

*Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors*

President :

President's Message

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A New Year is upon us once again. I sincerely hope that each and every member out there had a happy holiday season.

Remember when you were younger? It seemed two years between these holidays and now they seem to come up every six months. I guess I'm just caught up in the aging process. Speaking of aging, we need some new, younger, blood in our hobby. The lack of younger collectors could be the death of the bottle collecting hobby as we know it. The Orlando, Florida club was disbanded several years ago because it "died out." I mean that literally. A few moved out of the area, several died and suddenly there were no collectors remaining. I guess a lot of the attrition has to do with the pricing of our bottles and the lack of digging areas. If any of you readers have any ideas how to get new collectors involved, drop us an email and let us know so that we can publish your ideas. Just remember to put the word bottles in the subject line so that our Spam Blocker can be overridden.

My son and I attended the Savannah, Georgia show and sale in early November.

The facility seemed at very near capacity with dealers. They had a lot of early buyers in attendance on Friday night. On Saturday the aisles were full of attendees all day. I saw many bags of bottles being carried out to the parked cars. This show is a very nice, laid back show with a lot of Southern Hospitality and a fine assortment of bottles. There is always lots of dug bottles available, as Savannah is apparently not "dug out" yet.

This issue is the first of your bimonthly issues. We have changed printers and hope to maintain a better schedule in getting the magazines to you. The new method is that the mailings will be made by the printer and can be shipped immediately after the printing run. The previous method had several days of delay build in to the delivery system. The magazine, as you may already have notice, is a few pages less than previously, but that is because of the extra printings required. Let us know what you think of the new magazine in both delivery and printing wise.

It has been several years since I have

held the office of President. Even though I had been a Board of Directors member all along, there were a lot of things that I needed to catch up on. I have found that my current Board of Directors has been quick to assist me whenever a problem has arisen. You, the collectors, have an excellent Board of Directors. Of course, you elected them. When you attend a show, look at the dealers tables and if you see a Board members name, stop, introduce yourself and ask a question or let them know how we can serve you better. If we don't know something is wrong, we can't correct it. The FOHBC Business and News page of the magazine has a listing of your Board members with telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. We are easy to find and will listen to your problems concerning the FOHBC.

As I have said many times before, Dig Hard or Buy Wisely and watch your collections grow.

J. Carl Sturm, President, FOHBC