



# GRAND CANYON GLASS

*By Michael Miller*

## ARIZONA'S BEST - PART THREE

Several years ago at the annual Phoenix Bottles & Collectibles Show, collectors exhibited the first all-inclusive collection of Arizona Hutchinson sodas. This display was the highlight of the show and all of the collectors present noted the importance of the moment. You see, though in many parts of the country, Hutchinson sodas are considered the poor stepchildren of other soda categories such as blob top or squats, but here in Arizona the Hutch's are the most desirable sodas to collectors. This is partially due to the almost total lack of these earlier soda types (we do have one blob top soda) and the rarity of many of the Hutch's from the territory.

This article will concentrate on these earliest of Arizona sodas, which were used in the Arizona Territory from 1880 to 1912. Since statehood didn't come until 1912, all Arizona Hutchinson bottles are

territorial of age.

One last thing before we get down to the fun. Remember these listings are only opinions and for every bottle that is listed, there is someone out there who thinks another bottle is more worthy. This was very apparent when we surveyed some of the top collectors on this category. It seems that region was a big issue with Southern and Central Arizona collectors having a different view on the subject. Anyway, these are the picks, it's my story and I'm sticking to it.

### HUTCHINSON SODAS

Without a doubt the Hutch is the most hotly collected area of Arizona bottles. Containing some of the earliest bottles from the then territory, Hutchinson collectors strive to obtain some of the rarest of the rare. Included in this category

are four Territorial marked bottles, amber and light green sodas and several bottles from the Wild West town of Tombstone. With these and others to select from, some of the top collectors from Arizona were asked to choose and here is the best of the best.

**1. CLIFTON SODA WORKS CLIFTON, ARIZ.** - An aqua soda and the newest Hutch to be discovered. This bottle was picked by 50% of those collectors surveyed as the #1 hutch and was unanimous choice for the top ten.

Both rarity and the mining town connection add to the desirability of this bottle. J. N. McFate utilized this one of a kind bottle at his works from 1899 to 1901.

**2. BELL SODA WORKS YUMA, ARIZONA** - Two examples are known of this aqua soda utilized by Thomas Bell in 1899. This works remained in operation until 1913 and was renamed



Yuma Soda Works. Though this bottle received no first place votes, it was named on all of the surveys and placed no lower than sixth.

**3.SAFFORD BOTTLING WORKS SAFFORD, ARIZONA** - A clear to sun-colored bottle with only two known examples. Everett & Hillhouse, who were the first proprietors of this works, used this hutch just after the turn of the century. Another bottle listed on all of the surveys.

**4.GLOBE ICE & COLD STORAGE CO. GLOBE, ARIZONA** - This aqua hutch, which gathered one first place vote and placed on all lists, was used by Alfred Kinney in 1903, and represents the last name change for his company. Seven years later he closed his works and entered state politics. In 1911 he became a state senator. There are four known examples of this bottle, which has an extremely attractive embossing pattern. An earlier hutch from Kinney's business just missed the top ten.

**4.WINSLOW BOTTLING WORKS WINSLOW ARIZONA** - This bottle tied the Globe hutch for fourth and is another attractive aqua hutch with two

documented examples. A works that opened in 1898 and closed less than a year later used this bottle.

A.T. Cornish ran this facility along with his primary company in Flagstaff. An interesting side note is the story that two of these bottles turned up at a trading post in the Winslow area during the 1960s. One of these sodas was purchased and has been documented, but the other remained to be sold to a lucky customer.

Whoever that was is not known but if you're out there then I'll pay a bundle for your bottle.

**6.FLAGSTAFF BOTTLING WORKS FLAGSTAFF ARIZ.** - This clear bottle has a different embossing pattern than its later mentioned aqua counterpart and has two documented examples. A.T. Cornish used it at the turn of the century.

**7.UNION SODA WORKS B&B** Though not a exceedingly rare soda, there are presently at least ten known examples, the amber 'B&B' has both color and historical significance going for it. Fred Blush and Charles Buddington, at the Union Soda Works of Tombstone, A. T., used this bottle in the early 1880s.

I can just imagine the Earps and the Clantons arguing in the saloon over a cold Union soda. Can't beat that for good story telling to those non-collectors! Another unanimous choice bottle.

**7.ARIZONA BOTTLING WORKS PHOENIX, A.T** - Another tie, this very rare (four known) territorial marked aqua soda would have been higher on the list if it were not from Phoenix and if I had not just recently located the fourth example. The Arizona Bottling Works began as a Root Beer manufacturer in 1899. Fred Sharpe expanded his business the following year and ran a profitable works for many years. By the late twenties, competition from national brands had reduced Sharpe's share of the market and in 1934 he closed the doors for good.

**9.FLAGSTAFF BOTTLING WORKS** - Only two examples of this aqua soda are known at this time. This soda was used earlier than its clear counterpart and its position was likely hurt by its lack of Arizona embossing.

**10.PHOENIX BOTTLING WORKS PHOENIX, A.T.** - This position is for the light green examples of this hutch, which also comes in shades of aqua. Used by the earliest owners of this works from 1884 to 1885 this is the only green hutch soda from Arizona and very few undamaged examples (less than ten) have surfaced in this color. In addition to color, the early green bottles have wonderful crudity and whittling usually absent from the later aqua bottles. This combination warranted a first place vote from one of our pollsters.

Other Hutchinson's that finished high in the poles included the clear BENSON BEER & ICE CO. BENSON, ARIZ.; TUCSON SODA WORKS B.H. KROEGER TUCSON, ARIZ.; PURITY BOTTLING WKS. NOGALES, ARIZ. M. BOHALL PROP.; ARIZONA SODA WORKS PRESCOTT, ARIZ. and ALFRED KINNEY GLOBE ARIZ.

I hope this has enlightened some of you on the subject of great Arizona hutch sodas. Who knows, you might have one of these bottles sitting in the window right now. If so I'll be glad to talk to you about how you can get some down payment money for your next car.



Mike Miller, 9214 W. Gary Road, Peoria, AZ 85345; Ph: (623) 486-3123; E-mail: helgramike@earthlink.net.