

Portland, Maine. - April, 2003

from Dave Hilton, York, Maine

We had a very good attendance at this year's show and sales were reported to be good from most of the dealers. There were at least 25 additional early buyers over last year and with a nice sunny day, the general crowd seemed more numerous.

Dealer, and Binninger collector, JACK PELLETIER of Gorham Maine reported a strong day of sales, as did DAVE & DIANE HILTON of www.dnhcollectibles.com in York, Maine. Local collectors Rick Carney, Gerry Sirois, Jerry Dorval, Joel Bucci and Rodney Huff also had a successful day of sales. It was nice to see JEFF & HOLLY NOORDSY from Cornwall, Vermont, JOHN HATHAWAY from Bryant Pond, Maine, HAROLD BLAKE of Montpelier, Vermont, FRED SCHWEIKERWITZ (spelling?) of Randolph, Massachusetts and JIM ROGERS of Manchester, New Hampshire, all selling their wares!

It is always a pleasure to attend the Maine bottle show each year. There is a wealth of knowledge among the Maine collectors and if you get to know them, they offer a wide range of great bottle collections to visit!

Digging reports from York Maine:

April and May have proved to be productive for about six local diggers! A cellar hole along Rt.1 in the Cape Neddick section of York yealded a hord of great pontiled bottles! A Stoddard Amber "N.WOODS PORTLAND ME" Iron Pontiled Medicine was excavated intact. Also a number of pontiled meds such as RRR RADWAY, JOHNSONS LINIMENT, assorted Hair Bottles, a rare SHAW & CLARK / Dr. BURLEIGH SMART'S COUGH MEDICINE from BIDDEFORD MAINE, a nice Quart Lyndeboro seam sided flask, a Yellow Olive pontiled UMBRELLA INK, a pontiled C.W.Atwell Portland, ME medicine and much much more!

A second area of at least 8 different dumps located by Dave Hilton & Alan Kristoff behind the colonial homes in York Village has provided them with several eary bottles including an 1820's pontiled Black Glass rum bottle. Broken Harrison's Columbian Inks, Shaker Syrup from Canterbury NH, Purple Sandwich colognes, cobalt corsetted colognes and numerous other pontiled medicines were found in several dumps. It looks as though this area was used by several area homes who took their trash and dumped it in random piles throughout an acre of pine forest. More to come out of these dumps!

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Minneapolis, Minnesota - April, 2003

from Steve Ketcham

A big April weekend for bottle collectors

The Dig

It was bottle, advertising, and stoneware show weekend. Friday night, April 11. The call came around 4:00 P.M. Another club member had received permission to dig on some property near his office, a few blocks from downtown Minneapolis. Older homes had been removed, and the top few feet of soil had been scraped away from several lots, exposing privy holes and cisterns. The caller had already uncovered several circa 1890 blob-top beers and a nice Red Wing crock. Shards of a cobalt blue Indian Medical Spring Water from Minneapolis, complete with embossed Indian head, were found as well. Bulldozers would

make short work of the area Monday, and the bottles would be crushed. Another collector, my son and I were invited to join the fun of saving some history before it disappeared forever.

I don't get in much digging anymore. When we started our family, I put aside my shovels. Now, my teen-aged son is just the right size for some serious dirt removal. We readily accepted the invitation.

By sunset we had only a little to show for our efforts. Good portions of both a privy and a cistern were dug, but few intact pieces were found. We uncovered some tantalizing pieces of Bennington-type pottery and several shards of Red Wing salt-glazed stoneware. At the end of the dig we went home with a few nice bottles, some great father-son time, and a fun beginning