outside the door as if they were going to see a real shoot-out. Inside the room was a complete food setup consisting of a wide variety of sandwich meats, cheeses and breads, meatballs, chicken wings, and vegetables. On each end was a cash bar. All this was sponsored and paid for by Norman C. Heckler & Company. During the show on Saturday, there were two very attractive women walking around giving out drink vouchers also planned by the Heckler clan.

As we opened the doors, Marty Hall and I checked for badges and names on our Federation list. It went very smoothly. Many people I recognized and I was able to put a face to many of the names I have heard so much about.



We had only planned for one hundred people and we had well over two hundred attend this event. We had to bring in more chairs and of course more food. Everyone seemed to be having a great time.



When Ferdinand announced it was time for the shootout to start, the entire room moved towards the front center of the room for the judging. The three categories being judged were Circle Cutter Whiskey cylinders, Drakes Plantation Bitters and umbrella inks.

Ferdinand asked for the first three judges to come up to the

table. They were Bruce Silva, Dennis Bray, and Ralph Hollibaugh. As the owners of the Cutter cylinders placed their bottles on the table, you could hear the oohs and ahs throughout the room. As bottles were eliminated, it came down to the final few. They were placed in the light box for final inspection. The winner was Steve Hubble for his olive green amber specimen. This bottle was dug by Marty Hall in Goldhill, Nevada in 1990.



Next up was the Drakes Plantation Bitters. The judges were Jeff Noordsy, Jeff Burkhardt, and Rick Simi. The bottles were placed on the table. It was amazing the amount of color that was displayed. It will be hard to ever again see so much beautiful color variations in Drakes all at the same time right next to each other. What an opportunity to see this. As they narrowed down to the final few, I saw major concentration on the judges faces. The winner was Ferdinand Meyer V for his perfect blue/green example of which only four similar examples are known. Others that possess off-colored blue/green examples are Sandor Fuss (recently bought from Mike Hennessy), Jim Hagen-





(L-R) Round 2 - Jeff Burkhardt, Jeff Noordsy and Rick Simi - Drakes Judges



Best Drakes



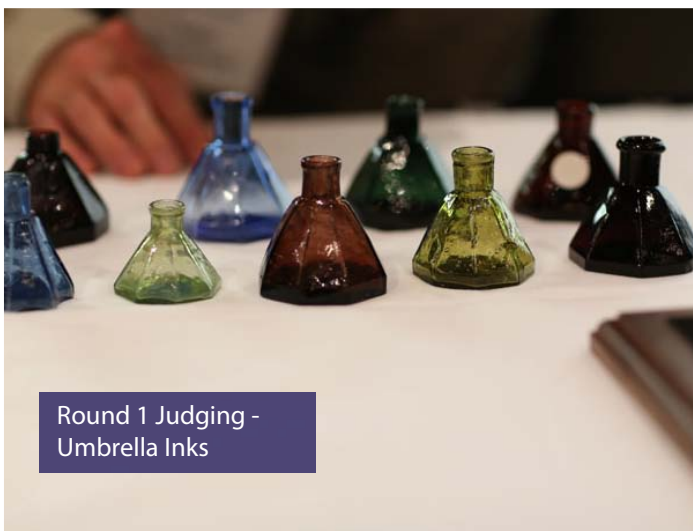
Round 1 Judging - Drakes Plantation Bitters

buch and Jeff Burkhardt.

The final category was the umbrella inks. The judges were Bryan Grapentine, Holly Noordsy, and Jamie Houdeshell. There were so many of these beautiful inks I found it hard to believe they could find one better than the other. After much consideration, it came down to the final few. I was so far back I couldn't see what was happening at the table. The audience participation was quite exciting hearing them cheer and there were also a few boos. The winner went to a beautiful pontiled swirled puce ink owned by Jim Jacobitz. The story of this ink is that it was dug by Richard Moritz in 1995 in Virginia City at the home of W.S. Wright. (W.S. Wright soda). So this was more than likely used by Mr. Wright himself, dating back to the 1860's. This ink has never been cleaned and is in mint condition.



Because of such an overwhelming success of this event, rumor has it that you may be seeing more of these shoot-outs at future Federation shows. This is another reason to be a member of this great Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors.





(L-R) Round 1 - Holly Noordsy, Bryan Grapentine and Jamie Houdeshell - Umbrella Ink Judges



Best Umbrella Ink



Cutter Round 3



Another great event for our members. Stay tuned for news for next years show, auction, banquet and yes...hopefully a New England early American glass shootout and showdown!