

down at me and asking, "Are you ready to be relieved?" I merely smiled and told him, "No, not yet!"

One of the little girls said, "I have just one more question." However, after Kenny answered that question, she kept asking more questions. Finally, the owner of the property came and ran them off. She told us that she had a lot of trouble with neighborhood children, and didn't want them around.

The owner said that the house had been built in 1909, and had been used as a doctor's office and a boarding house.

We found lots of glass syringes and a doctor's instrument tray, indicating that maybe a doctor's office had been located there.

We were finding lots of embossed bottles, but they were mostly ABM (automatic bottle machine) from the 1920s, and not the old hand-blown ones we were seeking.

We found the following embossed bottles: (8) LISTERINE; a DR PRICES

DELICIOUS FLAVORING EXTRACTS; (2) WATKINS; a PINEX; an ARBUCKLE BROS./CHICAGO extract; (2) DR. W.B. CALDWELL'S; (2) BAKER'S SEWING MACHINE OIL; a DR. BELL'S/PINE-TAR-HONEY/FOR COUGHS AND COLDS; (4) RAWLEIGHS; a THE RELIABLE/OLD-TIME PREPARATION/FOR HOME USE PREPARED BY/DR. PETER FAHRNEY & SONS; a FURST-McNESS CO.; a THREE IN ONE oil bottle; a LAVORIS; a WYETH; a PASTEURINE/JNO. T. MILLIKEN & CO; a THE NAME/ST. JOSEPH'S/ASSURES PURITY; a FORNI'S/MAGEN-STAECKER; (6) cobalt poison bottles, a blue MILK OF MAGNESIA; and (6) blue BROMO SELTZERS.

It was getting dark, so I suggested to Kenny that he sink a test hole in the other pit to see if it was old enough. I continued digging the first hole in an attempt to reach the bottom.

Kenny encountered lots of rocks, but not many bottles. His hole was a little older

and was possibly the time frame we needed, but all the drugstore bottles found were unembossed. He did get a ROYAL PURPLE grape juice and a LARKING CO for his trouble.

I dug down to about the six foot level and ran into a clay plug layer. Since there was only a foot to go to the bottom, I figured that if it was going to get any older, it would have to be now. I broke through the plug and immediately found a bottle. Pulling it out, I discovered I had found an amber ABM, LYSOL bottle. Time to fill in the hole.

Kenny also decided to give up on his pit, so we filled both pits by the aid of a flashlight, since the sun had gone down.

There had been almost two hundred bottles in the pits we had dug. Too bad they weren't old enough. However, we had a good time digging the pits of Barrton, and look forward to the next time. Maybe we'll finally find that embossed Burrton drug store.

Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club

Elmer Lester Award for Most Active Club

by Howard Dean

The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors hopes to spotlight one of our member clubs every quarter, starting with this issue of *Bottles and Extras*. It seems fitting to start this series with the 2003 recipient of the Elmer Lester Award for Most Active Club, an honor bestowed upon the Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club.



Howard Dean was presented with the award at the banquet held in conjunction with the Federation-sponsored National Show in Louisville in June. He has graciously commented upon the Elmer Lester award for us and provided a brief synopsis of the Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club and photographs of club

activities.

"First, let us establish who Elmer Lester was and what this award is all about. Elmer was an early bottle collector from Sacramento, California, and the first chairman (1969-70) of the Federation of Historical Bottle Clubs (later becoming the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors.) The Federation of Historical Bottle Clubs resulted from a 1968 meeting of representatives from various bottle clubs throughout the country.

"Since that first meeting in 1968, the Federation has been active in promoting numerous projects and programs. Their awards programs include a Newsletter Award, Show Poster Award, Writer's Contests and an award named after the first Federation Chairman which is granted to the club which most typifies Federation standards.

"A self-evaluation process by the club, the Elmer Lester application is a checklist of the events each month with points awarded for each event and the total points at the conclusion of the year being the Club's rating. There are points for speakers, displays, and all the other activities clubs are involved in.

It's really easy if one keeps up on these things. Fill out the form and send it in. The reward to you is the happy faces of the club members when this prestigious award is presented!

"Now, let me tell you about the Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club and explain some of the reasons that this club has received this award five or six times in a row!

"This club really began in the old Utica Dump, when a few local diggers sat around the hole and discussed starting a local bottle club. Up to then, the nearest one was the Empire State Bottle Collectors Association in Syracuse, N.Y., 60 miles away.



"Soon (1994) this group of diggers called for a meeting, and as a result, the MVABC became an official organization. Their first president was a long-time collector and a life member of the FOBHC. Soon, the new club was also a member of the FOHBC, as well as many of its individual members.

"The club was alive with enthusiasm and soon had a logo, a newsletter, and even a bottle show that first year.



Jon Landers comes up with a nice one!

"This club was full of energy, and still is after nearly ten years. Why is this club such an active group? We are not all young people, many of us are retired professional people (engineers, teachers, etc.), and just plain businessmen and women, housewives, etc. I think the answer is that we got started off right by using the whole membership in some club activity.

"We have group bottle digs, trips to interesting places, such as: Corning



Mark Yates shares a table with brother-in-law Mark!



Jeff Ullman and his son, Adam, are good diggers.



Lillian and Howard Dean at home.

Museum, Watson's Home and other club shows, for example.

"We meet every month, mostly in the local library, but also at member's homes,

Historical Societies, etc.

"We always have a program, after by our own members - and we always have refreshments, a bottle raffle, and a special one for the younger set. We have a Digger Report and a Show-and-Tell each meeting, a Board Meeting Report, an annual picnic, plus we attend other club's events.

"Our meetings are fun, real friendship just bubbles all over. It doesn't matter what you collect, it's respected by others.

"Over the years, we have hosted the NE Regional Meeting at least six times with a good turn-out. Members attend federal events and have volunteered for board membership. We were the club that started the successful 2002 show in Syracuse. We joined with three other central N.Y. clubs to work on this project, and it was highly successful."

Photos previous page:

First photo - Howard Dean accepts the Elmer Lester Award from President, Ralph Van Brocklin at the FOHBC Banquet.

Second photo: Howard looking for "a good one."



Howard Dean sorts pieces from Utica privy digging.