

We Thought That We Had Found a New Bottle!

by Charles S. Harris, Ooltewah, Tenn.



Have you ever found what you thought was a new unlisted bottle? Gotten all excited about it? Purchased it? Set down at the computer to write an article about it? Finished the article, went to the *Guide to American Nursing Bottles* to confirm a couple facts and found it? Then looked in the rarity guide and found out that there are already 24 of it known in the ACIF club collections? Well, that is just what Teresa and I did. It makes for a good laugh on ourselves, one that a few of y'all might appreciate.

In March of 2003 Teresa was digging deep into her Searches on eBay looking for some new bottles and Go-Withs. She pulled up a fairly common looking bottle with an unusual name. It was basically a Stork or Baby-All or Armstrong Nurser with one flat side and horizontal ridges on the curved side. It was listed as an "EVEREADY". She looked in the small ACIF Bottle Rarity Guide and it wasn't there. She bid on the bottle and couldn't wait for it to arrive in the mail.

Finally it arrived and she unpacked it. In all the excitement of a new find she said, "Skip, we need to send in a New Find sheet on this bottle." Then I commented, "Aw, heck, I'll just write a little story about it. Ginny & Charna are always eeding material for the next issue of the



KA. It's not an earth shattering find, but interesting." I then sat down and began writing. Almost through, I went to the large *Guide* to check a couple facts and there it was — glaring at me as the last entry under the "E's" where it directed me to look under Seamless Eveready. I went back to the small rarity guide and it wasn't under the "E's", but was under its full name "Seamless Eveready." At that point, in minor desperation, I deleted everything that I had written and went down to my workshop in the basement. Then it began to gnaw on me and here I am at the computer again a month later.

Evidently the manufacturer owned or bought the patent, # 2616581 in 1952, which probably covers either the flat side on the round bottle or possibly the ridges for secure gripping. The only variation in the bottles is the number of ridges which can be 17, 18, 28 or 29 horizontal ridges and the bottom markings.

The patent # is the same on the **STORK** and the **BABY CARE** nursing bottles and they are a product of and evidently leased by the Seamless Rubber Co. of New Haven, Conn. and sold by the Rexall Drug Stores. The **ARMSTRONG NURSER** is a product of and evidently leased by the Armstrong Cork Company. Who actually owned the patent is unclear.

**If you can't laugh at yourself,
You sure don't have any right to
laugh at someone else.**

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the propellers Pewabic and Meteor occurred at half past eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, six miles from shore. The Pewabic was struck in her port bow, just aft the pilot house, and sunk in three or four minutes. The ships had been running at full speed and struck with such force that as to crush the entire bow of the Pewabic. At the time of the accident it was scarcely dark, and the ships saw each other six miles apart. When approaching, they exchanged signals, and the Pewabic bore off to pass, but the Meteor, for some cause yet unknown, turned in the same direction and struck the Pewabic. A number of passengers were killed by the crushing timbers.

A few passengers jumped on board the Meteor before the Pewabic sunk. The life boats were at once lowered from the Meteor and picked up those who were not carried down with the wreck. There were

from 175 to 200 passengers on board the Pewabic. The names of 75 passengers and 23 of the crew saved are known. The Meteor remained near the scene of the disaster until morning to pick up any who might be floating on pieces of the deck, but none were found.

Detroit, August 12, 1865: The propeller Meteor caught on fire on Friday morning while in St. Mary's ship canal basin, and was scuttled and sunk in twelve feet of water. No lives were lost, but the passengers lost all of their belongings. No

Photos:

Figure 1: Sailor boy from the steamer Meteor.

Figure 2: Norris & Rundle Sarsaparilla, City Bottling Works, Cleve – 1864.

Figure 3: Advertisement, 1865.

Figure 4: Charles Lewis Bottling Works, 1856.

Figure 5: 1864 Cleveland City Directory, George Norris & Company, City Bottling Works.

Figure 6: 1865, Norris & Rundle Company, City Bottling Works.

Figure 7: George Norris & Co. advertisement.

further particulars. The Meteor is the same steamer that collided with the steamer Pewabic. Both are now owned by J. T. Whiting Company of Detroit, Michigan.

The historical information on the Norris and Rundle Bottling Works is from our book: *Ginger Beer & Root Beer Heritage*.

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