

Quintet of new Koca Nolas discovered

by Charles D. Head

They keep coming out of the woodwork of the past: Five Koca Nolas new to the bottle collecting world have emerged.

Charles Comolli, a collector from Elberton, Ga., owns Koca Nolas from his hometown and Hartwell, Ga. Donnie Medlin of Louisburg, N.C., now known far and wide as one of the nation's premier Pepsi-Cola collectors, owns a Louisburg Koca Nola. There also may be one from Talbotton, Ga.

Kenneth Cornett of Rockford, Tenn. sent in an advertisement from the Maryville (Tenn.) Bottling Works. The ad reads: "Have you heard the news? The Maryville Bottling Works Co., have (sic) purchased the entire plant of the 'Wildwood Bottling Works' and with added improvements, are now ready to handle all orders promptly. Try their line of Soda Pops, Cascade Ginger Ale, Orerade and Koca Nolas, and you will be pleased and your customers satisfied. GIVE THEM A TRIAL. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED."

The advertisement was carried in the April 11, 1907 issue of the *Maryville Enterprise*.

Mr. Cornett said he owns eight different soda bottles, including a Hutchinson, from the Maryville Bottling Works, which was in business from 1907-1943. He has yet to see one embossed Koca Nola. There may be one out there, but the plant also may have used just a Koca Nola label affixed to one of its own bottles.

If you count the Anacostia (Washington, D.C.), the total number of Koca Nola franchises now known total 30, with Georgia alone accounting for 11 of them: Ashburn, Atlanta, Augusta, Bagley, Donalsonville, Elberton, Hartwell, Macon, Milledgeville, Rome and Talbotton.

That number is impressive when you consider that just a few years ago, I had heard of only the J. Esposito bottles from Philadelphia and a few others. I still would love to hear from other collectors who may know of even more. They can write either to me, or to Bill Baab, who edits my copy for these stories and has started a Koca Nola collection of his own. Our addresses are at the end of this article.

Both the Elberton and Hartwell bottles are in clear glass and each has some

damage.

The Hartwell bottle is embossed REGISTERED on the front shoulder and NABERS BOTTLING WORKS / Koca Nola (in script) / HARTWELL, GA., in an oval slug plate. There are no other markings.

Thomas Mell Nabers, who owned the NABERS BOTTLING WORKS / LINCOLNTON, GA., and sold his soda in crown top bottles, also operated the Lincolnton Coca-Cola Bottling Company from 1911 until 1912. A photo of the Nabers Lincolnton bottle can be found on Page 49 of "Georgia Early Embossed Crown Top Soda Bottles" by Carl Barnett and Ken Nease.

The Elberton bottle is embossed ELBERTON BOTTLING WORKS / Koca Nola (in script) / ELBERTON, GA. On the base is a C within a diamond. That

manufacturer's mark also can be found on Macon and Atlanta, Georgia Koca Nolas and so far has eluded researchers as to its identity.

The Louisburg bottle is embossed LOUISBURG BOTTLING WORKS / Koca Nola (in script) / LOUISBURG, N.C., inside an oval slug plate.

Mr. Barnett found mention of the Talbotton bottle on Page 110 of the *History of Talbot County, Georgia*. "Aug. 23, 1906 — Talbotton Bottling Co., is now bottling real Coca-Cola, after a period of bottling Coca-Nola (sic)." So far, no bottles from that northwest Georgia city have surfaced.

All this makes one wonder what else is out there in Koca Nola Land.

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Updated list follows on the next pages...



From L to R: Nabers Bottling Works Koca Nola, Hartwell, Ga.; Elberton Bottling Works Koca Nola, Elberton, Ga.; Louisburg Bottling Works Koca Nola, Louisburg, North Carolina (Photo by Bill Baab)

Rarity code: (1) Common. (2) Scarce. (3) Rare. (4) Extremely rare.

KN1: J. ESPOSITO / KOCA NOLA / 812 & 814 WASHINGTON AVE. / PHILADA. aqua Hutchinson circa 1905. JE monogram on base. (3). Value \$150 to \$300.

KN2: J. ESPOSITO / KOCA NOLA / 812 & 814 WASHINGTON AVE. / PHILADA. citron Hutchinson circa 1906. (4). JE monogram on base. Value \$1,200 to \$3,000.

KN3: JE monogram on shoulder. J. ESPOSITO / KOCA NOLA / 7 FLUID OZ. / PHILA., PA. Bimal oval slug plate, teal crown top. (3). Value \$50 to \$75.

KN4: JE monogram on shoulder. 7 FLUID OZ. / KOCA NOLA / REGISTERED / PHILA., PA. Bimal aqua crown top. JE monogram on base. (2). Value \$30 to \$50.

KN5: JE monogram on shoulder. KOCA NOLA / REGISTERED PHILA., PA. ABM amber crown top. (2). Value \$30 to \$110.

KN6: JE monogram on base. KOCA NOLA / REGISTERED PHILA., PA. ABM amber crown top. C.G. CO. 756 on heel (Believed to be Crystal Glass Co., Bridgeport, Ohio, 1882-1907). (2). Value \$30 to \$110.

KN7: J.E. monogram base. KOCA NOLA / THIS BOTTLE NEVER SOLD. ABM aqua crown top. (2). Value \$20 to \$50.

KN8: J. ESPOSITO / KOCA NOLA (in script) / 812 & 814 WASHINGTON AVE. / PHILA., PA. / REGISTERED 7-1/2 FLUID OZ. ABM clear crown top. D.O.C. 220 3 on heel (Believed to be the D.O. Cunningham Glass Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., 1882-1937). JE monogram on base. (3). Value \$40 to \$65.

KN9: KOCA NOLA BOTTLING CO. OF KENTUCKY / KOCA NOLA / SOMERSET, KY. BIMAL oval slug plate amber crown top. R.G. CO. 73 on heel (More than likely the Root Glass Company, Terre Haute, Ind.). (4). Value \$85 to \$150.

KN10: PENSACOLA BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / PENSACOLA, FLA. BIMAL oval slug plate teal crown top. (2). Value \$80 to \$125.

KN11: FLORIDA BOTTLING CO. / KOCA NOLA. Oval slug plate, mug base,

aqua Hutchinson. ROOT 368 on heel (Root Glass Company, Terre Haute, Ind.). (2). Value \$150 to \$300.

KN12: FLORIDA KOCA NOLA BOTTLING CO. BIMAL oval slug plate aqua crown top. ROOT 583 on heel (Root Glass Co., Terre Haute, Ind.). (2). Value \$40 to \$65.

KN13: FLA. KOCA NOLA (in script) BOTTLING CO. BIMAL oval slug plate clear crown top. (4). Value \$60 to \$125.

KN14: FARMER'S ICE & OIL CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script) / CAMDEN, ALA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN15: MONTGOMERY BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / MONTGOMERY, ALA. BIMAL round slug plate, teal crown top. (4). Value \$80 to \$125.

KN16: CRYSTAL SPRING BOTTLING WKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / CRYSTAL SPRING, MISS. BIMAL. Round slug plate. Aqua crown top. Error in spelling of Crystal Springs. ROOT on base (Root Glass Company, Terre Haute, Ind.). (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN17: KEEN BOTTLING COMPANY / KOCA NOLA (in script) / NEW RIVER AND / SOUTH PITTSBURG, TENN. BIMAL round slug plate. Dark amber crown top. (4). Value \$300 to \$400.

KN18: KOCA NOLA BOTTLING CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script) / GALLATIN, TENN. BIMAL. Oval slug plate. Amber crown top. (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN19: KOCA NOLA (in script, no company or town). BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear and aqua crown tops. (1). Value \$20 to \$40.

KN20: KOCA NOLA BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA IN SCRIPT) / GASTONIA, N.C. REGISTERED. THIS BOTTLE NOT TO BE SOLD. BIMAL. Oval slug plate. Clear crown top. Numeral 8 on base. (3). Value \$100 to \$150.

KN21: LOUISBURG BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / LOUISBURG, N.C. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (4). Value \$100 to

\$150.

KN22: KOCA NOLA BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script). MT. AIRY, N.C. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (4). Value \$100 to \$150.

KN23: NEW LONDON BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / NEW LONDON, N.C. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, aqua crown top. (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN24: KOCA NOLA (in script) / FAIRFAX, S.C. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (4). Value \$150 to \$200.

KN25: ASHBURN BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / ASHBURN, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear and aqua crown tops (small "c" in vertical diamond on base, unknown glass company). (3). Value \$75 to \$125.

KN26: B.I. TAYLOR & CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script) / BAGLEY, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN27: DONALDSONVILLE BOTTLING WORKS / KACONOLA / DONALDSONVILLE, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. Spelling errors (Should read Koca Nola, Donalsonville) (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN28: ELBERTON BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / ELBERTON, GA. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. Embossed on base: C inside a diamond (unknown glass company). (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN29: REGISTERED. NABERS BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / HARTWELL, GA. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (4). Value \$125 to \$175.

KN30: MACON BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / MACON, GA. Oval slug plate, mug base, clear Hutchinson. Small "c" within a diamond, or large "C" on base (unknown glass company). (3). Value \$500 to \$650.

KN31: MACON BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / MACON, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. Small "c" within a diamond on base (unknown glass company). (2). Value \$30 to \$60.

KN32: YANCEY'S BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / MILLEDGEVILLE, GA. BIMAL. Round slug plate, clear crown top. (4) Value \$125-\$175.

KN33: KOCA NOLA BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / Rome, Ga. (small letters). BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. C.S. & G. CO. on heel (unknown glass company). (1). Value \$30 to \$60.

KN34: KOCA NOLA BOTTLING WORKS / KOCA NOLA (in script) / ROME, GA. (large letters). BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (1). Value \$30 to \$60.

KN35: KOCA NOLA CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script) / ATLANTA, GA. Oval slug plate, mug base, clear Hutchinson, Circa 1905. (4). Value \$550 to \$650.

KN36: KOCA NOLA CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script) / ATLANTA, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top. (1). Value \$20 to \$40.

KN37: KOCA NOLA CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script) / ATLANTA, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, clear crown top (tall variant of KN36). (2). Value \$30 to \$60.

KN38: KOCA NOLA CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script) / ATLANTA, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, aqua crown top. S.I.G.W. on heel (Believed to be Southern Indiana Glass Works, Loogootee, Ind., 1905-13). (1). Value \$20 to \$40.

KN39: KOCA NOLA CO. / KOCA NOLA (in script, extended K & N) / ATLANTA, GA. BIMAL. Oval slug plate, aqua crown top. (1). Value \$20 to \$40.

KN40: Talbotton Bottling Works is now bottling real Coca-Cola, after a period of bottling Coca-Nola (sic), according to an article dated Aug. 23, 1906, in the History of Talbot County, Georgia. Bottles embossed Koca Nola may not exist.

KN41: Maryville (Tennessee) Bottling Works. Bottle embossed Koca Nola may not exist.

KN42: Dixie Carbonating Co., Augusta, Ga. Bottle embossed Koca Nola may not exist.

KN43: KOCA NOLA CO. / KOCA NOLA / ATLANTA, GA. Paper label on 1-gallon ceramic syrup jug. (4). Value \$150 to \$300.

KNGW1: KOCA NOLA mirror. THE

GREAT KOCA NOLA (in script) 5c TONIC DRINK (on front). Mirror on back. 1-1/2 inches in diameter. (1). Value \$15 to \$40.

KNGW2: KOCA NOLA CALENDAR. (4). Value (in fine condition or better) \$1,200 to \$2,000.

KNGW3: BOTTLE LABEL. DELICIOUS / DOPELESS / KOCA NOLA / THE GREAT TONIC DRINK. (Beware of reproductions). (1). Value (if genuine and in fine or better condition) \$30 to \$60.

KNGW4: KOCA NOLA CO., ATLANTA, GA. WOODEN THERMOMETER. 7-1/4 x 24 inches. (4). Value \$1,000-plus.

KNGW5: KOCA NOLA (in script) THE GREAT TONIC DRINK. Celluloid watch fob. Two variants. Beautiful woman in full color in oval frame under mica on front. (4). Value in fine or better condition \$700-plus.

KNGW6: COMPLIMENTS OF THE KOCA NOLA CO., ATLANTA, GA. CELLULOID MATCH SAFE. 2" x 2-1/2". Beautiful woman in green evening gown on red velvet fabric. (4). Value in fine or better condition \$700-plus.

KNGW7: COMPLIMENTS KOCA NOLA CO., ATLANTA, GA. LADIES' FACE POWDER BOX. Beautiful Victorian age woman on lid. Opens to reveal mirror. Celluloid and metal. (4). Value \$800-plus.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPER ITEMS (letterheads, billheads, advertisements). Value \$5 to \$50.

Note: KNGW means Koca Nola Go Withs.



Have you heard the news?

The Maryville Bottling Works Co.,

have purchased the entire plant of the "Wildwood Bottling Works" and with added improvements, are now ready to handle all orders promptly.

Try their line of Soda Pops, Cascade Ginger Ale, Oreade and and Koca Nolas, and you will be pleased and your customers satisfied.

**GIVE THEM A TRIAL
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**



The Maryville Bottling Works Co. ad.